



NEWSLETTER OF THE BAHAMAS JUDICIAL EDUCATION INSTITUTE

FALL 2020

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**FOREWORD BY THE
THE HONOURABLE
SIR BRIAN MOREE, QC
CHIEF JUSTICE**



I commend those responsible for the decision to publish this Newsletter as a 'reader friendly' platform for disseminating and promoting the objectives, events and programmes of the Bahamas Judicial Education Institute ("BJEI"). I am sure that the Newsletter will provide additional exposure for the vital role of the BJEI in the ongoing reform and modernization of the Court system in The Bahamas.

The BJEI was chartered in October, 2019 to fulfill the increasing need for training of judicial officers and staff so as to enhance the delivery of justice in The Bahamas. It is mandated to establish, develop, maintain and provide, on a structured and needs basis, ongoing judicial education and professional training for members of the Judiciary. The BJEI is 'judiciary centric' but its activities will, at times, include members of the Bar and other stakeholders involved in the administration of justice. Additionally, directors and staff of the BJEI will liaise with regional and international judicial education and professional training institutions in order to optimize all available resources.

The Declaration of Judicial Training Principles adopted by the members of the International Organization for Judicial Training in 2017 provides that "[j]udicial training is essential to ensure high standards of competence and performance. Judicial training is fundamental to judicial independence, the rule of law, and the protection of the rights of all people." These salutary principles underpin the important mission of the BJEI. As we move forward to introduce much needed changes in our court system, there will be an increased emphasis on training across the Judiciary to facilitate the revamping of our procedures

and work processes as we migrate to a digital environment as part of a new technology platform for the courts in The Bahamas. The BJEI will be at the epicenter of this process as the principal training arm of the Office of the Judiciary.

This Newsletter will be one of the mediums through which we communicate with the stakeholders in the administration of justice and the general public. I trust that you will find it interesting, informative and instructive. I applaud the members of the editorial Committee of this inaugural edition of the Newsletter - Madam Justice Grant Thompson, Magistrate Ancella Evans and Ms. Nicoya Neilly – for their contribution to this important publication. Their skill, hard work and industry is reflected in the quality of the Newsletter.

I also want to recognize the very capable leadership of Justice Winder as the Chairman of the BJEI. At my invitation, he has accepted this position and assumed responsibility for overseeing the systemic integration of ongoing judicial training into the operations of the Courts. This is a crucial component of the plan to transform the delivery of court services in this country.

Real and sustainable change across the Court system cannot be achieved without widespread effective training for our judicial officers and staff. We have seen the practical application of this principle in recent reforms when we automated the procedures in the Listing Office, introduced the E Delivery Form for court documents and migrated to the utilization of remote court hearings. During the next 12-18 months there will be increased training for our judicial officers and staff as we upgrade the Court's service platform and roll out a range of new ICT solutions throughout the Judicial branch of Government including the new Case Management System, the new Digitization Unit, the new Digital Recording System, the new Bail Management System, the new Court Automated Payment System and the new E Filing and E services platform. Extensive training will be an integral part of the launch of each of these products.

Through this Newsletter we will disseminate information on the multiple activities of the BJEI for stakeholders in the Court system and members of the public. I expect that the publication cycle will increase as we move ahead with a very busy and exciting agenda for the Courts.

Earlier this year Ms. Deirdre Dumont joined our staff in the Judiciary as the Administrator of the BJEI. She will provide focused and sustained attention to the administrative and operational functions of the Institute and I welcome her to our team. We are looking forward to the official opening – subject to the Covid 19 restrictions – of the new office of the BJEI which will include a modern training facility allowing the BJEI to conduct group 'hands on' training sessions in a 'plug & play' environment. I expect that you will see the new office featured in a later edition of this Newsletter.

I welcome the launch of the new Newsletter and commend it to all who are involved or interested in the Court system in the Bahamas.

REMARKS FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BJEI
THE HONOURABLE
MR. JUSTICE IAN WINDER



This Newsletter is the first edition of what is expected to initially be a bi-annual endeavour by the Newsletter Committee of the BJEI. Justice Grant-Thompson and Magistrate Evans, who head the Newsletter Committee, have done a wonderful job of providing an update of the work of the BJEI and keeping the judiciary abreast of upcoming events and training.

I applaud the decision to produce an e-newsletter to ensure every judicial officer across The Bahamas has access to the newsletter during this era of social distancing and virtual living. This forum, we hope, will provide an additional means for the BJEI to fulfil its mandate and focus judicial officers on the enormous benefits to be derived from continuous judicial training. Do enjoy!

MANDATE OF THE BAHAMAS JUDICIAL EDUCATION INSTITUTE

The BJEI was established by Declaration, under the hand and seal of the Honorable Chief Justice on the 7th of October, 2019. It provides for the governance of the CJ, Sir Brian as President with the assistance of a Board of Directors. Mr. Justice Ian Winder is the Chairman. The other Board Members are Senior Justice Estelle Gray-Evans, Justices Deborah Fraser and Cheryl Grant-Thompson; Registrar Camille Darville- Gomez; Stipendiary and Circuit Magistrate Ancella Evans and Administrator Ms. Nicoya Neilly. They have a duty to do all that is necessary, incidental or expedient to achieve BJEI objectives, which include but are not limited to:

1. Establishing, developing, maintaining or providing professional training and continuing education for judicial officers and staff ;
2. Having researched other judicial education and professional training institutes to liaise with them in this regard;
3. Quality education and efficient training are to be promoted in the administration of Bahamian justice; and
4. Publishing books relevant to the work of the BJEI -electronic or otherwise.

We remain committed to the delivery of quality judicial education for our officers and staff and the provision of effective professional training.



**THE IMPACT OF
CORONAVIRUS
(COVID-19) IN THE
MAGISTRACY
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF
THE BAHAMAS**

**By: Chief Magistrate
Mrs. Joyanne Ferguson-Pratt**

The Covid 19 Pandemic has had an unprecedented negative impact upon the delivery of full services in the Magistrates Courts. Notwithstanding the challenges, the courts have continued to function, although we acknowledge that certain operations have been scaled back, pursuant to the Coronavirus Mitigation Protocols as promulgated by the Honorable Chief Justice Sir Brian Moree Q.C.

Captured below is a summary of the workings of the Court which unless otherwise stated focuses on the state of affairs in New Providence.

Arraignments

First time pleas and/or the reading of charges for matters proceeding by way of Voluntary Bill of Indictment (VBI) to the Supreme Court have continued throughout the pandemic. These matters range from indictable offences such as murder, to summary offences such as disorderly behaviour.

Notably, the Magistrates Court has arraigned and adjudicated on a plethora of matters related to offences in breach of the Emergency Regulations. These matters include but are not limited to breach of curfew/lockdown, non-compliance in wearing masks, and prohibited business operations.

Remands

Defendants on remand at the Bahamas Department of Correctional Services (BDOCS) have continued to have access to the courts by video conferencing. This is facilitated each weekday by a duty Magistrate.

Bound Over/Family/Juvenile/Civil Claims

These matters are heard by way of an application to the Chief Magistrate and/or Deputy Chief Magistrate Forbes. Such applications are reviewed and if certified as an emergency are scheduled before a Magistrate for hearing.

Coroners Matters

The Office of the Coroner in New Providence and Deputy Coroner in Grand Bahama, and Abaco have suspended all inquests. They are open for signing releases where necessary.

Traffic Matters

Where the defendant admits the offence and intends to pay the fine he may do so at the Accounts Department of the Magistrates Complex during working hours. The Traffic Court (New Providence) has now resumed the hearing of matters fixed for trial.

