

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN RE:) **PROMULGATION No. 2018-004**
)
AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES)
GOVERNING ADMISSION TO THE)
VIRGIN ISLANDS BAR AS TO)
CERTIFICATION OF GOOD STANDING.)

ORDER OF THE COURT

THIS MATTER is before the Court pursuant to the request of the Virgin Islands Bar Association to amend the Rules Governing Admission to the Virgin Islands Bar to codify the process for issuance of certificates of good standing, and for other purposes. Having considered the Bar Association’s request, this Court agrees with its recommendations. Accordingly, it is hereby

ORDERED that Supreme Court Rule 206(a) **SHALL BE AMENDED** to insert the following new language at the conclusion of all existing language:

For purpose of this Rule 206, a member is in “good standing” if he or she is not presently suspended or disbarred for any reason, and is current with his or her annual registration and licensing obligations under Rule 203(e).

ORDERED that Supreme Court Rule 206 **SHALL BE AMENDED** to insert the following new language at the conclusion of all existing language:

(e) Certificates of Good Standing. A certificate of good standing may be issued by the Clerk of the Supreme Court to a person admitted to the practice of law in the Virgin Islands in any capacity. A person may request a certificate of good standing by electronically filing an application with the Clerk of the Supreme Court accompanied by a filing fee in the amount of \$25.00. If multiple sealed copies are requested, an additional fee of \$25.00 shall be paid for each certificate to be issued.

(f) Change of Name. If a person admitted to the practice of law in the Virgin Islands in any capacity changes his or her name after admission, the person shall electronically file with the Clerk of the Supreme Court an affidavit stating the name under which the person was admitted, the new name, the facts pertaining to the change of name, and the name under which the person wishes to continue to practice. If the person is an active member, the person shall file an amended

Attorney Registration Statement, reflecting the new name, no later than fourteen days after filing the affidavit.

(g) Replacement Certificate of Admission. The Clerk of the Supreme Court may issue a replacement Certificate of Admission to an attorney who electronically files a request averring that

- (1) the Certificate of Admission originally issued to the attorney has been lost or destroyed;
- (2) the attorney has filed a change of name affidavit under Rule 206(f) and desires a Certificate of Admission in the attorney's new name; or
- (3) the attorney had originally been admitted to the practice of law in the Virgin Islands by a court that possessed exclusive jurisdiction over admission to the Bar prior to the assumption of such jurisdiction by the Supreme Court of the Virgin Islands, and the attorney desires a Certificate of Admission issued in the name of the Supreme Court.

An attorney may request a replacement Certificate of Admission by electronically filing an application with the Clerk of the Supreme Court, on a form prescribed by the Supreme Court, accompanied by a filing fee in the amount of \$50.00.

It is further

ORDERED that, pursuant Rule 37(a) of the Virgin Islands Rules of Appellate Procedure, the Bench, Bar, and the public **MAY FILE** comments with the Clerk of this Court no later than thirty (30) days from the date of entry of this Order. It is further

ORDERED that these amendments **SHALL GO INTO EFFECT IMMEDIATELY** unless modified as a result of comments submitted under Rule 37(a).

ORDERED that copies of this order be directed to the appropriate parties.

SO ORDERED this 15th day of November, 2018.

/s/ Ive Arlington Swan
IVE ARLINGTON SWAN
Associate Justice

/s/ Maria M. Cabret
MARIA M. CABRET
Associate Justice

/s/ Rhys S. Hodge
RHYS S. HODGE
Chief Justice

ATTEST:
VERONICA J. HANDY, ESQ.
Clerk of the Court