

## CCJ Public Education In Referenda Exercises

In its 11<sup>th</sup> year of operation, the Court welcomed the steps being taken by the Governments of Grenada and Antigua and Barbuda to accede to the Court's Appellate Jurisdiction. As both countries prepared for referendum activities, the CCJ was invited by the respective organizing committees to contribute to the information dissemination exercises being undertaken in the various forms of print and electronic media.

The Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, the Honourable Gaston Browne, along with Leader of the Opposition, the Hon. Baldwin Spencer, agreed, in the presence of the Governor General of Antigua & Barbuda, Sir Rodney Williams, to engage the people of Antigua & Barbuda in a bipartisan consultation on certain areas of constitutional reform. The President of the CCJ, who was in attendance, gave further assurance that the Caribbean Court of Justice, "will ensure that the people of Antigua and Barbuda get all the information they need to ensure that they can make a decision that is in their best interest and we will respect whatever decision is made."



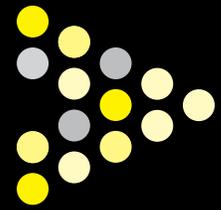
*The Right Honourable Sir Dennis Byron, President of the Court, spoke passionately about the work and the role of the CCJ at the launch of the public education campaign for the planned referendum in that nation. The Prime Minister of Antigua & Barbuda, the Honourable Mr. Gaston Brown (seated), was firm in his support of the CCJ and encouraged his citizens to educate themselves on the issues so that they can make an informed decision.*



*Journalist, Mr. Kem Jones (left), of Fresh FM posed questions from listeners that he received on his mobile device to the CCJ President, Sir Dennis Byron, and RJLSC Commissioner, Mr. Martin Daly SC (not shown). The two were on a sensitization tour of Grenada so that the public and stakeholder groups could discuss their concerns and questions directly with representatives from the CCJ, the RJLSC and the CCJ Trust Fund.*

Upon invitation from the Grenada Constitution Reform Advisory Committee, the Caribbean Court of Justice participated in a series of events which were intended to continue the efforts to increase public education about the CCJ in the region. The events included a televised town-hall meeting, meetings with stakeholder groups and a media workshop. Among the meetings were engagements with students, leaders of the Government and the Opposition party, the Grenada Bar Association and the Conference of Churches among other umbrella organizations and groups. There were also radio interviews that contributed to efforts to reach the people of Grenada. At each presentation, the audience received information about the CCJ but was also encouraged to probe issues that concerned them the most. The presentations covered a variety of topics which included the Court's high quality of work, judicial independence and financial stability.

Not only were these exercises fruitful but necessary, as the Court embraced the opportunity to dialogue with the people of the two countries to help them to make an informed decision. The discussions emanating from these interactions are valued by the Court, as it contributes to the level of access to the Court, its information and its people, all geared towards improved public trust and confidence.



*Students rush to the stage to answer questions at the Youth Forum that marked the first activity of the public education campaign before the upcoming referendum in Antigua & Barbuda. Thousands of students from the twin-island state attended the event.*

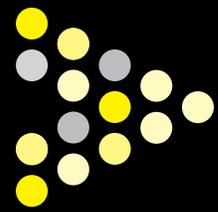
## CCJ Signs MOU On Harmonizing Business Law In The Caribbean

In May 2016, the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) signed an Agreement of Cooperation with Guadeloupe-based ACP Legal Association, which bears the responsibility for executing the Organization for the Harmonization of Business Law in the Caribbean (OHADAC) Project.

The agreement was signed on behalf of the CCJ by Court President, The Rt. Hon. Sir Dennis Byron, and by ACP Legal President, Judge Catherine Sargenti. The brief ceremony was witnessed by French Ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago, His Excellency Hédi Picquart.

