

**TESTIMONY TO COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JUDICIARY
SEPTEMBER 10, 2026**

Good morning Chairwoman Carla Joseph, members of the Committee on Rules and Judiciary, members of the 36th Legislature, and the listening and viewing public. My name is Lisa Brown Williams and I am honored to appear before you this morning as a nominee for the Board of Directors of the Virgin Islands Public Broadcasting System. Allow me to provide a bit of information as to my personal and professional background.

I am the proud child of Joseph and Martha Brown and was born in Hamden, Connecticut. I have two older brothers, one niece and three nephews. I attended public elementary school and private preparatory school in Connecticut before attending Wellesley College and Boston University School of Law. Upon graduating law school, I returned to my childhood home and entered the practice of law, initially with a large law firm in Bridgeport, CT and then transitioned to a smaller minority-owned firm, where I ultimately became a partner and established a banking division within our firm. I was an active member of our state and local bar associations as well as several community organizations.

After vacationing in St. Croix for several years, I made the life changing decision to move to St. Croix in 1995. I secured a job with the Office of the Federal Public Defender and remained there until my retirement on December 31, 2025. While my job with the Office of the Federal Public Defender was always challenging, it may be the most important work I have had the privilege to perform. Being a voice for people who often are voiceless at a critical time in their lives when they are in danger of losing their liberty, showing compassion in a system that can be degrading and dehumanizing, and ensuring that my clients and their families and loved ones were heard and listened to was at the center of my everyday activities. Respecting the rule of law and performing my job with professionalism while working within the adversarial process was critical. I will always be a proud member of the "Defender Nation."

As for my outside activities, I currently serve on the Board of Trustees of Legal Services of the Virgin Islands. I am a past member of the Board of Directors of the St. Croix Animal Welfare Center and Bay Garden Condominium Association and I am a certified mediator.

I am the wife of Raymond J. Williams and a proud Grovian by choice. I am the bonus mother to four children and four grandchildren who are the center of my existence.

I was honored to receive a telephone call several months ago from CEO Tanya-Marie Singh of WTJX inquiring if I had an interest in serving on the Board of Directors of WTJX. I have been an active supporter and consumer of WTJX for years. My interest in public broadcasting started as a young child while riding in the car with my uncle. He always listened to NPR

while driving. As a young person, I didn't understand why we couldn't listen to my music of choice and instead, we listened to these people talking about things I had no interest in. As I got older, I began to listen and learn of the news of the day. There were local, state, national and global stories. I remember having conversations about what we were hearing on some of the broadcasts with my uncle and family on long car rides to vacation destinations. As I matured, I found myself intentionally seeking out the NPR station in whatever city I was living and working in. I also watched the local PBS station, as the content was educational as well as entertaining. The importance of WTJX to the Virgin Islands community is indisputable. Both Channel 12 and the radio presence on 93.1 FM are part of our everyday existence. From coverage of daily local news stories, interviews with community members and organizations, educational programming for our youth, televised debates, and broadcasts of carnival/festival season throughout the Territory, to name a few, WTJX covers it all. It is a source of local, national and global information to keep our community informed and educated.

As I know this Committee is aware, there is a serious threat to the existence of public broadcasting in this country. I would be honored to bring whatever skill sets I possess to assist in the challenge of ensuring not just the continued existence but the empowerment of public broadcasting, particularly our local WTJX station. I believe my legal skills, as well as experience gained in disaster recovery projects, and participation with nonprofit organizations would be an asset to the WTJX Board of Directors. I am not just an advocate for public broadcasting; I am an avid consumer as well. I am proud to be considered to continue to serve my community and welcome any questions by the Committee.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa L. Brown Williams