



THE PATE LAW FIRM

P.O. BOX 370 • CHRISTIANSTED • SAINT CROIX, USVI 00821
OFFICE: 340.777.7283 • FAX: 888.889.1132 • EMAIL: PATE@SUNLAWVI.COM

March 31, 2023

Office of the Governor
of the US Virgin Islands
Attn: Michèle Baker
Chief Legal Counsel
Government House
Kongens Gade
Charlotte Amalie, VI 00802

Via Email: michele.baker@go.vi.gov

**Re: Support for nomination of Yvette Ross Edwards
to the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands**

Dear Office of the Governor,

I write to commend the Governor for his nomination of attorney Yvette Ross Edwards to the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands. One of the benefits and blessing of the Virgin Islands is that judges are nominated by the Executive Branch. In some States, particularly in two States where I have lived and practiced law, Texas and North Carolina, judges are elected. I have seen attorneys elected to judgeship simply because their names were the same as a famous Nascar driver or a movie star. Thankfully, in the Virgin Islands, the Governor, with the assistance of his staff, cabinet and other advisors can make a diligent and conscientious judicial selection of a competent, qualified and hard-working attorney. Attorney Yvette Ross Edwards proves this conscientiousness. She is an excellent selection.

I have known Attorney Yvette Ross Edwards professionally for over ten years. I served on the Board of Governors of the Virgin Islands Bar Association and also as President of the Bar. For many of those years, Yvette Ross Edwards was a fellow member. She calmly and competently served on the Board of Governors for many years, helping build consensus, and shepherding along projects – while also managing her own law practice with a vast variety of everyday people as her clients.



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She is a peacemaker, a consensus building, a deliberative thinker, soft-spoken with a thoughtful and kind demeanor. Many laypeople think of attorneys as grandiose and with heavy braggadocio, Yvette Ross Edwards defies those stereotypes and lets her actions speak much louder than her quiet words. I know in her long practice her accolades are numerous, but she would never advertise her achievements. She is someone who donates anonymously and defers and gives credit to the “team.” Yvette Ross Edwards stands for, through her quiet but consistent actions, the highest standard of attorney ideals and commitment, first and foremost as service to the client, second to advancing justice via her service with the Bar, and third to the community through her numerous activities and her service to a wide variety of the general public.

I am also well pleased to see an attorney who has labored for so many years in private practice assume the bench. Judges who have literally been in the shoes of those attorneys appearing before them, understand the nuisances, conundrums and plethora of problems that private practice attorneys endure; just as one example of many, overhead, which attorneys only in government practice may be personally unfamiliar with.

In conclusion, I have no doubt that in a judicial role, with her black robe, Yvette Ross Edwards will focus her efforts on fairly applying the law and moving cases forward to timely resolution, all while treating all litigants and attorneys before her with her trademark courtesy.

Best Regards,

J. Russell B. Pate, Esq.
Attorney at Law