The Caribbean Court of Justice is pleased to report to you on the second year of its operations. The Court continues to develop in keeping with the performance standards which had been set in its first year of operation:

- Access to Justice,
- Equality Fairness and Integrity and Promoting the Rule of Law,
- Expedition and Timeliness,
- Independence and Accountability,
- Attracting and Preserving Public Trust and Confidence,
- Protecting the Rule of Law.

In these pages, these standards become evident and the Court continues to test itself against them.

As those charged with the early development of this new institution of such a unique nature, we are keenly aware of the caution with which people approach and view newness. It has been our policy therefore to ensure that the organisation is one which attracts the trust and confidence of the people and through its operations and transparency, preserves it.

We are proud of the independence of this court and the extent to which our Caribbean governments went to ensure it. It is a point of pride that legal, public administration and government scholars from all over the world have been commenting favourably on the tools of this court’s independence. Our design structure, inclusive of our Regional Judicial and Legal Services Commission and our CCJ Trust fund continues to generate interest and be the object of academic study.

The Court has now delivered several judgments which have allowed legal scholars the opportunity to examine the judicial strength of this Caribbean Court and we continue to be approached with requests for permission to study of the work of the court.

We are aware, however that a prophet is without honour in his own land and the CCJ is no exception. There still remain pockets of resistance to the idea of a Caribbean Court of Justice in its appellate jurisdiction. The Court can only address this by continuing to do well what it has to do and by continuing to inform the Caribbean people about our work. There also remains a large number of people; including those who carry professional responsibility to administer various aspects of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas, who are unaware of the design and structure of the Court, the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas and the Agreement creating the Court. To address this we have seen the need to embark on a new public information and education series in the Caribbean. During the period under review, the Court held seminars in Barbados and in Trinidad and Tobago in an effort to further the information base. They were very well received and there have been cries for more.

A court tends not to be newsworthy until they do something untoward or the matter before it is somehow controversial or even bacchanalian. This lack of controversial action by the Caribbean Court of Justice has thus resulted in the muteness of the media about its work. We hope that the public education series helps to bring some volume to the voice of the media about the very important area of Caribbean jurisprudence by which all Caribbean people are affected.

We re-dedicate ourselves to the well-being of the Caribbean and ask our Caribbean people both at home and in the Diaspora to join us in this endeavour.