

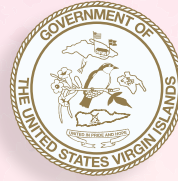


INVESTITURE CEREMONY  
OF THE HONORABLE JESSICA GALLIVAN  
AS JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT  
OF THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

THURSDAY, JULY 18, 2019 • 10:00 AM  
R.H. AMPHLETT LEADER JUSTICE COMPLEX







**THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS**

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE

Charlotte Amalie, V.I. 00802

**340-774-0001**

**A MESSAGE FROM GOVERNOR ALBERT BRYAN JR.**

On behalf of the people and the Government of the Virgin Islands, it is an honor to congratulate the Honorable Judge Jessica Gallivan on her new position at the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands.

Judge Gallivan has served in the Superior Court as a magistrate judge and brings a wealth of experience in reviewing cases in the Territory on behalf of the people. At today's investiture ceremony, Judge Gallivan will be honored and her rank conferred before her colleagues at the Superior Court.

When the Bryan-Roach administration appointed Judge Gallivan in April, her history of public service at the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands made it clear that she was the right pick for the job. As Judge Gallivan begins her first six-year term, she brings over a decade of experience in government to the Superior Court as a newly appointed judge. Judge Gallivan's role at the Superior Court has the potential to guide future judges that attain an identical rank and build on the court's legal opinions and other significant rulings.

Judge Gallivan and her colleagues are charged with interpreting the Territory's laws and ensuring that all three branches of our local government maintain equal power and continue to work for the people of the Virgin Islands. Judge Gallivan is poised to play a crucial role in the judicial branch over the next six years of her tenure, and I would like to formally congratulate her on her confirmation and offer words of encouragement for today's investiture ceremony honoring her.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Albert Bryan Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Albert Bryan Jr.  
Governor





## Supreme Court Of The Virgin Islands

Rhys S. Hodge  
Chief Justice



Tel: (340) 774-2237  
Fax: (340) 774-2258

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF JUSTICE

Welcome to the investiture ceremony for the Honorable Jessica Gallivan, the newest judge of the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands. Judge Gallivan is no stranger to the Virgin Islands Judiciary, having served with distinction as a Magistrate Judge for nearly a decade. On behalf of the Judicial Branch of the Virgin Islands, I congratulate Judge Gallivan on her elevation, and commend her for her willingness to continue to serve the Judicial Branch and the people of the Virgin Islands in this new role.

The Family Division of the Superior Court hears some of the most sensitive and difficult cases, often involving issues of divorce, child custody, juvenile delinquency, and domestic violence. Given the highly personal issues involved, as well as the reality that many litigants cannot afford a lawyer and appear without representation, it is of the utmost importance that the judges assigned to the Family Division not just possess sufficient knowledge of substantive law, but have the demeanor, temperament, and discretion to oversee judicial proceedings that may carry a significant emotional toll on the litigants.

I am confident that Judge Gallivan will meet the challenges of her new position and continue to serve with the same level of distinction and excellence that she has demonstrated throughout her professional career. I join my fellow judicial officers and the employees of the Judicial Branch in sharing our congratulations, and our hope for her continued success as a Superior Court Judge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rhys S. Hodge".

Rhys S. Hodge  
Chief Justice of the Virgin Islands



# Superior Court of the Virgin Islands

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Chambers of  
**Michael C. Dunston**  
Presiding Judge

(340) 693-6412

Post Office Box 70  
Charlotte Amalie  
St. Thomas  
U.S. Virgin Islands 00804



It is my honor as the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands to welcome everyone to the investiture ceremony of Judge Jessica Gallivan and to congratulate Judge Gallivan on her appointment.

Judge Gallivan embarked on a career in law when she began law school in 1992. Her work in local law firms, as Law Clerk, as Assistant Attorney General, Chief Labor Negotiator, and Board Member on committees charged with upholding the law were all building blocks leading to this day and for her elevation to the Bench. Judge Gallivan has been appointed for three terms as a Magistrate Judge with the Superior Court beginning in June 2009. Her experience in that position will assist her greatly as a Judge in the Family Court. Her passion for the law and to her duty to promote justice will guide her through the tough decisions she will need to make.

