

20
Years
of
Court Excellence

Honouring our Legacy,
Shaping our Future

ANNUAL REPORT
2024-2025

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When the Court was inaugurated in 2005, it was mandated ‘to play a determinative role in the further development of Caribbean jurisprudence through the judicial process.’ Twenty years on, there is no doubt it has done so. The CCJ has served the Caribbean people, delivering a jurisprudence responsive to our circumstances and which has ultimately contributed to shaping the way we live our lives and see ourselves. The Court has enhanced access to justice, advocated Caribbean democratic ideals, advanced the rule of law, protected and promoted human rights, and supported sustainable development in our region.

The Honourable Mr Justice Winston Anderson
President, Caribbean Court of Justice



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 comprising seven judges, presided over by the President, the Honourable Mr Justice Winston Anderson. The CCJ has an Appellate Jurisdiction and an Original Jurisdiction and is effectively, therefore, two courts in one.

In its Appellate Jurisdiction, the CCJ is the final court of appeal for criminal and civil matters for those countries in the Caribbean Community that have so acceded. Currently, five states access the Court in its Appellate Jurisdiction: 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 Caribbean region's coming of age.

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 the Original Jurisdiction, the CCJ is critical to the functioning of the CSME. All twelve Member States that belong to the CSME (including their citizens, businesses, and governments) can access the Court's Original Jurisdiction to protect their rights under the RTC.



This report is a review of the Court year that spans

1 August 2024



31 July 2025

The CCJ has an obligation to account for its performance to the people of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). Every year the CCJ is committed to submit to its stakeholders, a report of its operations and financials.



List of Abbreviations

AJ	Appellate Jurisdiction
CAJO	Caribbean Association of Judicial Officers
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CCAT	Caribbean Community Administrative Tribunal
CCJ / The Court	Caribbean Court of Justice
CSME	CARICOM Single Market and Economy
EDF	European Development Fund
JURIST	Judicial Reform and Institutional Strengthening Project
OJ	Original Jurisdiction
RJLSC/ The Commission	Regional Judicial and Legal Services Commission
RTC	Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas
SMART	Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound
Trust Fund	Caribbean Court of Justice Trust Fund



Table of Contents



ABOUT THE CARIBBEAN COURT OF JUSTICE	1
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	2
MISSION, VISION, VALUES	4
MESSAGE FROM THE CCJ PRESIDENT	5
THE BENCH	8
JUDGES' ACTIVITIES (extrajudicial)	9
MESSAGE FROM THE REGISTRAR AND CHIEF MARSHAL	23
REGISTRY	
Court Performance	27
Judgment Summaries	30
OUR MANAGEMENT TEAM	46
COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION DEPARTMENT	
Public Education & Protocol Unit	48
Library Services Unit	48
INFORMATION SYSTEMS DEPARTMENT	50
HUMAN RESOURCES UNIT	51
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT	
Finance and Accounting Unit	53
Facilities, Assets and Office Management Unit	53
SECURITY AND LOGISTICS UNIT	55
OFFICE OF PROJECT COORDINATION – EDF	57
CELEBRATING TWO DECADES OF EVOLVING CARIBBEAN JUSTICE	59
20TH ANNIVERSARY ACTIVITIES	
Interfaith Service of Reflection and Prayer	61
20th Anniversary Exhibit	62
Gala and Awards Ceremony	63
COMMITTEES	
Administrative Style Guide	64
Monitoring and Evaluation	64
Health, Safety, Security and the Environment	65
Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities	66
OUTREACH	
CCJ Academy for Law	69
15th Annual CCJ International Law Moot	71
CCJ CARNIVAL COOLER LIME	73
STAFF ENGAGEMENT IN PHOTOS	74
FAREWELL TRIBUTES	
The Hon. Mr Justice Andrew Burgess	77
The Hon. Mr Justice Adrian Saunders	79
FINANCIALS	
Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023, expressed in Trinidad and Tobago dollars	82
Supplementary Financial Information for the year ended 31 December 2023, expressed in United States dollars	108



Honouring Our Legacy



Shaping Our Future



Mission

**Providing accessible, fair,
and efficient justice for
the people and states of
the Caribbean Community**

Vision

**To be a model of
judicial excellence**

Values

INTEGRITY

Be honest,
do right,
stand firm

INDUSTRY

Be diligent,
go above and
beyond

COURTESY AND CONSIDERATION

Demonstrate
care and
respect for all

EXCELLENCE

Demonstrate the
highest quality
of service and
performance



Message from The President

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The reporting period for this Annual Report covers the Court's activities from 1 August 2024 to 31 July 2025. As the period drew to a close, I had the distinct honour and privilege of being sworn in as the fourth President of the Caribbean Court of Justice in my home country of Jamaica. It is with great pride that I share this Message, marking my first communication to our stakeholders as President of the Court.

The Honourable Mr Justice Winston Anderson
President of the CCJ



I regard this appointment with a deep sense of duty and responsibility, and I once again thank the Regional Judicial and Legal Services Commission and the Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community for entrusting me with steering the CCJ ship for the next seven years.

I wish to once again express my sincere gratitude to the immediate past President of the Court, Mr Justice Adrian Saunders, who has left behind a well-established institution and laid a strong foundation of leadership that I am honoured to build upon. I am also deeply thankful to him and the Court's Management and Staff, for facilitating a seamless and supportive transition from Judge to President. President Saunders' leadership, as well as that of his predecessors, Mr Justice Michael de la Bastide and Sir Dennis Byron, remain a valued part of the Court's legacy and I remain committed to honouring their contributions.

Commemorating 20 Years of Judicial Excellence

My appointment to the Presidency has come at a joyous time for the Court as on 16 April 2025, we celebrated our 20th anniversary. When the Court was inaugurated in 2005, it was mandated 'to play a determinative role in the further development of Caribbean jurisprudence through the judicial process.' Twenty years on, there is no doubt it has done so. The CCJ has served the Caribbean people, delivering a jurisprudence responsive to our circumstances and which has ultimately contributed to shaping the way we live our lives and see ourselves. The Court has enhanced access to justice, advocated Caribbean democratic ideals, advanced the rule of law, protected and promoted human rights, and supported sustainable development in our region.



Message from the President *(continued)*

To celebrate this momentous occasion, the 20th Anniversary Committee, chaired by Mme Justice Maureen Rajnauth-Lee, has overseen a host of attractive and informative activities. A photo exhibition tracing the Court's history and achievements, an interfaith service, and a gala and long service awards ceremony were some of the events which marked this milestone. Additionally, we were honoured when several regional bodies hosted lectures, symposia, and webinars celebrating the occasion and the Court's jurisprudential impact on the Caribbean legal landscape. We eagerly anticipate more activities in the last two quarters of 2025, highlighted by the anticipated launch of a commemorative text and the staging of the 8th Biennial Conference of the CCJ Academy for Law.

Judicial Transitions and New Appointments

While it has been a time for celebration, this year also marked a time of sadness as we bade farewell to two of my esteemed colleagues on the Bench. In April 2025, Mr Justice Andrew Burgess retired from the CCJ Bench. At the Special Sitting of the Court to mark his retirement, I described him as "an outstanding and enduring figure in regional legal education and in Caribbean jurisprudence." The glowing speeches from his other CCJ colleagues and from other members of the profession aptly corroborated this assessment of Justice Burgess' legacy. The retirement of President Saunders quickly arrived in July 2025, as his tenure as President came to an end. President Saunders was the last judge of the inaugural bench of the CCJ, and his work with the Court over the past 20 years demonstrated his unwavering commitment to justice, promotion of the rule of law, and championing of judicial reform and education. Both of these judges will be greatly missed by the Court.

Although we said goodbye to two distinguished jurists, we were pleased to welcome to the Bench, Mme Justice Chantal Ononaiwu and Mr Justice Chile Ebue-Osuji in October 2024 and April 2025 respectively.

Both bring their own valuable expertise and fresh perspectives to the Court, and I look forward to continuing work with them in the years to come.

Overview of Judicial Work

Over the past year, the Court's judicial workload remained steady. In our Appellate Jurisdiction, the Court continued to receive a steady influx of appeals and applications for special leave, with a total of 27 matters being filed from all five Member States which accede to the jurisdiction.

Some judgments are worth briefly mentioning for their novelty and impact on regional jurisprudence and I encourage our stakeholders to review their summaries elsewhere in this Report. The Belizean case of *New Deal Limited v Matus & Ors [2025] CCJ 4 (AJ) BZ*, was the first case before the CCJ concerning the common law rights of riparian owners or persons who own land next to a natural watercourse. In *Sandy Lane Co Ltd v Sonia Eversley [2025] CCJ 5 (AJ) BB*, a matter from Barbados, the Court reaffirmed the principle of *res ipsa loquitur*, clarifying the parameters and circumstances for its applicability in negligence proceedings. Lastly, *Hippolyte v Reynolds [2025] CCJ 7 (AJ) LC* and *Jhawnie Gage v The Attorney General [2025] CCJ 9 (AJ) DM*, cases from Saint Lucia and Dominica respectively, both examine the Proceeds of Crime Acts in each jurisdiction.

In our Original Jurisdiction, the Court delivered the judgment of *Ellis Richards & Ors v The State of Trinidad and Tobago [2024] CCJ 2 (OJ)*, a case which involved over 500 claimants and concerned the latter's bailout of the CL Financial conglomerate. This year, two other matters have been filed in the Original Jurisdiction, and we look forward to hearing them in the next reporting period. It would be remiss not to acknowledge that the number of cases in the Original Jurisdiction remains relatively low. The continued underutilisation of the Original



Message from the President *(continued)*

Jurisdiction is an area of sustained attention for the Court. Over the reporting year, we have continued our public education on the Original Jurisdiction, the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas and, particularly on the referral obligation of national courts under Article 214 of the Treaty. With the assistance of the European Union's 11th European Development Fund, the Court continued to host sensitisation sessions with the Judiciary, Bar, and civil and business society organisations in Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica to inform participants of their rights and entitlements under the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas.

Conclusion of the Strategic Planning Cycle

The Court continued diligently with its strategic planning over the course of the year. Indeed, this reporting year marks the last of the Court's Strategic Planning Cycle 2019-2024 *"Unlocking Potential: Strengthening Caribbean Jurisprudence."* Since early 2024, I have had the privilege of serving as Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee, which has been mandated to update the Court's strategic agenda and prepare a new Strategic Plan which will assist in charting the course of operations for the next several years. The tremendous efforts undertaken by the Committee must be commended, particularly those of Ms Patrice Valentine, the Deputy Chair. The Court looks forward with excitement to the unveiling and successful implementation of the new Strategic Plan for 2025-2032.

Strengthening Regional and International Connections

The Court also continued its engagement with regional and international bodies. Our ongoing partnership with the European Union has supported the upgrading of our courtrooms - an initiative we look forward to completing in the coming year. Memorandums of Understanding were entered into with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), to increase opportunities for knowledge exchange, cooperation, and advancement of the CCJ's jurisprudence. The Court was especially pleased to collaborate with the Caribbean Agency for Justice Solutions (CAJS) in officially launching our AI-powered research tool, Ask CCJ. This tool has significantly enhanced the research capabilities of our Judges and staff and represents a meaningful step forward in the Court's use of emerging technologies.

Conclusion

As the Court enters its third decade of operations and shifts to a new strategic agenda, I am confident that it will continue to forge ahead; embracing and leveraging technological innovations, seizing emerging opportunities, confronting and adapting to new challenges, and strengthening our relationships with other regional and international courts and bodies. I am confident that with the dedication of the Bench, the insights of our management team, the dedication of our staff, and the continued engagement of our stakeholders, we will continue to advance our mission of providing accessible, fair, and efficient justice for the people and states of the Caribbean Community.



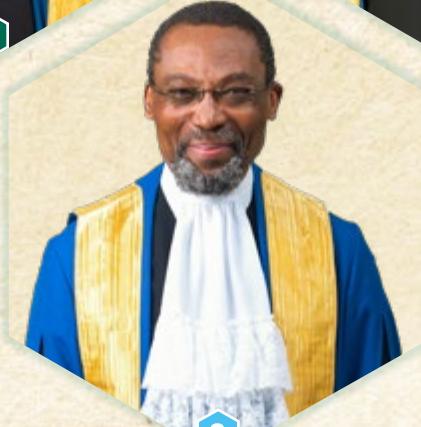
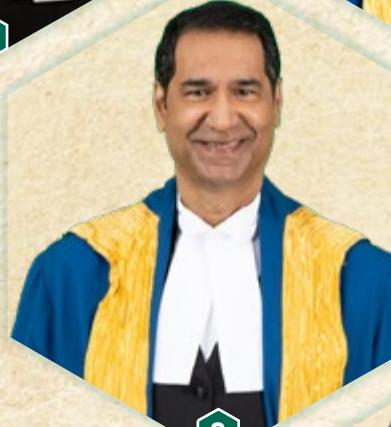
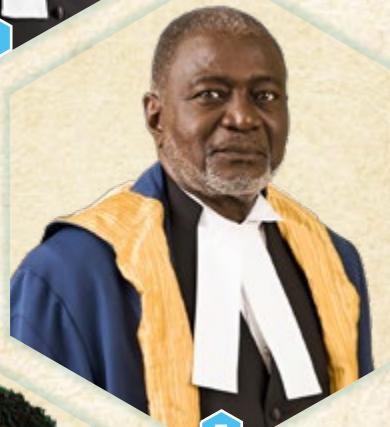
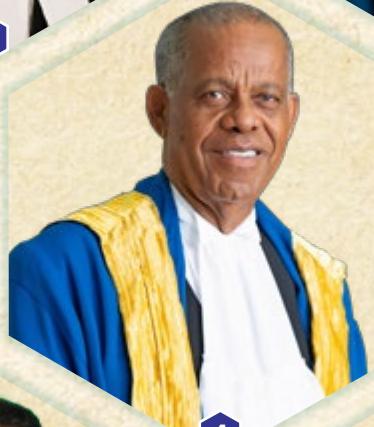
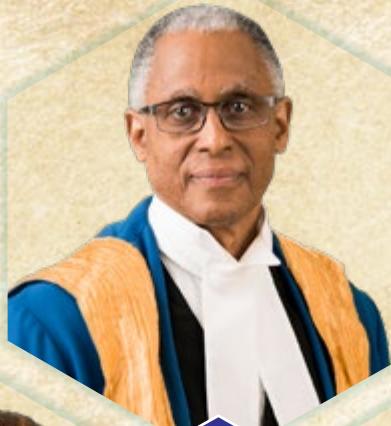
Honouring Our Legacy



Shaping Our Future



The Bench



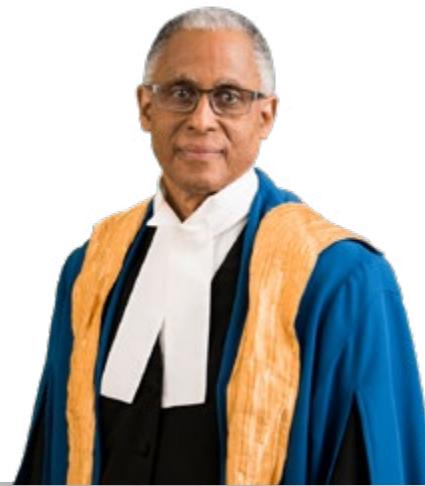
- 1 The Honourable Mr Justice Adrian Saunders
CCJ President, 4 July 2018 - 3 July 2025
- 2 The Honourable Mr Justice Winston Anderson
CCJ President, 6 July 2025 - Present
- 3 The Honourable Mme Justice Maureen Rajnauth-Lee
- 4 The Honourable Mr Justice Denys Barrow

- 5 The Honourable Mr Justice Andrew Burgess
CCJ Judge, 18 January 2019 - 12 April 2025
- 6 The Honourable Mr Justice Peter Jamadar
- 7 The Honourable Mme Justice Chantal Ononaiwu
- 8 The Honourable Mr Justice Chile Eboe-Osuji



Judges' Activities

Extrajudicial Activities: 1 August 2024 – 31 July 2025



The Honourable Mr Justice Adrian Saunders

President, Caribbean Court of Justice, 4 July 2018 – 3 July 2025

During the judicial year under review, the Honourable Mr Justice Adrian Saunders, President of the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ), represented the Court in a wide range of regional and international engagements, advancing dialogue on judicial integrity, the rule of law, human rights, and access to justice. His extrajudicial activities reflected both the responsibilities of his office and his enduring commitment to the development of Caribbean jurisprudence.

In August 2024, President Saunders attended the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Global Judicial Integrity Network's Regional Meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean in Brasilia, Brazil, in his capacity as a Member of the Advisory Board. He participated in the plenary session on '*Digital Justice: Utilising New Technologies and AI for Judicial Administration*'. Later that month, on behalf of the CCJ, he signed a Memorandum of Understanding with UNESCO, establishing a framework for cooperation and collaboration.

In September, he delivered the keynote address at the Caribbean Judicial Civil Recovery Conference in Miami, Florida, on '*The Caribbean Response to the Global Threat from Financial Crime*'. Shortly thereafter, he participated in the International Bar Association's Annual Conference in Mexico City, where he participated in two panel discussions titled '*The Rule of Law in the Americas and When the Rule of Law and Democracy Clash, Which Prevails?*'

President Saunders continued his extensive outreach in October 2024. He held a courtesy call with Mr Issac Solomon, Acting President of the Caribbean Development Bank, and attended a meeting of the Judicial and Legal Services Commission of the Cayman Islands, serving as one

of the Commissioners with responsibility for matters of appointment, removal, and judicial conduct. Later in the month, he attended the Law Association of Trinidad and Tobago's Annual Dinner and Awards Ceremony, and held a courtesy call with His Excellency Efthymios Efthymiades, Ambassador of Greece to Panama. He delivered the feature address at the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (Caribbean Branch) Fifth Triennial Conference in Port of Spain on '*Pathways to Peace: Evolving Trends in Dispute Resolution*'. He also participated in the swearing-in of the Honourable Mme Justice Chantal Ononaiwu in Kingston, Jamaica, offering official remarks on behalf of the Court. Additionally, he contributed to the Thomas More Law School of the Australian Catholic University's webinar on judicial wellbeing and took part in a CAJO Members-Only Forum on advancing judicial opportunities in the Caribbean.

In November 2024, President Saunders chaired a session at the 6th Caribbean Judges' Forum on HIV, Human Rights and the Law in Port of Spain, focusing on safeguarding the rights of key populations. He subsequently participated in a High-Level Dialogue convened by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), during which he signed a Cooperation Agreement between the CCJ and the Commission to facilitate technical exchanges. He then travelled to Jamaica to deliver a presentation at the Social Justice Conference '*Equity in Action: Advancing Justice for Persons with Disabilities*' and to attend the Regional Town Hall on the first anniversary of the Needham's Point Declaration. Later that month, he led the CCJ delegation to the Caribbean Association of Judicial Officers (CAJO) 8th Biennial Conference in Bermuda, where he delivered the feature address '*Celebrating Caribbean Jurisprudence: Intersections between Law, Politics, and*



Extrajudicial Activities *The Honourable Mr Justice Adrian Saunders (continued)*

Society'. He also delivered the C. Dennis Morrison Memorial Lecture as part of the Organization of Commonwealth Caribbean Bar Associations (OCCBA) Distinguished Lecture Series.

December 2024 saw President Saunders lend his support to the Caribbean Association of Women Judges' regional Christmas Carol Singing and Writing Competition, where he served as one of four judges.

In February 2025, he co-facilitated a virtual judicial team-building session with the Judiciary of Jamaica, exploring stress, wellbeing, and judicial performance. Later that month, he formed part of a delegation to the 48th Regular Meeting of the CARICOM Heads of Government in Bridgetown, Barbados, where he co-presented a proposal on '*The Decolonisation of The University of the West Indies (The UWI)*'.

President Saunders remained highly visible during March. He attended the launch of '*The Jurisprudence of the Caribbean Court of Justice and Regional Integration*' at The UWI, St Augustine, and delivered remarks at the inaugural Désirée Bernard Memorial Lecture hosted virtually by the Guyana Association of Women Judges. On 18 March, he presided over the Special Sitting of the Court in honour of the retiring Honourable Mr Justice Andrew Burgess. He subsequently attended a meeting of the Judicial and Legal Services Commission of the Cayman Islands and delivered opening and closing remarks at the XV Annual CCJ International Law Moot. At month's end, he travelled to Edinburgh, Scotland, where he delivered the 2025 MacFayden Lecture titled '*Twenty Years of the Caribbean Court of Justice*'.

In April 2025, he delivered a lecture to students in the Legislative Drafting LLM programme at The UWI, Cave Hill; and attended the 24th Commonwealth Law Conference in Malta, where he chaired a panel on the relevance of international human rights law in Commonwealth jurisdictions. He returned to Port of Spain for the swearing-in of the Honourable Mr Justice Chile Eboe-Osuji, who succeeded Mr Justice Burgess. He also attended the Court's 20th Anniversary Interfaith Service of Reflection and Prayer and the celebratory staff luncheon and delivered brief remarks at the Norman Manley Distinguished Lecture marking the CCJ's anniversary. At the end of April, he participated in

the inaugural meeting of the CARICOM Security Strategy Steering Committee and attended the Requiem Mass for His Holiness Pope Francis in Port of Spain.

In May, President Saunders travelled to Grand Cayman to participate in an in-person meeting of the Cayman Islands Judicial and Legal Services Commission, and later held a courtesy call with Dr Elaine Monica Davis, Consul General of The Bahamas. On 23 May, he attended the Ceremonial Opening of the First Session of the Thirteenth Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago as President of the CCJ. He also delivered a virtual lecture to the Jamaican Bar Association titled '*A Caribbean Community Under the Rule of Law: The Role of the Caribbean Court of Justice*'.

President Saunders concluded his tenure with a series of high-profile activities in June 2025. On 3 June, he presided over the Special Sitting convened in his honour at Queen's Hall, Port of Spain, marking his retirement as President of the Court. He delivered a lecture at the Commonwealth Judicial Education Institute Intensive Study Programme on divergent approaches to savings law clauses in Commonwealth Caribbean constitutions and was interviewed on the '*Public Law Parlour*' podcast on the work and role of the CCJ. He also hosted a courtesy call with the President of the Joint Court of Justice of Aruba, Curaçao, Sint Maarten, and the islands of Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba, President Mauritsz de Kort, and engaged in a public conversation with Mr Justice Peter Jamadar as part of CAJO's Caribbean Law and Logic Series. He addressed the Conference of Heads of Judiciaries and Chief Justices on the CCJ's policy to improve access to justice for persons with disabilities; and received the OCCBA Award for distinguished service to Caribbean jurisprudence. He also contributed an article to the Special Edition of the OCCBA Journal titled '*Reflections on the Early Years of the Caribbean Court of Justice: From Inauguration to Joseph & Boyce*'.

Through these extensive extrajudicial activities, President Saunders reinforced the Court's standing as a regional and international thought leader while deepening collaboration with global partners. His interventions highlighted the CCJ's role in advancing judicial integrity, strengthening access to justice, and promoting Caribbean jurisprudence at the close of his distinguished presidency.



Extrajudicial Activities (continued)

The Honourable Mr Justice Winston Anderson

President, Caribbean Court of Justice, 6 July 2025 - Present



During the period under review, the Honourable Mr Justice Winston Anderson actively represented the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) at regional and international fora, contributed to strategic leadership within the Court, and advanced judicial education and reform across the Caribbean.

In August 2024, Justice Anderson addressed the Judges of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court at their Annual Judicial Conference in Saint Lucia, delivering a presentation on '*Judicial Review in the Original Jurisdiction of the CCJ*'. Later that month, in his capacity as Chairman of the CCJ Academy for Law, he led discussions with the Inter-American Development Bank on the continued implementation of the Needham's Point Declaration and the development of a digital dashboard. He also chaired the panel for interviews to recruit Judicial Counsel at the Court. In September 2024, he delivered the keynote address at the Judiciary of Belize's Criminal Justice Reform Conference, focusing on the regional application of the Needham's Point Declaration. During the same month, he participated in a meeting of the Council of Legal Education to review the curriculum of the Hugh Wooding Law School, chaired the 141st meeting of the Court's Financial Oversight Committee, and convened the 13th meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee, which refined strategic objectives for the 2025-2030 Strategic Manual. Together with then-President Saunders, he co-chaired the Monitoring, Evaluating, and Facilitating Committee, which included participation by regional judicial leaders. He also chaired the tribunal in the *ICC v Sunny Dhillon* matter alongside John McNamara and Michael Beloff.

In the latter part of 2024, Justice Anderson remained deeply engaged in both judicial education and institutional leadership. He participated in strategic planning sensitisation sessions, met with members of the Surinamese Bar Association, and delivered the feature address at The University of the West Indies, St Augustine Faculty of Law's '*Evening of Excellence*'. He also chaired the panel for a PhD thesis defence and contributed to a high-level dialogue convened by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights on human rights and emerging legal trends. In November, he gave interviews to regional media, led the CCJ Academy's team at the Regional Townhall Event at The UWI Mona to commemorate the first anniversary of the Needham's Point Declaration, and convened meetings of both the Strategic Planning Committee and the Monitoring, Evaluating and Facilitating Committee. He subsequently attended the CAJO 8th Biennial Conference in Bermuda, where he reported on the progress of the Declaration, and later contributed to the joint summative evaluation of the JURIST and IMPACT Justice projects. At the close of the year, he co-chaired the planning meeting for the Academy's 8th Biennial Conference scheduled for 2026, held further strategic engagements with regional partners, and presented at the Court's Monitoring and Evaluation Committee meeting in December.

In 2025, Justice Anderson continued to demonstrate his commitment to judicial innovation and outreach. He led a sensitisation exercise on the referral obligation of the Court's Original Jurisdiction in Kingston, Jamaica, in collaboration with the Judicial Education Institute of Jamaica, and participated in a virtual meeting of '*the Latin American*



Extrajudicial Activities *The Honourable Mr Justice Winston Anderson [continued]*

and *Caribbean Journal of International Law*'. He also joined a World Intellectual Property Organization webinar for judges on digital evidence in trademark cases and delivered the keynote address at the UNDP-supported Barbados Backlog Symposium. In January, he attended the rollout of the Court's **Ask CCJ** artificial intelligence research tool. February saw his participation in sensitisation sessions on improving access to justice for persons with disabilities, a referral session with the Law Association of Trinidad and Tobago, and an internal session on the ethical use of generative AI.

