

**BILL NO. 35-0286**

**Thirty-Fifth Legislature of the Virgin Islands**

**June 20, 2024**

An Act honoring and commending Verne Antonio Hodge for his years of dedicated service to the people of the Virgin Islands and its jurisprudence by renaming the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands, St. Thomas/St. John, the “Judge Verne A. Hodge Superior Court of the Virgin Islands”

---

**PROPOSED BY:** Senator Kenneth L. Gittens

---

1       **WHEREAS**, Verne Antonio Hodge was born on November 16, 1933, on the island of  
2 St. Thomas, Virgin Islands;

3       **WHEREAS**, in 1956, Verne Antonio Hodge graduated magna cum laude with a  
4 Bachelor of Science from Hampton University and in 1969, he graduated cum laude from  
5 Howard University with a Juris Doctor degree, ;

6       **WHEREAS**, from 1958-1961, he worked as an internal auditor and an internal revenue  
7 agent in the Virgin Islands Government;

8       **WHEREAS**, from 1961-1965, he worked as a public accountant, comptroller with  
9 Mannassah Busline, Inc., in St. Thomas;

10       **WHEREAS**, from 1965-1966, Verne Antonio Hodge worked as a business manager,  
11 personnel director with the Virgin Islands Department of Public Works;

1           **WHEREAS**, from 1969-1973, he established a private practice in law in the Virgin  
2 Islands;

3           **WHEREAS**, from 1973-1976, he became the Attorney General of the Virgin Islands;

4           **WHEREAS**, from 1976 until October 31, 1999, he served as the Presiding Judge of the  
5 Territorial Court of the Virgin Islands, until it was renamed the Superior Court of the Virgin  
6 Islands in 2004;

7           **WHEREAS**, he served as past chairman of the Eastern Region National Association of  
8 Attorneys General, and from 1963-1964, he was a member of the Virgin Islands Industrial  
9 Board, and from 1964-1966, he was a member of the Virgin Islands Board of Elections;

10           **WHEREAS**, his many achievements included being a member of the Virgin Islands Bar,  
11 the District of Columbia Bar, the United States Court of Appeals for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Circuit and the  
12 Supreme Court of the United States;

13           **WHEREAS**, Verne Antonio Hodge held a certificate of advanced income tax law from  
14 the United States Internal Revenue Service;

15           **WHEREAS**, he served in the United States Army and received an award of merit for the  
16 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division;

17           **WHEREAS**, he was awarded the American Jurisprudence in state, local and federal  
18 taxation;

19           **WHEREAS**, Verne Antonio Hodge has purposely shied away from public recognition  
20 of his lifelong service and achievements as a jurist;

21           **WHEREAS**, his service was steeped in excellence, efficiencies and forward-thinking to  
22 make the Virgin Islands courts respected by all;

23           **WHEREAS**, he is characterized by his down-to-earth humility; and

