



December 28, 2015

NOTICE TO THE VIRGIN ISLANDS BAR

The Supreme Court of the Virgin Islands reminds members of the Virgin Islands Bar that, beginning in 2016, all active members of the Bar shall be required to register with the Office of Disciplinary Counsel on an annual basis and pay a \$50.00 annual assessment. Attorneys will satisfy this requirement by electronically filing an Annual Registration Statement through the Virgin Islands Supreme Court Electronic Filing System ("VISCEFS") and paying the \$50.00 fee in-person at the Supreme Court's facilities on St. Thomas or St. Croix by cash or check. The Annual Registration Statement form is available on the Supreme Court's website at <http://visupremecourt.org/wfData/files/forms/ActiveARS.pdf>.

Attorneys who fail to register and remit payment on or before June 30, 2016 shall be required to pay a \$150.00 late fee in addition to the \$50.00 assessment. On or after August 1, 2016, the Office of Disciplinary Counsel shall be authorized to move for the **automatic suspension** of any active member of the Virgin Islands Bar who has failed to register or pay the applicable assessment or fee. An active member of the Bar for purposes of the registration requirement is any individual authorized to practice law in the Virgin Islands in any capacity, whether regularly admitted, specially admitted, admitted *pro hac vice*, or licensed as a certified in-house counsel, foreign legal consultant, legal intern, or military spouse.

Supreme Court Rule 203(e) governs the mandatory annual registration process. The Supreme Court first announced the mandatory attorney registration requirement as part of Promulgation Order No. 2014-006, which it issued on December 5, 2014, (<https://efile.visupremecourt.org/document/view.do?documentID=64598>), and later clarified on February 20, 2015 (<https://efile.visupremecourt.org/document/view.do?documentID=66333>), that the annual registration requirement would go into effect beginning with the 2016 calendar year. The Supreme Court, in an order issued on December 23, 2015 (<https://efile.visupremecourt.org/document/view.do?documentID=74846>) provided all attorneys with a temporary extension of time to June 30, 2016, to file their 2016 Annual

Registration Statement and pay the \$50.00 annual assessment. Beginning in 2017 and in all years thereafter, the Annual Registration Statement and \$50.00 annual assessment will be due no later than March 1. The \$50.00 annual assessment is separate from annual dues paid to the Virgin Islands Bar Association, and will assist in funding the operations of the Office of Disciplinary Counsel, the Board on Professional Responsibility, and the Board on Unauthorized Practice of Law.

If lawyers have any question about the registration requirement, they are encouraged to contact the Office of Disciplinary Counsel:

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