Highlights

- Developing the Region’s Up-and-coming attorneys — The 1st Annual CCJ International Law Moot
- The Inaugural Conference of the Caribbean Association of Judicial Officers (CAJO)
- Forging Strategic Alliances
  - VI Brandeis Institute for International Judges (BIIJ) 2009
  - Visits from Caribbean and extra-regional dignitaries
The Caribbean Court of Justice Annual International Law Moot was established in 2009 in keeping with the Court’s stated Original Jurisdiction mission of “ensuring uniform interpretation and application of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas, thereby underpinning and advancing the CARICOM Single Market and Economy”. The Court viewed the moot exercise as an excellent means of not only, in the first instance, familiarising law students with the tenets of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas, but also of bringing the treaty to life, and making discussion and analysis of it a continuous, ongoing and active process in the Caribbean.
The 1st Annual CCJ International Law Moot Competition was held on Wednesday 18 March 2009, in Courtroom 1. Students from the following institutions participated: the Eugene Dupuch Law School (The Bahamas); the Hugh Wooding Law School (Trinidad & Tobago); the Norman Manley Law School (Jamaica); the Faculty of Law of the Anton de Kom University of Suriname; the Faculty of Law of the University of Guyana and the Faculty of Law of the University of the West Indies (Cave Hill-Barbados). At stake was the CCJ Annual International Law Moot Challenge Shield.

The 1st Annual CCJ International Law Moot was won by the team representing the Norman Manley Law School of Jamaica, whose members were: Ms. Alecia Johns (Advocate 1); Mr. Miguel Williams (Advocate 2) and Mr. Garcia Kelly (Reserve). The team advisor was Prof. Stephen Vasciannie, Principal of the Norman Manley Law School. The significantly positive feedback received from both participants and observers suggested that the moot had achieved its goal of stimulating, on the one hand, familiarity with the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas among the Caribbean public, and on the other, of alerting attorneys-at-law to a whole new area of legal enquiry.

Above L-R: Winners of the 1st Annual CCJ International Law Moot Team advisor Professor Stephen Vasciannie; Mr. Miguel Williams, Ms. Alecia Johns and Mr. Garcia Kelly, from the Norman Manley Law School in Jamaica
Developing Caribbean Adjudication
The Inaugural Conference of the
CARIBBEAN ASSOCIATION OF JUDICIAL OFFICERS
(CAJO)

Pursuant to the agreement of the Heads of Judiciary at a meeting in 2007, Judicial officers from Haiti, Suriname, Bermuda, The British Virgin Islands, The Bahamas, Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Jamaica, Guyana and several other Caribbean nations gathered in Port of Spain where they formally gave life to a new association, the Caribbean Association of Judicial Officers (CAJO).

CAJO is the first association of its kind in that it brings together regional Chief Justices, Judges, Magistrates, Masters, Fair Trading Commissioners and Tribunal Members (both legal and lay) Executive Court Administrators and Registrars to work together as equals for the development of adjudication in the Caribbean region. This inaugural meeting was themed “Caribbean Judiciaries in an era of Globalization: Meeting the Challenges of the time”.

The aims of the newly formed Association (CAJO) are to enhance the administration of justice in the Caribbean; to promote the highest standards of integrity and accountability among judicial officers; and to provide a forum where judges can discuss and appropriate best practice methods with respect to Trial Management, Efficiency in the Criminal Law System, Court Administration, and other matters which affect the Caribbean Region.