Immigration Matters

The Magistracy was called upon to adjudicate on four (4) Illegal Landing cases of over seventy (70) defendants. This involved travel to Ragged Island, and Inagua by the Chief Magistrate and Deputy Chief Magistrate Forbes respectively. Similarly, Illegal Landing matters were heard in Grand Bahama by Magistrate Charlton Smith in August and Magistrate Rengin Johnson in October.

Fisheries Matters

In September the Chief Magistrate and Deputy Chief Forbes in separate hearings arraigned eighty three (83) Dominican fishermen in relation to a number of offences in breach of the Fisheries Act. Due to the volume of persons before the court, the proceedings were held in open air. The exercise required the collaborative efforts of the Royal Bahamas Police Force, Immigration Department, The Royal Bahamas Defence Force, Fisheries Department, and The Bahamas Department of Correctional Services in order to manage the process effectively.

Accounts Department

The Accounts Department has been open to the public for the collection of Queens fines, Fixed Penalty fines, payments for maintenance support, and civil claims.

Precautionary Measures in place at the Magistrates Court

The following measures have been put in place to support the safety of the court:

- No mask, no entry permitted in the Magistrates Court.
- Each individual entering the Court Complex is required to submit to temperature check.
- Sanitization stations have been strategically positioned in the complex together with enhanced cleaning protocols in court rooms and high touch surfaces in public areas.

Conclusion

I wish to single out colleagues and dedicated support staff who have tirelessly worked to ensure that the Courts core functions are available to court users. The Magistracy as a whole has embraced the opportunity for service to the public in the face of the pandemic. Finally we envisage a technological platform that will provide for the use of online court services. This is a necessary modernization tool for greater efficiency.

THE MAGISTRACY AND COVID-19



By: Deputy Chief Magistrate, Mr. Andrew Forbes

The Novel Corona Virus known as "COVID-19" has impacted the magistracy in a very significant way. Firstly It is known that magistrates courts handle a substantial volume of matters, traffic, domestic more specifically (domestic-violence) hearings, small claims civil matters specifically the large volume of Landlords and Tenants claims and the arraignment of all criminal matters whether indictable or misdemeanors offences.

The result of all this means a large volume of matters have been backed up, especially trial matters. Abutted to this challenge is the lack of video technology in the magistrates court, but whether this existed or not, the majority of litigants are pro se and are more than likely to be unable to access technology or are impecunious and thus unable to afford the technology. However fortunately Magistrates have stepped up and are hearing matters which have been deemed emergencies by the Honourable Chief Justice.

The second challenge is the emotional one, there is considerable uncertainty given the medical prognosis and the fact that the Country continues to experience an exponential increase in the number of Covid cases.

It is fair to surmise the magistracy is in unprecedented times; however there is confidence that the magistracy will overcome the challenges.

Did you Know

that to ensure social distancing appointments are required to visit the Supreme Court Registries.

Appointments are to be made online via bahamasjudiciary.com

Save The Date

For the Annual Judicial Training Seminar to mark the opening of the legal year.

January 12th, 2021

REPORT FROM THE REGISTRAR



By: Registrar, Mrs. Camille Darville-Gomez

Over the years successive chief justices have encouraged continuing judicial education by ensuring that judicial officers were afforded opportunities to attend and participate in various workshops, seminars and conferences, both locally and internationally. In more recent years, the focus has been on continuing judicial education on a local level through the organization of workshops, seminars and conferences for judicial officers as well as support staff.

Under the leadership of former Chief Justice Sir Burton Hall, four (4) training days for judicial officers and support staff were built into the court’s calendar annually, and training was organized by “JudiTrain Bahamas”, a committee of judicial officers and senior administrative staff.

I recall those days as a junior lawyer and as the date drew nigh wondered whether hearings would proceed.

During the tenure of Sir Hartman Longley training was coordinated by a “Judicial Education Committee” established by Sir Hartman and which he foreshadowed would serve as a forerunner to the Judicial Education Institute Commission.

The Honourable Chief Justice Sir Brian M. Moree, Q.C took up the baton and recently formalized the establishment of The Bahamas Judicial Education Institute (BJEI/Institute) as the training arm of the Judiciary. The BJEI is mandated to provide structured Judiciary specific programs throughout the course of the legal year for the Judiciary. It is managed by a Board of Directors selected by the

Chief Justice and has recently secured a permanent and dedicated staff member. Additionally, premises in Charlotte House have been acquired for the Institute and it is anticipated that it will be ready for occupation sometime in December, 2020. The Institute, which is patterned after the Commonwealth Judicial Education Institute, has already fostered relationships in the region with the Judicial Education Institute of Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean Association of Judicial Officers (CAJO) to host workshops aimed at enhancing the delivery of justice.

In August of this year, despite the pandemic, the Institute was invited to facilitate training in the area of Arbitration and Alternative Dispute Resolution virtually. It was a joint collaboration with the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) and the International Council for Commercial Arbitration (ICCA) and again all judicial officers and members of the Industrial Tribunal participated. It was the first virtual training hosted by the Institute and given the challenges of the pandemic, it will not be the last.

The Institute is mindful of its mandate to train all staff and has identified areas of training which would be beneficial to all of them. A training day for all staff of the Judiciary had been organized for October, 2019 however, due to the passage and devastation caused by Hurricane Dorian it was postponed. Staff training is scheduled to re-commence in 2021.

Finally, the year ahead will be a busy one for the Institute, in light of the various initiatives being undertaken by the Honourable Chief Justice which are aimed at the reform and modernization of the Judiciary. These programs, which include the Bail Management System, the digitization of the court documents, the implementation of the Integrated Case Management System and the proposed new Civil Procedure Rules, will create training opportunities for the staff and judicial officers alike.

VIRTUAL INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION AND MEDIATION INTERACTIVE TRAINING CONFERENCE- 17 AUGUST 2020- 28 AUGUST 2020



By: The Honourable Mrs. Justice Cheryl Grant-Thompson

The virtual international mediation training course spanned a period of two weeks. It was rewarding, informative and innovative. The Mediation Bill 2020 along with its Regulations and the new Civil Procedure Rules were discussed and analyzed in depth. The high level committee comprising Mrs Caryl Lashley and Mrs Kelpheene Cunningham along with Consultant Justice Barry Leon, all FCI Arb, did an excellent job assisting in drafting this important legislation. The Honourable Chief Justice Sir Brian Moree QC walked us through the relevant provisions of the New Civil Procedure Rules.

The distinguished guests attending the conference comprised former Chief Justices and former Justices, sitting Justices of Appeal and justices of the Supreme Court, The Learned Chief Magistrate and Stipendiary and Circuit Magistrates, The President and Members of the Industrial Tribunal - regional Justices of Appeal and intelligent Judicial Research Assistants. Ms. Dancia Penn, OBE, QC (The British Virgin Islands), an eminent attorney, arbitrator and mediator was also in attendance representing the Caribbean Community Administrative Tribunal. We were addressed by the Secretary General and Legal Counsel of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (Washington DC). The esteemed body went over the Convention and its Rules; relevant cases and statistics; considered proposals to amend the ISID Rules and to annul the administrative Council.

The New York 1958 Convention and The Bahamas Arbitration (Foreign Arbitral Awards) Act 2000 were considered by the group including an International perspective provided by Professor Marike Paulsson on the International Council of Commercial Arbitration. She was joined in an interesting NY Convention Road Show comprising respected barrister Mrs Kelpheene Cunningham, talented young Ms. Alexandra Cooper Rousseau and esteemed retired justice Mrs Rubie Nottage.

