



*Raymond L. Finch*



**SUPREME COURT BUILDING NAMING CEREMONY**

THURSDAY JUNE 15, 2017 • 10:30 AM





18



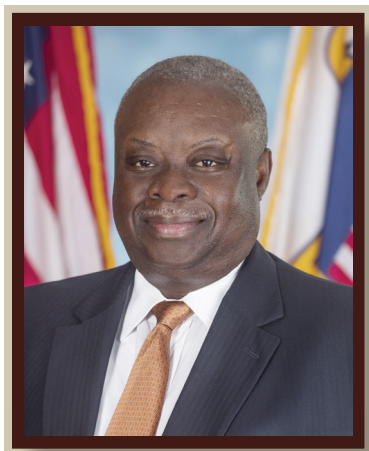


# Raymond L. Finch

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THURSDAY JUNE 15, 2017 • 10:30 AM

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**THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS**

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE

Charlotte Amalie, V.I. 00802

**340-774-0001**

June 15, 2017

**MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR**

I am happy to be among those witnessing this most appropriate tribute to one of our most outstanding Virgin Islanders, the Honorable Raymond L. Finch. It is a fitting acknowledgement of his professionalism, judicial temperament and scholarship to honor him with a lasting monument to jurisprudence.

The **Raymond L. Finch Supreme Court Building** will always stand to represent the great progress that we continue to make toward greater home rule, and the commitment of all Virgin Islands to Justice and the rule of law. I know that it will remain a source of pride throughout the community to see tangible evidence of the excellence of the citizens whom we produce, and our commitment to adhere to the highest standards of governance.

I extend my best wishes to the Justices of the Virgin Islands Supreme Court, and to all others who play critical roles in administering the functions of this vital institution. I join in expressing my appreciation for the outstanding contributions of Judge Finch, and my gratitude to his family for supporting him during his great service to the people of this Territory.

Yours in Service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K. Mapp".

Kenneth E. Mapp  
**Governor**





THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS  
**OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR**  
CHARLOTTE AMALIE, ST. THOMAS, VIRGIN ISLANDS 00802

## MESSAGE FROM THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

On this auspicious occasion, we are most certainly honored and privileged to witness the official naming ceremony of “The Raymond L. Finch Supreme Court Building.” It is timely and appropriate to grant this distinction to Judge Raymond L. Finch, who is most deserving of this honor, due to his many significant contributions to the United States Virgin Islands, and long-standing career in the judicial arena.

The official naming ceremony of any public facility is one of major historical significance and pride. In this regard, we recognize Judge Finch’s achievements and extend our gratitude to him through this honor. Judge Finch served our community with integrity and superior excellence. I have always admired and respected his knowledge of the law and his ability to issue rulings and orders grounded in fairness. Having served at the District Court of the Virgin Islands since 1994, and in the capacity as Chief Judge from 1998 to 2005, Judge Finch has been fondly known as the face and authority of the court.

Judge Finch’s passion and dedication as a United States Army veteran, public servant, and his achievements as a judge are testament to his commitment to the Virgin Islands. For all this and much more, I join the entire Virgin Islands in saying thank you to Judge Finch for his unwavering service. His notable accomplishments will serve as an example and an inspiration for many others to follow.

I commend the 30th Legislature of the Virgin Islands for its wisdom in naming the Supreme Court Building in Judge Finch’s honor. I pray that all who enter into “The Raymond L. Finch Supreme Court Building” are treated fairly and continue to receive uncompromised justice. Congratulations to Judge Finch on this most befitting distinction!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Osbert E. Potter". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Osbert E. Potter





STACEY E. PLASKETT  
VIRGIN ISLANDS

509 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-1790



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington DC 2015-5501

### **A MESSAGE FROM CONGRESSWOMAN STACEY E. PLASKETT**

It is an honor and a privilege to extend my congratulations to the Honorable Judge Raymond L. Finch on the distinction of having the Virgin Islands Supreme Court Building named in his honor.

I am proud the building housing the highest court in the territory will bear the name of a native son whose distinguished career as a jurist not only qualifies him to serve as United States Senior District Judge for the District Court of the Virgin Islands but also as a worthy recipient of this distinguished honor. I am certain this honor also serves as a proud moment for Judge Finch's family and friends and his many colleagues. With this honor, the Honorable Judge Raymond L. Finch now joins the pantheon of respected Virgin Island Jurists whose names grace the walls of the territory's courthouses, government buildings and the St. Croix campus of the University of the Virgin Islands.

The establishment of the Supreme Court of the Virgin Islands dates back more than 30 years to 1984 when the United States Congress authorized the establishment of an appellate court for the Virgin Islands. In 2004, it became the highest court in the Virgin Islands and assumed its appellate jurisdiction in 2007.

On behalf of the members of the 115th Congress, my family and staff, I extend my congratulations to the Honorable Judge Raymond Finch, his family, and his colleagues.

Sincerely,

Stacey E. Plaskett  
**Member of Congress**

[PLASKETT.HOUSE.GOV](http://PLASKETT.HOUSE.GOV)





## Legislature of the Virgin Islands

CAPITOL BUILDING  
P.O. BOX 1690, ST. THOMAS  
U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS 00804  
(340) 774-08820

100 LAGOON COMPLEX, SUITE 2  
FREDERIKSTED, ST. CROIX  
U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS 00840  
(340) 773-2424

### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE PRESIDENT

It is an honor, on behalf of the 32nd Legislature of the Virgin Islands, to congratulate the Supreme Court of the Virgin Islands on the naming of the Raymond L. Finch Supreme Court Building in Frederiksted, St. Croix.

