Caribbean Association of Women Judges

Inaugural Conference and Project Launch

THE LAW AND THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

“Save Our Children”

March 27th - 29th 2014
Hyatt Regency Trinidad, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago
It is my distinct pleasure, on the behalf of the Steering Committee, to welcome you to Trinidad and Tobago, the southernmost islands of the Caribbean and home for the Launch and Inaugural Conference of the Caribbean Association of Women Judges which is organised around the theme “The Law and the Protection of Children.”

We meet in Port of Spain, the capital city of this twin island Republic, blessed with the unique culture that only a diverse population such as ours can offer. We hope that attendees can sample our cuisine which is a mix of Indian, Chinese, Creole and Lebanese as well as experience our exciting world renowned steelband music.

Our mandate, as judges, must assume the flexibility and responsiveness necessary to meet the changing face of our social environments. We must continue to instil confidence in the judicial system and properly manage the trust reposed in us as we dispense justice in an equitable manner making the doors of the Court accessible to all. As such the objects of the CAWJ include:

i. Promoting women’s access to the courts and advancing women’s rights to equal justice;
ii. Eliminating gender bias from judicial systems in the Caribbean;

The organization will also:

i. Engage in, fund, sponsor and/or promote research and study programmes that contribute to the understanding and resolution of legal issues facing women, and encourage cooperation and collaboration among women judges of all nations;
ii. Sensitize the public and the members of the Judiciary about human rights law and the role of the Judiciary in implementing laws which equally promote and protect the rights of all women.

iii. Engage in, fund, sponsor or promote the research, analysis, compilation, publication and/or distribution of educational materials to engender increased understanding and competence among women judges.

I must reiterate, however, that the most diligent application of the law alone is insufficient to treat with the critical social issues that plague our society and as such an additional kind of intervention is necessary. The problems include violence both within and without the home; and the abuse and neglect of our women and children. Magistrates and Judges see firsthand the breakdown of the family and the deleterious effect thereof. We must enter the domain and bring change to our social environment such as our office will allow. The CAWJ will, as part of delivery process engage in advocacy, mentorship and embark on our first project “Family Support Network and Violence Reduction Programme.”

In 2013 there were more than 3,000 reports of violence against women and children in Trinidad and Tobago. The legislative agendas, albeit laudable, fail to address certain systemic issues and fundamental pillars necessary to ensure a more robust and timely intervention programme designed to protect these vulnerable groups. It is this lacuna, the extended silence, that we seek to speak to in the proposed project in order to give legs to our verbal commitment to protecting our children and towards ending violence against women. This model will include properly structured and efficiently functioning Counsellors. This proactive approach is aimed at minimising the exposure of our children and women to physical and sexual violence.
WELCOME ADDRESS:

We recognise that the component parts of this concept may not be novel, but as a group we seek to build on initiatives such as the Bail Boys Project – an undertaking devised and executed by His Excellency in his former office of High Court Judge; and to bring together the various resources to develop a robust system of intervention. On the second day of this Conference, we will be preparing fifty (50) parents from female headed homes and blended families to begin the process of setting up these FSN sites in the various communities.

His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago will host a cocktail reception for us on the 28th March to ensure that you have a most memorable time in our islands. We are grateful for his consistent support of our initiative.

We wish to acknowledge The Honourable Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Trinidad and Tobago for his unswerving support for our organisation, its ideals and the projects which we propose to undertake in service to our community and territories. Our Chief Justice is graciously hosting our Thursday night reception.

We thank the Caribbean Court of Justice who have rendered yeoman service in helping us bring this Conference to a reality.

We publicly express our thanks to UNICEF and UN Women who, without hesitation, lent critical financial support to this venture. We look forward to engaging with these organisations in the future as we embark on our future projects, training and advocacy.