See thought provoking articles contained in <https://www.uncitral.org/pdf/english/texts/arbitration/NY-conv/New-York-Convention-E.pdf>;

The Future of Rising Seats in The Caribbean the role of the Courts and the 1958 New York Convention in Jamaica by Mareke Paulsson; <http://laws.bahamas.gov.bs/cms/images/LEGISLATION/PRINCIPAL/2009/2009-0042/Arbitration/Act2009>

Professor Jan Paulsson presented generally on International Arbitration and the important provisions contained in the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) which was robustly defended by legal officers from UNCITRAL Vienna, Mesdames Judith Kneiper and Corinne Montineri. In this regard we considered the International Commercial Arbitration Bill and the 2020 role of the permanent court of Arbitration.

An ounce of mediation is said to be worth a pound of arbitration generously mixed with a ton of litigation- we were no exception as we perused the provisions of the Singapore Convention on Mediation and discussed the merits of The Bahamas joining the more than 46 countries who are signatories. It is imperative that we firmly establish mediation as a viable alternative to resolving disputes. In this regard we reviewed our progress with a comprehensive compendium of local pending mediation legislation.

"Albert Einstein said "Peace cannot be kept by force it can only be achieved by understanding". The Judiciary of The Bahamas remains committed to encouraging the regulation and use of both forms of alternative dispute resolution.



Senior Justice Evans intervening during Arbitration & Mediation Training, August 2020



VIRTUAL PARTICIPANTS
Arbitration & Mediation Training

PRESENTERS AT BJEI ARBITRATION & MEDIATION VIRTUAL TRAINING SESSIONS



The Honourable Chief Justice Sir Brian M. Moree, Q.C.
Chief Justice of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

Since his admission as a counsel and attorney to The Bahamas Bar in February 1979, Sir Brian has served on several committees, commissions, boards and tribunals. He has also served two stints as an Acting Stipendiary and Circuit Magistrate and two stints as an Acting Justice of the Supreme Court of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas

Sir Brian was appointed a Queen’s Counsel in 2009 and he was appointed as Chief Justice of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas on 12 June 2019.

Madam Justice Rubie Marie Nottage (Retd.)
M.A. (Oxon), LL.M. (London & Cardiff), FCI Arb

Justice of the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas (Retired)

Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, University of The Bahamas, Nassau, Bahamas.



Mr. Anish Wadia, *PAP-KFCRI, SFBiam, FCI Arb, FACICA, FMI Arb, FHKI Arb, FAIADR, FPI Arb, FA Arb, FC Arb, FPD, FAMINZ (Arb/Med), FMP-KFCRI, CFCILS*, is an experienced and internationally accredited full-time Independent International Arbitrator, Emergency Arbitrator and Mediator; with experience acting as such in both common law and civil law jurisdictions.

Prof. Jan Paulsson founding Partner of Three Crowns LLP

Prof. Paulsson is the Michael Klein Distinguished Scholar Chair Emeritus at the University of Miami School of Law. He is also a Board Member of the Bahrain Chamber of Dispute Resolution, and a Judge of the IMF Administrative Tribunal.



Judith Knieper legal officer at the Secretariat of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) in Vienna.

Until her appointment to the Secretariat, she had been working in South East Europe from 1998 to 2013 for numerous donors/organizations, e.g. OSCE, CoE, Worldbank and GIZ, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, the German international Cooperation.



Corinne Montineri is a Legal Officer in the International Trade Law Division of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs, the Secretariat of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL).

Her main field of activity relates to arbitration and technical assistance to law reform in the field of arbitration and mediation.



Brooks Daly is the Deputy Secretary-General and Principal Legal Counsel of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), an intergovernmental organization founded in 1899 and devoted to the peaceful settlement of international disputes. The PCA today counts 122 Member States.



Fedelma C. Smith is Senior Legal Counsel of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) and is currently posted as the PCA Representative in Singapore.

The PCA is an intergovernmental organization founded in 1899 and devoted to the peaceful settlement of international disputes, which today counts 122 Member States.

Prof. Ike Ehiribe, C.Arb, FCI Arb, FAiADR, QDR
Barrister, Chartered Arbitrator & Accredited Mediator

Prof. Ehiribe was called to the Nigerian Bar in 1982 and to the Bar of England and Wales in 1996 by the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn.



The Honourable Barry Leon, FCI Arb
Canadian Independent Arbitrator and Mediator residing in the British Virgin Islands (BVI)

He is experienced in arbitrating and mediating corporate and commercial, contract, shareholder and business breakup, construction, natural resources, intellectual property and technology disputes. He is an International Mediation Institute (IMI) Certified Mediator.



Caryl A.E. Lashley, FCI Arb

A Barrister with more than 40 years standing with experience in Litigation, Family, Corporate, Employment and Trust matters. A Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, U.K. (CI Arb) since 2012, she is proficient both as an Arbitrator and a Mediator.

Having been designated by The Bahamas Government to serve on the Panel of Arbitrators and of Conciliators, Caryl was re-designated so to serve for the next six (6) years.

Meg Kinnear

Vice President, the World Bank Group
Secretary-General, International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), Washington D.C., USA

As Secretary-General, she oversees a staff of 70 people, administering more than 300 investment arbitrations each year.



Alex Kaplan, Legal Counsel

International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), Washington D.C., USA

In his role as Legal Counsel with ICSID, Mr. Kaplan acts as secretary of arbitral tribunals and *ad hoc* committees. He also contributes to ICSID's efforts to amend its rules and routinely speaks publicly about ICSID's work to State officials and practitioners.

Marike Paulsson, Senior Advisor
Albright Stonebridge Group (ASG)

Ms. Paulsson is based in Bahrain, where she draws on her extensive experience in public international law, international arbitration, human rights, and cross-border litigation to advise clients on resolution of investment and commercial disputes with states through global strategy and commercial diplomacy.





KELPHE CUNNINGHAM LL.B (HONS.), LLM, PGD, PGC, FCI Arb (LOND.)

Barrister and Attorney-At-Law. She is a member of the Honourable Society of Grays Inn (London) and is a Member of The Bahamas Bar. She was called to both the English Bar and The Bahamas Bar in 1981. She is a part time lecturer at The University of The Bahamas.

She is a founding member of the Bahamas Branch of The Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. She is the first Bahamian Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, London (FCI Arb) and holds an ADR Advanced Certification Certificate in Mediation from the University of Windsor, Canada. She is also an experienced Conciliator, Adjudicator and Negotiator.

Alexandra Cooper Rousseau

Ms. Cooper Rousseau gained her experience in international arbitration from an institutional perspective while at the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC).

Subsequently, she was attached to the disputes group in Singapore of an international law firm consistently top-ranked for arbitration and alternative dispute resolution in Asia- Pacific – during this period of her career, she assisted some of the world's largest multinationals with arbitration, anti-competition, and anti-corruption related cases.



Did You Know

That the International Commercial Arbitration Bill, 2018 and the Arbitration (Amendment) Bill, 2018 are available online?

To download a copy visit
www.bahamas.gov.bs



THE NORTHERN REGION – CHALLENGES AND TRIUMPHS

By: Ms. Stephana Saunders, Deputy Registrar, Northern Region

The word “challenging” aptly describes the experiences of the staff of the Office of the Judiciary (Northern Region) in 2019 and 2020. From the commencement of much needed renovations to the Garnet Levarity Justice Centre in January, 2019, to Hurricane Dorian in September of the same year and now Covid-19 and the present pandemic of 2020, we have weathered one crisis after another with courage and spirit.

Being displaced was one of the most difficult aspects of the renovations. We were sharing offices, the files were at a storage/holding facility, and areas that were not designed to be a courtroom had to be altered to accommodate hearings. Construction noise was a part of our daily experience. We coped as a unit because we were cognizant of the fact that the renovations were much needed and there had to be some discomfort in order to have a renovated edifice.

