



In Memoriam: Hon. Raymond L. Finch

Dear Members,

We recently announced the passing of the Honorable Raymond L. Finch. Judge Finch was admitted to the Virgin Islands Bar in 1970, and was nominated to the District Court of the Virgin Islands in 1994 and served until 2008. We convey our deepest condolences to his family, friends, and to all members of the Virgin Islands community who knew and loved Judge Finch.

In honor of Judge Finch, we have compiled statements from members of the Bench and Bar on his passing. If any members of the Bench or Bar wish to add statements regarding Judge Finch, please send them to president@usvibar.org for inclusion in the regular Digest on Friday.

[Hon. Rhys S. Hodge](#)
[Chief Justice of the Virgin Islands](#)

[Hon. Robert A. Molloy](#)
[Chief Judge, District Court of the Virgin Islands](#)

[Hon. Alphonso Andrews](#)
[Judge of the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands](#)

[Dwyer Arce, Esq.](#)
[President of the Virgin Islands Bar Association](#)

[Semaj Johnson, Esq.](#)
[Former Law Clerk to Judge Finch](#)

[Venetia Velazquez, Esq.](#)
[Former Law Clerk to Judge Finch](#)

In addition to the statements linked above, the Bar has received the following additional messages from some of Judge Finch's former law clerks:

Aneal Ganta, Esq.:

"I served as Judge Finch's law clerk from 2007 to 2009. He took a chance on me as a young attorney right out of law school, and I am forever grateful. He is the most intelligent person I've met in this lifetime, and the lessons he taught will stay with me forever. My experience at the Federal Court in St. Croix is priceless. I love you Judge Finch and am forever grateful for knowing and working with you."

Julie Beberman, Esq.:

"It is hard to describe Judge Finch in a way that those who did not know him can grasp some of the essences of his presence in our lives. When he would walk into the courtroom, you could hear a pin drop, because he was so majestic, and his words were so carefully chosen. He treated everyone involved in the judicial process with dignity and respect: The criminal defendants, the attorneys, the U.S. Marshals, the court reporters, the clerks, the IT staff, the bailiffs, and the court security officers. His was the only cell phone that would ever ring during court when Anne-Marie would call to let him know she was thinking of him.

Judge Finch encouraged his law clerks to work independently. When he did give any direction, it sounded more like an off-hand comment and it would take a few minutes to realize that he had requested that a particular matter be given priority or that a specific issue be researched. His door was literally always open to his law clerks. His attentive listening would help in thinking through a difficult question, even without him saying a word.

Judge Finch was so much a part of the community that it was often challenging to pick a jury with so many people connected to the Judge in one way or another. Judge Finch was humble and kind. Outside of court, he would always introduce himself as Raymond or Ray, leaving off any reference to being a judge.

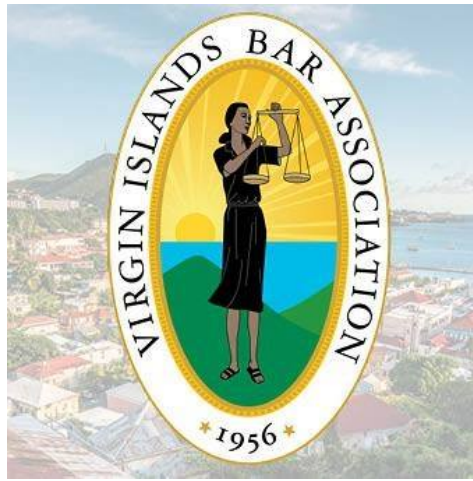
He made me feel like a member of his family, which makes it all the harder to let him go. I was very fortunate to have had one last cherished visit with Anne-Marie and him last September in Oklahoma. Judge Finch is gone now, but the powerful influences that he has had on all of us will endure forever."

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CORRECTED - V.I. Bar Digest February 24, 2023

New In the V.I. Supreme Court Office of Conflict Counsel

The Office of Conflict Counsel and the Judiciary of the U.S. Virgin Islands Office through the Judicial Branch Administrative Office seeks the services of legal representation for indigent defendants not provided by the Office of the Public Defender.

A copy of the Request for Qualifications (RFQu) including submission criteria required documents are currently available [here](#)

The original proposal deadline of 4:00 p.m. AST on February 24, 2023, has been extended by the Chief Justice.

New Passing of Honorable Judge Raymond L. Finch

With great sadness, we announce the loss of Honorable Judge Raymond L. Finch at the age of 82. Finch was admitted to the Virgin Islands Bar in 1970 and was nominated to the District Court of the Virgin Islands by George H. W. Bush on June 19, 1992, and served until 2008. We convey our deepest condolences to his family, friends, and to all members of the Virgin Islands community who knew and loved Judge Finch.