I take this opportunity to express heartfelt thanks to the members of the Steering Committee for their unstinting support and dedicated service that was necessary in making the dream of the formation of the CAWJ and this Launch a reality. The Committee was supported by various committees which have worked tirelessly but enthusiastically to make a successful Conference and Launch.
WELCOME ADDRESS:

We extend a very special welcome to the Co-Directors for Latin America and the Caribbean region; Ms. Joan Winship of the International Association of Women Judges; our sister judges from the United States of America and the various Caribbean territories;

Our theme – The Law and the Protection of Children is one that you will find both timely and thought provoking. It is our sincere hope that our programme, presented by outstanding jurists, social activists and participants will encourage us, refresh us and provoke us all to action on behalf of our children. We consider the Launch and Conference as judicial contributions to public service, affirming our commitment to improving the lives of others as we strive to improve ourselves as judges.

We thank you for participating in this signal event and we look forward to your continued support as we work to achieve diverse judicial leadership, fairness and equality in our own courts and equal justice for women, children and the disadvantaged in our society.
KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
The Honourable Mme. Justice Désirée Bernard

The Honourable Mme. Justice Désirée Bernard, a citizen of Guyana, read law at the University of London, graduating with the LLB degree in 1963. Qualifying as a solicitor in 1964, Mme Justice Bernard engaged in private practice in the High Court of the Supreme Court of Guyana from 1965 to 1980. During that period, she was appointed a Magistrate (1970), Commissioner of Oaths & Notary Public (1976) and was admitted to the English Roll of Solicitors (1977). She established a number of professional ‘firsts’, being elected first and only female President of the Organisation of Commonwealth Caribbean Bar Associations (OCCBA) in 1976; appointed the first female High Court Judge of the Supreme Court of Guyana (1980); the first female Justice of Appeal (1992); the first female Chief Justice of Guyana and in the Commonwealth Caribbean (1996); and the first female Chancellor of the Judiciary of Guyana and in the Commonwealth Caribbean (2001).

Mme. Justice Bernard took the oath of office as a Judge of the Caribbean Court of Justice at the Court’s Inauguration Ceremony, on Saturday 16 April 2005. She received an award from the Organisation of Commonwealth Caribbean Bar Associations for distinguished service in the legal profession in 2001. For her exceptional contribution to the improvement of the status of women and to the development and practice of law, Mme. Justice Bernard has received several awards, among them being: the Cacique Crown of Honour, and the Order of Roraima, Guyana’s 3rd and 2nd highest national awards respectively. In addition in November 2007, the University of the West Indies conferred on her a honorary degree of Doctor of Laws.
Day One – 27th March, 2014

7:30 – 9:00
Registration

9:00 – 11:00
Opening Ceremony and Project Launch
Chairperson: Hon Mme Justice Carla Brown-Antoine
National Anthem: The Codrington Family
Opening Prayer: Her Worship Ms. Lisa Ramsumair-Hinds
Welcome Remarks: Hon Mme Justice Joan Charles
Greetings: Ms. Joan D. Winship, Executive Director of the International Association of Women Judges
Greetings: Ms. Christine Arab, Representative, UN Women Multi-Country Office - Caribbean
Remarks: Hon Mr. Justice Ivor Archie, Chief Justice, Trinidad and Tobago
Entertainment – The Codrington Family
Introduction of Keynote Speaker: Ms. Jade Rodriguez, Deputy Registrar and Marshall of the Supreme Court
Keynote Address by Mme Justice Désirée Bernard
CAWJ’s tribute to Mme Justice Désirée Bernard: Hon Mme Justice Maureen Rajnauth-Lee
Honorary Membership in the Caribbean Association of Judicial Officers Bestowed on Mme Justice Désirée Bernard: Hon Mr. Justice Adrian Saunders, Caribbean Court of Justice
Vote of Thanks: Hon Mme Justice Nadia Kangaloo

11:00 – 11:30
Special Reception
11:30 – 1:00  Workshop 1

**The Courts and the Protection of Children**
Panellists: Ms. Renée Cummings, Criminal Psychologist, Trinidad and Tobago; Dr. Leighton M. Jackson, Registrar (Acting) Caribbean Court of Justice; Ms. Hazel Thompson–Ahye, Attorney at Law, Trinidad and Tobago.
Chairperson: Hon. Mme Justice Alice Yorke-Soo Hon, Trinidad and Tobago

