



Supreme Court of Florida

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Justice Kenneth Bell Announces His Resignation

TALLAHASSEE – Justice Kenneth B. Bell today announced his resignation from the Florida Supreme Court effective October 1, 2008.

In a letter to Gov. Charlie Crist, Bell said that he will return to his hometown of Pensacola because of family reasons, much as his colleague Justice Raoul G. Cantero, III., did earlier this year when the latter announced his return to Miami.

“Serving the people of Florida as a justice,” said Bell, “has been the greatest privilege of my public life. Indeed, I wish I could continue to serve. However, similar to the reasons recently expressed by Justice Cantero in his resignation, my family responsibilities require that I return full-time to Pensacola.

“I will leave Tallahassee with many cherished friends and fond memories of my time on the Court.

“I hope that tendering this resignation today will give you sufficient time to complete the constitutional mechanism for appointing a replacement.”

Bell’s letter of resignation was delivered to Gov. Charlie Crist earlier today.

Bell, 52, is Florida’s 81st Justice since statehood was granted in 1845. He became the first Justice appointed from the far Western Panhandle of Florida in more than a century when then-Gov. Jeb Bush named him to the state’s highest court on December 30, 2002.

Bell formally took office on January 7, 2003. For more information, see:

<http://www.floridasupremecourt.org/justices/bell.shtml>

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