



Office of the Governor
United States Virgin Islands

**QUESTIONNAIRE
FOR
GOVERNOR'S NOMINEE FOR
DEPARTMENTS, AGENCIES, BOARDS & COMMISSIONS**

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE YOU COMPLETE THIS QUESTIONNAIRE.

- 1) **ALL questions must be fully and correctly answered and returned to the Office of Legal Counsel **within seven (7) business days of your receipt of the Questionnaire.****
- 2) Do not submit a resume instead of this Questionnaire.
- 3) If more than the allotted space on this form is required for a complete and full answer, please attach as many additional 8½ x 11 sheets as may be needed. At the top of each additional sheet put your name, "Office of the Governor, Office of Legal Counsel", and then reference the question number before each answer.
- 4) **The Questionnaire is in PDF Format. Please complete all responses clearly in black font color. Responses are NOT to be handwritten.**
- 5) Please do not hesitate to call the Office of Legal Counsel at Government House at (340) 774-0001 if you have any questions concerning this Questionnaire.

NOMINEE'S NAME:

10. EMPLOYMENT RECORD: Please list, in chronological order, your complete employment record for the past ten (10) years, beginning with the present or most recent position. [Attach additional sheet(s), if necessary, and reference this question number]

Employer	Dates of Employment	Position	Address/Phone #	Supervisor
Superior Court of the Virgin Islands	November 2019 - present	Magistrate Judge	P.O. Box 929, C'sted, VI 00821	The Honorable Debra S. Watlington
Legislature of the Virgin Islands	February 2019 - October 2019	Chief Legal Counsel	P.O. Box 1690, St. Thomas, VI 00804	The Honorable Kenneth L. Gittens and the Honorable Novelle E. Francis, Jr.
Morris Legal Group	January 2018 - February 2019	Managing Attorney	P.O. Box 3889, Kingshill, VI 00851	N/A
Viya	February 2014 - November 2017	Corporate Counsel	26A Annas Retreat, St. Thomas, VI 00802	Nathania Bates, Esq, Shawn O'Donnell, and Alvaro Pilar
Legislature of the Virgin Islands	March 2011 - February 2014	Legislative Counsel	P.O. Box 1690, St. Thomas, VI 00804	Trudy Fenster, Esq.

11. GOVERNMENT EXPERIENCE:

A. List all federal, state, territorial or local government services, giving dates and type of service such as employee, boards, commissions, executive, legislative or judicial branches, consultant, voluntary service, part-time or honorary. [Attach additional sheet(s), if necessary, and reference this question number]

B. List and attach a copy of all service contracts you have held independently or been a party to with the Government of the Virgin Islands.

A. Democratic Party of the Virgin Islands - Territorial & STX District Committee, 01/16-11/19
Democratic Party of the Virgin Islands - National Committee Man, 01/18 - 11/19
Public Defender Administrative Board - Member, 12/17 - 11/19
Judicial Management Advisory Committee - Member, 12/21 - present
Standing Committee on Indigent Appointments - Secretary, 05/22 - present
B. N/A

NOMINEE'S NAME:

12. BUSINESSES AND FINANCIAL INTEREST: List all businesses (for profit or not for profit), real estate and trusts in which you have at least a 10% interest or control of assets or serve as an officer or member of a board with voting rights. [Attach additional sheet(s), if necessary, and reference this question number]

None

13. QUALIFICATIONS: What in your opinion qualifies you to serve the People of the Virgin Islands in the position which the Governor has nominated you?

Extensive legal experience and 4.5 years service as a Magistrate Judge; continued legal education through the National Judicial College and the Master of Judicial Studies Program at the University of Nevada, Reno; and community service and engagement.

SECTION II: HONORS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

14. MEMBERSHIPS: List all memberships and offices held in professional, fraternal, scholarly, civic, charitable, and other organizations.

Virgin Islands Bar Association: Committee Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, President-Elect, President, Immediate Past President. St. Croix Landmarks Society: Board Member. We Deh Yah Cultural Dancers: Secretary, Vice-President, President.

15. BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, TRUSTS, ETC.: List all government or private sector boards, trusts, or fiduciary responsible positions on which you have served or are now serving.

See response to question number 11.

16. HONORS AND AWARDS: List all scholarships, fellowships, honorary degrees, honor society memberships, and any other special recognition for outstanding service or achievement.

NOMINEE'S NAME:

Virgin Islands Bar Association: Winston Hodge Award
Howard University School of Law: CALI Excellence for the Future Award in Con. Law
Yale University: F. Wilder Bellamy, Jr. Memorial Prize, and Silliman Cup
Generation Now: Emerging Leader Award

17. PUBLISHED WRITINGS: List all titles, publishers and dates of books, articles, reports, or other published materials you have written.

N/A

SECTION III: CHARACTER

18. Have you ever been the subject of a grand jury, police, and department of justice or any legally constituted government authority, investigation anywhere or at anytime?
 YES NO

If your answer is yes, please explain with details including date and location. [Attach additional sheet(s), if necessary, and reference this question number]

N/A

19. Have you ever been arrested in any geographical location for any offense, including traffic violations? YES NO

If yes, please explain with details including offense, date of location and disposition. [Attach additional sheet(s), if necessary, and reference this question number]

N/A

NOMINEE'S NAME:

20. Have you ever been convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor? YES NO
If yes, please explain with details including offense, date, location, and current status. [Attach additional sheet(s), if necessary, and reference this question number]

N/A

21. Is there now or has there ever been a judgment entered against you? YES NO
If the answer is yes, please explain with details on date, location and disposition or current status. [Attach additional sheet(s), if necessary, and reference this question number]

N/A

22. Have you ever been a respondent in any labor dispute or discrimination proceeding?
 YES NO
If the answer is yes, please explain with details on date, location and disposition or current status. [Attach additional sheet(s), if necessary, and reference this question number]