Justice Anderson further participated in several events that underscored the Court's leadership in regional jurisprudence and judicial reform. These included the inaugural memorial lecture in honour of the late Mme Justice Désirée Bernard, the CCJ's perception survey, and a sensitisation session introducing the Islamic faith. In March 2025, he attended the Special Sitting in honour of retiring Judge, the Honourable Mr Justice Andrew Burgess, and delivered remarks at the opening of the 15th Annual CCJ International Law Moot. He also addressed the Judiciary of Jamaica on the effectiveness of the Needham's Point Declaration. In April, he represented the Court at the Third Forum on Human Rights Defenders in Environmental Matters, hosted in Saint Kitts, where he

highlighted key CCJ cases relevant to the Escazú Agreement. During the same visit, he paid courtesy calls on the Attorney General and the Director of Public Prosecutions of Saint Kitts and Nevis. On 15 April 2025, he attended the swearing-in of the Honourable Mr Justice Chile Eboe-Osuji as Judge of the CCJ. He also participated in the Interfaith Service and Anniversary Luncheon commemorating the Court's 20th anniversary and chaired the CCJ Academy for Law's Annual Board of Directors meeting later that month.

In the final quarter of the reporting year, Justice Anderson remained engaged in high-level governance. He participated in successive meetings of the Regional Judicial and Legal Services Commission in May and June 2025, attended the Special Sitting and reception at Queen's Hall in honour of retiring President Saunders, and welcomed a courtesy call from Mauritsz de Kort, President of the Joint Court of Justice of Aruba, Curacao, Sint Maarten, and of Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba. He also joined colleagues and dignitaries at the Court's 20th Anniversary Gala. Throughout the year, he undertook judgment reporting duties for the Court's Annual Report, ensuring accuracy and clarity of jurisprudential summaries. The judicial year concluded with his appointment and swearing-in on 6 July 2025 in Montego Bay, Jamaica, as the fourth President of the Caribbean Court of Justice.



Extrajudicial Activities *(continued)*



The Honourable Mme Justice Maureen Rajnauth-Lee

Judge, Caribbean Court of Justice

During the period under review, the Honourable Mme Justice Maureen Rajnauth-Lee participated in a wide range of regional and institutional engagements consistent with the Court's mission of ensuring access to justice for all, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups and persons with disabilities.

In September 2024, Justice Rajnauth-Lee delivered an online training session during the Turks and Caicos Islands Judicial Education Institute Week 2024 on *'Justice for Vulnerable Groups'*. Her presentation covered the rights of persons with disabilities, older persons, victims and survivors of gender-based violence, and migrants, and asylum seekers.

In October, she served as a panellist at the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIArb) Caribbean Regional Conference held at The UWI Conference Centre, St Augustine, contributing to the discussion on *'Arbitration, Mediation and the Courts'*.

In November, Justice Rajnauth-Lee participated in the internal survey and focus group sessions of the Strategic Planning Committee and attended the High-Level Dialogue between the Court and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, where she presented on *'Challenges for Persons with Disabilities in Accessing the Justice System in the Caribbean'*. She also delivered remarks at the First Sitting of the Honourable Mme Justice Chantal Ononaiwu and attended CAJO's 8th Biennial Conference in Hamilton, Bermuda, where she chaired and presented during a breakout session on *'Judiciaries in Integrity: Policies and Protocols Promoting Justice'*.

In January 2025, Justice Rajnauth-Lee participated in the Caribbean Association of Women Judges' (CAWJ) Twilight Session on *'Implications of the Tot Lampkin Judgment on Gender-Based Violence in Caribbean Jurisprudence'*.

In February, she delivered closing remarks at a sensitisation session on the CCJ/RJLSC Policy hosted by the Committee to Improve Access to Justice and to Provide Accommodations for Persons with Disabilities.

In March, she participated in the CCJ's Perception Survey commissioned under the auspices of CARICOM, paid tribute to the Honourable Mr Justice Andrew Burgess at his retirement sitting, and chaired the Moot Panel of Judges for the 15th Annual CCJ International Law Moot. The panel also met online with the Moot Registry volunteers in preparation for the competition.

In April, Justice Rajnauth-Lee participated in the Interfaith Service at Queen's Hall and the Special Staff Luncheon to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the CCJ, where she hosted the launch of the Time Capsule Project.

In May, she participated in person in the *'Second Symposium on Advancing the Case for Regionalism and Indigenous Jurisprudence'* hosted by the Faculty of Law, The University of the West Indies, St Augustine, and delivered opening remarks on behalf of former CCJ President, the Honourable Mr Justice Adrian Saunders.



Extrajudicial Activities *The Honourable Mme Justice Maureen Rajnauth-Lee [continued]*

In June, she paid tribute to the former CCJ President at the Special Sitting of the Court to mark his retirement at Queen's Hall, Port of Spain. She participated in the '**AI Policy Consortium Webinar**' hosted by the Thomson Reuters Institute and the National Center for State Courts on the '**Importance of Guardrails and Ethical Considerations of Generative AI in Courts**'. Justice Rajnauth-Lee also presented virtually, alongside Justice Saunders, on the '**CCJ/RJLSC Policy to Improve Access to Justice and to Provide Accommodations for Persons with Disabilities**' at the Caribbean Chief Justices and Heads of Judiciaries' Conference in The Bahamas, and attended the launch of the publication '**Breaking the Chains – The Fight for Justice Beyond Colonial Laws**', produced by the Caribbean Centre for Human Rights.

In July, she attended the webinar '**Backsliding Democracies – The Role of the Judiciary**', hosted by the Swiss Institute for the Judiciary, which examined threats to judicial independence, the rule of law, and the separation of powers in backsliding democracies.

Representation of the Court

Justice Rajnauth-Lee represented the Court on multiple occasions throughout the reporting period.

- In September 2024, she attended Brazil's National Day celebration held at the Hilton Hotel, Trinidad.
- In January 2025, she hosted Dr Stephen Terrett, Consultant and Technical Lead of the Curriculum Review Project of the Council of Legal Education, in collaboration with the CCJ.

In June, she represented the Court online at MonaLaw's CCJ 20th Anniversary Commemoration event, '**Law and Justice in the Caribbean – Pathways to Development**'.

Committee Memberships

Justice Rajnauth-Lee continued to serve as:

- Chair, 20th Anniversary Commemoration Committee;
- Chair, Committee to Improve Access to Justice and to Provide Accommodations for Persons with Disabilities;
- Member, Pension Administration Committee; and
- Member, Caribbean Association of Judicial Officers (CAJO) Conference Programme Design and Delivery Committee



Extrajudicial Activities *(continued)*



The Honourable Mr Justice Denys Barrow

Judge, Caribbean Court of Justice

During the reporting period, the Honourable Mr Justice Denys Barrow actively participated in a series of regional and international engagements that underscored his commitment to advancing judicial education, promoting transparency in justice systems, and fostering dialogue on critical issues affecting the administration of justice.

In August 2024, Mr Justice Barrow contributed to the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court Judicial Education Institute (ECSC JEI) Annual Judicial Conference by submitting a presentation titled '*Judgment Delayed is Justice Denied*' for inclusion in the conference proceedings. The following month, he supported the Judicial Education Institute of the Senior Courts of Belize's Conference on Judicial Reform by submitting a substantive paper, '*Quality of Evidence Necessary for Conviction*', under the theme *Advancing the CCJ Academy for Law Needham's Point Declaration*.

His engagement continued in November 2024 with participation in the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and Caribbean Court of Justice High-Level Dialogue Table Series, where he attended a virtual webinar focused on strengthening human rights frameworks in the region. Later that month, Mr Justice Barrow attended and

actively participated in the Law Association of Trinidad and Tobago's Orientation Series: Pre-Call Webinar – Part 4, addressing protocols on ancillary courts and tribunals. He also played a pivotal role at the Caribbean Association of Judicial Officers' (CAJO) 8th Biennial Law Conference, held in Bermuda under the theme '*Justice 360: Holistic Approaches to the Administration of Justice*'. At this conference, Mr Justice Barrow moderated the high-profile session '*Managing Public and Media Relations, Maintaining Public Trust and Confidence*'.

The first quarter of 2025 reflected continued engagement in capacity-building initiatives. On 27 February 2025, Mr Justice Barrow delivered the keynote address at the UNESCO/CCJ-CBU/PMA Online Workshop on Journalist Safety in the Caribbean, supported by a comprehensive PowerPoint presentation. His address highlighted the CCJ-UNESCO Memorandum of Understanding and the Court's role in promoting freedom of expression and journalist safety across the region.

The reporting period concluded with Mr Justice Barrow's presentation at the ECSC JEI Webinar on 29 May 2025, where he spoke on the topic '*Judgment Delayed is Justice Denied*', reinforcing his advocacy for timely adjudication as a cornerstone of justice.



Extrajudicial Activities *(continued)*

The Honourable Mr Andrew Burgess *Judge, Caribbean Court of Justice*



During the period under review, the Honourable Mr Justice Andrew Burgess actively contributed to the work of the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) and its various committees until his retirement on 12 April 2025. His tenure was marked by a strong commitment to advancing the Court's mandate, enriching legal education, and strengthening institutional governance.

On 18 March 2025, Justice Burgess was honoured at a Special Sitting of the Court convened to mark his retirement. The ceremony provided an opportunity for colleagues, regional dignitaries, and legal practitioners to pay tribute to his distinguished service to the Bench and his contributions to Caribbean jurisprudence.

Justice Burgess also served as Chairman of the 15th Annual CCJ International Law Moot, which was held in person, on 20–21 March 2025. Under his stewardship, the Moot brought together regional law faculties for two days of advocacy and intellectual exchange, reinforcing the Court's commitment to legal education and capacity-building.

As Chairman of the Library Collection Development and Advisory Committee, Justice Burgess guided the evaluation of the Court's legal information needs, ensuring that its collection adequately served the Bench, the regional Bar, and the wider public. He oversaw recommendations for strengthening the collection, filling identified gaps, and incorporating emerging areas of law. His leadership also extended to reviewing policies governing the growth and overall development of the Library's resources.

Justice Burgess chaired the Judicial Counsel and Internship Committee, where he advanced opportunities for regional law students to gain practical legal experience at the Court. Through this role, he supported research development and helped prepare students for admission to the Bar across Member States.

As a member of the Financial Oversight Committee, Justice Burgess contributed to the Court's financial governance. He provided guidance on protocols, policies, agreements, and financial reporting obligations, making recommendations to the Commission to strengthen fiscal accountability.

His role in international collaboration was demonstrated through his oversight of the co-operation programme between the CCJ and the Council of Europe's Venice Commission. He reviewed and approved summaries and decisions of selected constitutional and human rights cases of the CCJ, prior to their inclusion in the Codices Database.

Justice Burgess also served as a member of the Eminent Caribbean Jurists (ECJ) Selection and Advisory Committee and the Rules Committee, participating in meetings and providing valuable insights when required. In addition, he contributed to the CCJ's 20th Anniversary Publication Sub-Committee, which advanced the Court's commemorative efforts by shaping the content of its milestone publication.

Through these contributions, Justice Burgess underscored his dedication to judicial excellence, institutional development, and the promotion of Caribbean jurisprudence. His legacy as a jurist, educator, and leader remains a distinguished part of the Court's history.



Extrajudicial Activities *(continued)*

The Honourable Mr Justice Peter Jamadar

Judge, Caribbean Court of Justice



During the reporting period, Justice Jamadar served as Chair of the Caribbean Association of Judicial Officers (CAJO), Vice-President (Programming) of the Commonwealth Judicial Education Institute (CJEI), and contributed to a range of Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) initiatives and committees. In these capacities, he engaged in several regional, territorial, and international judicial education and professional interventions.

The Caribbean Association of Judicial Officers (CAJO)

Regional Initiatives

On 31 October 2024, CAJO hosted a virtual forum on '*Discussing Judicial Opportunities in the Caribbean*'. The session featured President Adrian Saunders of the CCJ; Sir Ian Winder, Chief Justice of The Bahamas; and Justice Charmaine Pemberton, Justice of Appeal of Trinidad and Tobago. They all sit on Judicial and Legal Services Commissions. They provided participants with insights into approaching and advancing judicial careers within the region.

From 21-23 November 2024, CAJO convened its 8th Biennial Conference under the theme '*Justice 360 – Holistic Approaches to the Administration of Justice*'. The two-and-a-half-day programme was designed to strengthen participant engagement through a variety of teaching and learning models including small group work, panel discussions, short lectures, and question-and-answer sessions. The conference produced CAJO's Statement on the Wellbeing of Judicial Officers and Judiciary Staff, expanding on the July 2024 Nauru Declaration on Judicial Well-being. In line with the overarching theme,

the statement explicitly included judiciary staff and promoted a holistic approach to wellbeing, work-life balance, workload management, and addressing power dynamics within judiciaries.

From 4-6 December 2024, CAJO participated in a regional workshop hosted by ParlAmericas, UN Women, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, and the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago. The workshop, '*Making the Work of Parliaments Responsive to the Needs of Women and Men*', provided a platform to share CAJO's development of Gender Equality Protocols for Caribbean Judiciaries and to encourage Caribbean Parliaments to develop similar guidelines.

On 20 February 2025, CAJO, in collaboration with the Faculty of Law at The University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona, hosted a roundtable on '*Social and Economic Rights: Constitutional Design and Adjudication*', in celebration of the CCJ's 20th anniversary.

In April 2025, CAJO launched its '*Law and Logic*' podcast series as part of its ongoing commitment to preserving and sharing insights from leading legal minds. The inaugural episode featured retired Mr Justice Andrew Burgess, followed by an interview with retired CCJ President, Justice Adrian Saunders.

On 15 May 2025, CAJO launched its Judicial Mentorship Programme, providing experienced judicial officers with over seven years of service the opportunity to mentor and guide newer colleagues on ethics, responsibilities, and leadership.



Extrajudicial Activities *The Honourable Mr Justice Peter Jamadar (continued)*

To mark the International Day of Judicial Wellbeing on 25 July 2025, CAJO collaborated with the Caribbean Association of Women Judges (CAWJ) to produce a Judicial Wellness Video Series. A similar video, entitled '**A 3D Approach to Justice**', was also produced for the Bahamian Judiciary.

In the same month, CAJO and CAWJ distributed a Wellness Research Survey to judicial officers, aimed at identifying causes of unwellness within the Caribbean judiciary and exploring practices that support sustainable work-life integration.

Territorial Initiatives

From 7-9 August 2024, CAJO facilitated two days of judicial education at the Annual Judicial Retreat of the Judiciary of Barbados under newly appointed Chief Justice The Honourable Mr Justice Leslie Haynes. Sessions covered value-centric approaches to excellence, the International Framework for Court Excellence, reducing process delays, oral judgments, legal research and case preparation, and projectising cases for more effective caseload management.

On 5-6 November 2024, at the 6th Caribbean Judges' Forum on HIV, Human Rights and the Law, Justice Jamadar co-panellised with Chief Justice The Honourable Mme Justice Roxane George of Guyana in a session moderated by Justice Charmaine Pemberton on legal frameworks in Anglo-Caribbean states and rights-based futures.

On 6 January 2025, CAJO delivered '**Justice 360: Wellbeing at the Centre**' at the Bahamas Judicial Education Institute Conference, focusing on sustainable judicial rhythms and integrating intentional wellness practices into judicial life.

From 27-30 January 2025, CAJO facilitated a four-day programme for the Judiciary of Guyana covering caseload management, legal research, judgment writing, constitutional interpretation, and judicial ethics.

On 7 February 2025, CAJO hosted a conflict management training for Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court Registrars, tailored to their experiences through pre-session surveys and interactive group work.

On 8 February 2025, CAJO co-facilitated a Judicial Wellbeing Conference for the Jamaican Judiciary, addressing stress, conflict management, and mindfulness in judicial function.

On 17 February 2025, CAJO hosted '**Active Case Management: Projectising Cases – The Beating Heart of the Civil Litigation Process**' for ECSC judicial officers.

International Initiatives

From 25-27 September 2024, Justice Jamadar represented CAJO at the Second Biennial Conference of the Inter-American Network of Gender Liaisons of the Judiciary in Mexico City, presenting a paper titled '**The Voice of the Caribbean: Gender-based violence, unmet legal needs, and barriers to access to justice from a gender perspective**'.

CAJO News

Under Justice Jamadar's leadership, CAJO published two issues of its newsletter. Issue 20 (January 2025) was themed '**Justice 360: CAJO's 8th Biennial Conference in Bermuda**', while Issue 21 (July 2025) focused on '**Global Democracy and Caribbean Courts**'.

Commonwealth Judicial Education Institute (CJEU)

As Vice-President (Programming) of the CJEU, Justice Jamadar led and taught at the Annual Intensive Study Programme for Commonwealth Judicial Educators held in Halifax, Canada, from 1-7 June 2025. He presented on fostering public trust through procedural fairness, judicial wellbeing, judicial arrogance, and the integration of art in judicial education.

Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ)

Justice Jamadar contributed to CCJ initiatives and served on the Monitoring and Evaluation Committee, the Executive Sub-Committee, and the Education and Training Committee. He was a panel judge in the 15th Annual CCJ International Law Moot (20-21 March 2025) and co-facilitated a sensitisation session on the Court's Original Jurisdiction for the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce on 14 April 2025, as part of an EU-funded regional education series.



Honouring Our Legacy



Shaping Our Future



Extrajudicial Activities *The Honourable Mr Justice Peter Jamadar (continued)*

Justice Jamadar also authored and delivered several speeches and papers, posted on the CCJ's website, including:

- *The Voice of the Caribbean: Gender-Based Violence, Unmet Legal Needs, and Barriers to Access to Justice from a Gender Perspective*
- *Imagining Possibilities: The Legal Profession, 2024 and Beyond* (The Law Association of Trinidad and Tobago Annual Dinner)
- *Social and Economic Rights: Constitutional Design and Adjudication* (CCJ 20th Anniversary roundtable)
- Farewell tributes to Mr Justice Andrew Burgess and President Adrian Saunders
- *Thematic Brief: Judicial Integrity and Judicial Wellbeing* (Global Judicial Integrity Network/UNODC).

Other Law-Related Initiatives

On 10–11 October 2024, Justice Jamadar chaired a panel on constitutional law at the inaugural Law Association of Trinidad and Tobago Law Conference, themed '*Recent Developments in Local and Regional Jurisprudence*'.

**Extrajudicial Activities (continued)****The Honourable Mme Justice Chantal Ononaiwu**
Judge, Caribbean Court of Justice

During the reporting period, the Honourable Mme Justice Chantal Ononaiwu engaged in a series of significant regional and international activities that underscored the Caribbean Court of Justice's role in promoting jurisprudential development and fostering cross-jurisdictional dialogue. Immediately following her swearing-in ceremony at King's House, Jamaica, on 29 October 2024, Justice Ononaiwu was interviewed by the Jamaica Information Service, marking her first official engagement as a member of the Bench.

In November 2024, Justice Ononaiwu delivered the keynote address at the 43rd Annual Dinner of the Guyana Bar Association under the theme '**Towards the Mainstreaming of Caribbean Community Law in the Region's Legal Fraternity**'. Later that month, participation extended to the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ) webinar '**Empowering Women in International Law**', where she served as a panellist on the session '**Courts of Regional Organizations**'. Attendance at the 8th Biennial Conference of the Caribbean Association of Judicial Officers (CAJO), held in Bermuda from 21–23 November under the theme '**Justice 360: Holistic Approaches to the Administration of Justice**', reinforced her engagement in regional judicial development. The month concluded with a substantive presentation on '**Transparency in International Investment Agreements**' at the Fifth Edition of the UNCITRAL Latin American and Caribbean Days Seminar, hosted jointly with the UWI St Augustine Faculty of Law.

December 2024 saw Justice Ononaiwu featured in the Madame Justice Newsletter of the IAWJ in an article titled '**HerStory: Starting at the Top**',

written by Master Sherlanne Pierre. That same month, she attended the Caribbean Public Health Law Forum's capacity-building webinar on emerging tobacco and nicotine products, followed by its plenary session on 10 December. These activities highlighted her willingness to engage in multidisciplinary discussions at the intersection of health, law, and regulation.

In January 2025, Justice Ononaiwu led judicial training on the referral process under the Court's Original Jurisdiction for members of the Judiciary of Jamaica and subsequently addressed the General Legal Council. Her interventions provided clear guidance on the concept and process of referrals to the CCJ, complemented by simulation exercises designed to build practical capacity among judicial officers. The following month, she contributed a substantive chapter to the Court's commemorative publication celebrating its 20th anniversary, with her work titled '**The Work of the Caribbean Court of Justice to Advance the CARICOM Single Market and Economy**'.

The first quarter of 2025 was equally active. In March, Mme Justice Ononaiwu was interviewed by Justice of Appeal Charmaine Pemberton for the Commonwealth Magistrates and Judges Association (CMJA). On 18 March, she paid tribute at the Special Sitting convened to honour the retirement of the Honourable Mr Justice Andrew Burgess, and shortly thereafter, she contributed to the XV Annual CCJ International Law Moot by drafting the fact pattern and serving as a panel judge. April 2025 was marked by recognition at the Caribbean Women in Trade (CWIT) awards ceremony, where she received the prestigious Woman of the



Extrajudicial Activities *The Honourable Mme Justice Chantal Ononaiwu (continued)*

Year Award. Later that month, she participated in the Interfaith Service of Reflection and Prayer to commemorate the Court's 20th Anniversary at Queen's Hall, Port of Spain.

Further regional and international engagements followed. On 29 May 2025, Mme Justice Ononaiwu delivered a virtual public lecture hosted jointly by the Jamaican Bar Association and the CCJ in commemoration of the Court's 20th Anniversary, entitled '*A Caribbean Community under the Rule of Law: The Role of the Caribbean Court of Justice*'. In June, she participated in the Ceremonial Sitting of the Court to honour the retirement of the Honourable Mr Justice Adrian Saunders, offering a moving tribute to the outgoing President. Later that month, she represented the Court at the First Annual Meeting of EL PAcCTO 2.0 – European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean Partnership on '*Justice and Security against Organised Crime*', held in Lima, Peru, where she spoke in a high-level debate on EU-LAC synergies in the field of justice.

The reporting period concluded with two important public engagements in July 2025. On 15 July, Mme Justice Ononaiwu participated in a community meeting convened by the High Commission of Jamaica in Trinidad and Tobago. Finally, on 31 July, she delivered a keynote presentation at the Biennial Conference of the Latin American Society of International Law in Uruguay, where she addressed the theme '*Multilateralism in and from the Global South*'.

Through these engagements, the Honourable Mme Justice Chantal Ononaiwu demonstrated an unwavering commitment to deepening awareness of Community Law, strengthening judicial education, and fostering regional and international partnerships. Her participation across diverse fora reinforced the Caribbean Court of Justice's influence in shaping Caribbean jurisprudence and promoting the rule of law at home and abroad.



Extrajudicial Activities (continued)

The Honourable Mr Justice Chile Eboe-Osuji
Judge, Caribbean Court of Justice



During the reporting period, the Honourable Mr Justice Chile Eboe-Osuji, participated in a number of scholarly, institutional, and governance-related engagements that reflected his continued commitment to the advancement of Caribbean jurisprudence, regional legal thought, and sound institutional governance.

On 16 May 2025, Mr Justice Eboe-Osuji attended The University of the West Indies, St Augustine, Faculty of Law's 2nd Symposium on the Caribbean Court of Justice, themed '*Advancing the Case for Regionalism and Indigenous Jurisprudence*'.

He also attended the book launch of '*Breaking the Chains: The Fight for Justice Beyond Colonial Law*' on 26 June 2025. The publication contributes meaningfully to contemporary debates on post-colonial justice, legal reform, and the re-examination of inherited legal systems.

In addition to these scholarly engagements, Mr Justice Eboe-Osuji continued to contribute to the Court's institutional governance through his involvement with the Financial Oversight Committee (FOC), which met on 11 June 2025. The FOC is responsible for guiding the financial policies, strategies, and governance of both the Court and the Commission.



Message from The Registrar and Chief Marshal

“

At 20 years of age, the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ/Court) has moved beyond finding its footing, it is refining its stride. This reporting period, 1 August 2024 to 31 July 2025, has been defined by the achievement of a major milestone in the Court's institutional life and continued evolution of the Court's operations, governance, and impact.

Mrs Gabrielle Figaro-Jones
Registrar and Chief Marshal of the CCJ

From strategic planning to streamlined case management, every initiative was guided by purpose, precision, and value. With the Honourable Mr Justice Adrian Saunders at the helm for the majority of the period, the Court honoured its legacy while sharpening its systems, ensuring that every move was deliberate, every improvement purposeful, and every innovation rooted in service to the Court's stakeholders.

The Court's achievements this year illustrate a deepening commitment to strategic alignment and purposeful advancement through adaptive governance, technological advancement, and regional collaboration. Guided by the theme, *'Honouring our Legacy, Shaping our Future'*, it is with great pleasure that the Court's many achievements during the period under review which serve to demonstrate the maturity of the Court and reflect on the evolution of its work. While the scope of the Court's work defies brevity, allow me to highlight but a few of the many achievements.



Strategic Operations

Across the Court, a refined strategic posture was adopted in daily operations. Team leaders were equipped to ensure that all work undertaken was aligned with the institution's broader goals. Projects were executed with precision and assessed for their strategic value. This was not a new orientation, but rather a more granular application of an already established strategic culture, and the philosophy of purposeful governance was embedded in every aspect of the Court's functioning.

A case in point is the launch of *Ask CCJ*, the Court's artificial intelligence-powered legal research assistant, in early 2025. This new tool was facilitated through a partnership with the Caribbean Agency for Justice Solutions where the tool was customised for the CCJ and trained on its jurisprudence, Court Rules, and other legal resources. The tool represents a new era in legal research support by providing to judicial officers and legal researchers quick, context-relevant access to the Court's jurisprudence.



Message from the Registrar and Chief Marshal *(continued)*

Importantly, this is not the first time that the CCJ has been forward thinking and an innovation leader. Ask CCJ is the latest in a lineage of technological advances that have long characterised the CCJ. Since 2017, the Court pioneered the use of virtual hearings and electronic filing in the region.

Following on the heels of the new AI tool, our former President, the Honourable Mr Justice Adrian Saunders issued Practice Direction No. 1 of 2025 in February 2025, which provided formal guidance on the ethical use of generative artificial intelligence by court users in court proceedings. This direction was not introduced as a novelty, but as a necessary enhancement to the Court's case management ecosystem, following the revised Court Rules issued in March 2024. Together, these instruments strengthened procedural clarity and bolstered the Court's case management framework.