Call for Moot Court Volunteers

The Moot Court Planning Committee is seeking volunteers on both St. Croix and St. Thomas on Tuesday, April 18, 2023, to assist with the district rounds of this year's 29th annual competition. Help is needed between 8:30 am and 5:00 pm. Tasks include operating the time clock, assisting in scoring, and helping generally to manage all the program logistics.

If you are interested, please contact Robb Kuczynski for the St. Croix District at Robb@beckstedtlaw.com. For the St. Thomas-St. John-Water Island District please contact Adam Thorp at attorneythorp@gmail.com.

In the V.I. District Court

The District Court of the Virgin Islands cordially invites the legal community to its Brown Bag Luncheon on Thursday, March 2, 2023, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Jury Assembly Room at the Almeric L. Christian Federal Building and Courthouse in the Division of St. Croix.

[Click here for more details and to register](#)

New ABA & NCBP 2023 Mid-Year Meeting Reports

The American Bar Association (ABA) and the National Conference of Bar Presidents (NCBP) jointly hosted its Annual Mid-Year Meeting On February 1-6, 2023, in Louisiana. Members of the Virgin Islands Bar Association who attended the meeting are President Dwyer Arce, Esq., ABA Delegate Shari D'Andrade, Esq., Treasurer Nesha Christian-Hendrickson, Esq., the Bar's Designated Young Lawyer to the ABA House of Delegates Anthony Ciolli, Esq., Young Lawyer Delegate Malorie Diaz, Esq., and Young Lawyers Committee Chair Jalicha Persad, Esq.

For your information, we have provided a Report on their attendance:

[NCBP Midyear Meeting Report - Dwyer Arce's Report](#)

[ABA Midyear Meeting Report - Shari D'Andrade's Report](#)

[ABA Midyear Meeting Report - Anthony Ciolli's Report](#)

[NCBP Midyear Meeting Report - Nesha Christian-Hendrickson's Report](#)

[ABA Midyear Meeting Report - Jalicha Persad's Report](#)

New Virgin Islands Bar Foundation

The Virgin Islands Bar Foundation has recently adopted revised bylaws and policies to align the Foundation's governance with best practices for non-profit organizations. Copies can be found here:

[Bylaws](#)

[Conflict of Interest Policy](#)

The Foundation Board of Trustees has also created committees to further its charitable and educational mission. These committees include:

1. Fund Development Committee
2. Membership Committee, and
3. Program Committee

Any attorneys interested in joining these committees, or working with the Foundation in any other capacity, may contact the Chancellor of the Foundation at president@usvibar.org

Mark Your Calendars: 2023 Meetings & Events

March 24: First Quarterly Membership Meeting
June 30: Midyear Meeting & CLE Conference
September 29: Third Quarterly Membership Meeting
December 8: Annual Meeting & CLE Conference

If you would like to be a CLE presenter at these meetings, you may contact the CLE Committee at cle@usvibar.org.

CLE credits are available to presenters as provided by Rule 208.

76th Judicial Conference of the Third Circuit

The Third Circuit Judicial Conference will take place May 10-12, 2023, in Hilton Philadelphia at Penn's Landing. This is the 76th Judicial Conference of the Third Circuit. The conference theme is "The Federal Judiciary and the Practice of Law in 2020s: A Prospective Look".

Approval for twelve hours of continuing legal education credit, including two hours of ethics credit, will be sought prior to the Judicial Conference.

Register now and take advantage of the early bird special!

[View the full conference agenda](#)

[For more details about the Conference click here](#)

New Building Trust in Elections **(An Article written by The National Conference of Bar Presidents)**

The National Conference of Bar Presidents (NCBP) wrote about Building Trust in Elections: What Bars Can Do.

[Click here](#) to read about it in their newsletter

Conference Room Rental

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For rates and availability and to schedule your next meeting, please contact the Bar office at 340-778-497.

Call for Volunteers: Virgin Islands Free Legal Answers

Virgin Islands Free Legal Answers Virgin Islands Free Legal Answers is a virtual legal advice clinic for people who cannot afford to pay for an attorney. The service is a cooperative effort of the Virgin Islands Bar Association and the American Bar Association. Qualified users post their civil legal questions to the Virgin Islands website. Users will then be emailed when their question receives a response. Attorney volunteers, who must be regular members of the Virgin Islands Bar, log in to the website, select questions to answer, and provide legal information and advice. Volunteer attorneys will not answer criminal law questions. Question topics cover a range of categories including consumer debt, personal injury, worker's compensation, school discipline, housing, and family/divorce/custody.

