



COURT
ADMINISTRATION
DIVISION



THE COURT NEWSLETTER

WELCOME PRESIDENT BROOKS!

Also In This Issue:

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- Chief Justice Cautions Gov't about Cutting Judiciary's Budget
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The Honourable Mr. Justice Patrick Brooks, OJ, CD was sworn in as President of the Court of Appeal by Governor-General, His Excellency the Most Honourable Sir Patrick Allen, ON, GCMG, CD, KStJ at a ceremony held at King's House in St. Andrew on December 07, 2020, where he was also conferred with the nation's fifth highest honour, the Order of Jamaica (OJ).

Justice Brooks succeeds Justice Dennis Morrison who retired on December 4. The newly installed President of the Court of Appeal said he is humbled by the appointment and paid homage to his predecessor who he describes as a mentor, friend and great colleague.



The Honourable Mr. Justice Patrick Brooks, OJ, CD takes the Oath of Allegiance and the Judicial Oath as President of the Court of Appeal as Governor-General, His Excellency the Most Honourable Sir Patrick Allen, ON, GCMG, CD, KStJ looks on during a ceremony held at King's House on December 07, 2020. (Story continues on page 2).



EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

WITH

THE HON. MR. JUSTICE (RET'D) C. DENNIS MORRISON, OJ, CD

SEE PAGES 5-8 FOR DETAILS

WELCOME PRESIDENT BROOKS!



Governor-General The Most Hon. Sir Patrick Allen (right) presents president of the Court of Appeal Hon. Mr. Justice Patrick Brooks with the Instrument of Appointment during the Swearing-in Ceremony.

manner and expedite the time it takes for appeals to be heard.

Governor-General

In his address, the Governor-General said Justice Brooks is taking over the helm of the court at a very challenging time in Jamaica's history, when leadership in all branches of Government and all the sectors of society is stretched to provide guidance, support and direction to our people".

"We are besieged, as we are all aware, by the global COVID-19 pandemic, the nagging spectre and reality of crime and violence, the possible downturn in the economy, among other social ills and maladies, the consequences of which you no doubt have to face in the courts. You must contend with these issues, as we do not have the luxury of burying our heads in the sand like the proverbial ostrich that thinks its problems will disappear over time," he added.

"Following immediately in the footsteps of Justice Morrison is indeed a very daunting prospect. It can truly be said that he is a legal and judicial giant. His contribution to the legal landscape of this country and other jurisdictions in the Caribbean is monumental," said Justice Brooks.

Justice Brooks noted that while the task may be daunting, he is confident that with the team at the Court of Appeal, they will enjoy success.

"I am comforted that the Court is strong, blessed with a cadre of energetic, efficient and relatively young judges who are passionate about their call for the service to the nation and justice. We are supported by an equally passionate and efficient staff," Justice Brooks said.

Justice Brooks has promised to build on the work of Justice Morrison to deliver judgments in a timely



(At centre) Prime Minister the Most Honourable Andrew Holness, ON, MP, (at left) Leader of Opposition Mark Golding, MP and newly installed President of the Court of Appeal the Honourable Mr. Justice Patrick Brooks, OJ, CD, sharing a light moment after the swearing-in ceremony.

WELCOME PRESIDENT BROOKS! (CONT'D)

Chief Justice

For his part, Chief Justice the Honourable Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes OJ, CD, praised Justice Brooks for his commitment to hard work, scholarship and his impeccable punctuality.

“He [Justice Brooks] will be one of the judges at five minutes to ten outside of the courtroom, pacing along the corridors waiting for 10 o’clock to arrive when he will go inside and he will do so whether anyone was there or not. We expect his known energy, intellectual competencies to be brought to bear on the work of the court and to consolidate the gains that have been made,” Chief Justice Sykes said.

Justice Brooks was called to practice in 1979 and, in the intervening 41 years, has worked in both the private sector as well as in the government service in various capacities including; Crown Counsel in the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

He worked as a Legal Officer for three years at what was then the state-owned Jamaica Public Service Company. He subsequently joined the distinguished law firm of Nunes, Scholefield, DeLeon & Company where he was a partner for over 16 years before his appointment as a judge of the Supreme Court in September 2002. A decade later, he was appointed to the Court of Appeal.

TRIBUTES POUR IN FOR JUSTICE MORRISON ON HIS RETIREMENT



Members of the Judiciary and legal profession gathered at the Special Sitting of the Court of Appeal to pay tribute to the Honourable Mr. Justice Dennis Morrison on his retirement on December 04, 2020.

It was a bittersweet moment as members of the Judiciary and the legal profession paid tribute to outgoing President of the Court of Appeal the Honourable Mr. Justice C. Dennis Morrison, OJ, CD at a special sitting of the Court to mark his retirement on December 04, 2020.

The central theme of the tributes was Justice Morrison’s commanding voice and his calming presence. Justice Morrison was appointed to serve in the Court of Appeal of Jamaica in 2008 and in January 2016, he was appointed President of the Court.

The Honourable Miss Justice Hilary Phillips, CD, who led a long list of tributes, thanked him for his contribution to the Judiciary and praised his leadership of the Court of Appeal, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“He has worked steadfastly and marvelously, developing jurisprudence and leaving for posterity an incredible body of work. He has worked effortlessly with the changing face of the Court...,” Justice Phillips said.

TRIBUTES POUR IN FOR JUSTICE MORRISON ON HIS RETIREMENT

Chief Justice the Honourable Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes OJ, CD said Justice Morrison's most lasting legacy can be categorized in three parts: as a teacher of the Law of Evidence at Norman Manley Law School where he has taught multiple generations of lawyers; his contribution to nation building through advocacy; and his contribution to the rule of law and the broader Caribbean.

"Justice Morrison stands as a colossal in our Caribbean region. I think I am unique in many respects because I first encountered him as a student. I can say I have the privilege of Justice Morrison appearing before me as a counsel as judge in the Supreme Court," Chief Justice Sykes.

Chief Justice Sykes continued: "What has been said about his legendary skills for diplomacy and tact, his ability to diffuse tense moments were not exaggerated. As a young and inexperienced Chief Justice, it was comforting to know that a person of the calibre of Justice Morrison was available. His calm demeanor, a well-placed word and a discerning smile are all characteristics I am endeavoring to adopt."



File Photo:

President of the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) Mr. Justice Adrian Saunders

President of the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) Mr. Justice Adrian Saunders said Justice Morrison's temperament, wisdom and unimpeachable integrity have helped to consolidate, advance and ennoble Caribbean jurisprudence.

"Jamaica has every right to be justly proud and to celebrate this most distinguished son of the soil. Equally, we and the rest of the Caribbean are also entitled to claim him, as one of ours. His service to the region has been immeasurable and profound. Dennis is embodied greatness. I have no doubt that he will be sorely missed as President of the Court of Appeal of Jamaica," CCJ President Justice Saunders said.