Then came 1st September, 2019, and over the next three (3) days, the passing of the most powerful hurricane in the history of the Atlantic. The majority of our staff members were affected by the storm in varying degrees with major flooding and roof damage heading the list of destruction. We thank God for life as no one was killed or injured but there were some who lost relatives and friends during that harrowing event.

The Garnet Levarity Justice Centre sustained minor damage during the hurricane. However, the renovations to the buildings had to be halted for a while because of the level of island-wide destruction caused by Hurricane Dorian as well as the shortage of building supplies on and lack of transport to, the island.

However, despite the challenges, the resilience of the staff shone through. Some of our staff were able to return to work on 23rd September 2019 and the work of the Judiciary continued, albeit on a smaller scale.

Because of the need for additional space to house the staff from the Magistrate and Supreme Courts in one building during the renovations, most of the court files, documents, text books, law reports, furniture, and office equipment had to be stored off-site.

Unfortunately, while the Supreme Court building received no damage and the Magistrate Court building received minor damage, both premises which were used for off-site storage, Records Archive Management (RAM) and the Post Office, received major flood damage during Hurricane Dorian.

We are still trying to restore files and only time will tell, if ever, the extent and cost of the damage caused to the work of the courts because of Hurricane Dorian.

We are, however, grateful that with the assistance of RAM and some members of the Bar, many files have been copied and restored and or reproduced. 2020 got off to a great start. The proceedings to mark the first sitting in the legal year in the Northern Region went well.



The Honourable Chief Justice and Justices of The Supreme Court
The proceedings to mark the first sitting in the legal year in the Northern Region, 2020



The Honourable Chief Justice, Sir Brian Moree QC, Sr. Justice Mrs. Estelle Gray Evans and Madam Justice Mrs. Petra Hanna-Adderley, Freeport Supreme Court, Garnet Levarity Building, January 2020



The Honourable Sr. Justice Mrs. Estelle Gray Evans, Madam Justice Mrs. Petra Hanna-Adderley and Students at the proceedings to mark the first sitting in the legal year in the Northern Region, 2020

On Thursday, 9 January 2020, our new Chief Justice, The Honourable Sir Brian Moree QC, along with other judicial officers, court staff, members of the legal community from New Providence and Grand Bahama, as well as students and teachers from some of the local primary schools, attended a church service at Christ The King Anglican Church, after which the Chief Justice and judges mingled with, spoke to and took photographs with some of the students and teachers who attended the church service.

Thereafter, the work of the courts began in earnest, to the extent that the renovations and the effects of Hurricane Dorian permitted.

We were also looking forward to the repairs being completed and returning to our regular spaces, but COVID-19 reared its ugly head in March, 2020 and again the work at the courts, renovations and court operations, all work stopped.

However, with the help of our “essential staff”, who quickly rose to the occasion, we were able to re-commence our services to the general public as outlined by the protocols put in place by the Honourable Chief Justice.

The renovations have now been completed and, as of 12th July 2020, judicial officers and support staff are all in their respective spaces with the addition of new furniture.

There are minor issues to be completed but a major hurdle has been navigated.

Two Stipendiary and Circuit Magistrates, **Mrs Gwendolyn Claude** from the Eight Mile Rock Magistrate Court



and **Mrs. Ayse Rengin Johnson**



from Magistrate Court No. 3 retired after years of faithful service in the Magistracy. Unfortunately, because of the social distancing protocols and restrictions on social gatherings, we have not been able to say a “proper” goodbye to them. However, we wish each of them a happy retirement and all the best in their future undertakings.

Regrettably, we also had to say “goodbye” to two excellent, hardworking staff members: Mrs. Debbie Stuart Jones from the Eight Mile Rock Magistrate Court who died in June and Mrs. Octavia Sweeting from the Supreme Court Registry who died in August of this year.



Mrs. Deborah Stuart-Jones



Mrs. Octavia Sweeting



Magistrate LaQuay Laing

Mr. R. Dawson Malone joined the Supreme Court Registry as an Acting Assistant Registrar on 5 October 2020.



Mr. R. Dawson Malone

Each of them is sorely missed. Their loss was particularly painful as they occurred amid the Covid-19 and social distancing protocols. May the soul of each of them rest in peace!

The Northern Region also welcomed two judicial officers. Stipendiary and Circuit Magistrate,

Mr. LaQuay Laing, transferred from the Magistrate Court in George Town, Exuma, and is now serving in Magistrate Court No. 3.

While there is no doubt that the renovations, Hurricane Dorian, Covid-19 and the loss of co-workers and friends have presented many challenges for the courts, it has not been all bad.

Because of Covid-19, the social distancing protocols and other health and safety measures, the courts in Grand Bahama have found ways to operate “out-of-the-box”. Remote hearings are now regularly held; judicial officers and support staff have

become proficient in the use of applications such as Zoom, WebEx, WhatsApp and other electronic media to conduct hearings on all sides of the court. Additionally, with the reduced in-court hearings judicial officers were able to participate in several continuing education webinars as well as complete outstanding judgments which, but for the covid-19 restrictions, they may not have had time to do. Notwithstanding the challenges mentioned, the work of the Office of the Judiciary (Northern Region) continued in some form to be of service to the community of Grand Bahama.

Thanks to the hardworking judicial officers and support staff, particularly those identified as “essential workers”, who are to be commended for their dedication and commitment to the Office of the Judiciary and ensuring that the work of the courts continues, despite renovations, Hurricane Dorian and Covid-19.

We believe that our future is smoother than the past twenty-one (21) months, God willing but if not, we know where we have been brought from and whose hands we hold – TRIUMPHLY!



Garnet Levarity Justice Centre
Freeport, Grand Bahama

ONE YEAR AFTER HURRICANE DORIAN



By: The Honourable Madam Justice Mrs. Petra Hanna-Adderley

I can say with all honesty and heartfelt thanks to my God that I am Blessed. Besides having to change the alternator in my generator, losing a few trees in my backyard and suffering some mental anguish and anxiety during the two days that Dorian ravaged Grand Bahama, I survived Dorian unscathed. Grand Bahamians, or people who have made Grand Bahama their home for many years, have suffered through several major hurricanes, the more memorable ones being “Jeanne and Frances” in 2004, “Wilma” in 2005, “Matthew” in 2016, “Irma” in 2017, and “Dorian” in 2019.

I strongly believe that the lessons that we in Grand Bahama learned from “Jeanne and Frances” helped us to weather “Dorian”, although Dorian was the most devastating of all. We learned in “Jeanne and Frances” how long we could really survive without electricity and water.

We learned how precious a bag of ice was and we learned how

to really “tow line” for the necessities of life. “Jeanne and Frances” meant no power for between one and three months for most of us. No running water for three weeks or more. “Irma” was my next encounter with Mother Nature, one that could have cost me life. My husband and I arrived in Tortola, British Virgin Islands four days before Irma struck the islands. After Irma, with winds of over 210 mph, ripped off all of our hurricane battens and blew in and shattered all of the windows in our hillside home, we spent 5 ½ hours in a closet until Irma moved off and assaulted Puerto Rico and made then her way through some of our islands, including Grand Bahama, where she spawned small tornados, with eventual landfall in Florida.

Then there was “Dorian”. I had made every preparation to weather the hurricane in my home at the beach on the southern side of the island but when a neighbouring area was given the evacuation order and fearing a tidal surge from the south, I moved to a friend’s home that was more inland. Who would have known that I would have been safer at the beach? I was blessed to be in a comfortable, safe home to ride out the hurricane. We were able to watch “Dorian” via satellite as he/she tore through Abaco and then Grand Bahama. It was horrifying hearing about the calls for rescue from people over the Casuarina Bridge over social media and about the tidal surge racing through residential areas.

