



CARIBBEAN COURT OF JUSTICE

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MEDIA RELEASE

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CCJ Successfully Opens New Judicial Year with Historic Sitzings in Saint Lucia

Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. The Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) marked the opening of its 2026-2027 Judicial Year with historic itinerant proceedings in Saint Lucia from 7-8 October 2026. This marked the first time that the CCJ convened proceedings in Saint Lucia, which became the fifth Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Member State to accede to the CCJ's Appellate Jurisdiction in 2023.

The two-day visit formed part of the Court's ongoing efforts to enhance access to justice and strengthen its engagement with the people of the Caribbean Community. The CCJ Bench heard three matters originating from Belize, Guyana, and Saint Lucia. The Court also delivered judgments in two matters from Belize.

As part of the visit, the Court convened a Ceremonial Sitting to commemorate the opening of the 2026-2027 Judicial Year. In his address, CCJ President, the Honourable Mr Justice Winston Anderson, reaffirmed the Court's commitment to the timely and efficient administration of justice, while highlighting the growth in the filing of matters in the Court's Appellate Jurisdiction.

Reflecting on the impact of Saint Lucia's accession to the CCJ, President Anderson highlighted the greater reach afforded to access to justice to citizens and residents of Saint Lucia. He noted that since Saint Lucia's accession to the CCJ in 2023, "there has been a 600% increase in judgments issued by the Court for Saint Lucia, when compared with a corresponding period at the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council." The President revealed that one of the matters to be heard involved a case on adverse possession of land in Saint Lucia.



The Honourable Mr Justice Winston Anderson, CCJ President, inspects the Guard of Honour before the start of the Ceremonial Sitting to mark the opening of the 2026/2027 Judicial Year.



The President and Judges of the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ), along with the Chief Justice, Judges and Masters of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court (ECSC), after the CCJ's Ceremonial Sitting to commemorate the opening of the Court's 2026/2027 Judicial Year.

The CCJ's itinerant sittings allow it to conduct judicial proceedings in countries that are parties to the Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Court of Justice. Previously, such hearings were held in Barbados, Belize, Guyana and Jamaica. By taking its proceedings directly to Member States, the Court seeks to enhance public understanding of its work, provide opportunities for citizens to observe judicial proceedings and see the Court in action.

In addition to the judicial proceedings, the CCJ delegation undertook several engagements with key national stakeholders. These included courtesy calls on His Excellency Felix Finisterre, Acting Governor-General of Saint Lucia; the Honourable Philip J. Pierre, Prime Minister, and Chairman of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community; Her Ladyship the Honourable Margaret Price Findlay, Chief Justice of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court

(ECSC); the Honourable Allen Chastanet, Leader of the Opposition, as well as members of the local judiciary and legal fraternity and other stakeholders. The delegation also engaged with the Honourable Leslie Vincent Mondesir, Attorney General of Saint Lucia; Mr Seryozha Cenac, Solicitor General; and Ms Maundy Lewis, Administrative Attaché/Envoy to the Prime Minister.



*Back row from left to right: His Excellency Felix Finisterre, Acting Governor-General of Saint Lucia; the Honourable Mme Justice Chantal Ononaiwu, CCJ Judge; and the Honourable Mr Justice Winston Anderson, CCJ President.
Front row: Mrs Gizel Thomas- Roberts, CCJ Deputy Registrar and Marshal and Dr Danielle McConney, Chief Public Education and Protocol Officer.*



The Honourable Mme Justice Chantal Ononaiwu, CCJ Judge; His Excellency Felix Finisterre, Acting Governor General of Saint Lucia; and the Honourable Mr Justice Winston Anderson, CCJ President.



From left to right: Dr Danielle McConney Joseph, Chief Public Education and Protocol Officer of the CCJ; the Honourable Leslie Vincent Mondesir, Attorney General; the Honourable Mr Justice Winston Anderson, CCJ President; the Honourable Philip J. Pierre, Prime Minister; Ms Maundy Lewis, Administrative Attaché/Envoy to the Prime Minister; Mr Seryozha Cenac, Solicitor General; and Mrs Gabrielle Figaro-Jones, Registrar and Chief Marshal.



From left to right: Mrs Gabrielle Figaro-Jones, Registrar and Chief Marshal of the CCJ; the Honourable Allen Chastanet, Leader of the Opposition; the Honourable Mr Justice Winston Anderson, CCJ President; and Mr Domini Fedee, Former Senator.



The Honourable Mr Justice Peter Jamadar, CCJ Judge; the Honourable Mr Justice Winston Anderson, CCJ President; Her Ladyship Margaret Price Findlay, Chief Justice of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court (ECSC), the Honourable Mme Justice Chantal Ononaiwu, CCJ Judge; and the Honourable Mr Justice Chile Eboe-Osuji, CCJ Judge.

The visit also provided an opportunity for engagement with future members of the legal profession. In between hearings, the Honourable Mme Justice Chantal Ononaiwu met with second-year law students of the Sir Arthur Lewis Community College, where they discussed their interest in the law and explored potential career paths within the legal profession.



The Honourable Mme Justice Chantal Ononaiwu, CCJ Judge, speaks with students during the Court's recent visit to Saint Lucia.

The CCJ expresses its sincere gratitude to the ECSC, the Government and the people of Saint Lucia for the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to the Court during the visit. This historic sitting in Saint Lucia underscored the CCJ's commitment to its mission of providing

accessible, efficient and substantive justice for the people and states of the Caribbean Community, while reinforcing its role as a regional institution serving the people of the Caribbean.



The President and Judges of the CCJ with the Chief Justice of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court preside over the proceedings during the Ceremonial Sitting to commemorate the opening of the 2026/2027 Judicial Year at the ECSC Headquarters in Saint Lucia.



Members of the CCJ Bench and Judges of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court look on at the Guard of Honour, which formed part of the activities commemorating the opening of the CCJ's 2026/2027 Judicial Year.

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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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