

SUPREME COURT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS



PRESS RELEASE

Press Release No. 2014-0012

December 15, 2014

In recognition of the need to promote and expand equal access to justice at all levels in the Virgin Islands, the Supreme Court of the Virgin Islands has adopted Rule 301 which establishes the Virgin Islands Commission on Access to Justice. The 15 member Commission, which will include judicial officers, members of the legal community, representatives from various community support organizations and agencies, as well as members of the general public, is intended to complement and collaborate with the judiciary to improve access to justice in the territory. In accordance with Rule 301, appointed members will be selected based on their dedication to the purposes and goals of the Commission and a demonstrated commitment to providing legal services to the underserved within our community.

The Supreme Court has consistently placed a high priority on public access, and the Court's establishment of the Virgin Islands Commission on Access to Justice is a critical step in the development of a comprehensive plan to address a myriad of access issues that exist due to poverty, disability and language barriers. Effective December 1, 2014, the Virgin Islands has joined 37 other jurisdictions in the formation of permanent Access to Justice Commissions. These initiatives were made possible through grant assistance from the American Bar Association's Access to Justice Expansion Project.

The general public and members of the Virgin Islands Bar can access Rule 301 via the Court's website located at www.visupremecourt.org. To receive notice of court announcements and upcoming calendars of cases to be heard by the Supreme Court of the Virgin Islands, the public may sign up online at the Court's website on the link that says, "SignMeUp" or follow us on Twitter. The Court's Twitter handle is @visupremecourt. Become a follower by signing up at <https://twitter.com/VISupremeCourt>.

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