I got two horrifying cellular phone calls, one from my housekeeper and one from a staff member who were both fleeing the rising surge waters that were flooding their homes. It took me three days after the hurricane to find those two people and two of my office staff. One office staff member and his family had spent the two days that Dorian pummeled Grand Bahama hanging onto a beverage cooler in the raging tidal surge that had submerged their home. He had to be hospitalized after being rescued. I have learned one thing about hurricanes. You can get a true insight into a person’s personality and character by observing how they cope with the aftermath of a hurricane. A number of staff members and attorneys who I spoke with after Dorian lost most of their furniture, personal belongings and all of their homes or offices were badly damaged. Many people did not have homeowners or leaseholders insurance.

The Government rendered some assistance, as did the churches and charitable organizations and our friends from abroad. In speaking with persons most affected by Dorian I was told that they really did not expect any help from the government and have slowly rebuilt their lives as best they could. What they did find frustrating however was constantly being asked to fill out lists for various government agencies to receive hurricane relief and nothing ever came of it. In other words, it was hard to keep hope alive. For persons

like me who not been directly affected it was difficult watching people suffer and not being able render assistance. I was able to help a few persons in small ways and I hope that in so doing I helped to make that moment or that hour a, little better. Daily I witnessed grace under fire as hurricane survivors put their lives back together. Many of these same people had been adversely affected by previous hurricanes. I witnessed some ugliness too. The hoarding of hurricane supplies by many who had no need for them. And the suffering continues for many who are now unemployed as a result of Dorian and who now have the added stress of the corona virus to contend with.

I am also grateful that save for a little roof damage, the Garnet Levarity Justice Centre was spared the wrath of Dorian. As I watched videos on social media of the flooded Police Headquarters, which is located across the street from the Court House, I was convinced that the Court complex was flooded as well. But God is good! Save for items stored off site, the Court House survived Dorian. Within 4 weeks of the passage of Dorian we were back to work, including staff members still living in homes without furniture, power or water. The Staff of the Judiciary like the other inhabitants of Grand Bahama have an indomitable spirit. We have weathered economic depression, hurricane after hurricane and

now Coronavirus. With God's continued Grace, we will continue to be Grand Bahama strong!

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The Madam Justice Mrs. Petra Hanna-Adderley
& Students on a Visit To The Supreme Court, Freeport, Grand Bahama

THE EFFECTS OF HURRICANE DORIAN AND THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON THE JUDICIARY ON GRAND BAHAMA ISLAND



**By: Ms. Debby Ferguson,
Deputy Chief Magistrate,
Grand Bahama**

In order to fully appreciate what effects Hurricane Dorian and the COVID-19 Pandemic had on the Judiciary on Grand Bahama, I must remind readers of the following:

This Island since my residence in 2002/2003 had to endure the effects of many successive major hurricanes.

Grand Bahama and its residents' lost property, family and employment because of the successive hurricanes, with additional lives being lost and continued financial crisis after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. The hurricane of 2019 left the island most devastated. It literally unexpectedly swept away people, property and buildings with its king tide surge.

Trials before all the Magistrate courts slowed down for weeks after hurricane Dorian passed. An assessment of the structural damages of the Magistrate Courts in Freeport and Eight Mile Rock revealed an infestation of mold and mildew to ceilings and walls, as a result of water

damage. Furniture and equipment were damaged and lost and had to be replaced before any of the Courts could function properly. Magistrate Court files were lost or damaged due to the flooding of both buildings. An immediate work plan had to be put into place for the Courts.

Using the bare essentials this Magistrate heard first pleas as best I could after it became difficult to find a structure that had not fallen apart, was not falling apart or flooded. By mid-October, efforts were made to have a makeshift Court set up on the Magistrate Court compound in Greenport, to accommodate Freeport and Eight Mile Rock first pleas only and emergency matters of any kind.

The difficulty of communication with all defendants became a major problem since parts of the island were at that time without electricity, internet and telephone services and many roads were flooded. Many defendants on bail fled Grand Bahama to other jurisdictions in search of food, shelter and employment. Defendants in the Department of Corrections became anxious for their cases to begin or continue, however the airport terminals had been swept away by Dorian and flights of any kind suspended.

While efforts were being made to repair and recover the Courts, new criminal matters were on the increase and the Courts staff had to face members of the public who wanted to file new civil and domestic applications. Civil and domestic pending matters were continuously being adjourned to

allow the courts to focus on the new criminal matters, and waiting for repairs to be effected. The Courts were bursting at the seams with cases and cases had to be fixed to dates in the early months of 2020, to allow for recovery and repairs. As time passed and case load increased, the hearing of trials became an urgent necessity.

Some urgent attention had to be given to many court staff who became homeless as a result of Dorian and could not be expected to come to work. This contributed to an additional delay of court business.

Nonetheless, the Magistrate Court in Freeport and Eight Mile Rock began hearing trials as early as the last week in January 2020. In March 2020 the Judiciary faced another unexpected crisis with the threat of the COVID-19 virus to the Island. This virus caused the island to become a "hot spot" which led to over six hundred infected persons from March to September. Once again all trials were suspended and the courts only focused on first pleas and emergency matters.

Many staff members had to be quarantined and the new normal meant strict enforcement of the social distancing rules, the wearing of a mask in public at all times, controlling the gathering of crowds in or out of the Court's compound and the constant sanitizing of persons and the courts, before and after use. Not many trials were completed or begun after January 2020 and to date. Grand Bahama and its residents are actually, in my opinion still in recovery mode.

Court cases are not a priority to some. Bench warrants have had to be issued and to date a large number remain outstanding. Additional new criminal matters in the Magistrate’s Court have been added to the Court’s list and there has been an increase in emergency civil and domestic emergency cases. It appears that many Grand Bahamians cannot mentally accept the new normal and have exhibited violent behaviour or become substance abusers.

The Eight Mile Rock Court building has experienced repeated damages, to the extent that a new building has become necessary. In the interim many of the Court’s customers are being serviced out of Freeport. This means many persons from the western district; have to find means of transport to get to Court, which is not always easy.

All Judicial Officers on Grand Bahama may have to resort to holding virtual trials over the next few years. All remain to be seen.

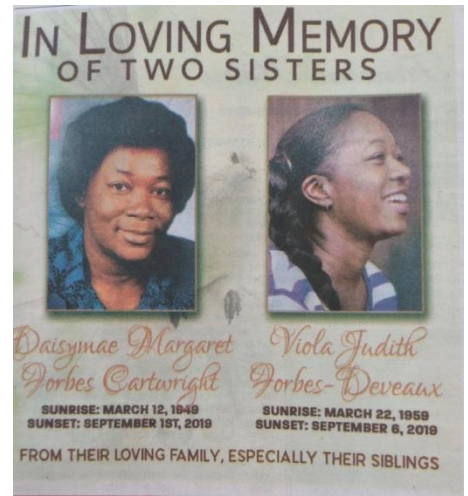
“THE DORIAN EXPERIENCE”



By: Charlton H. Smith
S & C Magistrate

The events of Hurricane Dorian 1st September, 2019 will forever be etched in my memory. The reasons for such an indelible impression primarily are because of the fierce weather phenomena that claimed the lives of many persons on the islands of Grand Bahama and Abaco including my mother’s two dear sisters, my aunts Daisy Cartwright and collaterally her sister Viola Deveaux. Aunt Daisy was a wonderful soul who I knew all of my life. She was my mother’s only sibling who had also relocated from Andros and made Grand Bahama home. She was well known from her employment days at Holiday Inn, General Cashier Kings Inn and Hostess at Jack Tar Hotel, West End. Everybody loved her bakes such as macaroni, banana bread and fruit cake. Aunt Daisy had somewhat temporarily relocated to Nassau from about March 2019 to assist with the care of their youngest sister Viola “Ola” after she was diagnosed with cancer. Daisy was her primary caregiver and she was challenged to return to Grand Bahama for even a few days

and leave her sister in Nassau. She finally returned to Grand Bahama in the morning of 27th August, 2019. She wanted to see her granddaughters before school reopened and bring their treats. Aunt Daisy and her husband sheltered with their only child and his family in their new apartment near the bridge. Hurricane Dorian arrived Sunday and they had to evacuate the house for higher ground. During the course of events Aunt Daisy was consumed by the fierce winds and seas. Her body was recovered a few weeks later. We were grateful that we found her and was able to have some closure. Unfortunately, on hearing of Aunt Daisy’s demise, Aunt Ola became hospitalized and joined her caregiver at rest.



