



## CARIBBEAN COURT OF JUSTICE

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### MEDIA RELEASE

(For immediate release)

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### STATEMENT FROM THE CCJ PRESIDENT ON THE PASSING OF OF ENA COLLYMORE-WOODSTOCK

**Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.** It is with sadness that the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) notes the passing of Mrs Ena Collymore-Woodstock, an exemplary barrister and magistrate from Jamaica whose career broke barriers for women throughout the region. She passed away on 2 December 2025 at the age of 108.

Mrs Collymore-Woodstock was appointed as Jamaica's first female resident magistrate in 1959. During her career, she chaired the Juvenile Court and was also appointed the Senior Resident Magistrate before her retirement in 1977. Her work was not only localised to Jamaica but also realised throughout the Caribbean and beyond. She was awarded on the national and international levels for her contributions to the judicial sphere and society including the Order of Distinction from the Jamaican Government and the Order of the British Empire from the United Kingdom.

Mrs Collymore-Woodstock was a true pioneer. Her legacy resonates in every courtroom where a female judicial officer presides and in the heart of every individual who values justice and equity. She has served as an inspiration for many, in the legal sector and beyond. We are all truly in her debt. In 2021, Mrs Collymore-Woodstock was named a *Pioneering Caribbean Woman Jurist* by the CCJ Academy for Law.

The CCJ extends condolences to Mrs Collymore-Woodstock's family, friends, and the people of Jamaica during this time of mourning. May the blessing of her long life of service, advocacy, and leadership, inspire generations to come.

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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 Winston Anderson. 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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