



NEWS RELEASE

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Texas Chief Justice to Lead National Court Organizations Wallace B. Jefferson Known for Integrity and Dedication to Nation's Judiciary

Williamsburg, Va. (Aug. 4, 2010) — Texas Chief Justice Wallace B. Jefferson has been elected chair of the Board of Directors of the National Center for State Courts (NCSC). He also has been named president of the Conference of Chief Justices (CCJ), a national organization that represents the top judges of the 50 states and the U.S. territories, and of which NCSC serves as executive staff. Both positions are one-year terms. The appointments were made at the National Center's Board of Directors meeting and the CCJ and Conference of State Court Administrators Annual Conference, both of which were held during the last week of July in Vail, Colo.

"During his years as an attorney in private practice, Chief Justice Jefferson earned a reputation for appellate excellence," said Mary C. McQueen, NCSC president. "His years on the bench have earned him a reputation for integrity and objectivity. These characteristics, coupled with his dedication to the betterment of the nation's judiciary, will make him an excellent leader for both NCSC and CCJ."

Chief Justice Jefferson was the first African-American to sit on the Supreme Court of Texas, to which he was appointed by Gov. Rick Perry in March 2001. He was elected to the Supreme Court in a statewide race in November 2002. Two years later, Gov. Perry appointed him chief justice to fill a vacancy. He was elected to finish the term in 2006 and re-elected to a full term in 2008.

Before joining the bench, Chief Justice Jefferson practiced appellate law at Crofts, Callaway and Jefferson, the San Antonio firm he helped found in 1991. By the time he was 35, Chief Justice Jefferson had successfully argued two cases before the U.S. Supreme Court. From 1989-1991, he was with the appellate section of Groce, Locke, and Hebdon in San Antonio.

Chief Justice Jefferson is a member of the American Law Institute, holds honorary degrees from Michigan State, Hofstra and Pepperdine universities, and was president of the San Antonio Bar Association in 1998-99 and of the William S. Sessions American Inn of Court in 1999. In addition to his service to the legal community, he has been director of the San Antonio Public Library Foundation and the Alamo Area Big Brothers/Big Sisters. In 1999, Chief Justice Jefferson was named a Pillar of Fairness by the San Antonio Northside Independent School District, which recognized him again in 2006 when it opened the doors of Wallace B. Jefferson Middle School.

He holds a bachelor's degree from James Madison College at Michigan State University and a juris doctor from the University of Texas School of Law, where he was a student of the legendary Charles Alan Wright, and has been recognized with alumnus awards from each.

Founded in 1949 and comprised of the top judicial officers of each state, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories, the Conference of Chief Justices promotes the interests and effectiveness of state judicial systems by developing policies and educational programs designed to improve court operations. CCJ also acts as the primary representative of the state courts before Congress and federal executive agencies.

The National Center for State Courts, headquartered in Williamsburg, Va., is a nonprofit court reform organization dedicated to improving the administration of justice by providing leadership and service to the state courts. Founded in 1971 by the Conference of Chief Justices and Chief Justice of the United States Warren E. Burger, NCSC provides education, training, technology, management, and research services to the nation's state courts.

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Note: This news release is located on NCSC's Web site at http://www.ncsc.org/10Board_Jefferson.