



CARIBBEAN COURT OF JUSTICE

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MEDIA RELEASE
(For immediate release)

No. 03:2020
2 March 2020

CCJ DISMISSES APPEAL AGAINST REFUSAL OF BAIL

Port of Spain, Trinidad. In a judgment released today, the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) dismissed Mr Pedro Ellis' appeal against the refusal of the courts in Barbados to grant him bail. The CCJ had granted Ellis special leave to appeal since at the time it granted leave, he was still in detention and the Court was mindful of the great delays in hearing Ellis' applications for bail, as well as the overall delay in his trial of the charge. However, Ellis was no longer in detention when his appeal would have been heard.

Ellis was charged on 8 May 2013 and his trial concluded on 25 October 2019 when he was acquitted of murder with the jury failing to reach a verdict on manslaughter. Ellis was released from detention and has since been a 'free man'. The issues which had been raised for consideration by the CCJ had, therefore, become merely academic and no exceptional circumstances arose warranting the Court to still hear the appeal. In the circumstances, the Court dismissed the appeal.

The full judgment of the Court and a judgment summary are available on the Court's website at www.ccj.org.

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About the Caribbean Court of Justice

The Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) was inaugurated in Port of Spain, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on 16 April 2005 and presently has a Bench of seven judges presided over by CCJ President, the Honourable Mr Justice Adrian Saunders. The CCJ has an Original and an Appellate Jurisdiction and is effectively, therefore, two courts in one. In its Original Jurisdiction, it is an international court with exclusive jurisdiction to interpret and apply the rules set out in the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas (RTC) and to decide disputes arising under it. The RTC established the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME). In its Original Jurisdiction, the CCJ is critical to the CSME and all 12 Member States which belong to the CSME (including their citizens, businesses, and governments) can access the Court's Original Jurisdiction to protect their rights under the RTC. In its

Appellate Jurisdiction, the CCJ is the final court of appeal for criminal and civil matters for those countries in the Caribbean that alter their national Constitutions to enable the CCJ to perform that role. At present, four states access the Court in its Appellate Jurisdiction, these being Barbados, Belize, Dominica and Guyana. However, by signing and ratifying the Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Court of Justice, Member States of the Community have demonstrated a commitment to making the CCJ their final court of appeal. The Court is the realisation of a vision of our ancestors, an expression of independence and a signal of the region's coming of age.

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