Responsible Innovation and Governance

In keeping with the Court's commitment to modernising its regulatory frameworks and employing technological innovations responsibly for strategic impact, the Court implemented several key internal policies including the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence Policy to ensure the ethical and responsible use of AI technology within the organisation.

The Court also saw the implementation of the revised CCJ and RJLSC Non-Judicial Staff Code of Conduct and the Policy to Improve Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities. Internal sensitisation sessions on these various policies were facilitated. These sessions reflected the CCJ's commitment to ensuring that its innovation agenda is human-centred, ethical, and inclusive.

Institutional Resilience

Under the steady leadership of Mr Justice Saunders for most of the reporting period, the Court continued with intention, ensuring that every step forward was both meaningful and measurable. His leadership saw the Court through a year of strategic recalibration, culminating in his retirement in early July 2025 after 20 years of service to the CCJ. He was a dedicated jurist with over three decades of service to the

region. Mr Justice Saunders was well-loved and respected by everyone with whom he interacted. From Heads of State to school children, he is a man everyone remembers for his humaneness and humility. I take the opportunity to salute his legacy and thank him for his stewardship.

On the tail end of the reporting period, the Court experienced a significant leadership transition with the Honourable Mr Justice Winston Anderson assuming the presidency in July 2025. Having served as a Judge of the CCJ with distinction since 2010, Mr Justice Anderson is well known to the Court. His appointment has been regarded as a reflection of the region's commitment to integration and continuity. Although Mr Justice Anderson's tenure has just begun, the next chapter of the CCJ is already being shaped under his leadership. His institutional knowledge, temperance, compassion, wisdom, and vision will serve him well as he takes the Court into the future.

Operational Refinement

In January 2025, the Court upgraded its digitised Leave Management System, further enhancing administrative efficiency. This new platform facilitates streamlined requests and approvals, promoting greater responsiveness across internal workflows. These developments build upon the Court's established digital infrastructure, which includes e-filing, paperless workflows, virtual hearings, and livestreamed proceedings.

The format of the Court's Annual Work Programme was also revised to incorporate SMART KPIs for each of its strategic projects. This shifted planning from activity-led to impact-focused. This recalibration allowed the Court to better measure outcomes and sharpen the effectiveness of its institutional efforts.

Expanding Regional Legal Education and Outreach

The work of the Court's arms and affiliates continues to chart Caribbean jurisprudence forward. In November 2024, the CCJ Academy for Law hosted a Regional Town Hall at The University of the West Indies, Mona, in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme,



Message from the Registrar and Chief Marshal *(continued)*

Inter-American Development Bank, and other stakeholders. The event marked the first anniversary of the Needham's Point Declaration and included robust dialogue on advancing justice reform in the Caribbean. The CCJ's presence underscored its continued role as a standard-bearer of institutional excellence and regional thought leadership.

The Court also played an active role in the 8th Biennial Conference of the Caribbean Association of Judicial Officers, held in Bermuda in November 2024. Several members of management and staff were intrinsic to the successful execution of the conference. Convened under the theme '*Justice 360: Holistic Approaches to the Administration of Justice*', the conference featured sessions on judicial wellness, artificial intelligence in courts, conflict management, and the integrity of high-profile cases.

Additionally, the Court maintained its participation in international legal publications, making noteworthy contributions to the Organization of Commonwealth Caribbean Bar Association's journal and capacity-building workshops in collaboration with regional bar associations, academic institutions, and development partners such as campuses of The University of the West Indies, the Jamaican Bar Association, and the Norman Manley Law School.

As a Court that operates in two capacities, the Original and Appellate Jurisdictions, the CCJ remains committed to strengthening regional legal capacity and public understanding of its mandate. The 15th Annual CCJ International Law Moot, held over two days in March 2025, attracted students from eight institutions across the region and provided a forum to engage with issues of Caribbean integration and legal advocacy. The competition continues to serve as the Court's longest public education initiative, promoting legal literacy and nurturing the region's future jurists.

Staff Engagement

At the heart of the Court's progress lies its people. This reporting year, the Court placed renewed emphasis on workplace engagement. From

the Tree Lighting Ceremony to the Paint Party that refurbished the staff lounge to its annual celebratory Carnival Lime, these moments nurtured collegiality and staff morale. Staff activities culminated in the 20th Anniversary Gala and Awards Ceremony in June 2025. It was a warm celebration that recognised staff and commemorated the Court's accomplishments.

Commemorating Our 20th Anniversary

The CCJ has spent the last two decades building a foundation of fairness, efficiency, and regional service. In celebration of its 20th anniversary, the Court undertook a series of commemorative events that honoured our foundation, reflected on our evolution, and projected our aspirations for the decades to come.

The 20th anniversary celebrations included a Service of Prayer and Reflection held at Queen's Hall in Port of Spain, the launch of the 20th Anniversary Exhibit which showcased the journey of the CCJ and a microsite featuring the dedicated anniversary logo, capturing the journey of the Court, its landmark judgments, institutional milestones, and the people who have shaped its identity. Feel free to view our anniversary celebrations on our dedicated microsite <https://anniversary.ccj.org/>.

Looking Ahead

In preparation for the next phase of its institutional development, the Court immersed itself in the preparation of its next strategic plan. Significant time was spent in internal and external data gathering and consultation through workshops, surveys and focus groups. These engagements have provided a sound platform for introspection, goal alignment, and the refinement of strategic objectives.

Together, we honour our legacy by refining our practice and shape our future by strategically building a Court that is agile, future-ready, and resolute in its service to the region.



Honouring Our Legacy



Shaping Our Future



2005 – 2010



Inauguration of the CCJ in Port of Spain Trinidad.

The Court's first home at the Unit Trust Corporation building.



First notice of appeal filed at the Court displayed by Ms Paula Pierre, the CCJ's then Registrar.

The Court relocated from the Unit Trust Corporation building to its present home.

The Norman Manley Law School wins the first CCJ Annual International Law Moot.



CCJ First Children's Calendar Art Competition.

The International Association for Court Administration (IACA) Conference in Port of Spain.



Court Performance



Throughout the reporting period, the Registry Unit continued to play a central role in supporting the efficient administration of justice at the Court. The Unit worked diligently to uphold the Court's standards of excellence, ensuring the timely processing of filings, facilitating smooth case management, and maintaining accurate records. Our work this past year reflects a sustained commitment to efficiency and facilitating a seamless experience for court users.

Court Sittings

During the reporting period, the Caribbean Court of Justice convened a total of 40 sittings, categorised as follows:

Type of Sitting	Number of Sittings
Case Management Conference	10
Hearing	19
Judgment Delivery	11
Total	40

Most of these sittings (92.5%) were conducted virtually, reflecting the Court's continued commitment to leveraging technology for efficiency. Hybrid and in-person sittings accounted for 2.5% and 5%, respectively.

Appellate Jurisdiction

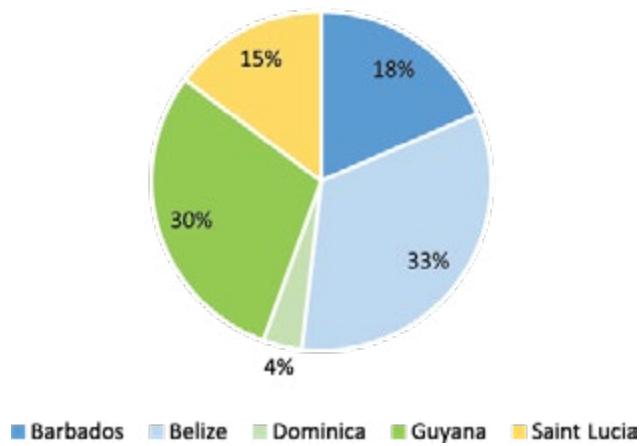
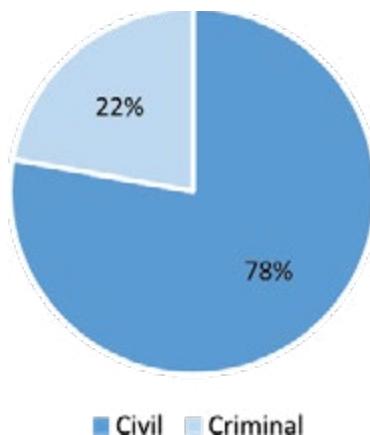
New Matters

Type of Matter	2024/2025	2023/2024
Application for Special Leave	10	11
Appeal	17	15
Total	27	26

Cases Filed by Jurisdiction

Country	2024/2025	2023/2024
Barbados	5	9
Belize	9	6
Dominica	1	1
Guyana	8	6
Saint Lucia	4	4
Total	27	26

During the reporting period from 1 August 2024 - 31 July 2025, there was a modest 4% increase in new matters filed compared to the previous reporting period. Civil matters constituted the majority, accounting for 78% of all filings.

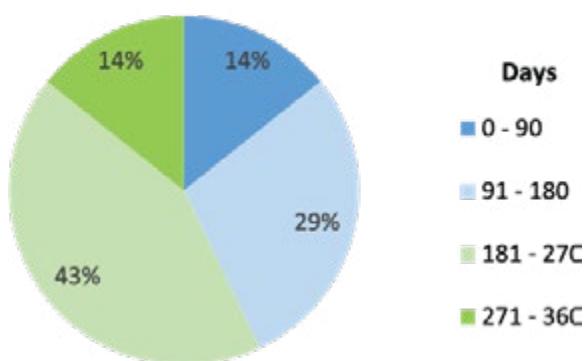

Court Performance (continued)
Cases filed by country

Case type

Time to Disposition

The Court maintained commendable efficiency in case resolution. Over 40% of matters were disposed of within six months of filing, primarily applications for special leave. Most appeals were disposed of within one year of filing.

The disposal time frames are well within the Court's established performance benchmarks of three to six months for the disposal of applications for [special leave](#) and six months to one year for the disposal of appeals.

Time to Disposition		
Number of Days	Number of Cases Disposed	Cases Disposed (%)
0 - 90	3	14
91 - 180	6	29
181 - 270	9	43
271 - 360	3	14
361 - 450	0	0
Total	21	100

Summary of Disposition		
Number of Days	Cumulative Number of Cases Disposed	Cumulative (%)
0 - 180	9	43
0 - 270	18	86
0 - 360	21	100

Time to Disposition


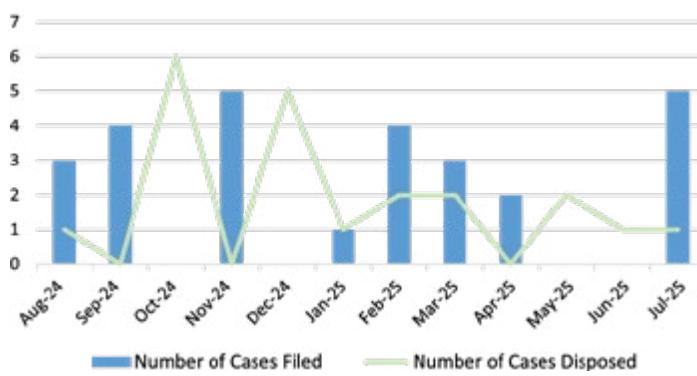


Court Performance *(continued)*

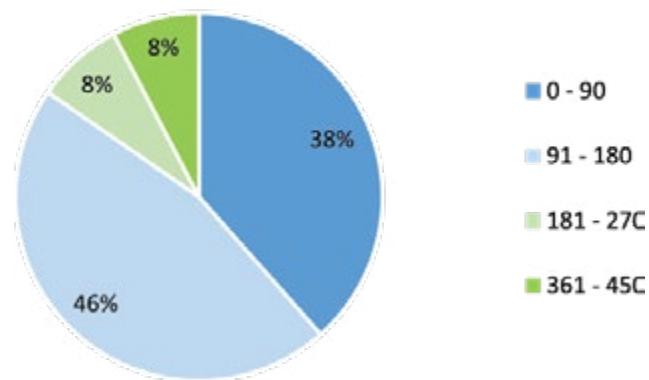
Clearance Rate

The clearance rate for the reporting period stood at 78% for disposed matters against new matters. Notably, disposal rates peaked during periods of reduced filings, suggesting a balanced distribution of judicial activity throughout the year.

Clearance Rates



Number of Cases



The data reflects that the majority of pending cases remain within the Court's targeted timeframes for disposition.

Days	Number of Cases
0 - 90	5
91 - 180	6
181 - 270	1
271 - 360	0
361 - 450	1
Exceeding 450	0

New Matters

Country of Origin	2024/2025	2023/2024
Trinidad and Tobago	2	1

The Original Jurisdiction continues to be underutilised relative to the Appellate Jurisdiction. Only two new matters were filed during the reporting period; one application for special leave and one originating application.



Judgment Summaries

APPELLATE JURISDICTION

- **Shawn Andre Weekes v The State [2024] CCJ 18 (AJ) BB**

This is an Appeal from Barbados:

The Appellant, Shawn Weekes, was convicted of the murder of Leo Callender, who was killed on 29 October 2000. Weekes fled Barbados after the incident and was eventually arrested in 2011 upon his return. He was convicted in 2020 and sentenced to life imprisonment and ordered to serve a minimum term of 28 years less nine years for the time spent in custody, leaving a term of 19 years before becoming eligible for release.

The Appellant appealed both his conviction and sentence to the Court of Appeal, which substituted the conviction for murder with manslaughter and resentenced him to nine years' imprisonment. Weekes then applied for special leave to appeal to the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ). He argued that the Court of Appeal erred in various aspects, including not providing proper directions on circumstantial evidence, not considering delays, and misapplying sentencing principles.

The CCJ addressed the issue of delay, referring to its previous decisions in *Gibson v Attorney General* and *Culpepper v The State*. The Court ruled that no prejudice was caused by the delay in bringing the case to trial, noting that the Appellant did not make any application during the trial to halt proceedings due to delay. The Court agreed with the Court of Appeal's handling of the circumstantial evidence, noting that the trial judge's direction was sufficient given the nature of the case. The CCJ also affirmed the sentence imposed by the Court of Appeal, finding that the Appellant's mitigating factors did not warrant a reduction.

- **Harewood v Harewood [2024] CCJ 19 (AJ) BB**

This is an Appeal from Barbados:

This appeal concerned two Appellants, Scott and Stuart Harewood, who were convicted of murder and sentenced to prison. They pleaded guilty to non-capital murder in 2021 after being charged in June 2014, and the sentences were later reviewed by the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), who argued they were too lenient. The Appellants also appealed, asserting that their sentences were too severe. After lengthy delays, the Court of Appeal (CA) affirmed the sentences. The Appellants then appealed to the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ), seeking sentence reductions based solely on the delays in the judicial process.

The CCJ considered two key issues: [1] whether the delays in the judicial process violated the Appellants' constitutional right to a fair and timely hearing, and [2] whether the CA erred by not reducing the sentences due to the delays. The CCJ noted that while the delays were significant, the totality of the circumstances did not render the delays unconstitutional or unfair.



Judgment Summaries - Appellate Jurisdiction (continued)

Mr Justice Jamadar, delivering the Court's judgment, acknowledged that the Appellants had accepted responsibility for part of the delays at the trial level, and the delays at the appellate level were partly due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the CA not being fully constituted. Additionally, no substantial prejudice to the Appellants was demonstrated.

The CCJ dismissed the appeal and made no order for costs.

• **Attorney General of Guyana v Christopher Jones and the Speaker of the National Assembly [2024] CCJ 20 (AJ) GY**

This is an Appeal from Guyana:

This appeal stemmed from a decision by the Court of Appeal, which upheld the High Court's ruling that the appointments of Ms Sarah Browne and Mr Vikash Ramkissoon as Parliamentary Secretaries were invalid. Both individuals were part of the list of candidates presented by the People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) in the March 2020 elections. While the PPP/C won and secured 33 seats in the National Assembly, neither Browne nor Ramkissoon was among the top 33 names selected from the PPP/C's top-up list to occupy Assembly seats. They were appointed as Parliamentary Secretaries by the President on 14 September 2020 under Article 186 of the Constitution.

Mr Christopher Jones, the first respondent, challenged the appointments, arguing that they were unlawful, and sought a declaration that the two individuals were not lawful members of the Assembly. The High Court ruled in favour of Jones, finding that the appointments were invalid. The Court of Appeal upheld the decision but noted that it was for the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) to address any errors in the interpretation of the law, particularly the ruling in the earlier case of *Attorney General of Guyana v Morian*, which influenced the High Court's decision.

The CCJ considered two main issues: [1] whether the Court of Appeal was bound by the decision in *Morian* and [2] whether the appointments of Browne and Ramkissoon were lawful. The CCJ clarified that while the principle of *stare decisis* promotes consistency in the law, it is primarily the reasoning behind a decision that forms the basis of binding precedent. The CCJ determined that the Court of Appeal should have evaluated the lower court's reasoning more carefully, especially when the appeal was dismissed on procedural grounds rather than substantive constitutional interpretation.

On the second issue, the CCJ addressed the meaning of "elected member" of the National Assembly, a key term in Article 186 of the Constitution. The Court concluded that an elected member is someone whose name is extracted from a successful list, allowing them to take the oath, sit in the Assembly, and be appointed as a Parliamentary Secretary. The CCJ found that *Morian*'s interpretation of "elected member" created inconsistencies and problematic outcomes, and thus, the correct interpretation aligned with a coherent application of the Constitution and the Representation of the People Act.

As a result, the CCJ allowed the appeal, vacating the orders of the courts below, and clarified the constitutional provisions regarding the election and appointment of members to the National Assembly. The Court emphasised the significance of resolving this constitutional issue for the public and ordered that each party bear its own costs in this Court and the courts below.



Judgment Summaries - Appellate Jurisdiction (continued)

• **David Phillip v Joseph Phillip [2024] CCJ 21 (AJ) LC**

This is an Appeal from Saint Lucia:

This appeal arose from a land dispute in Saint Lucia between David Phillip and Joseph Phillip. The case turned on whether prescriptive rights to land claimed by the Appellant through long possession, survived the introduction of Saint Lucia's system of title by registration under the Land Adjudication Act (LAA) and Land Registration Act (LRA) in the 1980s.

The Appellant argued that he and his predecessors had occupied the disputed land for more than 70 years prior to the first registration in 1986, thereby acquiring title by prescription under Article 2103A of the Civil Code. He maintained that this prescriptive title or ongoing prescription constituted an overriding interest under section 28 of the LRA, which should defeat the respondent's registered title. The respondent, however, contended that registration under the LRA conferred indefeasible title, and that prescription could only begin running from 1986.

Both the trial court and the Eastern Caribbean Court of Appeal rejected the Appellant's arguments. They held that under the legislative scheme of the LAA and LRA, any unregistered claims—including prescriptive rights—were extinguished if not asserted during the land titling process. Thus, the Appellant's pre-1986 occupation could not count. Since the respondent's possession claim was filed in 2012, less than 30 years after first registration, prescription could not be established.

The CCJ dismissed the appeal, affirming the decision of the Court of Appeal and aligning its reasoning with the Privy Council's 2023 ruling in *Chitolie v Saint Lucia National Housing Corporation*. The Court clarified that Saint Lucia's land titling regime was designed to establish certainty through a comprehensive land register. Accordingly, persons claiming prescriptive rights were required to file claims during the adjudication process; failure to do so extinguished those rights. The Court emphasised that prescriptive rights—like title by deed—could only survive if brought onto the register.

The CCJ also addressed several subsidiary points. It rejected the contention that the titling process could not interrupt prescription, affirming that the LAA constituted a judicial interruption. It further held that claims of overriding interest cannot succeed absent an underlying valid right, which the Appellant lacked since prescription had been extinguished. The Court also dismissed arguments based on distinctions between positive and negative prescription, finding both were subject to the registration requirement. On the issue of bad faith, the Court endorsed the Court of Appeal's finding that the Appellant's continued occupation and construction on the land, despite repeated demands to vacate, constituted bad faith.

In conclusion, the CCJ held that the Appellant had no prescriptive right or overriding interest and was in unlawful occupation. The appeal was dismissed, confirming that Saint Lucia's system of title by registration extinguished any unregistered prescriptive rights at the time of first registration. This decision reaffirms longstanding jurisprudence of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court and marks the end of decades of disputes arising from the transition to registered land.



Judgment Summaries - Appellate Jurisdiction (*continued*)

• **Julio Recinos v The King [2024] CCJ 22 (AJ) BZ**

This is an Application from Belize:

This was an application for special leave to appeal the decision of the Court of Appeal of Belize delivered on 16 August 2024 which dismissed the Applicant's application to appeal his conviction by a jury for the offence of rape of a child. The Virtual Complainant (VC) was 11 years old at the time of the offence. She gave uncorroborated evidence that on 21 August 2016 she went to the Applicant's corn mill to purchase corn tortillas for her mother where she was raped by the Applicant. The Applicant appealed his conviction to the Court of Appeal but did not appeal his sentence. The Notice of Application for Special Leave to appeal to this Court repeated the two grounds which had not found favour with the Court of Appeal, with the additional rider that the Court of Appeal had erred in dismissing those grounds.

Accordingly, before this Court, the grounds stated that the Court of Appeal erred in not holding that the learned trial judge's directions to the jury were inadequate in that the learned trial judge omitted to point out a crucial piece of discrepancy between the evidence of the VC and Dr Edna Perraza, and the Court of Appeal also erred in not holding that the learned trial judge's summing-up was not balanced as weaknesses in the Crown's case were not sufficiently analysed and put to the jury.

The CCJ found that the Court of Appeal was entirely correct in deciding that there was no discrepancy between Dr Perraza's testimony and the directions by the trial judge to the jury. As it pertained to the second ground, the trial judge made the jury aware of inconsistencies and weaknesses of the evidence presented by both sides. Further to this, the Court of Appeal noted that the trial judge guided the jury on relevant issues such as cautioning the jury about witnesses who may not have been truthful and the issue of the VC's evidence being uncorroborated. The dismissal of this ground does not raise an arguable case that a potentially serious miscarriage of justice may have occurred.

• **Gulab Lalchand v Rutilia Olivia Supall [2024] CCJ 23 (AJ) BZ**

This is an Appeal from Belize:

Gulab Lalchand and Rutilia Supall were in a common law union for approximately eight years. In 2011, they entered into an agreement to divide specific assets, but they continued cohabiting for a further four years. Following their separation, Supall claimed for declarations regarding assets, including an interest in assets that were not mentioned in the agreement. These included shares in Benzer International Co Ltd (Benzer), and an interest in a cohabitational property, (the Venezuela Site home), title to which was in the name of a third party. The children, as legal owners of the shares in Benzer, were named interested parties in the proceedings.

The trial judge upheld the validity of the agreement and found that while Supall had no direct interest in Benzer and the Venezuela Site home (hereinafter collectively referred to as 'the disputed assets'), Lalchand held a 51 per cent beneficial interest in each, and Supall had a 35 per cent share of Lalchand's beneficial interest. The trial judge found that Lalchand, despite being best positioned to provide information on the value of the disputed assets, failed to offer sufficient evidence. As a result, the court conducted its own valuation based on the available evidence. Thus, it was ordered that Lalchand pay Supall BZD 240,000. The Court of Appeal, by majority decision upheld the orders made in the High Court.



Judgment Summaries - Appellate Jurisdiction (continued)

The CCJ observed that in Lalchand's appeal, the trial judge should have used its discretion to refuse to exercise jurisdiction because the title holders of the disputed assets had not been made parties. The Court found that the legal owners of the disputed assets were fully involved in the High Court proceedings, even without being formal parties. Their participation and evidence satisfied legal requirements. In addition, the trial judge's order was correctly contemplated under s 148E[7] of the Supreme Court of Judicature Act.

The Court further decided that it was not fatal that Supall had not separately sought a declaration of trust. The Court also addressed the *locus standi* of Lalchand to raise objection to the court's jurisdiction on the basis that the third parties were not made parties in the proceedings. It decided that Lalchand did not have sufficient interest or standing to litigate that matter.

The Court affirmed the principle that the existence of an agreement did not preclude the court from making a property adjustment order under s 148E[3] of the Supreme Court of Judicature Act. In this regard, the trial judge properly considered the factors outlined in s 148E[5] of the Supreme Court of Judicature Act. The Court upheld the valuation of the disputed assets as found by the trial judge and dismissed the appeal. It awarded costs to Supall in the agreed sum of BZD 40,000.

• Tevin Andrewin v The King [2024] CCJ 24 (AJ) BZ

This is an Application from Belize:

The Court considered an application for an extension of time to file an application for special leave to appeal, and an application for special leave to appeal.

The applicant, Tevin Andrewin, was convicted of murder and sentenced to life imprisonment with eligibility for parole after 25 years. The conviction was based on the identification evidence of an eyewitness and the *res gestae* evidence of the victim who identified Andrewin as the shooter shortly after the incident.

Andrewin's appeal was dismissed by a majority in the Court of Appeal. The majority found that the procedural flaws in the identification parade did not frustrate the purpose of the parade and that the *res gestae* evidence was convincing. The dissenting opinion argued that the errors in the identification evidence rendered the conviction unsafe.

Andrewin averred that his attorney never informed him of the delivery of judgment by the Court of Appeal and that he only became aware of it approximately one month later when he was served with it by prison officials. He made futile attempts to retain counsel to represent him until he was finally able to have an attorney represent him on a pro bono basis. At this time, he was already out of time to apply for special leave to appeal and was required to make an application for this Court to extend the time.

In deciding the application to extend time, this Court considered whether there was a cogent explanation as to why the applicant did not apply for special leave to appeal within the stipulated time and whether the proposed appeal had a realistic possibility of a miscarriage of justice.

The CCJ held that it was unfortunate the delivery of the Court of Appeal's judgment was not promptly brought to Andrewin's attention and stressed attorneys should act with greater professionalism in the discharge of their responsibilities. Since Andrewin made the application within 18 days of retaining pro bono counsel, it was held that the applicant had provided cogent reasons for the delay.



Judgment Summaries - Appellate Jurisdiction (continued)

In examining the realistic possibility of a miscarriage of justice, the Court considered whether the procedural flaws in the identification parade impacted the fairness of the exercise. Although it was admitted that there were difficulties with the identification evidence, the Court agreed with the assessment of such deficiencies by the courts below.

The Court noted the importance of strict adherence to police regulations but found the breaches did not significantly affect the identification process. Further, the Court found the *res gestae* evidence was powerful and unambiguous and there was no reason to interfere with the findings of the courts below.

