Antoine Joseph  
*St. Croix, V.I.*  
**Judge Municipal and Territorial Courts**

On May 30, 1980 the Virgin Islands Bar Association paid tribute to Antoine Joseph on his retirement as a judge in the courts of the Virgin Islands. His retirement climaxed a period of fifteen years as a member of the bench.

Appointed as first Judge of the Municipal Court of the Virgin Islands in 1965 by Governor Ralph M. Paiewonsky, Mr. Joseph served his full term of four years and in 1969 he was reappointed by Governor Melvin H. Evans. He was again reappointed for another term in 1973 by Governor Cyril E. King. In addition on several occasions he served, by designation, as Acting Judge of the District Court of the Virgin Islands.

Prior to his judgeship, he served as Legislative Counsel to the Fifth and Sixth Legislatures of the Virgin Islands (1962-1965). During this period he was in a position to draft several major pieces of legislation, two of which brought about changes of great importance. One statute reorganized the local court system from separate municipal courts into a central court, The Municipal Court of the Virgin Islands. The second change brought about an election code which influenced policies of political parties.

In 1965 he was appointed to the Board of Trustees of the College of the Virgin Islands and continued on the board until 1983. Serving for eighteen years as one of its directors he witnessed many changes in this institution as it evolved from a two-year community college to a four-year college with branches both on St. Thomas and St. Croix. He was also tapped to be a member of the 1980 search committee to select a new president for the college.

During his tenure as judge he was deeply concerned with the lack of adequate programs needed to deal with problems affecting the youth. To alleviate these concerns he first organized a corps of volunteer probation officers. This was followed by introduction of pre-trial intervention program designed to reduce the frequency of repeated offenders. This interest in the problems confronting youths resulted from his previous relationships with youngsters on St. Croix.

A product of the local educational system, he later entered Dillard University, New Orleans, Louisiana, but his studies were interrupted as he was drafted for duty and sent to Okinawa Island during World War II.

In 1947 he returned to Dillard University and two years later completed undergraduate studies, graduating *Magna Cum Laude*. Pursuing a law degree he entered Northwestern University and earned his degree in 1950. As he was admitted to practice law in Illinois, he remained there for twelve years and returned to St. Croix in 1962.

After his retirement in 1980 he was named Legislative Counsel to the Fourteenth Legislature and served until 1983. Since then he has entered private practice.

Judge Joseph who was born on St. Croix on July 4, 1923 is married to the former Lorraine Francis of New Orleans, Assistant Principal of Claude O. Markoe Elementary School. The couple has one son, Antoine, Jr.