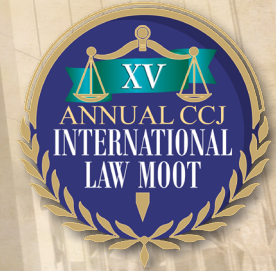




20 Years of Court Excellence

Honouring Our Legacy, Shaping Our Future



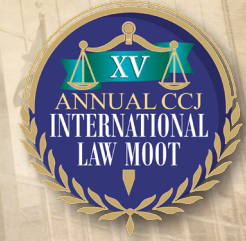
20-21 March 2025

The 15th Annual CCJ International Law Moot will take place at the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) from the 20-21 March 2025. This year, law students from eight institutions from across the region, will gather in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago to compete for the 2025 CCJ International Law Moot Challenge Shield.

The Law Moot is considered one of the Court’s flagship activities because the Court uses this as an opportunity to expose the workings of the Court to regional law students, facilitate a deeper understanding of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas and the Court’s Original Jurisdiction and develop students as advocates and future leaders of our region.

The 2025 Competition schedule is as follows:

THURSDAY, 20 MARCH 2025	
Opening Ceremony	9.00 – 9.30 am
SESSION 1: Norman Manley Law School v The UWI, Mona	10.00 -11.30 am
SESSION 2: Anton de Kom University of Suriname v The UWI, Cave Hill	1.00 - 2.30 pm
FRIDAY, 21 MARCH 2025	
SESSION 1: Eugene Dupuch Law School v The UWI, St Augustine	9.00 -10.30 am
SESSION 2: Hugh Wooding Law School v University of Guyana	11.00 am - 12.30 pm
Closing Ceremony	2.30 pm



Panel of Judges

The Honourable Mme. Justice Maureen Rajnauth-Lee



The Honourable Mme. Justice Maureen Rajnauth-Lee was appointed a Judge, CCJ in 2015, and previously served as a Justice of Appeal in the Judiciary of Trinidad and Tobago. This certified Mediator and Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, is a founding member and former Vice-President of the Caribbean Association of Women Judges (CAWJ) and the Trinidad and Tobago Association of Women Judges. She chaired the Sexual Offences Advisory Committee appointed under the JURIST Project to provide support for the development of the Sexual Offences Model Guidelines for the Caribbean Region (revised in 2022) and for the establishment of a Sexual Offences Model Court in Antigua and Barbuda. In 2018, Justice Rajnauth-Lee was honoured as an Outstanding Alumna of the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus. She also chaired the committee which developed a Harassment Policy for the CCJ and the RJLSC, and is at present chairing the committee which is tasked with developing a policy which will seek to improve access to justice and provide accommodations for persons with disabilities at the CCJ and the RJLSC. In 2021, she was installed a Patron of the CAWJ.

The Honourable Mr Justice Peter Jamadar



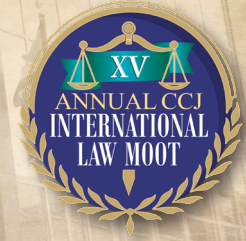
The Honourable Mr Justice Peter Jamadar was appointed to the Caribbean Court of Justice in 2019, following a distinguished legal career as a Justice of Appeal and High Court judge in Trinidad and Tobago's judiciary. He has a rich background in private practice and academia, and has led pioneering initiatives in judicial education and research, shaping Caribbean jurisprudence. A prolific author on democratic reform and legal issues, he champions gender equality, therapeutic justice, and procedural fairness within the judiciary. Recognised for his transformative contributions, he received an honorary doctorate from the University of Toronto in 2023 for his outstanding service to law and divinity. Justice Jamadar's enduring commitment to advancing legal principles underscores his profound impact on Caribbean and global jurisprudence.

The Honourable Mme. Justice Chantal Ononaiwu



Justice Chantal Ononaiwu, an attorney-at-law with over 20 years of experience at the Caribbean Bar, is recognised for her expertise in Caribbean Community (CARICOM) law and international law, particularly international trade law. Throughout her distinguished career, she has served as an adjudicator, litigator, legal advisor, and university lecturer. A Jamaican national, Justice Ononaiwu was admitted to practice law in Jamaica in 2001 and is also called to the Bar in Barbados.

For over 15 years, she worked at the CARICOM Secretariat, based in Barbados. She began as a Trade Policy and Legal Specialist at the Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery before it was incorporated into the Secretariat. Later, she served as the Director of External Trade, coordinating CARICOM's external trade policy. During her tenure, Justice Ononaiwu represented CARICOM in cases before the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ), advised the Community and its Member States on international trade and investment issues, and participated as a negotiator in international trade agreements. Her legal acumen also led her to serve on a panel that adjudicated a World Trade Organization dispute.



CCJ Annual International Law Moot 2025 - Fact Pattern

The State of Anteegua and Barbooda

v.

