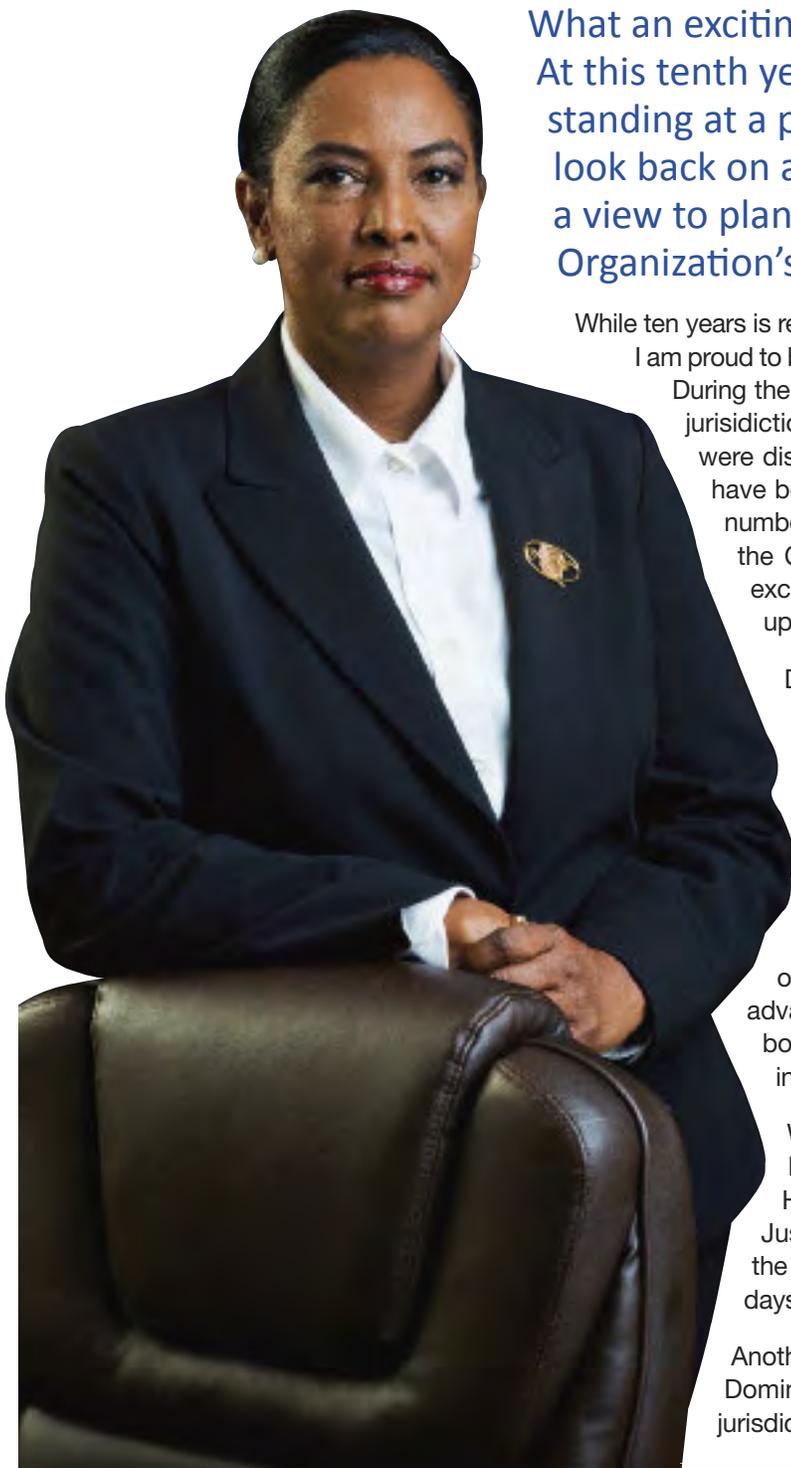


MESSAGE

THE REGISTRAR AND MARSHAL



What an exciting time here for us at the Court! At this tenth year of operations, the Court is standing at a pivotal vantage point where we look back on achievements and pitfalls with a view to planning for the next decade of the Organization's growth and development.

While ten years is relatively young in the life of a final appellate court, I am proud to be a part of such a progressive regional institution. During the Court's 10-year history, out of the 160 appellate jurisdiction matters that were filed, 140 of those matters were disposed of. In its original jurisdiction, 18 matters have been heard with 16 matters disposed. While the numbers appear to be small, these statistics show that the Court's work has matched, and in some cases exceeded, other appellate level courts in their start-up years.

During the period under review, the President and Judges approved the new Rules of Court for both the original and appellate jurisdictions. These revised rules bear greater consideration for the adoption of technological solutions to improve our case management procedures. Some of these solutions, which include e-filing and greater use of our video conferencing capabilities, all form part of a wider initiative by our Court President to ensure that we are taking advantage of current technology, reducing costs and bolstering the existing information technology infrastructure.

We welcomed the Honourable Mme. Justice Maureen Rajnauth-Lee, who succeeded the Honourable Mme. Justice Désirée Bernard. Mme. Justice Rajnauth-Lee, of Trinidadian nationality, is the tenth Judge to be appointed to the bench mere days before the Court's tenth anniversary.

Another momentous occasion during this period was Dominica's accession to the CCJ's appellate jurisdiction. On the 6th of March 2015, some of us were

fortunate to be present in Dominica while that country's people celebrated and applauded this move with true Dominican pride. After attending the ceremony, the President and Judges took the opportunity to interact with the Dominican Bar Association and conduct a small training exercise about the Rules of Court.

The Full Bench also travelled to Belize for the Court's first itinerant sitting in that territory. The itinerant sitting included the hearing of BZCV2014/002, *The Maya Leaders Alliance et. al v the Attorney General*, a matter of particularly high interest to Belizeans. Through these itinerant sittings, the Court disproves the notion that it is far-removed, providing direct access to members of the public who wish to see and feel the Court in action.

Congratulations are also in order for the Eugene Dupuch Law School, whose team won the CCJ International Law Moot for the fourth time. Even as budding attorneys, the submissions put forward were of a very high quality and their advocacy was admirable. This entire event is quite impressive and commendable.

In furtherance of the implementation of the Court's Strategic Plan, which covers the period 2013 to 2017, institutional strengthening exercises were undertaken by Dr. Aubrey Armstrong and Ms. Mona Romilly from Aubrey

Armstrong Management Associates. These exercises helped to further operationalize the pillars of the Strategic Plan and sought to assimilate these techniques into the everyday operations of the Court.

When one looks back at the Court's achievements over its ten-year history and the period under review, one would be hard pressed to not highlight the sheer talent and high-calibre of its people. They are indeed talented professionals who despite everyday challenges, have come together and rallied around the overarching goals of this Caribbean Court. These persons have laid the foundation and set an excellent example for those of us who have joined the institution in the intervening years. It is nothing short of remarkable, the joining together of perspectives of the 'veterans' and the 'freshmen' and how well this contributes to ensuring that this Court remains at the pinnacle of judicial, administrative and technological excellence in this region.

Ms. Jacqueline Graham
Registrar and Marshal



The Registrar and Judges of the Court along with a delegation from the International Union of Judicial Officers during a visit to the CCJ.