

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN RE:) **PROMULGATION No. 2017-009**
ADOPTION OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS)
SMALL CLAIMS RULES.)
_____)

ORDER

On August 18, 2017, this Court issued an order adopting the Virgin Islands Small Claims Rules, with an October 1, 2017 effective date and a September 20, 2017 deadline for the public and members of the local Bench and Bar to submit written comments. However, the operations of the Virgin Islands Judiciary have been adversely affected by the emergency conditions created by Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria, which struck the Territory on September 6, 2017, and September 19, 2017, respectively. Because these emergency conditions have both interfered with the contemplated notice-and-comment period and prevented both judicial officers and members of the Bar from obtaining familiarity with the new rules, this Court shall re-open the comment period and delay the effective date of the new rules. Accordingly, it is hereby

ORDERED that the Virgin Islands Small Claims Rules previously adopted on August 18, 2017, **WILL TAKE EFFECT on December 1, 2017**, unless modified as a result of comments from the public and the local Bench and Bar. It is further

ORDERED that the public as well as members of the local Bench and Bar **MAY SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS** on these proposed rules to the Clerk of the Court **no later than November 15, 2017**. It is further

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

SO ORDERED this 11th day of October, 2017.

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

ATTEST:

VERONICA J. HANDY, ESQ.
Clerk of the Court