The Republic of Guytrin

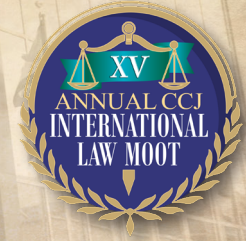
In 2021, the Republic of Guytrin, a CARICOM Member State, began production of crude oil. Prior to becoming an oil producer, Guytrin's economy was heavily dependent on agriculture and mining, with its main exports being sugar, rice, and bauxite. At the time of the first significant offshore oil discovery in 2019, Guytrin was battling a serious economic crisis marked by low foreign currency reserves, fluctuating commodity prices and rising levels of unemployment. For decades, the country had unsustainably high levels of external debt and participated in the International Monetary Fund programme for Highly Indebted Poor Countries.

With a view to ensuring that the exploitation of its petroleum resources would benefit Guytrinians and support sustainable development, the Government adopted in 2020 a Local Content Policy (LCP) for the Petroleum Sector. Key objectives of the LCP are employment and labour market development, value creation or addition in the domestic economy, and promotion of innovation, technology and research and development.

The LCP captures the principle that in making decisions concerning recruitment and procurement to execute petroleum activities, operators and their contractors shall give "first consideration" and provide "adequate opportunity" to Guytrinian persons having appropriate qualifications and experience and to Guytrinian suppliers where capable and competitive. Another core principle of the Policy is that operators shall undertake programmes that address the training of Guytrinian persons and capacity development of Guytrinian suppliers, as well as other capacity development initiatives to support national training institutions and local research and development.

Also in 2020, the Government concluded a production sharing agreement (PSA) with HexxMobil, an American multinational oil and gas corporation. Under the PSA, HexxMobil is required to give preference to Guytrinian suppliers during bidding processes where their bids are competitive with foreign bids in skills, resources, availability and price and meet its technical and financial requirements. In addition, the agreement requires HexxMobil to employ with priority Guytrinians in all aspects of petroleum operations to the extent that such nationals with the requisite qualifications and experience can be found, and to minimize the employment of foreign personnel. HexxMobil is further required, at its own expense, to train nationals and ensure their development by imparting to them technology and business expertise in all areas of energy sector activity.

In 2022, HexxMobil concluded an agreement with the Kalino and Lokano indigenous groups of Guytrin, who live in the coastal regions where HexxMobil's offshore operations are located. Under this community agreement, HexxMobil commits to giving preference to tenderers that bring the greatest opportunities to the Kalino and Lokano indigenous groups, for example, by involving indigenous owned businesses in the contract or employing and/or training indigenous persons.



CCJ Annual International Law Moot 2025 - Fact Pattern (continued)

Guytrin's Local Content Policy has generated concerns across CARICOM that it runs counter to the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas (RTC). Several Member States have voiced such concerns in the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) and the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM. In 2022, the Conference mandated the establishment of a Working Group on Local Content to make recommendations regarding the development and application of local content legislation, policy and plans in the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME), in the context of the RTC.

In the CARICOM Member State of Antegua and Barboda, the private sector has stridently registered concerns that the local content initiatives in Guytrin hinder the full enjoyment of the rights of other CARICOM nationals, contrary to the RTC. The private sector has urged the Government to bring proceedings in the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) to safeguard the rights of other CARICOM nationals in Guytrin.

On 18 July 2024, Antegua and Barboda filed an Originating Application in the CCJ, seeking a declaration that Guytrin has breached Articles 7, 32, 36 and 46 of the RTC. It alleges that Guytrin's Local Content Policy, the local content provisions of the PSA between Guytrin and HexxMobil and the community agreement between HexxMobil and the indigenous groups are discriminatory on the grounds of nationality only and impair the rights of other CARICOM nationals to establish businesses, provide services and seek employment as skilled nationals in Guytrin.

In its Defence, the Republic of Guytrin argues that its Local Content Policy enshrines objectives and principles, not mandatory requirements. Moreover, it asserts that the procurement and hiring practices of HexxMobil, as well as the community agreement, are actions of private actors, not the State. Further, to the extent that the Government is considered to have undertaken any actions which restrict the right of establishment, the right to provide services or the freedom of movement of skilled Community nationals under the RTC, such actions are justified by Articles 43 and 47 of the Treaty.

At a Case Management Conference on 14 November 2024, the Court ordered that CARICOM is permitted to be an Amicus Curiae pursuant to Rule 18.2 of the Caribbean Court of Justice (Original Jurisdiction Rules) 2024.

All relevant procedural matters have been observed and the matter is set down for hearing at the Seat of the Court on 20 and 21 March 2025.

Senior Counsel of Antegua and Barboda will argue that the Republic of Guytrin has violated Articles 7, 32, 36 and 46 of the RTC. Junior Counsel will argue that Articles 43 and 47 of the RTC do not justify Guytrin's violations of the Treaty.

Senior Counsel of Guytrin will argue that Guytrin has not violated Articles 7, 32, 36 and 46 of the RTC. Junior Counsel will argue that if Guytrin has violated those provisions of the RTC, such violations would be justified by Articles 43 and 47 of the Treaty.