



## Judicial Branch Administrative Office

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July 12, 2024

The Honorable Diane T. Capehart  
Chairperson  
Committee on Rules and the Judiciary  
Thirty-Fifth Legislature of the Virgin Islands  
No. 1 Lagoon Street Complex  
Frederiksted, U.S. Virgin Islands 00840

**RE: Request for Testimony on Bills 35-0227 and 35-0228**

Thank you for the invitation to testify on behalf of the Judicial Branch on the proposed Bill No. 35-0227 and Bill No. 35-0228, which would both amend title 3, chapter 37 of the Virgin Islands Code relating to conflicts of interest.

After review and consultation with our General Counsel, it would be inappropriate for any representative of the Judicial Branch to offer any substantive opinion on the contents of either Bill, which have far-reaching implications for all three branches of the Government of the Virgin Islands, including concerns related to the separation of powers.

The Judicial Branch acknowledges that a robust and efficient scheme regulating conflicts of interest and the enforcement of the relevant laws within the Branches of the Government is an important and integral part of maintaining public trust and efficient public services. However, as issues concerning one or both Bills may be subject of litigation before our Courts for resolution, to avoid the appearance of any bias or impropriety we will offer no substantive comment on Bill No. 35-0227, nor Bill No. 35-0228.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Regina Petersen", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Regina Petersen,  
Administrator of Courts

CC: The Honorable Kenneth L. Gittens, Majority Leader and Bill Sponsor