



Special Sitting of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court in Honour of the Late Dr Joseph Samuel Nathaniel Archibald, QC

The Right Honourable Sir Dennis Byron,
President of the Caribbean Court of Justice

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Tortola, British Virgin Islands
25 April 2014

The Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court consists of two divisions, a **Court of Appeal** and a **High Court of Justice**. The Court of Appeal is itinerant, traveling to each Member State and Territory, where it sits at various specified dates during the year to hear appeals from the decisions of the High Court and Magistrates Courts in Member States in both civil and criminal matters. The Court of Appeal hears appeals from all subordinate courts (High Courts, Magistrates Courts and the Industrial Court in Antigua and Barbuda). Appeals from the Magistrates Courts might be heard from "any judgment, decree, sentence or order of a Magistrate in all proceedings." The Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court is composed of the Chief Justice, who is the Head of the Judiciary, five (5) Justices of Appeal, High Court Judges; and High Court Masters, who are primarily responsible for procedural and interlocutory matters. The Court of Appeal judges are based at the Court's Headquarters in Castries, Saint Lucia where administrative and legal support is provided under the supervision of the Court Administrator and Chief Registrar respectively.

Remarks

By

The Right Honourable Sir Dennis Byron, President of the Caribbean Court of Justice,

on the occasion of

The Special Sitting of the Eastern Supreme Court in Honour of Dr Joseph Archibald, QC

25 April 2014

Honourable Dame Janice Pereira Chief Justice of the Eastern Caribbean Court, thank you for allowing me a few minutes at this ceremonial sitting in honour of our late departed legal icon Dr. Joseph Samuel Archibald QC.

After listening to the brilliant oratory of the leading and distinguished legal luminaries, and the learned judges who have previously spoken, I am satisfied that our dear departed brother Dr. Joseph Samuel Archibald QC has been well and truly represented to this court in the many excellent ways in which he is and ought to be remembered.

I share in many of the recollections already expressed and can add some more (if it would not have been redundant to do so) because I ran the whole gamut of relationships with him from before my birth due to the connections of our fathers, having sat at his feet as a student in my youth, honed my advocacy skills as a defence criminal attorney when he was Director of Prosecutions, served in his Chambers, and in more mature times sat with him as a judicial colleague on the Court of Appeal, and in the most recent years benefitted from his wisdom on the Regional Judicial and Legal Services Commission to the Caribbean Court of Justice.

I also was warmly welcomed into the warmth of his home by his dear widow H.E. Inez Archibald and their three daughters and extended family and saw the family man who loved and cared for

his family from the inside. I enjoyed his exuberance and entertaining personality and the way in which he charmed his friends and acquaintances over the years. And I witnessed his abiding faith in God and his service to the Church and to the Caribbean Community.

But I must do the judicial thing with the kind permission of Dame Periera who will shortly be delivering the leading Judicial deliberation. I uphold with complete approval the unanimous testimony and submissions from the Bar. I concur with the deliberations of my judicial colleagues who have preceded me. I am satisfied that it has been proved beyond reasonable doubt that Dr. Joseph Samuel Archibald QC was a good and great man. He was loved, he had the light and those close to him knew that he was blessed with calm thoughts.

So as we remember this good and great man, celebrate his life, express our sorrow at his passing and impart our condolences to his family and loved ones I describe my finding that he lived the life of the good and the great in the words of the great English poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge:

What would'st thou have a good great man obtain?

Place? titles? salary? a gilded chain?

Or throne of corpses which his sword had slain?

Greatness and goodness are not means, but ends!

Hath he not always treasures, always friends,

*The good great man? three treasures, LOVE, and LIGHT, And
CALM THOUGHTS, regular as infant's breath:*

*And three firm friends, more sure than day and night, HIMSELF,
his MAKER, and the ANGEL DEATH!*

May his soul rest in peace.