1:00 – 2:00  Lunch

2:00 – 3:30  Workshop 2

**Children in Care/Custody in the Caribbean**
Panellists: Her Honour Ms. Paula A. Blake-Powell, Senior Resident Magistrate and Judge of the Kingston and St. Andrew Family Court, Jamaica; Her Worship Ms. Priya Sewnarine-Beharry, Chief Magistrate, Guyana; Mr. John Rougier, Retired Commissioner of Prisons, Trinidad and Tobago.
Chairperson: Hon. Mme. Justice Zaila McCalla, Chief Justice, Jamaica

Workshop 3

**Domestic Violence and its Effect on Children**
Panellists: Ms. Felicia Robinson, Lecturer, University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, Barbados; Ms. Diana Mahabir-Wyatt, Chairperson of the Child Protection Task Force and Chair of the Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Trinidad and Tobago and Ms. Gaietry Pargass, Attorney at Law, Trinidad and Tobago
Chairperson: Hon. Mme. Justice Rhonda Bain, Bahamas
Day Two – 28th March, 2014

9:00 – 10:30  Workshop 4

Women in Violent Circumstances
Panellists: Hon. Mme. Justice Jacqueline Cornelius, Barbados; Ms. Lynette Seebaran-Suite, Attorney at Law, Trinidad and Tobago; Ms. Hazel Brown - Coordinator, Network of NGOs for the Advancement of Women and Special Envoy for Women and Girls for Trinidad and Tobago
Chairperson: Hon. Mr. Justice Adrian Saunders, Caribbean Court of Justice

10:30 – 11:00  Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:30  Workshop 5

Rape and Incest in the Caribbean
Panellists: Hon. Mme. Justice Roxane George, Guyana; Professor Rhoda Reddock, Deputy Principal, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus, Hon. Mme Justice Carla Browne-Antoine, Trinidad and Tobago.
Chairperson: Hon. Mme. Justice Allyson Ramkerrysingh Trinidad & Tobago
Workshop 6

Human Trafficking – Its Effects on Women and Girls
Panellists: Ms. Chissey Mueller, Project Manager, International Organisation for Migration; Hon Judge Nancy A. Flatters, Canada; Mr. Adrian Alexander, Attorney at Law, Trinidad and Tobago
Chairperson: Hon. Mme. Justice Betsy Ann Lambert Peterson, Trinidad and Tobago

12:30 – 1:30
Lunch

1:30 – 3:00 Workshop 7

Work-Life Balance for the Woman Judge
Panellists: Dr. Dianne Douglas, Clinical Psychologist, Trinidad and Tobago; Mme. Justice Jean Permanand, CMT, S.C, Retired Judge, Trinidad and Tobago; Ms. Mweia Elias, Nutrition and Lifestyle Coach, Trinidad and Tobago.
Chairperson: Hon. Mme. Justice Yonette Cummings, Guyana

Workshop 8

The Benefits of Alternate Dispute Resolution in Resolving Family Issues
Panellists: Her Worship Ms. Michelle Maharajh-Brown, Family Court, Trinidad and Tobago; Ms. Beverly Harry Emmanuel, Executive Director of the Community Mediation Centre, Trinidad and Tobago; Hon. Judge Nancy A. Flatters, Canada
Chairperson: Ms. Stepahnie Daly C.M.T.T., S.C. and Chairman of the Children’s Authority of Trinidad and Tobago
3:00 – 3:15
Coffee Break

3:15 – 4:30  Workshop 9
Are Men Treated Fairly in Family Matters?
Panellists: Hon. Mr. Justice Robin Mohammed, Trinidad and Tobago; Mr. Franklyn V. Dolly, Behaviour Change Consultant, Trinidad and Tobago; Dr. Leighton M. Jackson, Registrar (Acting) Caribbean Court of Justice
Chairperson: Her Worship Ms. Marcia Ayers-Caesar, Chief Magistrate, Trinidad and Tobago