It is an honor to serve the People of the Virgin Islands as a Judge on the Bench. We wish Judge Gallivan success in her decision making, and we offer her our continued support as part of the Judicial Branch Family.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be "Michael C. Dunston".

Michael C. Dunston  
Presiding Judge



**Legislature of the Virgin Islands**  
NO. 1110 STRAND STREET  
CHRISTIANSTED , UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS 00820  
PH. (340) 712-2324  
SENATORFRANCIS@LEGVI.ORG



**Novelle E. Francis, Jr.**  
**Senate President**

July 2, 2019



**MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE PRESIDENT**

On behalf of the members and staff of the 33rd Legislature of the Virgin Islands, I extend congratulations to Judge Jessica Gallivan on this occasion of her investiture into the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands.

The Superior Court and the people of the Virgin Islands are fortunate to have someone of Judge Gallivan's caliber seated on the judicial bench because she is qualified by both education and experience for this position. The dynamics of family court, however, demand more than education and experience. Family Court judges are called on every day to provide impartial resolutions for some of the most difficult and personal disputes in our community. Judge Gallivan brings the kindness, common sense, respect and professionalism that have served her well in her capacity of magistrate to this new role. With her investiture, she will continue to serve a judicial system administered by capable men and women who are trained in the law and who are equally dedicated to fairness and justice for the most vulnerable members of our community.

My colleagues and I offer our congratulations as you embark on this next phase of your service to the people of the Virgin Islands and wish you well.

With Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Novelle E. Francis, Jr." in a cursive style.

Novelle E. Francis, Jr.  
Senate President





# VIRGIN ISLANDS JUDICIAL SYSTEM OFFICIALS

## SUPREME COURT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Chief Justice - Rhys S. Hodge  
Associate Justice - Maria M. Cabret  
Associate Justice - Ive Arlington Swan  
Clerk of the Court - Veronica J. Handy, Esquire

## SUPERIOR COURT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

### DIVISION OF ST. THOMAS - ST. JOHN

Presiding Judge - Michael C. Dunston  
Judge - Kathleen Y. Mackay  
Judge - Denise M. Francois  
Judge - Debra A. Smith Watlington  
Judge - Renee Gumbs Carty  
Magistrate Judge - Henry V. Carr, III  
Magistrate Judge - Carolyn P. Hermon-Percell

### DIVISION OF ST. CROIX

Administrative Judge - Harold W.L. Willocks  
Judge - Douglas A. Brady  
Judge - Robert A. Molloy  
Judge - Jomo Meade  
Judge - Jessica Gallivan  
Magistrate Judge - Miguel A. Camacho  
Senior Sitting Judge - Darryl D. Donohue, Sr.

Clerk of the Court - Estrella George

## JUDICIAL BRANCH ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

Administrator of Courts - Regina DeChabert Petersen  
Assistant Administrator of Courts - Kevin A. Williams, Sr.  
General Counsel - Paul Gimenez, Esquire

## DISTRICT COURT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Chief Judge - Wilma A. Lewis  
District Judge - Curtis V. Gomez  
Magistrate Judge - George W. Cannon, Jr.  
Magistrate Judge - Ruth Miller  
Recalled Magistrate Judge - Geoffrey W. Barnard  
Clerk of the Court - Glenda L. Lake, Esquire

## OFFICE OF THE U.S. ATTORNEY

U.S. Attorney - Gretchen C.F. Shappert

## UNITED STATES MARSHAL SERVICE

United States Marshal - James E. Clark

OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL  
PUBLIC DEFENDER  
Interim Federal Public Defender - Richard Coughlin

## VIRGIN ISLANDS BAR ASSOCIATION

President - Chivonne A.S. Thomas, Esquire  
President Elect - Nesha R. Christian-Hendrickson, Esquire  
Immediate-Past President - Anthony M. Ciolli, Esquire  
Executive Director - Hinda Carbon

## DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Attorney General - Denise George, Esquire

## OFFICE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS MARSHAL

Chief Marshal - Lawrence A. Walcott Jr.