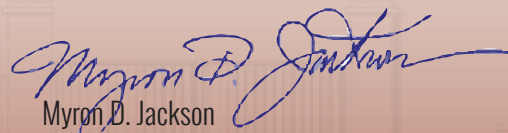
Today's official naming ceremony of No. 18 Strand Street is a result of the Legislature's passing of Bill No. 30-0340, now Act. No. 7626, commending the Honorable Judge Raymond L. Finch for his service and dedication to the people of the Virgin Islands.

The legislation, which was passed in the 30th Legislature, cites his brilliant legal mind, his high moral and ethical character, and his compassion. Our native son's career accomplishments are many. Born and raised on St. Croix to a large extended family, Judge Finch later earned his law degree from Howard University. His service as law clerk to the Honorable Alexander Farrelly and Antonio Joseph of the Municipal Court of the Virgin Islands was followed eventually by his own appointment to that court after some time as a decorated and valiant Vietnam Veteran and real estate lawyer.

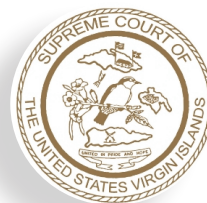
As the Municipal Court transitioned into the Territorial Court in the 1970s, Judge Finch was among those standing witness to the modernization of the judicial branch, presiding over a heavy caseload of criminal, civil, guardianship, and other family law matters. Another highlight of his career came when in 1994, he was appointed to serve by President Bill Clinton at the U.S. District Court of the Virgin Islands, and in 1998 became chief judge.

Intellectually challenging, but sometimes personally lonely, is the way he once described the job of being a judge, while encouraging those he mentored to study diligently, maintain personal integrity, and intellectual honesty. He set the bar for those to follow.

The naming of this rehabilitated 18th-century cultural treasure in our historic town of Frederiksted has added significance during this 100th year anniversary of the 1917 Transfer of the Virgin Islands from Denmark to the United States of America, and the birth of our Virgin Islands. As the laws of our territory are carefully measured within these walls, the building's historical accents such as its gingerbread fretwork and veranda detail will hint at the way progress is built on preserving the best of our past as we advance toward the future. It is a fitting statement of our evolution as a people.

  
Myron D. Jackson  
President, 32<sup>nd</sup> Legislature





## Supreme Court of the Virgin Islands

CHIEF JUSTICE, RHYS S. HODGE

TEL: (340) 774-2237

FAX: (340) 693-4109

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF JUSTICE

The Justices of the Supreme Court are honored to implement the dictates of Act No. 7626 with the official naming of the Raymond L. Finch Supreme Court Building. It has often been said that courthouses symbolize stability, confidence, and commitment to equal justice under the law, and it is only fitting that the St. Croix building of the highest local court in the territory be named for someone who himself embodies these characteristics. I could not think of a better candidate to whom this honor could or should be bestowed.

Judge Finch has been a constant presence in the Virgin Islands Judiciary. From his ascension to the bench in 1975—when he was appointed to the Municipal Court of the Virgin Islands, his 17 years of service at the Territorial Court of the Virgin Islands where he also served as the Administrative Judge—to the present day, when even in retirement, he continues to serve as a senior judge for the United States District Court of the Virgin Islands. During his four decades of service, Judge Finch served as Chief Judge of the District Court, and in that capacity also served as the Presiding Judge of its Appellate Division, which heard appeals from the Superior Court and its predecessors before the creation of the Supreme Court of the Virgin Islands. In fact, as Chief Judge and Chair of the Judicial Council, Judge Finch testified at the legislative hearing in support of the legislation that would ultimately create the Supreme Court. In addition to his critical role in helping establish the Supreme Court, Judge Finch has also served as a Designated Justice of the Supreme Court, and presided alongside one of his former law clerks, Associate Justice Maria M. Cabret.

Judge Finch, on behalf of the judicial officers and staff of the Virgin Islands Judiciary, I congratulate you not just for this well-deserved honor, but for your decades of service to both the judiciaries of the Virgin Islands and the United States. During your long career, you have demonstrated to all that you embody the best qualities of our shared profession, and you have inspired many Virgin Islanders to follow in your footsteps. May future generations continue to feel such inspiration in the years to come when they enter through the doors of the “Raymond L. Finch Supreme Court Building.”

Sincerely,

Rhys S. Hodge

**Chief Justice of the Virgin Islands**





## Superior Court of the Virgin Islands

PRESIDING JUDGE, MICHAEL DUNSTON

TEL: (340) 693-6412

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDING JUDGE

I want to add my voice to those acknowledging that Act No. 7626 naming the Virgin Islands Supreme Court building the “Raymond L. Finch Supreme Court Building” is a well-deserved and long-overdue honor and distinction to the Honorable Judge Raymond L. Finch for his vast contributions to the legal community, and the Virgin Islands as an Attorney, Municipal Court Judge, Territorial Court Judge, and Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court of the Virgin Islands.

His high level of integrity as an individual, citizen and lawmaker gives us all great pride in his accomplishments and legacy as a native son of the Virgin Islands. Furthermore, we truly appreciate his service to our country in the United States Army.

Congratulations, Judge Finch! We celebrate this tribute to you, and we say thank you for your service to these Virgin Islands and the United States of America!

Michael C. Dunston  
Presiding Judge



DISTRICT COURT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS  
OF THE UNITED STATES



CHAMBERS OF  
**WILMA A. LEWIS**  
CHIEF JUDGE

June 7, 2017

**ON THE OCCASION OF NAMING THE SUPREME COURT BUILDING ON ST. CROIX  
IN HONOR OF JUDGE RAYMOND L. FINCH**

On behalf of the judges and entire staff of the District Court of the Virgin Islands, it is my great pleasure to congratulate Judge Raymond L. Finch on this auspicious occasion of the naming of the Virgin Islands Supreme Court Building on St. Croix in his honor. Judge Finch is among a small and distinguished group of jurists who has served with distinction for many decades, and has contributed immeasurably to jurisprudence in the Virgin Islands.

