



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:** Gordon C. Rhea

**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
Government of the Virgin Islands	May, 2024 to present	Attorney General Nominee	Department of Justice 213 Estate La Reine, Kingshill, St. Croix VI	Governor Albert Bryan Jr.
Gordon C. Rhea, P.C.	1988 through May, 2024	Owner President Attorney	Varied over the years. Last business address 1533 Appling Drive Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464	None

**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] See attached sheet

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.

None



**NOMINEE'S NAME:** Gordon C. Rhea

**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]

Owner of Gordon C. Rhea, P.C. This is my private practice.
I have closed out all private cases, and the firm is dormant.

**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?

See attached sheet.

**SECTION II: HONORS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

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

I am a member of the Bars of the Virgin Islands, Washington, D.C., California,
the 3rd and 9th Federal Circuits, the Virgin Islands Supreme Court, and the United States Supreme Courts

**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.

I am a Board member of the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust, which works with the National Park Service
to preserve historic sites in Central.Virginia.

**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:** Gordon C. Rhea

See attached sheet.

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

See attached sheet.

**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]

See attached sheet.

**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]

See attached sheet.

**NOMINEE'S NAME:** Gordon C. Rhea

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]

I believe that the charge of obstructing a public thoroughfare referenced in 18, was classified as an infraction,
which is less than a misdemeanor.

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]


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]


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]




**NOMINEE'S NAME:** Gordon C. Rhea


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]


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]


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:** Gordon C. Rhea

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.

A conflict of interest would mean that, because of my prior representation or socialization with a certain person or organization, I could not, in my role as Attorney General, be involved in decisions involving matters in which they had been involved.

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]

See attached sheet.



**NOMINEE'S NAME:** Gordon C. Rhea

29. Does any close relative or spouse have a business or real estate interest(s) as described in question 25?    \_\_\_ YES     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.

See attached sheet.

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

Please see attached, a full Resume of my work experience.

**NOMINEE'S NAME:** Gordon C. Rhea

**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 10<sup>th</sup> day of June 2024

Gordon C. Rhea  
Nominee's Name [Print Clearly]

Gordon C. Rhea  
Signature of Nominee

Sworn and subscribed before me this 10<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2024

Sherlene Luke  
Notary Public of the U.S. Virgin Islands

[seal]

My commission expires: AT THE PLEASURE OF THE LI. GOVERNOR



**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 10<sup>th</sup> day of June 2024

Gordon C. Rhea

Nominee's Name [Print Clearly]

Gordon C. Rhea

Signature of Nominee

Sworn and subscribed before me this 10<sup>th</sup> day of June 2024

Sherline Luke

Notary Public of the U.S. Virgin Islands

[seal]

My commission expires: AT THE PLEASURE OF THE LT. GOVERNOR





11. **GOVERNMENT EXPERIENCE:**

a. United States Peace Corps, 1968-1970:

Peace Corps Volunteer in Ethiopia, taught in a village school and managed community development projects.

b. United States Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Activities, 1975-1976:

Served as Special Assistant to the Chief Counsel, investigated CIA attempts to assassinate foreign leaders and FBI attempts to undermine the Civil Rights Movement. Drafted legislation, prepared Senators Church and Mondale for hearings, rendered legal opinions.

c. United States Attorney's Office, Washington, D.C., 1976-1981:

Served as Assistant United States Attorney, elevated to Deputy Director of Superior Court Operations, then to top executive position as Executive Assistant to United States Attorney. Tried numerous trials in the District of Columbia and ultimately managed an office of approximately 160 federal prosecutors.

d. U.S. Attorney's Office, Virgin Islands, 1981-1982:

Served as an Assistant United States Attorney, trying cases on St. Croix and St. Thomas.

### 13. QUALIFICATIONS:

I have extensive background as an attorney, having handled numerous cases as a prosecutor, a defense attorney, a civil attorney, and an appellate attorney. During my time with the United States Attorney's Office in Washington, D.C., I served as Deputy Director of Superior Court Operations and as Executive Assistant United States Attorney. In short, I have already gained experience managing the same type of office as the Virgin Islands Department of Justice.

