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November 18, 2008

Honorable Curtis V. Gomez
Chief Judge
District Court of the Virgin Islands
5500 Veterans Drive, Suite 310
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00802-6424

Dear Judge Gomez:

On November 7, 2008 I accompanied the fifth grade classes of Yvonne E. Milliner-Bowsky Elementary School, along with their teachers and the Assistant Principal, on a field trip to the District Court. It was an experience that I will always remember and hope that the students will think seriously before becoming involved with the wrong "friends" who could get them into trouble with guns and other illegal activities.

You and your staff demonstrated to the students what can happen if you go down the wrong path and the severe penalties that are attached to this type of behavior. The trip to the holding cell made a vivid impression on the youngsters. To me the action in the Court Room was very riveting and some of the students were really excited when they met and interacted first-hand with some of the people who are involved in the criminal justice system.

I was impressed with your employees who took part in this "staged event", although at one point I thought it was real, and I must say that your employees can make excellent actors and actresses in the real world. I also noted that the public school system played an important role in their educational backgrounds. Some of them started from Elementary School, moving on to Junior High, High School and even attending the University of the Virgin Islands as they embarked on their journey to success. You are a perfect example of this.

I think that the students were highly motivated. They asked excellent questions and received great responses. They were well-behaved and I am proud of them. Don't be surprised if, in the future, you see several of them holding some very important positions in the Court System, including your position of Chief Judge of the District Court, when and if you decide to retire.

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Again, congratulations to you and your staff for exposing these young students to the realities of life and to let them know what happens if they decide to associate themselves with the wrong company. Keep up the good work and if your busy schedule permits, invite as many school children to participate and get a first-hand view of the actions of the Court System. This can be a deterrent for them, and can prevent them from committing violent or other serious crimes. Too many of our young men (and even women) are spending long jail sentences for crimes that they have committed.

Thank you, thank you, and thank you!!!

Sincerely,



Vivian A. Lewis

cc: Mrs. Avery Evans, Assistant Principal
Mrs. Josephine Hector-Murphy
Mrs. Denise Goodings