Judge Finch has served on the District Court of the Virgin Islands since his appointment by President Bill Clinton in 1994. He came to the federal bench as a veteran jurist, having served with distinction for nineteen years as a judge on the local court—the then Municipal Court which subsequently became the Territorial Court, and is now the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands. In 1998, Judge Finch became Chief Judge of the District Court and concurrently served as Presiding Judge of the Appellate Division of the District Court. Ten years later, in August 2008, Judge Finch assumed senior status. As a Senior Sitting Judge, he continued to give of his time and talent, serving our District Court and this community with honor, integrity, and wisdom.

While on the District Court and Superior Court benches, Judge Finch has issued hundreds of reported opinions and orders—an impressive body of work—addressing a wide range of topics. His decisions have guided two generations of lawyers—and undoubtedly will guide many generations to come—as they grapple with the intricacies and complexities involved in interpreting both federal and Virgin Islands law.

Judge Finch's invaluable contributions to the local and federal judiciary for over forty years is reflective of his undying commitment to our beloved Virgin Islands, where he was born and raised. This native son has served the cause of justice in our community tirelessly, selflessly, and with honor and distinction. It is with great admiration and respect for Judge Finch that I extend my congratulations, and those of the District Court family, on this wonderful occasion. Naming the Supreme Court building on St. Croix in Judge Finch's honor is a fitting tribute to his decades of dedicated and distinguished service to this community, and will serve as a lasting reminder of his considerable legacy.

Sincerely,

Wilma A. Lewis  
Chief Judge





**VERNE A. HODGE**  
CHIEF JUDGE EMERITUS  
**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS**  
POST OFFICE BOX 7603, ST. THOMAS, VIRGIN ISLANDS 00801  
TEL: (340) 776-2482

JUNE 15, 2017

**TRIBUTE TO JUDGE RAYMOND L. FINCH  
ON THE OFFICIAL NAMING OF THE V.I. SUPREME COURT BUILDING IN HIS HONOR**

I am extremely proud to rise on this special occasion to publish my tribute in honor of my long-time colleague and friend - Judge Raymond Lawrence Finch.

This tribute emanates not only from my personal knowledge of him, but also from our close working relationship as fellow attorneys and judicial associates for over forty years.

As young practicing attorneys in the 1970s, we were regarded as “rebels” for fighting against the status quo of the V.I. Bar, when admission took over twelve months and when we were issued “minimum fee schedules” to charge our clients. We were also fully engaged in fighting immigration raids and free beach cases, for little or no compensation. On St. Croix, Attorneys Raymond Finch, Albert Sheen, Winston & Derek Hodge, and Edgar Ross coordinated their efforts with St. Thomas Attorneys Verne Hodge, Mario Bryan, Roy Anduze, Sid Cohen and Arnold Selke. Appropriate changes were made over time, with the help of our hero - Judge Almeric Christian.

Later, when I was appointed Presiding Judge of the Territorial Court, I worked closely with Judge Finch, and I had the honor to appoint him as my Administrative Judge for St. Croix. What a joy it was to work with this man who is blessed with such a pleasant personality! Although we needed new court facilities in both districts, Judge Finch convinced me that the one for St. Croix had to be given priority. Thus, we were able to build our Kingshill courthouse in 1984, named for Attorney R.H. Amphlett Leader. Ultimately, the St. Thomas courthouse was completed in 1993, and was named for Attorney, Judge, and Governor Alexander A. Farrelly.

Today, as we assemble for this Official Naming Ceremony of our Supreme Court Building, I submit that Judge Finch is exceptionally well qualified for this honor. Indeed, his long judicial career as both a local and federal judge attests to his very special strength of character, because he was able to fairly discharge voluminous duties even though he had to do so without the protection of life tenure.

Accordingly, it is without reservation that I hereby endorse the naming of our Supreme Court Building for Judge Raymond L. Finch. Congratulations!

VERNE A. HODGE  
CHIEF JUDGE EMERITUS





# Raymond L. Finch

## SUPREME COURT BUILDING NAMING CEREMONY

THURSDAY JUNE 15, 2017 • 10:30 AM

### PROGRAM

<b>MISTRESS OF CEREMONY</b> .....	Regina Petersen Administrator of Courts Judicial Branch Administrative Office
<b>INVOCATION</b> .....	Gerald A. Williams Pastor, Lord God of Sabaoth Lutheran Church
<b>NATIONAL ANTHEM AND VIRGIN ISLANDS MARCH</b> .....	Superior Court Rising Stars Youth Steel Orchestra
<b>OPENING REMARKS</b> .....	Honorable Rhys S. Hodge Chief Justice Supreme Court of the U.S. Virgin Islands
<b>REMARKS</b> .....	Trudy Fenster, Esq. President of the Virgin Islands Bar Association
<b>REMARKS</b> .....	Elizabeth Centeno District Director Office of the Delegate to Congress
<b>REMARKS</b> .....	Honorable Wilma A. Lewis Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court of the Virgin Islands

