



CARIBBEAN COURT OF JUSTICE

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**MEDIA RELEASE
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A LANDMARK WIN: ANTON DE KOM UNIVERSITY OF SURINAME EMERGES CHAMPION AT THE 16TH ANNUAL CCJ INTERNATIONAL LAW MOOT

Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. On Friday, 27 March 2026, witnessed by CCJ President and Judges, regional jurists, members of the diplomatic corps, and academia, the Anton de Kom University of Suriname emerged victorious at the 16th Annual Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) International Law Moot. This marked the institution's first-ever overall victory in the competition. The same University also secured the title of Best Academic Institution, only having previously earned this distinction in 2022. Second place went to The University of the West Indies (The UWI), Cave Hill, last year's champions.

The Annual CCJ International Law Moot is a yearly event aimed at affording aspiring legal practitioners from across the Caribbean the opportunity to present arguments before a panel of CCJ Judges in the Court's Original Jurisdiction. Commended by the presiding CCJ Judges for their skilful advocacy, the winning team comprised students Deldritha Afie, Rashly Resida, and Reshaya Ramadhin. The team from the Anton de Kom University of Suriname was guided by team advisor, Mrs Shaiesta Nabibaks and technical advisor Ms Nailah van Dijk.

Among other individual awardees, Ms Lindxee Collins of The UWI, Cave Hill, was awarded the Sir Henry Forde Prize for Best Oralist. The UWI, Cave Hill also secured the Mr Justice Jacob Wit Prize for the Best Written Submission. The Eugene Dupuch Law School came in third at the competition.

Delivering remarks at the Opening Ceremony, the President of the CCJ, the Honourable Mr Justice Winston Anderson, underscored the importance of the Law Moot in advancing the Court's regional mandate. He noted that,

'As the only court vested with jurisdiction to interpret and apply the Revised Treaty, it is important that the Court uses the Moot as an opportunity to raise awareness about the Treaty and the workings of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy. We must also continue to build awareness of the CCJ's judgments, which have interpreted, applied, and expounded on Member States' obligations and the correlative rights afforded to Community nationals under the Treaty. For students, while some may already be exposed to the Court's jurisprudence and Community law during their studies, the Law Moot provides a unique opportunity to gain a deeper

understanding of the Revised Treaty and its provisions and, importantly, to apply those provisions and related case law to a practical fact pattern.’

The President further highlighted that the initiative aligns with the Court’s Strategic Plan 2025–2032, particularly its focus on enhancing stakeholder awareness and fostering deeper engagement with academic and professional institutions.

Speaking at the Closing Ceremony, the Honourable Mme Justice Rajnauth-Lee, CCJ Judge and Chair of the CCJ Law Moot Committee, stated that ‘In hosting it, we signal our investment in you, the future legal practitioners of the region.’

This year’s competition featured commendable performances by nine teams from the Anton de Kom University of Suriname; the Eugene Dupuch Law School, based in The Bahamas; FHR Institute of Higher Education in Suriname; the Hugh Wooding Law School from Trinidad and Tobago; Norman Manley Law School based in Jamaica; The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill in Barbados; The University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica; The University of the West Indies, St Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago; and the University of Guyana.

Participants were required to argue a case centred on the right of skilled nationals to move freely within CARICOM, addressing related issues such as the right to reside, work, and access education in a host State.

The moot sessions were adjudicated by a panel comprising the Honourable Mr Justice Peter Jamadar, the Honourable Mme Justice Chantal Ononaiwu, who served as Moot Panel Chair, and the Honourable Mr Justice Arif Bulkan.

In an added element to this year’s competition, researcher Dr Grigory Gorbun, an American Bar Foundation/AccessLex Institute Postdoctoral Fellow in Legal and Higher Education, visited the CCJ to observe and conduct research the Law Moot. Dr Gorbun examines law moots around the world as institutional sites where students learn about the rule of law and develop their professional identity and intends to produce a book on the subject.

Members of the public can view the recordings of this year’s competition and the award ceremony on the CCJ’s YouTube channel [here](#).

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Caption: 2026 Annual CCJ International Law Moot champions, the Anton de Kom University of Suriname, stand proudly with the Honourable Mr Justice Winston Anderson, CCJ President at the Closing Ceremony of the 16th Annual CCJ International Law Moot



Caption: Ms Lindxee Collins of the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill was the Sir Henry Forde Best Oralist at the 16th Annual CCJ International Law Moot



Caption: At the 16th Annual CCJ International Law Moot, The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill was the winner of the Justice Jacob Wit Best Written Submission prize and placed second overall.



Caption: The Eugene Dupuch Law School copped the third-place prize at the 16th Annual CCJ International Law Moot.

About the Annual CCJ International Law Moot

In April 2008, the first application in the Original Jurisdiction of the Court was filed. To help promote greater familiarity with the Original Jurisdiction of the Court among the legal profession, the idea of hosting an international law moot was born and quickly transformed into reality. It is against this backdrop that the first CCJ International Law Moot was successfully held in March 2009 and became an annual event which is traditionally convened in March of each year (except for 2020 and 2021 when the Moot was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic). This is the 16th competition that the CCJ has hosted. The Court views the Law Moot as an excellent opportunity to not only familiarise law students with the tenets

of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas, but also to bring this important Treaty to life. The Law Moot is also an excellent way to develop students as advocates before the Court and future leaders of the region.

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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