

Message from the Registrar and Chief Marshal

This is the last message which I write as Registrar of the CCJ since I have ended my tenure at the Court.

As I look back over my almost nine years at the Court, I remember the daily challenges and the excitement of the staff on the achievement of each 'first' by the Court. Some of you may remember the first matter filed by a litigant from Barbados in July 2005, the first two matters filed from Guyana in January 2006 or Belize in April 2010, the first judgment delivered, the first Practice Direction issued in March 2007, the first teleconference, the first videoconference, the first itinerant sitting, the first document filed electronically.

These are but a few of the many firsts that the Court has achieved to date and none of these could have been successfully achieved without the dedicated and committed staff of the Court and the sub-Registries and the co-operation of attorneys.

I still believe that the most important aspect of a start-up organisation is training and to this end the Court hosted several public seminars and conferences with a view to familiarising stakeholders and the general public about the Court, and in particular, its original jurisdiction. Without training, preparation and familiarisation, none of the said 'firsts' could have been managed. The Court continues in various ways to provide information and guidance to its customers and stakeholders through its website, guided tours, outreach visits, meetings of Registrars and Court Executive Administrators; IT officers; and librarians.

One challenge which has not been fully overcome is that there is still the perception that a country is not a part of the Court if it is not part of the appellate jurisdiction. As I look ahead I hope that public education will once and for all correct this perception and I look forward to the other nine countries which have signed the Agreement Establishing the Court, joining its appellate jurisdiction. I also wish the Court and its staff success with the many milestones still to be achieved, including the implementation of its five year Strategic Plan.

Paula Pierre
Registrar and Chief Marshal

