**JUDGE WILMA A. LEWIS TAKES THE HELM OF THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 16, 2013**

The Honorable Wilma A. Lewis assumed the position of Chief Judge of the District Court of the Virgin Islands effective Friday, August 16, 2013. In addition to fulfilling judicial responsibilities, the Chief Judge supervises the administration of the court, such as by enforcing court rules, ensuring that the court operates effectively, and representing the court in interactions with other components of the federal judicial system and the community. By law, the Chief Judge serves in that capacity for seven years.

Judge Lewis succeeds the Honorable Curtis V. Gómez, who has served as Chief Judge since August 2006. During his tenure as Chief Judge, Judge Gómez made great strides in developing the technological infrastructure of the Court and instituting various governance structures and traditions. Judge Gomez will remain the resident District Judge for the St. Thomas/St. John Division of the Court.

The responsibilities of Chief Judge now rotate to Judge Lewis, the resident District Judge for the St. Croix Division of the Court. In July 2011, Judge Lewis became the first woman appointed to the federal bench in the Virgin Islands, and she is now the first woman to serve as Chief Judge of the District Court.

Prior to her appointment to the federal bench, Judge Lewis served in three other positions to which she was appointed by the President of the United States and confirmed by the United States Senate: Inspector General of the U.S. Department of the Interior, United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, and an Assistant Secretary for the U.S. Department of the Interior. Judge Lewis, who hails from the Virgin Islands, is the 1974 valedictorian of All Saints Cathedral School in St. Thomas; a 1978 *Phi Beta Kappa* graduate of Swarthmore College; and a 1981 graduate of Harvard Law School.

*Inaugural*

# Passing-of-the-Gavel Ceremony

District Court of the Virgin Islands

Almeric L. Christian Federal Building
& United States Courthouse
Christiansted, St. Croix

Tuesday, August 20, 2013
9:45 a.m.

*You Are Cordially Invited*

*To Attend*

*The Passing-of-the-Gavel Ceremony*

*As Judge Wilma A. Lewis*

*Assumes the Position of*

*Chief Judge*

*of the District Court of the Virgin Islands*

*Tuesday, August 20, 2013 at 9:45 a.m.*

*Courtroom One of St. Croix and by*

*Videoconference from Courtroom One of St. Thomas*

# *Passing-of-the-Gavel Program*

Invocation ..... Rev. Winston G. Chase
Pastor, Friedensthal
Moravian Church

Opening Remarks ..... Glenda L. Lake, Esquire
Clerk of Court
Mistress of Ceremonies

"A Trip Down Memory Lane" ..... Honorable Geoffrey Barnard
Recalled Magistrate Judge

Remarks ..... Honorable Curtis V. Gómez
Outgoing Chief Judge

*Passing-of-the-Gavel*

Presentation of Plaque ..... Warren A. Lewis

Musical Selection ..... Michael Lake

Remarks ..... Honorable Wilma A. Lewis
Chief Judge

Benediction ..... Rev. Winston G. Chase