



CARIBBEAN COURT OF JUSTICE

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CCJ Academy of Law seeks to inspire next generations of attorneys with a new publication on Eminent Caribbean Women Jurists

Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. “Pioneering Caribbean Women Jurists” (PCWJ) is the theme of the 2021 Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) Academy for Law’s Eminent Caribbean Jurists Awards Series and also the name of the Series’ second publication. The book, which was officially launched on October 12, 2021, on UWITV, was edited by CCJ judges, the Hon. Mr Justice Winston Anderson, who also serves as the Chairman of the Academy and the Hon. Mme. Justice Maureen Rajnauth-Lee, co-chair of the PCWJ Project. The publication shines a spotlight on the biographies of thirty-four (34) Eminent Caribbean Women Jurists and aims to educate and inspire the upcoming generation of attorneys and legal practitioners.

The Academy, which is the educational arm of the CCJ, has a mandate to provide informative and innovative perspectives on the rules and the roles of law. In 2019, the Academy created the Eminent Caribbean Jurist Awards Series as a way to recognise and honour the contribution of Caribbean jurists to the law and societal development. This year, as part of its efforts to ensure a strong and equal future for all persons in the legal profession, the Academy highlights the contribution of women jurists to the institutional and policy-making infrastructure of our Caribbean society.

To be nominated, nominees had to be women, and be either the first or among the first to hold positions in the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government; business, education, and international affairs and other fields that may have been traditionally dominated by men. Nominees must also have made a significant contribution to society. Some of this year’s honourees include Her Excellency Paula Mae Weekes ORTT, President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago; Her Excellency Dame Sandra Mason GCMG, DA, QC, Governor-General of Barbados; Mme. Justice Zaila McCalla OJ, former Chief Justice of Jamaica and Her Excellency Ertha Pascal Trouillot, first woman president of the Republic of Haiti.

In his remarks at the launch, CAL Chairman, Mr Justice Anderson said “in these biographies, are memorialized their travails, and their triumphs; their profiles in courage that challenge all of us to a better version of ourselves ... [and which should]; serve to motivate a new generation of lawyers to also leave their footprints on the sands of time.”

Commending the honourees, CCJ President, the Hon. Mr Justice Adrian Saunders remarked that the recipients have “promoted equality, good governance under the rule of law and a just society. They have excelled in their respective fields and have set standards for all to emulate. Their lives and accomplishments

are an unmatched source of inspiration to generations, especially of women and girls.” Echoing these sentiments, the Hon. Mme Justice Rajnauth-Lee noted that “these women used their knowledge and achievements in the law as a platform to serve their peoples, their countries, and the region, with a passion and determination, so frequently recognized in Caribbean women.”

To view the launch, click here: [PCWJ book launch](#). In addition to the book launch, a video series on the honourees will also be aired on UWITV, other traditional media platforms, and via social media over the next few months. The third aspect of the Pioneering Caribbean Women Jurists project will be an awards ceremony, which is expected to be hosted on 8 March 2022, (International Women’s Day) at the Hyatt Regency in Port of Spain, Covid-19 public health protocols permitting.

To obtain a copy of the book, members of the public may contact the Academy at (868) 623-2225 ext. 3229 or Ms Susan Medina at smedina@ccj.org

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About the Caribbean Court of Justice:

The Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) was inaugurated in Port of Spain, the 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, the 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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