N/A

23. Have you ever been named as a party in any hearing, administrative, civil, and criminal, including Equal Employment Opportunity or sexual harassment? YES NO
If yes, please explain in detail, giving date, venue, agency, and the names of the other parties and the disposition. [Attach additional sheet(s), if necessary, and reference this question number]

N/A

NOMINEE'S NAME:

24. Have you now or have you ever been a member of an organization or an associate of an individual advocating terrorism, overthrow of a government by force or the advocacy or subordination of any ethnic group or individuals? YES NO

If the answer is yes, please give details of dates, names of organizations, names of individuals and all pertinent circumstances. [Attach additional sheet(s), if necessary, and reference this question number]

N/A

25. Do you know of any individual, organization or group, which can be expected to oppose your nomination? YES NO

If the answer is yes, please list the individuals, organizations or groups by name and give the details of your belief for their opposition. [Attach additional sheet(s), if necessary, and reference this question number]

N/A

26. Do you have any outstanding and delinquent monetary obligations to the Government of the Virgin Islands or any other public or private entity, including but not limited to, personal income taxes, business taxes, real property taxes (commercial or residential), business license renewals, trade name renewals, annual reporting fees, professional organization dues, child support, judgments, debt

NOMINEE'S NAME:

Government of the Virgin Islands, includes but is not limited to the following departments, agencies and instrumentalities: the Bureau of Internal Revenue, Tax Assessor, Department of Justice Division of Paternity and Child Support, Board of Education, Economic Development Authority, U. S. Small Business Administration, Small Business Development Center, Police Department, Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs, the Water and Power Authority, the Waste Management Authority, Department of Health, Department of Human Services

YES NO

If the answer is yes, please attach a detailed explanation of what outstanding and delinquent monetary obligations are owed, the reason for the delinquency, and the intended plan to bring the matter current.

SECTION IV: CONFLICT OF INTEREST

27. Please explain your understanding of "Conflict of Interest" as it applies to the position to which you have been nominated to serve the People of the Virgin Islands.

For a judge, a conflict of interest arises if they are to preside over a matter or make a
decision in a matter where they have an interest, financial or otherwise, or if the matter
involves a friend, family member, or former client. Judges must avoid even the appearance
of impropriety.

28. Do you own a business or real estate, or are you a partner or shareholder or affiliated in any way to sell or provide goods or services to the Virgin Islands Government?

YES NO

If the answer is yes, please explain and give the name and location of these interest(s) and how you promise to remove yourself from any possible conflict. [Attach additional sheet(s), if necessary, and reference this question number]

NOMINEE'S NAME:

29. Does any close relative or spouse have a business or real estate interest(s) as described in question 25? ___ YES x NO

If the answer is yes, please explain and give the name and location of these interest(s) and how you propose to remove yourself from any possible conflict. (Attach additional sheet(s), if necessary.)

SECTION V: JOB PERFORMANCE

30. In no more than 150 words, please outline in priority order your four (4) specific short-term and four (4) specific long-term goals and objectives you would employ to achieve the entity's purpose and improve its service delivery system if your nomination is confirmed for this position.

My short-term and long-term goals are the same:
(1) Reduce/Eliminate case backlog.
(2) Move cases efficiently and expeditiously.
(3) Rule on motions and petitions in a timely manner.
(4) Decide appeals from the Magistrate Division in a timely manner.

31. Is there any additional information that you believe would assist the Committee on Rules and the Judiciary in processing your nomination expeditiously?

I have served the Legislature of the Virgin Islands as legal counsel, so many of the Senators have first have knowlege of my work ethic and ability. I ask that they consider their personal knowledge of the quality of my work in making their decision.

NOMINEE'S NAME:

**SIGNATURE, CERTIFICATION AND AUTHORIZATION
FOR
RELEASE OF INFORMATION**

Please read the following very carefully before you sign this document.

1. I understand that the information given in this Questionnaire will be investigated under all applicable laws.
2. I understand that any false statement on any part of this Questionnaire can be grounds for rejecting the confirmation of my nomination.
3. I hereby consent and authorize the release of information on my character, background, ability, financial indebtedness and fitness to serve the residents of the United States Virgin Islands by all government departments and agencies, especially the **Bureau of Internal Revenue, Tax Assessor, Department of Justice Division of Paternity and Child Support, Board of Education, Economic Development Authority, U. S. Small Business Administration, Small Business Development Center, Police Department, Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs, if applicable**, employers, schools, all law enforcement agencies, and all other individuals and organizations, which may be deemed necessary, to authorized Committee on Rules and the Judiciary investigators, its staff and any other authorized employees of the Virgin Islands Government as may be required.
4. **CERTIFICATION:**
This is to certify and affirm that all the statements contained herein and in any supporting document or schedules or other such supporting documents or schedules executed at a later date as a part or addendum to this document are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and are made in good faith.

Signed this 6th day of June 2024.

Ernest E. Morris, Jr.

Nominee's Name [Print Clearly]


Signature of Nominee

Sworn and subscribed before me this 6th day of June, 2024.


Notary Public of the U.S. Virgin Islands

[seal]

My commission expires: 

NOMINEE'S NAME:

CERTIFICATION:

This is to certify and affirm that all the statements contained herein and in any supporting documents or schedules or other such supporting documents or schedules executed at a later date as a part or addendum to this document are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and are made in good faith.

Signed this 6th day of June, 2024.

Ernest E. Morris, Jr.

Nominee's Name [Print Clearly]


Signature of Nominee

Sworn and subscribed before me this 6th day of June, 2024.


Notary Public of the U.S. Virgin Islands

[seal]

My commission expires: EX OFFICIO