**REMARKS AND PRESENTATION OF THE PERMA PLAQUE**..... Honorable Nereida Rivera-O'Reilly

Vice President

32<sup>nd</sup> Legislature of the U.S. Virgin Islands

**REMARKS**..... Honorable Osbert E. Potter

Lieutenant Governor of the U.S. Virgin Islands

**MUSICAL SELECTION** ..... Superior Court Rising Stars Youth Steel Orchestra

**INTRODUCTION OF THE HONOREE RAYMOND L. FINCH** ..... Honorable Maria M. Cabret

Associate Justice

Supreme Court of the U.S. Virgin Islands

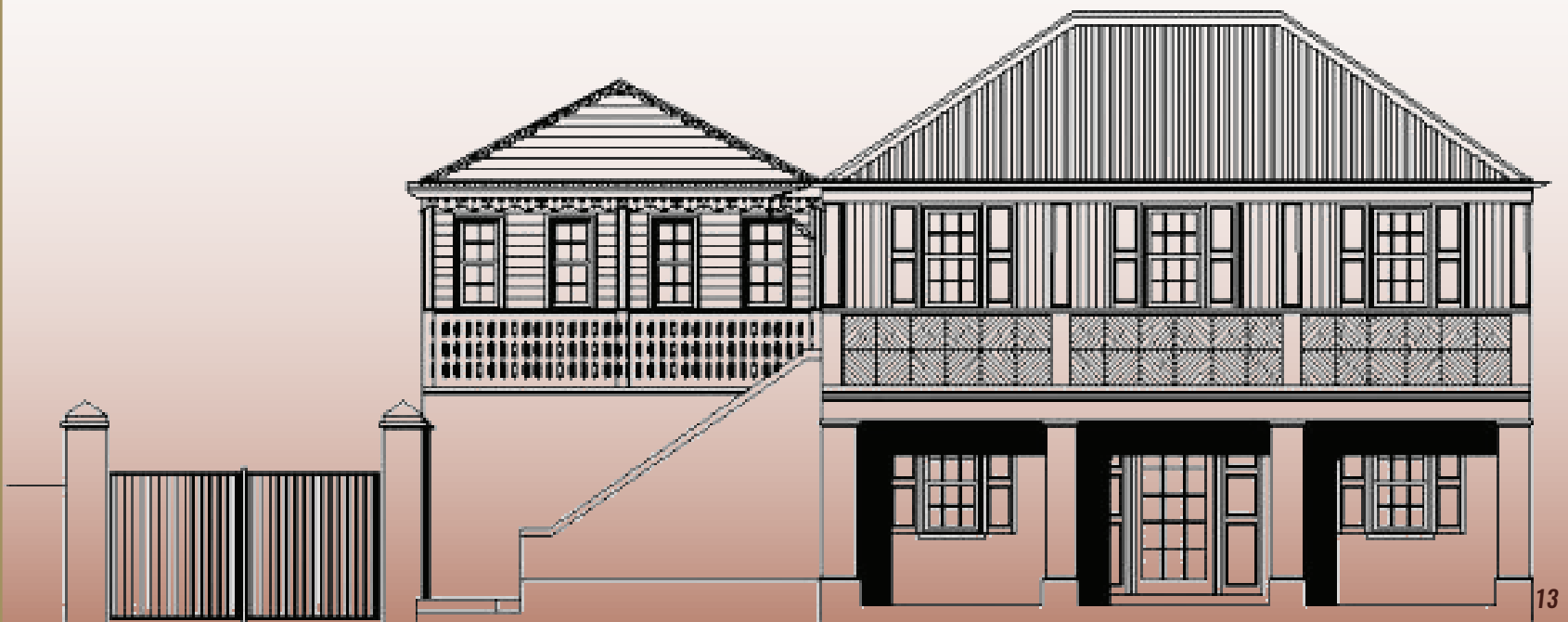
### UNVEILING OF SIGNAGE

**RESPONSE** ..... Honorable Raymond L. Finch

US Senior District Judge

**BENEDICTION** ..... Gerald A. Williams

Pastor, Lord God of Sabaoth Lutheran Church







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BAR ASSOCIATION

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Julia Baldini  
Executive Director

June 7, 2017

Dear Judge Finch:

On behalf of the Virgin Islands Bar Association, I write to congratulate you on the naming of the Raymond L. Finch Supreme Court Building. It gives us great pleasure to thank you for your service to your country and to the people of the Virgin Islands. Your long and storied career has earned you a reputation for fair and efficient administration of justice. Your law clerks and those who worked closely with you describe a generous, humble, and passionate leader without a slavish application to the law. Your mentorship and guidance has helped to shape the character of many a law clerk and has seen many of them emboldened to become conscientious leaders, attorneys, and judges in their own right.

May you continue to be an inspiration for the children of the Virgin Islands who benefit from their ability to observe and learn about your focus, perseverance, hard work, and respect for the law. Because of the example you have set for them, they have concrete evidence that they too can be outstanding Virgin Islanders and citizens of the world who began their educational pursuits right here in the public schools of the Virgin Islands.

May you continue to be the exemplar for lawyers and judges. Reading your legal opinions reveals to them a commitment to ferreting out the truth from largely divergent stories, often with lives hanging in the balance. Prosecutors and Defenders alike describe their appearances before you as an exercise in which the spirit of the law was balanced with the letter of the law. Your courage to preserve justice above all else serves as a guiding principle for us all and we are fortunate to have had the benefit of your wisdom and resolve for four decades.

We congratulate you and look forward to celebrating your accomplishments as we walk by and enter the Raymond L. Finch Supreme Court building!

Warmest Regards,

Trudy Fenster, Esq.

Virgin Islands Bar Association | 2155 King Cross Street, Suite 2 | P.O. Box 224108 | Christiansted, St. Croix, USVI 00822-4108

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# History

## OF NO. 18 STRAND STREET, FREDERIKSTED

The historic town of Frederiksted was laid out by the Surveyor Jens M. Beck in July 1751. He designed the town as (2) symmetrical blocks with a Fort and lagoon between them. However, it would be several decades before the development would be completed. Specifically, it was not until the 1780's, when inhabitants totaled between 800 to 1000, that the original plan would begin to take shape with many of the main streets having constructed buildings on them. As early as 1803, Meley's Map clearly indicates the existence of a building on No. 18 Strand Street with an ascending stairway to a 2 story building. While the building's footprint is smaller than the present day footprint, it is equal in size to the front structure.

