



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

April 11, 2023

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
APR 11 '23 PM2:00

**Re: Governor's Nomination of Yvette D. Ross-Edwards, Esq.
to the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands, District of St. Croix**

Dear Senate President Francis:

In accordance with the provisions of Title 4, Chapter 5, Section 72 of the Virgin Islands Code, I hereby nominate Yvette D. Ross-Edwards, Esq. 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 Mrs. Ross-Edwards 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 printed name.

Albert Bryan, Jr.
Governor

Enclosure

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

YVETTE ROSS-EDWARDS, ESQ.

223 Two Williams
Frederiksted, St. Croix
United States Virgin Islands 00840

Education:

- 1988-1991** Albany Law School of Union University
Albany, New York
Degree: Juris Doctorate
- 1987-1988** University of Massachusetts at Amherst, MESTEP
Amherst, Massachusetts
Degree: Master of Education (Secondary English)
- 1983-1987** Hampton University
Hampton, Virginia
Degree: Bachelor of Arts (English), Magna Cum Laude
- 1970-1983** St. Dunstan's Episcopal School
Christiansted, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands
High School Diploma

- Bar Admission:**
- 1992 Virgin Islands Bar Association
 - 1993 District Court of the V.I. Bar
 - 1993 Third Circuit Court of Appeals Bar

Employment History:

January 2013 to present Yvette Ross Edwards PC

Position: President; Senior Attorney

- Provide legal guidance, defended and prosecuted clients' interest in the areas of real estate, family law, deeds, wills and trusts, personal injury, medical malpractice, criminal and civil litigation, discrimination and civil rights violation(s) and general practice.
- Represented defendants in criminal trials in the Superior and District Courts and handled numerous criminal defense matters ranging from carjacking; assault I, II and III; Bank Robbery; Burglary; Possession of Unlicensed Firearm; Possession of a weapon during a crime of violence; marijuana cultivation and possession; cocaine conspiracy; attempted murder; vehicular manslaughter; conspiracy to sell unlicensed firearms.
- Represented clients in civil matters involving property disputes, contract disputes and trust disputes.
- Represented clients in mediations and arbitration.
- Represented indigent clients in family and criminal matters.
- Managed all office operations, including accounts payable, accounts receivable and payroll.
- Supervised staff productivity.

Also represented:

June 2022 – present Virgin Islands Casino Control Commission

- Provide legal opinions on matters of violation of the casino laws and regulations.
- Attend all significant meetings and hearings of the Commission.
- Collaborate closely with the Commissioners on matters involving the interpretation of the casino laws and regulations.
- Draft legal documents, orders, and correspondence.
- Advise on administrative and procedural matters.
- Represent the interests of the Commission in litigation matters.

July 2015 – April 2019 Virgin Islands Public Finance Authority

- Provided legal opinions to the Governing Board.
- Prepared due diligence opinions for bond closings.
- Advised the executive director on matters of the Authority.
- Reviewed contracts for legal sufficiency.
- Prepared contracts for the Authority.
- Managed such other legal matters as the executive director requested.

March 2004 to December 2012 Law Offices of Yvette Ross Edwards

Position: Owner; Senior Attorney

- Represented businesses, quasi-government entities and doctors in the areas of insurance defense.
- Managed real estate, family law, personal injury, medical malpractice, property disputes, criminal and civil litigation, and general practice matters for clients.
- Researched and investigated client claims.
- Represented indigent clients in family and criminal matters.
- Managed all office operations, including accounts payable, accounts receivable and payroll.
- Supervised as many as six employees.

Also represented:

2004 – 2009

Virgin Islands Port Authority

Represented the Authority as its insurance defense counsel in matters of litigation, to include:

- Drafted legal pleadings.
- Attended court hearings and scheduling conferences.
- Took depositions.
- Drafted and responded to discovery.
- Conducted investigations.
- Engaged mediation and settlement conferences.

2008-2012

Kmart/ Sears/ Sedgewick

Represented Kmart as its insurance defense attorney on St. Croix, to include:

- Drafted legal pleadings.

- Attended court hearings and scheduling conferences.
- Took depositions.
- Drafted and responded to discovery.
- Conducted investigations.
- Engaged mediation and settlement conferences.
- Maintained and updated client's data base on progress of case.

2008 – 2011

Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority Governing Board

- Advised the Authority's Governing Board on matters before it.
- Attended meetings of the Governing Board.
- Consulted with and advised the Chairman of the Board.
- Prepared correspondence from the Governing Board.