These two women have had a profound impact on my development.

Hurricane Dorian also had a devastating effect socially, psychologically and economically on the residents of the mentioned islands as well as the wider Bahamian society.

Did You Know

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Nobody lives in isolation so the events that effected the northern Bahamas also impacted the whole Bahamas. Families from Abaco to Inagua all have felt the pain of losing a family member, friend or by extension an associate of sort.

The Courts are more than a building but extension of the community. The Courts on Grand Bahama were significantly impeded in its operations. While the physical plant fared well services were severely compromised because staff as well as the community were left paralyzed due to electricity stoppage, grief, physical, emotional and financial barriers that delayed access to justice. Through all the turmoil the staff of the Office of the Judiciary remained focused and dedicated service to the Community and any services that could have been provided were offered. Their actions must be commended.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the many heroic acts of ordinary persons. When the cries went out conscience and character activated, not just the many selfless acts of brave law enforcement officers, but it also mobilized a massive Citizen Army that saw danger and acted. There was no field marshal or generals giving directions; just ordinary persons from all strata of life finding creative ways to save lives and give hope. When the cries for help went out there was no question of colour, creed, race, political standing or financial viability: the call was

answered; "My brother is in trouble, here am I".

We also thank God for the many international relief agencies and NGO's that have assisted and continue to sponsor and help with numerous rebuilding initiatives.

I will close by saying, May God continue to rekindle the spirit of being our brother's keeper as we rebuild lives, homes, infrastructure and economy.

Did You Know

That the latest Rulings from the Supreme Court are available on line

@www.bahamasjudiciary.com



JUDICIARY
THE BAHAMAS

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The Honourable Chief Justice
Sir Brian Moree, QC

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JUDICIARY
THE BAHAMAS

**A TALE OF TWO STORMS:
HURRICANE DORIAN AND
COVID-19**



**By: Ms. Ancella J. Evans
S & C Magistrate**

**SURVIVING HURRICANE
DORIAN**

September 1, 2019 is a day that will be imprinted permanently within the crevices of my mind, seared into my consciousness. It all began shortly after midnight when Chief Supt Kevin Mortimer contacted me to say that my court marshal, Mr. Ernest Rahming had been involved in a tragic car accident and was 'unresponsive'. I knew intuitively that meant that he had met his demise. My suspicions were confirmed a short while later when I was informed that he had been pronounced dead.



Former Court Marshal
Mr. Earnest Rahming

I gave Chief Supt Mortimer the telephone contact of Mr. Rahming's next of kin who was his wife. He telephoned her and she candidly informed him that she refused to believe the news of her husband's death unless it came from the magistrate herself. At about 3 o'clock that morning I had the unenviable task of confirming her husband's death to her over the phone. Little did I know that the tragedy of Mr. Rahming's death was a foreshadow of the unprecedented, horrific events that were about to descend upon the Island of Abaco in the hours that followed.

The next night I was rescued by a team of police officers on a tractor. As I entered the tractor, one of the officers Superintendent Wendel Clarke cautioned me to brace myself because I was about to see something that I had never seen before. He was right. When I looked around Marsh Harbour, it looked as if a nuclear bomb had gone off, destroying virtually everything in its path. Luxury homes were decimated, in some cases leaving only the foundation. Wherever you looked as far as the eye could see, there was total devastation. Hurricane Dorian wreaked havoc upon Marsh Harbour, Dundas Town, Murphy Town, Treasure Cay, Hope Town and Green Turtle Cay. The widespread devastation that it left in its path was unimaginable.

I eventually lived in my office for about 4 days until I was able to leave the island on an evacuation flight.

The entire Government Complex became a shelter. It has been estimated that nearly 2,000 persons sought refuge in the Government Complex. The upstairs courtroom became Command Center for Central Abaco and a temporary police station.

Fortunately, the Government Complex, the clinic and the airport were still standing and in relatively good condition. The court room did experience flooding, but no major damage.

A New Beginning

Three weeks after Hurricane Dorian, when I returned to Abaco to re-open the Magistrate's Court, there were soldiers from all over the world and non-governmental organizations on the ground to provide moral support and humanitarian aid. I was overwhelmed by the tremendous display of good will from these international non-governmental agencies.

As soon as I entered the Government Complex, I was hit once again with the realization of catastrophic disaster that we had just endured. The first order of the day was to oversee the sanitization of the courts. A professional cleaning company from Nassau came in to thoroughly sanitize the court. This was a time-consuming and arduous process as the court had been used as a shelter for approximately 77 persons inclusive of the police officers and their families, court staff and their families, and the hurricane management team for Central Abaco.

When I re-opened the court, I had no staff as they had all relocated to Nassau. There was no electricity or running water. There were no restaurants, shops or food stores open for several months. I am extremely grateful to Cpl Andre Linden who assisted the court tremendously by providing much needed logistical assistance and security and assumed the role of court orderly.



Cpl. Andre Linden
Court Orderly, Abaco

When I reminisce on the aftermath of Hurricane Dorian, I am forced to recall the community spirit, congeniality and generosity of the people of Abaco and the community leaders.

When I returned to Abaco, I had no transportation or living accommodations. However, Mr. Greg Sherwood and Mr. Kevin O'Malley of the Abaco Club at Winding Bay graciously offered me living accommodations at their beautiful resort. Additionally, I wish to also commend the former Commissioner of Police, Mr. Anthony Ferguson; the present Commissioner of Police,

Mr. Paul Rolle and Deputy Commissioner of Police, Mrs. Ismella Davis-Delancy.



Magistrate Ancella Evans &
Commissioner of Police Mr. Paul Rolle

The Commodore of the Defence Force, Commodore Raymond King and former Commodore Tellis Bethel must be given honourable mention for graciously providing me with the use of the Royal Bahamas Defence vehicle for 10 months. North and Central Abaco Administrator Tereece Bootle-Laing, Mrs. Kendra Smith and Mrs. Gail McIntosh must all be commended for their assistance in facilitating and equipping the Magistrate's Court with competent staff, namely Miss Shandira Forbes and Miss Monique Curry, both of whom quickly learned Magistrate's Court's procedures and who demonstrated a willingness to learn coupled with a desire to serve, a positive attitude and agility.

