



**CARIBBEAN COURT OF JUSTICE**

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**MEDIA RELEASE**  
(For immediate release)

**No. 21:2022**  
**15 September 2022**

**Statement by the CCJ President on the passing of Mr Justice Duke Pollard**

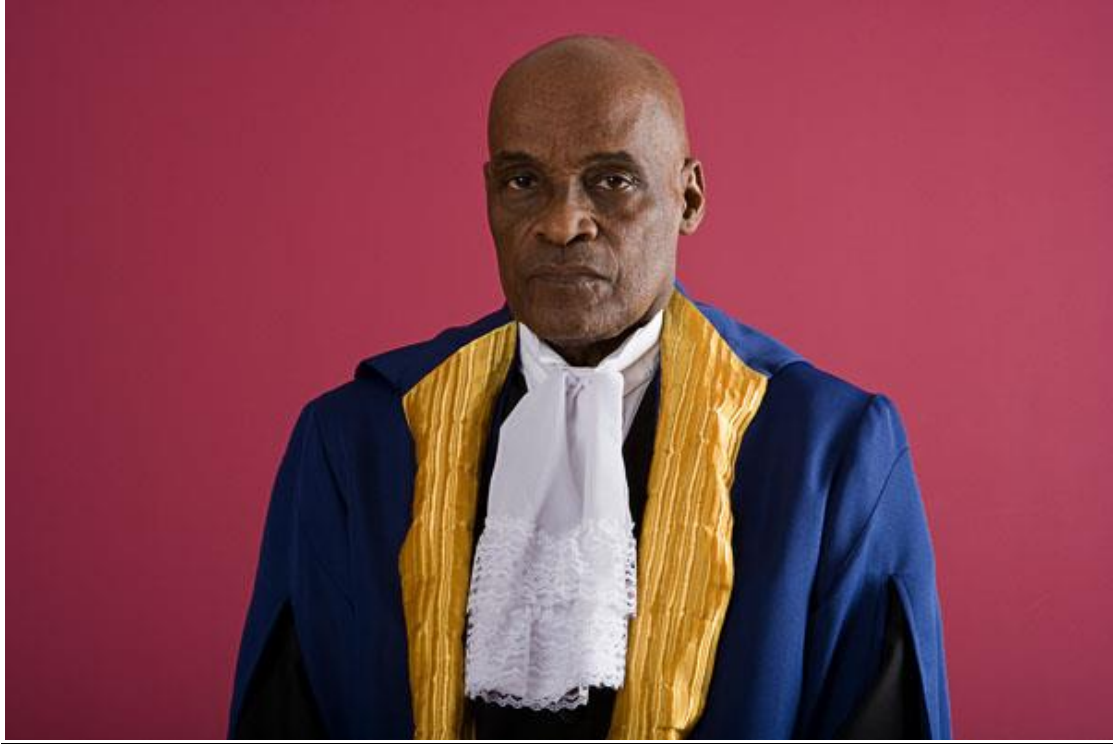
**Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.** On behalf of the Judges and staff of the Caribbean Court of Justice and the members of the Regional Judicial and Legal Services Commission, I express our profound grief on the passing of Mr Justice Duke Pollard, former CCJ Judge. Mr Justice Pollard was a member of the inaugural bench in 2005. Indeed, he was the international law expert on that bench, and he diligently served until 2010.

This distinguished son of the Caribbean soil was an eminent jurist with expertise in international economic law, the Law of the Sea, international institutional law, the law of treaties, general integration law and economic integration law. Prior to joining the CCJ, he participated in both the development of the original and Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas and many of the agreements and protocols that pertain specifically to the Caribbean Court of Justice. As an academic and educator, he also guided, mentored, and inspired many students when he wore the hat of Professor in the Law Department of the University of Guyana and even after.

We at the CCJ recognise his contribution to the architecture and administration of justice at the Court, in the field of education and foreign affairs. His deep commitment to Caribbean excellence and integration will be sorely missed.

Our sincerest condolences are extended to his widow, Mrs Donna Pollard, his children and other family members. Guyana and the Caribbean Community have lost a legal giant and a faithful servant of the Community.

**The Hon Mr Justice Adrian Saunders,  
President, Caribbean Court of Justice  
Chairman, Regional Judicial and Legal Services Commission**



*Mr Justice Duke Pollard, former Judge of the Caribbean Court of Justice*

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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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