7:30 – 9:30
Reception Hosted by his Excellency The President

8:00 – 10:00
Breakfast Meeting (Jade Room)
The Challenge for Single Parents & Blended Families
Panellists: Dr. Dianne Douglas, Clinical Psychologist (Lead Presenter); Dr. Karen Moore Clinical Child Psychologist; Mr. Dominic Dos Santos, Consultant

10:15 – 11:30 Workshop 1 (Sangre Grande Room)
The Fundamentals of Mediation - Group One
Ms Joanne Chuckaree, Mediator

Workshop 2 (San Fernando Room)
The Emotional Challenges of Blended Families - Group Two
Dr. Karen Moore Clinical Child Psychologist

11:30 – 12:30
Lunch

12:30 – 2:30 Workshop 3 (Sangre Grande Room)
Building Platforms for Securing Self and Minors - Group One
Mrs. Margaret Sampson-Browne, Director, Victim and Witness Support Unit, Ministry of National Security
Day Two Continued – 28th March, 2014

Workshop 4 (San Fernando Room)

The Fundamentals of Mediation - Group Two
Mrs. Esther Inniss, Mediator

2:30 – 3:30

Presenting the Model
Family Support Network and Violence Reduction Programme
Ms. Beverly Samuel, Consultant

Day Three - Judicial Officers – 29th March, 2014

Convocation Hall, Hall of Justice Knox Street Port of Spain

Business Meeting
• Opening Prayer
• Welcome and Opening Remarks
• Approval of Bye-Laws
• Nominations
• Elections of Officers (Returning Officer to be selected)
• Installation of Officers
• Any other Business
• Closing Remarks
OF WOMEN JUDGES

A Bit About our Panellists

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE ADRIAN SAUNDERS

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE ADRIAN SAUNDERS was called to the Bar of St. Vincent & the Grenadines in 1977. He remained in private practice until 1996 when he was appointed as a Judge of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court (ECSC). In 2003, he was confirmed as a Justice of Appeal of the ESCS. One year later he was appointed to act as Chief Justice of that Court. In 2005 Mr. Justice Saunders was sworn in as a Judge of the Caribbean Court of Justice.

During the period of his tenure as a Judge in the Eastern Caribbean, Mr. Justice Saunders was deeply involved in judicial education and judicial reform issues. He chaired the Committee established to introduce court connected mediation in the Eastern Caribbean. As Chairman of the Ethics Committee of the ECSC he presided over the production of a code of ethics for judges of the Eastern Caribbean. He also served as Chairman of the Judicial Education Institute of the ECSC from 2001 to 2004. He is a faculty member of the Halifax-based Commonwealth Judicial Education Institute and Chairman of the Caribbean Association of Judicial Officers (CAJO).

THE HONOURABLE MME. JUSTICE ZAILA MCCALLA, O.J.
CHIEF JUSTICE OF JAMAICA

In 2007, Mrs. Justice Zaila McCalla became the first woman to be appointed Chief Justice of Jamaica.

A graduate of the University of the West Indies and the Norman Manley Law School, Justice McCalla was admitted to the Bar in 1976. She has served as a Clerk of Courts, Crown Counsel and Assistant Director of Public Prosecutions prior to her appointment as Resident Magistrate in 1985. She has also served as Master-in-Chambers at the Supreme Court. Mrs. Justice McCalla is a past President of the Association of Resident Magistrates and has participated in numerous seminars and conferences locally and internationally.

Currently, the Honourable Chief Justice chairs several committees including the Judicial Service Commission, the Supreme Court Rules Committee, the Archives Advisory Committee, the Queen’s Counsel Committee among others. She is Keeper of the Records of the Island Records Office.
Mrs. Beverly Harry-Emmanuel is first a wife and mother who is also passionate about start-ups, creating successful, resilient organizations through people. Prior to assuming her current position as Executive Director of the Community Mediation Programme she held the position of Technical Adviser with the United Nations Development Programme and prior to that, Technical Officer with the International Labour Organization (ILO), all of which involved executing and managing new projects. Before joining the ILO she spent fifteen years in Human Resource Management and Consulting. She is trained in several disciplines including mediation, management, sociology, human resource management, business administration and project management.