In addition, I am very familiar with the Virgin Islands, its customs, and its legal system. I have been a member of the Virgin Islands Bar for more than forty (40) years and have tried cases in court before juries in more than a hundred (100) trials. I know the Territory's lawyers, its judges, and its legal procedures. The V.I. Bar last year awarded me its Winston Hodge Award, which is its highest honor.

Finally, I am in excellent health, and my wife of 37 years and I are looking forward for this opportunity to give back to the Virgin Islands that have meant so much to us.

## 16. HONORS AND AWARDS:

I graduated from Indiana University Summa Cum Laude, with honors in history, and was inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society. At Harvard University, I was granted a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship, one of the University's highest scholarships. At Stanford University Law School, I helped draft the law school's Environment Law Handbook and received an award for that.

While an Assistant United States Attorney in Washington, D.C., I was twice awarded an honorary plaque for outstanding service. This past year, the Virgin Islands Bar Association selected me for its highest honor, the Winston Hodge Award. My rating with Martindale-Hubble, the national rating agency, is AV, which is the highest rating for ethical standards and preeminent legal ability.



## 17. PUBLISHED WRITINGS:

I have written eight books and numerous articles, largely about the American Civil War and Reconstruction eras. A list of my books is as follows:

Stephne A. Swails: Black Freedom Fighter in the Civil War and Reconstruction (LSU Press: Baton Rouge , 2021)

The Battle of the Wilderness, May 5-6, 1864 (LSU Press: Baton Rouge, 1994). (History Book Club Main Selection, Book of the Month Club Selection, winner of Landry Award, Civil War Regiments Award)

The Battle of Spotsylvania Court House and the Road to Yellow Tavern, May 7-12, 1864 (LSU Press: Baton Rouge, 1997) (History Book Club Dual Main Selection, winner of Landry Award)

To the North Anna River: Grant and Lee, May 13-25, 1864 (LSU Press: Baton Rouge, 2000) (History Book Club Main Selection, winner of Landry Award, 2000, and the Fletcher Pratt Award, 2001)

Cold Harbor: Grant and Lee, May 26–June 3, 1864 (LSU Press: Baton Rouge, 2002) (History Book Club Dual Main Selection, Military History Book Club Dual Main Selection; winner of Daniel M. Laney Award, Austin, and Richard Barksdale Harwell Award, Atlanta)

On the Pittsburg: Grant and Lee, June 4-15, 1864 (LSU Press: Baton Rouge, 2017) (Lincoln Prize Finalist; winner of Daniel M. Laney Award and Emerging Civil War Book Award)

Carry the Flag (Perseus, New York, 2023)

In the Footsteps of Grant and Lee: From the Wilderness to Cold Harbor (LSU Press: Baton Rouge, 2007) (with Chris Heisey, photographer)

Contributor, The Oxford Companion to American Military History (Oxford University Press, New York, 1999)

Contributor, The Cambridge History of the American Civil War (Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, England, 2019)

18.

When I was initially invited to serve with the United States Senate as Special Assistant to the Chief Counsel of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, Activities, I was required to pass one of the highest security levels in the government, known as COMINT, that would permit me to read and work with highly classified foreign security, CIA documents. I was thoroughly investigated and approved for COMINT clearance, which I received. This was in 1975.

In 1976, when I applied to the U.S. Attorneys Office in Washington, D.C., I again underwent an investigation and was approved.

19.

In 1972, while at Stanford University Law School, I took part in a demonstration involving several thousand students demonstrating in support of civil rights and against the Vietnam War. Hundreds of us were arrested and charged with obstructing a public thoroughfare. I do not recall that any fines or punishments were imposed.

I informed the authorities of this incident when I applied for the security clearance described in No. 18, and none of them held this incident against me.



28.

In my capacity as an attorney, I represented Richa Kahn, who was Jeffrey Epstein's accountant in New York and who was one of two joint executors of Epstein's estate. The government dismissed its case against him. However, to avoid even the appearance of a potential conflict, I will recuse myself from any Epstein matters and will let my Chief Deputy determine who should handle them.

I represented Amos Carty in his recent case in which he was charged with economic crimes during his tenure as the local hospital's Counsel and CEO. The Virgin Islands Supreme Court totally vindicated Mr. Carty, finding that he had acted legally and in good faith. I understand that Mr. Carty is seeking restitution for his legal expenses from the hospital. Of course, I will recuse myself from this matter.