Meanwhile, Director of Public Prosecution Paula Llewellyn, CD, QC, said her office dreaded the thought of Justice Morrison's retirement, adding that he has exemplified keen intellectual acuity.

"What is critical is that with all of his brilliance, he has epitomized the importance of humility being the underbelly of success," said Ms. Llewellyn.

President of the Jamaican Bar Association Mr. Emile Leiba echoed similar sentiments, adding that one of Justice Morrison's defining traits is his humility.

"In a profession where more and more the egos seem to be larger than the capabilities, it is always refreshing to witness it; no matter how often one experiences it, the humility of Justice Morrison," Mr. Leiba said.

Mr. Leiba continued: "He's a shining example in a world where our leaders are not where we would like them to be. They do not represent the best of us. They have many caveats. We have in Justice Morrison, a leader without any caveats. He has truly been a man for all seasons and a jurist for all seasons."

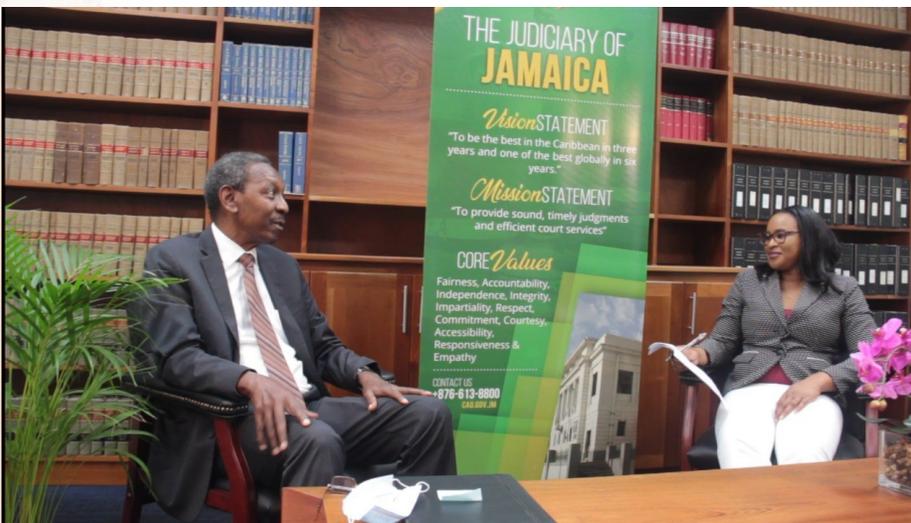
Justice Morrison said he was overwhelmed by the support from his family, the Judiciary and members of legal profession.

Justice Morrison, who was called to the Bar in Jamaica in 1975, practiced at the private bar for 25 years

TRIBUTES POUR IN FOR JUSTICE MORRISON ON HIS RETIREMENT

before transitioning to the bench. He also served as a judge of the Court of Appeal of Belize (2004 to 2015) and acted as a judge of the Eastern Caribbean Court of Appeal (January 2015). He has been serving as a judge of the Court of Appeal of the Cayman Islands since 2015.

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH THE HON. MR. JUSTICE (RET'D) DENNIS MORRISON, OJ, CD



Before his retirement on December 4, 2020, President of the Court of Appeal Justice C. Dennis Morrison, OJ, CD (left) sat down with Director (Acting) of Client Services, Communications and Information (CSC&I) at Court Administration Division Mrs. Kadiesh Fletcher to reminisce on his work spanning more than four decades in the legal profession. An excerpt of this interview has been published in this newsletter. The full audio interview will be available on the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal websites. It will be one of the first episodes of the Judiciary's Podcast "Courthouse Business".

Kadiesh Fletcher: After 45 years of service to the legal profession, how are you looking towards your retirement?

Justice Morrison: I have to say that even after 45 years, it arrived a little bit more quickly than I expected but it is here and it is what happened when you reached the required age to leave. I am looking forward to it. I am looking forward to doing some new things, to doing

some different things. I will miss working in the courts and the kind of regiment that, that puts you under. I assume that in the course of time, I will find some other things to do. But you know a different pace is good and it may be time to take it a little bit easier.

Kadiesh Fletcher: When you look back at it all, if you were to sum up your career in one word, what would that be?

Justice Morrison: Oh boy! That's a tough one! I mean for me, it's been fulfilling. I would say that! I have had the opportunity to do some of the things I have come to think are important. I have been able to give back through teaching at the law school [Norman Manley Law School], which is still an important part of what I do. In private practice, I think I was able to achieve a leading voice in relation to the [Jamaican] Bar Association, matters of human rights and the like. And then here in the Court of Appeal, I think I have had the good

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH THE HON. MR. JUSTICE (RET'D) DENNIS MORRISON, OJ, CD

fortune of working with some great colleagues and to contribute something to the growth of the Court over the last twelve (12) years so fulfilling I think summarizes it.

Kadiesh Fletcher: What is the most complex case you have presided over?

Justice Morrison: That's difficult to say! Very early in my time in the Court I think in the first year maybe, there was a tax case, complicated problem of income tax and the taxation of company distributions, which landed with me. I think that one was tough because it was not an area of law that I considered myself particularly strong in and so it was a pretty steep learning curve. Other cases, more recently, in the last couple years, we had a huge criminal case, which just in terms of volume of material. It was certainly the largest one that I have ever done and in between a number of significant decisions involving land. It is difficult to pick a most complex one. The truth is each case brings a different challenge and one always has to recognise that no

matter how simple the case seems to the judge or the lawyer, to the particular litigant, it is probably the most important thing that will happen to them in life. So, I don't think I would pick a star but I will recognise that there have been some tough ones.

Kadiesh Fletcher: How has the Judiciary changed or the legal fraternity changing since you have been on the bench?

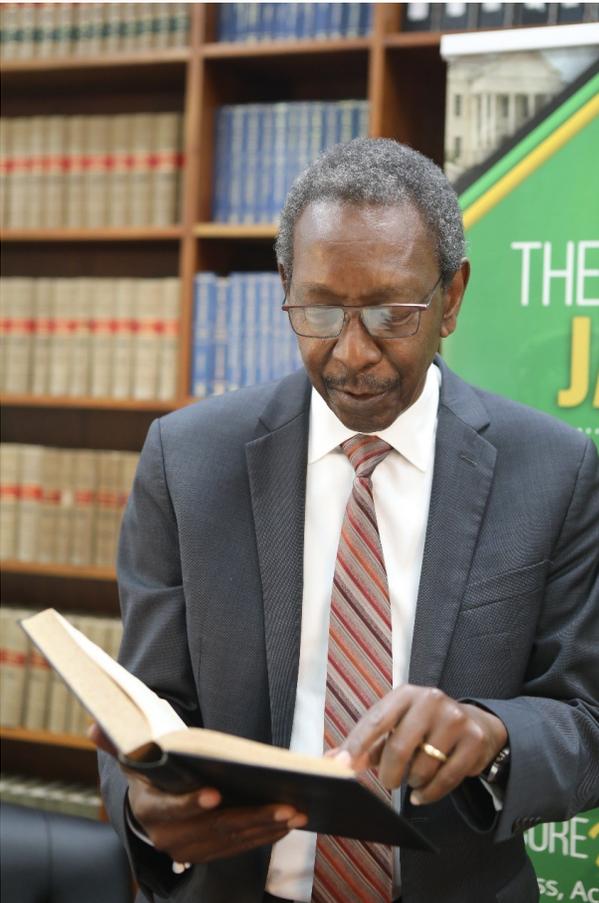
Justice Morrison: I do not mean anything from this except that it is a fact from a gender point of view. The face of the Judiciary has changed completely. When I came to this Court in 2008, there was one lady judge. Now, I might need some help to count how many male judges there are. I think at the moment we have four men and eight women and that that number is only likely to change in favour of the women in the future.