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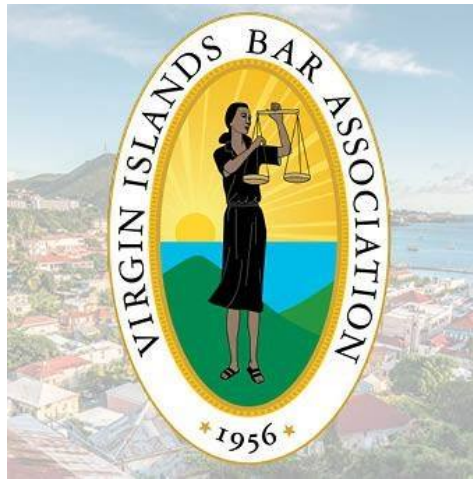
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V.I. Bar Digest February 17, 2023

In the V.I. Supreme Court and V.I. Superior Court

Bench/Bar Meeting

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[Read the Notice and Register.](#)

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For your information, we have provided a Report on their attendance:

[Reports on the ABA & NCBP 2023 Midyear Meeting](#)

or

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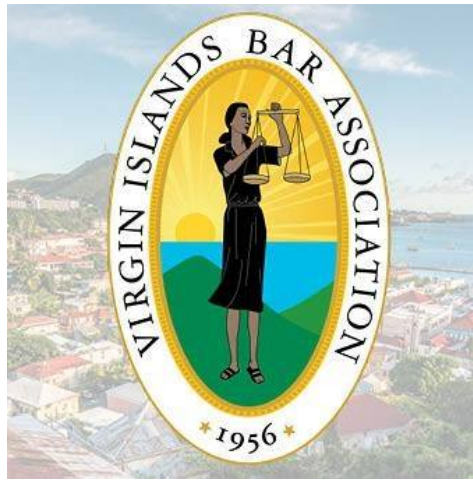
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CORRECTION - V.I. Bar Digest February 10, 2023

New Virgin Islands Bar Foundation

The Virgin Islands Bar Foundation, a non-profit organization created by the Virgin Islands Bar Association to carry out its charitable and educational mission, is pleased to announce its Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees oversees the Foundation, which supports the public service projects of the Virgin Islands Bar Association and works to expand access to justice in our community.

We would like to thank members of the Board of Trustees for accepting this role. Volunteer efforts are the backbone of the Bar and we could not accomplish as much as we do without these contributions of time and talent.

At its recent meeting, the Trustees adopted revisions to its bylaws.

[A copy of the Foundation's revised bylaws can be found here.](#)

The members of the Foundation Board of Trustees are:

- Dwyer Arce (Bar President, ex-officio Trustee), Chair of the Foundation
- Neshia Christian-Hendrickson (Bar Treasurer, ex-officio Trustee), Treasurer
- Hinda Carbon (Bar Executive Director, ex-officio Trustee), Secretary

- At-Large Trustees (three-year terms ending January 2026):
 - Tom Bolt
 - Andrew Capdeville
 - Shelby Gaddy King
 - Joseph Gasper
 - Malorie Diaz
 - Jalicha Persad

New ABA Resolution 402

The ABA House of Delegates passed Resolution 402 which was submitted by the Virgin Islands Bar Association and heard by the House during the 2023 ABA Midyear Meeting in New Orleans. In its [Report](#), the ABA noted that Goal III is to eliminate bias and enhance diversity in the profession. This is a great accomplishment for all concerned.

This accomplishment could not be possible without the diligence and hard work of the Virgin Islands Bar Association's Designated Young Lawyer to the ABA House of Delegates, Anthony Ciolli, Esq., and the effective advocacy from our newly elected ABA Delegate, Shari D'Andrade, Esq. Congratulations to them both on this excellent outcome!

[Read the article in the ABA Journal](#)

New Passing of Jean-Robert Alfred

It is with sadness we report the passing of a dear friend and colleague, Jean-Robert Alfred. A funeral service was held earlier this week. Attorney Alfred was admitted to the Virgin Islands Bar on December 15, 1973.

In the Supreme Court and the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands

Bench/Bar Meeting

The Superior Court of the Virgin Islands cordially invites members of the Virgin Islands Bar Association to its Bench/Bar Meeting on Friday, February 24, 2023, at 12:00 p.m. via Zoom video conferencing.

[Read the Notice and Register](#).

Attorney Registration with V.I. Supreme Court - Due by February 1, 2023

1. Pursuant to VISCR 203(e) regularly, specially and pro hac vice attorneys shall pay a \$50.00 annual assessment fee and file an Annual Registration Statement ("ARS") between January 1 and February 1.
2. **An attorney may file an untimely Annual Registration Statement between February 2 and March 1, provided that the attorney, in addition to the \$50.00 annual assessment, pays a \$150.00 late filing.**
3. The link to the V.I. Supreme Court Website page relating to ARS can be found

[here](#).