By September 24, 2019 the Marsh Harbour Magistrate's Court was fully functional. I must also commend my esteemed colleagues for their concern and moral support. In this regard, I wish to thank Chief Justice Sir Brian Moree and Lady Angela

Moree; Her Ladyship Justice of Appeal Carolita Bethel; Her Ladyship Justice Indra Charles; Her Ladyship Justice Sonia Bertram-Linton (Jamaica); Registrar of the Supreme Court, Mrs. Camille Darville-Gomez; Deputy Chief Magistrate Andrew Forbes, Magistrate Kara Turnquest-Deveaux and Retired Magistrate Jannet Bullard. Above all, I am grateful to God for the gift of life and the prayers of my mother, Mrs. Edith Seymour and stepfather, Bishop Stanley Seymour and my extended family.

The Covid 19 Storm

I refer to Covid 19 as a storm, because like Hurricane Dorian, Covid 19 has disrupted every concept of normalcy and the Magistrate's Court in Abaco has had to adapt to Covid 19 work environment. Personal protective equipment, constant sanitizing of the work environment and practicing social distancing are now a part of 'the new normal'. This pandemic has required us to be more resilient, cautious, and focused. Since March, the Magistrate's Court has been conducting arraignments in criminal matters, hearing emergency applications in domestic and civil matters. Additionally, I have been performing my duties as deputy coroner. All criminal and civil trials have been adjourned.

The Way Forward

Hurricane Dorian taught me to be more grateful because in an instant you can lose it all, but once you have your health and the love and support of your family and friends, you have everything that you need. The storm of Covid 19, like every other storm in life, will eventually pass and we will emerge stronger as a people and as a Judiciary.

THE AFTERMATH OF HURRICANE DORIAN
ABACO, THE BAHAMAS





THANK YOU FOR YOUR HEROIC EFFORTS TO ASSIST THE JUDICIARY OF THE BAHAMAS IN HURRICANE DORIAN



Former Commissioner of Police
Mr. Anthony Ferguson, AA



The Commissioner of Police
Mr. Paul Rolle, Esq. QPM, MS. BS



Former Commodore of The Royal Bahamas
Defence Force
Mr. Tellis A. Bethel, MALIC



Commodore of The Royal Bahamas Defence
Force
Mr. Raymond King, EdD

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE JUDICIAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE 2020
BRITISH COLONIAL HILTON HOTEL
JANUARY 7th 2020



Keynote Speaker
Master Christine Morris-Alleyne
CEO Judiciary Trinidad & Tobago



The Honourable Chief Justice and Judicial Officers

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE JUDICIAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE 2020, BRITISH COLONIAL HILTON HOTEL - JANUARY 7th 2020



**The Honourable Chief Justice
Sir Brian Moree, QC**



**The Honourable Madam Justice
Mrs. G. Diane Stewart**



**The Honourable Mr. Justice Ian
Winder**



**The Honourable Madam Justice
Mrs. Renae McKay**



**The Honourable Mr. Justice
Bernard Turner**



**Master Morris-Alleyne, Chief Justice, Sir
Brian Moree, QC & Chief Magistrate,
Jovanne Ferauson-Pratt**



**The Honourable Justice of Appeal,
Mr. Roy Jones, Court of Appeal**



**The Honourable Madam
Justice Mrs. Indra Charles**



**Chief Magistrate
Mrs. Joyanne Ferguson-Pratt**



**Deputy Registrar, Mrs. Carol
Misiewicz**



**S & C Magistrate Mrs. Ayse Rengin
Johnson**



**S & C Magistrate
Mr. Samuel McKinney**

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE JUDICIAL OFFICER AND JUDICIAL RESEARCH COUNSEL
WORKSHOP- BAR COUNCIL TRAINING OFFICE
MARCH 9th - 13th 2020



The Honourable Mr. Justice Peter Jamadar

Justice Jamadar was sworn in as a Judge of the Caribbean Court of Justice in July 2019, he obtained his Bachelor of Laws degree, UWI (Hons) in 1982 and his Legal Education Certificate from the Hugh Wooding Law School, St. Augustine in 1984. In 1984, he was admitted to the Bar of Trinidad and Tobago. On September 15, 1997 he was appointed a Puisne Judge of the High Court, and on October 1, 2008 he was elevated to the Court of Appeal of Trinidad and Tobago. Prior to this, he was in private practice as an Attorney-at-Law in Chambers with his father Vernon Jamadar from 1984 to 1991, and a partner in the firm Jamadar and Kangaloo from 1991 to 1994. He is a former President of the Assembly of Southern Lawyers and former Executive Member of the Law Association of Trinidad and Tobago. From 1994 to 1997, Mr. Justice Jamadar attended the University of Toronto, Canada and obtained the degree of Master of Divinity (First Class). In June 2004, he completed the Commonwealth Judicial Education Institute's (CJEI) Intensive Study Programme for Judicial Educators and he became a Fellow of the CJEI; he is now Vice President (Programming) and a Faculty member of the CJEI. Mr. Justice Jamadar is the current Chairman of the Caribbean Association of Judicial Officers (CAJO). He is deeply involved in judicial education nationally, regionally and internationally. He is also a certified Transpersonal Psychologist (2007) and a certified Mediator (2011).

Justice Jamadar has been a leader in the development and roll out of a Gender Protocol for the Judiciary of Trinidad and Tobago (2018). He also holds a Certificate in Training Judicial Trainers from the University College London Judicial Institute. He is deeply involved in judicial education nationally, regionally and internationally. He is also currently engaged with the United Nations Global Integrity Network in the development of a Global Social Media Protocol for judicial officers, and in indigenous research on Mindfulness as an aid to Judicial integrity and performance.



The Honourable Justice of Appeal Mr. Gregory Clive Smith

Justice Gregory Smith, graduated with the Bachelor of Laws degree in 1980 from the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, Barbados. After a brief stint as Audit Examiner at the Auditor General's Department in 1980-81, Mr. Smith undertook further studies in law at the Inns of Court School of Law, London. He was called to the Bar of England and Wales in July 1983, and the Bar of Trinidad & Tobago in March 1984. During the 1983-84 period, Mr. Smith undertook a period of pupillage in the Middle Temple chambers of Mr. John Perry QC. Between 1984 and 1987, Mr. Smith was involved in private practice in general litigation in Trinidad & Tobago. From 1987, he focused more specifically on civil litigation and general advisory practice. Mr. Smith was appointed temporary High Court judge from April to July 1997, and subsequently permanently appointed to the High Court bench on 1st August, 1997.

From September 1991 to April 1997, Mr. Justice Smith was a Member of the Board of the Legal Aid and Advisory Authority. He was Junior Member of the Council of the Law Association of Trinidad and Tobago for the 1993-1994 year, becoming Senior Member for the year 1995-1996. He was a member of the Hugh Wooding Law School's Panel of Judges for Moot Courts during 1996-97 and was an Associate Tutor at the Hugh Wooding Law School from September 1999 to September 2004. After twelve years of service on the High Court Bench, Mr. Justice Smith was appointed Justice of Appeal in September 2009. Since 2016, Mr. Justice Smith has been delivering a judgment writing course for judicial officers and their research assistants in Trinidad and Tobago and across the Caribbean region.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE JUDICIAL OFFICER AND JUDICIAL RESEARCH COUNSEL WORKSHOP- BAR COUNCIL TRAINING OFFICE
MARCH 9th - 13th 2020



Ms. Kavita Beena Deochan, Judicial Research Counsel, Caribbean Court of Justice, Trinidad & Tobago

A presenter at the Judicial Officer and Judicial Research Counsel Workshop



Appellate Justice Mr. Peter Jamadar and Mr. Elron Elahie, Judicial Research Counsel, Caribbean Court of Justice, Trinidad & Tobago

Presenters at the Judicial Officer and Judicial Research Counsel Workshop



L-R: Justice of Appeal Mr. Gregory Smith; Chief Magistrate Joyann Ferguson-Pratt and Appellate Justice Mr. Peter Jamadar at the Judicial Officer and Judicial Research Counsel Workshop



