Carmen D. Howell P.O. Box 7154 St. Thomas, VI, 00801 March 27, 2023

## Letter of Support for the Nomination and Confirmation of Carol Thomas-Jacobs to be a Judge of the Virgin Islands Superior Court, St. Thomas, VI

Dear Senator Diane T. Capehart:

I write in support of the nomination and confirmation of **Attorney Carol Thomas**-**Jacobs** to be a Judge of the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands for the District of St. Thomas/St. John.

I have known Attorney Jacobs very well for the past twenty years as an outstanding citizen of this community, an experienced attorney, an instructor at the University of the Virgin Islands, a caring family member, and an avid sports enthusiast.

Attorney Jacobs has served the community of the Virgin Islands with distinction for over twenty-five years in various capacities. After a brief stint in the private sector, she joined the Justice Department in 1999 as Assistant Attorney General and rose through the ranks to her present position as Acting Attorney General in 2023. Over her tenure in this Department, she served in various capacities with increasing levels of authority and responsibility to include Chief of Civil Division, Deputy Attorney General, and then to Chief Deputy Attorney General. As of January 2023, she serves at the top of the Justice Department as Acting Attorney General. This rise through the ranks at the Department of Justice must be attributed to the quality of her work, her drive and determination, as well as to her level of commitment to representing the people of the Virgin Islands in a fair and justified manner.

For the past decade, Attorney Jacobs served as a part-time instructor at University of the Virgin Islands. As an instructor and presenter on various occasions, the focus of her sessions included presentations on "ethics", an area of significant importance across all professions. Hence, she is keenly aware of her need to be ethical in all her endeavors. She possesses excellent work habits and continues to serve in an impeccable manner with values beyond reproach.

Throughout her work experiences, Attorney Jacobs has consistently demonstrated many qualities that should bode well for her in this new capacity. Typically, she is thoughtful, patient, caring, compassionate, and empathetic, and she possesses moral courage, high ethics, and outstanding organizational skills. These attributes have been evident, not only in her daily work environment and in her family structure as she raised her two children, but also as she assists disadvantaged youth here in this community. She serves as a mentor and as a source of encouragement and support for these youngsters. I have been fortunate to witness situations whereby young persons in need of attention and guidance have benefitted from the interest and care extended by the Jacobs Family.

Attorney Jacobs is a sports enthusiast and an avid tennis player who believes in the benefits of exercise and physical activity to strengthen both the mind and the body. She utilizes this hobby to teach the sport of tennis to youngsters in this community, and therefore motivates and encourages these youth to develop their skills and to seek out athletic scholarships and financial aid to attend college in pursuit of their educational dreams and careers.

Attorney Jacobs is eminently qualified to serve as a judge in the Judiciary of the Virgin Islands. Her character, temperament, intellect and her successful legal career, educational preparation, and work experience, as well as her service to the community at large, should prove valuable in this new role within the Judicial Branch. These qualities give evidence of her worthiness to serve as a judge of the Superior Court here in the Virgin Islands. Once confirmed, the residents of the Virgin Islands community will be the beneficiaries of the experience and work of this competent jurist.

I wholeheartedly support the confirmation of Attorney Carol Thomas-Jacobs as a judge in the Judicial Branch of the St. Thomas/St. John District.

Respectfully,

mmusawill

Carmen D. Howell Retired Principal, CAHS carmendh@hotmail.com