



**THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
GOVERNMENT HOUSE
Charlotte Amalie, V.I. 00802
340-774-0001**

June 10, 2024

VIA HAND-DELIVERY

Honorable Novelle E. Francis, Jr.
Senate President
Thirty-Fifth Legislature of the Virgin Islands
Capitol Building
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00802

RECEIVED SEN. FRANCIS
JUN 11 '24 AM 9:37

Re: Governor's Nomination of Ernest E. Morris, Jr. to the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands, District of St. Croix

Dear Senate President:

In accordance with the provisions of Title 4, Chapter 5, Sections 72 and 73 of the Virgin Islands Code, I hereby nominate Ernest R. Morris, Jr. to the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands for the District of St. Croix. The term of the appointment is six (6) years.

Accordingly, it is my pleasure to ask the advice and consent of the Legislature on this nomination. A copy of Mr. Morris' resume is enclosed for your review.

Your prompt and favorable confirmation will enhance the Superior Court's ability to meet its robust agenda and serve the people of the United States Virgin Islands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Albert Bryan Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

Albert Bryan Jr.
Governor

Enclosure

Cc: Senator Diane T. Capehart
Chair, Committee on Rules and Judiciary

Ernest Morris, Esq.

P.O. Box 3889, Kingshill, VI 00851 – (340) 690-5373 – ernest.morris@aya.yale.edu

Education

Juris Doctorate, May 2005

Howard University School of Law, Washington D.C.

CALI Excellence for the Future Award for excellent achievement in the study of Constitutional Law

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science & Spanish, May 2000

Yale University, New Haven, CT

Silliman Cup Award, F. Wilder Bellamy, Jr. Memorial Prize

Experience

Magistrate Judge, November 2019 – present

Superior Court of the Virgin Islands, St. Croix, VI

Conducted Advice of Rights, Arraignments, Competency and other Criminal Hearings. Conducted Mediations. Original Jurisdiction over misdemeanor Criminal matters, Small Claims, Eviction, Domestic Violence, Stalking & Harassment, Traffic, Littering, and Probate matters.

Chief Legal Counsel, February 2019 – October 2019

Legislature of the Virgin Islands, St. Croix, VI

Managed Legal Counsel Division, conducted legal research and legislative drafting, including drafting, reviewing and approving contracts, bills, amendments, resolutions, memorandums, and legal opinions, and provided legal analysis during legislative sessions.

Managing Attorney, January 2018 – February 2019

Morris Legal Group, St. Croix, VI

Manager of law practice handling a variety of matters and specializing in criminal defense.

Corporate Counsel, February 2014 – November 2017

Viya, St. Croix, VI

Head of Legal Department for all Viya companies with responsibilities including management of litigation and outside counsel, labor relations and negotiations, human resources and employment matters, contract drafting, review and analysis, regulatory hearings and filings, and pro bono projects including appointed criminal matters.

Legislative Counsel, March 2011 – February 2014

Legislature of the Virgin Islands, St. Croix, VI

Conducted legal research and legislative drafting including bills, amendments, resolutions, memorandums, and legal opinions, and provided legal analysis during legislative sessions.

Public Defender, December 2008 – March 2011

Office of the Territorial Public Defender, St. Croix, VI

Trained at the National Criminal Defense College and represented indigent criminal defendants at all stages in matters ranging from misdemeanors to major felonies.

Appellate Law Clerk, July 2007 – July 2008

Supreme Court of the Virgin Islands, St. Croix, VI

Conducted legal research, drafted orders and memorandum opinions, and prepped for oral arguments.

Judicial Law Clerk, June 2005 – July 2007

Superior Court of the Virgin Islands, St. Croix, VI

Conducted legal research, drafted orders and memorandum opinions, and prepped for hearings and trials.

Professional Organizations

Bar Association for the Judicial Third Circuit, American Bar Association, American Bar Foundation, National Bar Association, National Conference of Bar Presidents, and American Judges Association