

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Virgin Islands U.S. Attorney's Office Staff Receives Prestigious DOJ Award For Post-Hurricanes Leadership And Service

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U.S. Attorney Gretchen C.F Shappert announced today that a nine-member administrative team in the Virgin Islands U.S. Attorney's Office (VI-USAO) has been recognized for their extraordinary service, following Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

In September of 2017, the VI-USAO became the only USAO to encounter two Category 5 hurricanes in less than two weeks. Staff members were without power and running water – many for over 100 days, according to the release. A core team worked tirelessly to ensure that VI-USAO offices in both St. Thomas and St. Croix could resume operations

and continue the work of the Department of Justice.

The District Court opened the court a few weeks after the storms, thereby requiring the USAO to resume operations under hazardous conditions.

"Alphonso Andrews, Meredith Edwards, Melissa Flottman, Antoinette M. James-Alleyne, James Latham, Daniel Leinenbach, Ingrid Richardson, Sophia Starr, Sigrid Tejo-Sprotte, and Keima Willett worked tirelessly, as an ad hoc administrative team, to aid the VI-USAO in recovery efforts," U.S. Attorney Shappert said. "They worked for several months, in the office and in their homes, including during periods when Internet service was non-existent, to ensure that the USAO was operational. Because of their dedication, federal prosecutors and staff were able to serve the needs of this community after the storms."

The Department of Justice Director's award for superior performance by an administrative team will be presented to the VI-USAO staff during an awards ceremony at the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C., hosted by department leadership, later this year. "The Virgin Islands U.S. Attorney's Office is one of the smallest of the 94 U.S. Attorney's Offices in the nation, but it is also one of the most dynamic and dedicated federal offices anywhere," Shappert said. "We punch above our weight. And that's what it means to be 'VI Proud and VI Strong.'"