



## CARIBBEAN COURT OF JUSTICE

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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **The CCJ and IACtHR Sign Memorandum of Understanding in Brazil**

**Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.** From 14–18 March 2026, the Honourable Mr Justice Winston Anderson, President of the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ), visited Brasília, Brazil, at the invitation of the Honourable Mr Justice Rodrigo Mudrovitsch, President of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACtHR). During the visit, President Anderson participated in a series of engagements hosted by the IACtHR during its 187<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Period of Sessions, held from 16–20 March 2026.

A key highlight of the visit occurred on 16 March 2026, when President Anderson formally signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the CCJ - whose original jurisdiction encompasses 12 Member States and approximately seven million people - and the IACtHR, which has jurisdiction over 20 States and nearly 600 million people.

This MOU was first discussed at the meeting between the two Presidents at the IACtHR in Costa Rica in January 2026. The MOU aims to strengthen cooperation between the two judicial institutions by promoting greater awareness of their respective mandates, procedures, and jurisprudence. It also establishes a framework for knowledge-sharing, collaboration, exchanges, and capacity-building initiatives designed to enhance the delivery of justice for the populations served by both courts.

The CCJ looks forward to deepening its engagement with regional and international judicial partners as part of its continued commitment to the rule of law and the protection of fundamental rights across the Caribbean.

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*Caption: The Honourable Mr Justice Winston Anderson (left), President of the Caribbean Court of Justice, and The Honourable Mr Justice Rodrigo Mudrovitsch (right), President of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, sign the Memorandum of Understanding between their respective Courts.*

*Photo courtesy the IACtHR*

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### **About the Caribbean Court of Justice**

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

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