



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Texas Chief Justice Elected to Leadership Position for National Court Association**

**Williamsburg, VA** (August 18, 2008) – Texas Supreme Court Chief Justice Wallace B. Jefferson has been elected first vice president of the Board of the Conference of Chief Justices (CCJ), a national organization that represents the top judges of the 50 states and U.S. territories. The appointment was made recently at CCJ's annual conference in Anchorage, Alaska.

As first vice president, Chief Justice Jefferson is in line to be president of chief justices organization and chair of National Center for State Courts Board of Directors in 2010.

"I am pleased that my colleagues across the country have entrusted me to lead this distinguished group," he said. "This presents a wonderful opportunity for Texas to guide the the national administration of justice."

The National Center for State Courts serves as executive staff to CCJ. Massachusetts Chief Justice Margaret Marshall was named president of the Conference of Chief Justices and NCSC board chair. Utah Chief Justice Christine Durham was named president-elect.

All positions are one-year terms.

Chief Justice Jefferson will become president-elect next year and president in August 2010.

Chief Justice Jefferson was appointed to the Texas Supreme Court in 2001 by Gov. Rick Perry, who selected him as chief justice in 2004 to replace retiring Chief Justice Thomas Phillips. Before he joined the Court, Chief Justice Jefferson practiced law for the appellate firm Crofts, Callaway and Jefferson. He won two cases he argued before the U.S. Supreme Court

The Conference of Chief Justices was founded in 1949 and promotes the interests and effectiveness of state judicial systems through its focus on current legal issues, judicial administration, and development of policies and educational programs designed to improve court system operations. CCJ is the primary representative of the state courts before Congress and the federal executive agencies.

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

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