

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN RE:) **PROMULGATION No. 2015-001**
)
AMENDMENT TO OATH OF)
ADMISSION TO THE VIRGIN ISLANDS)
BAR.)
)
)
)

ORDER OF THE COURT

This Court, pursuant to the authority granted to it by section 21(c) of the Revised Organic Act of 1954, as amended, and title 4, sections 32(e), 32(f)(2), and 34(a) of the Virgin Islands Code, as well as its inherent authority, hereby adopts the following as the revised Oath or Affirmation of Admission to the Virgin Islands Bar:

ORDERED that the Rules Governing the Virgin Islands Bar be amended by inserting the following new language at the end of all existing language in Supreme Court Rule 204(i):

“Every person to be admitted as a member of the Virgin Islands Bar shall be administered the following oath or affirmation before he or she may exercise any of the privileges or responsibilities of that position:

I do solemnly swear (or affirm):

I will support the Constitution and laws of the United States applicable to the Virgin Islands, and the laws of the Virgin Islands;

I will maintain the respect due to courts of justice and judicial officers, and conduct myself in accordance with the Virgin Islands Rules of Professional Conduct;

I will not counsel or maintain any suit or proceedings which shall appear to me to be unjust, nor any defense except such as I believe to be honestly debatable under the law of the land;

I will employ for the purpose of maintaining the causes confided to me such means only as are consistent with truth and honor, and will never seek to mislead the judge or jury by any artifice or false statement of fact or law;

I will maintain the confidence and preserve inviolate the secrets of my clients, and will accept no compensation in connection with their business except from them or with their knowledge and approval;

To opposing parties and their counsel, I pledge fairness, integrity, and civility, not only in court, but also in all written and oral communications;

I will abstain from all offensive personality and advance no fact prejudicial to the honor or reputation of a party or witness, unless required by the justice of the cause with which I am charged;

I will never reject, from any consideration personal to myself, the cause of the defenseless or oppressed, or delay anyone's cause for lucre or malice;

I will strive to uphold the honor and maintain the dignity of the profession and to improve not only the law, but the administration of justice; and

I will in all other respects conduct myself personally and professionally in conformity with the high standards of conduct imposed upon members of the bar as conditions for the privilege to practice law in the Virgin Islands.

So help me God. (I hereby affirm).”

It is further

ORDERED that the revised oath **SHALL TAKE EFFECT** on May 1, 2015. It is further

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

SO ORDERED this 24th day of April, 2015.

/s/Ive Arlington Swan
IVE ARLINGTON SWAN
Associate Justice

/s/ Maria M. Cabret
MARIA M. CABRET
Associate Justice

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

ATTEST:
VERONICA J. HANDY, ESQ.
Clerk of the Court