



CARIBBEAN COURT OF JUSTICE

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MEDIA RELEASE
(For immediate release)

No. 21:2024
Date: 27 May 2024

CCJ UPDATES ITS APPELLATE JURISDICTION RULES & ORIGINAL JURISDICTION RULES

Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. On Friday, 24th May 2024, the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) promulgated the Caribbean Court of Justice (Appellate Jurisdiction) Rules, 2024 and the Caribbean Court of Justice (Original Jurisdiction) Rules, 2024. The Rules were formally adopted by the Honourable President, Mr Justice Adrian Saunders in consultation with the Judges of the Court after an extensive review by the Court's Rules Committee, which was chaired by the Hon. Mr Justice Denys Barrow. The Committee was previously chaired by the late the Hon. Mr Justice Jacob Wit. The Rules Committee commenced its review process in April 2023. The Committee comprised Judges and staff from various Units and Departments across the Court. As part of its remit, the Rules Committee considered submissions and queries raised by the Bench, the Court's Registry Department, and the Court's stakeholders since the last iteration of the Rules issued in 2021. These submissions all contributed to the comprehensive review of and amendments to both the Appellate and Original Jurisdiction Rules.

The amendments include the clarification of the 'clear day' rule and further specification of the case management powers of the Court and powers of a Single Judge. The Rules were also updated to reflect gender neutral language. Additionally, a revision of the Practice Direction on the Conduct of Online Hearings to reflect the current practice of the Court in the post COVID-19 context was completed. New Practice Directions were also issued concerning the Issuance of Advance Copies of Judgments, Filing and Service of Authorities, Filing of Speaking Notes, and Written Submissions. Specifically, in the Appellate Jurisdiction Rules, Saint Lucia's accession has now been accommodated in the relevant tables concerning the Net Worth Qualification for Waiver of Fees/Security for Costs and the Limit on Security for Costs.

The revised Rules will continue to serve their purpose of ensuring that all matters and proceedings before the CCJ are conducted fairly, efficiently, and consistently and that justice is served to the people of the Caribbean region.

The Caribbean Court of Justice (Appellate Jurisdiction) Rules, 2024 and the Caribbean Court of Justice (Original Jurisdiction) Rules, 2024 are available at <https://ccj.org/rules/>.



Caption: The full CCJ Bench with the revised AJ and OJ Rules

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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 six 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, Guyana, and Saint Lucia. 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.

For more information, please contact:

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