Of course, in the Supreme Court and Parish Courts that ratio has increased greatly. I only mentioned that because it is a fact that you notice when you see it but I am not suggesting that that has had any impact on the quality of the work or on the output of the



(From left) Chief Justice the Honourable Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes, OJ, CD outgoing Court of Appeal President the Honourable Mr. Justice Dennis Morrison, OJ, CD and Judge of the Court of Appeal the Honourable Mr. Justice Patrick Brooks, CD pause their conversation for a photo op shortly after a ceremony held on December 04, 2020 to pay tribute to Justice Morrison on his retirement.

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH THE HON. MR. JUSTICE (RET'D) DENNIS MORRISON, OJ, CD



President of the Court of Appeal Mr. Justice C. Dennis Morrison, OJ, CD looking through a book in the Judges' Lounge at the Court of Appeal after his interview with the newsletter team prior to his retirement.

Judiciary. In fact, quite the opposite! I think it is a well-known fact that women are sometimes more diligent and more careful and more attentive to detail than their male counterparts. Forgive me husbands but I have to say that. That's how it goes!

It is a younger group. I think that is probably the most important thing in this court. We have people in this Court [of Appeal] and certainly in the Supreme Court who have twenty (20) years ahead of them in the Judiciary, if they stick to it. People in this Court who have ten (10) or fifteen (15). So it is a longer career path and hopefully that provides a better store of experience of people who are sitting on the bench. It is all for the good I think.

Kadiesh Fletcher: Are you confident that you are leaving the Court of Appeal in good hands?

Justice Morrison: Oh yes, no doubt about that! We have a very strong group here with varied experience. The level of output, which we are already seeing from our new young people suggests that there is nothing at all to fear about the changes to come in the next couple of years.

Kadiesh Fletcher: The issue of delayed judgment is something the public has complained about from time to time. Do you believe more could have been done to address that?

Justice Morrison: Yes and no in a way. In the Court of Appeal about which I can speak with most authority. Although, I can probably make a comment about what happens at the Supreme

Court as well. Our main problem since I have been here up to two years ago has been the limited number of judges. In 1964, the Constitution was changed to increase the number of judges from four to seven. The number remained at seven up until the beginning of 2019. I am not suggesting the same seven is doing the same work but it felt that way. All kinds of things increased exponentially. The population of the country doubled in the fifty (50) years between that time and any number of statistics you want to use. The crime statistics, the number of laws, the number of cases from which appeals came and so on. So I think that is actually the driving factor behind the delays in this Court. We all subscribe to what is regarded as an international norm, which is that ordinarily you should have judgments served in a maximum of six (6) months. Interestingly enough, if you look at the Court of Appeal's last two Annual Reports, you will see a

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH THE HON. MR. JUSTICE (RET'D) DENNIS MORRISON, OJ, CD



(From left) Newly installed President of the Court of Appeal the Honourable Mr. Justice Patrick Brooks, OJ, CD looks on as Governor-General The Most Hon. Sir Patrick Allen, ON, GCMG, CD, KStJ greets the Honourable Mr. Justice (Ret'd) Dennis Morrison, OJ, CD with an elbow-bump at a swearing-in ceremony at King's House on December 07, 2020.

statistical measure that shows that in nearly two-third of the cases, which we hear, they are in fact decided all the way through to judgment in six months. So the hard core is that one-third of cases, which are either some of the complex cases you talking about, which require judges to take huge blocks of time to deal with it. Having said all of that, it is a problem, something that I recognized fully as one of the serious problems of the court.

We have taken serious steps to address it over the last few years. I think you will find that with the influx of more judges, we got three more at the beginning of 2019 and we going to get one more at the beginning of 2021 so there will be up to thirteen (13) judges. Already this year, let's say that 2019 was a kind of working period, but this year 2020 we are already seeing results of greater numbers. We have had, as was reported when we had our court opening in September [2020], we did 124 written judgments in 2019 and already up to tomorrow [Friday, November 13, 2020] as I am assured by Madame Registrar, when we add the

seven to be delivered tomorrow, we will reach close to 150 so far for the year. So one confidently expects that by the end of December, we are over that number. I would like to think, and from here I sit, I certainly think that is reflecting, one the increase number, so you have more hands attacking the work. Secondly, the fact of the increase numbers allow you to schedule cases in a more sensible way. You don't have judges hearing one very complicated case this week and rostered to hear another very complicated case next week. We have been able to build in and we have been working on this in the last few years. We've been able to build into each term blocks of time for judges to be out of court working. So I accept that it is a huge problem and none of us as judges is anything but hugely embarrassed to deliver a judgment that is long overdue but we try.


///CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

IF YOU THINK YOU HAVE BEEN EXPOSED OR ARE EXPERIENCING SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

CALL 888 ONE LOVE (663-5683)

IMMEDIATELY!

You may need to do this for up to 14 days to reduce the spread of the infection.

- Stay at home.
(Do not go to work, school or any public place)
- Do not use public transport.
- Avoid visitors to your home.

CHIEF JUSTICE SYKES CAUTIONS GOVERNMENT ABOUT CUTTING JUDICIARY'S BUDGET



Chief Justice the Honourable Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes, OJ, CD is urging the government to be cautious in reducing the budgetary allocations to the Judiciary of Jamaica as it could have a negative effect on the administration of justice within the courts and erode many of the gains which have been made in the past year.

While the government has been forced to make significant cuts in the budget amid a steep decline in revenues due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the local economy, Chief Justice Sykes is concerned that a significant budget cut could affect the implementation of projects within the courts. These projects are aimed at improving operational efficiency and delivering to the people of Jamaica a justice system that they deserve.

Chief Justice Sykes addressing the audience at the Swearing-in Ceremony for Mr. Justice Patrick Brooks as President of the Court of Appeal held at King's House on December 7, 2020.

"There is a question about budgetary support for an additional year for the Judiciary Case Management System (JCMS) and also to have training so that the full benefits of it can be realized," Chief Justice Sykes said.

