

news

Colorado Judicial Branch
Mary J. Mullarkey, Chief Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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JUSTICE GREGORY KELLAM SCOTT RESIGNS FROM THE SUPREME COURT

Gregory Kellam Scott, the first African-American to serve on the Colorado Supreme Court, announced Monday that he is resigning from the Court after seven years to accept appointment as vice president and general counsel of Kaiser-Hill, L.L.C. Justice Scott was appointed to the court in 1992 by Governor Roy Romer and was sworn in on January 15, 1993.

Scott was a law professor at the University of Denver College of Law when appointed to the bench. While on the faculty, he was chair of the Business Planning Program and also consulted serving as appellate counsel in cases involving government contracting, corporate and securities laws. At the time of his appointment to the court, Governor Romer noted Scott's business experience and his strong and long-term commitment to his family and community.

He is married to Carolyn W. Scott, an attorney practicing family law; the Scotts are the parents of two sons, Joshua and Elijah, who live in Denver. The Scotts have lived in Colorado for 23 years, moving to Denver when Scott was hired as a trial attorney for the regional office of the Securities & Exchange Commission.

“For many reasons, personal and professional, this is the right time and the correct thing to do—for every season there is a time,” Scott said. “The opportunity to have served as a justice of this court with the eleven women and men who have served with me has been my greatest professional honor. I have happily devoted most of the last more than seven years to the work of the court and in service to the citizens of Colorado. In that time I have had the pleasure of serving with an outstanding group of justices. I can only hope that I have applied the law according to the facts before the court so as to leave it and Colorado better than when I first arrived,” he said. “This has been the experience of a lifetime.”

Scott has received many honors in the last several years. He was inducted into the Blacks in Colorado Hall of Fame and the Rutgers University Hall of Distinguished Alumni. He was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Denver in 1998. In addition, he has served on American delegations traveling abroad as well as co-chairing the American delegation that observed national presidential elections in Gabon, Africa, in December 1998.

For several years, Justice Scott has been a member of the Practising Law Institute Faculty of the Annual Federal Securities Institute, which convenes in New York annually. He currently serves on the executive committee of the Appellate Judges Conference, an association of federal and state appellate judges. He is a member of the prestigious national board of directors of the Constituency for Africa (CFA), whose members include Andrew Young, David Dinkins, and Jack Kemp; CFA is currently chaired by former California Congressman Ron Dellums. As a participant in the National Summit on Africa, Scott co-chaired the regional summit along with Governor Owens and Mayor Webb, which was held in Denver.

Since 1992, Scott has participated in the determination of approximately 1,000 cases, resolved by written opinions. He has authored numerous opinions for the court, including Hill v. Thomas, which is currently on appeal to the United States Supreme Court.

In the November 1996 general election, he received the highest number of favorable retention votes of any judicial officer, permitting him to serve another term on the court until January 2007.

In accordance with the Colorado Constitution, a statewide nominating commission chaired by Chief Justice Mary Mullarkey will convene shortly to review applications for the Supreme Court vacancy created by Scott's resignation. It will have thirty days from the effective date of Scott's resignation to nominate three candidates to Governor Owens for his appointment. The Governor then has fifteen days in which to appoint the new justice. Justices of the Supreme Court are paid \$95,090 annually.

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