The Court noted the appeal on sentence was not argued before the Court of Appeal and counsel for Andrewin did not raise any arguments before this Court to warrant intervention to disturb the sentence imposed by the trial judge.

The application was dismissed on the basis that there was no realistic chance of success.

- **Kyle Pound and Darin Pound (Both in Substitution for Thomas Pound, deceased), and Kingdom First Ministries International v George Dueck [2025] CCJ 1 (AJ) BZ**

This is an Application from Belize:

On 13 November 2024, Kyle Pound and Darin Pound, representing the estate of Thomas Pound, deceased, together with Kingdom First Ministries International (KFMI), a company incorporated in Belize, applied for special leave to appeal against a decision of the Court of Appeal of Belize that had been delivered some 209 days prior on 18 April 2024.

The Court of Appeal had upheld the judgment of the High Court, on an action brought by Mr George Dueck, that Mr Thomas Pound is liable for misrepresentation and fraudulent conveyance. Mr Dueck, the owner of the 120-acre parcel of land situated at Serango Bight, Stann Creek District, Belize, intended to develop that land for tourism. To that end, Mr Thomas Pound, a real estate broker in the United States of America (USA) and a Christian missionary, represented to Mr Dueck that it was necessary to transfer the property to him to convince potential buyers in the USA of the true ownership of the property. Relying on that false representation, Mr Dueck did the necessary transfers.

The Applicants sought leave to appeal from the Court of Appeal on 7 June 2024, that is, outside of the 42-day period stipulated by r 10.3 of the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) (Appellate Jurisdiction) Rules 2024 (the Rules). Having no power to extend time, the Court of Appeal refused leave. Seemingly relying on r 10.13 of the Rules, the Applicants then approached this Court for special leave within 21 days of the Court of Appeal's 'refusal' of leave to appeal.

This Court refused special leave on both procedural and substantive grounds. Procedurally, the Court affirmed that the correct interpretation of the Rules requires applications for leave to appeal and special leave to be made promptly. Where the application is made to the Court of Appeal outside of the 42-day period, the Court of Appeal has no jurisdiction to hear the application and an applicant's only recourse is to seek special leave from the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) together with an extension of time pursuant to r 5.4 of the Rules. A belated application to the lower court with the intention to then apply for special leave to this Court without reference to r 5.4 amounts to an abuse of process.



Judgment Summaries - Appellate Jurisdiction (*continued*)

Substantively, this Court also found that the Applicants did not meet the threshold for the grant of special leave and that there was no merit in the intended grounds of appeal. For these reasons, this Court dismissed the application for special leave and the application for a stay of execution of the judgment of the Court of Appeal dated 18 April 2024 with costs to the Respondent to be assessed if not earlier agreed.

• **Andy Duke v The Ship “MT Tradewind Passion” [2025] CCJ 2 (AJ) GY**

This is an Application from Guyana:

This was an application for special leave to appeal the decision of the Court of Appeal to refuse leave to appeal to itself.

The Applicant was injured due to a collision to the shipping docks caused by the Respondent, a motor vessel registered in Panama. The applicant filed a Statement of Claim against the Respondent for damages and obtained a Warrant of Arrest for the vessel. On 15 November 2022, the warrant for arrest was executed. On 16 November 2022, the respondent filed a Notice of Application seeking the release of the vessel pursuant to rr 70.09(1), 70.09(3) (b) and 70.09(3)(f) of the Supreme Court (Civil Procedure) Rules 2016 (GY) (CPR) as the sum on which the claim was initiated was paid by security of the Letter of Undertaking.

The High Court judge ordered the vessel be released on the lodging of a Letter of Undertaking. The applicant appealed to the Full Court and sought an Urgent Application to stay the orders of the High Court judge. The Full Court dismissed the appeal and the Urgent Application.

The Applicant then sought leave to appeal to the Court of Appeal but leave to appeal was refused, the court noting that the Guyana Shipping Act (Shipping Act) provided for the acceptance of security for release of the ship by way of Letter of Undertaking.

On 12 September 2024, the Applicant sought special leave to appeal to this Court. The application did not outline any proposed grounds of appeal but specified the substance of the appeal was in relation to the interpretation of s 414 of the Shipping Act and r 70.22 of the CPR, the latter of which specifically deals with the constitution of the limitation fund. Thereafter, the parties were asked to make written submissions and on 19 December 2024, this Court ordered that the application be dismissed.

In issuing its reasons for the decision to dismiss the application, the Court noted the proposed appeal was not from a substantive decision of the Court of Appeal. It found while it had the broad jurisdiction to hear any appeal from the Court of Appeal, it would only intervene in decisions where the refusal of leave by the Court of Appeal to appeal to itself could occasion a gross miscarriage of justice. In reviewing the instant application, this Court found the proposed appeal was academic in nature, the application was not compliant with the CCJ (Appellate Jurisdiction) Rules 2024, and the Applicant sought to make arguments regarding the constitution of a limitation fund, though this had not been an issue in these proceedings. Consequently, it was found there was no potential miscarriage of justice or an egregious error of law which warranted the Court's intervention.



Judgment Summaries - Appellate Jurisdiction (*continued*)

• **Sunrise Resources Inc v Blue Star Imports Inc [2025] CCJ 3 (AJ) GY**

This is an Appeal from Guyana:

On the conclusion of the hearing at the Case Management Conference on 28 January 2025, the Court dismissed with costs the application for special leave to appeal. The decision of the Full Court was that there had been no proper service on the respondent of the Notice of Appeal. It was upon this basis that the Full Court dismissed the purported appeal. In the Court of Appeal, on the hearing of the application for leave to appeal, junior counsel appearing for the intended Appellant fully acknowledged the Notice of Appeal to the Full Court had not been served within the proper time. He acknowledged the inclusion of a copy of the Notice with the Record of Appeal which was served on the intended respondent a mere 13 days before that hearing was not proper service, and the late service of the notice would have prejudiced the intended respondent. The Court of Appeal dismissed the application to it for leave to appeal.

Before the CCJ, counsel for the intended Appellant argued that everyone in the Court of Appeal proceeded on the error of law that a Notice of Appeal in the Full Court had to be served within a prescribed time. He argued it was a mistake to apply that time limit to service on a Respondent. This ground was not argued at the Court of Appeal, but counsel submitted to this Court that the omission could easily be cured by allowing him to amend.

This Court held that allowing the proposed amendment would entail an entirely new appeal without advance notice to the other side. If the Appellant was permitted to introduce new grounds at that stage, this would constitute an abuse of process which would violate the fundamental principle of the judicial process, which requires that a litigant must put his whole case forward on appeal and a final appellate court would not allow grounds to be argued before it which were not argued before the Court of Appeal. A concluding observation of the Court, however, was that it would be egregious to interpret the rules as imposing no time limit for service of a Notice of Appeal on a Respondent. Accordingly, the Notice of Appeal must have been served on the respondent not less than 28 days before the hearing for the Registry to be able to give them 28 days' notice of the hearing. The special leave application was subsequently dismissed.

• **New Deal Ltd v Arturo Matus [2025] CCJ 4 (AJ) BZ**

This is an Appeal from Belize:

The case concerned whether Arturo Matus, owner of Parcel 4105, had riparian rights to the Belize River, despite another parcel (5031) owned by New Deal lying between his land and the river. The Supreme Court denied his claim, but the Court of Appeal overturned this, ordering rectification of the Land Register and damages, citing a mistake in the creation of Parcel 5031.

The CCJ reversed the Court of Appeal's decision. The CCJ reaffirmed that riparian rights require ownership of land that directly abuts a watercourse. Since Matus' land did not make daily contact with the river, he had no such rights.

The Court found no legal basis to declare the creation of Parcel 5031 a mistake warranting rectification of the Land Register. As Mr Matus did not own the intervening land and had no riparian rights, its inclusion in Parcel 5031 was not an error. Consequently, the findings of trespass and breach of constitutional rights were overturned. The CCJ also noted there was no basis for an easement of necessity for river access, as Mr Matus could reach a public road via other lands he owned.



Judgment Summaries - Appellate Jurisdiction (*continued*)

- **Sandy Lane Hotel v Sonia Eversley [2025] CCJ 5 (AJ) BB**

This is an Appeal from Barbados:

The matter arose from an incident on 4 December 2010, at the Sandy Lane Hotel when a piece of marble above the doorway fell and struck the Respondent causing injury. She sued for negligence, and the High Court found in her favour, applying the principle of *res ipsa loquitur* (the thing speaks for itself) as an alternative. The Court of Appeal upheld the High Court's decision. The CCJ affirmed the Court of Appeal's decision and ordered an interim payment of BDS 100,000 to the Respondent.

The CCJ reaffirmed that *res ipsa loquitur* is not an independent rule of law but rather a statement that expresses a reasoning process that allows courts to infer negligence from the circumstances of an accident. The Court found the Respondent's claim adequately set out the facts necessary to support such an inference. The Court also reiterated its principle that an apex court should only disturb concurrent factual findings, that is, instances where both the trial and appellate court agree on factual determinations, in exceptional cases, and in this case, there were none that applied. The CCJ typically refrains from interfering with concurrent findings unless there is a clear legal or procedural error.

In a dissenting opinion, Mr Justice Barrow found the evidence did not support a conclusion of negligence. He opined the cause of the marble falling was known—failure of the adhesive agent—and the principle of *res ipsa loquitur* was misapplied. He would have allowed the appeal.

- **William Mason a/c Danny Mason v The King [2025] CCJ 6 (AJ) BZ**

This is an Application from Belize:

This case concerned an application by William "Danny" Mason for an extension of time to file an application for special leave to appeal and for special leave to appeal against his conviction for murder. Mason, along with four co-accused, was convicted of the murder of Pastor Llewellyn Lucas and sentenced to life imprisonment with a minimum term of 35 years. The gruesome case attracted public attention after police discovered the decapitated head of the deceased in Mason's vehicle and burnt human remains on his property. The prosecution's case rested primarily on circumstantial evidence, including CCTV footage, forensic analysis, and key witness testimonies. Mason's defence was he had been framed.

The Court of Appeal of Belize dismissed Mason's appeal in July 2024, upholding both conviction and sentence, finding that the trial judge had properly evaluated the circumstantial evidence. Mason then attempted to seek further appeal before the CCJ. However, his application for special leave was filed 117 days after the Court of Appeal judgment, outside the stipulated time. His delay was explained by the illness and hospitalisation of his previous attorney, who had publicly indicated his intention to file the application but was unable to do so. Mason remained unaware of this until after the deadline. He eventually retained new counsel from Trinidad and Tobago, who filed late applications supported initially by unsworn affidavits.

The CCJ, in a joint judgment delivered by Justices Rajnauth-Lee, Jamadar, and Ononaiwu, addressed two main issues: [1] whether there was a cogent explanation for the delay, and [2] whether the proposed appeal had a realistic chance of success. On the first issue, the Court accepted the explanation as sufficient, considering the attorney's undisputed hospitalisation, Mason's prolonged incarceration, and the logistical challenges of new counsel based outside Belize.



Judgment Summaries - Appellate Jurisdiction *(continued)*

On the second issue, however, the Court concluded the proposed appeal had no realistic prospects of success. Mason's grounds related mainly to the circumstantial nature of the evidence, alleged errors in the trial judge's assessment of certain evidence including CCTV footage, forensic findings, and witness testimonies and a new allegation of procedural impropriety leading to double jeopardy. The Court noted challenges to the evidence had already been fully ventilated before the Court of Appeal and reiterated its settled position in *August v R* and *Weekes v The State* that circumstantial evidence, where cogently assessed, can sustain a conviction.

As for the double jeopardy argument, the Court emphasised its prior ruling in *Bynoe v The State* that new grounds raised for the first time at this late stage are generally an abuse of process unless exceptional circumstances exist. The issue could have been raised from as early as the committal stage, but no explanation was offered for the failure to do so. The Crown's explanation satisfied the Court that no double jeopardy had occurred.

Ultimately, the Court found Mason's proposed grounds disclosed no genuinely disputable issue of law or any risk of a serious miscarriage of justice. The applications for extension of time and for special leave to appeal were therefore dismissed.

• **Peter Hippolyte v Magistrate Bertlyn Reynolds [2025] CCJ 7 (AJ) LC**

This is an Appeal from Saint Lucia:

The CCJ upheld a Court of Appeal decision regarding the seizure of over USD 252,000 and EUR 99,000. The case stemmed from cash seized in May 2010. Although related criminal charges were discontinued, the cash remained in police custody and was re-seized on 24 April 2019. A magistrate then issued a Continued Detention Order (CDO) under the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA).

The appeal focused on two main issues: whether there was sufficient evidence of a lawful re-seizure of the cash and whether the magistrate acted within her powers in granting the CDO. The Appellants also challenged the costs order made against them.

In its ruling, the CCJ upheld the Court of Appeal's decision, finding that there was clear evidence that the cash had been lawfully re-seized. Mr Justice Barrow, delivering the judgment of the Court, noted the money remained in police custody after the conclusion of the criminal proceedings and its handover from one officer to another constituted a valid re-seizure. The Court further found there was no automatic duty to return the cash immediately and law enforcement had acted reasonably in holding it while assessing the next steps. Moreover, there was no evidence the Appellants had sought and been denied the return of the cash. The Court also found the magistrate had acted within her jurisdiction in granting the CDO. The CCJ also dismissed the Appellants' challenge to the costs order, ruling the present case was not one in which a private citizen was seeking to enforce their constitutional rights.

**Judgment Summaries - Appellate Jurisdiction (continued)**

- Jhwanie Gage, Arah Paula Cecil Davis, and Edgar Augustus Peltier v The Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Dominica [2025] CCJ 9 DM**

This is an Appeal from Dominica:

This appeal concerned the validity and legal effect of a property freezing order issued under the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA), Chap 12:29 (as amended). The Appellants' property, including the Shawford Estate, was frozen by order of the High Court on 23 December 2014 at the request of the Attorney General. The central issue was the interpretation of s 59BB(2) of the POCA and whether the failure to register the freezing order as a charge on registered land rendered it ineffective.

The Appellants contended the Attorney General's failure to comply with s 59BB(2) invalidated the order in relation to registered land, warranting its discharge. They further argued that the Attorney General had an implied duty to register the order promptly, and the years-long delay caused prejudice and amounted to an abuse of process. They also asserted that the 2022 Amendment Act, which removed the requirement that a freezing order would be 'of no effect' if unregistered, should not apply retrospectively to revive what they claimed was a 'dead' order.

The High Court and the Court of Appeal rejected the applications to discharge the freezing order. Though the issue of non-registration was raised in argument before the Court of Appeal, it was not addressed in its judgment. Nonetheless, recognising the novel point of law, the Court of Appeal granted leave to appeal to the CCJ.

In a unanimous judgment delivered by Mme Justice Rajnauth-Lee (with Justices Jamadar and Ononaiwu concurring), the CCJ dismissed the appeal. The Court held the freezing order remained valid and binding until discharged by a court, regardless of whether it was registered as a charge. The purpose of registration, the Court reasoned, was not to validate the order but to provide notice to third parties and to protect the Attorney General's priority against subsequent transactions or encumbrances. Non-registration therefore limited the enforceability of the Attorney General's claim against innocent third parties but did not nullify the order itself.

Adopting a purposive approach, the Court stressed the broader public interest in depriving criminals of illicit gains. Accepting the Appellants' interpretation would undermine civil recovery proceedings and invite disregard of court orders. The Court found no textual basis in the POCA to support the claim that non-registration rendered freezing orders ineffective.

On the issue of delay, the Court acknowledged the Attorney General's significant lapse in acting but noted allegations of prejudice and abuse of process were only raised for the first time before the CCJ, without supporting evidence. Moreover, the proceedings stayed since early 2015 by consent of the parties. The Court declined to discharge the order on this basis, citing the overriding public interest in effective anti-crime measures.

As for the 2022 Amendment Act, the Court clarified it did not retroactively revive a lapsed order, since the freezing order had never ceased to exist. Questions of retrospectivity or constitutional validity were therefore irrelevant.

The CCJ dismissed the appeal, continued the freezing order (save for disclosure obligations already discharged), and ordered costs of the appeal be costs in the cause.

**Judgment Summaries - Appellate Jurisdiction (continued)****• Exquisite Homes Ltd v Geest Industries [Estate] Ltd [2025] CCJ 10 (AJ) LC**

This is an Appeal from Saint Lucia:

Geest Industries (Estate) Ltd (Geest), contracted to sell to the Appellant, Exquisite Homes Ltd (Exquisite Homes), 52.6 acres of land (registered as 'Parcel 314'). Before the contract completion date, the Crown compulsorily acquired Geest's lands, including Parcel 314. This appeal concerns whether Geest committed a repudiatory breach of the contract prior to the Crown's acquisition of Parcel 314.

Exquisite Homes brought a claim in the High Court for damages for breach of contract and unlawful interference with contractual relations. Exquisite Homes contended Geest committed a repudiatory breach of the contract by inviting and negotiating with the Government the compulsory acquisition of the land. The trial judge determined the 2019 agreement had superseded the 2013 agreement but had been frustrated by the Government's acquisition of Parcel 314 before the completion date. Having determined that the contract was frustrated, the judge considered to be moot the issue of whether Geest had committed a repudiatory breach of the contract.

The Court of Appeal upheld the High Court's ruling that the 2019 agreement had been frustrated and found Exquisite Homes failed to show evidence of a repudiatory breach of the agreement by Geest. Exquisite Homes appealed to the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) against the judgment of the Court of Appeal on two grounds, one of which was withdrawn at the hearing. Accordingly, the sole ground of appeal for this Court's consideration was whether the Court of Appeal erred in finding no evidence of a repudiatory breach of the 2019 agreement by Geest prior to the Government's acquisition of Parcel 314.

In delivering the CCJ judgment, Mme Justice Ononaiwu agreed with the Court of Appeal's finding that Exquisite Homes failed to provide evidence that Geest committed a breach of the 2019 agreement prior to the Government's acquisition of Parcel 314. In reviewing ss 3 and 6 of the Land Acquisition Act, the judge noted that the compulsory acquisition procedure entails the Governor General making a declaration that the land should be acquired for a public purpose and the publication of this declaration in two issues of the Gazette, with the land vesting absolutely in the Crown after the second publication.

Section 6 requires, as part of the compulsory acquisition procedure, negotiations between the Government and landowner for the purchase of the land by voluntary agreement and specifies that such negotiations may commence before publication of the declaration. Section 3(4) of the Land Acquisition Act affirms the ability of the Government to acquire land for a public purpose by means of a private treaty. As this method of acquisition is legally founded on a voluntary agreement between the parties, rather than the Land Acquisition Act, there is no need for a declaration by the Governor General as to the Government's intention to acquire the land for a public purpose and the publication of that declaration in the Gazette.

Mme Justice Ononaiwu concluded the evidence in this case demonstrated compulsory acquisition, rather than acquisition by private treaty, of Parcel 314. Instead, Exquisite Homes referred to a sequence of events, all of which occurred before the execution of the 2019 agreement, which point to the negotiations between the Government and Geest that are part of the compulsory acquisition procedure, pursuant to s 6 of the Land Acquisition Act. The Court therefore dismissed the appeal and awarded to Geest the agreed costs of the appeal.



Judgment Summaries - Appellate Jurisdiction *(continued)*

- **CGI Consumers' Guarantee Insurance Co Ltd v Valentine Stevenson and Vincent Anthony Thomas [Administrator of the Estate of Sherleen Ordeen Thomas, Deceased] [2025] CCJ 11 [AJ] BB**

This is an Appeal from Barbados:

On 29 November 2007, Mr Valentine Stevenson, owner and driver of motor vehicle L2393, accidentally hit and killed a pedestrian, Ms Sherleen Thomas. At the time of the accident, there was a current policy of insurance in respect of the vehicle issued by Mr Stevenson's insurers, CGI Consumers' Guarantee Insurance Co Ltd (CGI). Mr Stevenson's driver's licence, however, expired on 30 June 2007 and remained expired until the first working day after the accident when he renewed it by paying the necessary renewal fee.

In 2010, Ms Sherleen Thomas' estate commenced an action in the High Court and, in 2023, obtained a money judgment against Mr Stevenson. Prior to obtaining that judgment, CGI brought separate proceedings in the High Court seeking declarations that it was not liable to indemnify Mr Stevenson in relation to the judgment obtained by Ms Thomas' estate. CGI denied liability to indemnify its insured on the basis that the accident was not covered by the policy which specifically excludes coverage if, '[t]he driver does not hold or is disqualified from holding or obtaining a valid driver's licence or if the driver is entitled to indemnity under another policy.'

CGI was unsuccessful in the High Court, the Court of Appeal [2:1], and also before the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ). While CGI maintained the exclusion clause excluded coverage to Mr Stevenson in the circumstances, Mr Stevenson and the Estate cross-appealed that pursuant to s 76(3) of the Road Traffic Act (RTA), payment of the licence renewal fee retrospectively validated the licence to the date the previous licence expired. The CCJ dismissed CGI's appeal and the Respondents' cross-appeals, ultimately holding that CGI is liable to indemnify its insured in the circumstances. The Court also awarded costs to the Respondents against CGI.

The Court delivered two concurring opinions, one by Mr Justice Anderson (with whom Mme Justice Ononaiwu concurred, and Justices Rajnauth-Lee, Barrow, and Jamadar partially concurred), and the other, the joint opinion by Justices Rajnauth-Lee, Barrow, and Jamadar.

The essential question for determination was whether, on a proper construction of the insurance policy in light of the RTA, CGI is liable to indemnify Mr Stevenson for the loss he caused to the deceased third party while driving on an expired licence in circumstances where the insurance policy excludes coverage for drivers who do not hold a valid licence. With specific reference to s 43(1) of the RTA and the requirements that must be satisfied to trigger an insurer's duty to satisfy judgments obtained against persons insured in respect of third-party risks, the parties' dispute focused on whether the accident was a liability covered by the terms of the policy.

All judges agreed the exclusion clause in the instant case contained sufficient ambiguity to invoke the *contra proferentem* rule with the result that, notwithstanding the expiry of Stevenson's licence, the incident was covered by the policy. The Bench was divided, however, on whether the RTA created 'automatic' insurance for the benefit of third parties.

Justices Anderson and Ononaiwu affirmed the orthodox view that the exposure of the insurer is restricted to liability covered by the terms of the policy. Further, subject to the restrictions in s 48, an insurer may circumscribe its risk and contractually exclude liability under the policy. In contrast, Justices Rajnauth-Lee, Barrow, and Jamadar opined that, independent of the licence validity issue, liability accrued to CGI pursuant to pt IV and s 43 of the RTA (third-party liability). Their interpretation of pt IV of the RTA, which they classified as a piece of social justice legislation, concluded that, but



Judgment Summaries - Appellate Jurisdiction *(continued)*

for certain specific statutorily prescribed exclusionary procedures, conditions, and circumstances, there is compulsory and enforceable coverage for injured innocent third parties up to certain statutory limits, subject to meeting certain conditions.

In dismissing the cross-appeals, Justice Anderson held that s 76(3) does not operate retrospectively even though it does not pro-rate the licence renewal fee. Justices Rajnauth-Lee, Barrow, and Jamadar, having found CGI liable to indemnify its insured, found it unnecessary to address the issue raised by the cross-appeals.

ORIGINAL JURISDICTION

• **Ellis Richards et al v The State of Trinidad and Tobago [2024] CCJ 2 (OJ)**

This matter was filed in the Original Jurisdiction. The Claimants, nationals of Antigua and Barbuda and Grenada, were policyholders of the Bahamian-registered British American Insurance Company Ltd (BAICO), a subsidiary of CL Financial (CLF) based in Trinidad and Tobago. Following the collapse of CLF in 2009, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago (the Defendant) implemented a bailout targeting its domestic financial entities, including Colonial Life Insurance Company (CLICO), British American Insurance Company (Trinidad) Ltd (BAT), and CLICO Investment Bank (CIB). This bailout included financial relief for BAT policyholders but excluded BAICO policyholders, prompting the Claimants to allege breaches of the Revised Treaty of Chaguanas (RTC).

The Court found the Defendant had not breached Articles 36-38 of the RTC as its actions constituted 'activities in a Member State involving the exercise of governmental authority' and therefore, pursuant to Article 30(2) of the RTC, were excluded from the operation of Chapter 3 of the RTC.

The Court found Article 184 of the RTC, under Chapter Eight, is primarily concerned with competition policy and consumer protection. It requires Member States to promote consumer interests but does not impose liability on Member States' absent supportive legislation or agreed regional mechanisms. The Claimants also alleged discrimination under Article 7, which prohibits nationality-based discrimination concerning rights under the RTC. The Court held that Article 7 is not a standalone provision and must be linked to a specific treaty right. The Claimants failed to establish discrimination under Article 7.

The Court examined whether the Claimants qualified as consumers under the RTC. The Court considered whether the definition extended beyond natural persons, whether the Claimants received services from BAICO, and whether they satisfied Article 184(2) requirements. These issues were not fully argued, and the Court did not decide on them. However, it emphasised that Article 184(1)(j), which requires Member States to provide 'adequate and effective redress for consumers', could not be interpreted in isolation to impose liability.

The Defendant's bailout actions were justified as governmental measures to prevent economic dislocation within Trinidad and Tobago. The Court found that BAICO policyholders, being outside Trinidad and Tobago, were not comparable to BAT policyholders. Additionally, requiring the Defendant to regulate BAICO, a foreign entity, would violate the comity of CARICOM Member States and exceed the RTC's framework. The Defendant could not amend its Central Bank Act to assume control of BAICO without overstepping its jurisdiction.



Honouring Our Legacy



Shaping Our Future



Judgment Summaries - Original Jurisdiction *(continued)*

The Claimants argued the Defendant's actions amounted to nationality-based discrimination. However, the Court concluded the Claimants failed to demonstrate that the differential treatment lacked objective and reasonable justification. The Court noted that obliging the Defendant to compensate all BAICO policyholders across CARICOM would be inconsistent with the RTC's intent.

The Court dismissed the claim, finding no obligation on the Defendant to extend relief to BAICO policyholders in other Member States. The differences in treatment were objectively justified, and the Claimants' arguments lacked sufficient grounds. Each party was ordered to bear its own costs.



Honouring Our Legacy



Shaping Our Future



2010 - 2015



Second President of the CCJ,
The Rt Hon Sir Charles Michael Dennis Byron,
at the CCJ Strategic Planning conference.



CAJO Heads of Judiciaries and Chief Justices.