No. 17 Strand Street, which sits adjacent and North of No. 18 Strand Street, dates back to the 1780's. This property was built as a rental property by its then owners who were heirs to Cornelius Cartwright. It is not far reaching to assume that No. 18 Strand Street would have its construction beginnings close to the same time as its neighbor. Further evidence exists in a historic painting dated 1800 that clearly outlines a fully built Strand Street waterfront. In this painting, there is a structure that looks almost identical to the present day structure at No. 18 Strand Street.

Based on the history of past inhabitants of the property, it is also assumed that the building may have been utilized as a rental property or boarding house during its life span. Some of its inhabitants were William Henry Barnes and Henry Rosenorn Dewhurst. Mr. Barnes was born on St. Croix in 1790, and lived at No. 18 Strand Street in 1815, along with his wife Sarah. He had no Burgher Certificate and was a member of no militia company, and seemed to be living on his own means. Historical records indicate that he was a trader based on his January 24, 1816, Oath of Allegiance.





Henry Rosenorn Dewhurst was born around 1841 in Copenhagen, and was a member of the Anglican Church. In 1857, he lived at No. 18 Strand Street, Frederiksted with his father and siblings.

With regards to the building's architecture, the present detailing of the West facade along Strand Street shows that during the early 20th century, it was refashioned to reflect the Victorian trends that shaped the town of Frederiksted. Unique gingerbread fretwork along the building's eave and along the enclosed upper floor veranda reflects the intricate flat wood baluster detailing that is prevalent in the town. Maps dating back to 1898, indicate that the Fireburn of October 1, 1878 did not extend to No. 18 Strand Street. Accordingly, the building was not burnt during this historic event. The potential for this structure to have remained intact from its original built form is quite probable.

At the beginning of the 20th Century, records indicate that No. 18 Strand Street was purchased by Marie Joseph Matthias from R.D. & Carl Haggeman for \$2,500.00 on April 7, 1928. George Matthias inherited the property from the Estate of Marie Matthias on September 14, 1943, and Muriel Matthias inherited the property from George Matthias on June 19, 1973. Governor Cyril E. King was close friends with the Matthias family and is noted to have stayed with them in their home at No. 18 Strand Street.

Once Muriel Matthias inherits the property, she forms a relationship with Richard Abbott, an Anglican priest. His name appears on the property deed together with hers on March 8, 1974, and upon her death, Richard Abbott is deeded several of her properties and became the sole owner of No. 18 Strand Street. Father Abbott embarked on a series of mortgages on the property to renovate and restore the building for the next few decades. In 2004, Bridge Capital LLC purchased the

renovations, but did not get very far in this work before selling the building to the Supreme Court of the Virgin Islands.

In 2007, the Supreme Court of the Virgin Islands purchased the building "As Is" from Bridge Capital LLC. Renovations of the ground floor as well as improvements to the upper floor were completed to make use of the building as the official offices of the Supreme Court on St. Croix. Today, we see the



building from Father Abbott who had preserved the street facade primarily, but had never finished the much-needed interior work of the building. Abbott had undertaken many structural enhancements that removed much of the interior and rear historic rubble masonry walls. He opted to replace these walls with contemporary block walls filled with concrete and steel reinforcement. Bridge Capital LLC on the other hand, renovated the interior upper floor for their offices. They started the ground floor

final product of their investment. The tender loving care bestowed on this unique building has ensured it will continue to live on as a beautiful historic cultural resource for the town of Frederiksted, St. Croix and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

**Prepared by:**  
**Gerville R. Larsen, A.I.A., Architect of Record**

**Photo Credits:**  
<https://www.tallerlarjas.co/vi-supreme-court-.html>  
<https://cs.sa.dk/picture/view-values/676788?selectedTab=116&locale=en>  
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<http://den-vestindiske-arv.dk/en/towns/st-croix/>



# History

## OF THE SUPREME COURT

In 1984, Congress amended the Revised Organic Act to authorize the Legislature to create a local appellate court, whose justices could be nominated by the Governor of the Virgin Islands subject to confirmation by the Virgin Islands Legislature. However, since the Legislature did not immediately create the local appellate court authorized by the 1984 amendments to the Revised Organic Act, two federal courts—the District Court of the Virgin Islands, and the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit—continued to review all judgments issued by the then-Territorial Court. The relationship between the federal courts and the local Virgin Islands Judiciary fundamentally changed on October 29, 2004,

when Act No. 6687 was signed into law by Governor Charles W. Turnbull. This legislation created the Supreme Court of the Virgin Islands, required the Supreme Court to hold regular sessions in Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas. However, Act No. 6687, Bill No. 25-0213, “the Supreme Court Bill”, was further amended by Section 61 of Act. No. 6730, also known as the Omnibus Justice Act of 2005, mandating that the Supreme Court headquarters be located on St. Croix.