The JCMS is an integrated web-based platform that will allow all the courts to interface on one system to improve operational efficiencies within the Judiciary.

In the meantime, Chief Justice Sykes pointed to the need for the construction of a court for Manchester following a fire last November, which destroyed the building housing the Court. The Court has since been relocated to James Warehouse Plaza on South Racecourse Road in Mandeville. The Chief Justice has pointed to the untenable situation of a court having a landlord.

"We are in a rented property and one of the things when a court is in a rented property is that you have a landlord. Let's just suppose that the court makes a decision that the landlord is not too pleased with, then he may say let's get rid of this tenant and so the question about the construction of the new court building is of paramount importance," Chief Justice Sykes said.

He continued: "So it means that we need to rethink some of these arrangements and begin to emphasize that the reduction in judicial budget should really come when all else has been tried and it is really impossible not to do so. It should not be a first option but a last option because of the nature of what we do and where we wish to go."

Chief Justice Sykes was speaking at the Swearing-in Ceremony for the Honourable Mr. Justice Patrick Brooks as President of the Court of Appeal held at King's House on December 7, 2020.

MENTAL HEALTH (OFFENDERS) ENQUIRY COMMITTEE RELEASES REPORT



The Mental Health (Offenders) Enquiry Committee, which was commissioned by Chief Justice the Honourable Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes OJ, CD, to review laws, policies, and procedures relating to persons in custody with mental illness, has released its report highlighting a number of challenges within the legal system and has made several recommendations on the way forward.

The committee was established after the Independent Commission of Investigations, INDECOM, revealed in June this year that 81-year-old Noel Chambers died in prison after being locked up for 40 years without being tried.

Chairperson of the Committee the Honourable Mrs. Justice Georgiana Fraser presenting the findings of the report at a media forum entitled '*A Conversation with the Judiciary*' held at the Supreme Court on October 29, 2020.

Chairperson of the Committee the Honourable Ms. Justice Georgiana Fraser presented the report at a media forum entitled '*A Conversation with the Judiciary*' held at

the Supreme Court on October 29, 2020. She highlighted some of the challenges that have led to inordinately long periods of detainment.

"The committee has identified that transportation issues, the timely submission of psychiatric review reports, the failure to implement and or maintain review registers and difficulty locating family members [as] some of the reasons why persons who are mentally disordered end up spending this long period of time in custody," Judge Fraser said.

"The committee has made a number of recommendations as to the way forward and we have found that there is a clear and pressing need for statutory revocation of indefinite detention, meaning, the need to do away with indefinite detention," she said.

Mental Health Court

The 11-member committee has further recommended that a mental health court be established to facilitate interaction between stakeholders in the justice system with interest in inmates with mental problems. The committee said the court would have to be well-resourced and training undertaken at all levels to function as envisioned.

It also recommended that the judges be given the power to place mentally challenged persons coming before them in a court-diversion programme to shift those with mental troubles out of the normal adversarial trial process.

MENTAL HEALTH (OFFENDERS) ENQUIRY COMMITTEE RELEASES REPORT (CONT'D)

Designated Psychiatric Facility

Justice Fraser said the committee is also recommending that the Health Ministry identifies a suitable place to house persons deemed unfit to plea who are before the courts.

“The mentally disordered defendants that are currently housed in correctional facilities, they need to be moved to a designated psychiatric facility. I wish to point out that the designated psychiatric facility for the mentally disordered remains, by law, the Bellevue Hospital, but they are not being housed there,” she explained.

The members of the committee comprised of other puisne judges, parish court judges and representatives from the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Legal Aid Council, Independent Jamaica Council for Human Rights, Bellevue Hospital, Department of Correctional Services and the Ministry of Health and Wellness.

The full report can be accessed on the Court Administration Division’s website at <https://cad.gov.jm/> and Supreme Court’s website at <https://supremecourt.gov.jm/>.



///CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

CAN A PERSON RECOVER FROM THE CORONAVIRUS?

YES



Coronavirus is not a death sentence.

With proper medical care and monitoring,
persons will recover.

PRESS NOW ALLOWED TO RECORD IN COURT



Members of the media are now able to record court proceedings for the verification of their notes following the launch of the Judiciary's Media Protocol on October 29, 2020, which is aimed at facilitating greater communication between the judicial arm of government and the press.

Director of Court Administration at Court Administration Division, Mrs. Tricia Cameron-Anglin said "the launch of the Media Protocol is part of the Judiciary's commitment to the principle of open justice and building public trust and confidence in the Judiciary; the media are important to the accomplishment of that vision."

Director of Court Administration at Court Administration Division (CAD), Mrs. Tricia Cameron-Anglin (left), addresses persons at the Conversation with the Judiciary, held at the Supreme Court on October 29. Seated (from second left) are Chief Justice, the Hon. Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes; and President of the Court of Appeal, the Hon. Mr. Justice C. Dennis Morrison.

Mrs. Cameron-Anglin added that "the Media Protocol will act as a guide for the coverage of court matters. Significantly, the media will now be permitted to record court proceedings for the verification of their notes, but not for broadcast."

Furthermore, the Media Protocol establishes the office of the Media Liaison Officer, who will facilitate communication between the courts and members of the media. Media managers are advised to register with the Media Liaison Officer, journalists who will be assigned to cover court proceedings on a regular basis as they will now have a designated space in the courtroom.

The Media Protocol is available on the Supreme Court's website at <https://www.supremecourt.gov.jm/content/media-protocol>

Social Media Accounts

Meanwhile, the Judiciary of Jamaica also launched its Facebook and Twitter accounts to expand its reach to Jamaicans as it seeks to raise awareness about court services and processes. Members of the Public can follow us on Twitter [@jamjudiciary](#) and Facebook at **The Judiciary of Jamaica**. Additionally, decisions of the court in selected cases will be posted on our social media pages.



THE JUDICIARY OF JAMAICA

MEDIA PROTOCOL





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WE'RE SOCIAL!

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Jamaican Judiciary

KEEP YUH DISTANCE BUT STAY CONNECTED!



PUBLIC REACTS POSITIVELY TO DIGITIZATION CAMPAIGN

The public has reacted positively to the simplification of court processes and their presentation as radio and television ads and newspaper comics.

Director of Court Administration at Court Administration Division (CAD) Mrs. Tricia Cameron-Anglin said the Judiciary of Jamaica has received positive feedback from the public regarding its digitization campaign aimed at informing court users about its policies and procedures.

The campaign is a product of a partnership between the Judiciary and the Justice Undertakings for Social Transformation (JUST) project of the United Nations Development Programmes (UNDP).

Under the project, the processes for divorce, summons, probate, jury duty and protection order were simplified and presented in easy to understand format as radio and television ads and comics. The process for accessing maintenance payments at the Family Court electronically was also simplified using similar media. These communication tools are currently being aired on radio (Radio Jamaica, Nationwide and Mello FM) and television stations and the comic strips have been published in Jamaica's three major newspapers (The Gleaner, The Jamaica Observer and the Western Mirror).

