



Legislature Of The Virgin Islands

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THE HONORABLE
Carla J. Joseph

SENATOR

36th Legislature of the Virgin Islands

*Liaison to the United States Department of Interior
and Office of Insular Affairs*

CHAIR

Committee on Rules and Judiciary

VICE CHAIR

Committee on Culture, Youth, Aging, Sports, and Parks

MEMBER

Committee of the Whole

Committee on Education and Workforce Development

Committee on Housing, Transportation, and Telecommunications

Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs,
and Consumer Protection

Memorandum: 25-013

TO: Mrs. Kurell A. Sheridan, JD
Executive Director
36th Legislature of the V.I.

FROM: The Honorable Carla J. Joseph 
Chair
Committee on Rules and Judiciary

DATE: July 25, 2025

SUBJECT: Committee Report for Tuesday, July 22, 2025 Hearing

Please find attached the report for the Committee on Rules and Judiciary hearing held on Tuesday, July 22, 2025 in the Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall, St. Thomas.

CC: All Senators
Chief Legal Counsel
Archive Division
Journal Division

RULES AND JUDICIARY JULY 22, 2025 COMMITTEE HEARING REPORT

The Committee on Rules and Judiciary held its hearing on Tuesday, July 22, 2025, at the Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall on St. Thomas. The Committee considered the following Nominations and Bills:

- **Mr. Vincent Roberts** – Governor’s Nominee for Commissioner of the Department of Sports, Parks and Recreation,
- **Mr. Erwin Raphael** – Governor’s Nominee for the University of the Virgin Islands Research and Technology Park Board,
- **Mrs. Chantelle Quinones** – Governor’s Nominee for the Virgin Islands Historic Preservation Commission,
- **Bill No. 36-0077** – An act amending title 3 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 37 to enact the Virgin Islands Commission and Ethics and Conflicts of Interest. **Proposed by: Senator Kenneth L. Gittens, and**
- **Bill No. 36-0039** – An Act amending title 33 Virgin Island Code, chapter 4 by increasing the cost to bring containers or flat rack containers into the Virgin Islands. **Proposed by: Senator Angel L. Bolques.**

The meeting was called to order by the Committee Chair, Sen. Carla J. Joseph at 10:02 a.m.

Committee Members Present

Sen. Carla J. Joseph, Chair
Sen. Kenneth L. Gittens, Vice Chair
Sen. Angel L. Bolques, Jr.
Sen. Alma Francis Heyliger
Sen. Clifford A. Joseph, Sr.
Sen. Avery L. Lewis

Office of the Executive Director

Mr. Charles Brown, Jr.
Ms. Jevon Ottley
Mr. Isaac Winston

Sergeant-At-Arms

Mr. Delvin Fleming

Public Affairs/Media

Mr. Kashief Hamilton
Mr. Barry Leerdam
Ms. Chaunte Herbert
Ms. Diana Cruz
Ms. Africah Harrigan

Non-Committee Members Present

Sen. Novelle E. Francis, Jr.

Committee Member Absent

Sen. Milton E. Potter (Excused)

Legislative Reporters

Mrs. Nataya Munoz-Melchoir
Ms. Tricia D. Sealey
Mrs. Vashti Gerald-Berry

Clerk/Timekeeper

Ms. Shania Nieves
Ms. Tanise LeBlanc

Supporting Staff

Neta I.M. Christopher

Legal Counsel

Attorney Nandi Sekou

In block one, Mr. Vincent Roberts, the Governor’s Nominee for Commissioner of the Department of Sports, Parks and Recreation read his testimony into the record. Senators

proceeded with one (1) round of five (5) minutes of questioning. Senator Avery L. Lewis motioned that the nomination of Mr. Vincent Roberts Governor's Nominee for Commissioner Department of Sports, Parks, and Recreation be favorably voted upon in the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and forwarded to the full body for further consideration and action. The motion was seconded by Senators Bolques, Jr., Francis Heyliger and Clifford A. Joseph, Sr. Voting in favor were Senators Bolques, Heyliger Francis, Carla Joseph, Clifford A. Joseph Sr., Lewis, and Gittens. The motion was carried **(6 yeas – 1 absent)**