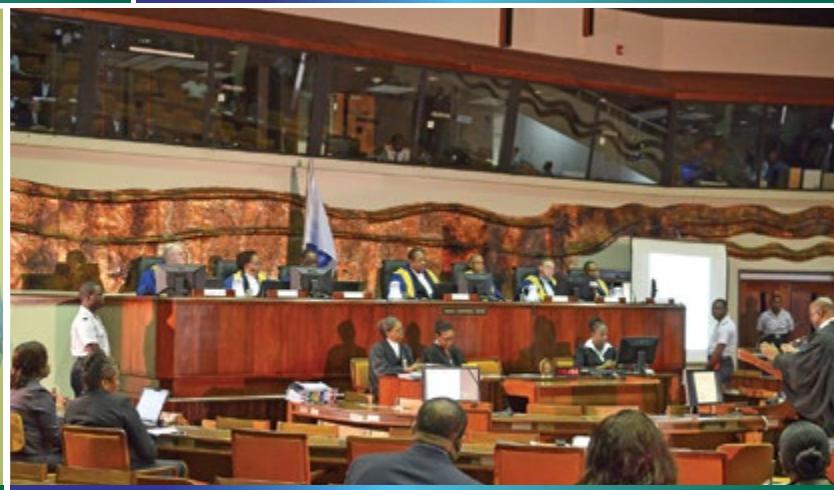
8th Annual CACTUS Conference, Grenada.



Swearing-in of Registrar and Chief Marshal, Ms Jacqueline Graham.



Installation of video conferencing equipment to support virtual hearings throughout the region.



Shanique Myrie v the State of Barbados itinerant sitting in Jamaica.



Honouring Our Legacy



Shaping Our Future



Our Management Team



1 Gabrielle Figaro-Jones
Registrar and Chief Marshal

3 Gizel Thomas-Roberts
Deputy Registrar and Marshal

5 Ria Mohammed-Pollard
Communication and Information Manager

2 Shivanand Ramnanan
Senior Manager, Corporate Administration

4 Andrea Callender
Finance and Administration Manager

6 Ayinde Burgess
Information Systems Manager



Communication and Information Department



The Communication and Information Department comprises two units: the Public Education and Protocol Unit (PEPU) and the Library Services Unit (LSU). During the period under review, the Department was led by the Communication and Information Manager, supported by the Chief Public Education and Protocol Officer and the Chief Librarian. Together, they advanced the Department's mandate under the overarching theme of the 2024-2025 Judicial Year:

Advancing Access to Justice – Refining and Innovating for Impact

This theme commemorates the Court's two decades of judicial service, recognising that today's efforts shape tomorrow's impact. Throughout the judicial year, the CCJ demonstrated a deep commitment to enhancing accessibility and public engagement, embracing diversity, and innovating to refine its communication strategies. In a region where diverse legal regimes and cultures intersect, the CCJ continues to evolve its jurisprudence through modern technologies, inclusive practices, and strategic partnerships.

Stakeholder Engagement and Regional Outreach

For the first time, a regional survey on the Knowledge, Perceptions, and Awareness of the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) was commissioned by the Court and executed by A-Z Information Jamaica Limited, with funding provided through the 11th European Development Fund under the oversight of the CARICOM Secretariat's Procurement Specialist Unit.

This project constitutes the first comprehensive baseline study of its kind, engaging both judicial and non-judicial stakeholders, including legal professionals, media practitioners, educators, and members of the general public, across 15 CARICOM Member States.

Honouring Our Legacy, Shaping Our Future.

The resulting report presents a rigorous, data-driven assessment of the CCJ's regional perception and outlines a practical roadmap to enhance understanding, confidence, and engagement with the Court. The successful implementation of the recommended interventions will require sustained collaboration among the CCJ, CARICOM governments, civil society, the education sector, and the media. Collectively, these efforts will support the continued strengthening of the CCJ as not only a judicial body, but also a vital pillar of Caribbean integration and identity.

Through continued support from the 11th European Development Fund (EDF), the Court's outreach and education initiatives expanded. Informational sessions were delivered to judiciaries, bar associations, and private sector stakeholders across the region through the CCJ Academy for Law, focusing on the Original Jurisdiction and the referral process under Article 214 of the Revised Treaty of Chaguanas. Countries that benefited during the reporting period included Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago.

An overwhelming 99% of workshop participants indicated they would recommend these sessions to their peers.



Communication and Information Department *(continued)*

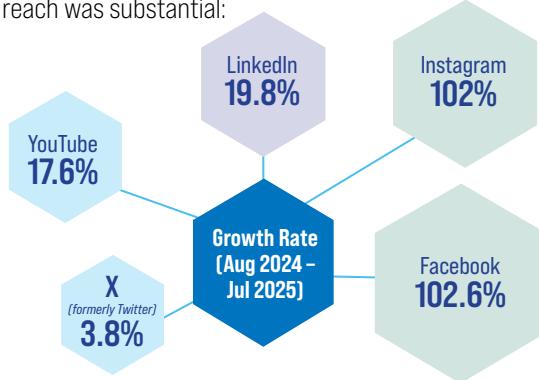
Public Education and Protocol Unit

The PEPU's mission is to communicate and engage effectively with the Court's internal and external stakeholders. The Unit ensures timely, accurate dissemination of information and serves as a bridge between the Court and its diverse audiences.

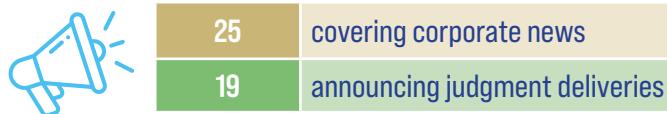
Honouring Our Legacy

In celebration of the Court's 20th anniversary, the PEPU coordinated Special Sittings to honour the retirement of the Honourable Mr Justice Andrew Burgess and the Honourable Mr Justice Adrian Saunders in April and June 2025, respectively. These events strengthened diplomatic ties and fostered meaningful engagement between judicial officers and stakeholders.

To enhance access to information, the PEPU sharpened platform-specific communication strategies, expanding the Court's presence on Instagram and other digital platforms. The growth in the Court's online reach was substantial:



The Unit issued a total of 44 media releases, reflecting a 51% increase in communication output, along with monthly Court tours and leading the 20th anniversary exhibit.



The PEPU also launched the Signatory Day Initiative, which spotlighted fun facts about a different CARICOM Member State each month. This initiative fostered regional pride and awareness among stakeholders and staff.

Shaping Our Future

The PEPU supported the Court's annual flagship event, the 15th Annual CCJ International Law Moot, which hosted eight schools and culminated in The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill winning both Best Academic Institution and Overall Champion. Additionally, the PEPU provided logistical and promotional support for the planning of the 8th Biennial Conference of the CCJ Academy for Law.

Caribbean Agency for Justice Solutions (CAJS)

The Court has partnered with the Caribbean Agency for Justice Solutions (CAJS) to develop an artificial intelligence (AI) tool to enhance the legal research experience on the CCJ website, particularly in relation to judgments and knowledge assets.

Looking ahead, the Court will implement the recommendations of a regional stakeholder perception survey on the CCJ conducted in 2024-2025. Funded by the EDF, this initiative will guide future stakeholder engagement strategies and strengthen public understanding of the Court's role in promoting fundamental rights and freedoms within the Caribbean Community.

Library Services Unit

As the Court commemorates its 20th anniversary, the Library Services Unit proudly reflects on its role in supporting the Court's vision of judicial excellence.

In honouring our legacy, the Unit actively supported a range of commemorative activities that celebrated the Court's journey and its impact across the region. Staff participated in planning and coordinating events through various committees and subcommittees. Events included regional lectures and workshops hosted in collaboration with bar associations and law faculties across CARICOM, an interfaith service, a time capsule event, and a gala and awards evening.

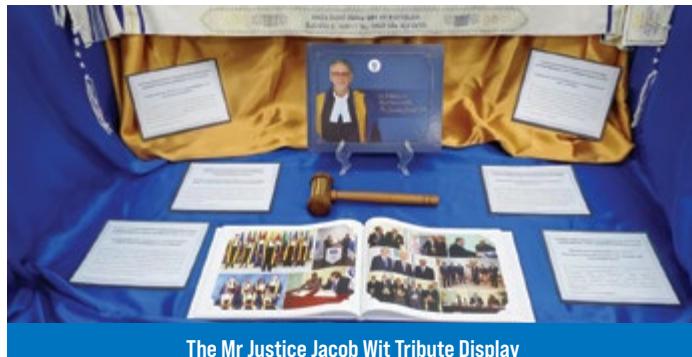
A major undertaking was the development of the 20th anniversary publication—a sequel to The First Ten Years. This book will highlight



Communication and Information Department *(continued)*

the Court's jurisprudential impact on states that have acceded to the Appellate Jurisdiction and on the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME), memorialise judges who have passed, and summarise cases from 2016 to 2025. It will also showcase the Court's outreach initiatives and feature a tribute to Sir Shridath Ramphal. Library staff contributed to drafting guidelines, reviewing submissions, compiling the manuscript, and ensuring editorial quality. The publication is scheduled for release later in 2025.

In tribute to the late Mr Justice Jacob Wit, the Unit mounted a display featuring the commemorative book published in his honour, accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation that celebrated his legacy.

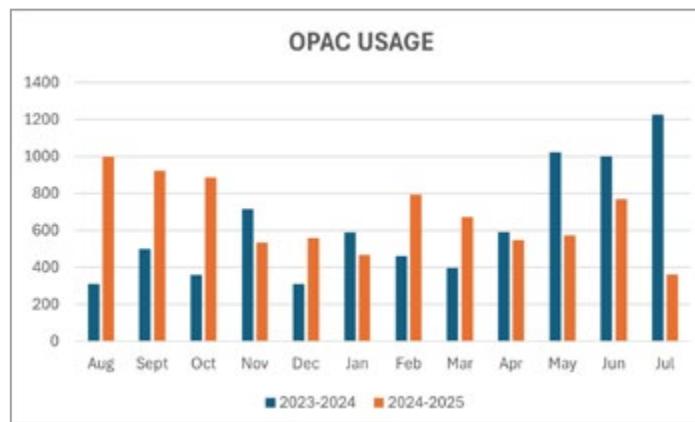


The Mr Justice Jacob Wit Tribute Display

In shaping our future, the Unit continued to expand and enrich its collection and provided access to relevant resources. Over the past judicial year August 2024 to July 2025, the Library's collection was enriched with 92 new titles and updated editions, strengthening coverage in key areas such as constitutional and administrative law, criminal law and procedure, public international law, international disputes, persons and social laws, European Union law, and emerging topics like artificial intelligence law. These additions were instrumental in supporting the adjudication of several matters and advancing legal scholarship.

Ongoing research support remained a cornerstone of our service, empowering users with timely and reliable information with 165 items

loaned and over 477 queries answered, resulting in the provision of more than 1,134 information items—including articles, cases, book chapters, and web resources. In addition, the Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) was accessed 8,088 times to view, search, or download resources, marking an 8% increase from the previous year. August 2024 recorded the highest usage, with 998 interactions.



The Unit played a vital role in the judicial process by reviewing over 1,118 footnotes from 22 draft judgments, ensuring accuracy and consistency. Staff also contributed to the Caribbean Association of Judicial Officers (CAJO) Criminal Bench Book project by sourcing relevant case law.

To further support the Court's commitment to excellence, the Unit conducted a review of the Records Management Programme to assess compliance with internal guidelines across four key areas: creation and collection, storage, retention and disposal, and access and security. The review revealed that most Units demonstrated reasonable levels of compliance. Several recommendations were proposed to strengthen adherence, including the implementation of regular disposal activities, the launch of a training and awareness programme, and the establishment of regular monitoring and internal audits. These initiatives are designed to enhance accountability, safeguard institutional memory, and ensure the continued integrity of the Court's records management practices.



Information Systems Department

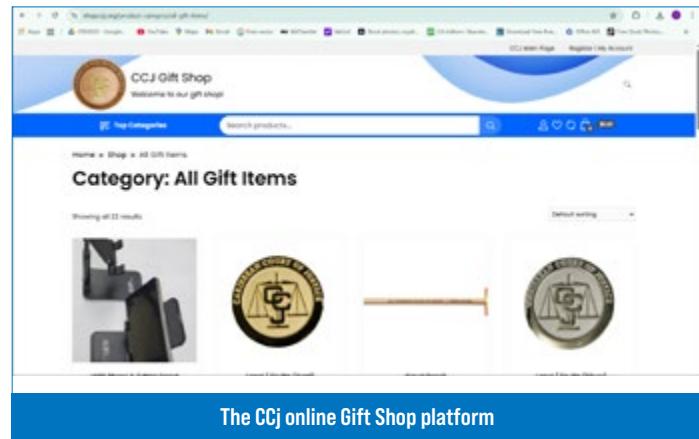


During the judicial year, the Information Systems Department advanced the Court's mission through targeted digital initiatives that balanced tradition with innovation. Guided by the Court's strategic thrust, the Department focused on enhancing efficiency, strengthening cybersecurity, and fostering public engagement, ensuring the Court remains accessible and resilient in the digital era.

A key achievement was the deployment of an AI-powered research tool designed to support the judicial team. By streamlining access to case law, statutes, and precedents, the tool significantly reduced research time and improved the quality of legal analysis. This allowed judicial officers to dedicate greater focus to deliberation and decision-making, reinforcing the Court's commitment to delivering timely and well-reasoned judgments.

In recognition of the evolving cybersecurity landscape, the Department introduced an enhanced network monitoring system. This additional layer improved visibility of system activities, enabling earlier detection and stronger responses to potential threats. The measure safeguarded judicial data, ensured operational continuity, and reinforced public confidence in the Court's digital operations.

To broaden public engagement and preserve the Court's institutional heritage, an online gift shop was launched. The platform provides access to memorabilia and official items, extending the Court's cultural footprint while supporting the preservation of its legacy.



The CCJ online Gift Shop platform

The Department also implemented a new website management platform, incorporating automated backup processes to improve system reliability, stability, and recovery time. This upgrade strengthened the Court's digital infrastructure, ensuring that its online resources remain both secure and accessible to stakeholders.

Collectively, these initiatives reflect the Court's dual commitment to honouring its legacy and shaping its future. By harnessing modern technology while safeguarding institutional traditions, the Information Systems Department continues to position the Court as a secure, efficient, and digitally empowered institution.



Human Resources Unit



During the 2024–2025 judicial year, the Human Resources Unit (HRU) played a central role in honouring the Caribbean Court of Justice's (CCJ) legacy while preparing for its future. Through the refinement of internal systems, preservation of institutional knowledge, and workforce development, the HRU advanced the Court's 20th anniversary theme by balancing tradition with innovation to drive employee engagement, operational efficiency, and strategic alignment.

Performance Management and Strategic Alignment

A primary focus was the completion of performance assessments for the preceding year and the implementation of work plans for the current judicial year. The HRU supported all units by providing targeted feedback, facilitating follow-up sessions, and ensuring alignment between individual objectives and the Court's overarching strategic goals.

Digital Transformation and Systems Enhancement

A significant milestone was the roll-out of the electronic Leave Management System. While the transition posed initial challenges, the HRU collaborated closely with the Information Services Department and the system vendor to resolve issues, update workflows, and support staff through the adaptation process. This initiative underscores the Unit's commitment to reducing manual processes and leveraging digital solutions to improve service delivery.

Workforce Development and Capacity Building

The HRU conducted training needs analyses, facilitated professional development initiatives, and coordinated logistics for Court-wide training sessions. Workforce planning also advanced, with enhancements in succession planning, onboarding processes, and the structured tracking of staff movement. The Unit also processed higher-level duty and acting appointments, supporting leadership development and continuity.

Employee Support and Wellness

There was continued progress in the administration of employee benefits, with improved systems for managing leave, medical claims, and pension-related documentation. The HRU collaborated with internal and external partners to provide timely assistance to both staff and retirees. Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) sessions were facilitated throughout the year, and the *Water Cooler Wednesday* wellness messages were consistently shared with all staff.

In recognition of long-standing service and excellence, the HRU coordinated the distribution of Long Service and Competitive Awards during the CCJ's 20th Anniversary Gala.



Human Resources Unit *(continued)*

Governance and Strategic Planning

The Unit strengthened institutional governance by participating in Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Committee meetings and contributing to the formulation of the Court's 2025-2032 Strategic Plan. The CCJ Culture Survey was administered during the reporting period, with its findings expected to guide governance-led initiatives aimed at:

- Enhancing organisational culture
- Strengthening employee engagement
- Improving accountability
- Ensuring workplace behaviours align with the Court's core values and strategic objectives

Looking Ahead

The HRU remains committed to shaping the future of the CCJ by deepening automation, fostering leadership, enhancing staff engagement, and cultivating a high-performance culture. The Unit will continue to support the Court's mission and sustain its enduring legacy of excellence through these efforts.



Finance and Administration Department



Finance and Accounting Unit

The Finance and Accounting Unit plays a vital role in managing the Court's financial operations, ensuring fiscal accountability, transparency, and compliance with established policies and regulations. By supporting the Court's administrative functions through careful financial planning, expenditure monitoring, and accurate record-keeping, the Unit sustains the financial health of the institution. Its core responsibilities include budgeting, payroll, accounts payable and receivable, financial reporting, and the administration of grants and subventions.

During the reporting year, the Unit successfully coordinated the annual audit of the Court's financial statements. The 2024 audit concluded with an unqualified opinion, confirming that the financial records were presented fairly and free from material misstatements, errors, omissions, or signs of fraud. This result reflects the Unit's steadfast commitment to sound financial management and robust internal control practices.

Financial oversight was further strengthened through the preparation of timely and accurate monthly financial reports, which provided essential support for informed decision-making and enhanced transparency. Reporting templates were refined during the year to improve clarity and accessibility, making financial information more user-friendly for both management and internal stakeholders.

In preparing the budget for the 2025/2026 fiscal year, the Unit prioritised prudence and sustainability. The budget, which reflects

a modest 1% increase compared to the 2023/2024 allocation, was carefully designed to support essential operations without exerting undue pressure on the CCJ Trust Fund.

A significant development during 2024 was the continued roll-out of a new Purchase Order Module. This system has improved the efficiency and transparency of the Court's procurement processes, enhanced purchase tracking, and strengthened financial controls. The implementation of this module marks an important step forward in modernising the Court's financial operations and ensuring responsible use of resources.

Facilities, Assets, Procurement and Office Management Unit (FAPOMU)

The Facilities, Assets, Procurement and Office Management Unit (FAPOMU) demonstrated significant progress during the 2024/2025 fiscal year, providing vital support across the Court and contributing to organisational development and change management.

One of the highlights of the year was the refurbishment of the Staff Lounge, undertaken in August 2024. With the addition of new and refurbished furniture, the space was transformed into a warm, inviting area for staff to gather. To commemorate the collaborative 'Paint Party' that initiated the refurbishment, FAPOMU designed a picture collage now prominently displayed in the lounge.

The procurement arm of the Unit managed several key projects during the year. These included the Job Evaluation Exercise for the



Finance and Administration Department *(continued)*

Regional Judicial and Legal Services Commission, which required the identification and selection of a qualified consultant, as well as the acquisition of a new Leave Management System. The latter involved close collaboration with the Human Resources Unit and Information Systems Department to ensure a smooth transition.

In recognition of the Court's 20th Anniversary, FAPOMU procured memorabilia and coordinated several logistical aspects of the celebrations, working hand-in-hand with various internal stakeholders to ensure the success of the commemorative events.

The Unit also undertook an asset disposal exercise in 2025, which involved the sale of outdated furniture and IT equipment. This initiative was conducted transparently, in line with the Court's Disposal Policy,

and generated revenue while freeing valuable space within the Court. Maintenance and sustainability initiatives were another focus. A new Uninterruptible Power Supply was acquired for the First Floor to replace an outdated unit and safeguard electronic equipment from power outages. FAPOMU also launched a 'Go Green Initiative' aimed at tracking and reducing the Court's carbon footprint, which garnered strong support across departments.

Overall, the year under review was both productive and developmental for FAPOMU. The Unit remained dedicated to supporting the Court's operations, ensuring the smooth running of facilities, the prudent management of assets, and the creation of a safe, efficient, and comfortable environment for staff and visitors alike.



Security and Logistics Unit



During the period under review, the Security and Logistics Unit (SLU) maintained security at the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) without incident. The team was led by Colonel (Retired) Darnley Wyke, Chief Security and Logistics Officer (CSLO), supported by Security Supervisor Mr Joel Bernard, and Lead Security Officers Ms Dianne Silverton and Mr Adrian Pascal.

Both internal and external stakeholders were actively engaged, and the development and maintenance of strategic activities formed the foundation on which planned objectives were realised. Strong relationships with the leadership of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service, its Special Branch Division, and the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) were essential in obtaining updated threat, risk, and vulnerability assessments. Affiliation with the Trinidad and Tobago Fire Service also proved invaluable, particularly in training and equipping the Health, Safety, Security, and Environment (HSSE) team, which is also led by the CSLO.



First Aid, Adult, Child and Infant CPR, and AED training

A Basic Radio Voice Procedure Course was conducted internally to equip HSSE and SLU members with the skills to effectively operate the newly acquired radios, thereby enhancing wireless communication during emergencies. In parallel, the CSLO pursued continued professional development through the American Society of Industrial Security, completing seminars on '*Influences on Criminal Behaviour*' and '*The Arms Trafficking Menace in the Caribbean: Understanding the Crime & Litigation Dynamics*'.



Basic Firefighting and Wardens training



Security and Logistics Unit *[continued]*

The CSLO's participation in the Strategic Planning Workshop on 14-15 October 2024 complemented insights gained from earlier sessions with the Judiciary of Jamaica. This prepared the unit for active involvement in all Strategic Planning sessions for the Court's 2025-2032 Strategic Plan. SLU also delivered staff sensitisation on the Transportation Management and Logistics Policy and played a critical role in the successful planning and execution of the 15th Annual CCJ International Law Moot, held on 20-21 March 2025.

This reporting period was further distinguished by the planning and seamless execution of two Special Sittings honouring the retirements of former CCJ President, the Honourable Mr Justice Adrian Saunders, and the Honourable Mr Justice Andrew Burgess. SLU's contributions were equally integral to the 20th Anniversary celebrations of the Court, including the Interfaith Service at Queen's Hall and the Gala and Awards Ceremony. The team also coordinated security orientations for the two new Judges of the Court, the Honourable Mme Justice Chantal Ononaiwu and the Honourable Mr Justice Chile Eboe-Osuji. Additionally,

the CSLO supported the welcoming of two new Commissioners of the Regional Judicial and Legal Services Commission (RJLSC): Dr Dylon Vernon and Her Ladyship, the Honourable Mme Justice Margaret Price Findlay, Chief Justice of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court.

Beyond these formal duties, SLU also provided a visible show of support as the Court attended funeral services of three staff members' families.

SLU also maintained its signature role in security and support during internal events, including the 2024 end-of-year celebrations and the Carnival 2025 staff event. Periodic leadership meetings, unit sessions, and joint divisional meetings reinforced collaboration and operational readiness.

Although the team experienced an uptick in duties and responsibilities over the year, sound leadership, combined with the dedication and loyalty of its members, ensured the unit acquitted itself creditably.



Office of Project Coordination – European Development Fund (EDF) Project

The 11th EDF Project, launched in September 2022 and scheduled to conclude in 2026, supports the Caribbean Access and Delivery of Justice Initiative. The project operates under a grant agreement valued at EUR 932,940, with the European Union contributing EUR 690,000 (74%) and the CCJ contributing EUR 241,940 (26%). In addition, the project includes a EUR 1.26M Procurement Component, fully funded by the European Union through CARIFORUM/CARICOM as the implementing agency.

The project's primary aim is to improve access to and delivery of justice in the Caribbean region, with three overarching objectives:

1. Strengthening the functions and outreach of the CCJ;
2. Supporting the establishment and operationalisation of the Caribbean Community Administrative Tribunal (CCAT); and
3. Advancing legal education in the Caribbean.

The Project Office is led by Project Coordinator, Mr John Furlonge, and since June 2024, Administrative Officer, Ms Wendy Mitchell. Situated within the CCJ, the Project Office leverages the Court's resources to ensure effective implementation.

Achievements 2024–2025: Grant Component

1. Strengthening the Functions and Outreach of the CCJ

The Referral Training Programme continued across the region, advancing knowledge of the Court's Original Jurisdiction under the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas (RTC). Training sessions were conducted in:

- Jamaica (Judicial Officers, Bar Association, and civil society)
- Trinidad and Tobago (Bar Association and Chamber of Industry and Commerce)

2. Supporting the Establishment and Operationalisation of the CCAT

The project facilitated a Regional Sensitisation Workshop, engaging 175 participants (114 women, 61 men), including judicial officers, administrative tribunal experts, managers, and staff of regional and international organisations.

Specially invited guests included:

- The Honourable Mr Justice Ivor Archie, Chief Justice of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
- His Excellency Mr Peter Cavendish, Ambassador, Delegation of the European Union to Trinidad and Tobago
- Ms Monica Paul-McLean, Programme Manager, Delegation of the European Union to Trinidad and Tobago

Faculty presenters included:

- The Honourable Mr Justice Westmin James, President of CCAT
- The Honourable Mme Justice Eleanor Donaldson-Honeywell, United Nations Dispute Tribunal
- The Honourable Mr Justice Keiran Bradley, Inter-American Development Bank Administrative Tribunal and International Monetary Fund
- Mrs Deborah Thomas-Felix, former President, Industrial Court of Trinidad and Tobago



Office of Project Coordination – European Development Fund (EDF) Project *(continued)*



- Mr Anthony Vieira SC, Independent Senator, Trinidad and Tobago
- Ms Giuliana Canè, IDB Administrative Tribunal

Key topics addressed during the workshop included:

- International Administrative Law: sources, conflicts, and human rights principles
- Employment law issues: fixed-term contracts, renewals, and non-renewals
- Discipline and termination: due process, harassment cases, burden of proof
- Internal dispute resolution mechanisms and alternative dispute resolution
- Role of Registries, legal counsel, and independence of tribunals
- Awards and remedies, including damages and moral compensation

The procurement of reference books for the CCAT was also completed during this period.

Achievements 2024–2025: Procurement Component

Major accomplishments included:

- Procurement for ICT enhancement and civil works in two CCJ courtrooms
- Supply and installation of ICT equipment in Courtroom 1
- Engagement of a consultant to conduct regional market research on knowledge, attitudes, and perceptions of CARICOM citizens towards the CCJ
- Completion of the pre-public education campaign survey across the Caribbean
- Engagement of a consultant to support the revision of the Council of Legal Education curriculum

Conclusion

The EDF Project continues to play a pivotal role in enhancing the capacity, reach, and credibility of the Caribbean Court of Justice. Through its twin components—Grant and Procurement—the project has deepened awareness of the CCJ's mandate, strengthened regional legal institutions, and advanced the operationalisation of the CCAT. These initiatives contribute directly to the strategic vision of improving access to justice across the Caribbean.