"The partnership with the UNDP/JUST especially in the area of public education has really played a significant and seminal role in allowing us to realize our strategic objectives and to reform the justice sector. We have been able to digitize brochures, which we had for a very long time. Now we have animated brochures. The processes of the courts are broken down in such a way that we are improving and enhancing not just access to justice but also we are able to build that public trust and confidence in the Judiciary," said Mrs. Cameron-Anglin.

She added that the communication products have come at an opportune time when the Judiciary is not able to host its flagship National Public Education Symposium because of the restrictions on public gathering to limit the spread of COVID-19.

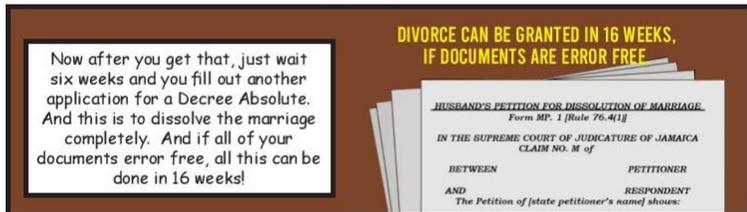
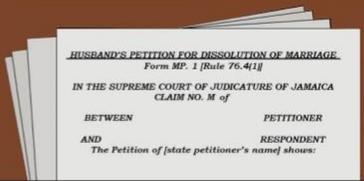
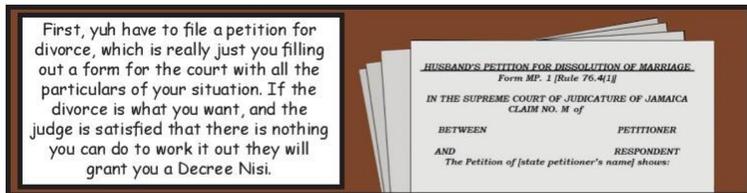
"With the onset of COVID-19 is that access will be more pervasive. We will be able to reach a larger and wider set of court users than we have been. We will be able to diversify our public education offerings and be able to reach not just persons here in Jamaica who want to interact with courts but also persons in the diaspora and the wider world. We are very glad to have this done," said Mrs. Cameron-Anglin.

The JUST Programme was developed after an assessment of the Jamaican Justice System dating back to 2006. That assessment, conducted by the Canadian Department of Justice (DOJ) was completed in April 2006 and led to a preliminary list of different measures that could be taken in support of Justice Reform in Jamaica. Those measures were the subject of a major consultation in Kingston in February 2007, and were later approved by Cabinet and became the nucleus of what would emerge as the JUST Programme.

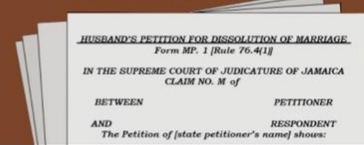
The JUST project is designed to contribute to the progressive strengthening of the justice system in Jamaica through technical legal assistance, capacity building, and institutional strengthening support of justice sector institutions in Jamaica.

HOW TO OBTAIN A DIVORCE

HOW TO OBTAIN A DIVORCE



DIVORCE CAN BE GRANTED IN 16 WEEKS, IF DOCUMENTS ARE ERROR FREE



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COURT ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
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www.supremecourt.gov.jm



VISIT THE SUPREME COURT

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT: PROTECTION ORDER

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT OBTAINING A PROTECTION ORDER



PROTECTION ORDER

- FOR YOUR SAFETY
- FOR YOUR PROTECTION

This is for your safety and nothing is more important! Orders like these were created under the law to keep you protected from anyone likely to hurt you.

The order will say that Delroy must stay away from you, your home, place of work or anywhere closely connected to you. And if him violate the protection order him can get in big trouble with the law

COUNSELLING SERVICES

But you have to at least start the process at the police station or your Parish Court or Family Court. Plus, at the court dem offer counselling enuh. And that will help you to deal with the emotional trauma me know this must be causing

Alright Mitsy. Me a go dung a courthouse to get the process started.

Yes do it right away!

Once you do, dem will give you a summons that the Police or the Court Bailiff serve him

When dem serve him, you both will go to court on the date and wait to be heard by the Judge.

And remember, anything him do to violate the order is a criminal offence and yuh must mek sure you report him to the police



CAD COURT ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

Contact the **COURT ADMINISTRATION DIVISION** for further information at **876-754-8337** or visit the Parish Court Website www.parihcourt.gov.jm



VISIT ANY COURT OFFICE ISLAND WIDE TODAY

GUIDELINES INTRODUCED FOR COMMITTAL PROCEEDINGS

The Judiciary of Jamaica has launched a Committal Proceedings Guide to standardize and simplify the process of preparing matters to be sent to the Circuit Courts. The launch was held at the Marriott by the Courtyard in New Kingston, St. Andrew on September 26, 2020. It was followed by an online training session to sensitize Judges and other stakeholders about committal proceedings.

Committal proceedings are used to determine, among other things, whether there is sufficient evidence to require the defendant to stand trial. Under the Committal Proceedings Act, 2013, criminal cases that would normally be subjected to a preliminary hearing in the parish courts are now sent straight to the High Court without a hearing, once the statements are complete. The Act was passed to speed up criminal trials by doing away with the old form of preliminary enquiries, allowing statements to be used at the proceedings rather than the witness having to attend in person to give evidence.

Chief Justice the Honourable Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes OJ, CD said the launch represents the ongoing effort of the Judiciary to take the mystique and mystery out of legal process.

“This guide is an important step because it is now memorializing and capturing in written form appropriate processes that can be deployed in the Parish Courts as far as committal proceedings are concerned and so I would urge judges, lawyers, both at the private bar and public bar and police to become familiar with it and use it to guide the preparation of court file and the conduct of committal proceedings,” Chief Justice Sykes said.

Meanwhile, Justice Minister Delroy Chuck said the Committal Proceedings Guide will assist police officers in the preparation of professional and proper statements, adding that too often criminals are getting away because material brought before the court by members of the Jamaica Constabulary Force are inadequate.

He further appealed to Deputy Commissioner of Police Fitz Bailey, who represented the police commissioner at the function, to “find a way for training of the police officers to make statements that are proper, put together professionally, so that when the parish court judges see them, he or she can make a decision without any difficulty.”

