

PRESS RELEASE

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia announces that, effective December 4, 2011, District Judge James R. Spencer will have completed his term as Chief Judge, and that District Judge Rebecca Beach Smith will assume the Chief Judge position. Chief Judges of the federal district courts generally serve for seven years. There are eleven district Judges, six senior district Judges, and ten magistrate Judges actively serving the Eastern District of Virginia. The Eastern District has four divisions (Norfolk, Newport News, Richmond, and Alexandria). The Chief Judge provides the Court with strategic leadership, Court governance, Court management oversight, and case management oversight. The Chief Judge will also have the opportunity to represent the District on the Fourth Circuit Judicial Council. Judge Smith was appointed to the federal bench in 1989 by President George H.W. Bush.