Celebrating Two Decades of Evolving Caribbean Justice

Honouring Our Legacy, Shaping Our Future

The year 2025 marked a defining chapter in the history of the Caribbean Court of Justice [CCJ] as the institution commemorated two decades since its establishment as the apex judicial body of the Caribbean Community [CARICOM]. The Court's 20th Anniversary celebrations provided a year-long opportunity to reflect on its evolution from conception to operationalisation and reaffirm its enduring mission to deliver accessible, fair, and independent justice to the peoples of the region.

Planning the Milestone

To ensure a fitting commemoration, a 20th Anniversary Committee was commissioned in 2024 by the then President of the Court, the Honourable Mr Justice Adrian Saunders. Chaired by the Honourable Mme Justice Maureen Rajnauth-Lee, the Committee comprised a dedicated team that meticulously planned and executed each aspect of the celebratory programme. Their work resulted in a series of events that not only honoured the Court's legacy but also underscored its vision for the future. The success of the commemorations reflected the Committee's commitment to collaboration, excellence, and institutional pride.

Reflecting on the Journey

The anniversary observances commenced on 20 February 2025 with a round-table discussion on '*Social and Economic Rights: Constitutional Design and Adjudication*', hosted in partnership with the Caribbean Association of Judicial Officers [CAJO] and The University of the West Indies [UWI], Mona. Judicial officers, academics, and practitioners explored constitutional mechanisms for the protection of socio-

economic rights, reinforcing the CCJ's role in advancing human rights and regional justice.

In March 2025, two hallmark events highlighted the Court's commitment to education and jurisprudential development. The 15th Annual CCJ International Law Moot (20–21 March) engaged regional law students in the interpretation of issues arising under the Revised Treaty of Chaguanas, deepening their understanding of the CCJ's Original Jurisdiction. On 27 March 2025, the Macfadyen Lecture, delivered by the Honourable Mr Justice Adrian Saunders, provided a reflective and forward-looking assessment of the Court's first two decades and its readiness to meet emerging regional and global challenges.

Faith, Legacy, and Vision

On 16 April 2025, the Interfaith Service of Reflection and Prayer brought together judicial officers and staff in thanksgiving for the Court's accomplishments and enduring mission. The service was followed by the 20th Anniversary Staff Luncheon, during which the CCJ Time Capsule was officially launched. Containing messages, reflections, and aspirations from judges and staff, the capsule will be opened on the Court's 40th Anniversary in 2045, symbolising continuity and institutional vision.

Exhibiting the Journey

On 7 May 2025, the Court launched its 20th Anniversary Exhibition under the theme '*Honouring Our Legacy, Shaping Our Future*'. Mounted at the seat of the Court, the exhibition showcased two decades of progress through photographs, archival material, and multimedia installations. It chronicled the CCJ's evolution, landmark



Celebrating Two Decades of Evolving Caribbean Justice *(continued)*

judgments, and the human stories that shaped its journey. The exhibition welcomed dignitaries, members of the diplomatic corps, regional partners, and students, deepening public understanding of the Court's contribution to Caribbean development.

Academic and Regional Engagement

On 16 May 2025, the Court partnered with The University of the West Indies, St Augustine, to host the Second CCJ Symposium on '**Advancing the Case for Regionalism and Indigenous Jurisprudence**'. This event explored the CCJ's role in fostering Caribbean legal thought and regional jurisprudence, encouraging continued dialogue among scholars, judges, and practitioners.

Further afield, the Honourable Mme Justice Chantal Ononaiwu delivered a commemorative lecture at the Jamaican Bar Association's 20th Anniversary celebrations on 29 May 2025, exemplifying the CCJ's commitment to strengthening partnerships with national and regional legal institutions.

Celebrating Service and People

The commemorations culminated with the 20th Anniversary Gala and Long Service Awards Ceremony on 27 June 2025, held at the Dennis

P. Ramdhan Complex. The event brought together judges, staff, and invited guests in celebration of two decades of achievement. Long-serving staff members were honoured for their dedication and contribution to the Court's vision of judicial excellence and regional service.

Recording the Legacy

To document this milestone, the Court is finalising the publication '**The Caribbean Court of Justice: Striving for Judicial Excellence - 20 Years of Evolving Justice: The Second Decade**'. The volume features reflections from distinguished jurists, analyses of landmark judgments, and commentary on the Court's role in the CARICOM Single Market and Economy and regional governance. It also pays tribute to the Court's founding figures, including the late Sir Shridath Ramphal and other pioneering judges. The publication is scheduled for launch later in 2025.

As the CCJ transitions into its third decade, the 20th Anniversary celebrations stand as a testament to its enduring legacy of service, its evolving vision for justice, and its unwavering commitment to the people of the Caribbean Community.



20th Anniversary Activities



Interfaith Service of Reflection and Prayer

On Wednesday, 16 April 2025, the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) marked its 20th anniversary with an Interfaith Service of Reflection and Prayer, held at Queen's Hall, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.

The event was attended by Her Excellency Christine Carla Kangaloo ORTT, President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, and brought together a distinguished audience including:

- Members of the Judiciary of Trinidad and Tobago
- Representatives of the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
- Clergy from the Inter-Religious Organisation (IRO)
- Regional stakeholders and members of the diplomatic corps
- Legal professionals and Commissioners of the Regional Judicial and Legal Services Commission (RJLSC)
- Former and current Judges and staff of the CCJ

This solemn ceremony provided a meaningful opportunity for reflection and gratitude, honouring the Court's two decades of service and its enduring commitment to justice in the Caribbean.

Tributes and Reflections

Delivering a keynote address, Ms Sophia Chote, SC, Attorney-at-Law and Commissioner of the RJLSC, commended the Court's accomplishments, stating:

"The achievements of the CCJ are the achievements of our region. We continue to have Commissions which are responsible, and which ensure that the CCJ's Bench is populated only with the best. The Judges themselves are acutely aware of their responsibility to the region and discharge their duties with diligence and integrity. The Registrar and her staff and other arms of the organisation continue to perform their duties with responsibility and innovation. The educational arm of the CCJ has had valuable outreach with judges, lawyers, and law students throughout the region."





20th Anniversary Activities *[continued]*

Remarks from the CCJ President

Reflecting on the significance of the anniversary, the Honourable Mr Justice Adrian Saunders, President of the CCJ, shared:

"Today is a time for reflection and giving thanks. For the past 20 years, the CCJ has upheld the rule of law, safeguarded rights, and strengthened Caribbean jurisprudence. The Court has been a shining example of Caribbean ingenuity, with its innovative funding arrangement, in the form of the CCJ Trust Fund, and, through the establishment of the Regional Judicial and Legal Services Commission, its insulation from external interference in its recruitment practices.

This anniversary is not just a celebration of 20 long years, but also of our enduring commitment to delivering accessible, fair, and efficient justice to the people and states of the Caribbean. It is a privilege and an honour to serve the people of this region, and we, the Judges and staff of the Court, are incredibly grateful to have had that opportunity over the past 20 years. We look forward to doing so for the next 20 years and beyond."

Watch the Ceremony

A recording of the Interfaith Service of Reflection and Prayer is available for public viewing via the CCJ's official YouTube channel:

[Interfaith Service of Prayer and Reflection](#)



20th Anniversary Exhibit

As part of its commemorative activities, the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) hosted a public exhibition in May 2025, showcasing a curated collection of artefacts and archival material that chronicled the institution's two-decade journey. The exhibit highlighted the Court's evolution, jurisprudential milestones, and regional engagement since its establishment.

Visitors from a diverse range of institutions attended the exhibition, including:

- UWI-ROYTEC
- The Judiciary of Trinidad and Tobago
- The Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce
- The Assembly of Southern Lawyers
- The Environmental Commission of Trinidad and Tobago
- SERVOL Diego Martin
- The Tax Appeal Board
- Members of the Diplomatic Corps

Attendees participated in interactive sessions and engaged meaningfully with the materials on display.

The 20th Anniversary Exhibition will be featured at select events later in 2025, offering additional opportunities for public engagement.

Did you miss the in-person experience?

Interested persons may view the digital exhibition [\[here\]](#).





20th Anniversary Activities *[continued]*

20th Anniversary Gala & Awards

On the evening of Friday, 27 June 2025, members of the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ), the Regional Judicial and Legal Services Commission (RJLSC), and their invited guests gathered at the Dennis P. Ramdhan Complex to celebrate the CCJ's 20th Anniversary Gala & Awards. The event marked a joyful and heartfelt occasion, filled with celebration, reverence, and camaraderie, as the Court honoured its two decades of service and recognised the contributions of its dedicated employees.

The evening commenced with the official Awards Ceremony, during which staff were recognised across several categories, including:

- Years of Service
- Team Spirit
- Most Outstanding Employee
- President's Award
- Employee of the Year

Following the ceremony, guests were treated to a fine dining experience accompanied by a live performance from Mr Ancil Valley, who captivated the audience with his soulful renditions of popular hits, including Kes the Band's Medicine.

As the dinner concluded, guests were invited to the rooftop for the afterparty, where local entertainer Oscar B and the DJ invigorated the crowd and brought attendees to the dance floor in spirited celebration.

The occasion also served as a significant moment of transition. The Gala functioned as a fond farewell to the former Court President, the Honourable Mr Justice Adrian Saunders, and a warm welcome to his successor, the Honourable Mr Justice Winston Anderson. During the ceremony, CCJ staff presented Mr Justice Saunders with a commemorative gift—an artistic painting featuring him alongside the last Bench over which he presided—as a token of appreciation for his leadership and unwavering dedication.

In his response, Justice Saunders expressed heartfelt gratitude for the tribute and extended his appreciation to the CCJ staff for their steadfast support throughout his tenure. He also conveyed his confidence in President Anderson's leadership and vision for the continued advancement of the Court.





Committees

Administrative Style Guide Committee

At the direction of the President, the draft Administrative Style Guide was circulated in February 2024 to the Communication and Information Department for its review and comments.

In September 2024, the Committee received the comments and work then commenced on reviewing and consolidating all suggestions.

Incorporating the recommendations from the Communication and Information Department, the Committee undertook revisions and completed a final review in June 2025. The finalised Administrative Style Guide was subsequently submitted via email to the outgoing President, the Honourable Mr Justice Adrian Saunders, on 2 July 2025.

Monitoring and Evaluation Committee

The Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Committee of the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) plays a critical role in ensuring the Court operates efficiently, effectively, and transparently. The Committee is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Court's Strategic Plan and for crafting the annual Work Programme, which outlines strategic initiatives to be undertaken by Units and Departments. These initiatives are aligned with the Court's strategic objectives and the President's overarching themes for the year.



Performance Tracking and Accountability

The Committee systematically assesses the Court's performance through Progress Reports presented by Unit Leads at two M&E Committee meetings each year.

- **Mid-Year Meeting:** Provides an opportunity to gauge progress, assess the use of resources, and identify areas requiring corrective action to facilitate the completion of initiatives.
- **End-of-Year Meeting:** Allows Units to report on completed initiatives, identify those to be carried over into the next year's Work Programme, and highlight those yet to be initiated. These reports also include lessons learned and an assessment of risks to completion, ensuring accountability and supporting timely resolution of challenges.

The findings from the end-of-year review directly inform the design of the following year's Work Programme, ensuring proposed initiatives are both realistic and achievable within the Court's resource framework.

Executive Sub-Committee

To complement its work, an Executive Sub-Committee of the M&E Committee meets every two weeks. This high-level oversight mechanism ensures strategic objectives remain a top priority and progress is monitored continuously. By maintaining this regular check-in rhythm, senior leadership can proactively manage workloads and provide guidance to their Units and Departments, keeping the Court firmly on course in achieving its strategic goals.



Committees *(continued)*

Health, Safety, Security, and the Environment Committee Report

During the period under review, the Health, Safety, Security and the Environment Committee provided strong leadership in advancing the Court's commitment to health, safety, security, and environmental sustainability. Leadership was provided by Colonel (Retired) Darnley Wyke, Chief Security and Logistics Officer (CSLO), ably supported by the committee members and wardens:

- Ms Ricoy Zephyrine – Chief Facilities Officer
- Ms Collette Brown – Secretary
- Mr Joel Bernard – Security Supervisor
- Mr Adrian Pascal – Lead Security Officer
- Ms Candis Cayona – Senior Administrative Officer
- Ms Sue Lan Chin – Administrative Officer
- Ms Jamie Les Pierre – Accountant Support Officer
- Mrs Annette Clarke-James – Human Resources Officer (Compensation and Benefits)
- Ms Keisha Cato – Administrative Officer (Judicial)
- Mr John Furlonge – EDF Project Coordinator
- Mrs Candace Simmons-Peters – Administrative Officer (Judicial)
- Mr Kevin Williams – Security Officer
- Mr Oriel Herrera – CSA Network Administration
- Mr Shasta Sankar – Judge's Aide
- Mr Leon Andrews – MTS Supervisor

At the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ), the pursuit of excellence extends beyond the dispensation of justice to ensuring a safe, secure, and sustainable environment for all who work and visit. Health, Safety,

Security, and the Environment (HSSE) are not merely priorities but are embedded in the Court's culture of service to the region. Since its establishment in 2015, the HSSE Committee has fostered preparedness and resilience through the collaboration of Fire Wardens, Security Officers, and staff.

Key Achievements

First Aid, CPR & AED Certification

In September 2024, committee members completed certification in First Aid, Adult, Child and Infant CPR, and AED under the National Safety Council. This training ensured that the team is equipped to respond swiftly and effectively to medical emergencies.

Basic Firefighting & Wardens Training

In April 2025, training conducted with the Trinidad and Tobago Fire Service strengthened the capacity of wardens and staff in fire prevention, suppression, and evacuation procedures.

Basic Radio Voice Procedure Training

An internal exercise was delivered to HSSE and SLU members to enhance competency in the use of newly acquired radios, improving wireless communication and emergency coordination.

Erection of the CCJ's HSSE Policy Statement

A significant milestone was the publication and display of the CCJ's HSSE Policy Statement, endorsed by the President, Judges, and senior management. The policy affirms the Court's commitment to employee protection, hazard identification, training, compliance assurance, development of a safety culture, incident reporting, environmental stewardship, and continuous evaluation.

Safety & Emergency Preparedness Procedures Handbook

Work progressed significantly on the development of a comprehensive handbook, now in its final stages. Once completed, it will guide staff on emergency response and workplace safety.



Committees *(continued)*

Planned Initiatives for the Next Period

- Launch of the first Safe + Sound Week, Launch of HSSE Hub on intranet.
- Completion and rollout of the Safety & Emergency Preparedness Handbook, accompanied by staff orientation sessions.
- Quarterly evacuation and simulation drills for fire, earthquake, and security scenarios.
- Expanded health and wellness initiatives, including mental health awareness programmes, ergonomic assessments, and health screenings.
- Environmental sustainability measures, including waste segregation, energy-saving campaigns, and greener operations.
- Strengthened partnerships with external agencies such as the Fire Service, Police, and Health Authorities to expand training and audits.
- Enhanced staff engagement through continued observance of Safe + Sound Week, staff competitions, and interactive campaigns.

The period under review reflects the HSSE Committee's dedication to ensuring the CCJ remains a safe and resilient institution. Through training, resource development, and awareness initiatives, the Committee has strengthened the Court's ability to safeguard its people, operations, and environment. Looking ahead, the Committee reaffirms its commitment to continuous improvement, collaboration, and innovation—recognising safety is a shared responsibility and a foundation for excellence in service to the region.

Committee for Improving Access to Justice for Persons With Disabilities

In the CCJ's Annual Report for 2023-2024, it was noted that the Committee for Improving Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities submitted the final draft ***Policy to Improve Access to Justice and Provide Accommodations to Persons with Disabilities*** to the Regional Judicial and Legal Services Commission for its review and approval. Following the Commission's review and proposed amendments - which were accepted by the Committee - the Policy was formally approved on 6 December 2024.

The Policy aims to ensure equal access to justice and opportunities within the Court for people with disabilities, whether they are users of the Court or employed by it. It also outlines a general framework for ensuring that the required procedural and reasonable accommodations are provided upon request and affirms the Court's commitment to preventing discrimination and prejudice.

In February 2025, the Committee hosted a virtual stakeholder sensitisation session on the Policy for Judges and staff facilitated by external experts Ms Ria Mohammed-Davidson, Attorney at Law and Member of the Human Rights Committee of the Law Association of Trinidad and Tobago; and Ms Shamla Maharaj, Product Delivery Analyst (Scotiabank, Eastern Caribbean Region), Disability Advocate, Host of the TV programme 'Unique Not Different', and representative of the Consortium of Disability Organisations. The session provided an overview of the Policy and clarified the roles of the Court, the Commission, and other senior officers and departments in its implementation.



Committees *(continued)*

In closing, the Chair, Mme Justice Maureen Rajnauth-Lee formally extended sincere appreciation to Committee members for their dedication to this important initiative, and to all Judges, managers, and staff of the Court, and the Commissioners and Staff of the Commission for their unstinting support. The members of the Committee included Ms Gisel Thomas-Roberts, Deputy Registrar and Marshal; Mr Dike Noel, Former Chief Public Education and Protocol Officer; Ms Sonia Thompson, IS Support Technician; Ms Jennifer Scipio-Gittens, Social Worker and former Administrative Officer; Ms Hilary Wyke, Legal Officer (Administrative Officer to the Committee), and the two external members.

The Policy to Improve Access to Justice and Provide Accommodations to Persons with Disabilities reflects a steadfast commitment to equity and inclusion. It is hoped that the policy will transform the Court and Commission into a space where every individual, whether attorney, litigant, or member of staff, can participate fully, confidently, and with dignity.



Honouring Our Legacy



Shaping Our Future



2015 - 2020



CCJ Symposium: Advancing the Case for Regionalism and Indigenous Jurisprudence.



CCJ Academy for Law Eminent Caribbean Jurists Awards Ceremony.



Judges preparing for the Ceremonial Sitting held in Antigua and Barbuda in honour of outgoing President, the Rt Hon. Sir Dennis Byron.



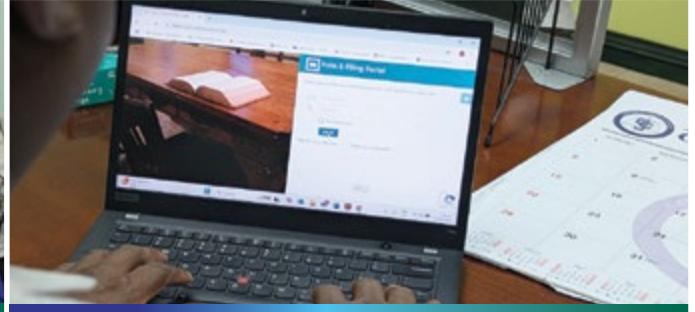
A cross-section of the Mayan peoples after a post-judgment hearing in the matter of The Maya Leaders Alliance v the Attorney General of Belize during the Court's visit to Belize.



CCJ staff at the launch of the 2019-2024 Strategic Plan.



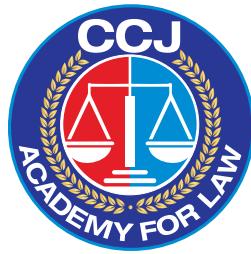
Development of the Court's Referral Manual.



The CCJ launched E-filing through CURIA its case management software.



Outreach



CCJ Academy for Law

During the reporting year, the CCJ Academy for Law continued to advance its mandate of strengthening legal education, promoting judicial reform, and supporting the development of Caribbean jurisprudence. Through partnerships with regional and international organisations, the Academy spearheaded training, conferences, and collaborative initiatives that reinforced the implementation of the Needham's Point Declaration and broadened opportunities for legal capacity-building across CARICOM.

The Academy's Chairman, the Honourable Mr Justice Winston Anderson, participated in the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court's Annual Judicial Conference, held from 5-7 August 2024 in Saint Lucia. He delivered presentations on Judicial Review in the Court's Original Jurisdiction and on the Needham's Point Declaration on Criminal Justice Reform. In September 2024, the Judicial Education Institute of the Senior Courts of Belize convened a Criminal Justice Reform Conference in Belize City. Justice Anderson delivered the feature address on implementing the Needham's Point Declaration, underscoring its importance for backlog reduction, strategic planning, and regional reform.

On 14 November 2024, the Academy hosted a Regional Townhall in Kingston, Jamaica, to commemorate the first anniversary of the Needham's Point Declaration. Held in partnership with the Inter-American Development Bank, the UNDP-PACE Justice Programme,

and the Faculty of Law at The University of the West Indies, Mona, the event was themed '*Advancing Justice in the Caribbean Post-Needham's Point Declaration*'. Contributions came from distinguished panellists, including the Honourable Delroy Chuck, KC, Jamaica's Minister of Justice, as well as members of the Bar, law enforcement, and civil society.

Referral training continued to be a critical component of the Academy's work to raise awareness of Article 214 of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas. In January 2025, the Academy collaborated with the Judiciary of Jamaica and the Jamaica Bar Association to conduct a three-day referral training programme in Kingston. The Honourable Justices Anderson and Ononaiwu led the sessions with support from CCJ staff and CARICOM legal officers. In February 2025, a virtual referral training was organised with the Law Association of Trinidad and Tobago, reaching more than 60 members of the Bar.

In February 2025, the Academy submitted a report to the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM on the implementation of the Needham's Point Declaration. The Declaration was formally endorsed at the 48th Regular Meeting of the Conference, marking a major milestone in its regional adoption. The endorsement confirmed the value of the Declaration as a framework for legislative reform, backlog reduction, and institutional strengthening across Member States.



Outreach - The CCJ Academy for Law *(continued)*

The Academy's international reach expanded through participation in global fora. In April 2025, Mr Justice Anderson presented at the Third Forum of Human Rights Defenders in Environmental Matters hosted by the Escazú Secretariat in Saint Kitts, where he addressed '**Access to Environmental Justice**' and emphasised the role of legal frameworks in safeguarding community participation. Earlier, in December 2024, Mr Mitra Sinanan represented the Academy at the Bi-Regional Meeting on Artificial Intelligence and Organised Crime in Costa Rica, where he highlighted the Court's innovative AI-powered legal research tool, **Ask CCJ**. The Academy was also represented at the EL PAcCTO 2.0 Youth Protection Conference in Bogotá, Colombia, in March 2025 by Ms Chelsea Dookie, Judicial Counsel, and at the AI Model Law Workshop in Brussels in April 2025 by Mr Ayinde Burgess, Information Systems Manager. Each of these engagements showcased the Academy's contributions to global dialogue on criminal justice reform, youth protection, and AI regulation.

The Academy further collaborated with the UNDP-PACE Justice Programme on advancing restorative justice. On 30 May 2025, representatives participated in the Handover Ceremony of the Victim-Offender Mediation Toolkit in Saint Lucia, where Mr Marlon Prince highlighted the progress made under the Needham's Point Declaration. In June 2025, he also presented updates on the Declaration to the Eastern Caribbean Development Partners' Group.

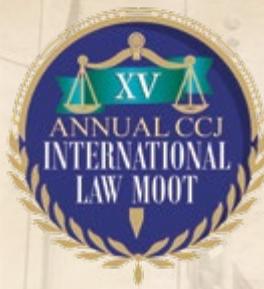
The Monitoring, Evaluating, and Facilitating Committee, established by the Academy to encourage the timely implementation of the Needham's Point Declaration, met nine times during the year. Reports presented to the Committee reflected substantial progress across legislative, executive, and judicial branches, and noted that the Declaration has been cited in approximately 74 judicial decisions

across the region. The Academy also partnered with the IDB to develop a digital dashboard for monitoring implementation progress under the IDB's **One Safe Caribbean** initiative. The diagnostic phase of this project was completed during the reporting year, with technical development to follow.

The Academy also engaged in new areas of regional collaboration, including representation at the Caribbean Public Health Law Forum. Staff participated in steering committee meetings and capacity-building workshops on tobacco regulation and health taxation, and the Academy was featured in the Forum's newsletter for its work on criminal justice reform and the appointment of the Honourable Mme Justice Chantal Ononaiwu.

The reporting year closed with planning well underway for the Academy's 8th Biennial Conference, scheduled for 26–28 November 2025 at the Hyatt Regency in Port of Spain. Under the theme '**The CCJ at 20: Reflections on Caribbean Jurisprudence**', the conference will be held in collaboration with the European Union, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the Caribbean Development Bank. The draft programme has been finalised and confirmed speakers will address a wide range of topics including constitutional law, criminal justice reform, commercial law, family law, environmental justice, intellectual property, regional integration, and the role of technology in shaping Caribbean jurisprudence.

Through these initiatives, the CCJ Academy for Law has continued to solidify its role as a regional leader in advancing access to justice, strengthening Caribbean jurisprudence, and ensuring the meaningful implementation of the Needham's Point Declaration.



The Faculty of Law at The University of the West Indies (The UWI), Cave Hill, emerged as the overall winner of the **15th Annual Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) International Law Moot** on Friday, 21 March 2025. This marked the Barbados-based faculty's second victory, having first claimed the title in 2012. Cave Hill also earned the coveted title of Best Academic Institution, outperforming seven other law schools and faculties from across the Caribbean.



Described by the judging panel as an *"extremely well-prepared team"*, the winning delegation comprised third-year students Deborah Bryan, Alala Moore, and Khyle Harris Singh. Their advisor, Dr Antonius Hippolyte, provided expert guidance throughout the competition.

Other notable performers included Ms Alexia Trim of The UWI, St Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago. She received the Sir Henry Forde Prize for Best Oralist. The Eugene Dupuch Law School from The Bahamas was awarded the Mr Justice Jacob Wit Prize for Best Written Submission.

Now in its 15th year, the CCJ International Law Moot continues to serve as a flagship initiative of the Court. It brings together aspiring legal practitioners from across the region to argue before a panel of CCJ Judges in the Court's Original Jurisdiction. Within this jurisdiction, the CCJ holds exclusive authority to interpret and apply the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas (RTC)—the foundational agreement of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). As such, legal issues under the RTC, including those relating to the freedom of movement of people and capital or the right of establishment within the CARICOM Single Market and Economy, fall under the CCJ's purview in its Original Jurisdiction.

