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Serving Preschool-12th Grade on St. John

Honorable Curtis Gomes
Chief Judge
District Court of Virgin Islands
5500 Veterans Drive
Room 310
St. Thomas, USVI 00832

April 22, 2008

Dear Judge Gomez,

Thank you so much for inviting us to the Kids in the Court. The students and teachers enjoyed the visit immensely, and as a result, some of our seniors are considering law school as a possibility.

This was a great experience for the students to see what happens in a court room and to learn about the various positions of the people involved. It certainly opened their eyes. Once again, thank you for providing us the opportunity to glimpse into your world.

Yours truly,

Mary Willen
Teacher
Giff Hill School

Honorable Curtis Gomez
Chief Judge
District Court of Virgin Islands
5500 Veterans Drive
Room 310
St. Thomas, USVI 00832

Autumn Orlandini
Giff Hill School
P.O. Box 1657
St. John, USVI 00831

Dear Judge Gomez,

Thank you so much for inviting us to the Kids in the Court. Not only did it get me out of school for a day, but I really enjoyed it! I believed everything that went on was actually real. You got me! I thought it was so interesting to sit in a real court room and watch a case, even though it turned out to be fake.

I learned so many things from all of you in the court room. I learned that no matter how long it takes you to get through school, you should go for it because it's the best thing you can do in your life. I also learned about what the lawyers do and how hard they work to get to their points. You all are some strong individuals, and thanks again for having us.

Yours truly,

Autumn Orlandini 

Honorable Curtis Gomez
Chief Judge
District Court of Virgin Islands
Room 310
St. Thomas, USVI 00802

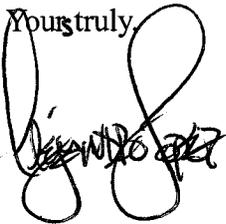
Alejandro Lopez
Giff Hill School
St. John, USVI 00802

Dear Judge Gomez,

Thank you so much for the opportunity to witness a real court case in person. It was so awesome and exciting because I had never seen a court case except for on tv. I thought until the very end of the play that it was a real sentence of five years in jail and when the officer had to restrain the witness when he tried to lash out at the man at the stands. It was fun to see and examine the equipment of the marshals and to hear what role everyone had and performed in the court house.

I learned lots when at the court case. I learned how the court case run and what kind of behavior is proper. Also I learned how to put on your combat suit and how heavy it is. The most important thing I learned is how you need to make the right decisions in the court and out of court so that you dont end up in court.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alejandro Lopez', written over the 'Yours truly,' text.

Alejandro Lopez

Honorable Curtiz Gomez
Chief Judge
District Court of Virgin Islands
5500 Veterans Drive
Room 310
St. Thomas USVI 00802

Isaac Lalah
GHS
P.O. Box 1657
St. John. USVI 00831

Dear Judge Gomez,

Thank you for inviting us to witness a first hand experience of what a real court case would be like. At the time I was not aware that the case was staged. Therefore I was kept on my toes the whole time. I would look forward to doing it again some other time.

I've learned lots about the court. I'm now thinking about becoming a lawyer because of Friday's experience. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Isaac Lalah

John Doe.

Honorable Curtis Gomez
Chief Judge
District Court of Virgin Islands
5500 Veterans Drive
Room 310
St. Thomas, USVI 00802

Zenobia Howe
Giff Hill School
P.O. Box 1657
St. John, USVI 00802

Dear Judge Gomez

Thank you so so much for giving my school the opportunity to see and learn all the things that have to do with the court, and all that makes it operate. I enjoyed the case even though some of it made no sense at all. You all tried to make it sound believable and I give you the props for going out of your way to do this sort of stuff for young aspiring students, we need more people like you in the world.

I learned that not everything goes as planned in a court room and the defendant or victim is not looked at in a bad light even though they might have tried to hurt the person that they are accusing or explaining to in their case. Your care and awareness for the youth is greatly appreciated from my fellow peers and I, keep it up.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Zenobia Howe". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Zenobia Howe

Dear Judge Gomez,

Thanks for allowing us to watch a full case. I had definitely found the trip worth while and learned some things that I have not known before. In a way, I felt that the time had gone by too quick.