Under the Agreement, the CCJ will lend such support as exists within its mandate towards achieving the implementation of a harmonized business law framework in the Caribbean. The OHADAC Project aims to consolidate the economic integration of the entire Caribbean, following similar reforms undertaken in Africa. The project seeks to facilitate increased trade and promote international investment by providing a unified law and alternative dispute resolution methods. The ultimate goal of the harmonization process is to have a unified law that is internationally respected, recognised and utilized.

The signing of the agreement represented the culmination of discussions between the two organisations following a two-day official visit by a delegation from ACP Legal Association/the OHADAC Project to the CCJ Headquarters in Port of Spain. The delegation consisted of Judge Sargenti, President of ACP Legal and leader of the OHADAC Project; Dr. Jean Alain Penda, OHADAC's Project Manager; and Mr. Keats Compton.



## Sensitization Visit To Jamaica

Sir Dennis Byron led a delegation on a visit to Jamaica in May 2016. The visit was intended to give the incoming Interim Project Director from the JURIST Project, Mrs. Nicole Jauvin, some insight into the justice sector and to introduce her to some of the stakeholders in that country. Intensive discussions were had with the Minister of Justice, the Attorney General and the Chief Justice and key members of the Ministry of Justice and the Judiciary of Jamaica. Of interest was a visit to the Resident Magistrate's Court in Kingston. There the team was able to view the digital recording equipment, donated by the JURIST Project, and to speak with some of the court reporters who were participating in the pilot programme.

The President, accompanied by the Hon. Mr. Justice Adrian Saunders of the CCJ, also paid courtesy calls on the Prime Minister of Jamaica and the Leader of the Opposition. In addition, the delegation also visited the offices of the Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica to discuss a possible collaboration on public awareness in the island.



*CCJ Judge, the Hon. Mr. Justice Saunders (right), is amused by the responses of school children who are answering questions about the CCJ posed by the President of the Court (partially hidden). The President and Judge had just concluded a meeting with the Prime Minister of Jamaica. During the trip to Jamaica, the President and Judge met with various stakeholder groups - including the Judiciary, umbrella groups and the Government.*

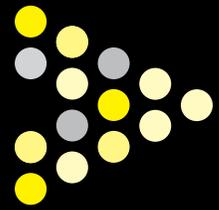


*The President of the CCJ, the Rt. Hon. Sir Dennis Byron (left), the Hon. Mr. Justice Saunders, Judge of the CCJ, and Ms. Nicole Jauvin, Interim Project Manager of the JURIST Project, are updated on the usage of digital recording equipment at the Kingston and St. Andrew Resident Magistrates' Court in Jamaica.*

## Delegation From The Dutch Caribbean Visits The CCJ

The Hon. Mme. Justice Engelbrecht, together with a number of trainee judges from the judiciary of the Dutch Caribbean, visited the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) and a number of other courts in Trinidad as a part of their judicial training programme. The delegation visited the Family Court, Industrial Court, the Port of Spain Magistrate's Court and the Supreme Court of Trinidad and Tobago. The participating trainee judges were: Mr. Reagan Celestijn, Ms. Kimberly Lasten, Ms. Angeline Martijn, Ms. Josina Schelling and Ms. Faye Wannyn.

CCJ Judge, the Hon. Mr. Justice Wit who co-ordinated the trip on behalf of the Court, stated, "one of the strategic imperatives of the CCJ includes enhancing regional judicial system performance and judicial cooperation. This visit is just one of the ways we hope to assist courts in the region, even or especially those with a different legal system, by bringing them together and helping them with developing a broader view on their role in the administration of justice, introducing them to new ideas on how to improve their functioning in a way that is relevant to society as a whole and by creating opportunities to strengthen their ties with other judiciaries."



## Governor-General of Grenada Visits The CCJ

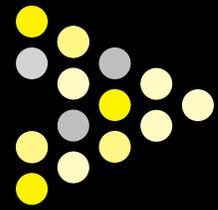
Her Excellency Dame Cecile La Grenade, GCMG, OBE, PhD, Governor-General of Grenada, during a visit to Trinidad and Tobago paid a courtesy call on the President of the Caribbean Court of Justice, the Rt. Honourable Sir Dennis Byron, at the CCJ Headquarters on Friday 01, April 2016. Her Excellency also met with the Judges and Registrar of the Court and participated in a tour of the Court's offices, including a demonstration of the impressive technology being employed in the CCJ's courtrooms.