OFFICE OF THE TERRITORIAL  
PUBLIC DEFENDER  
Chief Public Defender - Samuel L. Joseph, Esquire

VIRGIN ISLANDS  
POLICE DEPARTMENT  
Commissioner Designee - Trevor Velinor

## LEGAL SERVICES OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Executive Director - Shelby King-Gaddy, Esquire



# PROGRAM

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MASTER OF CEREMONY .....Emile A. Henderson III, Esquire

INVOCATION .....Pastor J. Wilmoth James  
*St. Croix Seventh-day Adventist Church*

OPENING REMARKS ..... Honorable Michael C. Dunston  
*Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands*

## REMARKS

Ernest Morris, Esquire  
*Board Member of the Virgin Islands Bar Association*

Honorable Robert A. Molloy  
*Judge of the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands*

Honorable Donna Frett-Gregory  
*Senator of the 33rd Legislature of the U.S. Virgin Islands*

Honorable Novelle E. Francis  
*Senate President of the 33rd Legislature of the U.S. Virgin Islands*

Honorable Albert Bryan Jr.  
*Governor of the United States Virgin Islands*

MUSICAL SELECTION .....Mr. Melbourne Williams

COMMISSION OF OFFICE ..... Honorable Michael C. Dunston  
*Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands*

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE ..... Honorable Rhys S. Hodge  
*Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the U.S. Virgin Islands*

Bible Held by: Ms. Kari Evita Currence

PRESENTATION OF GOWN & GAVEL .....Mrs. Elizabeth Madir

INTRODUCTION OF JESSICA GALLIVAN .....Mr. D. Jerry Garcia

RESPONSE .....Honorable Jessica Gallivan  
*Judge of the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands*

CLOSING REMARKS .....Honorable Harold W. L. Willocks  
*Administrative Judge of the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands*

BENEDICTION .....Pastor J. Wilmoth James  
*St. Croix Seventh-day Adventist Church*



## BIOGRAPHY OF JESSICA GALLIVAN

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Jessica Gallivan was born in Miami, Florida on January 5, 1964 to Marie Louise Espinosa Gallivan and Joseph John Gallivan. She is the granddaughter of Pedro Espinosa and Margrethe Pedersen Espinosa. Jessica was raised on St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands where she attended St. Mary's Catholic School and graduated in 1981 from St. Croix Central High School. She later attended the University of the Virgin Islands (UVI) where she graduated cum laude in 1987 while earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance. While working fulltime at the Virgin Islands Telephone Corporation (VITELCO), Jessica returned to UVI and earned her Master of Business Administration in 1992.

Upon completion of her studies at UVI, Jessica immediately embarked the following semester on what would lead to the fulfilment of her career goals. Thus, from 1992 to 1995, she attended law school at Southern Methodist University School of Law (SMU) in Dallas, Texas. This prestigious university facilitated her attendance by awarding her a half-tuition scholarship and, she also earned the Almeric Christian Scholarship and the VI Territorial Scholarship - which enabled her to complete her studies. During her tenure in law school, Jessica worked as a student attorney in SMU's Immigration Clinic before being selected for the role of Chief Student Counsel for the Clinic.

After graduating from law school, Jessica returned to the Virgin Islands and began her legal career as an Associate with the Law Offices of Andrew L. Capdeville, P.C. on St. Thomas. Later, from 1996 to 1998, she completed a clerkship at the then Territorial Court of the Virgin Islands under the guidance of the Honorable Judge Ishmael A. Meyers. Following that clerkship, Jessica served with distinction, from 1998 to 2004, as an Assistant Attorney General and Senior Assistant Attorney General assigned to the Office of Collective Bargaining. Following that stint in the Office

of Collective Bargaining, Jessica worked - from 2004 to 2007 - as an Associate for the Law Offices of Michael J. Sanford, primarily in the areas of insurance defense and labor law. In early 2007, Jessica was nominated by then Governor John P. deJongh, Jr. to serve as a member of his Cabinet in the position of Chief Labor Negotiator in the Office of Collective Bargaining.