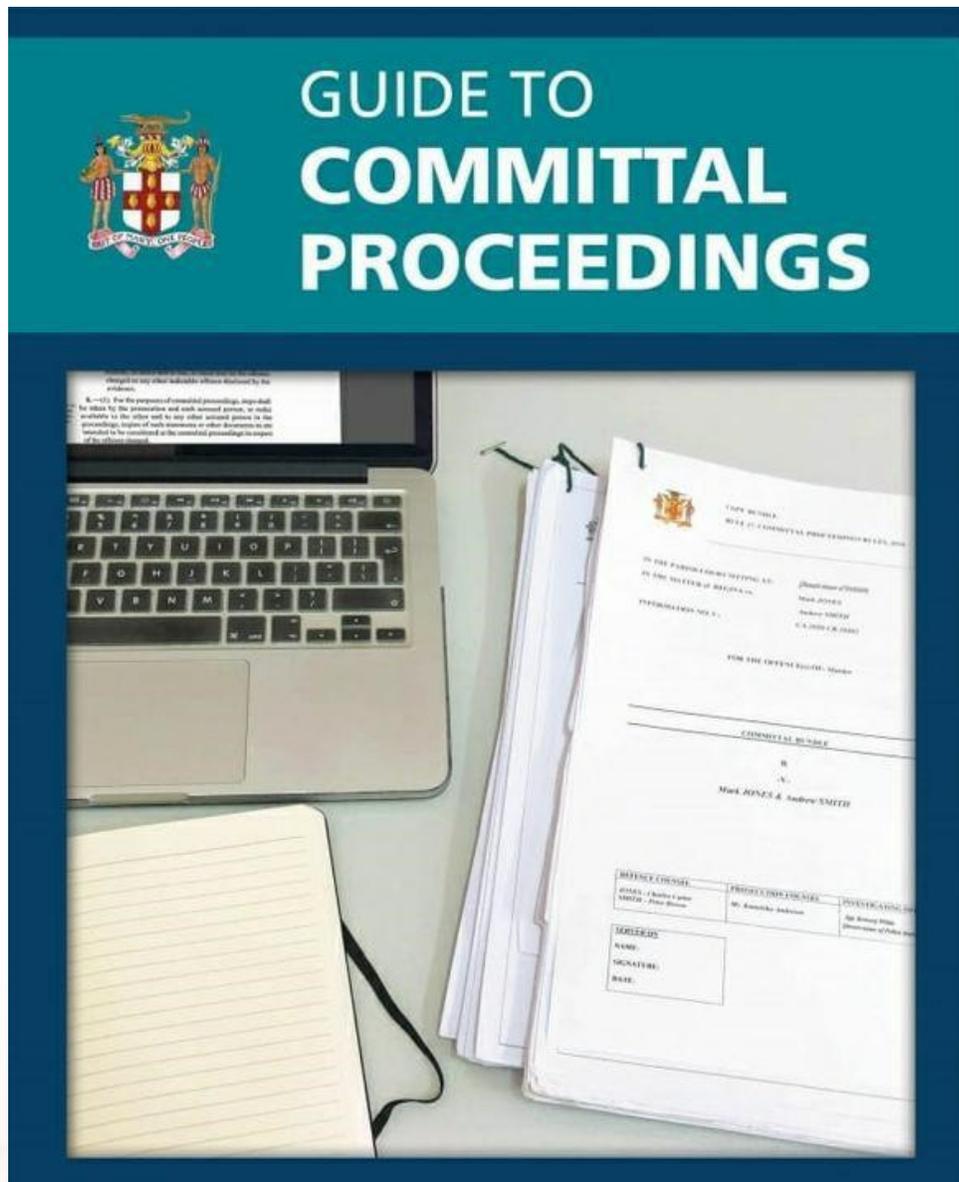
In the meantime, Director of Public Prosecutions Paula Llewellyn, who in the past complained about the growing case backlog as a result of the Committal Proceedings Act, commended the measure.

“As far as the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions is concerned, this is a great day. Chief Justice, before you took office, it almost reached a stage where I was tempted, if I was the type, to block roads and demonstrate...because when the operationalizing of the Committal Proceedings Act took place, it released a tsunami that at the office, it had us going right through almost 24 hours, and we saw from then that standardization in terms of the administrative practices at the parish court level would be a great win for the administration of justice,” Mrs. Llewellyn said.

GUIDELINES INTRODUCED FOR COMMITTAL PROCEEDINGS (CONT'D)

She said her office has been working with the police to develop cases to the point that they can be brought to trial successfully, noting that the number of guilty pleas over the past three years was testament to the combined efforts and work.

Chief Justice Sykes presented Justice Minister Delroy Chuck, Chief Judge of the Parish Courts His Honour Mr. Chester Crooks, Director of Public Prosecution Paula Llewellyn, Deputy Commissioner of Police Fitz Bailey and President of the Jamaican Bar Association Emile Leiba with a copy of the a Committal Proceedings Guide at the ceremony.



NATIONAL HERITAGE WEEK “Celebrating a *Heritage of Resilience and Pride*”



(At front) La'Toya Spence and Diane Aikman from Internal Audit Division at CAD pose beside a medal podium they created to celebrate Olympian Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce's contribution to Jamaica's rich heritage in the field of sports. Internal Audit was first runner up in the Cultural Piece Competition. Internal Audit won the Decorating Competition.



The Procurement and Administration at CAD won the Cultural Piece Competition for their dub poem celebrating the life and work of Jamaica's first National Hero Marcus Garvey.



The Client Services, Communication and Information Division at CAD created a museum to honour the memory of National Hero Paul Bogle.



Building and Property Management Division at CAD used images of the paper ten-dollar note with the face of National Hero George William Gordon as part of their décor for National Heritage Week.

NATIONAL HERITAGE WEEK

“Celebrating a *Heritage of Resilience and Pride*”



The COVID-19 Pandemic may have postponed the 2020 Olympics but not for the team at Internal Audit Division. The creative hands made a track in the office with a cardboard mounted Shelly-Ann Fraser Pryce blazing to a gold medal finish.



Executive Secretary (Acting) Orleen Moore-Linton tells Secretary of Court Support Division at CAD about the Heritage Corner she created with a brief history of Jamaica's National Heroes and symbols.



Westmoreland Parish Court was second runner up in the Cultural Piece Competition with its entry on Jamaican reggae musician Peter Tosh.



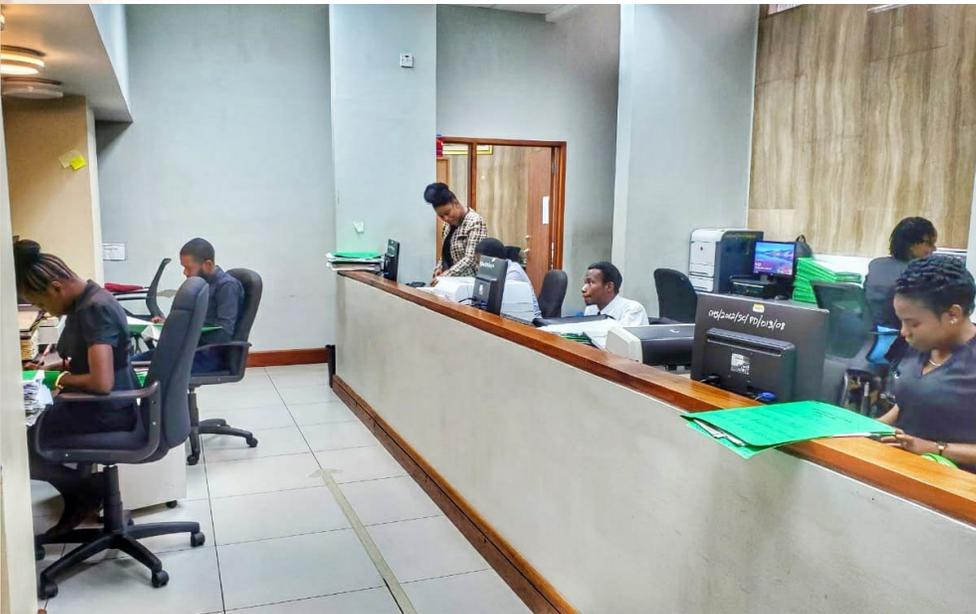
The Executive Management Division at CAD created Bob Marley's Tuff Gong Studio with some of his best known records. Bob Marley was considered one of the pioneers of reggae

