



## CARIBBEAN COURT OF JUSTICE

**134 HENRY STREET  
PORT OF SPAIN**

**REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**  
Telephone: (868) 623-2CCJ Fax: (868) 624-4710  
Website: [www.caribbeancourtjustice.org](http://www.caribbeancourtjustice.org)

MEDIA RELEASE  
(For immediate release)

No. 04:2017  
1 February 2017

### **CCJ CONTINGENT WELCOMES THE NEW HEAD OF JUDICIARY IN CURACAO**

A delegation from the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ), led by the Court President, the Rt. Hon. Sir Dennis Byron, along with other CCJ Justices Adrian Saunders and Jacob Wit, attended the installation of the new President of the Joint Court of Justice of Aruba, Curaçao, Sint Maarten and Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba. The very impressive ceremony to mark the accession to the Presidency of Her Honour Justice Eunice Saleh took place at the picturesque Santa Barbara Beach & Golf Resort whose Ballroom was converted into a Court for the solemn occasion.

Justice Saleh graduated from the University of Leiden in 1991. After her studies, she worked for five years in the legal profession in the Netherlands and in Curaçao. In 1996, she began training as a judge at the Joint Court of Justice and in 1999 became a member of the Court. Since 2009 she has been the vice-president of the Court, charged with the management of the Courts of First Instance in Curaçao and Bonaire. Incidentally, her father, Jaime Saleh, was also appointed President of the Joint Court of Justice in 1979.

In her installation address, President Saleh described her new role as one of setting the course, indicating the direction the Court should go in the coming years. This task, she said, was made easier because, shortly before her appointment, the Court had recently undergone strategic processes that had resulted in the formulation of a mission and vision established by the Court's governing Board. The core values around which the strategic direction has been built includes increasing access to justice; ensuring public trust and confidence; stimulating professionalism and improving customer service.

President Saleh takes over the reins from former President Evert Jan van der Poel under whose presidency the links between the Dutch court, on the one hand, and the CCJ and the Anglophone Caribbean as a whole, on the other, grew and expanded enormously. President Evert Jan is a long standing and faithful Executive member of the Caribbean Association of Judicial Officers (CAJO). The outgoing President, in a symbolic gesture, passed over a gavel that was a gift to his office from the Caribbean Court of Justice to President Saleh.

The origins of these close links between the CCJ and the judiciary in the Dutch Caribbean go back to the personal friendship and professional collegiality that developed in the 1990s between

former Dutch Court President Judge Luis de Lannoy and Dennis Byron, then the Chief Justice of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court. Judge de Lannoy, who was appointed President of the Joint Court of the Netherlands Antilles in June 1993, unfortunately died from cancer in 2008 shortly after his retirement. But during his presidency, his court and Sir Dennis's developed a number of joint programmes.

In 2005, the links with the Anglophone Caribbean were further cemented when Justice Jacob Wit, then a senior judge of the Dutch Court, was appointed a judge of the Caribbean Court of Justice. The cordial relationship between the Dutch- and the English-speaking Caribbean courts will rise to new levels in September this year when CAJO holds its 5<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference at the Renaissance Curacao Resort in Willemstad, Curacao. New President Justice Saleh heads the local Organising Committee for the CAJO Conference. Justice Saunders of the CCJ is also the Chairman of CAJO.

*-end-*

### ***PHOTO***



*Photo 1 - Outgoing President Evert Jan van der Poel passes the gavel to Her Honor Justice Eunice Saleh*