*Her Excellency Dame Cecile La Grenade (centre) with some of the Judges and the Registrar and Marshal of the CCJ.*



*Multimedia Officer at the Caribbean Court of Justice, Mr. Paul AQUI (right), speaks with Her Excellency Dame Cecile La Grenade as he goes through a demonstration of the courtroom technology.*



## The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Caribbean Court Of Justice (CCJ) International Law Moot Competition

The Court's Annual Law Moot focuses on the CCJ's Original Jurisdiction and matters related to the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas. The Caribbean Court of Justice's Annual International Law Moot Court Competition was inaugurated in March 2009, to encourage budding attorneys to become familiar with the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas, and other areas of Community and International Law.

This year saw the participation of six teams representing law schools and law faculties throughout the Caribbean:

1. Faculty of Law of the University of Technology, Jamaica;
2. Faculty of Law of the University of Guyana;
3. Faculty of Law of the University of the West Indies (St Augustine);
4. Eugene Dupuch Law School (The Bahamas);
5. Hugh Wooding Law School (Trinidad & Tobago); and
6. Norman Manley Law School (Jamaica).

The Norman Manley Law School emerged the winner of the competition. This is the second win for the Jamaican law school, since they competed and won the very first CCJ International Law Moot in 2009.

This year's fictitious case dealt with issues surrounding a Caribbean national, of Muslim denomination, who was denied entry into Jamaica. Arguments were presented before a panel of CCJ Judges: the Honourable Messrs. Justices Wit, Hayton and Anderson. In his opening remarks, the Rt. Honourable Sir Dennis Byron, President of the CCJ, spoke of the benefits of the moot; "To my mind, the annual moot is strong evidence of the Court's confidence in the future of the legal profession in the region, and its contribution to preparing the young attorneys of today to assume the mantle of legal leadership in the region tomorrow."

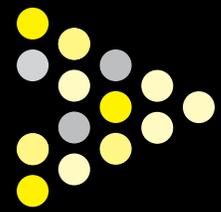
The submissions made by all teams met and exceeded the expectations of the Court Judges, who not only commended their efforts, but also gave the teams a few pointers on what can be done to improve their oral presentations. All teams were applauded for their use of the various presentation tools available at the multimedia lectern of the CCJ's courtroom.

Assisting with the proceedings were first year law students of the University of the West Indies, St Augustine Campus. They functioned as mooting registrar, mooting court support officer and other mooting court officials.



*Mr Travis Anthony Benain delivers his presentation during the 8th Annual Caribbean Court of Justice Law Moot competition. The annual event serves as a training exercise to develop student's knowledge of the CCJ's Original Jurisdiction and to provide a cross section of students from across the Caribbean with valuable experience in a courtroom setting.*

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Members of the winning team were: Emily Prentice, Travis Anthony Benain, Jai-Len Annique Williams. Second place was awarded to the team from the Faculty of Law of the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine campus, which also copped the title “Best Academic Institution”.



Members of the winning team from the Norman Manley Law School in Jamaica beam as they pose with the Law Moot trophy. Pictured are (from left to right): Mr. Travis Benain, Ms. Emily Prentice, CCJ President, the Rt. Hon. Sir Dennis Byron, Ms. Jai-Len Williams and their tutor, Ms. Keva Chong.



Members of the team from the Faculty of Law at the University of the West Indies' St Augustine campus are pleased to collect their trophy from the Honourable Mr. Justice Rolston Nelson (left). The team included Ms. Adanna Joseph-Wallace (2nd left), Ms Candy Smith and Mr. Vincent Patterson.