



Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone
Public Information

PRESS RELEASE

Freetown, Sierra Leone, 1 December 2016

Judge Desmond Babatunde Edwards Sworn in as RSCSL Justice



Justice Desmond Babatunde Edwards was sworn in today as a Judge of the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone (RSCSL). In a ceremony held prior to the opening of the Plenary of Judges, Justice Edwards made a solemn declaration to “without fear or favour, affection or ill-will, serve as a Judge of the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone honestly, faithfully, impartially and conscientiously.” He subscribed to his solemn declaration before RSCSL Registrar Binta Mansaray, and in front of witnesses representing the two parties to the RSCSL Agreement. Haja Zainab Hawa Bangura, the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, witnessed the declaration on behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and Deputy Attorney-General Mr. Arrow Bockarie witnessed on behalf of the Government of Sierra Leone.

Justice Edwards succeeds the late Justice George Gelaga King, who passed away in April.

The RSCSL Statute provides for a roster of 16 Judges, ten of whom are appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and the remaining six by the Government of Sierra Leone. The Judges receive no compensation for being on the roster, but are paid on a *pro rata* basis if called upon to serve the Court. Justice Edwards was appointed by the Government of Sierra Leone.

Justice Edwards was appointed a judge of Sierra Leone's High Court in 2006. From 2007 to 2009 he served as Judge of the High Court's Commercial and Admiralty Division; from 2011 to 2014 as High Court Judge in charge of Civil and Criminal Matters; and from 2014 to 2015 Resident High Court Judge for the Southern Province. He was appointed a Justice of the Court of Appeal in 2015.

Prior to his appointment as a judge, Justice Edwards served from 2004 to 2006 as the Head of the Litigations Unit for Sierra Leone's National Social Security and Insurance Trust (NASSIT), and from 2001 to 2004 he worked as a barrister in private practice. Justice Edwards has also lectured in law at the Sierra Leone Law School and Licssal Business College.

#END

The Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone is responsible for the ongoing legal obligations of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, which concluded its mandate in December 2013. These include supervision of prison sentences, witness protection and support, maintenance and preservation of the archives, and assistance to national prosecution authorities.

Visit our website at rscsl.org. Follow us on Twitter at [@SpecialCourt](https://twitter.com/SpecialCourt).