During her tenure as Executive Director, Community Mediation Programme, the Community Mediation Services Division was established with the supporting management and regulatory structures. The division has also been actively developing and executing preventative programmes, which include Anger Management, Leadership Skills, Conflict Management, Parenting Skills, Parental Support Groups and Peer Mediation Training. Mrs. Harry-Emmanuel believes that this comprehensive approach will over time lead to a sustainable beneficial re-engineering of our response to conflict and crisis as individuals and as a society.

The Honourable Justice Roxanne George was appointed Puisne Judge, Guyana, with effect from January 1, 2005. Prior to this she served for fourteen years with the Chambers of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Guyana, with a final post as Acting Director of Public Prosecutions for two years. She holds an LLB (Hons) University of the West Indies (1988) and Certificate of Legal Education, Hugh Wooding Law School (HWLS) (1990); Best Graduating Student HWLS 1989-1990; Best Graduating Guyanese student HWLS 1990 and a Master of Studies in International Human Rights Law from Oxford University. While at HWLS Justice George was awarded Best Graduating Student and Best Graduating Guyanese Student. She is a member of the Guyana Association of Women Lawyers, (GAWL) serving as president from 2001 – 2003; Co-editor of the Law and You Booklet series published by GAWL. Researcher, consultant and served as draftperson during the national Constitutional Reform process. Justice George is also a former lecturer at the University of Guyana. Her main interests are issues affecting women, children and their development.
Felicia Robinson is a child protection specialist with a history of contributing to the Caribbean region and internationally in the area of social development. Since 2004, she has worked with several International Development Agencies in a consultative capacity, on assignments across dispersed and challenging environments towards improving the framework, quality and delivery of services to families and children. She has a versatile academic background in social work, social and public policy (MA) and the field of Law (LLB, LLM, Legislative Drafting). At present, she is a lecturer at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus in the Department of Government, Sociology and Social Work. In addition to her current engagement in research in the area of climate change, policy and law, she continues to be involved in various regional initiatives which seek to address the problem of child abuse, to strengthen and accelerate reforms in juvenile justice, and to build the capacity of practitioners in the field of child protection.

Rhoda Reddock is Professor of Gender, Social Change and Development and currently Deputy Principal of the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus. Former head of the Centre (now Institute) for Gender and Development Studies at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine campus she is the recipient of numerous national, regional and international awards including the Triennial CARICOM Award for Women 2002 and an honorary doctorate from the University of the Western Cape, South Africa, 2012. She is project director of the action-research project and campaign Break the Silence: End Child Sexual Abuse which developed the Blue Teddy symbol. Professor Reddock has numerous publications including eight books (2 award-winning), three monographs, four special journal issues and over sixty peer-reviewed articles and book chapters. She has also been active in the local and regional women’s movement.
DR. LEIGHTON M. JACKSON

Dr. Leighton M. Jackson has a broad area of expertise which includes Family Law on which he wrote his doctoral thesis and still has a limited appellate Family Law practice in both New York and Jamaica. He has lectured law since 1979.

He is admitted to the Bar in Jamaica, the United States Federal Courts and the Courts of New York. He was the Principal Law Clerk to the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge in New York Office of Court Administration and served as Senior Appellate Court Attorney in the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of New York. Dr. Jackson is at present acting as Registrar of the Caribbean Court of Justice, while still continuing his teaching in the Faculty of Law.

MS. CHISSEY MUELLER

Since 2005, Chissey Mueller has led and expanded International Organization for Migration’s (IOM) efforts to build the technical capacity of Caribbean partners to better manage migration related issues, including human trafficking. Ms. Mueller provides customized technical advice and tools so that partners are able to assist vulnerable migrants from the point of identification and immediate care through voluntary return and reintegration. She has trained more than 2,000 persons in 10 countries, participated in over 50 media interviews to raise awareness, and advises national task forces and coalitions that carry forth the initiatives in prevention, protection, and prosecution to counter human trafficking.