Delivering remarks at the closing ceremony, the Honourable Mr Justice Andrew Burgess, CCJ Judge and Chair of the Law Moot Committee, described the competition as *"an investment in the future attorneys of the region."* He stated, *"Since its inauguration in 2009, this Moot has been a marquee event on the calendar of regional law schools and faculties. The CCJ remains committed to fostering a deeper understanding of CARICOM law and the jurisprudence of our Original Jurisdiction among the region's emerging legal minds."*

This year's participating institutions included:

Anton de Kom University of Suriname

Eugene Dupuch Law School, The Bahamas

Hugh Wooding Law School, Trinidad and Tobago

Norman Manley Law School, Jamaica

The UWI, Cave Hill, Barbados

The UWI, Mona, Jamaica

The UWI, St Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago

The University of Guyana



Outreach - 15th Annual CCJ International Law Moot *(continued)*

The competition's moot problem centred on a hypothetical dispute in which a CARICOM Member State allegedly breached the RTC by imposing a recruitment and procurement policy that favoured its own citizens within the petroleum sector. Teams presented their arguments before a panel of CCJ Judges: the Honourable Justices Rajnauth-Lee, Jamadar, and Ononaiwu.

In her closing remarks, CCJ Registrar and Chief Marshal, Mrs Gabrielle Figaro-Jones, commended the participants, stating: *"After seeing the quality of arguments and the intellectual rigour displayed over these two days, the future of legal advocacy in our region is bright. The dreams of the region's forefathers for regional unity and true and complete independence are in good hands."*

The 2025 Law Moot also marked a significant milestone – the competition's 15th anniversary—and served as the final edition under the stewardship of Mr Justice Burgess, who retired in April 2025. It was also the last Moot for CCJ President, the Honourable Mr Justice Adrian Saunders, who retired in July 2025.

Paying tribute to Mr Justice Burgess, President Saunders acknowledged his pivotal role in elevating the competition: *"When Justice Hayton retired from the Bench, Justice Burgess took the reins and guided the evolution of the Moot into a first-class co-curricular activity. Under his tenure, new awards were introduced, including the Justice Jacob Wit Prize for Best Written Submission and, most personally meaningful, the Sir Henry Forde Prize for Best Oralist."*



Members of the public may view the recordings of the 2025 Moot and award ceremony on the Caribbean Court of Justice's YouTube channel [here](#).



Carnival Cooler Lime 2025

On Friday, 21 February 2025, the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) hosted its annual Carnival Cooler Lime on the Court's compound, from 7:00 p.m. to midnight. The event was well attended by staff and invited guests, and delivered an evening filled with food, fun, and vibrant entertainment.

The evening commenced with a lively Karaoke/Lip-sync Competition, featuring three engaging performances by CCJ employees. The winners were:

First Place	Second Place	Third Place
Ms Candis Cayona <i>Original performance Stressing, dedicated to President Saunders</i>	Mr Ricoy Zephyrine <i>Rendition of Machel Montano's Pardy</i>	Ms Michelle Clark and Ms Jacklyn Yearwood <i>Duet performance of Yung Bredda's The Greatest Bendover</i>

The energy continued to build as the award-winning BP Renegades Steel Orchestra took the stage, treating attendees to a dynamic set of Soca hits. The momentum peaked with electrifying performances by regional soca icons Skinny Fabulous and Olatunji, who delivered crowd-pulling sets that kept attendees dancing into the night.

The Carnival Lime once again proved to be a celebration of culture, camaraderie, and creativity—bringing together the Court's community in the true spirit of Trinidad and Tobago's Carnival.





Honouring Our Legacy



Shaping Our Future



Staff Engagement In Photos

PAINT PARTY



HR WELLNESS AND NUTRITION SESSION



LONG SERVICE AWARDS





Honouring Our Legacy



Shaping Our Future



Staff Engagement Photos *(continued)*

CHRISTMAS



CARNIVAL



FIRE SAFETY TRAINING





Honouring Our Legacy



Shaping Our Future



Staff Engagement Photos *(continued)*

20th ANNIVERSARY STAFF LUNCHEON



LAUNCH OF TIME CAPSULE





CCJ Bids Farewell to Mr Justice Burgess

On Tuesday, 18 March 2025, the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) convened a Special Sitting to commemorate the retirement of the Honourable Mr Justice Andrew Burgess. The ceremonial sitting, held at the Court's headquarters in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, brought together dignitaries and representatives from across the region to pay tribute to his judicial and academic legacy.

Mr Justice Burgess, an expert in corporate and commercial law, was appointed to the CCJ in 2019, becoming the first Barbadian appointed to the Bench of the regional court.

Tributes from the Bench and Beyond

In his remarks, the Honourable Mr Justice Adrian Saunders, then President of the CCJ, praised Justice Burgess as:

"A proud product of our region's commitment to train its own lawyers; to develop a cadre of legal professionals who would have, in the words of Dr Nicholas Liverpool, 'a searching awareness of the realities of conditions in the region, a deep sense of service to the law, their community and their clients, yet retain the vision and zeal of law reformers'. Mr Justice Burgess... is perhaps the finest exemplar of the vision and goals of those who established a Faculty of Law of

The University of the West Indies. His entire adult life has been spent serving the region with distinction."

The Honourable Mr Justice Winston Anderson, described him as an *"excellent scholar and jurist"* and a *"deeply admired and respected professor"*. Justice Anderson noted Justice Burgess was the first graduate of The University of the West Indies (The UWI) to be appointed a professor and serve as Dean. Several speakers also highlighted he was the longest-serving Dean in the history of the Faculty of Law.

The Honourable Mr Justice Sherman Moore, CHB, former Justice of Appeal of Barbados, commended Justice Burgess for leaving *"an impressive record of service to the legal profession, both academic and judicial."* Similarly, the Honourable Mr Justice Leslie Haynes, Chief Justice of Barbados, observed his influence extended beyond academia:

"As an academic, his impact is felt by the countless students of the law... who continue to utilise his many academic works. In the practice of law, his decisions are quoted on an almost daily basis."



CCJ Bids Farewell to Retiring Judge, Mr Justice Burgess *(continued)*

Ms Lisa Shoman, General Counsel of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and a former student, echoed these sentiments:

"As a judge, to write decisions is to speak, to create jurisprudence, to expand judicial boundaries – but to teach lawyers – that, well that is to be a planetary guide in our judicial universe, and Justice Burgess is a Jupiter among our guides."

The Honourable Mr Justice Ivor Archie, ORTT, Chief Justice of Trinidad and Tobago, added that his judicial opinions displayed *"a depth of thought and wisdom that has left a lasting impact on both our regional jurisprudence and the broader regional and international community."*

Response from Justice Burgess

In his response, Justice Burgess reflected on his time at the CCJ, describing the Court as:

"An amalgam of fundamental aspirations of us Caribbean people. Aspirations aimed at bending the arc of the history of the common law towards the development of a truly Caribbean system of law that is respected regionally and internationally."

He further lauded the CCJ, noting that although the Court was only 20 years old, it had *"promptly established itself as a Court of excellence"* and had become *"a thought leader worthy of regional and international respect."*

The recording of the Special Sitting is available on the CCJ's YouTube channel:

Special Sitting for the Honourable Mr Justice Andrew Burgess

Additional Tributes

Further remarks were delivered by:

- The Honourable Mme Justice Maureen Rajnauth-Lee
- The Honourable Mr Justice Denys Barrow
- The Honourable Mr Justice Peter Jamadar
- The Honourable Mme Justice Chantal Ononaiwu
- Professor David Berry, Professor of International Law and Regional Integration Law, The UWI, Cave Hill
- Mr Zakir Hafez, Executive Secretary, World Bank Administrative Tribunal
- Mr John Jeremie, SC
- Mrs Candace Simmons-Peters, Administrative Officer [Judicial] to Mr Justice Burgess

Conclusion

Mr Justice Burgess officially retired from the CCJ in April 2025. His service as both an academic and jurist leaves an indelible mark on Caribbean jurisprudence.



Outgoing CCJ President Lauded at Ceremonial Sitting



On Tuesday, 3 June 2025, the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) convened a Ceremonial Sitting at Queen's Hall, Port of Spain, Trinidad, in tribute to the Honourable Mr Justice Adrian Saunders, outgoing President of the Court. The Sitting marked the culmination of a remarkable judicial career and Justice Saunders' distinguished tenure as President, which formally concluded on 3 July 2025.

President Saunders was lauded for his profound contributions to Caribbean law, his unwavering commitment to access to justice, and his transformative leadership of the Court. Speakers also highlighted his enduring advocacy for human rights, judicial reform, and legal education.

The event drew a wide cross-section of regional and international attendees, including:

- Her Excellency Dr Carla Barnett, CBE, Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)
- Heads of Judiciaries and judicial officers
- Mr Justice Patrick Robinson, recently retired from the International Court of Justice
- Members of the Diplomatic Corps
- Representatives from the legal profession, academia, and development institutions
- Former and current staff of the Court

Tributes to a Judicial Statesman

Delivering the opening remarks, the Honourable Mr Justice Winston Anderson, observed:

"President Saunders is the first graduate of the Caribbean legal education system to serve as President of the Court. Through his work, he has shown unwavering dedication to justice and the rule of law. He has consistently championed judicial reform and education. He is also deeply committed to the legal and intellectual growth of the Caribbean people. It is my honour and privilege to pay tribute to a true gentleman. His time on the Bench continues to shape a legacy that will endure for years to come."

Professor Tracy Robinson, Faculty of Law, The University of the West Indies, Mona, praised President Saunders as:

"Without question, one of the great Caribbean judges of the 21st century and one of our Constitutional Law giants. It's not simply what he has said, it's what he has done and how. His legacy has been forged



Outgoing CCJ President Lauded at Ceremonial Sitting (continued)

through work and dialogue with others and an idea that we have much to gain from our 'collective wisdom and experience'."

The Honourable Mme Justice Roxane George, Chief Justice (Ag), Guyana, echoed these sentiments. She referenced the opening lines of Justice Saunders' opinion in the landmark case *Quincy McEwan et al v The Attorney General of Guyana*, in which he wrote:

"Difference is as natural as breathing. Infinite varieties exist of everything under the sun. Civilised society has a duty to accommodate suitably, differences among human beings. Only in this manner can we give due respect to everyone's humanity. No one should have his or her dignity trampled upon, or human rights denied, merely on account of a difference."

She said those words epitomised the distinguished jurist's commitment to justice, fairness, and human dignity.

Leadership Beyond the Bench

Speakers also reflected on Justice Saunders' warmth and leadership. The Honourable Mr Justice Ivor Archie, ORTT, Chief Justice of Trinidad and Tobago, said:

"He is more than just a jurist—he is, in every sense of the word, a steward of justice, of principle, and of people."

A particularly heartfelt tribute came from Mr Sheldon Cambridge, Judge's Aide to President Saunders for 20 years. He shared personal stories from their longstanding professional relationship, ultimately describing Justice Saunders as both a mentor and a friend.

Remarks from the Outgoing President

In his response, President Saunders addressed the perception of the Court's acceptance across the region:

"This is an international, not a domestic court. Our only assets to enforce our judgments are the trust and confidence reposed in the Court by the governments and people of the region... Look instead at the timely and full compliance with those judgments, look at the regard they have for the intimations of the Court."

He emphasised the measure of regional support lies not in the number of States that have acceded to the Appellate Jurisdiction, but in their consistent respect for the Court's authority.

Additional Tributes

Further presentations were delivered by:

- The Full Bench of the CCJ
- The Honourable Mme Justice Yonette Cummings-Edwards, OR CCH, Chancellor of the Judiciary (Ag), Guyana
- The Honourable Mr Justice Ian Winder, Kt, Chief Justice, The Bahamas
- The Honourable Mr Justice Leslie Haynes, Chief Justice, Barbados
- Mr Donovan Walker, President, Organisation of Commonwealth Caribbean Bar Associations
- The Honourable Mr Justice Reginald Armour, Justice of Appeal (Ag), Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court
- Ms E. Ann Henry, KC, Deputy Chairperson, Regional Judicial and Legal Services Commission

The recording of the Ceremonial Sitting is available on the CCJ's official YouTube channel:

[Ceremonial Sitting for the Honourable Mr Justice Adrian Saunders](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)



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2020 - 2025



CCJ President, the Hon Mr Justice Adrian Saunders and the Hon Mr Justice Barrow make a presentation on the Court to the House of Assembly in Saint Lucia.



First Hemispheric Meeting of Regional Courts.



Meeting with the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.



Referral Process Training with Members of the Judiciary of Trinidad and Tobago.



Signing of an MOU with CARICOM.



The CCJ Academy for Law's First Legal Conference on Criminal Justice Reform.



The Hon Mr Justice Adrian Saunders, CCJ President, and the Hon Mr Justice Iwan Rasoeibaks, President of the Court of Justice of Suriname, at the 155th anniversary of the judiciary.



The CCJ joins the International Consortium for Court Excellence (ICCE).



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AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2024

EXPRESSED IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO DOLLARS



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Shaping Our Future



Contents

Statement of Management's Responsibilities	84
Independent Auditor's Report	85-86
Statement of Financial Position	87
Statement of Comprehensive Income	88
Statement of Changes in Accumulated Fund	89
Statement of Cash Flows	90
Notes to the Financial Statements	91-107

**Supplementary Financial information
(Stated in United States Dollars) 108-112**

Independent Auditors' Report on the Supplementary Financial Information	109
Statement of Financial Position	110
Statement of Comprehensive Income	111
Statement of Accumulated Fund	112



Statement of Management's Responsibilities

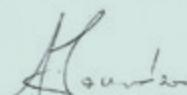
Management is responsible for the following:

- Preparing and fairly presenting the accompanying financial statements of The Caribbean Court of Justice which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2024, the statements of comprehensive income and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information;
- Ensuring that the Court keeps proper accounting records.
- Selecting appropriate accounting policies and applying them in a consistent manner.
- Implementing, monitoring, and evaluating the system of internal control that assures security of the Court's assets, detection/prevention of fraud, and the achievement of the Court's operational efficiencies.
- Ensuring that the system of internal control operated effectively during the reporting period.
- Producing reliable financial reporting that complies with laws and regulations; and
- Using reasonable and prudent judgement in the determination of estimates.

In preparing these audited financial statements, management utilised the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board and adopted by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Trinidad and Tobago. Where International Financial Reporting Standards presented alternative accounting treatments, management chose those considered most appropriate in the circumstances.

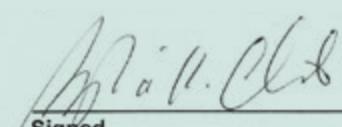
Nothing has come to the attention of management to indicate that the Court will not remain a going concern for the next twelve months from the reporting date; or up to the date the accompanying financial statements have been authorised for issue, if later.

Management affirms that it has carried out its responsibilities as outlined above.



Signed
Title: Court President

Date: 27 June 2025



Signed
Title: Commissioner

Date: 27 June 2025



Independent Auditor's Report



The Court President

The Caribbean Court of Justice

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of **The Caribbean Court of Justice ("the Court")**, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2024, the statements of comprehensive income, changes in accumulated fund and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statement present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Court as at 31 December 2024, and financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Court in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (IESBA Code), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the IESBA Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with IFRS, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Court's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Court or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Court's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or

**Independent Auditor's Report (continued)****Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements (continued)**

error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken based on these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We, also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Court's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Court's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Court to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure, and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

San Juan
9 July 2025

Moore
Chartered Accountants

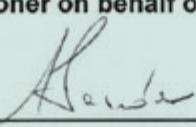


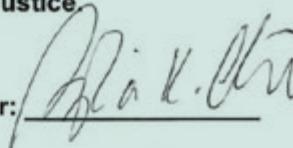
Statement of Financial Position
As at 31 December 2024
(Expressed in Trinidad and Tobago Dollars)

	Note	2024 <u>TT\$</u>	2023 <u>TT\$</u>
Assets			
Non-current assets			
Property and equipment	3	1,954,427	1,388,300
Retirement benefits due from Trust Fund	4	106,845,989	109,521,989
Total non-current assets		<u>108,800,416</u>	<u>110,910,289</u>
Current assets			
Other receivables	5	437,446	639,292
Due from related parties	6	184,175	226,509
Cash and cash equivalents		9,567,835	5,155,517
Total current assets		<u>10,189,456</u>	<u>6,021,318</u>
Total assets		<u>118,989,872</u>	<u>116,931,607</u>
Accumulated funds and liabilities			
Accumulated funds			
Accumulated fund		7,058,761	5,059,036
Total accumulated fund		<u>7,058,761</u>	<u>5,059,036</u>
Non-current liability			
Retirement benefit liability	7	106,845,989	109,521,989
Total non-current liability		<u>106,845,989</u>	<u>109,521,989</u>
Current liabilities			
Deferred Income	8	3,430,004	792,795
Other payables	9	1,623,326	1,406,894
Due to related parties	6	31,792	150,893
Total current liabilities		<u>5,085,122</u>	<u>2,350,582</u>
Total accumulated funds and liabilities		<u>118,989,872</u>	<u>116,931,607</u>

The accompanying notes on pages 10 to 27 and Supplementary Financial information on pages 28 to 32 form an integral part of these financial statements.

These financial statements were approved for issue by the Court President and an RJLSC Commissioner on behalf of the Caribbean Court of Justice.

Court President: 

Commissioner: 

Date: 27 June 2025

Date: 27 June 2025



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Statement of Comprehensive Income
For the year ended 31 December 2024
(Expressed in Trinidad and Tobago Dollars)

	Note	2024 <u>TT\$</u>	2023 <u>TT\$</u>
Funding from the Trust Fund	10	38,960,593	52,349,273
Other income	11	<u>1,684,522</u>	<u>960,502</u>
		40,645,115	53,309,775
Administrative expenses	12	(46,499,450)	(49,009,133)
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year		(5,854,335)	4,300,642
Other comprehensive gain/loss:			
Re-measurement of defined benefit pension plans		7,854,060	(3,338,310)
Total comprehensive surplus		1,999,725	962,332

The accompanying notes on pages 10 to 27 and Supplementary Financial information on pages 28 to 32 form an integral part of these financial statements.



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Statement of Changes in Accumulated Fund

For the year ended 31 December 2024

(Expressed in Trinidad and Tobago Dollars)

Year ended 31 December 2024

	Accumulated Fund <u>TT\$</u>
Balance as at 01 January 2024	5,059,039
Total comprehensive surplus for the year	1,999,725
Year ended 31 December 2024	<u>7,058,764</u>

Year ended 31 December 2023

Balance as at 01 January 2023	4,096,707
Total comprehensive deficit for the year	962,332
Year ended 31 December 2023	<u>5,059,039</u>

The accompanying notes on pages 10 to 27 and Supplementary Financial information on pages 28 to 32 form an integral part of these financial statements.



Statement of Cash Flows
For the year ended 31 December 2024
(Expressed in Trinidad and Tobago Dollars)

	2024 TT\$	2023 TT\$
Cash flows from operating activities		
Total comprehensive surplus for the year	1,999,725	962,332
Adjustments to reconcile total comprehensive surplus for the year to net cash from operating activities:		
Depreciation	1,039,496	1,116,911
Interest income	<u>(3,588)</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>3,035,633</u>	<u>2,079,243</u>
Decrease/(Increase) in retirement benefit due from Trust Fund	2,676,000	(7,606,530)
Decrease/(Increase) in other receivables	201,846	(153,158)
Decrease in due from related parties	42,334	503,924
(Decrease)/Increase in retirement benefit liability	<u>(2,676,000)</u>	<u>7,606,530</u>
Increase in other payables	216,432	422,792
(Decrease)/Increase in due to related parties	<u>(119,101)</u>	<u>150,893</u>
Increase/(Decrease) in deferred income	<u>2,637,209</u>	<u>(468,557)</u>
Net cash generated from operating activities	<u>6,014,353</u>	<u>2,535,137</u>
Cash flows from investing activities		
Interest received	3,588	-
Acquisition of property and equipment	<u>(1,605,633)</u>	<u>(435,525)</u>
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(1,602,045)</u>	<u>(435,525)</u>
Increase in cash and cash equivalents	4,412,308	2,099,612
Cash and cash equivalents as at January 1	5,155,517	3,055,905
Cash and cash equivalents as at December 31	<u>9,567,825</u>	<u>5,155,517</u>

The accompanying notes on pages 10 to 27 and Supplementary Financial information on pages 28 to 32 form an integral part of these financial statements.



Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2024
(Expressed in Trinidad and Tobago Dollars)

1. Establishment and principal activity

The Caribbean Court of Justice (the "Court") and the Regional Judicial and Legal Services Commission (the "Commission") were established on 14 February 2001, by the Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Court of Justice (the "Agreement"). The Agreement was signed on that date by the following Caribbean Community ("CARICOM") states Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, Suriname, and Trinidad & Tobago. Two further states, Dominica, and St. Vincent & The Grenadines, signed the Agreement on 15 February 2003, bringing the total number of signatories to 12.

The Court was inaugurated on 16 April 2005, in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. The first Commission came into force on 21 August 2003 and works to ensure that the Court meets and fully satisfies the expectations and needs of the people it serves.

The Court is the highest judicial tribunal, designed to be more than a Court of last resort for member states of the Caribbean Community. For, in addition to replacing the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, the Court is vested with original jurisdiction in respect of the interpretation and application of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas Establishing the Caribbean Community including the CARICOM Single Market and Economy. The Court is designed to exercise both an appellate and original jurisdiction.

The Court is primarily financed by the Caribbean Court of Justice Trust Fund (the "Trust Fund"). The Trust Fund was established by the CARICOM states signing the Agreement, who together invested US\$100 million into the Trust Fund, which generates income to finance the expenditures of the Court and Commission.

2. Significant accounting policies

(a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS"), under the historical cost convention and are expressed in Trinidad & Tobago dollars, which is the Court's functional and presentation currency.

(b) Changes in accounting policy and disclosures

(i) New and amended standards adopted by the Court

There were no new standards, amendments and interpretations which are effective from 01 January 2024 and have been adopted by the Court.

(ii) New standards, amendments and interpretations issued but not effective and not early adopted

There are no new standards, interpretations, and amendments, which have not been applied in these financial statements which will or may have an effect on the Court's future financial statements.

Other standards, amendments, and interpretations to existing standards in issue but not yet effective are not considered to be relevant to the Court and have not been disclosed.



Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2024
(Expressed in Trinidad and Tobago Dollars)

2. Significant accounting policies (Continued)

(b) *Changes in accounting policy and disclosures (continued)*

(iii) Standards and amendments to published standards early adopted by the Court

The Court did not early adopt any new, revised or amended standards.

(c) *Use of estimates*

The preparation of these financial statements in conformity with IFRS requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of policies and reported amounts of assets, liabilities, income and expenses. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

Estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognized in the period in which the estimates are revised and in any future periods affected. Information about critical judgements in applying accounting policies that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognized in the financial statements is included in the following notes:

- Note (e) Property, plant and equipment
- Note (g) Other receivables
- Note (j) Financial assets
- Note (k) Financial liabilities
- Note (m) Provisions
- Note (n) Employee benefits

(d) *Foreign currency transactions*

Foreign currency transactions are translated into the functional currency using the exchange rates prevailing at the date of the transactions. Gains and losses resulting from the settlement of such transactions and from the translation of monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are recognised in the statement of comprehensive income. Year-end balances are translated at year-end exchange rates.

(e) *Property and equipment*

Items of property and equipment are measured at cost, net of accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

Cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to the acquisition of the asset. The cost of self-constructed assets includes the cost of material and direct labour, any other cost directly attributable to bringing the assets to a working condition for their intended use, the costs of dismantling and removing the items and restoring the site on which they are located and capitalized borrowing costs. Purchased software that is integral to the functionality of the related equipment is capitalized as part of the equipment.

When parts of the items of property and equipment have different useful lives, they are accounted for as separate items of property and equipment.



Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2024
(Expressed in Trinidad and Tobago Dollars)

2. Significant accounting policies (Continued)

(e) *Property and equipment (continued)*

The gain or loss on disposal of property and equipment is determined by comparing the proceeds from disposal with the carrying amount of the property and equipment and is recognized net within other income/other expenses in the statement of comprehensive income. When revalued assets are sold, any related amount included in the revaluation reserve is transferred to the accumulated fund.

The cost of replacing a component of an item of property and equipment is recognized in the carrying amount of the item if it is probable that the future economic benefits embodied within the component will flow to the Court, and its cost can be measured reliably. The carrying amount of the replaced component is derecognized. The costs of the day-to-day servicing of property and equipment are recognized in the statement of comprehensive income as incurred.

Depreciation is based on the cost of an asset less its residual value. Significant components of individual assets are assessed and if a component has a useful life that is different from the remainder of that asset, that component is depreciated separately. Depreciation is recognized in the statement of comprehensive income on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of each component of property and equipment.

Depreciation is charged using the straight-line method at the rate of 25% for all property and equipment except for leasehold improvements (10%), which is designed to write off the cost of the assets over their estimated useful lives.

Depreciation methods, useful lives, and residual values are reviewed at each reporting date and adjusted if appropriate.

(f) *Impairment of non-financial assets*

The carrying amounts of the Court's assets are reviewed at each reporting date to determine whether there is any indication of impairment. If such an indication exists, the asset's recoverable amount is estimated.

An impairment loss is recognised whenever the carrying amount of an asset or its cash-generating unit exceeds its recoverable amount. Impairment losses are recognized in the statement of comprehensive income.

The recoverable amount of other assets is the greater of their net selling price and value in use. In assessing value in use, the estimated future cash flows are discounted to their present value using a discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the asset. For an asset that does not generate largely independent cash inflows, the recoverable amount is determined for the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.



Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2024
(Expressed in Trinidad and Tobago Dollars)

2. Significant accounting policies (Continued)

(f) *Impairment of non-financial assets (continued)*

An impairment loss is reversed if there has been a change in the estimates used to determine the recoverable amount. An impairment loss is reversed only to the extent that the asset's carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined, net of depreciation or amortisation if no impairment loss had been recognized.

(g) *Other receivables*

Other receivables are stated net of any specific provision established to recognise anticipated losses for bad and doubtful debts. Bad debts are written off during the year in which they are identified.

(h) *Due (to) / from related party*

Due (to) / from related party is stated at cost.

(i) *Cash and cash equivalents*

For the purpose of the statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents comprise cash in hand and at bank, and cash deposited with money market income funds with an original maturity of three months or less.

