

JOINT PRESS RELEASE

CCJ President to Deliver Keynote Address at The New Freedom Lecture

Tuesday, 28 July 2026, Kingston, Jamaica / The Norman Manley Law School (NMLS), in collaboration with the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ), will launch **The New Freedom Lecture**, on Tuesday, 4 August 2026, beginning at 6:00 p.m. EST/7:00 p.m. AST, at the Aubrey Fraser Lecture Theatre, Norman Manley Law School, Kingston, Jamaica. The inaugural lecture, “No First Use of Nuclear Weapons: The Limits of Law?” will be delivered by the Honourable Mr Justice Winston Anderson, President of the CCJ. The lecture will be followed by a moderated panel discussion, with the media and members of the public invited to participate both in person and online.

Held between Emancipation observances across the Caribbean and Jamaica’s 64th Independence celebrations, the programme will target a local, regional, and international audience. It is expected that the discourse will consider context where decisions taken well beyond our Caribbean shores can have significant impact on the lives of Caribbean people.

Dr Christopher Malcolm, Principal of the Norman Manley Law School, said the series reflects the School’s commitment to supporting public discussion on issues that matter to the Caribbean.

“Freedom is not sustained by history alone. It must also be understood in the context of the world we live in today. The New Freedom Lecture will bring conversations into the public square that engage contending views on challenging local, regional, and international matters. As a regional law school, we see that as part of our responsibility.”

President Anderson said this inaugural New Freedom Lecture will consider the existential threat posed by the use of nuclear weapons.

“A handful of men with access to incredibly powerful nuclear weapons can at any time exterminate the eight billion human beings on the earth. And with us would go every trace of civilisation and teaching of morality by the greatest of our poets, scientists, statesmen, and religious figures. In short, nuclear weapons can exterminate human history and, as far as we know, sentient life. Recent armed conflicts in Europe and the Middle East have brought this threat to the fore. The people of the World must awaken to the cataclysmic danger facing us. We must seek solutions, whether these be theological, scientific, or legal. We must not go quietly into the dark night.”

The New Freedom Lecture is being established as an annual forum, in which distinguished regional and international voices will examine evolving relationships between law, governance, and contemporary public affairs, in the context of ‘freedom’ for all.

Attendance is free. Registration is now open for both in-person and online participation. To register or learn more, visit www.thefreedomlecture.com.

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About The New Freedom Lecture

*Hosted by the Norman Manley Law School in collaboration with the Caribbean Court of Justice, **The New Freedom Lecture** is an annual public forum to encourage informed discussion on issues of regional and global significance through the broader lens of freedom.*

About Norman Manley Law School

Established in 1973, the Norman Manley Law School is one of three professional law schools of the Council of Legal Education serving the Commonwealth Caribbean. Named in honour of the late Right Excellent Norman Washington Manley, Jamaica's National Hero and a distinguished advocate, the School provides professional legal education and training for aspiring attorneys-at-law. The School serves students from Jamaica, Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Montserrat, and St. Kitts and Nevis, and has trained generations of legal professionals who now serve throughout the Caribbean and beyond as judges, attorneys-at-law, academics, public servants, and business leaders. Committed to excellence in legal education, the School's mission is to produce attorneys-at-law who are ethically grounded, socially responsible, and technically proficient, serving the Caribbean region and the wider international community.

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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