



CARIBBEAN COURT OF JUSTICE

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MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW JUDGE SWORN INTO THE CCJ

The Honourable Mme. Justice Maureen Rajnauth-Lee was sworn in as Judge of the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) earlier today at a ceremony at the Office of the President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

The Honourable Mme. Justice Rajnauth- Lee was sworn in by His Excellency Anthony Thomas Aquinas Carmona, who lauded her for her “selfless sacrifice” in dedicating herself to the service of the public and commended her achievement as “the first woman citizen of Trinidad and Tobago” to be appointed to the CCJ bench.

Mme. Justice Rajnauth-Lee is a former Justice of Appeal of the Judiciary of Trinidad and Tobago. She is a graduate of the University of the West Indies with a Bachelor of Laws (First Class Honours) and of the Hugh Wooding Law School with a Legal Education Certificate. She was admitted to the practice of law in Trinidad and Tobago in 1980. Thereafter, she served as State Counsel in the Solicitor General's Department in Trinidad and Tobago. In 1985, she embarked on a career in private practice.

She was elected to the Council of the Law Association of Trinidad and Tobago and served for many years as a member and then Vice-Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee of the Law Association. She was appointed a member of the Advisory Committee to the Rules Committee which was established to report on the introduction to the Civil Proceedings Rules in Trinidad and Tobago. With effect from the 1st September, 2001, Mme. Justice Rajnauth-Lee was appointed a Judge of the High Court of Trinidad and Tobago. She presided in the civil courts and over the

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establishment of the Family Court of Trinidad and Tobago, Mme. Justice Rajnauth-Lee became the second Judge to sit in that jurisdiction.

For several years, she served as a member and then Chairman of the Calendaring and Case Management Committee of the Judiciary of Trinidad and Tobago. She has also served as a member of the Continuity of Operations Planning Committee of the Judiciary. She was elevated to the Court of Appeal in 2012.

Mme. Justice Rajnauth-Lee is a member of the International Association of Women Judges. She was a member of the Steering Committee and now serves as Vice-President of the Caribbean Association of Women Judges. She is also a member of the Caribbean Association of Judicial Officers. Mme. Justice Rajnauth-Lee is a certified Mediator and a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators.

Mme. Justice Rajnauth-Lee was selected from among applicants from the Caribbean, North America and Eastern Europe. Judges appointed to the CCJ are evaluated on the basis of wide-ranging criteria that include; experience, high moral character, intellectual and analytical ability, sound judgment, integrity and an understanding of people and society.

Also in attendance at the ceremony was the Honourable Mr. Justice Ivor Archie, Chief Justice of Trinidad and Tobago, the Honourable Sir Dennis Byron, President of the CCJ and judges of the Court, Senator the Honourable Garvin Nicholas, Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago and Mr. Reginald Armour SC, President of the Law Association of Trinidad and Tobago.

END

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