



CARIBBEAN COURT OF JUSTICE

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CCJ CONTINUES ITS REFERRAL WORKSHOPS IN SAINT LUCIA

Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. On Tuesday, 20th February 2024, the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ), continued its Referral Workshop Series and sensitisation sessions on the CCJ's Original Jurisdiction with the Saint Lucia Judiciary, Bar Association, and Chamber of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture (CCIA). For one day, Saint Lucia's judges, registrars, magistrates, attorneys, and business community gathered at the Palmville Conference Center, Coco Palm Hotel and the Bay Gardens Beach Resort in multiple sessions to deepen their understanding of the referral obligations of local courts and the Court's Original Jurisdiction. This initiative is co-funded by the European Union.

The sessions were facilitated by Mr Justice Peter Jamadar, CCJ Judge; Dr Jan Yves Remy, Director of the Shridath Ramphal Centre for International Trade Law, Policy, and Services at The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill campus; Suraj Sakal, CCJ Judicial Counsel; Ria Mohammed-Pollard, CCJ Communications and Information Manager; and John Furlonge, Project Coordinator, 11th EDF Support to the CCJ.

Through simulation exercises, step-by-step guides, and group exercises, participants were able to identify when a question concerning the interpretation and application of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas arises in domestic proceedings, assess whether a referral should be made to the CCJ, formulate the question(s) to be referred together with the ancillary information to be supplied to the CCJ, oversee/supervise the process of making the referral utilising the office of the Registrar, and apply the ruling of the CCJ to resolve the dispute. They were also able to understand the process for accessing the Original Jurisdiction of the Court and the value that this Jurisdiction brings to the local and regional business communities.

The positive impact of the interaction was endorsed by CCIA President Ross Gardiner: "this session was powerful and wish to thank the CCJ for this outreach programme and collaboration." V. Dexter Theodore, KC, one of Saint Lucia's top civil attorneys, also expressed his sentiments saying, "The CCJ's jurisprudence contributes to the development of a distinct Caribbean legal framework, grounded in the region's history, culture, and legal traditions."

Throughout this year, the workshop series will continue in other CARICOM Member States.



CAPTION:

CCJ Judge, Mr Justice Peter Jamadar, informs the rapt audience about the Court's referral process.



CAPTION:

Dr Jan Yves Remy explains the tenets of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas to the Saint Lucia Bar Association.

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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.

For more information, please contact:

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