



GOVERNMENT OF THE
VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RELATIONS BOARD

P. O. BOX 25435, GALLOWS BAY, ST. CROIX, USVI 00824-1435
340-773-5580 (STX) 340-773-4780 (STX FAX) 340-775-4190 (STT) 340-714-7044 (STT FAX)

40 YEARS OF SERVICE

THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RELATIONS BOARD CELEBRATES 40 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE EMPLOYEES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

On August 31, 2020, the Public Employees Relations Board (PERB) celebrates its 40th Anniversary (1980 – 2020).

HISTORY:

On May 7, 1980, **ACT No. 4440** (hereafter “the Act”) was passed by the Thirteenth Legislature of the Virgin Islands of the United States. The full execution of the Act was attested by Senator Elmo D. Roebuck, President, and Senator Cleone Creque Hodge, Legislative Secretary. On May 23, 1980, the Act was vetoed and on June 2, 1980 the Act was overridden.

The Public Employees Relations Board was created as a separate, independent Board of the Government of the United States Virgin Islands, which provides for constructive labor relations between the Virgin Islands Government and its employees. As a result of the Act, the collective bargaining laws were broadened, and the jurisdiction and responsibilities of the PERB were established. The Members of the Board serves as administrative law judges and hears cases to determine whether the rights guaranteed to employees of the Government have been violated.

Further, in accordance with the Act, PERB’s mission includes improving public sector relations between management and union representatives, especially in the areas of dispute resolution through mediation and arbitration. The PERB also conducts trainings in labor relations, among other union initiatives, that would encourage congenial labor relations.

As PERB celebrates this milestone, it is important to recognize the following individuals who served on the Board over the past 40 years and those who have made significant contributions to the PERB.

Names shown are in numeric order from 1980 to 2020:

Helen Schjang	First Executive Director
Leo Petersen	Member
Wilburn A. Smith, Jr.	Member
Vargrave Richards	Chairman
Jean Romney	Member
Luis Llanos	Member
Raymond Plaskett	Chairman
Aubrey A. Lee	current Member and Chairman (1999 ~ 2015)
Richard M. Upson	Chairman
Alvin O. Davis	Member
Rosalie Simmonds	Member
Leslie Millin	Member
Keith Husbands	Member

Rhudel George	Member
Edgar M. Iles	Chairman
Riise Ellen Smith Richards	Member
Levron Sarauw, Sr.	Member
Ray A. Martinez	past Member and past Executive Director
Emma C. Ayala	Member
Rodney Moorehead	current Member
Hugo Denis, Jr.	Member
Omar B.U. Henry	Member
Zandra (Messiah) Petersen	past Member and current Executive Director
Annie Day Henry	current Member
Frederick Joseph	current Member
Pierina Jacobs-Feldman	current Chair (2015 to present)

Special recognition goes out to former Governor Juan F. Luis, who on April 17, 1985, approved the Rules and Regulations for PERB’s predecessor, the Government Employees Service Commission (“GESC”), to address appeals brought before the GESC, pursuant to Section 530 of Title 3. Also, to **former Governor Roy Lester Schneider**, who on June 17, 1997, approved the Rules and Regulations of the PERB, Title 3, Chapter 25, V.I.R.R., Amendments to Subchapter 496. The issuance of these certificates were due to compelling circumstances, in the interest of the public, and for these regulations to become effective without delay of prior publication.

We further express our heartfelt gratitude to our past and present members and current staff, especially previous Legal Counsel **Lorin Kleeger, Esq.**, current Legal Counsel, **Larry Raymond Roy, Esq.**, and of Counsels, **John B. Cochran, Esq.**, **Diane Zaar Cochran, Esq.**, and **Henry C. Smock, Esq.**

PERB also extends congratulations to one of our most valuable employees, **Mrs. Wilma Rodney**, who celebrates **thirty (30) years of service this month!** We sincerely appreciate her loyalty and dedication to the PERB over the years!

THANK YOU ALL for your service and contributions to the PERB! Happy 40th Anniversary!

Respectfully,