



Message From The Court Executive Administrator



Master Christie-Anne Morris-Alleyne
Court Executive Administrator

The Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) is dedicated to serving the Caribbean people.

Through consistent adherence to our performance standards we continue to develop into an organisation worthy of those we serve. The people of CARICOM need a court in which they have trust and confidence - a court that is accessible, independent and accountable; one that is fair, timely, expeditious, and preserves the rule of law. This therefore is our focus.

Traditional courts within nations typically suffer loss of public trust and confidence due to a lack of public understanding and education and oftentimes by their failure to provide timeliness and expedition. These elements negatively affect access to justice and the perception of access to justice. Moreover they challenge the public perception of equality fairness and integrity- the foundation of judicial trust, usually without basis in fact. As a new court not yet fully accepted by the Caribbean peoples, the CCJ must build initial public trust and confidence. Knowledge of the work of the Court as revealed by its judgments has strengthened this trust and confidence among our people in those countries which have accessed the CCJ in its appellate jurisdiction. The challenge now is to preserve this and to gain the confidence of those in our member states who remain sceptical. To do so, the Court must first be the best court it can be and in this regard, the CCJ continues to build as a world class institution true to its vision of being worthy of the trust of the people and emulation by the courts of the region.

The Judges with whom I have the honour to work so fully dedicate themselves to their responsibilities that we continue to be professionally fulfilled and motivated by the environment that they create. The professional administrative staff who together form the Court



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Administration Unit which I have the pleasure to lead are forever considering our guiding principles and standards of access to justice, equality fairness and integrity, independence and accountability, and expedition and timeliness as they work to ensure that the Court is world-class. The support staff unfailingly dedicate themselves to excellence, to support the work of our judges and professional administrators. In their diversity and togetherness they keep reminding us of how we are all one people in this Caribbean. We strive to ensure that this is an enlightened and progressive environment in which we are proud of our achievements and we study our setbacks so that we may learn from them and grow.

This court year, we welcomed visits from members of the Judiciary and of the Cabinet Office of Jamaica and members of the Trinidad and Tobago Law Association among others. We joined with the Judiciary of Belize to plan a public education visit to Belize. We witnessed the filing of the first Original Jurisdiction matter and thus began to activate for the first time our sub-Registries in the contracting party member states which do not access the Court in its appellate jurisdiction. We further upgraded our Court Information Technology with the rolling out of the use of digital pens and our portable audio digital recording system. We amended our Rules of Court and further refined our teleconferencing for case management conferences. We heard matters and delivered judgments. We upgraded our library and enhanced our research methods and we did the things that a properly run dedicated court which wishes to attain and maintain high standards is supposed to do.

I am aware that there are those who will not be satisfied by the Court being an excellent court but are in fact opposed to the idea of a Caribbean Court of any quality replacing the British Court. These are people who will either never be attracted to the CCJ or who may still be attracted by improved knowledge. We therefore continue to inform and educate our CARICOM citizens about the Court.

We have found at times in several member states that limited knowledge and sadly, misinformation not only about the Court, but about the CSME and the rest of the Caribbean further hinder our public education drive. We thus continue to deliver timely and accurate information to our people and to ensure that the Court is an excellent court.

So we publish this, our third Annual Report as a way to enhance accountability and so that we may inform our people, provide greater insight into the working of the Court, and thus earn your trust and confidence.

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