



## CARIBBEAN COURT OF JUSTICE

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**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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### **VIRGIN ISLANDS PREMIER MEETS WITH CCJ PRESIDENT; REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO REGIONAL INTEGRATION**

**Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.** On Friday, 13 March 2026, the Premier of the Virgin Islands, The Honourable Dr Natalio Wheatley, paid a courtesy visit to the President of the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ), the Honourable Mr Justice Winston Anderson, during his trip to Trinidad and Tobago.

Premier Wheatley attended the swearing-in ceremony of three new Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Competition Commissioners, conducted by the Regional Judicial and Legal Services Commission. His presence underscored the Virgin Islands' continued engagement with the regional integration architecture and its support for strengthening Caribbean institutions.

During the meeting with President Anderson, the Premier reiterated the Virgin Islands' appreciation for the CCJ's role in safeguarding the rule of law within the Caribbean Community. Although the Virgin Islands is currently an Associate Member of CARICOM, Premier Wheatley expressed his Government's aspiration to advance toward full membership and, in time, embrace the CCJ in both its Original and Appellate Jurisdictions, joining fellow Caribbean nations in deepening judicial cooperation and shared governance.

Justice Anderson welcomed the Premier's commitment and highlighted the CCJ's dedication to serving all Caribbean peoples, those within the formal jurisdiction of the Court as well as those exploring closer engagement.

While at the CCJ, Premier Wheatley also signed the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Time Capsule Journal, adding his reflections to a historic collection of messages that will be sealed and reopened twenty years from now, marking a symbolic contribution to the legacy and future of Caribbean justice.

**End**



*Caption: The Honourable Dr Natalio Wheatley, Premier of the Virgin Islands, meets with the Honourable Mr Justice Winston Anderson, CCJ President.*



*Caption: Premier Wheatley pens his message in the CCJ's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Time Capsule Journal.*

## About the Caribbean Court of Justice

The Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) was inaugurated in Port of Spain, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on 16 April 2005 and presently has a Bench of seven judges presided over by CCJ President, the Honourable Mr Justice Winston Anderson. The CCJ has an Original and an Appellate Jurisdiction and is effectively, therefore, two courts in one. In its Original Jurisdiction, it is an international court with exclusive jurisdiction to interpret and apply the rules set out in the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas (RTC) and to decide disputes arising under it. The RTC established the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME). In its Original Jurisdiction, the CCJ is critical to the CSME and all 12 Member States which belong to the CSME (including their citizens, businesses, and governments) can access the Court's Original Jurisdiction to protect their rights under the RTC. In its Appellate Jurisdiction, the CCJ is the final court of appeal for criminal and civil matters for those countries in the Caribbean that alter their national Constitutions to enable the CCJ to perform that role. At present, five states access the Court in its Appellate Jurisdiction, these being Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Guyana, and Saint Lucia. However, by signing and ratifying the Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Court of Justice, Member States of the Community have demonstrated a commitment to making the CCJ their final court of appeal. The Court is the realisation of a vision of our ancestors, an expression of independence and a signal of the region's coming of age.

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