

very projects



John is currently mitigated with a steel plate. The asking to rehabilitate sections of the road.

heard on second area of erosion. The project will involve installation of a mechanically stabilized earth retaining wall at one site, and installation of a rock face trapezoidal rockery wall at the second site. In response to questioning from St. John CZM Committee member Rafe Boulon, Campo-Allen said native stone will be used, and the rockery wall's facade was chosen with the viewshed in mind. Campo-Allen said there are known archaeological sites close to, but not at, the two failing sections of road-

By SUZANNE CARLSON
Daily News Staff

A court filing by lawyers for JPMorgan Chase accuses former Virgin Islands first lady Cecile deJongh of facilitating Jeffrey Epstein's abuse of women and girls by helping him influence local politicians, and says deJongh even asked Epstein to suggest changes to the territory's sex offender law.

"Epstein's primary conduit for spreading money and influence throughout the USVI government was First Lady deJongh," who worked as Epstein's local fixer for two decades, including throughout her husband John deJongh Jr.'s tenure as V.I. governor from 2007 to 2015, according to the filing.

DeJongh told Epstein which government officials to pay off, and devised ways to justify his victims' presence in the territory by enrolling them at the University of the Virgin Islands so they could obtain student visas, according to the filing. In a statement to The Daily News on Thursday, UVI President David Hall denied all allegations in the bank's filing.

Attorneys for the bank say documents obtained during the discovery process, which is still ongoing, show that deJongh asked Epstein — a registered sex offender — to suggest changes to the territory's sex offender

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Epstein's primary conduit for spreading money and influence throughout the USVI government was First Lady deJongh.
— Court documents filed by JPMorgan Chase lawyers

Court filing claims ex-first lady was Epstein's local fixer



Former first lady Cecile deJongh and her husband, former Gov. John deJongh Jr.

according to the filing. "Lest there be doubt that Epstein's goal was to gain influence, First Lady deJongh explicitly advised Epstein on how to buy control of the USVI political class," according to the filing, telling him "how to vote and whom to

he would 'support [then-USVI senator] Carlton Dowe's bid to go back to VIPA' who would be a 'good person for us' there." Prior to his election, Gov. Albert Bryan Jr., in 2018, also "facilitated donations by Epstein to USVI's schools and little leagues," and Epstein also

lawsuit filed by the V.I. Justice Department in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. The government has accused the bank of facilitating and profiting from Epstein's crimes. But attorneys for the bank say the government provided a safe haven for Epstein and allowed

life.

Who knew what, when?

In the ongoing civil case, the bank has asserted several affirmative defenses, including that the V.I. government has "unclean hands" because of officials' dealings with Epstein.

The V.I. government has asked the court to deny certain affirmative defenses. But Ellsworth responded in the bank's latest filing that it's the V.I. government that bears responsibility for enabling Epstein's crimes.

"To grant USVI immunity from these defenses would be to allow it to profit from Epstein twice: first directly, then again in a civil suit which it could just as easily see reflected in a mirror," according to the filing.

A judge has not yet ruled on the dispute over affirmative defenses.

Meanwhile, the bank's lawyers are naming Cecile de Jongh and other Virgin Islanders as key parties responsible for helping Epstein thrive in the territory, despite his status as a sex offender convicted of procuring children for prostitution in Florida in 2008.

The V.I. Justice Department is responsible for monitoring sex offenders in the territory, including Epstein, who claimed Little St. James island off St. Thomas as his primary residence for two decades before his August 2019 suicide.

Several sections of Ellsworth's filing that remain partially redacted refer to the territory's lack of enforcement of its sex offender laws, and the unre-