In June 2009, Jessica expanded her service in the Virgin Islands legal community as she was appointed by then Presiding Judge Darryl Dean Donohue, Sr. to serve for a term of four years as one of the first magistrate judges for the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands. At the end of that term in 2013, she was re-appointed to serve a second term by Presiding Judge Michael C. Dunston and to a third term in 2017. Jessica has also served her community in other capacities: on the Virgin Islands Bar Association's Committee on Ethics and Grievance; as a board member for the West Indian Company, Ltd; and, as a member and Vice Chair of the Virgin Islands Commission on Judicial Conduct. She is admitted to practice law in the State of Texas and the United States Virgin Islands. She is also admitted before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit and is a certified mediator and arbitrator.

In April 2019, the Honorable Albert Bryan, Jr., Governor of the U.S. Virgin Islands, nominated Magistrate Judge Gallivan to serve as Judge of the Superior Court. She graciously accepted the Governor's call to further serve her community. On May 14, 2019, Magistrate Judge Jessica Gallivan was confirmed by the 33rd Legislature of the Virgin Islands to serve a term of six years as Judge of the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands.

Judge Gallivan is the proud mother of Kari Evita Currence, a 2019 graduate of Columbia University in the City of New York. She is also a member, for the past five years, of the St. Croix Seventh-day Adventist Church.









# SUPERIOR COURT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

## HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

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The present-day Superior Court of the Virgin Islands is a twenty-first century Court, with a framework that was established more than half a century ago. The excellent state of our judiciary is a testament to the many Judges and court personnel who have continued to be the backbone of Justice in the territory.

How did this modern Superior Court come into being? Today's Court evolved from three Police Courts in three major cities: the Police Court of Frederiksted, the Police Court of Christiansted, and the Police Court of Charlotte Amalie. These Courts existed under the 1921 Codes of St. Thomas, St. John and St. Croix.

On July 22, 1954, the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands was amended and approved. Section 21 of that Act vested judicial power in a court of record called the District Court of the Virgin Islands, and in any lower courts established by local law. The three Police Courts were then abolished, and two municipal courts were established: one for St. Thomas and St. John and one for St. Croix.

After a decade of this judicial structure, the make-up of the local judiciary changed again. On March 1, 1965, the two municipal courts were combined into a single court

called the Municipal Court of the Virgin Islands.

On September 9, 1976 the Legislature of the Virgin Islands established the forerunner of today's Superior Court of the Virgin Islands in accord with Act. No. 3876 (§ 5, Sess. L. 1976, p. 17.) The Municipal Court of the Virgin Islands' name was changed to the Territorial Court of the Virgin Islands. Almost three decades later, the Territorial Court gained a substantial amount of judicial autonomy. This was authorized by the 1984 amendments to the Revised Organic Act of 1954 and triggered by local enactments by the Legislature as well as the Governor of the Virgin Islands.

On October 1, 1991, the Territorial Court obtained jurisdiction over all local civil actions in accordance with 4 V.I. Code Ann. § 76(a). Later, on January 1, 1994, pursuant to Act 5890, the Legislature of the Virgin Islands granted expanded jurisdiction in criminal matters to the Territorial Court.

On October 29, 2004, the Territorial Court of the Virgin Islands' name was officially changed to the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands by means of Bill No. 25-0213, which also established a Supreme Court of the Virgin Islands.



## MISSION OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

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It is the mission of the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands to protect the rights and liberties of all, interpret and uphold the law, and resolve disputes promptly, peacefully, fairly and effectively in the United States Virgin Islands. The Superior Court meets this mandate by providing an optimum level of service to all while maintaining the highest level of integrity, confidentiality, and public trust in the administration of justice regardless of race, sex, nationality, or creed.





*Four things belong to a Judge: to hear courteously,  
to answer wisely, to consider soberly, and to decide impartially.*

*Socrates*



**Judicial Branch Administrative Office**  
P.O. Box 590, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands 00804  
[www.visupremecourt.org](http://www.visupremecourt.org)