



## CARIBBEAN COURT OF JUSTICE

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**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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### **DR CHILE EBOE-OSUJI TO JOIN THE CCJ BENCH**

**Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.** Dr Chile Eboe-Osuji of Nigeria and Canada has been selected by the Regional Judicial and Legal Services Commission (RJLSC), the independent body responsible for recruiting staff and judges for the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ), to join the CCJ as a Judge, to fill the vacancy that will be created by the retirement of the Honourable Mr Justice Andrew Burgess on 11 April 2025.

Dr Eboe-Osuji is an international jurist who served as a Judge of the International Criminal Court (ICC), the Hague, from March 2012 to March 2018. He then served as the President of the ICC from March 2018 to March 2021. Prior to joining the ICC, Dr Eboe-Osuji was the Legal Advisor to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. In that capacity, he led the writing of amicus curiae submissions to the European Court of Human Rights and the United States Supreme Court. He served as principal appeals counsel for the Prosecution in the *Charles Taylor Case* at the Special Court for Sierra Leone. He has held several posts at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, including Head of Chambers and Lead Prosecution Trial Counsel.

He practised law as a barrister before trial courts in Nigeria and Canada and conducted appeals before the Court of Appeal for Ontario (Canada) and the Supreme Court of Canada.

Dr Eboe-Osuji also taught international criminal law as an adjunct professor at the Faculty of Law of the University of Ottawa, Canada, and has an extensive record of legal scholarship and publications, including the books titled *International Law and Sexual Violence in Armed Conflicts*, and *Protecting Humanity* (ed). He is the editor-in-chief of the *Nigerian Yearbook of International Law*. He served as the legal expert to Nigeria's delegation to the ICC-ASP Special Working Group on the Definition of the Crime of Aggression.

He was called to the Bar in Nigeria (1986), Ontario, Canada (1992), and British Columbia, Canada (1992). Dr Eboe-Osuji received his PhD from the University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands. He received his LLM degree from McGill University, Canada, and received an LLB degree from the University of Calabar, Nigeria.

In making the announcement, the Chairman of the RJLSC and President of the CCJ, the Honourable Mr Justice Adrian Saunders, took the opportunity to commend the independent and meritocratic process used to recruit Judges of the Court, stating, "The RJLSC prides itself on a recruitment process that is both meritocratic and fiercely independent. Each appointment reflects our unwavering commitment to selecting individuals of the highest calibre based solely on their expertise, integrity, and dedication to justice. During the recruitment process, we received 26 applications from The United States of America, Canada, Nigeria, Barbados, Jamaica, Guyana, Sri Lanka, Saint Lucia, Fiji, Cameroon, Kenya, Pakistan, Australia, and Trinidad and Tobago. Of the applications received, five candidates, three males and two females, were shortlisted for further consideration and subsequently interviewed. This process ensures that our Court continues to be a beacon of fairness and excellence, characterised by the utmost professionalism and impartiality."

It is expected that Dr Eboe-Osuji will be sworn in in April 2025.

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Dr Chile Oboe-Osuji

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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, 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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