

The Website Committee

The Website Committee was revived in order to continue to guide and shape the CCJ website in light of an impending redesign. It was also decided that the committee should also provide support to associated bodies, the Regional Judicial and Legal Services Commission (RJLSC) and JURIST, who are developing their own web presence.

The committee is chaired by Mr. Justice Saunders and is comprised of representatives from a wide cross-section of the Court's functions. The committee includes: Mr. Justice Wit, Ms. Charmaine Wright, Ms. Jacinth Smith, Dr. Michael Anthony Lilla, Mr. Ayinde Burgess, Mrs. Ria Mohammed-Davidson, Ms. Seanna Annisette and Ms. Semone Moore. Representatives from both RJLSC and the JURIST Project will also have a place on the committee.

The committee's remit is to develop strategies in relation to the CCJ's web presence in keeping with the mission statement and articulated vision of the Court, to ensure the website adheres to the performance standards of the Court and to uphold and enhance the Court's ability to engage in public education. In this regard, the committee will assume responsibility for devising the means for accomplishing the purpose set out above, establishing appropriate mechanisms for monitoring and maintaining the website, and recommending appropriate content.

During the meeting it was also decided that a sub-committee for website monitoring, which obtained during the tenure of the previous committee, would continue to function. It was also concluded that the committee must seek the views of internal and external users of the website in determining how it must go forward. It was concluded that a survey would be helpful in ascertaining needs, desires and suggestions for improvement from current users. The survey is being planned for the 4th quarter of 2016. The draft survey has been approved and is currently being tested before wider implementation. This will allow for the development of a phased approach to the enhancement of the CCJ website to ensure it meets and exceeds the needs of its users.

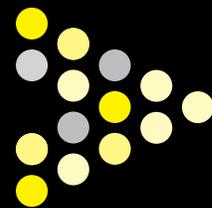
During the period, the committee bade farewell to one of its members, Ria Mohammed-Davidson. We thank her for her service.

The Library Collection Development Advisory Committee

This committee, comprising Mr. Justice Hayton (Chair), Mr. Justice Wit, Ms. Jacqueline Graham, Ms. Jacinth Smith and Ms. Alicia Dixon, met on 23 November 2015, 14 March 2016 and 15 July 2016. At these meetings, the following subject areas were evaluated and recommendations made in accordance with the Library Development Policy that had been approved on 31 July 2015: Administrative Law, Judicial Review, Constitutional Law, Public and Private International Law, Comparative Law, Criminal Law, Company Law, Partnership, Equity & Trusts, Commercial Law, Competition Law, Contract Law, Sale of Goods, Insurance Law, Agency, Tort Law and European Union Law.

Responding to a letter from the European Commission on Democracy through Law, also known as the Venice Commission, the CCJ is working with that body so as to have CCJ cases involving human rights issues included in the Commission's public data base, CODICES. It was agreed that the CCJ would help Suriname develop a collection of common law titles. Two members of the committee, Ms. Smith and Mr. Justice Wit, are compiling books that can be sent to Suriname. The Suriname Embassy has been informed that a collection of books is now awaiting transportation to Suriname.

Finally, the committee noted that since decisions of the Conference of Heads of Government can create law within CARICOM (as established in the Shanique Myrie case) such decisions ought to be easily accessible to lawyers



and laymen so that they know what law they have to comply with. The CCJ Librarian had received requests for such decisions but did not have them available to her. The President is raising this with the Secretary-General of CARICOM.

Ms. Alicia Dixon's term as a Judicial Research Assistant has ended and Ms. Kerine Dobson will replace her on the Committee.

Judicial Assistants and Court Interns Committee

At the end of July 2016, Ms. Alicia Dixon and Mrs. Ria Mohammed-Davidson completed the maximum period of three years for their posts, leaving Ms. Kerine Dobson in post as Judicial Assistant from 20 July 2015 and Mr. Richard Layne in post from 1 September 2015.

Ms Latoya McDowald will be joining the CCJ as Judicial Assistant on 1 September 2016 for a period of two years that can be extended to three years at the invitation of the CCJ. She is a Barbadian who is a qualified English barrister with a First Class Honours LLB from the University of Kent and who spent three days a week with the CCJ during the period October 2014 to March 2015 as part of the Hugh Wooding Law School programme for foreign qualified lawyers to obtain local certification. Another candidate will be appointed later in 2016.

As a result of proposals agreed at the Judges' Meeting of 21 July 2016, two unpaid interns are to be taken on for periods of two weeks over five successive fortnightly periods from May 2017 to July 2017. There will be ten interns: four each from the Hugh Wooding Law School and the Norman Manley School and two from the Eugene Dupuch Law School. The Principals of those Law Schools will select the interns. An intern will 'shadow' and assist a Judicial Assistant at times when not involved in learning about, and assisting in, the functions of the various Units of the Court.

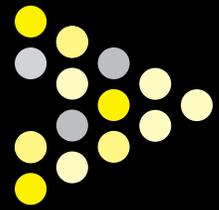
The Rules Committee

The period covered by this annual report, August 2015 to July 2016, has been largely one of observing the day-to-day operation of the Rules in both the Original and Appellate Jurisdictions since the promulgation of the new Rules in April 2015.

In an effort to streamline the régime for the taxation of costs in the Appellate Jurisdiction, the Court has begun to issue a costs questionnaire to the parties in the appeal. The main aim of the questionnaire is to facilitate the parties arriving at an agreed figure on the reasonable costs to be paid to the winning party. This questionnaire is currently issued by the Registry in advance of the first case management conference (CMC). The intention is that parties should be guided by the Schedule of Fees contained in the Appellate Jurisdiction Rules in completing the questionnaire. The covering page of the questionnaire will be amended accordingly to reflect this intention. The parties are to endeavour to arrive at an agreed quantum of reasonable costs and this agreement will be formally noted by the Court at the CMC. We have identified some Appellate Jurisdiction Rules that may have to be changed but need more time to see how the procedure is affected by the rule that costs are a judicial order, that the Court is not bound by what the parties say are reasonable costs and our positive duty to open up access to justice. Also important is the rule that costs must be adequately substantiated.

Consultations with the Bar Associations of Barbados, Belize, Dominica and Guyana on the quantum of fees specified in Schedule 2 of the Appellate Jurisdiction Rules should take place next year through the office of the Registrar.

JUDICIAL COMMITTEES



The Rules Committee has also considered whether a rule should be inserted in the Appellate Jurisdiction Rules and the Original Jurisdiction Rules which would impose a duty on the parties to comply with orders and judgments of the Court and to report on the status of compliance with the Court's orders. Again, it was felt we should hold our hands for the time being.

The committee will keep the provisions governing the electronic filing and submission of documents under review to account for any changes in technology in this regard. We expect that the first step would be an updated Practice Direction and Electronic Bundle Guidelines before the Rules are eventually changed.

The committee will ensure that the CCJ remains at the cutting-edge of all recent developments in law and technology and is adequately equipped to make justice accessible to the people of the Caribbean. In this respect, the committee was pleased to welcome two new Judicial Assistants, Ms. Kerine Dobson and Mr. Richard Layne.



Long-serving RJLSC Commissioner the Hon. Dr. Lloyd Barnett OJ, receives a gift from the Executive Officer in the RJLSC, Ms. Christine Foreshaw. While the framed photo wished Dr. Barnett farewell, the Judges and the Staff of the CCJ wrote their own messages to Dr Barnett in the area around the photograph which gave the gift a personalized touch.