On October 27, 2006, the first three Justices of the Supreme Court—Chief Justice Rhys S. Hodge, and Associate Justices Maria M. Cabret and Ive Arlington Swan—were confirmed by the Legislature and sworn into office on December 18,





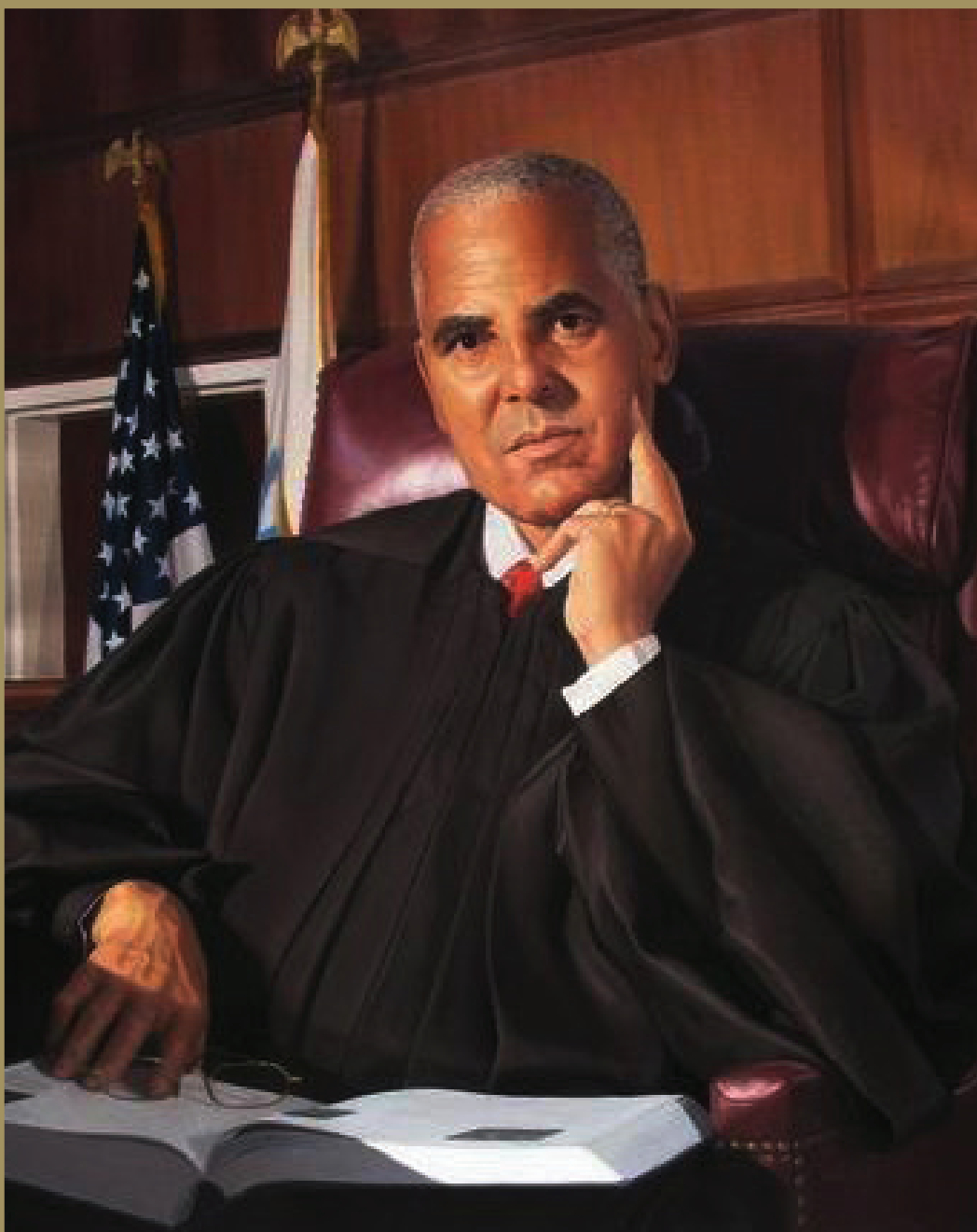
2006. On January 29, 2007, the Supreme Court officially assumed appellate jurisdiction over all appeals from the Superior Court, and proceeded to establish its presence on St. Croix in accordance with law. Specifically, the Supreme Court purchased the building located at No. 18 Strand Street in 2007, and conducted renovations to convert existing office space to chambers. Renovations to the first floor staff offices however, would not be completed until 2011. To further comply with the statutory mandate that the headquarters of the Supreme Court be located on St. Croix, on July 14, 2011, the Court closed its agreement to purchase approximately 3.5 acres at Nos. 18, 19, 21, and 23 of Estate Golden Rock. In 2013, the Supreme Court also contracted with Justice Planning Associates to determine the proper size facility for the courthouse considering expansion through 2050. Justice Planning Associates issued its final report on September 1, 2013 providing estimates for the costs of constructing a courthouse facility on the Estate Golden Rock property.

On June 18, 2014, the 30th Legislature of the Virgin Islands passed Bill No. 30-0340, honoring and commending Raymond L. Finch for his service and dedication to the people of the Virgin Islands, by naming the Supreme Court Building located at No. 18 Strand Street Frederiksted, the Raymond L. Finch Supreme Court Building. Signed into law as Act No. 7626 by Governor John P. deJongh, the sponsors of this legislation were Senators Alicia Hansen, Shawn Michael Malone, Kenneth Gittens, Diane Capehart, Sammuell Sanes and Craig W. Barshinger.

















# THE BIOGRAPHY OF JUDGE *Raymond L. Finch*



Raymond Lawrence Finch is the eldest child of the late Beryl Finch and Wilfred C. Finch. He has three siblings, Gordon Finch, J'Ada Finch-Sheen and Dorette Carter. He is a father to three children, Allison, Mark, and Jennifer, and through his marriage to Anne-Marie, he gained two additional children, Marc and Michelle.

