

**STATEMENT  
OF  
CAROLYN P. HERMON-PERCELL  
NOMINEE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
UNIVERSITY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS  
BEFORE  
COMMITTEE ON RULES & JUDICIARY  
36TH LEGISLATURE  
OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS  
MAY 8, 2025**

Good morning to the Committee on Rules and Judiciary: Senator Carla J. Joseph, chair; Senator Kenneth L. Gittens, vice chair; Senator Milton L. Potter; Senator Avery L. Lewis; Senator Angel L. Bolques, Jr.; Senator Alma Francis Heyliger; and Senator Clifford A. Joseph, other members of the 36<sup>th</sup> Legislature of the Virgin Islands, legislative staff, and the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Pursuant to Virgin Islands Code, tit. 17, § 456, the Board of Trustees of the University of the Virgin Islands exercises general management and control of the affairs of the university. The UVI Board of Trustees is comprised of seventeen voting members, nine of whom are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Legislature of the Virgin Islands. In this

regard, my name is Carolyn P. Hermon-Percell, and I appear before this Committee as a Governor's nominee to the UVI Board of Trustees. I thank the Honorable Governor Albert Bryan, Jr. for nominating me.

I believe each member of the Committee has received the packet from Government House that contains my resume, questionnaire, and other material pertaining to my educational and professional background and qualifications. Those submissions detail that I was born, raised, and live on St. Thomas. They show that I have only left my island home for extended periods to attain post-secondary and post-graduate degrees from Georgetown University and Case Western Reserve University School of Law, respectively, and that I also hold a Master of Public Administration degree

from UVI. They also show that I have been employed in the local public and private sectors, with nine years at the Legislature of the Virgin Islands, two years at the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands, sixteen years in private legal practice, then a return to the Superior Court for two four-year terms as a Magistrate Judge, Division of St. Thomas-St. John, to currently serving a five-year term as the St. Thomas-St. John Commissioner on the Virgin Islands Casino Control Commission.

However, what might not be conveyed by those documents and what I want to emphasize is my true interest in the well-being of the University of the Virgin Islands. In all honesty, it was my time at UVI, this historically Black public university in the Caribbean, that encouraged me to pursue a legal career. I met and was

taught by excellent professors, such as Dr. Harold Lutchman who chaired the MPA program. By demanding my best and demonstrating a true interest in my learning, Dr. Lutchman sharpened my oral, writing, and research skills and my analytical thinking and reasoning. He bolstered my confidence as an older student who was married and had a young child. I gained from the smaller classes offered by UVI where I could easily interact with professors and foster real friendships with classmates.

I hold lifetime membership in the UVI Alumni Association and contribute to fundraising appeals. I do not just look at UVI from a distance but regularly drive through its Orville E. Kean campus on my way to and from home, use the UVI Wellness Center, and attend

campus events such as the wonderful production in April 2025 of *Murder at Regent Manor* by the students of the UVI Drama Club. I was fortunate in June 2024 to travel with UVI Passport to the World to Kenya where, for approximately two weeks, I had an awesome time with professors, administrators, and, importantly, students from the Kean and Albert A. Sheen campuses. These students, while on safari drives, when assisting at service projects, or during meals, shared their experiences at UVI and their aspirations with me.

I acknowledge that UVI is at a pivotal point with the recent investiture of Dr. Safiya George, the first alumna to serve as president, and the launch in March 2025 of the five-year strategic plan entitled *GRAND Momentum-Charting A Course to Becoming A GRAND Destination*

*University Grounded in Excellence.* This is occurring as UVI faces enrollment challenges, cuts in federal funding that will impact the institution at all levels, and additional concerns.

While I will have to learn the role and responsibilities of a trustee, I can use my legal education and years of experience to work with President George and the other Trustees to prove myself an asset to UVI and its values and mission. As with all I undertake, I will give the time and effort needed for the task. I am a Virgin Islander who wants the best for her community. I do not shy away from public service. And, I firmly believe in the power of education, at and for all ages. I want to do my part for my “*alma mater* by the sea” to ensure it

grows and continues to be “Historically American.  
Uniquely Caribbean. Globally Interactive.”

I thank the Committee on Rules and Judiciary for its  
consideration of my nomination to the UVI Board of  
Trustees. I await your questions, and I will answer to the  
best of my ability. Thank you.