(j) *Financial assets*

The Court classifies its financial assets at amortized cost. These assets arise principally from the Court's normal operations (e.g. advances to staff and VAT recoverable) but also incorporate other types of financial assets where the objective is to hold these assets in order to collect contractual cash flows and the contractual cash flows are solely payments of principal and interest. They are initially recognized at fair value plus transaction costs that are directly attributable to their acquisition or issue and are subsequently carried at amortized cost using the effective interest rate method, less provision for impairment.

Impairment provisions for financial assets other than related party balances are recognized based on the simplified approach within IFRS 9 using a provision matrix in the determination of the lifetime expected credit losses. During this process, the probability of the non-payment of the financial assets is assessed. This probability is then multiplied by the amount of the expected loss arising from default to determine the lifetime expected credit loss for the financial assets. For financial assets, which are reported net, such provisions are recorded in a separate provision account with the loss being recognized within cost of sales in the statement of comprehensive income. On confirmation that the financial assets will not be collectible, the gross carrying value of the asset is written off against the associated provision.



Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2024
(Expressed in Trinidad and Tobago Dollars)

2. Significant accounting policies (Continued)

(j) Financial assets (continued)

Impairment provisions for receivables from related parties and loans to related parties are recognized based on a forward-looking expected credit loss model. The methodology used to determine the amount of the provision is based on whether there has been a significant increase in credit risk since initial recognition of the financial asset. For those where the credit risk has not increased significantly since initial recognition of the financial asset, twelve months expected credit losses along with gross interest income are recognized. For those for which credit risk has increased significantly, lifetime expected credit losses along with the gross interest income are recognized. For those that are determined to be credit-impaired, lifetime expected credit losses along with interest income on a net basis are recognized.

The Court's financial assets measured at amortized cost comprise retirement benefits due from Trust Fund, other receivables, due from related parties and cash and cash equivalents in the statement of financial position.

(k) Financial liabilities

The Court classifies its financial liabilities as financial liabilities at amortised cost. This primarily consists of other payables.

Payables and other short-term monetary liabilities are initially recognised at fair value and subsequently carried at amortised cost.

(l) Accumulated fund

The accumulated fund represents the excess (deficit) of funding received over (less than) expenditure.

(m) Provisions

A provision is recognised if, as a result of a past event, the Court has a present legal or constructive obligation that can be estimated reliably, and it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation. Provisions are determined by discounting the expected future cash flows at a rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and, where appropriate, the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of finance cost is recognized as a finance cost.

(n) Employee benefits

The Trust Fund had previously indicated that the retirement arrangements of Judges of the Court are authorized and funded from within the Trust Fund in accordance with a Protocol established by the Heads of Government; the retirement benefits due to non-judicial staff should be paid from the Trust Fund as they fall due. These proposals were accepted by the Court and the Commission.



Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2024
(Expressed in Trinidad and Tobago Dollars)

2. Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

(n) Employee benefits (continued)

(i) Non-judicial staff pension plan

The Court provides its non-judicial staff with a pension plan. Under this plan, the employees of the Court make contributions which are deducted from their salaries and are matched with employer contributions from the Court.

Balances accumulated under this plan are calculated by an independent third-party administrator, in accordance with an agreed formula between the Court and their employees. The administrator advises the Court of the accumulated amounts at the end of each financial year.

When a staff member reaches retirement, the Court's actuary determines the pension entitlement for that employee based on their accumulated balance using appropriate actuarial assumptions. The Trust Fund, at the request of the Court, provides to the Court the funds necessary to pay the pension for each employee on this basis.

However, since there is no separate external fund where the contributions are placed (other than the Trust Fund), under IAS 19 these arrangements are treated as a defined benefit obligation of the Court.

(ii) Defined benefit plan

The Court's obligation in respect of the defined benefit pension plan for judges is calculated by estimating the amount of future benefit that judges have earned in return for their service in the current and prior periods; that benefit is discounted to determine its present value. The calculation is performed by the Court's actuary using the projected unit credit method.

(o) Taxation

Pursuant to the terms of an agreement entered into on July 4, 2003, between the Court, the Commission and the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, the Court is exempt from all direct and indirect taxes, duties and levies imposed in Trinidad and Tobago.

(p) Revenue recognition

Funds from the Caribbean Court of Justice Trust Fund

Unconditional funding related to the ongoing operations of the Court is recognized in the statement of comprehensive income as income in the period in which the funds become receivable from the Trust Fund.

Grants

Subventions that compensate the Court for expenses incurred are recognized as income in the statement of comprehensive income on a systematic basis in the same periods in which the expenses are incurred.



Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2024
(Expressed in Trinidad and Tobago Dollars)

2. Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

(p) Revenue recognition (continued)

Grants (continued)

Grants that compensate the Court for the cost of an asset are recognized in the statement of comprehensive income as revenue on a systematic basis over the life of the asset.

All other revenue is recorded on an accrual basis.

(q) Administrative expenses

Expenses are recorded at cost on the transaction date and are recognised on the accrual basis in the statement of comprehensive income.



Notes to the Financial Statements
 For the year ended 31 December 2024
 (Expressed in Trinidad and Tobago Dollars)

3. Property and equipment

	Computer & Software TT\$	Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment TT\$	Flags, Crest & Seals TT\$	Library Books TT\$	Security Equipment TT\$	Leasehold Improvements TT\$	Vehicles TT\$	Total TT\$
Year ended 31 Dec 2024								
As at 1 Jan 2024	12,560,707	12,317,821	649,597	15,296,025	1,723,407	1,712,730	4,450,700	48,710,987
Additions	688,913	256,189	-	25,588	19,943	-	615,000	1,605,633
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-	(1,135,000)	(1,135,000)
As at 31 Dec 2024	13,249,620	12,574,010	649,597	15,321,613	1,743,350	1,712,730	3,930,700	49,181,620
Accumulated depreciation								
As at 1 Jan 2024	(12,330,739)	(11,744,057)	(649,597)	(15,228,956)	(1,642,561)	(1,276,077)	(4,450,700)	(47,322,687)
Charge for the year	(261,937)	(469,792)	-	(34,938)	(36,410)	(82,669)	(153,750)	(1,039,496)
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,135,000	1,135,000
As at 31 Dec 2024	(12,592,676)	(12,213,849)	(649,597)	(15,263,894)	(1,678,971)	(1,358,746)	(3,469,450)	(47,227,183)
Net Book Value								
As at 31 December 2024	656,944	360,161	—	57,719	64,379	353,984	461,250	1,954,437
As at 31 December 2023	229,968	573,764	—	67,069	80,846	436,653	—	1,388,300
 Year ended 31 Dec 2023								
As at 1 Jan 2023	11,910,609	12,873,386	439,120	15,231,239	1,651,423	1,718,979	4,450,701	48,275,457
Reclassification	578,456	(782,679)	210,477	2	(1)	(6,249)	(1)	5
Additions	71,642	227,114	-	64,784	71,985	-	-	435,525
As at 31 Dec 2023	12,560,707	12,317,821	649,597	15,296,025	1,723,407	1,712,730	4,450,700	48,710,987
Accumulated depreciation								
As at 1 Jan 2023	(11,600,890)	(11,978,003)	(436,477)	(15,181,580)	(1,577,966)	(980,156)	(4,450,699)	(46,205,771)
Reclassification	(4)	210,453	(210,451)	-	-	(2)	(1)	(5)
Adjustment	(625,994)	305,754	(26)	(6,536)	(33,170)	(206,898)	-	(566,870)
Charge for the year	(103,851)	(282,261)	(2,643)	(40,840)	(31,425)	(89,021)	-	(550,041)
As at 31 Dec 2023	(12,330,739)	(11,744,057)	(649,597)	(15,228,956)	(1,642,561)	(1,276,077)	(4,450,700)	(47,322,687)
Net Book Value								
As at 31 December 2023	229,968	573,764	—	67,069	80,846	436,653	—	1,388,300
As at 31 December 2022	309,719	895,383	2,643	49,659	73,457	738,823	2	2,069,686



Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2024
(Expressed in Trinidad and Tobago Dollars)

	2024	2023
	<u>TT\$</u>	<u>TT\$</u>
4. Retirement benefit due from Trust Fund		
Retirement benefits due from Trust Fund	<u>106,845,989</u>	<u>109,521,989</u>

The Trust Fund had previously proposed that since the retirement arrangements of the Court are already funded from within the Trust Fund with a legislature from the Heads of Government to ensure that the resources are always adequate, the retirement benefits due to the judges and non-judicial staff should be paid from the Trust Fund as they fall due. These proposals were accepted by the Court. For the judges, this balance is determined by the present value of the future cost of the judges' pensions, while for non-judicial staff the balance is determined by the total of the non-judicial staff's employee account balances. Refer to Notes 2 (n) and 7.

5. Other receivables

VAT recoverable	132,772	306,975
Employee advances	246,206	205,053
Due from Caribbean Community Administrative Tribunal	27,092	27,092
Other assets	<u>31,376</u>	<u>100,172</u>
	<u>437,446</u>	<u>639,292</u>

6. Due from related parties

The following balances/transactions were held/carried out with related parties:

a) Due from related parties:

- CCJ Academy for Law	83,555	162,053
- Caribbean Association of Judicial Officers	<u>100,620</u>	<u>64,456</u>
	<u>184,175</u>	<u>226,509</u>

b) Due to related parties:

- The commission	31,629	150,730
- JURIST project	<u>163</u>	<u>163</u>
	<u>31,792</u>	<u>150,893</u>

Amounts due / from related parties are interest-free, with no fixed repayment terms.

c) Trust fund income received on behalf of and transferred to the Commission	1,620,278	2,880,145
d) Expenses charged to the Commission	50,101	47,775

The Commission works to ensure that the Court meets and fully satisfies the expectations and needs of the people it serves.

Key management compensation

e) Salaries and other short-term benefits	6,112,071	5,330,732
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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2024
(Expressed in Trinidad and Tobago Dollars)

	2024	2023
	<u>TT\$</u>	<u>TT\$</u>
7. Retirement benefit liability		
Judges	65,367,989	72,974,520
Non-Judicial staff	<u>41,478,000</u>	<u>36,547,470</u>
	<u>106,845,989</u>	<u>109,521,990</u>

Judges pension arrangement

The President and Judges of the Court are to be paid pension benefits as per a final salary defined benefit pension plan in respect of continuous service with the Court. The benefits are based on one of the following categories depending on the number of years of continuous service at the time of retirement.

Less than 5 years' service	A gratuity of 20% of the pensionable emoluments at the time of retirement for every year of continuous service.
5 to 10 years of service	A monthly pension equivalent to two-thirds of the monthly pensionable emoluments at the time of retirement, for life.
More than 10 years of service	A monthly pension equivalent to the monthly pensionable emoluments at the time of retirement, for life.



Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2024
(Expressed in Trinidad and Tobago Dollars)

7. Retirement benefit liability (Continued)

Judges pension arrangement (continued)

Principal actuarial assumptions at the reporting date are as follows:

	2024	2023
	TT\$	TT\$
Discount rate	5.0%	5.0%
Expected rate of return on plan assets	N/A	N/A
Salary growth rate	1%	1%
Average expected remaining working lives of members	9.3 years	9.2 years
 Fair value of plan assets as at the beginning of year	 -	 -
Contributions by the Court	2,762,970	4,161,180
Benefits paid	<u>(2,762,970)</u>	<u>(4,161,180)</u>
Fair value of plan assets as at the end of year	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
 Present value of obligation as at beginning of year	 72,974,520	 70,947,450
Interest cost	3,666,120	3,759,780
Current service cost - Employer's portion	1,712,640	2,027,070
Past service cost	-	-
Benefit payments	<u>(2,762,970)</u>	<u>(4,161,180)</u>
Actuarial gain/ loss on obligation	<u>(10,222,320)</u>	<u>401,400</u>
 Present value of obligation as at end of year	<u>65,367,990</u>	<u>72,974,520</u>
 Interest cost	 3,666,120	 3,759,780
Service cost	<u>1,712,640</u>	<u>2,027,070</u>
	<u>5,378,760</u>	<u>5,786,850</u>
 Other comprehensive income		
Net actuarial gain/loss recognized	<u>(10,222,320)</u>	<u>401,400</u>
 Total expense	<u>(4,843,560)</u>	<u>6,188,250</u>



Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2024
(Expressed in Trinidad and Tobago Dollars)

7. Retirement benefit liability (Continued)

Judges pension arrangement (continued)

	2024	2023
	TT\$	TT\$
Opening liability	(72,974,520)	(70,947,450)
Total expense	4,843,560	(6,188,250)
Contributions paid	<u>2,762,970</u>	<u>4,161,180</u>
Closing liability	(65,367,990)	(72,974,520)

As the retirement benefit liability is payable by the Trust Fund when it becomes due, a receivable balance from the Trust Fund is recorded in the statement of financial position to match the retirement benefit liability.

Present value of the obligation	(65,367,990)	(72,974,520)
Liability recognised in statement of financial position	(65,367,990)	(72,974,520)

Non-judicial staff pension plan

The Court and its employees, with the exception of judges, contribute towards a pension plan which is managed by a Pension Administration Committee made up of representatives of the Commission, employees, the Trust Fund, and the Court. The data and benefit administration services are provided by Bacon Woodrow and de Souza Limited. However, since there is no separate external fund where the contributions are placed (other than the Trust Fund), under IAS 19 these arrangements are treated as a defined benefit obligation of the Court. Refer to Notes 2 (n) and 4.

Movement in the present value of defined benefit obligation

Defined benefit obligation as at start of year	36,547,470	30,968,009
Current service cost	1,324,620	1,311,240
Interest cost	1,772,850	1,585,530
Contributions paid	715,830	695,760
Remeasurements:		
- Experience adjustment	2,950,290	2,816,490
- Actuarial gains from changes in financial assumptions	(582,030)	120,421
- Benefits paid	(1,251,030)	(949,980)
Defined benefit obligation as at end of year	41,478,000	36,547,470

Liability profile

The defined benefit obligations as at the year end were allocated as follows:

- Active members	78%	81%
- Pensioners	22%	19%



Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2024
(Expressed in Trinidad and Tobago Dollars)

7. Retirement benefit liability (continued)

Non-judicial staff pension plan (continued)

Liability profile (continued)

The weighted average duration of the defined obligation at the year-end was 9.1 years (2023: 9.3 years). 99% (2023: 97%) of the benefits accrued by active members were vested. Less than 1% (2023: 1%) of the defined benefit obligation for active members was conditional on future salary increases.

Movement in fair value of plan assets/asset allocation

The Plan's assets are held by the Trust Fund in an amount equal to the Plan's liabilities.

	2024	2023
	TT\$	TT\$
Expenses recognised in profit and loss		
Current service cost	1,324,620	1,311,240
Net interest on net defined benefit liability	<u>1,772,850</u>	<u>1,585,530</u>
Net pension costs	<u>3,097,470</u>	<u>2,896,770</u>

Movement in fair value of plan assets/asset allocation

Re-measurements recognised in other comprehensive income

Experience losses	2,368,260	2,936,910
Total amount recognised in other comprehensive income	<u>2,368,360</u>	<u>2,936,910</u>

The Plan's assets are held by the Trust Fund in an amount equal to the Plan's liabilities

Opening defined benefit liability	36,547,470	30,968,009
Net pension cost	3,097,470	2,896,770
Re-measurements recognized in other comprehensive income	2,368,260	2,936,910
Employee's salary deductions	715,830	695,760
Benefits paid by the Court	(1,251,030)	(949,980)
Closing defined benefit liability	<u>41,478,000</u>	<u>36,547,470</u>

Summary of principal assumptions as at December 31

Discount rate	5.5% pa	4.8% pa
Salary increases	n/a	n/a

Assumptions regarding future mortality are based on published mortality tables. The life expectancies underlying the value of the defined benefit obligation as at the year ends are as follows:

Life expectancy at age 65 for current pensioner in years:

- Male	17.6	17.6
- Female	21.6	21.6



Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2024
(Expressed in Trinidad and Tobago Dollars)

7. Retirement benefit liability (Continued)

Non-Judicial staff pension plan (continued)

Sensitivity Analysis

The calculation of the defined benefit obligation is sensitive to the assumptions used. The following table summarizes how the defined benefit obligation as at the year ends would have changed as a result of a change in the assumptions used.

As at 31 December 2024	1% pa higher	1% pa lower
Discount rate	(729,210)	856,320
As at 31 December 2023	1% pa higher	1% pa lower
Discount rate	(568,650)	669,000

An increase of one year in the assumed life expectancies shown above would decrease the defined benefit obligation as at 31 December 2024 by \$147,180 (2023: \$133,800).

These sensitivities were calculated by re-calculating the defined benefit obligations using the revised assumptions.

Funding

The Court provides benefits under the Plan on a pay-as-you-go basis and thus pays benefits as and when they fall due. The Court expects to pay contributions totalling \$1,157,370 in 2025.

	2024	2023
	<u>TT\$</u>	<u>TT\$</u>
8. Deferred Income		
Grant funding from European Development Fund	<u>3,430,004</u>	<u>792,795</u>
9. Other payables		
Pension contributions due to Trust Fund	410,653	449,607
Accounts payable	502,438	437,122
Accruals	765,270	514,201
Miscellaneous liabilities	<u>(55,035)</u>	<u>5,964</u>
	<u>1,623,326</u>	<u>1,406,894</u>
10. Funding from the Trust Fund		
Funding received from the Trust Fund	43,717,183	46,114,193
Pension income (payable)/receivable from the Trust Fund	<u>(4,756,590)</u>	<u>6,235,080</u>
	<u>38,960,593</u>	<u>52,349,273</u>



Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2024
(Expressed in Trinidad and Tobago Dollars)

	2024	2023
	TT\$	TT\$
11. Other income		
Foreign exchange gain	429,366	424,789
Filing fee	64,795	61,808
Realized EDF grant income	713,977	454,159
Interest income	3,588	-
Memorabilia sales	12,796	19,746
Proceeds from sale of Court vehicles	<u>460,000</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>1,684,522</u>	<u>960,502</u>
12. Administrative expenses		
Salaries and allowances	29,878,004	31,798,909
Pension cost and gratuities	7,828,820	8,253,463
Depreciation	1,039,496	1,116,912
Insurance expenses	1,042,813	2,079,098
Professional fees	1,301,348	605,078
Telephone and internet	694,630	679,197
Library materials	797,560	697,236
Repairs and maintenance	486,544	599,976
Janitorial expenses	608,610	698,141
Other administrative expenses	255,898	125,397
Entertainment expenses	284,003	243,607
Office supplies	163,839	204,408
Education and training	676,992	516,437
Uniforms	8,458	35,150
Motor vehicle expenses	226,456	264,385
Bank charges	38,874	40,407
Public education	<u>1,167,105</u>	<u>1,051,331</u>
	<u>46,499,450</u>	<u>49,009,132</u>
Number of employees	90	90

13. Financial risk management

Financial risk factors

The main financial risks arising from the Court's operations are foreign exchange currency risk, credit risk and liquidity risk. Risk management is carried out by the Finance and Administration Manager under policies approved by the Commission.



Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2024
(Expressed in Trinidad and Tobago Dollars)

13. Financial risk management (Continued)

Foreign exchange risk

The Court is mainly exposed to foreign exchange risk arising from financial instruments denominated in foreign currencies. Foreign exchange risk arises when future commercial transactions or recognized assets or liabilities are denominated in a currency that is not the Court's functional currency.

The table below summarizes the Court's assets and liabilities, at the year ended, which are denominated in United States Dollars and Euros.

	2024	2023
	TT\$	TT\$
Assets		
Retirement benefits due from Trust Fund	106,845,989	109,521,989
Cash and cash equivalents	8,637,343	4,953,753
Total assets	<u>115,483,332</u>	<u>114,475,742</u>
Net exposure	<u>115,483,332</u>	<u>114,475,742</u>

The table below summarizes the sensitivity of the Court's assets and liabilities to changes in foreign exchange movements at the year-end. The analysis is based on the assumption that the relevant foreign exchange rate increased/decreased by 5% to the Trinidad and Tobago dollars (2023: 5%), with all other variables held constant. This represents management's best estimate of a reasonable possible shift in the foreign exchange rates, having regard to the historical volatility of those rates.

Foreign exchange risk	Effect on accumulated fund	
	2024	2023
Impact on accumulated fund:		
Increased by 5%	5,774,167	5,723,787
Decreased by 5%	(5,774,167)	(5,723,787)

Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that a borrower or counterparty fails to meet its contractual obligation. Credit risk of the Court arises from cash and cash equivalents as well as credit exposures from staff loans receivable. The Court is mainly exposed to credit risk from cash and cash equivalents.

The credit quality of staff, their financial position, past experience and other factors are taken into consideration in assessing credit risk and are minimised through the use of contractual agreements.

Cash and deposits are held with reputable financial institutions.

The carrying value of financial assets on the statement of financial position represents their maximum exposure.



Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2024
(Expressed in Trinidad and Tobago Dollars)

13. Financial risk management (Continued)

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk arises from the Court's management of working capital. It is the risk that the Court will encounter difficulty in meeting its financial obligations as they fall due. Prudent risk management implies maintaining sufficient cash to fund its day-to-day operations.

The table below summarizes the maturity profile of the Court's financial liabilities as at the year-end based on contractual undiscounted payments:

	Less than (3) months TT\$	Less than (1) year TT\$	No stated maturity TT\$	Total TT\$
At 31 December 2024				
Financial liabilities:				
Other payables	1,623,326	-	-	1,623,326
Grant funding from EDF	-	3,430,004	-	3,430,004
Total liabilities	<u>1,623,326</u>	<u>3,430,004</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,053,330</u>
At 31 December 2023				
Financial liabilities:				
Other payables	1,406,894	-	-	1,406,894
Grant funding from EDF	-	792,795	-	792,765
Total liabilities	<u>1,406,894</u>	<u>792,795</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,199,669</u>

14. Subsequent events

Management evaluated all events that occurred from 01 January 2025, through 9 July 2025, the date the financial statements were available to be issued. During the period, the Court did not have any subsequent events requiring recognition or disclosure in the financial statements.



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SUPPLEMENTARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2024

EXPRESSED IN UNITED STATES DOLLARS



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Independent Auditor's Report on the Supplementary Financial Information

**To the Court President
The Caribbean Court of Justice**

We have audited the financial statements of the Caribbean Court of Justice for the year ended 31 December 2024 and have issued our report thereon dated 9 July 2025.

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatements.

We conducted our audit for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the financial statements of the Caribbean Court of Justice taken as a whole. The accompanying supplementary financial information, consisting of the statements of financial position, comprehensive income and changes in accumulated fund, is presented for the purpose of additional analysis in United States Dollars and should not be considered necessary to the presentation of the basic financial statements. This information has been subjected to the audit procedures applied to the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly presented, in all material respects, when taken as a whole with the basic financial statements.

**9 July 2025
San Juan
Trinidad, West Indies**



Statement of Financial Position
As at 31 December 2024
(Expressed in United States Dollars)

	US\$	US\$
Assets		
Non-current assets		
Property and equipment	292,142	207,519
Retirement benefits due from Trust Fund	<u>15,971,000</u>	<u>16,371,000</u>
Total non-current assets	<u>16,263,142</u>	<u>16,578,519</u>
Current assets		
Other receivables	65,388	95,559
Due from related parties	27,530	33,858
Cash and cash equivalents	<u>1,430,170</u>	<u>770,630</u>
Total current assets	<u>1,523,088</u>	<u>900,047</u>
Total assets	<u>17,786,230</u>	<u>17,478,566</u>
Accumulated funds and liabilities		
Accumulated fund	<u>1,055,122</u>	<u>756,209</u>
Total accumulated fund	<u>1,055,122</u>	<u>756,209</u>
Non-current liability		
Retirement benefit liability	<u>15,971,000</u>	<u>16,371,000</u>
Total non-current liability	<u>15,971,000</u>	<u>16,371,000</u>
Current liabilities		
Deferred income	512,706	118,504
Other payables	242,650	210,298
Due to related parties	<u>4,752</u>	<u>22,555</u>
Total current liabilities	<u>760,108</u>	<u>351,357</u>
Total accumulated funds and liabilities	<u>17,786,230</u>	<u>17,478,566</u>

Translation rate used – USD 1.00 = TTD 6.69 (2023: USD 1.00 = TTD 6.69)



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Statement of Comprehensive Income
As at 31 December 2024
(Expressed in United States Dollars)

	2024 US\$	2023 US\$
Funding from the Trust Fund	5,823,706	7,825,003
Other income	<u>251,797</u>	<u>143,573</u>
	<u>6,075,503</u>	<u>7,968,576</u>
Administrative expenses	<u>(6,950,590)</u>	<u>(7,325,730)</u>
(Deficit)/ Surplus for the year	<u>(875,087)</u>	<u>642,846</u>
Other comprehensive gain/loss		
Re-measurement of defined benefit pension plans	<u>1,174,000</u>	<u>(499,000)</u>
Total comprehensive surplus	<u>298,913</u>	<u>143,846</u>

Translation rate used – USD 1.00 : TTD 6.69 (2023: USD 1.00 : TTD 6.69)



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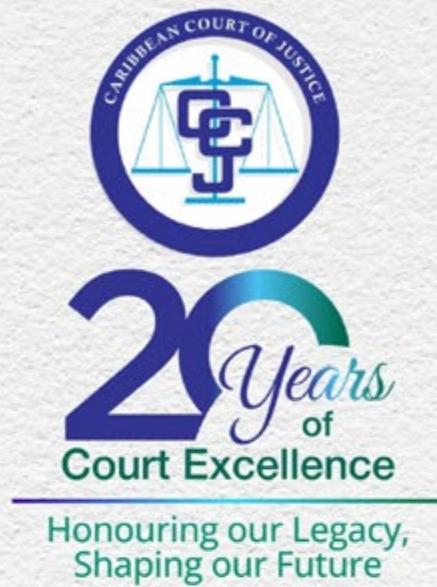
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Statement of Accumulated Fund
As at 31 December 2024
(Expressed in United States Dollars)

	Accumulated Funds <u>US\$</u>
Year ended 31 December 2024	
Balance as at 01 January 2024	756,209
Total comprehensive surplus for the year	<u>298,913</u>
Year ended 31 December 2024	<u>1,055,122</u>
 Year ended 31 December 2023	
Balance as at 01 January 2023	612,363
Total comprehensive surplus for the year	<u>143,846</u>
Year ended 31 December 2023	<u>756,209</u>

Translation rate used – USD 1.00 : TTD 6.69 (2023: USD 1.00 : TTD 6.69)



ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025

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