MATRIMONIAL AND PROBATE DIVISIONS BACKLOG FREE

The Matrimonial and Probate Divisions of the Supreme Court have cleared the backlog of cases and are now processing matters filed within the last three to four weeks.

Chief Justice the Honourable Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes CD, OJ, made the announcement during his opening presentation at the Conversation with the Judiciary held on October 29, 2020 at the Supreme Court in downtown, Kingston.

“In respect of specific divisions of the courts, the Matrimonial division and the Probate division, they are current as far as estate matters and also where divorce petitions are concerned. Now on the probate side, we have some very old matters that have been lying there for the last 20 years or so and we’ve been looking into those now to finally get rid of them. However, in case of filings we have actually been quite current and that is due to the hard work there by the deputy registrar and the staff in the particular registries,” Justice Sykes said.



Staff members at the Probate Division of the Supreme Court in downtown, Kingston working.

Probate Division

Deputy Registrar at the Probate Division of the Supreme Court Dwayne Dixon told **The Court Newsletter** that the backlog was caused by insufficient staff and gaps in the workflow process, which refers to a series of activities or tasks that need to be completed sequentially or in parallel to achieve a business outcome.

Mr. Dixon said the team at the Probate Division worked assiduously and collaboratively to make do with the limited resources by re-organizing itself to work more efficiently and also incorporated the use of technology to increase

operational efficiency. Additionally, he said the team participated in several empowerment sessions, which have helped them to confidently and independently execute their job functions.

“The team has integrated knowledge garnered from the various seminars and training on leadership, human resource and management commissioned by the Honourable Chief Justice and the Court Administration Division (CAD),” Mr. Dixon said.

Additionally, Mr. Dixon said that he worked with the team to create a culture of accountability where employees understand that they are accountable for their own success and to the overall success of the

MATRIMONIAL AND PROBATE DIVISIONS BACKLOG FREE

Probate Division.

“So we worked on re-engineering the mindset of workers within the division - primarily getting persons to see themselves as important part of the process. Allowing them to recognize the importance of their tasks to the general output of the registry and instilling in them the value of our services to the general public,” Mr. Dixon said.

The Probate Division hopes to maintain a culture of excellence within the Registry and as a result, will increase staff engagement, provide training opportunities for the development of staff and recognize staff for outstanding work.

Mr. Dixon said the Probate Division is poised to perform better next year as it intends to automate some of its functions.

“We are also looking to increase the use of technology in our process flow - that is, digitizing of antiquated probate records, make forms available digitally or at least providing a way where certain things can be requested via online. All of this is aimed at increasing efficiency and reducing the turnaround time,” said Mr. Dixon.



Staff members at the Matrimonial Division of the Supreme Court in downtown, Kingston working.

Matrimonial Division

In the meantime, Deputy Registrar at the Matrimonial Division Norma Fearon cited insufficient and incomplete documents among the reasons for the backlog at the Matrimonial Division. She told **The Court Newsletter** that the Matrimonial Division was able to eliminate the backlog following the addition of two legal officers who assisted the Deputy Registrar with the processing of files. Additionally, Ms. Fearon has attributed the success of the team to a more structured workflow process.

“The setting of divisional and individual targets to further the overall strategic objective of the Judiciary and the dedication of the Matrimonial team despite the many challenges that plague the system,” said Ms. Fearon.

Ms. Fearon also lauded the Chief Justice’s unwavering support that resulted in additional resources being made available to the Matrimonial Division for the smoother operations of the Registry.

The Matrimonial Division plans to maintain the gains by continuously improving the work flow process to enable speedier and more efficient processing of the files, boosting staff morale and providing more training opportunities for staff, especially in the area of customer service.

A THERAPEUTIC TREAT: STAFF BENEFITTED FROM MENTAL HEALTH SESSIONS



Staff members at the St. Catherine Parish Court participating in National Customer Service Week 2020, which was observed from October 5 to 9 under the theme: ‘Customer Service A Fi WI Business, Big and Small Serving All’.

The Court Administration Division (CAD) hosted a series of virtual therapeutic sessions for staff aimed at raising awareness about the mental health issues associated with the coronavirus and sensitizing them about healthy coping strategies to dealing with anxieties during COVID-19.

The initiative was part of activities for National Customer Service Week (NCSW) 2020, which was observed from October 5 to 9 under the theme: ‘Customer Service A Fi WI Business, Big and Small Serving All’.

Speaking at a virtual staff meeting on October 5 to mark NCSW, Chief Justice the Honourable Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes OJ, CD, said the COVID-19 pandemic has brought about several changes and that some persons are finding it increasingly challenging to adjust to a new norm.

“We recognize that many people within the courts are in need of even just someone to talk

to and it is really recognizing that emotional health is just as important. Some would say even more important than physical health. What happens if emotional health is unchecked or if unresolved? It manifests itself in the physical ailment that we get from time to time. So it is really about caring for you and assisting in this process of managing change,” Chief Justice Sykes said.

Nonetheless, Chief Justice Sykes said members of staff have responded admirably to the COVID-19 crisis, noting that the Judiciary is still on track to meeting its strategic objectives despite the disruption caused by the pandemic.

Coping with COVID-19

Meanwhile, Counselling psychologist Joy Westcarr said the impact the COVID-19 pandemic is having on our lives may cause us to feel anxious, stressed, worried, sad, bored, lonely or frustrated. Ms Westcarr, who facilitated one of the sessions, provided useful tips for coping with stress such as; finding a happy place, counting to ten and to do deep breathing exercises.

A THERAPEUTIC TREAT: STAFF BENEFITTED FROM MENTAL HEALTH SESSIONS (CONT'D)

She added that “it is important to try and establish structure to our days to provide some stability as this will help to ease the anxiety that we feel.”

Reactions from Participants

Court Administrator at the Trelawny Parish Court Silma Ellis said the therapeutic session was well-received by staff.

