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Honorable Senator Diane T. Capehart
Chairman of the Rules and Judiciary Committee
35th Legislature of the US Virgin Islands
3022 Estate Golden Rock
Christiansted, VI 00820

April 30, 2023

Dear Senator Capehart:

It is an honor and true privilege to address this august body on behalf of my friend Atty Yvette Ross-Edwards whom I have known, loved, respected, and wholeheartedly trusted for approximately 50 years. Understandably, pouring so many rich, meaty years of friendship into a couple pages will be quite daunting, but I will attempt to pen a narrative worthy of my comrade. We have weathered many storms together and always ended on the better side of life because of our unending and unbreakable friendship. Therefore, I humbly seek your indulgence in advance for the poignancy and spirit of my letter.

When I first met Atty Ross-Edwards we were in elementary school. Her demeanor back then has remained consistent throughout her life. She was a quiet observer, a consummate communicator and debater with a quick wit and a humble brilliance that made everyone comfortable in her presence. We ended up at Hampton Institute, now Hampton University, and she was a scholar to be admired. She excelled in all her classes and found time to play softball and volleyball with the Hampton Pirates. She graduated Magna Cum Laude, but two ~~her~~ qualities she possessed impressed me more - her focused ambition on returning home to serve her community and secondly, her humility. So, while Yvette continued on to law school, I returned home and began my career in education. There was no such thing as WhatsApp back then, but we wrote many letters and had exorbitant phone bills.

Yvette came home, and yes, she was ready. Her exuberance for law, community development, and family was evident by those who knew her well and by those who worked with her. You see, Yvette has never worried about working hard behind the scenes as long as the job got done. Ironically, almost always, her hard work and commitment placed her in a leadership position which she managed with grace and dignity.

I would say that Yvette's brilliant understanding and adherence to the law added to her being a model citizen of our community. She uses her knowledge of the law to make the best decision for all involved. She is an active team player, an innovative leader, and a faithful steward. I often tease her about being fastidiously organized. Since retiring, I have volunteered at her office; she takes checks and balances to an entirely other level. However, because of her

organized office system that is both paper and pencil and electronic, she can immediately and efficiently locate dates, documents, files, receipts, etc.

I wrote all this to emphatically depict the indelible, incomparable, and incredible character Atty Ross-Edwards possesses that will guide her as a judge. She is trustworthy, considerate, brilliant, and respectful. She will wield her gavel in support and defense of the law and in the best interest of our community. Her mission in life has always been to diplomatically serve courageously and with integrity. She has done this and will continue to do so even if she has to boldly and fearlessly stand alone to defend a cause. Sometimes being the lone wolf suits her just fine because she has instinctually researched, deliberated, and counseled before making and supporting a decision. Her conscience must be clear.

Attorney Yvette Ross-Edwards is a true Virgin Islander who is principled and possesses the judicial temperament necessary to communicate, listen and mete out justice with precision and fairness. Therefore, I respectfully ask you to listen to her qualifications, community involvement, and life experiences, then decide to place this competent stalwart in the position of judge of the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands of the United States. I sincerely thank you for giving me the opportunity to share my friend with you and for allowing me to pen a couple pages filled with a lifetime of truth, respect, and admiration.

Many Regards,



Chermaine Hobson