

SUPREME COURT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS



PRESS RELEASE

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The Supreme Court introduced a mandatory attorney registration requirement on December 5, 2014, when it issued Promulgation Order No. 2014-006. On February 20, 2015, the Court clarified that the annual registration requirement would go into effect beginning with the 2016 calendar year. On December 23, 2015, in order to reduce the burden on attorneys in complying with this new requirement, the Supreme Court provided all attorneys with a temporary extension of time through June 30, 2016, to file their 2016 Annual Registration Statement and pay the \$50.00 annual assessment.

The Supreme Court of the Virgin Islands issues this reminder to all members of the Virgin Islands Bar that, in accordance with Supreme Court Rule 203(e), all active members of the Bar must register with the Office of Disciplinary Counsel and pay the \$50.00 annual assessment on or before June 30, 2016. Attorneys can satisfy this requirement by electronically filing an Annual Registration Statement through the Virgin Islands Supreme Court Electronic Filing System ("VISCEFS").

Effective June 1, 2016, the Supreme Court is pleased to announce that commencing on June 1, 2016, Annual Registration payment may be made online at the time of filing. Payment may be made via credit card, debit card or ATH, and e-check. Otherwise payment must be remitted to the Supreme Court at either location within 7 days of the filing of the Annual Registration Statement to complete the registration process.

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. For purposes of the registration requirement, an active member of the Bar 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.

The Supreme Court further advises that commencing in calendar year 2017, and in all years thereafter, the Annual Registration Statement and \$50.00 annual assessment will be due no later than March 1st. The \$50.00 annual assessment is separate from annual dues paid to the Virgin Islands Bar Association, and/or any licensing fees required by law as modified by court order, 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.

For more information, contact:

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