Prior to IOM, she worked for several years in public, private, and not-for-profit sectors in the United States and Japan. Ms. Mueller received an MAIA in International Politics and Security from American University (Washington, DC), and an MAIA in International Cooperation and Development from Ritsumeikan University (Kyoto, Japan).
Stephanie Daly - C.M.T.T., S.C is the Chairman of the Children’s Authority. She has been a practising attorney for over 30 years and is a certified mediator and mediation trainer in family and civil matters.

Mrs. Daly chaired the Family Court Committee which set up the Family Court Pilot Project which opened in 2004 and includes in-house mediation. She continues to serve on the Court’s Monitoring Committee and was also involved in the development of the Mediation Act. She has a special interest in issues affecting families and has published several works on the status of women, child and family law identifying inequalities in the legislation, and areas for improvement, also making information about the legal environment more understandable. In 2011 she was awarded the Chaconia Medal (Gold) for long and meritorious service to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago in the sphere of Law.

Nancy Flatters was appointed to the Bench of the Provincial Court of Alberta, Calgary Family and Youth Court in 1996. Prior to her appointment, she practiced law in Calgary, Alberta and from January 1996 to her appointment as a Q.C. She has taught as a sessional instructor in the Faculty of Law at the University of Calgary and now teaches dispute resolution, mediation, case-flow and case management, domestic violence, child advocacy, settlement skills, mentoring, amongst other topics, to the judiciary and professionals both locally and internationally. She has designed a judicial settlement and case-flow management system for her Court to make the Court more accessible to the community it serves. She has a commitment to building bridges in all aspects of her work and teaching.

She is President-elect of the Association for Conflict Resolution, a member of the Board of the Alberta Chapter of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, the Equality and Diversity Committee of the Canadian Association of Provincial Court Judges, and recently retired from the Board of the Canadian Chapter of the International Association of Women Judges and the Alberta Law Reform Institute.
Ms. Brown has been professionally involved in research, social development and community organization projects since 1969. Her specific area of focus is poverty eradication, consumer affairs and promoting gender equity. In collaboration with government ministries, CARICOM, Commonwealth organizations, PAHO, UNIFEM, UNESCO and other UN agencies she has organized numerous seminars and workshops pursuant to these ends. Ms. Brown is a founding member of the Network of NGO’s of Trinidad and Tobago for the Advancement of Women, formed in 1985 to present the position of women in Trinidad and Tobago. She is the past Secretary General of the Commonwealth Women’s Network and has been engaged in Commonwealth activities since the first Commonwealth People’s Forum at CHOGM in Harare in 1991. She was appointed Special Envoy for Women and Girls in March 2011 and is the first recipient of the National Award Gold for Women and Development in 2011.

Dr. Dianne Douglas is a Doctor of Psychology specializing in Clinical and Community Psychology. She is an Assistant Clinical Professor at Yale University School of Medicine, Part-time lecturer in the Masters in Clinical Psychology programme at the University of the West Indies (UWI), and a regional consultant for the United Nations on Domestic Violence, HIV/AIDS and Gender Issues. Dr. Douglas has lectured on domestic violence prevention and intervention issues at the convening of the Judicial Education Institute (JEI) in St. Lucia, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago. Dr. Douglas also works closely with the Family Court of Trinidad and Tobago in the development and delivery of programmes for perpetrators and victims of domestic violence and co-parenting programmes for separated or divorced parents.

