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Judiciary Mourns the Passing of Former Judge Audrey L. Thomas

December 28, 2023

The Judiciary of the Virgin Islands joins the Territory in mourning the passing of one of its distinguished judicial officers, the Honorable Judge Audrey L. Thomas. Judge Thomas' service began with the then Territorial Court as an intern in the summers of 1982 and 1983. After earning her law degree from Howard University Law School, she began her legal career as a judicial law clerk with the late Honorable Almeric L. Christian at the United States District Court of the Virgin Islands. Thereafter she engaged in the private practice of law with the Law Office of Attorney Samuel Hall, Jr., before resuming a career in public service as legal counsel to the Commissioner of Economic Development & Agriculture and serving eleven (11) years as an Assistant United States Attorney. On July 07, 2000, she was first appointed as a Judge of the Superior Court in the St. Thomas/St. John District by then Governor Charles W. Turnbull and reappointed to a second term as the first full time Family Division Judge in the St. Thomas/St. John District on December 08, 2006.

When the Superior Court established the Magistrate Division in 2009, the Division assumed jurisdiction over probate and domestic violence matters previously handled in the Family Division. Judge Thomas graciously and generously shared her knowledge and experience in both areas and was a valuable resource in guiding the first magistrates in their new roles. Judge Thomas retired from the bench on November 30, 2012.

Judge Thomas was a dedicated public servant. While she was a member of the Court, she took great pride in her work and expected nothing but excellence from others who practiced law. She also devoted a significant amount of time and effort in leading the annual Moot Court Competitions. She initiated a Juvenile Movie Day which has now morphed into the current Family Division's Youth Enrichment Day Program. As a former teacher, she was genuinely concerned about the young people of the Virgin Islands and took advantage of every opportunity to teach, and extended her service in education in the Territory by serving as a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of the Virgin Islands from 2004 to 2009. She was such a dedicated and hard worker that she was known for saying that preparation was the key to success, which required turning night into day.

Judge Thomas will be remembered for her professionalism, respectful demeanor and faithfulness. The Judicial Branch, and especially those who had the honor of working with her in the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands, extend sincere sympathy to her family and friends as we mourn the passing of another outstanding Virgin Islander who served us well. May God bless her soul as she rests in eternal peace.

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