



CARIBBEAN COURT OF JUSTICE

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MEDIA RELEASE

(For immediate release)

No. 12:2022

08 April 2022

CCJ President to attend Guyana Bar Association Dinner

Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. The Bar Association of Guyana is hosting its inaugural Law Week of Activities under the theme "Advancing the Rule of Law in the New Normal" from 4 -8 April. The Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) was invited to deliver a presentation during the virtual symposium and the CCJ President, the Honourable Mr Justice Adrian Saunders, has been invited to deliver (in person) the Keynote Address at the Dinner, which is a culmination of the week's activities on Saturday 9 April.

In Wednesday's virtual symposium, under the theme "Guyana's contribution to CCJ jurisprudence," the Hon. Mr Justice Denys Barrow, CCJ Judge, indicated that "the hosting of the Bar Association Guyana's Inaugural Law Week 2022 provides a fitting opportunity to fully recognise how greatly the development of an appellate court's jurisprudence depends on the efforts of the officers of the court and its lawyers. The growth of the jurisprudence begins, in each instance and increment, with the decision of the lawyers to bring the appeal; and it encompasses all the work the lawyers put into the appeal to enable the court to adjudicate. At times, it is overlooked that the court does not bring cases before itself; the lawyers and litigants are the ones who decide what cases to bring, what issues to advocate (or agitate)." In his Keynote Address at the Dinner on Saturday 9 April, CCJ President, the Hon. Mr Justice Adrian Saunders intends to share some more views and expand on why and how he believes the choice Guyana has made, has advanced our Caribbean jurisprudence and has assisted in securing the rule of law in Guyana.

As part of his visit to Guyana, the CCJ President will hold discussions with the Hon. Mme Justice Yonette Cummings-Edwards, Chancellor (Ag) of the Judiciary of Guyana and will pay courtesy calls on His Excellency the President, the Honourable Attorney General and Dr Carla Barnett, CBE, new Secretary-General of CARICOM. A courtesy call on the Honourable Leader of the Opposition would have been facilitated but that post is now vacant. During his brief visit, the CCJ

President will also participate and address students at the Bar Association of Guyana and the University of Guyana's student symposium on "Paths in the Legal Profession."

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The Hon. Mr Justice Adrian Saunders, President of the CCJ, addresses attendees of today's student symposium hosted by the Bar Association and the University of Guyana.

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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