Back row L-R-Deputy Registrars Constance Delancy, Stephana Saunders and Carol Miziewicz; Assistant Registrar Renaldo Toote; Deputy Registrar of the Court of Appeal Ingrid Cooper-Brooks; Assistant Registrar Jennifer Stuart Batian: Front row L-R- Registrar, Camille Darville-Gomez, Appellate Justice Mr. Peter Jamadar, Chief Justice Sir Brian Moree, QC, Sir Michael Barnett President of the Court of Appeal, Justice of Appeal Mr. Gregory Smith and Registrar of the Court of Appeal, Sharada Humes-Ferguson

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE JUDICIAL OFFICER AND JUDICIAL RESEARCH COUNSEL WORKSHOP- BAR COUNCIL TRAINING OFFICE
MARCH 9th - 13th 2020



Judicial Research
Counsel
Mr. Matthew Walker



The Honourable
Mr. Justice Loren
Klein



Deputy Registrar Constance
Delancy and Judicial Research
Counsel Kristina Wallace-Whitfield



Registrar, Mrs. Camille
Darville-Gomez



L-R: Madam Justice Mrs. Guillimina
Archer-Minns; Madam Justice Mrs.
Cheryl Grant-Thompson; Research
Counsel Sharona Johnson-Richards
and Deputy Registrar Ms. Stephana
Saunders



Chief Justice Sir Brian Moree,
QC and Madam Sr. Justice
Mrs. Estelle Gray Evans

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE JUDICIAL OFFICER AND JUDICIAL RESEARCH COUNSEL WORKSHOP- BAR COUNCIL TRAINING OFFICE
MARCH 9th - 13th 2020



B-F: The Honourable Madam Justice Mrs. Carolita Bethell and The Honourable Madam Justice Mrs. Ruth Bowe-Darville



B-F: The Honourable Madam Justice Mrs. G. Diane Stewart and The Honourable Madam Justice Mrs. Deborah Fraser



The Honourable Senior Justice Mrs. Estelle Gray Evans



The Honourable Madam Justice Mrs. Carolita Bethell



The Honourable Chief Justice Sir Brian Moree QC



Judicial Research Counsel Ms. Lesley Brown and Mr. Kevin Armbrister



L-R: Justice G. Diane Stewart, Justice Ian Winder, Justice of Appeal Mr. Gregory Smith, Registrar Camille Darville-Gomez and Assistant Registrar Renaldo Toote engaged in a role play exercise at the Judicial Officer and Judicial Research Counsel Workshop.

COURT BLURBS

CASE #1 COUPLE WHO CAN'T GET THEIR STORY STRAIGHT



So early in July during the curfew hours, sometimes around 10.30 pm Officers stop a vehicle travelling south on Baillou Hill road with 2 occupants. They were questioned as to reasons for being out after curfew. The male occupant claims he was giving the female a ride. The officers unsatisfied as to their responses arrested and cautioned the individuals. When interviewed under caution separately, the male continued to suggest he was giving the female a ride, however the female offered an entirely different account, stating that while at Potters cay dock they met and had a few drinks and she was going with the male to his house. Having this account read into the record in open court one could see the Male turn ashen as if he was about to be sick.

Moral: Get the story straight first.

CASE #2 PARTYING COUSINS



This involved two young men who happen to be first cousins and residing in Western area of New Providence who decided they wanted to have swinging party to celebrate one of their girlfriend's birthday so they rented an AirBnB to host their event but unfortunately there was a disagreement resulting in the cousins being evicted from the event, because, according to them, it was better to get locked up for curfew than getting into an altercation.

Moral: Plan the party well.

CASE #3 WANDERING EYE



In early October Officers on Patrol observed a male walking in the Area of Rupert Dean Lane and stopped and questioned him as to why he was out at 1.30am. The male said, and this was entirely true, that he was looking for company to spend the night with. Of course, for decorum purposes, the court could not record his exact words. He was arrested and cautioned. When brought to Court and the facts read into the Record and asked to comment, the explanation was that it was the first thing that came into his head so that is what he told the Police.

Moral: Know what you seek.

CASE#4 PARTY PLANNER



So the birthday boy rented an establishment out Western New Providence to host his birthday shindig and according to him he had only invited 20 people. However when the Police received complaints and arrived there were approximately 250 people at this event. When questioned in Court as to this gathering the birthday boy acknowledged he didn't know all those people and had only invited 20 people. The Court asked him if he ever crashed a party to which he acknowledged that he had. It was pointed out to him that if you told 20 people how many people you think each of them told. There was some pause and admission he didn't plan his event all that well.

Moral: Planning is a must.

COVID19 Humor

Hope you Smile.

- *Half of us are going to come out of this quarantine as amazing cooks. The other half will come out with a drinking problem.*
- *I used to spin that toilet paper like I was on Wheel of Fortune. Now I turn it like I'm cracking a safe.*
- *I need to practice social-distancing from the refrigerator.*
- *Still haven't decided where to go for Easter ----- The Living Room or The Bedroom*
- *PSA: every few days try your jeans on just to make sure they fit. Pajamas will have you believe all is well in the kingdom.*
- *Homeschooling is going well. 2 students suspended for fighting and 1 teacher fired for drinking on the job.*
- *I don't think anyone expected that when we changed the clocks we'd go from Standard Time to the Twilight Zone*
- *This morning I saw a neighbor talking to her cat. It was obvious she thought her cat understood her. I came into my house, told my dog..... we laughed a lot.*
- *So, after this quarantine.....will the producers of My 600 Pound Life just find me or do I find them?*
- *Quarantine Day 5: Went to this restaurant called THE KITCHEN. You have to gather all the ingredients and make your own meal. I have no clue how this place is still in business.*
- *My body has absorbed so much soap and disinfectant lately that when I pee it cleans the toilet.*
- *Day 5 of Homeschooling: One of these little monsters called in a bomb threat.*
- *I'm so excited --- it's time to take out the garbage. What should I wear?*
- *I hope the weather is good tomorrow for my trip to Puerto Backyarda. I'm getting tired of Los Livingroom.*
- *Classified Ad: Single man with toilet paper seeks woman with hand sanitizer for good clean fun.*
- *Day 6 of Homeschooling: My child just said "I hope I don't have the same teacher next year".... I'm offended.*
- *Free food and drinks, room and board down at the station for those who disobey the "Stay at home order"*

BJEI NEWS

BJEI WELCOMES MS. DEIRDRE DUMONT

The Bahamas Judicial Education Institute is pleased to welcome Ms. Deirdre Dumont as its first Executive Coordinator. A graduate of Barry University, Ms. Dumont holds a Master's Degree in Human Resource Development and Administration and a Bachelor of Science in Sociology with a minor in Psychology.

An experienced civil servant and competent administrator, Ms. Dumont possesses strong management skills and an in depth knowledge of the public service. She has worked extensively throughout the public service. In 2001, she began her career as a guidance counsellor with the Ministry of Education. Since then, her desire to diversify her skills set propelled her to serve within the Office of the Prime Minister. During which time, she worked extensively with the Bahamas Investment Authority. Most recently, she was employed with the Ministry of the Public Service and the National Insurance Board as an Office Manager.

As the first Executor Coordinator of BJEI, Miss Dumont's responsibilities will include managing the day-to-day functions of BJEI's office, managing its office facility, organizing courses, workshops and conferences for the training of all judicial officers, judicial research counsel and Support Staff. Additionally, Ms Dumont will liaise directly with the Board of Directors of the BJEI and ensure that its mandate is carried out. We wish her success in her new role!



Future Home of the BJEI

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