



CARIBBEAN COURT OF JUSTICE

**134 HENRY STREET
PORT OF SPAIN
REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**
Telephone: (868) 612-5CCJ Fax: (868) 624-4710
Website: www.ccj.org

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CCJ PRESIDENT ATTENDS CMJA CONFERENCE IN JAMAICA

Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. From Saturday, 19 to Wednesday, 23 September 2026, the President of the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ), the Honourable Mr Justice Winston Anderson, attended the Annual Commonwealth Magistrates and Judges Association (CMJA) Conference in Kingston, Jamaica.

The Conference officially commenced on 21 September 2026 and brought together members of the judiciary from across the Commonwealth to engage in discussions on issues shaping the administration of justice. Opening remarks were delivered by His Excellency the Most Honourable Sir Patrick Linton Allen, ON, GCMG, CD, KSt.J; The Honourable Andrew Holness, ON, PC, MP, Prime Minister of Jamaica; The Honourable Mr Justice Bryan Sykes, OJ, CD, Chief Justice of Jamaica and host of the 2026 CMJA Conference; and The Honourable Mr Justice Richard Williams of The Bahamas, President of the CMJA.

President Anderson was present for the keynote address delivered by Chief Justice Sykes, which set the stage for robust dialogue on contemporary challenges and innovations within judicial systems across the Commonwealth.

As part of the Conference programme, President Anderson participated in the session titled "*Data-Driven Justice: Improving Performance and Enhancing Accountability?*", which explored the use of data and technology to strengthen judicial efficiency, transparency, and public confidence in the administration of justice. He also attended a specialist group session on "*Challenges to Arbitral Awards*", where participants examined emerging issues affecting arbitration and judicial oversight of arbitral processes.

The CMJA Conference provides an annual important platform for judicial officers and legal practitioners from across the Commonwealth to exchange knowledge, share best practices, and collaborate on strategies to strengthen the rule of law and the effective administration of justice.

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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:
The Public Education & Protocol Unit
Tel: (868) 612-5225 ext. 2260, 2246
Email: ccjcomm@ccj.org