



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:

SECTION I: BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

1. NAME: (Last)	(First)	(Middle)	(Other)	
Francois	Denise	Michelle		
2. SOCIAL SECURITY: [REDACTED]				
3. ADDRESS:				
Mailing: [REDACTED], St. Thomas, VI				
Residential: [REDACTED]				
Business: Superior Court of the VI, 5400 Veteran's Drive, St. Thomas, VI				
E-Mail: [REDACTED]@vicourts.org				
Phone Number(s) – [REDACTED]				
4. Length of Residence in the Virgin Islands: 57 years				
5. Date of Birth: July 9, 1950				
6. Place of Birth: Washington, D.C.				
7. Marital Status: <input type="checkbox"/> Married <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Single <input type="checkbox"/> Widowed <input type="checkbox"/> Divorced				
8. Full Name of Spouse: N/A				
Mailing & Residential Address: N/A				
Business, Name & Address:				
9. EDUCATION				
Institution	Dates Attended	Degree Received	Date Received	Certifications
University of San Diego School of Law	8/1981-5/1984	Juris Doctor	May 20, 1984	
Amherst College	9/1976-5/1980	Bachelor of Arts	May 1980	
Continuing legal/judicial education:				
National Judicial College Reno, Nevada	April 28-May 8, 2014	N/A		General Jurisdiction course completed with distinction
National Judicial College Reno, Nevada	March 27-30, 2017	N/A		Logic & Opinion Writing course
National Judicial College Reno, Nevada	March 12-15, 2018	N/A		Advanced Evidence Seminar series
National Judicial College	August 5-8, 2019	N/A		4 th Amendment: Search & Seizure course

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
Judiciary of the V.I.	11/18/2013 to present	Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the V.I.	5400 Veteran’s Drive St. Thomas, VI	Presiding Judge Jessica Gallivan

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.

Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the V.I. from November 18, 2013 to present.
Chairperson of V.I. Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Rules 9/16 – 1/2017.
Member of the V.I. Judicial Management Advisory Committee 9/1/22 to present (reappointed in 2025).
Designated Justice of V.I. Supreme Court on 4 cases (2014 and 2021).

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]

I am the Trustee of the FD Family Trust (created by my parents for estate planning purposes).
I own my residence at 48B-4 Lindbergh Bay, St. Thomas, VI and I have a 50% interest in 48B-5 Lindbergh Bay, St. Thomas, VI, which is vacant land.

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?

Since November 2013, I have devoted myself to presiding over cases fairly without regard for a litigant's station in life. I treat all parties appearing before me equally and I bring to each case that I preside over a great sense of personal responsibility. I have a reputation for well-reasoned and well-written memorandum opinions and orders. At all times I keep in mind the impact of my decisions on the parties and the Virgin Islands community. My experience as a trial judge for almost 12 years will inform and prepare me for ruling on cases on an appellate level as a Justice of the Supreme Court of the Virgin Islands. In addition, my experience as an attorney in private practice from November 1985 to October 2013 and managing the business of a law office from 1991 to 2013 give me insight into the operations of a business in the Virgin Islands and being an employer. The depth of my professional experience as a litigator will assist me in discerning the truth behind skilled advocacy. In short, my education and professional experience make me a perfect candidate for the position on our highest court.

SECTION II: HONORS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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

Member of the Board of Directors of the V.I. Bar Association 1995-1997
President of the V.I. Bar Association 1996
Member of the Virgin Islands Bar
Member of the Bar of the State of California
Member of the Bar of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

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.

NOMINEE'S NAME:

None

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

June 2, 2001 - Award in Recognition of Extraordinary and Valuable Contributions to the V.I. Bar Association.
December 8, 2000 – V.I. Bar Association President’s Award for outstanding service to the V.I. Bar Association.
1996 award presented while I was President of the V.I. Bar Association in recognition of valuable contributions to the V.I. Bar Association.

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

A list of published memorandum opinions is attached.

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 any time?
 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]

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]

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]

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

NOMINEE'S NAME:

disposition. [Attach additional sheet(s), if necessary, and reference this question number]

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]

NOMINEE'S NAME:

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 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.

My response to question number 27 is attached.

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 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.

Should I be fortunate enough to be approved for the position of Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the Virgin Islands, I pledge, in both the short and long term, to: (1) deliberate respectfully and collegially with fellow justices in deciding cases; (2) reach my decisions fairly and in an impartial manner without regard to public criticism or any outside forces; (3) act diligently and competently in rendering decisions and rulings on cases before me and treat all parties and attorneys with respect; and (4) work tirelessly to assist and contribute in any way that I can in the administration of the operation of the Supreme Court of the Virgin Islands, which includes oversight over the legal profession such as bar admissions, attorney conduct and discipline and the operations of the V.I. Judiciary.

