



For Lawyers

Judge Washington Leads Two Court Organizations

District of Columbia Court of Appeals Chief Judge Eric T. Washington has been appointed chair of the board of directors of the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) and elected president of the Conference of Chief Justices (CCJ). Both groups aim to improve the judicial outreach efforts.



Created in 1971, NCSC has provided education, training, technology, management, and research services to the nation's state courts. "In order to fulfill our mission to improve the administration of justice, the National Center relies on the support and experience of the people who work every day in our nation's courts," said Mary C. McQueen, president of NCSC. "For 16 years, Chief Judge Washington has been a leader in the judiciary, and we are fortunate now to be able to rely on his leadership of our board."

In addition to his position at NCSC, Washington will serve as president of CCJ, an organization that develops policies and educational programs designed to improve court operations.

Prior to his appointment in August 2005 as D.C. Court of Appeals chief judge, Washington served as an associate judge on the same court beginning in 1999. From 1995 to 1999, he was an associate judge of the D.C. Superior Court.

Washington is also active in numerous professional and charitable groups. He currently chairs the D.C. Joint Committee on Judicial Administration, serves on the board of directors of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington Foundation, and is a member of the board of directors of the Advanced Science and Technology Adjudication Resource Center Inc. He received his bachelor's degree from Tufts University and his law degree from Columbia University School of Law.—T.L.

D.C. Gives Fugitives Chance to Surrender Safely

For three consecutive Saturdays in August, the H. Carl Moultrie Courthouse, home of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, opened its doors for people with outstanding bench warrants for nonviolent felonies or misdemeanors to surrender voluntarily. People wanted on bench warrants in the District were given the opportunity to turn themselves in on August 13, 20, and 27 through the city's DC Safe Surrender program. The program aims to reduce the number of outstanding bench warrants while providing people a safe way to surrender, without the risk of being arrested at home in front of their family or during a routine traffic stop.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for people who have outstanding warrants for a nonviolent offense or misdemeanor to resolve these issues," said D.C. Mayor Vincent Gray at a news conference to announce the program.

Superior Court Chief Judge Lee F. Satterfield said DC Safe Surrender provides a way "to eliminate the risk of harm to yourself and your family members, eliminate the risk of harm to law enforcement, and to eliminate the risk of harm to your property." Added Satterfield: "It's the opportunity for individuals to move on with their lives."

Also speaking at the news conference were Avis E. Buchanan, director of the D.C. Public Defender Service (PDS), which provided attorneys for individuals who needed legal advice or representation, and Paul A. Quander Jr., deputy mayor for public safety and justice. DC Safe Surrender is a partnership between the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency, Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, D.C. Superior Court, Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice, Metropolitan Police Department, Office of the Attorney General, PDS, Pretrial Services Agency, U.S. Attorney's Office, and U.S. Marshals Service.

A similar program was held in 2007 where more than 500 individuals voluntarily turned themselves in, with all but 10 returning home the same day.—K.A.