



## THE CARIBBEAN ASSOCIATION OF JUDICIAL OFFICERS (CAJO)

Caribbean Association of Judicial Officers (CAJO) - The Caribbean Association of Judicial Officers (CAJO) is a voluntary association of judicial officers (including Chief Justices, Judges, Magistrates, Registrars, Court Administrators) from throughout the Caribbean.

CAJO's main activity involves the holding of a biennial Conference at which, inter alia, best practices and new ideas and techniques to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the administration of justice are discussed and agreed.

CAJO also engages in activities to promote judicial education and judicial reform. CAJO has been partnering with UN Women to produce a draft gender Protocol for the judiciaries of Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago. It is hoped that this project will be extended to all other judiciaries in due course.

### 4TH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

Currently the preparations are underway for a conference in Montego Bay, Jamaica with the theme "Setting High Standards for Justice Delivery". It is expected that over 100 participants will attend the conference which will include keynote presentations from eminent jurists and academics, panel discussions and networking opportunities.

### PUBLICATION AND MEETINGS

In between biennial conferences CAJO publishes a biannual newsletter, CAJO NEWS, and the Executive meets regularly by Skype to promote various justice improvement initiatives in different Caribbean states. CAJO NEWS features news about interesting persons, events and issues in Caribbean justice systems.

### 10th Anniversary Memories

“ Meeting some of the members of the Court, and learning their experiences - from where they worked and to where they are right now - was very good, because it gave me a sense of 'Alright, I am welcome' and I really & truly appreciated that. ”



Veronica Brooks  
Security Officer



## THE CARIBBEAN ACADEMY FOR LAW AND COURT ADMINISTRATION (CALCA)

**The Caribbean Academy for Law and Court Administration (CALCA) is the educational arm of the Caribbean Court of Justice and is administered under the authority of the President of the Court and falls under the Chairmanship of the Honourable Mr. Justice Winston Anderson.**

CALCA held its Third Biennial Seminar on “Implementation of International Law: Global and Regional Trade Rules including Competition Law” during the period 2nd to 4th December, 2014 at the HYATT Regency Hotel, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. The sessions critically examined the implementation of rules on international and regional trade and competition together with the application of international law.

The Seminar was chaired by the Honourable Justices Winston Anderson and Jacob Wit. CALCA selected and facilitated the participation of eminent experts from Europe, North America and the Caribbean and participants in leading the sessions. The participants were engaged in informal discussions to stay in touch with the latest developments in these rapidly evolving areas.

From 30th to 31st March, 2015 CALCA co-sponsored the first “Inter-American Congress on the Environmental Rule of Law” which was held in Montego Bay, Jamaica. The opening ceremony featured eminent public figures including the Prime Minister and the Minister of Natural Resources and the Environment of Jamaica and the President of the Caribbean Court of Justice. The focus was on establishing a consultative forum for reflection and collective learning on emerging trends in environmental

law through continuous dialogue, research and analysis on key issues relevant to the governance in the Hemisphere.

CALCA is currently engaged in planning a number of activities to advance its agenda of providing quality legal education to the legal fraternity in the region. The Academy is supporting the establishment of the Caribbean Community Administrative Tribunal (CCAT) and the drafting of the the Tribunal's governing foundation documents. The Agreement Establishing the CCAT is expected to be approved by the participating institutions of the Community in March 2016.

CALCA has contacted seven judiciaries within CARICOM with a view to organizing lectures in their respective jurisdictions on the referral obligation under Article 214 of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas during the period April to July 2016. In preparation for these lectures, a manual and power point presentation are being prepared with the assistance of the Judicial Research Assistants.

The Academy is also engaged in the pre-planning stages for its Fourth Biennial Conference to be held in the island of St. Maarten. CALCA will partner with other entities is facilitating this conference which promises to be a historic opportunity for a high level of interface between common law and civil law lawyers in the Caribbean, given that such dialogue has traditionally been very limited. As presently conceived the conference will offer participants, exposure to experts in rich and diverse fields as International Commercial Law; Advocacy and Ethics; Private International Law; and Arbitration Law. The conference will be paperless and the official website will include a hyperlink for downloading material.