One thing I learned are the roles of the members that make things happen. I did not realize how much technical priorities were involved with the laptops, computers, displays etc

Yours truly,

Kristopher R. Blyth

Honorable Curtis Gomez
Chief Judge
District Court of Virgin Islands
5500 Veterans Drive
Room 80
St. Thomas, USVI 00802

Deneisha Davis
6177 Hill School
P.O. Box 1657
St. John, USVI 00881

Dear Judge Gomez

Thank you for inviting the 6177 Hill School to come to our Court and observe what you and what everyone else does. I enjoy kids in the Court alot. I haven't been to a Court room while doing a case. We all thought the case was real but it wasn't. Everyone play there part will in not letting us know about the "punko."

One thing learned is that a Court house is no place for me and I did know that a Court room need some much equipments. But it's wonderful how ever goes to school and pick there part in the Court house.

Yours Truly
Deneisha Davis
Deneisha Davis

Dear Judge Gomez,

My name is Shaiman Lalich and I attended your court on Friday April 11th with the Giff Hill school. This was one of the most fun and informative field trips that I have ever gone to. I was very excited when I found out the man was not actually convicted for five years. It must break your heart to have to convict people. But that's your job, and I respect that.

And I have to say, your guises acting was incredible! You had me fooled. I have a new respect for the law, and how I want to stay away from that room. But once again, thank you, and hope not to see you any time soon.

Yours truly
Shaiman Lalich

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shaiman Lalich', written in a cursive style.

Honorable Curtis Gomez
Chief Judge
District Court of Virgin Islands
5500 Veterans Drive
Room 310

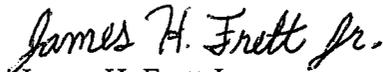
James H. Frett Jr.
St. John School on Giff Hill
P.O. Box 1657
St. John, USVI 00802

Dear Judge Gomez

Thank you for inviting the students of the Giff Hill school to the courthouse in St. Thomas. That was my first time inside a court. It was a new experience for me to see how the courthouse does its job. I thought the whole trial was real, I can't believe that the trial wasn't real because it was executed perfectly from what I read in school books. I'm just happy all of you took time out of your busy schedules to teach us all something new.

I learned many new things in the court. I saw how all the equipment was set up, how a trial properly functions, and I also learned how intuitive and exciting a trial can be. I was thinking about so many things while the trial was going on, like who should be punished, for how long should that person be punished, if this would be a fair trial, so on and so on. I appreciate all of you for allowing us to come

Yours truly,


James H. Frett Jr.

Honorable Curtis Gomez
Chief Judge
District Court of Virgin Islands
5500 Veterans Drive
Room 310
St. Thomas, USVI 00802

Charles Iwuc
Giff Hill School
P.O. Box 1657
St. John, USVI 00830

Dear Judge Gomez,

I thank you for allowing my fellow classmates and I to experience a "real" court trial. Even though it ended up being a fake trial, I feel that I still learned a lot. Once I find the time to do so, I am hoping that I can see an actual trial on St. Thomas. I also enjoyed when members of the court explained what he or she does and how they do it. This gave me a better understanding of how a court case works.

I had ruined the surprise for a few of my classmates though. I had a gut feeling that the court case was a fake trial. I think I had seen the defendant on St. John or St. Thomas before, which gave me the impression that had something to do with behind-the-scenes work or the case. It was somewhat exciting to still see him get violent during the trial. Another thing that gave me a clue was when Mr. Biden, as he was on the stand, could not remember the defendant's name even though they had been "working with each-other for three years."

Overall, this was a great experience for me. I would have never thought that I could learn so much about how a court case is dealt with by only sitting in on one case. Even though I plan on pursuing a career in music or graphic design, I am glad that now I have more background knowledge of a different career, in case my career heads in a different direction.

Thank you so much Judge Gomez and I would love it if you could please thank everyone else who was apart of the trial for me.

Thanks again,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. Iwuc', followed by a long horizontal line that ends in a small downward-pointing triangle.

Charles Iwuc

Hornorbale Curtis Gomez
Chief Judge
District Court of Virgin Islands
5500 Veterans Drive
Room 310
St. Thomas, USVI 00802

Yannick Knapen
Giff hill school
P.O. Box 1657
St. John, USVI 00831

Dear Judge Gomez

Thank you very much for having us in your court room. It was my first time in a court room, and it was very interesting. I believe all my friends enjoyed it, too. At the end of the trial, I also liked how the people came forward and told us about their jobs, and about how long it took them to become what they are today.

I found that the trial was so real and all the action in it was so cool that I had no idea that it was staged. One thing I learned that you have to follow your dream and have to go for what you want to do in your life, and it doesn't matter how long it takes you. I would like to thank you and the other members of your court for teaching me this. Thank you again for having us in court. I hope that we were a good audience.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Knapen" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Yannick Knapen