



PRESS RELEASE

January 5, 2024

NEW CHIEF MAGISTRATE APPOINTED FOR THE SUMMARY COURT

The Hon Chief Justice Margaret Ramsay-Hale announces the retirement of Chief Magistrate Mr. Valdis Foldats who will be succeeded by Her Hon. Ms. Angelyn Hernandez as Chief Magistrate

His Hon. Mr Foldats has served in the Summary Court of the Cayman Islands for the past 18 years, the last 3 as Chief Magistrate. He moved to Cayman from Canada in 1999 and initially held the position of Senior Deputy Clerk and Registrar of Appeal before being appointed Clerk of Court, I which he served for 12 years.

During his tenure as Chief Magistrate, H.H. Mr Foldats advocated for a holistic approach to justice. He has nurtured collaborative relationships with the criminal justice stakeholder agencies including the Department of Children and Family Services, Department of Community Rehabilitation, Department of Counseling Services, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, RCIPS and Her Majesty's Royal Prison Service and is generous in his praise for all they do to support the work of the Courts and to ensure the proper administration of justice, noting that "There is so much more to the court [than what occurs within its four walls]".

He expressed gratitude for the support he has received throughout the years from his colleagues, court staff and members of the stakeholder agencies.

He has expressed his full confidence in the incoming Chief, stating that "Her integrity, expertise, and commitment to our judicial system are unmatched; it has been a pleasure being Ms. Hernandez's colleague over the years."

Her Hon Ms. Angelyn Hernandez has been a full-time Magistrate since 2018, after Acting in the part since 2014. Admitted to the Cayman Islands Bar in 1992, H.H. Ms Hernandez brings to the role extensive legal experience. She was Crown Counsel in the Attorney General's Chambers, and also enjoyed a successful career at the private bar first as a member of Quin and Hampson which she joined when it was established and of which she later became managing partner until it was acquired by Mourant. She ran her own successful practice thereafter before accepting an invitation to sit as Magistrate in which role she always seeks, in her own words, to "temper justice with mercy while upholding the law."

HH Ms Hernandez has a strong background in leadership having served on the Board of Directors for various organizations, including Cayman Airways, the Cayman Islands Chamber of Commerce, the Employment Law Review Committee among others.

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