Dr. Douglas is most familiar to the national community through her weekly radio programme and as the Director of Douglas and Associates Limited, a clinical and consulting agency providing psychological services to children, youth, adults, couples, families and organizations. Dr. Douglas is also a past President of the Trinidad and Tobago Association of Psychologists, and founder of the Trinidad and Tobago Association of Christian Counselors.
Gaietry Pargass is an Attorney-at-Law. She has worked, over many years, with issues related to the rights of women and children. Her work spans research, advocacy, teaching and the development of policy and legislation. She has worked with various governments in the region as well as with several inter-governmental agencies including UN Women, UNECLAC, UNDP, UNICEF and the ILO. In this regard, she has authored and co-authored several reports and research studies including a 2011 Trinidad study on the access to justice of women and girls who are victims of gender-based violence. She was involved in the development of the 1991 Domestic Violence Act of Trinidad and Tobago and, more recently, has been working on the legislative agenda of the Ministry of Gender, Youth and Child Development as this relates to the care and protection of children. She is currently the chair of the Advisory Council for the National Strategic Plan for Child Development.

The Hon. Madame Justice Rhonda Bain was appointed to the Supreme Court of The Bahamas on 14 August 2009. Family Matters are among the principal matters she hears in the Supreme Court. Justice Bain began the practice of law in the Office of the Attorney General 1976. From 1983 – 1996 and in 2006-2009, she was engaged in private practice, including her own law firm, Rhonda P. Bain, Chambers. She returned to the Office of the Attorney General in 1996, and in 1999, was appointed Director of Legal Affairs, a position she held until 2005. In that position, Justice Bain was a pivotal member of the legal team charged with revising the corpus of Bahamian Financial Laws and Regulations in 2000-2001. As Vice-President (Legal), Baha Mar Resorts Ltd, Justice Bain was a key member of the management team for the start-up of the largest development projects on the Island of New Providence. Since 2007, Justice Bain has been Associate Tutor (Legal Drafting and Interpretation) at the Eugene Dupuch Law School. A Director of The Bahamas Council on Alcoholism, and Treasurer, The University of the West Indies Alumni Association (The Bahamas Chapter) are among the civic positions in which she serves. Justice Bain holds an LL.B (Honours) (1974) and an LL.M (Legislative Drafting) (1984) from the University of the West Indies, and a Legal Education Certificate (1976) from Norman Manley Law School, Mona Jamaica.
Called to the Jamaican Bar 1992, Ms. Blake-Powell entered private practice specializing in Civil Litigation and Family Law. In 2004 she became a Resident Magistrate and Chair of the Eastern Circuit of Children’s Courts. This was followed by an appointment as an Acting Senior Resident Magistrate and Judge of the Kingston & St. Andrew Family Court from 2011 - 2013. At present, Ms. Blake-Powell is a Senior Resident Magistrate & Judge of Kingston & St. Andrew Family Court. She has specialized in Child Justice during tenure on the Bench, attended local, Regional & International courses including Social Work at UWI Mona, Social Welfare Training Centre, Child Rights at the University of Ghent, Belgium, Child Justice, and Counselling. Ms. Blake Powell has presented at Seminars, Workshops, Conferences & public fora on Child Rights, Child Justice, Parenting and produced related publications.

Diana Mahabir Wyatt is a graduate of McGill University. She is a certified Psychometric Testing specialist and has been trained in Executive Coaching by the Institute of Executive Coaching. In 2001 she got her M.Sc. (Edu) from USC and in 2012 was awarded an LLd (honoris causa) from the University of the West Indies.

In 1966, Diana Mahabir Wyatt joined the Employers’ Consultative Association of Trinidad and Tobago. She then served as Director of the Association (1969) and Chief Executive Officer of the Employers’ Consultative Association and the Caribbean Employers’ Confederation simultaneously for almost 15 years, giving assistance to Caribbean employers’ federations.

Ms. Mahabir Wyatt was a founding member of the National Training Board of Trinidad and Tobago, of the Registration, Recognition and Certification Board and of the National Insurance Board. She served as an Independent Senator and on various national committees and commissions including the Family Court Committee, among others.

