



## Supreme Court of Florida

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### **Peggy A Quince Named Chief Justice-Elect of Florida**

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – From roots in a segregated school system in her native Virginia to the highest judicial office in Florida, Peggy A. Quince's career has taken a remarkable path as America moved from the 20th to the 21st Century. She now has been unanimously named Chief Justice-Elect of Florida by her six colleagues.

"It is an honor and a privilege being a member of the Court," said Quince, 60, "and serving with outstanding Florida public servants. I thank my colleagues for their trust in me and look forward to serving the people of this state in this new capacity."

Quince will become Florida's 53rd Chief Justice since statehood in a ceremony tentatively scheduled for Friday, June 27. Her two-year term will begin July 1.

"Justice Quince has distinguished herself in her work here at the Court," said Justice Barbara J. Pariente, currently the only other woman serving on the Court. "She is the epitome of a great colleague and outstanding jurist. And now she will make history by becoming the first African-American woman to lead the Third Branch of government."

Quince hails from Norfolk, Virginia, where she grew up the daughter of a longshoreman. There, she attended a segregated school system at the time Brown v. Board of Education was decided – but long before it was fully implemented.

She went on to graduate in 1970 from Howard University and received her law degree from the Catholic University of America in 1975.

After working briefly in Washington, D.C., Quince moved to Bradenton and went into private practice until she was hired in 1980 as a prosecutor in the criminal division of the Attorney General's Office. She continued in this job for more than thirteen years, serving five years as the Tampa Bureau Chief and spending three years exclusively handling death cases.

In 1993, Quince was appointed to the Second District Court of Appeal, the first African-American woman named to any of Florida's five lower appeals courts. On December 8, 1998, she was jointly named to the Florida Supreme Court as its first African-American woman by outgoing Gov. Lawton Chiles and incoming Gov. Jeb Bush.

Governor Chiles' death a few days later also led to a third Governor being involved in her selection. The formal document that placed her on the Supreme Court, her Commission, was signed by Gov. Kenneth "Buddy" MacKay, who briefly succeeded Chiles as Governor.

Justice Quince is the winner of many awards including being inducted in 2007 into the Florida Women's Hall of Fame by Gov. Charlie Crist. She is married to attorney Fred L. Buckine, and they have two adult daughters, Peggy and Laura.

Her web biography is at:

<http://www.floridasupremecourt.org/justices/quince.shtml>

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