Request for Qualifications of Legal Services

The Office of Conflict Counsel and the Judiciary of the U.S. Virgin Islands Office through the Judicial Branch Administrative Office seeks the services of legal representation for indigent defendants not provided by the Office of the Public Defender. [Copy of the Notice](#)

Published Opinions:

- Published Opinions [in the Supreme Court of the Virgin Islands](#)
- Published Opinions [in the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands](#)

Constance Baker Motley Symposium 2023: Fitisemanu v. United States: The Argument That Could Have Been

The 2023 Constance Baker Motley Symposium "Fitisemanu v. United States: The Argument That Could Have Been" was held on January 27, 2023. The symposium was co-sponsored by the New York Bar Association's Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and the Task Force on U.S. Territories. The Symposium explores how the applicability of the Constitution to U.S territories impacts not only U.S. nationals but also the rights of U.S. citizens. [Watch the video](#).

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For rates and availability and to schedule your next meeting, please contact the Bar office at 340-778-497.

Job Vacancies

Third Circuit Court Attorney, Clerk's Office

The Third Federal Circuit Clerk's Office has posted the attached position of Court Attorney, Clerk's Office. Members of the Virgin Islands Bar Association who are interested in learning more about the position can find a copy of the [notice here](#).

Virgin Islands Casino Control Commission

Attorney/Legal Counsel

The legal counsel to the Virgin Islands Casino Control Commission is responsible for ensuring that entities and persons participating in every and all gaming operations within the jurisdiction of the Commission comply with all applicable federal and territorial laws and rules and regulations. This individual is responsible for regulatory and statutory matters; responsible for advising the Commission in the performance of its work; and for such other duties that might be assigned by the Commission.

[More details.](#)

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Committee Announcement: Creation of Off-Island Lawyers Committee

The President of the Virgin Islands Bar Association has notified Hon. Rhys S. Hodge, Chief Justice of the Virgin Islands, of the creation of the Off-Island Lawyers Committee and the appointment of Alex Golubitsky, Esq., as Chair of the Committee.

The membership of the Off-Island Lawyers Committee includes all regular members of the Virgin Islands Bar Association domiciled outside of the Territory. The purpose of the Committee is to engage the approximately 200 off-island Virgin Islands attorneys in public service activities for the benefit of the Virgin Islands, conduct programs of interest and value to its members, and to be of assistance to the Virgin Islands Bar Association and its other committees.

If you are an off-island lawyer and you have not received an email from offislandlawyers@usvibar.org, please contact Hinda Carbon at hinda.carbon@usvibar.org.

A copy of the letter to the Chief Justice can be found here:
[Notification of the creation of the Off-Island Lawyers Committee](#)

Announcing New Contact Email for CLE Compliance & Programming

In an effort to facilitate communication with the CLE Committee and staff of the Virgin Islands Bar Association responsible for monitoring CLE compliance, the CLE Committee has established a dedicated email address for members of the Virgin Islands Bar Association to submit CLE applications and petitions, submit certificates of attendance, and make inquiries regarding CLE compliance and programming.

Please send your email to cle@usvibar.org.

(PLEASE NOTE: This email address is created only for the convenience of members. CLE applications, certificates, and all other items will still be accepted if submitted through the Bar's website or by direct email to Virgin Islands Bar Association staff.)

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CLE Reporting Deadline

Reporting Group 2

Regular Members with a last name that begins with L through Z

Those members with last names that begin with L through Z, the CLE reporting

period will be the end of this year (December 31, 2023). The reporting period for Group 2 runs from January 1 of an even-numbered year and concludes on December 31 of the following odd-numbered year.

[Rule 208, Regulations and a Summary of the Requirements is found here.](#)

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V.I. Bar Digest February 3, 2023

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New Virgin Islands Bar Association Appointments to the Foundation Board

The President of the Virgin Islands Bar Association has notified Hon. Rhys S. Hodge, Chief Justice of the Virgin Islands, of the appointments to the Board of Trustees of the Virgin Islands Bar Foundation

A copy of the letter to the Chief Justice can be found here:

[Notification of the appointments to the Board of Trustees of the Virgin Islands Bar Foundation Board](#)

ABA U.S. Territories Reception

The Virgin Islands Bar Association, the Guam Bar Association, and Equally American are sponsoring a reception at the American Bar Association Midyear Meeting in New Orleans on **Sunday February 5** from 4PM to 6:30PM at Felipe's Taqueria (a short walk from the ABA hotels). If any of you are in the area, or are otherwise attending the ABA meeting, please feel free to attend (you do not need to register for the ABA meeting to go to the reception).

[Learn more about the ABA Midyear Meeting](#)

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Reporting Group 2

Regular Members with a last name that begins with L through Z

Those members with last names that begin with L through Z, the CLE reporting period will be the end of this year (December 31, 2023). The reporting period for Group 2 runs from January 1 of an even-numbered year and concludes on December 31 of the following odd-numbered year.

[Rule 208, Regulations and a Summary of the Requirements is found here.](#)

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