



CARIBBEAN COURT OF JUSTICE

**PUBLIC EDUCATION AND PROTOCOL UNIT
134 HENRY STREET
PORT OF SPAIN
REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
Telephone: (868) 612-5CCJ Fax: (868) 624-4710**

**MEDIA RELEASE
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CCJ TO MARK RETIREMENT OF MR JUSTICE BURGESS WITH SPECIAL SITTING

Port of Spain, Trinidad. On Tuesday, 18 March 2025, the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) will host a Special Sitting at its headquarters in Port of Spain to commemorate the Honourable Mr Justice Andrew Burgess' retirement from office. Having joined the Court in 2019, Mr Justice Burgess is the first Barbadian judge to sit on the CCJ Bench. Speaking of Mr Justice Burgess, CCJ President, the Honourable Mr Justice Adrian Saunders noted, "Mr Justice Burgess has been a tremendous addition to the CCJ Bench. His scholarly approach to the law, analytical mind and vast experience have proven invaluable in the matters on which he has sat. Under his stewardship, the Annual CCJ International Law Moot has continued to evolve, ensuring that it remains a premier platform for developing the advocacy skills of law students in the Caribbean. Throughout his long and distinguished career, he has consistently demonstrated dedication to nurturing the next generation of legal minds, an enduring testament to his commitment to the law and justice in the region."

The full Bench of the CCJ along with the Honourable Chief Justice Mr Justice Ivor Archie ORTT, Chief Justice of Trinidad and Tobago, and the Honourable Mr Justice Leslie Haynes SC, Chief Justice of Barbados will preside over the day's proceedings. Additionally, remarks will be brought by Professor David Berry, Professor of International Law and Regional Integration Law, The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill; Ms Lisa Shoman, General Counsel, Caribbean Community Secretariat; the Honourable Mr Sherman Moore CHB, and Mr Zakir Hafez, Executive Secretary, World Bank Administrative Tribunal.

Mr Justice Burgess was appointed a Court of Appeal Judge in 2010. He was also previously a Dean of the Faculty of Law at The University of the West Indies' Cave Hill campus and a Professor of Corporate and Commercial Law. He also had a distinguished career internationally as a judge of the Inter-American Development Bank's Administrative Tribunal in Washington DC. Mr Justice Burgess was the body's Vice-President in 2007 and 2009 and served as President from 2009-2010.

He was also a judge on the World Bank Administrative Tribunal from 2013 to 2024. In 2017, he was elected by his fellow Judges to be the Vice President of the tribunal. He was a Senior Commonwealth Fellow at Oxford University, England between 1992-1993. Mr Justice Burgess is also an author, having published *Commonwealth Caribbean Company Law* in 2013 and *The Law of Corporate Receivers and Receiver-*

Managers in 2002, in addition to being published on legal issues, especially in corporate and commercial jurisprudence.

He has also served as a Senator in the Senate of The UWI, the governing body of the university, and as a Councillor in the Council of The UWI, the academic authority that oversees all of its academic matters. He also served as a member of the Barbados Judicial Council, as a member of the Tax Appeal Tribunal in Barbados, and as Chairman of several national and regional committees. At the CCJ, he serves as Chair of the Annual CCJ International Law Moot Committee.

The Special Sitting, like all CCJ hearings and judgment deliveries, will be live streamed on the Court's YouTube page and can be viewed here: <https://youtube.com/live/1XvD9WoX3bY>.

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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, five states access the Court in its Appellate Jurisdiction, these being Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Guyana, and Saint Lucia. However, by signing and ratifying the Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Court of Justice, Member States of the Community have demonstrated a commitment to making the CCJ their final court of appeal. The Court is the realisation of a vision of our ancestors, an expression of independence and a signal of the region's coming of age.

For more information, please contact:

The Public Education and Protocol Unit

Tel: (868) 612-5225 ext. 2260, 2246

Email: ccjcomm@ccj.org