

**MESSAGE FROM
THE REGISTRAR
& MARSHAL**



Mrs. Jacqueline Graham, Registrar & Marshal

Message from the Registrar and Marshal

The Caribbean Court of Justice continues to evolve as a superlative institution within the Caribbean and beyond its jurisdictional borders. Primarily comprised of Caribbean jurists, the court's decisions have remained supportive of the philosophical cornerstones of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas, contributing to the stability and uniformity of the application of the rule of law for both natural and juridical persons.

The period under review was one of many changes as we continued along the journey towards achieving our strategic vision. A process initiated under the stewardship of my predecessor, Ms Paula Pierre, it would be remiss of me not to thank her as well as former Court Executive Administrator Master Christie-Anne Morris-Alleyne for their contribution to the development of the Court during their tenure.

It goes without saying that having been appointed Registrar and Marshal in mid-2014, the learning curve has been a steep one. The experience thus far has however, been tremendously satisfying - a result in no small part due to the willingness of staff to welcome me and induct me into the organization, an act for which I must express my deepest gratitude and appreciation.

Indeed, it is a privilege to be a part of the Court at such a pivotal point in its history. With Dominica having made the decision to accede to the appellate jurisdiction of the Court, making it the fourth state to do so. It is our hope that this decision reinvigorates the wider Caribbean to follow suit as we continue to work towards fulfilling our mandate of producing a court of unsurpassed quality befitting the good people of this region.

Recognizing that we must take appropriate steps to remain systematically stable with the passage of time, we have begun paying closer attention to our court support structures as we strive to build a Court that will serve as a symbol for the region, ensuring that all CARICOM citizens have access to the highest quality of justice possible in both the appellate and original jurisdictions. To this end, we hope to attract increased stakeholder support, increase public access to court proceedings and to further strengthen and synergize the functioning of the sub-registries of the Court to ensure growth and longevity of the CCJ's operations.

Using the Court's first strategic plan as a compass to guide our direction into the future, we also began taking deliberate steps to streamline the work of the Court to meet our strategic goals.

I applaud our staff who have embraced these changes and continue to work assiduously to achieve the Court's vision. As the CCJ's Strategic Plan 2013–2017 boldly states, "every function of the CCJ executed properly contributes to justice. Therefore even the smallest task must be performed with expertise, integrity and diligence." It is only a collective commitment to the goals and philosophy of this court that will guarantee the further evolution of this beacon of hope and security for all those invested in the progress of our Caribbean community.