



CARIBBEAN COURT OF JUSTICE

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ANNUAL CCJ LAW MOOT CELEBRATES 10 YEARS

Port of Spain, Trinidad. The 10th Annual Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) International Law Moot Competition will take place on Friday, 9th March 2018 at the Court's headquarters in Port of Spain, Trinidad. Eligible to compete are the ten university or professional law schools in the CARICOM region. The annual competition serves a dual purpose – to familiarize law students with the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas and the workings of the CCJ's Original Jurisdiction, as well as providing budding jurists with a stage to hone and showcase their talents. Each year's event is usually attended by some well-known jurists, academicians and Government officials.

The President of the Court, the Right Honourable Sir Dennis Byron, spoke of the importance of the Law Moot to the CCJ: "the Moot provides us with yet another opportunity to build the Caribbean legal system and knowledge of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas. Each year that I have attended the Moot proceedings, I have been pleased by the quality of the submissions, the fierce determination of the mooters and how well they have been guided by their coaches from the law schools. Through this, and other CCJ initiatives, we are building a stronger Caribbean justice system."

Last year's competition saw eight law schools participating with the team from the Eugene Dupuch Law School of the Bahamas taking home the ultimate prize.

Each team, having earlier provided written skeleton submissions, presents its oral arguments before a panel of three CCJ Judges in one of the CCJ's courtrooms. This year's moot deals with a CARICOM State's imposition of a tax on imported sugar sweetened beverages and a ban on advertisement of such beverages on TV and radio between 8am and 8pm. The sponsor of the moot is the Pan American Health Organization pursuant to its mandate to reduce the incidents and consequences of non-communicable diseases. The day after the moot PAHO will be supporting a High Level Meeting in Port of Spain on the use of law to tackle NCDs in the Caribbean.

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Sir Dennis Byron added “each year, we offer students a unique experience to explore a thorny issue and build their advocacy skills. We also strive to give them an enriching experience, while improving their substantive knowledge of the laws governing CARICOM”.

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PHOTO



The winning team of Ms. Janessa Murray (left), Ms. Megan Curry (2nd left), Ms. Raven Rolle (right), with advisor Ms. Raquel Williams (2nd from right), clinched the fifth victory for the Eugene Dupuch Law School of the Bahamas in the 9th Annual Caribbean Court of Justice International Law Moot Competition.