Judge Finch is among the many outstanding Virgin Islanders who attended public schools, and graduated from the Christiansted High School in 1958. In 1962, he received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with a minor in Economics from Howard University in Washington, DC. Judge Finch continued his education at the Howard University School of Law, earning his Juris Doctor in June

**Howard University School of Law**

					
J. Abton	W. Borders	K. Camper	M. Covington		
		<p>Eng. Track Team, Dean's Honor Roll, <b>SILAS YOUNG</b>, Electrical Engineering, <b>JAMES ALSTON</b>, Law, Law Review, Pres. Student Bar Assoc., ALSA, Nat. Moot Court Team, <b>WILLIAM BORDERS</b>, Law, Student Bar Assoc., Vice Pres. Senior Class, Sigma Delta Tau, <b>KENYON CAMPER</b>, Law, Student Bar Assoc., Treas. Senior Class, Bron Staff, Hilltop, Kappa Alpha Psi, Sigma Delta Tau, Chief Justice, <b>MARLOW COVINGTON</b>, Law, Sigma Delta Tau, Athletic Comm. Chair, Barrister's Ball Comm., Am. Law Students Assoc., Student Bar Assoc., International Law Society, <b>RAYMOND FINCH</b>, Law, Law Forum Chair, Student Bar Assoc., Chair, <b>DONALD GAINES</b>, Law, Law Journal, Moot Court Team, <b>JAMES HENRY</b>, Law, SBA, Class Treas., Sigma Delta Tau, <b>RICARDO JACKSON</b>, Law, Sigma Delta Tau, Pres. Senior Class, <b>CHARLES JOHNSON</b>, Law, Student Bar Assoc., Law Journal, Sigma Delta Tau, <b>CHARLES MANGUM</b>, Law, Student Bar Assoc., Sigma Delta Tau, <b>LARRY McFARLAND</b>, Law, <b>TERRANCE PITTS</b>, Law, Law Journal, Moot Court, Legal Aid.</p>			
R. Finch	D. Gaines				
					
J. Henry	R. Jackson				
					
C. Johnson	C. Mangum			L. McFarland	T. Pitts

1965. His legal career began as a law clerk to the honorable Alexander A. Farrelly and the Honorable Antonio L. Joseph, Judges of the then Municipal Court of the Virgin Islands.

Judge Finch then joined the United States Army where he served as a First Lieutenant, and then as Captain from 1966 to 1969. He served honorably in the Vietnam War where he adjudicated claims of U.S. personnel and Vietnamese nationals, often appearing before Elimination Boards as an advocate, and as an advocate in Article 15 hearings and Article 32 investigations. For his service, Finch was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, and a Certificate of Appreciation from General Westmoreland and the Army Chief of Staff.

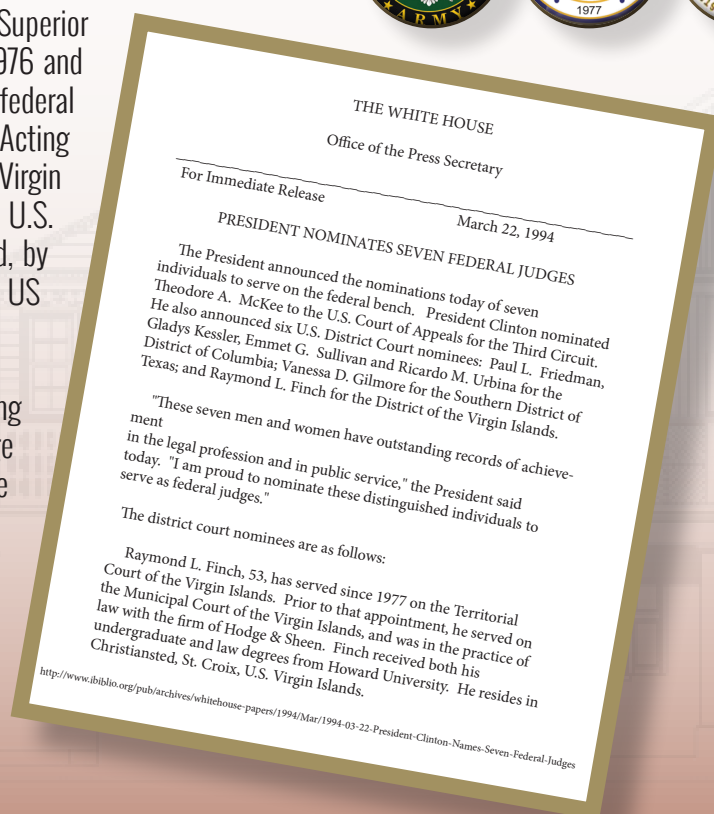
Upon returning from Vietnam, he worked as a clerk in the firm of Hodge and Sheen, and was admitted to the Virgin Islands Bar in 1970. After working diligently as a contract and real estate attorney, he became a partner in the law firm of Hodge, Sheen, Finch and Ross in 1971. He was also an instructor at the University of the Virgin Islands, and the American Banking Association from 1965 to 1978. Then, in 1976, he received his first judicial appointment as a Judge of the Municipal Court of the Virgin Islands by the late Cyril E. King, then Governor of the Virgin Islands. The Municipal Court became the Territorial Court, and is now the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands. Between 1976 and 1994, Judge Finch served the local and federal judicial branches in such capacities as Acting Presiding Judge, Territorial Court of the Virgin Islands; Judge, Appellate Division, U.S. District Court of the Virgin Islands; and, by Special Designation, as Judge of the US District Court of the Virgin Islands.

On September 1, 1994, after being nominated by President Clinton, Judge Finch took the oath of office as Judge of the U.S. District Court of the Virgin Islands. In 1999, he became the Chief Judge of the District Court.

Judge Finch has participated in, and obtained citations, diplomas, and certificates from the American

Academy of Judicial Education, the National Judicial College, the American Academy of Judicial Education, the Harvard University "Jurisprudence and the Humanities" course, and many other professional training courses.

Judge Finch's professional and community associations are numerous, but to name a few: Virgin Islands Bar Association; Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit; American Law Institute; American Judges' Association; American Bar Association; National Bar Association; Committee on Model Criminal Jury Instructions; Third Circuit Court of Appeals; Criminal Code Revision Project; VI Law Enforcement Planning Commission; Supervisory Board, Juvenile Justice & Prevention of Delinquency Committee; Democratic Party of the Virgin Islands; Board of Directors, Boys and Girls Club of St. Croix; and Board of Directors, Lutheran Social Services of the Virgin Islands.