## HIGHLIGHTS - CALCA



*The Hon. Mr. Justice Winston Anderson, Judge of the CCJ and Chairman of CALCA, addresses the gathering at the 3rd Biennial Conference.*



*Secretary to CALCA, Ms. Susan Medina, speaks with attendees during one of the Conference breaks.*

*Registrar and Marshal of the Court, Mrs. Jacqueline Graham, addresses the audience. Mrs. Graham is also a member of the CALCA Managing Committee.*



*The President of the CCJ, the Rt. Hon. Sir Denis Byron, the CCJ Registrar, Mrs. Jacqueline Graham, and the CALCA Chair, Mr. Justice Winston Anderson, enjoy a light moment during the Conference.*

---



## THE JUDICIAL REFORM AND INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING (JURIST) PROJECT

The Judicial Reform and Institutional Strengthening (JURIST) Project, a five-year regional judicial reform initiative, is being implemented on behalf of Global Affairs Canada (GAC) and the Conference of Heads of Judiciary of CARICOM (the Conference), by the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ), which was appointed by the Conference as its Regional Executing Agency (REA).

The Project is working with judiciaries in the region to support their own efforts to improve court administration and strengthen the ability of the courts and the judiciary to resolve cases efficiently and fairly. The Project is being implemented in at least six countries and will be expanded to include other territories in the region.

The Project held its first Steering Committee meeting from September 29-30, 2014 at the Caribbean Court of Justice's (CCJ) headquarters in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad.

Activity was undertaken in three countries, namely: Grenada, Jamaica and Belize. Grenada was our first model court project and its objective was to reduce 175 backlogged civil cases to zero in 6 to 9 months. The initiative commenced on February 2, 2015 with the training of eight judicial officers by the Commonwealth Judicial Education Institute (CJEL). The model court project tested mandatory mediation, case management conferences, delivery of oral judgments and the digital court room.

To achieve this objective, two temporary judges were assigned to Grenada, and with the assistance of the Government of Grenada, two additional court rooms were built and the mediation center was expanded. The court clerks were also trained in the use of the digital recording equipment (the Liberty System). The Case Management System (CMS) was also configured to generate statistical reports to measure the impact of the model court techniques.

JURIST, in collaboration with the Judiciary of Jamaica, launched a digital recording project. The Commercial Division of the Supreme Court of Jamaica was the first court to participate in the project. This was the first step

in a phased roll out of the project which also included six other courts - two Civil Courts, one Criminal Circuit Court at the Supreme Court; one High Court Division of the Gun Court and two Resident Magistrate's Courts – one at the Corporate Area Criminal Court and the other at the St. James Resident Magistrate's Court.

The project commenced the week of March 30, 2015 with the training of 25 judicial officers. The training focused on the development of performance standards which were selected and determined by the Judiciary and topics such as judgment writing, delivery of oral judgements, differentiated case management and better case management practices were covered. The project tested digital recording of evidence (DRE) and implemented certain case management procedures.

In Belize, a project to introduce new case management, information technology support and other programs in the Court of Appeal of Belize to improve the quality of justice delivery of the court was implemented by JURIST. The project commenced the week of April 20, 2015 with the training of 36 judicial officers and the introduction of case management techniques.

A consultant was retained to assist the President of the Court of Appeal to set up Case Management Conferences (CMCs), to engage the Bar in the representation of unrepresented litigants and to ensure that systems are put into place to prevent further backlogs. For the Belize project, CMCs by a pre-trial panel of appellate judges were made mandatory.

These activities are geared towards modernizing the regional justice system and achieving the overarching goal of the Project which is to establish a judicial system that is more responsive to the needs of women, men, youths and businesses. As such, the JURIST Project employs a participatory planning process and firmly believes that an inclusive approach will result in judicial reform initiatives that are more efficient and effective.