30.

As the Attorney General Nominee, my four priorities are:

- 1). Increase the cooperation among the Territory's major law enforcement agencies, *i.e.*, the Attorney General's Office, the United States Attorney, the Virgin Islands Police Department, and the Superior Court.
- 2). Reduce the Department of Justice's case load by culling stale cases, promoting early pleas, and expanding diversion programs to enable the prosecutors to have the time and resources to focus on the more serious offenses.
- 3). Put in place a modern case management system, which will facilitate acquisition of materials from the VIPD, alert prosecutors of due dates for motion response, etc.
- 4). Implement a trial training program.

I have already taken steps to implement these objectives, both in short and long term, by meeting with the VIPD Commissioner, the U.S. Attorney, several judges, and heads of all divisions in the Department of Justice.

**GORDON C. RHEA, ESQ.**  
**U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS ATTORNEY GENERAL NOMINEE**

**BIO**

Gordon C. Rhea earned his B.A. Degree with honors from Indiana University, his Master's Degree from Harvard University, and his law degree from Stanford University Law School. He began his legal career in Los Angeles, where he defended complex criminal cases, and then moved to Washington, D.C., where he served as Special Assistant to the Chief Counsel of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Activities. His work there involved obtaining documents, deposing witnesses, writing reports, drafting legislation, and preparing Senators Church and Mondale for hearings. He played a major role in investigating and drafting the Senate Committee's reports on the CIA's attempts to assassinate Fidel Castro and the FBI's campaign to discredit Martin Luther King.

When the Committee completed its work, Mr. Rhea became an Assistant United States Attorney in Washington, D.C., where he worked for some five years prosecuting cases ranging from misdemeanors to first degree murders to complex white-collar indictments. He served as the office's Deputy Director of Superior Court Operations, overseeing all felony prosecutions in the District of Columbia, and as the Executive Assistant United States Attorney under United States Attorney Charles C. Ruff, with responsibility for coordinating local and Federal law enforcement agencies, reviewing and authorizing major local and Federal prosecutions, trying high-profile prosecutions in the nation's capital, and assisting in managing the nation's largest Federal prosecutor's office of over 160 civil and criminal lawyers.

In 1981, Mr. Rhea was appointed an Assistant United States Attorney in the U.S. Virgin Islands, where he prosecuted several high-profile murder cases and economic crimes. He was already familiar with the Virgin Islands, having received Peace Corps training on St. Croix in the summer of 1968, before serving as a Peace Corps volunteer in Ethiopia for two years. In 1982, Mr. Rhea and Attorney Thomas Alkon founded Alkon and Rhea, a prominent plaintiff's firm on St. Croix specializing in toxic tort litigation, product liability cases, and complex white collar criminal cases. Alkon and Rhea brought critical litigation against the Hess Oil refinery and the Martin Marietta bauxite refinery for toxic exposure to workers, including asbestos, heavy-metal catalysts, silica, solvents, and isocyanate paints. They also prosecuted ground-breaking product liability cases against automobile manufacturers for injuries caused by vehicle instability, firewall failures, and occupant protection failures; handled litigation involving airplane crashes, turbulence encounters, and a wide range of catastrophic worker related injuries; and served as co-counsel in litigation against Exxon,

ESSO, and Texaco for contaminating the sole-source Tutu aquifer on St. Thomas with petroleum and chlorinated hydrocarbons. Mr. Rhea represented several businessmen in Federal criminal investigations by the Justice Department's Criminal Tax Division.

In sum, Mr. Rhea has extensive experience in civil, criminal, and appellate litigation, much of it in the Virgin Islands, where he has been a member of the bar for forty years. He has handled multiple high-profile cases in the islands and won the largest civil jury verdict ever rendered in the V.I. in a landmark case involving cancer deaths caused by cigarettes. This year, the Virgin Islands Bar Association granted Mr. Rhea its highest honor, the Winston Hodge Award. Moreover, he has extensive experience managing one of the nation's major legal agencies, the United States Attorney's Office in Washington, D.C.