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

I invite the Office of the Governor and Senators of the 36 th Legislature to speak to attorneys who appear before me regarding my abilities and reputation. I have also attached responses to a survey on Judges of the Superior Court that was conducted by members of the V.I. Bar Association.

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 16th day of Feb. 2026.

Denise M. Francois
Nominee's Name [Print Clearly]

Denise M. Francois
Signature of Nominee

Sworn and subscribed before me this 16th day of February 2026.

[Signature]
Notary Public of the U.S. Virgin Islands

[seal]

My commission expires: 2-24-2026

Ronald W. Belfon, Esq.
Notary Public
St. Thomas/St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands
LNP-124-22
My Commission Expires: February 24, 2026



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 5th day of Feb. 2026

Denise M. Francois

Nominee's Name [Print Clearly]

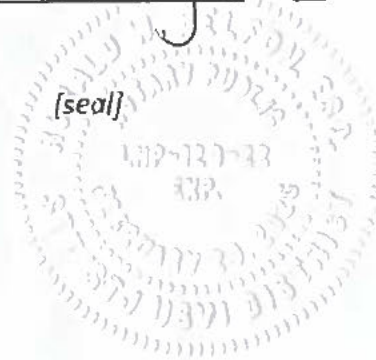
Denise M. Francois

Signature of Nominee

Sworn and subscribed before me this 5th day of February, 2026

[Signature]
Notary Public of the U.S. Virgin Islands

My Commission Expires: February 24, 2026
Donald W. Belfon, Esq.
Notary Public
St. Thomas/St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands
LNP-124-22



Nominee: Denise M. Francois
Office of the Governor, Office of Legal Counsel

Response to question number 26:

Starting in 2014, I supported my parents financially through their illnesses, and hospice care. My father died in February 2023 and my mother died in November 2025. As a result, I fell behind in my personal income tax obligations. As of February 12, 2026, I have a balance due of approximately \$13,300.00 for the 2022 tax year. I will reduce this balance to zero within the next 6 months and to this end, I will be entering into a written installment payment agreement with the V.I. Bureau of Internal Revenue. The only year for which I have an outstanding tax obligation is 2022.

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.

My understanding of conflict of interest as it applies to a justice of the Supreme Court of the Virgin Islands is informed by provisions of the Virgin Islands Code, the V.I. Code of Judicial Conduct, the V.I. Supreme Court Rules, and the V.I. Supreme Court's Internal Operating Procedures. A judge must avoid conflicts of interest by adhering to judicial ethics standards requiring recusal whenever a reasonable person with knowledge of all relevant facts would question the judge's impartiality or where an appearance of impropriety exists. Recusal is not determined by the judge's actual impartiality but by whether the circumstances reasonably raise doubts about impartiality. This objective standard applies to judges at all levels, including Supreme Court justices.

First, the Virgin Islands Code at Title 4, § 284 provides that "[n]o judge or justice shall sit or act as such in any action or proceeding" when the judge is a party or has a primary interest in the matter, or "[w]hen it is made to appear probable that, by reason of bias or prejudice of such judge, a fair and impartial trial cannot be had before him" When a judicial officer becomes aware of any disqualifying fact, "it shall be his duty to declare the same in open court and cause a memorandum thereof to be entered in the minutes." Title 4 V.I.C. § 285. I follow sections 284 and 285 scrupulously and routinely disclose to the parties, and will continue to do so, any prior professional relationships, such as a past client who is now a party in one of the cases assigned to me or whether a litigant or a witness is a relative. This disclosure and sometimes resulting recusal must be done even when there is an ***appearance of possible bias or prejudice***. In instances where I recuse myself, then the case is referred to the Clerk of the Court for re-assignment.

Second, the Virgin Islands Code of Judicial Conduct establishes comprehensive ethical standards for avoiding conflicts. V.I. Supreme Court Rule 213.2.11 requires that "[a] judge shall disqualify himself or herself in any proceeding in which the judge's impartiality might reasonably be questioned," including circumstances where "[t]he judge has a personal bias or prejudice concerning a party or a party's lawyer, or personal knowledge of facts that are in

dispute in the proceeding" The Code further mandates that judges "act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the independence, integrity, and impartiality of the judiciary, and shall avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety" Additionally, judges and justices must ensure that family, social, political, financial, or other interests do not "influence the judge's judicial conduct or judgment".

Third, Supreme Court Internal Operating Procedures establish proactive mechanisms for conflict avoidance. Each justice "should submit to the Clerk in writing those circumstances which would generally require a recusal, including names of businesses in which the justice or family members have a financial interest, names of lawyer relatives whose names may appear as counsel in the appeals, and names of law firms on whose cases the justice does not sit." Rule 10.1.2 of Internal Operating Procedures of the Supreme Court of the V.I. When a justice identifies a potential conflict after case assignment, the justice "immediately notifies the Chief Justice," who then "names a substitute and reconstitutes the panel for that case."