**ACT NO. 7626**  
**BILL NO. 30-0340**

**THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS**  
**Regular Session**  
**2014**

An Act honoring and commending the Honorable Judge Raymond L. Finch (Ret.) for his service and dedication to the people of the Virgin Islands and naming the Supreme Court building on St. Croix, in his honor

--0--

**WHEREAS**, Raymond L. Finch was born in Christiansted on the island of St. Croix; and

**WHEREAS**, Raymond Finch grew up in what he calls a "typical extended Caribbean-West Indian family", with his mother, father, two sisters, one brother, grandparents, and great-grandmother; and

**WHEREAS**, this strong family background inspired all of Finch's siblings to pursue professional careers; his brother is an engineer, one sister is a biologist, and the other sister is also an attorney; and

**WHEREAS**, Raymond Finch attended public schools, eventually graduating from what was then known as Christiansted High School, on the island of St. Croix; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1962, Finch received his undergraduate degree from Howard University. In that same year, after meeting the Honorable Luke Moore, who was then a U.S. Marshal for the District of Columbia, Finch decided to become a lawyer. He received his law degree from Howard University's School of Law in 1965; and

**WHEREAS**, after law school, Finch returned to St. Croix and served as a law clerk for the Honorable Alexander A. Farrelly and the Honorable Antonio L. Joseph, Judges of the then Municipal Court of the Virgin Islands; and

**WHEREAS**, Finch then joined the United States Army where he served valiantly in the Vietnam War as a First Lieutenant and served as a Captain in the U.S. Army from 1966 to 1969; and

**WHEREAS**, while serving in Vietnam, Finch adjudicated claims of U.S. personnel and Vietnamese nationals, appeared before Elimination Boards as an advocate and appeared as an advocate in Article 15 hearings and Article 32 investigations; and

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**SECTION 4.** The Supreme Court of the Virgin Islands shall erect and post the appropriate signage required by this Act.

Thus passed by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands on June 18, 2014.

Witness our Hands and Seal of the Legislature of the Virgin Islands this 18<sup>th</sup> Day of June, A.D., 2014.



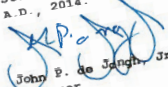
  
Shawn-Michael Malone  
President

  
Janette Millin Young  
Legislative Secretary



Bill No. 30-0340 is hereby approved.

Witness my hand and the Seal of the Government of the United States Virgin Islands at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, this 11th day of July A.D., 2014.

  
John P. de Jongh, Jr.  
Governor

**WHEREAS**, for his brave service, Finch was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, and a Certificate of Appreciation from General Westmoreland and the Army Chief of Staff; and

**WHEREAS**, Finch is a respected and highly honored war hero who, at great personal sacrifice, risked his life on foreign soil to return to St. Croix after his esteemed military career; and

**WHEREAS**, after his service in the U.S. Army, Finch practiced contract and real estate law with the firm of Hodge, Sheen, Finch & Ross from 1971 to 1975, prior to obtaining his first judicial position as a Municipal Court Judge; and

**WHEREAS**, while serving on the Municipal Court, Judge Finch presided over juvenile matters, traffic, small claims, criminal cases involving maximum sentences of one year, and civil cases up to \$10,000; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1977, the Municipal Court became the Territorial Court, and Judge Finch exercised increased jurisdiction in civil cases up to \$200,000, criminal cases in which maximum sentences were 15 years, guardianship matters, and other family law matters; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1994, Judge Finch was appointed to the federal bench by President Clinton as a Judge of the Appellate Division, U.S. District Court of the Virgin Islands and eventually became Chief Judge in 1998; and

**WHEREAS**, reflecting back, Judge Finch has said that he enjoyed the intellectual challenge of being a judge, but sometimes found it to be a lonely job; and

**WHEREAS**, Judge Finch has always advised aspiring lawyers and judges to study diligently and maintain personal integrity and intellectual honesty; and

**WHEREAS**, Judge Finch is respected and revered throughout the legal community for his brilliant legal mind, his high moral and ethical character and his compassion; and

**WHEREAS**, it is only fitting that the highest court of the Virgin Islands, the Virgin Islands Supreme Court building on the island of St. Croix be named in honor of our native son, the Honorable Judge Raymond L. Finch, for whom the people of the Virgin Islands have the highest respect, love and regard: Now, Therefore,

***Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:***

**SECTION 1.** The Legislature of the Virgin Islands, on behalf of the people of the Virgin Islands, honors and commends the Honorable Judge Raymond L. Finch for his career accomplishments and for his brilliant legal mind, his high moral and ethical character and his compassion towards the Virgin Islands community.

**SECTION 2.** In recognition and appreciation of his contributions to the people of the Virgin Islands, particularly the legal community, the Virgin Islands Supreme Court building located in the town of Frederiksted, on the island of St. Croix is named "Raymond L. Finch Supreme Court Building" in honor of the Honorable Judge Raymond L. Finch.

**SECTION 3.** In recognition and appreciation of his contributions to the people of the Virgin Islands. The President of the Legislature shall prepare a permanent plaque copy of this Act and present it to the Honorable Judge Raymond L. Finch, or his designee at an appropriate ceremony.

**SECTION 4.** The Supreme Court of the Virgin Islands shall erect and post the appropriate signage required by this Act.

Thus passed by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands on June 18, 2014.







**Regina Petersen**

***Administrator of Courts***

**THE RAYMOND L. FINCH SUPREME COURT BUILDING**

No. 18 Strand Street

Frederiksted, St. Croix 00840



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