



CARIBBEAN COURT OF JUSTICE

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CCJ TO CONVENE HISTORIC COURT SITTINGS IN SAINT LUCIA

Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. From Tuesday, 7 to Wednesday, 8 October 2026, the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) will convene sittings in Saint Lucia to commemorate the Opening of the Judicial Year 2026/2027. For the first time in the Court's 21-year history, Saint Lucia will host itinerant sittings, previously held in Barbados, Belize, Guyana, and Jamaica. In 2023, Saint Lucia became the fifth Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Member State to accede to the CCJ's Appellate Jurisdiction.

The itinerant (travelling) nature of the CCJ allows the Court to sit and conduct court proceedings in any country that is a party to the Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Court of Justice. In keeping with the Court's mission of 'providing accessible, efficient and substantive justice for the people and states of the Caribbean Community', holding sittings throughout the region brings the Court closer to the people it serves, allowing citizens to see the Court at work, and can further reduce travel costs for attorneys and litigants. CCJ President, the Honourable Mr Justice Winston Anderson asserts that itinerant sittings enable 'the people of the region to see us, interact with us, and realise that we are in fact their kith and kin, and part and parcel of the fabric of their society.'

While in Saint Lucia, the full, seven-member CCJ Bench will hear three matters originating from Saint Lucia, Guyana, and Belize, respectively. The Court will also deliver judgments in two matters from Belize.

Additionally, the Court will pay courtesy calls on His Excellency Felix Finisterre, Acting Governor-General; the Honourable Philip J. Pierre, Prime Minister; Her Ladyship the Honourable Margaret Price Findlay, Chief Justice of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court; the Honourable Leslie Vincent Mondesir, Attorney General; and the Honourable Allen Chastanet, Leader of the Opposition.

Members of the public are invited to view the livestream of the itinerant sittings on the Court's website, social media and YouTube pages. Details of the matters to be heard are also available in

the Schedule of Court Sittings on the CCJ's website, under the Judgments and Proceedings portal at www.ccj.org.

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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.

For more information please contact:

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