

The logo for SLJ & Associates, LLC is a square with a gold border. Inside the square, the letters "SLJ" are written in a large, white, serif font. Below "SLJ", the text "& ASSOCIATES, LLC" is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

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November 3, 2025

The Honorable Carla Joseph
Chair, Rules and Judiciary Committee
35th Legislature of the United States Virgin Islands
Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, VI 00804

Re: Support for the Nomination of Melanie Turnbull

Dear Chair Joseph and Members of the Committee on Rules and Judiciary:

As the Chief Territorial Public Defender of the Virgin Islands from 2013 to 2023, I had the privilege of working alongside and supervising many talented attorneys dedicated to public service. Among them, Melanie Turnbull stands out as truly exceptional. It is my privilege to write in strong support of her nomination to the bench.

I have known Ms. Turnbull for well over a decade, and during that time I have watched her grow into an outstanding attorney and a leader in public service.

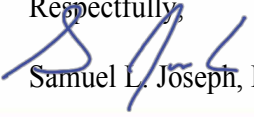
Her journey reflects both talent and commitment. She began her career with us as a summer intern/law clerk at the Office of the Territorial Public Defender. After completing her legal studies, she returned to the Virgin Islands, where she served as a judicial law clerk for the Supreme Court of the Virgin Islands. She then came back to the Territorial Public Defender's Office as an Assistant Territorial Public Defender, where I had the honor of serving as her supervisor. She now serves as an Assistant Federal Public Defender, continuing her work on behalf of those who depend on dedicated and capable counsel.

In every role she has held, Ms. Turnbull has distinguished herself. She is remarkably intelligent and possesses an impressive command of the law. Yet it is her temperament that makes her truly suited for judicial service. She is thoughtful, patient, respectful, and fair — qualities that inspire confidence in colleagues and clients alike.

It is often said that lawyers are social architects, helping to shape their communities, their nation, and the broader world. Ms. Turnbull embodies that truth. Her service to the people of the Virgin Islands has already left a lasting impact, and I have no doubt that her appointment to the bench would extend that influence in meaningful and enduring ways.

The Virgin Islands would be fortunate to count Melanie Turnbull among its judges. I strongly and without reservation recommend her confirmation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. L. Joseph".

Samuel L. Joseph, Esq.



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