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MEDIA RELEASE (For immediate release)

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SPECIAL LEAVE DENIED IN BELIZEAN APPEAL OF CASE MANAGEMENT ORDER

Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. On Tuesday, 4 March 2025, the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) issued an order dismissing the <u>special leave</u> application of Jeremy Enriquez against a case management order made by the Belize Court of Appeal on 3 March 2025 in *Jeremy Enriquez v The Attorney General of Belize and The Elections and Boundaries Commission Civil Appeal No. 6 of 2025.*

Mr Enriquez has a matter before the Court of Appeal against the Attorney General of Belize and the Elections Boundaries Commission challenging the constitutionality of the upcoming Belize elections. This special leave application was filed by Mr Enriquez following the case management order of the Belize Court of Appeal which outlined the schedule for the hearing of the matter. Mr Enriquez's special leave application sought a reversal of the case management order of the Court of Appeal or in the alternative, an order directing the Court of Appeal to hear and determine the substantive appeal as a matter of urgency before 12 March 2025.

The CCJ upon review and consideration of the application and documents filed before it, denied special leave on the basis that the application had no merit. This, therefore, meant that the application had no real prospect of success.

The members of the CCJ panel were the CCJ President, the Honourable Mr Justice Adrian Saunders and Honourable Justices Anderson and Ononaiwu. Mr Anand Ramlogan SC and Mr Vishaal Siewsaran acted for the Applicant before the CCJ.

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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



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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, five 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.

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