



## CARIBBEAN COURT OF JUSTICE

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### **MEDIA RELEASE** (For immediate release)

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### **Statement by the CCJ President on the passing of former Chief Justice of Jamaica, Mr Justice Lensley Wolfe, OJ**

**Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.** Today, the Caribbean Court of Justice joins the people of Jamaica in mourning the passing of Mr Justice Lensley Wolfe, who served as the Chief Justice of Jamaica from 1996-2007.

Chief Justice Wolfe will always be remembered for his tireless work ethic, integrity and forthrightness. His contribution to Jamaican and indeed, Caribbean jurisprudence is well-known among members of the legal fraternity throughout the region and even further afield. His opinions were well-reasoned, clear, down to earth, and practical. I am grateful for the opportunity to have benefitted from his wisdom and experience on several occasions.

Additionally, his commitment to improving access to justice for all Jamaicans has inspired generations of attorneys and judicial officers and remains one of the most enduring aspects of his legacy. He will forever be remembered as a resolute champion of justice and will be sadly missed.

The Caribbean has lost one of its finest jurists. On behalf of the Caribbean Court of Justice, I extend condolences to his family and my judicial colleagues in Jamaica.

The Hon. Mr Justice Adrian Saunders  
President, CCJ

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#### About the Caribbean Court of Justice

The Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) was inaugurated in Port of Spain, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on 16 April 2005 and presently has a Bench of seven judges presided over by CCJ President, the Honourable Mr Justice Adrian Saunders. The CCJ has an Original and an Appellate Jurisdiction and is effectively, therefore, two courts in one. In its Original Jurisdiction, it is an international court with exclusive jurisdiction to interpret and apply the rules set out in the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas (RTC)

and to decide disputes arising under it. The RTC established the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME). In its Original Jurisdiction, the CCJ is critical to the CSME and all 12 Member States which belong to the CSME (including their citizens, businesses, and governments) can access the Court's Original Jurisdiction to protect their rights under the RTC. In its Appellate Jurisdiction, the CCJ is the final court of appeal for criminal and civil matters for those countries in the Caribbean that alter their national Constitutions to enable the CCJ to perform that role. At present, four states access the Court in its Appellate Jurisdiction, these being Barbados, Belize, Dominica and Guyana. However, by signing and ratifying the Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Court of Justice, Member States of the Community have demonstrated a commitment to making the CCJ their final court of appeal. The Court is the realisation of a vision of our ancestors, an expression of independence and a signal of the region's coming of age.

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