

# legal beat

By Kathryn Alfisi and Thai Phi Le

## News and Notes on the D.C. Bar Legal Community

### Chief Judge Washington Redesignated for Third Term

The District of Columbia Judicial Nomination Commission (JNC) has redesignated Eric T. Washington as chief judge of the D.C. Court of Appeals. His third consecutive term began August 6 and will last four years.

The redesignation comes after a public notice in March asking regular, active judges on the D.C. Court of Appeals to apply for the position, and inviting members of the community to offer comments regarding Judge Washington's performance.

In addition, the JNC held a public forum in June allowing members of the bench and bar as well as other interested individuals to ask the judge questions and hear his ideas for the future of the court. With the recently released 2013–2017 strategic plan for the D.C. Courts as his guide, Judge Washington noted at the forum that his top priority remains improving case resolution, ensuring that decisions are both fair and timely.

"The caseload is huge, highest per capita in the country. Timely case resolution is critical for promoting public trust and confidence," he said during the forum. The court made inroads during Judge Washington's last term, implementing a new case management system. The median time on appeal for cases dropped from 505 days in 2007 to 352 days in 2012.

Over the next four years, Judge Washington plans to increase education outreach, transparency, and public education about the court's activities. His goals also include building a stronger work force at the courthouse by offering greater educational and training opportunities for employees.

Judge Washington was appointed to the Superior Court of the District of

Columbia in 1995, and joined the D.C. Court of Appeals in 1999. In 2005 he was named chief judge. He previously worked as a partner at Hogan & Hartson LLP (now Hogan Lovells).—*T.L.*



Berkemeyer Photography

Eric T. Washington