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Governor Bryan Nominates Ariel Smith for Attorney General

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS — On Monday, March 20, Governor Albert Bryan Jr. sent down to the 35th Legislature his nomination of Ariel K. Smith for the position of Virgin Islands Attorney General.

Attorney General Nominee Smith currently serves as the chief of the Civil Division in the Virgin Islands Department of Justice, a position she has held since 2016.

In his letter to Senate President Novelle Francis Jr., Governor Bryan asked that the Legislature act expeditiously and favorably on his nomination of Attorney Smith "to prevent any delays in the official functions of the department."

Attorney General Nominee Smith has a juris doctorate degree from Rutgers University School of Law in New Jersey.

As chief of the Civil Division in the Department of Justice, Attorney General Nominee Smith oversees a staff of five attorneys and two support staff and manages a caseload of more than 40 cases pertaining to the executive branch and instrumentalities of the Government of the Virgin Islands.

Prior to being named chief of the Civil Division, Attorney General Nominee Smith served as an assistant attorney general in the Civil Division for seven years. In that post, she drafted and filed complaints and prepared and presented dispositive and non-dispositive motions, participated in mediation conferences, and represented the Government of the Virgin Islands before the District Court of the Virgin Islands and the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands.

The Attorney General Nominee also served as assistant Territorial Public Defender for five years and performed criminal defense of misdemeanor and major felony offenses, including domestic violence and white collar matters, including conducting more than 20 jury trials.

Prior to that, Attorney General Nominee Smith was an associate attorney for Smock and Moorhead in private practice where she practiced general civil litigation with emphasis on insurance defense, bankruptcy, probate, family, labor, real estate, and commercial transactions.

The Bryan-Roach Administration is investing in the Territory's people, infrastructure and future through transparency, stabilizing the economy, restoring trust in the government and ensuring that recovery projects are completed as quickly as possible. Visit transparency.vi.gov

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