

From: Cecile de Jongh <[REDACTED]>
To: JEE <jeevacation@gmail.com>
Subject: URGENT!!!
Date: Thu, 08 Sep 2011 20:09:51 +0000

Jeffrey,

This is what they would like me to say in response to Barrett:

I would like to take the opportunity to respond to your two emails, as it is essential to understand the facts.

To be clear, I am not an official spokesperson for Financial Trust Company, Inc., its foundation or the Government of the U.S. Virgin Islands. However, I offer the following on-the-record statement for inclusion in your story:

Despite what appears to be an agenda-driven story, there are important facts that need to be told.

I am a well-educated professional and am taken aback by your assertions and condescension. You seem to believe that a wife of a governor cannot have her own career and that a woman is unable to keep her professional and official duties distinct.

I accepted a position with Financial Trust Company, Inc. in 2000; this is a full six years before my husband was elected governor of the U.S. Virgin Islands. I later took an unpaid role with its charitable foundation in the Territory. I am proud of the Foundation's success in improving the lives of Virgin Islanders, and young people in particular, through contributions, community service and volunteer programs, and of FTC's contributions to the economy of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Your communication confuses my roles as a professional woman and as First Lady of the U.S. Virgin Islands. Your insinuation that I am incapable of separating my professional life from that of my husband is unfair and sexist. I am discouraged that you would imply that professional women married to elected officials cannot differentiate between their work and personal lives.

With warm regards,

Cecile

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