

**UNITED STATES COURTS  
FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**  
600 CAMP STREET, ROOM 100  
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70130

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**PRESS RELEASE**

On October 1, 2012, Judge Carl E. Stewart of Shreveport, Louisiana, becomes the Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, which hears appeals from federal courts in Louisiana, Texas, and Mississippi. Judge Stewart succeeds Chief Judge Edith H. Jones, who is stepping down from the chief judgeship. Judge Stewart's elevation marks the second time the chief judge position has been filled by a Shreveport resident. The Court was headed from 1992 - 1999 by Judge Henry A. Politz, a long-time Shreveport resident who died in 2002.

Judge Stewart received his undergraduate degree *magna cum laude* from Dillard University in 1971 and his J.D. from Loyola University New Orleans School of Law in 1974. Immediately following admission to the Louisiana Bar Association in October 1974, he entered the United States Army, duty stationed at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas, and served as a Captain in the Judge Advocate General Corps until October 1977.

Following his military service, Judge Stewart served as a Staff Attorney with the Louisiana Attorney General's Office, Assistant United States Attorney, Special Assistant City and District Attorney, and private practitioner. In 1985, he was elected as a District Judge for the First Judicial District Court of Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and was reelected without opposition five years later. In 1991, again without opposition, he was elected to the Louisiana Second Circuit Court of Appeal.

President William J. Clinton appointed Judge Stewart as United States Circuit Judge on May 9, 1994. Judge Stewart is the second African American appointed to the Fifth Circuit. The first to hold that distinction was Joseph W. Hatchett of Tallahassee, Florida, who was appointed by President Jimmy Carter in 1979 and served from 1996 - 1999 as Chief Judge of the "new" Eleventh Circuit, which was formed as a result of the 1981 "split" of the Fifth Circuit. Judge Stewart becomes the first African American to serve as Chief Judge of the Fifth Circuit.

Judge Stewart is National Vice President of the American Inns of Court Foundation and a member of the National, Federal, Louisiana and Shreveport Bar Associations, and the Federal Judges Association. He is the immediate past Chair of the Advisory Committee on the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure of the Judicial Conference of the United States, a post to which he was appointed by Chief Justice of the United States William H. Rehnquist and later extended by Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr. He has served as a member of the Fifth Circuit Judicial Council and for seven years chaired its Space and Staffing Committee, which oversees resources for federal building construction. As Chief Judge of the Circuit, Judge Stewart will sit on the Judicial Conference of the United States, which establishes policies for federal courts nationwide.

