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## **EDWARD R. BECKER, FORMER CHIEF JUDGE DIES**

ST. THOMAS, VI – May 20, 2006 – Edward R. Becker, a former chief judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit which includes the Virgin Islands and a highly respected jurist admired for his powerful decisions and personal humility, died Friday afternoon at his home in northeast Philadelphia, where he had lived almost all his life. He was 73.

St. Thomas attorney Tom Bolt remembered Judge Becker, “As President of the Virgin Islands Bar Association, I had the good fortune to work with Judge Becker on the Virgin Islands Supreme Court proposal. Judge Becker wanted the Virgin Islands to stand on par with other jurisdictions and have its own Supreme Court. He called on the resources of the Third Circuit and the Administrative Office of the Court to advance this long awaited legal reform.” Bolt said.

“I also served with the Judge Becker for over 12 years as a member of the ALI-ABA Committee, the largest provider of continuing education for lawyers. Judge Becker was a mentor and lead the way for various pro bono efforts to assist the legal needs of so many. He was particularly supportive of a project I introduced to produce a videotape to train attorneys in political asylum immigration cases.” Bolt said. “He enlisted the support of Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor to provide the introduction to the tape.” Bolt said. “The Virgin Islands has lost a friend.”