In block two of the meeting, Mr. Erwin Raphael, the Governor's Nominee to the Board of Directors of the University of the Virgin Islands Research and Technology Park (RTPark) read his testimony into the record. Senators proceeded with one (1) round of three (3) minutes of questioning. Senator Avery L. Lewis motioned that the nomination of Mr. Erwin Rahael the Governor's Nominee to the University of the Virgin Islands Research and Technology Park Board (RT Park) be favorably voted upon in the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and forwarded to the full body for further consideration and action. The motion was seconded by Senators Francis Heyliger, and Clifford Joseph. Voting in favor were Senators Bolques, Jr., Francis Heyliger, Carla Joseph, Clifford A. Joseph, Sr., Lewis, and Gittens. The motion was carried **(6 yeas – 1 absent)**

In block three of the meeting, Mrs. Chantele D. Quinones the Governor's Nominee to the Virgin Islands Historic Preservation Commission read her testimony into the record. Senators proceeded with one round (1) of three (3) minutes. Senator Kenneth L. Gittens motioned that the nomination of Mrs. Chantelle Quinones Governor's Nominee for the Virgin Islands Historic Preservation Commission be favorably voted upon in the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and forwarded to the full body for further consideration and action. The motion was second by Senators Lewis and Clifford A. Joseph, Sr. Voting in favor were Senators Bolques, Jr., Carla Joseph, Clifford A. Joseph, Sr., Lewis, and Gittens. The motion was carried **(5 yeas - 2 absent)**

In block four of the meeting, the Committee received testimonies on **Bill No. 36-0077-** An act amending title 3 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 37 to enact the Virgin Islands Commission and Ethics and Conflicts of Interest from Ms. Gwen-Marie Moolenaar, Phd., President of the League of Women Voters of the Virgin Islands, Ms. Cindy Richardson, Director of the Division of Personnel, Mr. Jeremy Weddle, Esq., Assistant Attorney General for the Department of Justice; and Mrs. Anna Kristin McKown, Esq, Member of the Virgin Islands Bar Association's Legislative and Law Reform Committee. Also, a letter from Ms. Regina deChabert Petersen, Administrator of the Courts was read into the record. The Chair allowed for one (1) round of two (2) minutes of questioning by each Senator. The testifiers identified concerns relative to the proposed legislation. Senator Kenneth L. Gittens motioned that the bill be held in Committee at the call of the Chair. The motion was second by Senator Angel Bolques and Francis Heyliger. Voting in favor of the motion were Senators Bolques, Jr., Francis Heyliger, Carla Joseph, Clifford A. Joseph, Sr., Lewis, and Gittens. The motion was carried **(6 yeas – 1 absent)**.

In the final block of the meeting, **Bill No. 36-0039** An Act amending title 33 Virgin Island Code, chapter 4 by increasing the cost to bring containers or flat rack containers into the Virgin Islands. The Chair allowed for one (1) round of two (2) minutes of questioning by each Senator. The motion to amend the bill was offered by Senator Bolques and was second by Senator Avey L. Lewis. The motion carried without any objection. Senator Bolques moved that the bill as amended be held in Committee at the call of the Chair. The motion was

seconded by Senator Lewis. Voting in favor of the motion were Senators Bolques, Jr., Carla Joseph, Clifford A. Joseph, Sr., Lewis, and Gittens. Senator Francis Heyliger voted against the motion. The motion carried and the bill was held in Committee (5 yeas / 1 nay / 1 absent).

The Chair, Sen. Carla J. Joseph, adjourned the Committee on Rules and Judiciary hearing at 5:40 p.m.