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Re: Judicial Nomination of Yvette Ross-Edwards

To the Attention of the Hon. Albert Bryan, Jr., Governor:

I am a St. Croix civil litigator with decades of experience, stateside and local. I have been a member of the Virgin Islands Bar since 2001. I have represented the Virgin Islands Bar Association as *amicus curiae* counsel in matters of significant public interest before the Supreme Court of the Virgin Islands and the Third Circuit Court of Appeals, though I am not writing this letter in that capacity or presuming to speak on behalf of the Bar in any way. I am writing this (unsolicited) letter solely as a local attorney with a deep and abiding interest in maintaining and enhancing the quality of justice in the Territory.

From that perspective I offer my enthusiastic support for the potential nomination and appointment of Yvette Ross-Edwards as a Superior Court judge.

Attorney Ross-Edwards' educational credentials are impeccable. In addition to her juris doctorate, she has a master's degree in education. Her professional credentials are equally impressive. She has a wealth of experience in *both* civil and criminal matters. This is important. The Superior Court—regrettably—does not have separate civil and criminal divisions. Judicial appointees are expected to hit the ground running with a mastery of both civil and criminal law, when realistically only a handful of local practicing attorneys can legitimately claim such dual proficiency. Attorney Ross-Edwards is one of them.

Attorney Ross-Edwards indeed has a broad spectrum of experience in civil and criminal law. She has represented both plaintiffs and defendants in significant civil litigation at the trial level and on appeal (e.g., defense of medical malpractice, pursuing civil rights/excessive force claims, etc.). She has defended numerous Virgin Islands citizens accused of territorial and federal crimes. She also has substantial experience in government affairs. At various times she served as counsel for the Public Finance Authority, insurance defense counsel for the Port

Authority, and legal counsel to the Director of Insurance. She has also served on Board of the Water and Power Authority.

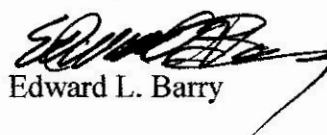
One of the formidable challenges facing any local judge is docket overload. This requires case management skills that frankly not all judges—even those with unquestioned intellectual capacity and legal expertise—possess. This is a critical issue, given the chronic problem of egregious delay in the administration of justice in our local courts. I bring this up because Attorney Ross-Edwards has successfully handled the business side of a private law practice for many years. I would expect her law office management knowledge and experience to carry over to her judicial administrative responsibilities.

Attorney Ross-Edwards' roots in the community are strong and deep, and her record of volunteer service is outstanding. She has served on the Boards of the Virgin Islands Bar Association, the Board of Professional Responsibility, Our Town Frederiksted, and Legal Services. She has served as Regional Dean of the Episcopal Diocese of the Virgin Islands. She is also a volunteer for St. Croix Farmers in Action, Inc., and has actively promoted agricultural interests in the Islands.

In my two decades of practice in the Virgin Islands, I have never heard a single person question Attorney Ross-Edwards' intellectual integrity, character, or competence.

In sum, I recommend Attorney Ross-Edwards for nomination and appointment to the Superior Court bench without reservation of any kind.

Sincerely,



Edward L. Barry