“We had one of the greatest sessions ever. It was really an enjoyable one. The staff enjoyed it and the presentation by psychologist Mrs. Orlean Brown Earle was great and her presentation style was really tremendous. The staff took away whole lot from that and they would welcome more sessions like that,” Ms. Ellis said.

Secretary at the CAD Noelle Hamilton said she felt appreciated and enjoyed the various activities during NCSW especially the quiz.

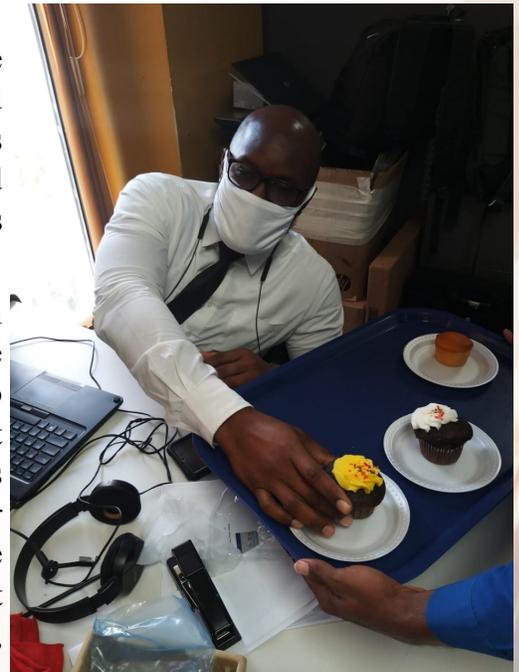


Protocol Officer (Acting) Jelani Clachar gives Sasha Williams Thompson from Finance and Accounts a slice of cake as part of Customer Service Week Celebration.

In the meantime, Chief Justice Sykes noted that this is the second time that the Judiciary is participating in NCSW and reminded employees that “court is a service and not just a place.”

“Everything we do must be with the clear objective of meeting the needs of customers. So we need to ask not just what is good for us but our stakeholders and customers and how we can make their interaction and dealings with the court more efficient without compromising our core values, which everyone should know by now,” Chief Justice Sykes said.

Each court received a cake and some courts were awarded prizes for participating in various competitions.



Network Administrator Okenio Allen -Wanliss from CAD’s ICT Division reaches for a cupcake as part of Customer Service Week Celebration.

JEIJ SHIFTS TO ONLINE TRAINING IN THE WAKE OF COVID-19



The Judicial Education Institute of Jamaica (JEIJ) has shifted its focus from in-person training sessions to online training sessions in a bid to build the capacity of judges while maintaining physical distancing as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Seven such training sessions have been conducted to great success.

Head of the JEIJ the Honourable Mrs. Justice Vinette Graham-Allen made the disclosure while making a virtual presentation to United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on October 22, 2020. The Judiciary of Jamaica was invited to make a presentation on ‘Delivering Judicial Ethics Training during a Pandemic.’

Justice Graham-Allen thanked the UNODC for its support, noting that the organization has helped the JEIJ to transition to online training. She said judges find online training very convenient, adding that it is a cheaper method of meeting training needs because it eliminates the cost associated with travel and accommodation.

Meanwhile, the Honourable Mrs. Justice Marva McDonald-Bishop, who was also speaking at the UNODC session, assisted Justice Graham-Allen with the training sessions. She noted that the transition to online was challenging as the trainers were not familiar with the video conferencing technology.

“Once you are a trainer now in the virtual space, you yourself will have to get familiar with the platform that you use and that was a drawback for Vinette and me because we were not fully au fait with the Zoom platform neither are we familiar with the Microsoft Teams. But we are now learning and understand the value of training in Information Technology for us as trainers,” Justice McDonald-Bishop said.

Despite Justice McDonald-Bishop’s familiarity now with online training, she prefers face-to-face mode of delivery for training.

“So it will not be a perfect substitute for face-to-face. Judges are trained to read demeanour and to go with demeanor. You do not have that. You do not get that intimacy between trainer and trainees. I did not enjoy that aspect of it because it was a bit too sterile,” Justice McDonald-Bishop said.

Judicial Conduct and Ethics Training

One of the most noteworthy training sessions was the Judicial Conduct and Ethics Training that was held in September as part of an orientation session for newly appointed judges. This new component was added following a needs survey conducted by the JEIJ among judges at all levels that identified a need for training in

JEIJ SHIFTS TO ONLINE TRAINING IN THE WAKE OF COVID-19

judicial ethics.

“We had a recorded video from our own judges who did a role play. We had one in which members of our court were involved in Canada at the Commonwealth Judicial Education Institute. So what we had was for the participants to look at these videos and identify the ethical dilemmas and to use the Bangalore principles and the Judicial Code of Conduct to resolve the various issues and we must say we applaud them because for the most part their responses were in keeping with the indicative responses that were given by the UNODC who we thank most whole-heartedly in developing that question on social media,” Justice McDonald Bishop said.

Judges were also trained in social media as the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in more persons communicating via this medium. As such, the JEIJ believes that judges should be guided.

The team at JEIJ encountered another challenge as the material to aid with the training was never designed for the virtual space. As a result, the trainers at JEIJ had to tailor the content to fit the online platform.

“So the biggest challenge for us is how we follow the manual that was given to us in Brussels. The manual was developed for face-to-face training. The creators did not envisage that there would come a time when we cannot meet face-to-face. What we had to do in our Jamaican experience was to semi-modify the manual to deliver the content of the course. Of course, the manual is still useful and relevant so all we have to do is to bring on most of the recommendations on the virtual platform,” Justice McDonald Bishop said.

She noted that the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Division of the Court Administration Division played an integral role with helping the JEIJ with transitioning to online training.

Justice McDonald Bishop continued: “What we did was to have the ICT assist us with the breakout groups, that was the most challenging part of it - how do we facilitate the breakout groups?. I must say that that went very well. I can’t say how the ICT Division did it but at the end of the day we were able to get in smaller rooms with smaller groups of about six persons each. What we did was to ensure a proper mix of the members in terms of gender, experience and age in each group.”

The JEIJ noted that an evaluation was done at the end of the online training. Most of the participants who have returned the questionnaires have said they were very satisfied with the programme. The responses from the questionnaires will be used to design future programmes.

The JEIJ was established in 2017 and aims to strengthen the administration of justice by building the capacity of judges and court staff through access to training and sensitisation programmes.



May you and your family enjoy peace and joy this holiday season.

**-The Honourable Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes, OJ, CD
Chief Justice**



Wishing for you and your families a happy and holy holiday season and good health and prosperity for 2021 and beyond.

**-His Honour Mr. Chester Crooks
Chief Judge of the Parish Courts**



May you enjoy peace and fulfilment this holiday season. May you be showered with abundance in all its forms; and May goodness and serenity follow you wherever you go. Happy Holidays!

**-Mrs. Tricia Cameron-Anglin
Director of Court Administration
Court Administration Division**



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