

Kareem L. Todman<kareem@todmanlaw.com>

Jikelle Michael

Avery L. Lewis;La'Starr Watley

Good day, Ms. Michael,

Thank you for the invitation. Unfortunately, I am unable to testify at this time as I am currently off island. Nevertheless, this legislation has my full support, and I look forward to the possibility of working with Senator Lewis in the near future on additional matters deserving the Legislature's attention.

Several issues of particular interest to me are:

Increasing the minimum insurance requirements for operating a motor vehicle in the Virgin Islands.

At present, motorists are required to carry only \$10,000.00 in liability insurance per accident, which is inadequate to address medical expenses for most accidents. I believe the minimum coverage should be raised to \$25,000.00 per accident, \$50,000.00 per occurrence, and \$25,000.00 for property damage per accident. This coverage is available in the State of Georgia for reference. At some point, we should also address bad faith legislation, because insurance companies in the VI have no incentive to settle claims without a lawsuit.

Amending Title 15 V.I.C. § 235 regarding the qualifications of executors and administrators of estates. Under current law, nonresidents of the Virgin Islands are prohibited from serving in these roles, with no exception for individuals who are related to the decedent. I am interested in exploring legislation that would allow nonresident relatives of the decedent to serve as executors or administrators.

Amend the Virgin Islands Wrongful Discharge Act to provide that wrongfully discharged employees are entitled to reinstatement and back pay if they choose to file a claim in the Superior Court. The statute currently provides for compensatory and punitive damages, but not reinstatement and explicitly back pay. Additionally, allow wrongfully discharged employees to recover reasonable attorney's fees and costs when they elect to file a claim with the Department of Labor and/or the Superior Court.

Best regards,

Kareem L. Todman, Esq.

340-626-6868