Legal luminaries such as Sir Shridath Ramphal, former Secretary-General of the Commonwealth and Jamaican-born Judge Patrick Robinson, who currently serves as President of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, delivered stirring keynote addresses to the distinguished gathering. Members of industrial tribunals and public utility commissions, court of appeal judges, magistrates, lawyers and journalists presented at breakout sessions on topics as
Sir Shridath Ramphal, in his feature address at the Opening Ceremony, sanctioned and supported the emerging “Community of Caribbean Judges held together” he said, “by common allegiance to the rule of law in the lands around our Sea.” He believed that the Caribbean Community “faced dangers on many fronts” and that as a people we must abandon “policies and practices which deepen Caribbean divides”. He intimated that the “siren song of separatism lures us to self destruction”. At this auspicious occasion, Sir Shridath went on to express his confidence in the CCJ as he further appealed to the Caribbean territories;

“Now that we have created our Caribbean Court of Justice in a manner that has won the respect and admiration of the common law world, it is an act of abysmal contrariety that we have withheld so substantially its appellate jurisdiction in favour of the Privy Council- we who have sent Judges to the International Court of Justice, to the International Criminal Court, the International Court for the former Yugoslavia, the United Nations Tribunal on the Law of the Sea; we from whose lineage have sprung in lineal descent the current Attorneys General of Britain and the United States.”
Developing Caribbean Adjudication
The Inaugural Conference of the
CARIBBEAN ASSOCIATION OF JUDICIAL OFFICERS (CAJO)

Above: The members of the CAJO Steering Committee

The CAJO has appointed a Steering Committee of ten Judicial Officers to refine its constitution and spearhead its immediate business.
The CCJ has been making great strides to develop and strengthen relationships with different entities and regional and international stakeholder groups.

VI Brandeis Institute for International Judges (BIIJ) 2009

Against the background of this rationale, the International Center for Ethics, Justice, and Public Life of Brandeis University held its VI Brandeis Institute for International Judges in Trinidad & Tobago from 4 to 8 January 2009, in partnership with the CCJ.

Titled “International Justice: Past, Present, and Future,” BIIJ 2009 was attended by 14 judges representing 11 international courts and tribunals:

- African Court of Human and Peoples’ Rights
- Caribbean Court of Justice
- European Court of Human Rights
- European Court of Justice
- Inter-American Court of Human Rights
- International Criminal Court
- International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia
- International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda
- International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea
- Special Court for Sierra Leone
- World Trade Organization Appellate Body

The Institute’s first session was led by Nicolas Michel, former Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and Legal Counsel at the United Nations. Mr. Michel examined the interplay of justice and politics in the international justice system. This was followed by an information-gathering session, led by Ruth Mackenzie,

![Above: Ms. Carlene Cross, Court Systems Manager, guides BIIJ 2009 participants through a presentation on Courtroom Technology at the CCJ.](image1)

Deputy Director of the Centre for International Courts and Tribunals at University College, London, on the development of professional standards to govern the conduct of lawyers involved in proceedings before international courts and tribunals.
Other sessions examined: how different courts look at human rights matters and issues of multilingualism in international courts. The closing session examined the question of measuring success in the international justice system. Richard Goldstone, former Chief Prosecutor for the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, dealt with the raisons d’être behind the establishment of the ad-hoc international criminal tribunals. Judges then analysed the performance of their own courts with regards to the goals behind their creation and the possibilities for future improvement of the international justice system. Other than plenary sessions, activities were so organised as to afford participants the opportunity to come together in breakout groups according to their various types of courts of origin: criminal, human rights, or inter-state dispute resolution.

Writing to the Court upon the conclusion of BIIJ 2009, Dr Leigh Swigart, Director of Programs in International Justice and Society of the International Center for Ethics, Justice, and Public Life of Brandeis University expressed her institution’s appreciation for the CCJ’s “collaboration and generosity”, saying that all of the participants felt that “opening the institute at the court and seeing [its] facilities was a bonus to the proceedings.” Such a positive review angurs well for trust and confidence of the international community in the CCJ.
VISITS FROM
CARIBBEAN AND
EXTRA-REGIONAL DIGNITARIES

Heads of CARICOM Law Faculties and Law Schools with the CCJ President,
Chief Justice and the then Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago

- Mr. Paul Elias, Judge of the High Court of England (4 August 2008);
- Mr. Cecil O. Bernard, President of the Industrial Court of Trinidad & Tobago (4 August 2008);
- Mr. Noel Inniss, Registrar the Industrial Court of Trinidad & Tobago (4 August 2008);
- Dr. Linda Carter, Professor of Law, Brandeis University (5 January 2009);
- Mr. René Blattmann, Vice-President of the International Criminal Court (5 January 2009);
- Judge Fausto Pocar, Justice of Appeal of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (5 January 2009);
- Judge Egils Levitz, Judge of the European Court of Justice (5 January 2009);
- Judge Jon Kamanda, Vice-President of the Special Court for Sierra Leone (5 January 2009);
- Judge Richard Goldstone, Judge of the Constitutional Court of South Africa (5 January 2009);
- Honourable Mr. Justice Joe Mulenga, Judge of the African Court on Human and People's Rights (5 January 2009);
VISITS FROM
CARIBBEAN AND
EXTRA-REGIONAL DIGNITARIES

- Dr. Leigh Swigart, Director of Programmes in International Justice and Society, Brandeis University (5 January 2009);

- The Honourable Mr. Justice Anthony Lucky, President, Chamber for Marine Environment Disputes, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (5 January 2009);

- The Honourable Mme. Justice Margarette May Macaulay, Judge of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (5 January 2009);

- Prof. Stephen Vasciannie, Principal, Norman Manley Law School, Jamaica (18 March 2009);

- Mrs. Miriam Samaru, Principal, Hugh Wooding Law School, Trinidad & Tobago (18 March 2009);

- Mrs. Urlie Lemens, Lecturer, Anton de Kom University of Suriname (18 March 2009);

- Prof. Winston Anderson, Professor of Law, University of the West Indies - Cave Hill (18 March 2009);

- Prof. Calvin Eversley, Professor of Law, University of Guyana (18 March 2009);


- Senator Bridgid Annisette-George, Attorney General of Trinidad & Tobago (18 March 2009).
VISITS FROM CARIBBEAN AND EXTRA-REGIONAL DIGNITARIES

- Mr. Doug Williams, Canadian International Development Agency-Barbados (23 March 2009);
- Mr. Oscar Ramjeet, former Solicitor General of Grenada (20 April 2009);
- Mr. Arif Bulkan, attorney-at-law (8 June 2009);
- Prof. Rose-Marie Belle Antoine, Professor of Law, UWI-Cave Hill (8 June 2009);
- Dr. David S. Berry, Senior Lecturer in Law (8 June 2009);
- Dr. Leighton Jackson, Senior Lecturer in Law (8 June 2009);
- Ms. Tracey Robinson, Senior Lecturer in Law (8 June 2009);
- Mr. Eddy Ventose, Lecturer in Law (8 June 2009);
- Mr. Roy Setlhapelo, Chargé d’Affaires, South African High Commission (12 June 2009);
- Hon. Mr. Justice Georges Moise, Acting President, Cour de Cassation of Haiti (24 June 2009);
- Hon. Mr. Justice Renold J. B. Pierre, Judge of the Cour de Cassation of Haiti (24 June 2009);
- Hon. Mr. Justice Antoine Norgaissse, Judge of the Cour de Cassation of Haiti (24 June 2009);
- His Excellency Geert Heikens, Head of Delegation of the Commission of the European Communities to Trinidad & Tobago (30 June 2009);
- Mr. Sylvanos Christopoulos, Minister-Counsellor and Chargé d’Affaires of the Delegation of the European Commission to Trinidad & Tobago (30 June 2009);
- Mr. Patrick Stevens, Head of the International Division of the Crown Prosecution Service-UK (3 July 2009);
- Ms. Anne Ball, International Division of the Crown Prosecution Service-UK (3 July 2009);
- Mr. James Dolan, Public Affairs Officer, British High Commission (3 July 2009);
- Ms. Zaikede Salo, Senior Assistant Registrar, National Industrial Court of Nigeria (10 July 2009);
- Mrs. Olufunke Anuwe, Assistant Chief Registrar, National Industrial Court of Nigeria (10 July 2009);
- Mr. Akinjide A. Akindipo, Principal Assistant Registrar, National Industrial Court of Nigeria (10 July 2009).