November 2002 to February 2004 Moore & Sopuch

Position: Associate Attorney

- Provided litigation support to the Senior Attorney on matters of insurance defense, to include medical malpractice, personal injury, food poisoning, product liability, discrimination, harassment, and retaliation cases.
- Researched and drafted pleadings motions on legal issues arising in each case.
- Attended hearings, mediations, depositions, and scheduling conferences.
- Reported to insurance companies on the detailed progress of each case.
- Managed a case load of thirty cases.

August 2001 to October 2002 Law Offices of Eric Moore

Position: Associate Attorney

- Provided litigation support to the Senior Attorney on matters of insurance defense, to include medical malpractice, personal injury, food poisoning, product liability, discrimination, harassment, and retaliation cases.
- Researched and drafted pleadings motions on legal issues arising in each case.
- Attended hearings, mediations, depositions and scheduling conferences.
- Reported to insurance companies on the detailed progress of each case.
- Managed a case load of thirty-four cases.

**April 1997 to August 2001 Division of Banking and Insurance,
Office Lieutenant Governor of the Virgin Islands**

Position: Assistant Director and Legal Counsel to the Commissioner of Insurance; Notary Affairs

- Advised the insurance commissioner and director of Banking and Insurance on applicable insurance laws.
- Supported the Banking and Insurance staff with legal direction on banking and insurance matters.
- Processed all notary applications on St. Croix.

November 1993 to April 1997 Law Offices of George Cannon, Jr.

Position: Associate Attorney

- Represented clients in the general practice of law, to include family, criminal, wills, deeds, traffic, and civil litigation.
- Researched and drafted pleadings motions on legal issues arising in each case.
- Attended hearings, mediations, depositions, and scheduling conferences.
- Researched and drafted legal memorandums, motions, and appeal briefs for the senior attorney.

June 1991 to November 1993

Ross & Cannon

Position: Associate Attorney (licensed in July 1992)

- Represented clients in the general practice of law, to include family, criminal, wills, deeds, traffic, and civil litigation.
- Researched and drafted pleadings motions on legal issues arising in each case.
- Attended hearings, mediations, depositions, and scheduling conferences.
- Researched and drafted legal memorandums, motions, and appeal briefs for the senior attorneys.

1991

New York State Defenders Association

Albany, New York

Assisted with documenting statistical information on criminal defense work in New York State

1990 - 1991

New York State Public Defenders Office

Albany, New York

Represented indigent criminal defendants as a senior law school student.

1990 - 1991

Albany Law School Litigation Clinic

Albany, New York

Represented and defended disability challenged individuals on various legal matters to include discrimination in education and discrimination in the application of military benefits.

1989

Millipore Corporation

Bedford, Massachusetts

- Taught employees at the company for whom English was not their primary language basic communication skills.
- Provided Human Resources support to the Human Resources Manager.

1988

Boston Latin Magnet School

Boston, Massachusetts

Middle School English Teacher

- Taught English to 7th and 8th graders; tutored challenged students.

Professional Affiliations/ Recognitions and Awards:

1993 to present

Third Circuit Court of Appeals

1992 to present

Virgin Islands Bar Association

2019- 2022

Governing Board, member

2003 to present Professional Ethics and Disciplinary
Committee
2013- Access to Justice Committee
Board liaison – 2013-2015
Chair - 2021- 2023

1992 to present **District Court of the Virgin Islands**

2018 **Crusaders Club Community Service Award**
Recognized for service within the St. Croix community.

2022 **St. Paul's Episcopal Church Community Award**
Recognized for service and accomplishments within the
Episcopal Church.

Community Service:

2004-2022 **Pro Bono Legal Assistance to the Farming Community on St. Croix**

2021 - **Episcopal Church (National)**
Present Title IV Ethics and Disciplinary Committee: Vice Chair

2015 - **Episcopal Diocese of the Virgin Islands**
Present 2015- 2021 Regional Dean of St. Croix
2021- present Church Attorney

2011-2014 **Our Town Frederiksted**
Governing Board: member

2003 – 2009 **Good Hope School**
Board of Trustees: Member; Secretary
Parent Teacher Organization: President

2000 - 2002 **Community United Methodist School**
Board of Trustees: Member

1997 **Legal Services of the Virgin Islands**
Governing Board: member

1997 - **St. Croix Farmers in Action, Inc.**
Present 1997 – 2004 Governing Board
2004 – present Legal Advisor

1966 to **St. Paul's Episcopal/ Anglican Church**
2019 Served on the Vestry, Outreach Committee, Sunday School Teacher,
"Children of God" Youth Club Leader

Personal Data:

1995 Married to Percival A. Edwards
Three (3) Adult Children; Two Grandchildren