



## CARIBBEAN COURT OF JUSTICE

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**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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### **CCJ ORDERS INVESTIGATION INTO ST MATTHEWS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE LTD**

**Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.** Today, the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) allowed the appeal of the appellants, Dr Jeffery Sersland and Mr Seferino Paz Jr, against the decision of the Court of Appeal of Belize. The Court heard the appeal on 27 May 2022.

The Court of Appeal had decided that the appellants could not bring an action for the appointment of an Inspector to investigate the affairs of the respondent, St Matthews University School of Medicine Ltd in keeping with s 110(1)(b) of the Companies Act Cap 250. The court's reason was that the appellants did not have one-tenth of the respondent's issued shares.

The CCJ disagreed with the Court of Appeal's interpretation of the law and its full reasons for the decision will be given in due time. Accordingly, the CCJ allowed the appeal and ordered that an Inspector be appointed to investigate the affairs of the respondent. The Court also ordered that the respondent pay the appellants' costs in the courts below and at this Court.

The matter was heard by the Honourable Mr Justice Adrian Saunders, President and the Honourable Justices Jacob Wit, Maureen Rajnauth-Lee, Andrew Burgess, and Peter Jamadar.

Ms Nadia Chiesa and Mr Darrell Bradley appeared for the appellants and Ms Iliana Swift appeared for the respondent.

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#### **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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