



36th Legislature of the Virgin Islands

Office of Senator Kenneth L. Gittens

Capitol Building, Charlotte Amalie, VI 00804 • 3022 Golden Rock, Christiansted, VI 00820

Kenneth L. Gittens
Senate Vice President

*Liaison to the
White House*

COMMITTEES

Rules & Judiciary
Vice-Chair

Education &
Workforce
Development
Member

Government
Operations, Veterans
Affairs, & Consumer
Protection
Member

Health, Hospitals &
Human Services
Member

Homeland Security,
Justice & Public
Safety
Member

October 9, 2025

Honorable Milton E. Potter
Senate President
Legislature of the V.I.
Capitol Building
Charlotte Amalie, USVI 00804

EMAIL DELIVERY: mpotter@legvi.org

RE: Unprofessional Conduct During Rules and Judiciary Committee Hearing

Dear Mr. President,

I write to formally express my deep concern regarding the conduct of Senator Carla J. Joseph, while chairing today's meeting of the Committee on Rules and Judiciary.

As you are aware, I made a motion on behalf of bill sponsor, Senator Clifford Joseph, who was participating remotely from outside of the Territory, to remove Bill No. 36-0105 and Bill No. 36-0144 from today's agenda and return them to the committee of jurisdiction for further amendment and consideration. As I explained during a point of information, the motion was made to allow the originating committee additional time to review, revise, and strengthen the proposed amendments before proceeding further in the legislative process.

It was procedurally appropriate for Chairwoman Joseph to temporarily relinquish her seat to Senator At-Large Angel Bolques, Jr. in order to object to the motion. However, what followed was entirely inappropriate. Under the guise of a point of personal privilege, the Chairwoman used the floor to publicly demean members of her own committee. Her comments were not only unprofessional and unbecoming of a presiding officer, but they also violated established rules of order, specifically, the prohibition against explaining a "no" vote after the fact, regardless of how it is framed.

Mr. President, this is not an isolated incident. The Chairwoman's ongoing pattern of disruptive conduct and misuse of procedural privileges has become increasingly concerning. Her behavior continues to erode the decorum of this institution and exposes our proceedings to public ridicule. Each outburst finds its way to social media platforms, where it is consumed and circulated without context, further diminishing the public's trust in the Legislature.

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"Lead By Example"

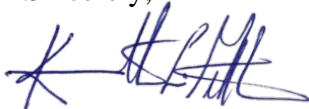
Letter to Senate President Potter

RE: Unprofessional Conduct During Rules and Judiciary Committee Hearing

As Vice President of this body and Vice Chairman of the Rules and Judiciary Committee, I am appalled by today's display and urge the leadership, and, if necessary, the full body to initiate a serious review of the Chairwoman's conduct. This Legislature cannot afford to turn a blind eye to repeated abuses of authority that shame our members and bring embarrassment to the institution we are all entrusted to uphold.

I respectfully request that this matter be addressed with urgency and transparency. Our colleagues and the people of the Virgin Islands deserve a body that operates with professionalism, mutual respect, and integrity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K. Gittens', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kenneth L. Gittens
Senator

cc: Honorable Avery Lewis, Senate Secretary – 36th Legislature of the V.I.
Honorable Kurt A. Violet, Senate Majority Leader – 36th Legislature of the V.I.
All Rules & Judiciary Committee Members