She is at present a Principal Consultant and Chairman of the Board of the management consultancy firm of PMSL Limited, Head of the Child Protection Task Force. She also sits on the Board of Servol, Ltd, the Caribbean Center for Human Rights, Chair of the Coalition Against Domestic Violence Childline, and other community organizations.
OF WOMEN JUDGES

MS. MARGARET SAMPSON-BROWNE

A retired Assistant Commissioner of Police - Margaret Sampson-Browne has worked with the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service for forty-one years (41yrs). She has been actively involved in the Victims & Witness programme and has worked extensively with Officers to manage and cope with domestic violence and sexual offences reports in particular.

Ms. Sampson-Browne holds a B.S.c (Hons) in Social Work; a Certificate in Criminology; a Certificate in Communication and Human Resource and is presently pursuing a MPhil in Gender and Development Studies. In 2011 she was the recipient of the Humming Bird Gold; Medal of Merit. She was also the proud recipient of Honorary Community Awards from the Arima City Corporation; the Sangre Grande Regional Corporation and the Tunapuna /Piarco Regional Corporation.

She has published a “Surviving Rape” booklet and “The Family is it” in the Trinidad and Tobago Police Credit Union Quarterly.

Ms. Sampson-Browne remains committed to building safe communities.

MS. BEVERLY SAMUEL

Beverly Samuel worked in the area of human development that falls under the broad genre of social work for over twenty (20) years managing social projects and building capacity around team work. She has been a coach to many individuals from all walks of life establishing foundations from which they could catapult into their fullest potential.

She has worked in the Trinidad and Tobago Public Service from 1992 to 2013 and has been responsible for the strategy and management of people and processes. She has provided appropriate professional coordination and leadership to technical and non-technical teams.

She is a past Lecturer and Tutor at the University of the West Indies – St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad and holds a B.A. in History/Sociology and a MSc. in Sociology from UWI. Beverly also holds an LLB from the University of London and a Postgraduate Diploma in Legal Practice from the Oxford Institute of Legal Practice.
THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE ROBIN MOHAMMED

Robin Mohammed was admitted to the Bar in 1994 and has worked at the Supreme Court since 2001, eventually assuming the position of Deputy Registrar & Marshal before his appointment as Acting Judge of the High Court on February 11, 2008. He served on a number of committees — the Rules Committee, the Family Court Monitoring Committee and on the committee for the Civil Proceedings Rules (1998) and was quite instrumental in its implementation.

Mr Justice Mohammed was appointed Puisne Judge of the High Court of Trinidad & Tobago on September 17th 2010. The Honourable Judge is an Associate Tutor in Civil Procedure & Practice at the Hugh Wooding Law School and has also served other Caribbean jurisdictions in advisory capacities to assist in drafting and developing new civil rules and procedures.

MR. JOHN P. ROUGIER

John Rougier is a former Commissioner of Prisons for Trinidad and Tobago. He has spent many years in the prison service having joined the service in 1973. Mr. Rougier currently lectures at the University of West of Indies in the Criminology Department and is the President of the Association of Caribbean Heads in Corrections and Prison Services.

He has a Bachelor of Science in Sociology and a Postgraduate Diploma in Human Resource Management both from the University of the West Indies. He is also the holder of a Masters of Science in Security and Risk Management from the University of Leicester. Mr. Rougier is also certified in Process Improvement, Measurement and Management Strategies from the American Society for Quality. He has training in many areas; strategic planning and management, public policy analysis and planning as well as ethics and acceptable behaviour. He is also involved in commissioning activities in the Youth Training Centre and Prison Service.
MS. RENÉE CUMMINGS

Renée Cummings is a criminologist, criminal psychologist, rehabilitation specialist, substance abuse therapist and journalist. She holds an MA in Criminal Justice, MA certificate in Terrorism Studies, and an MS in Education/MSEd in Rehabilitation Counselling. Possessing a hybrid knowledge base, she offers a systematic approach to best practice criminal justice interventions; evidence-based crime control and crime prevention; designing and implementing policies that work simultaneously across multiple environments. Criminal justice intelligence is what she delivers. Celebrated as a media icon, this award winning international journalist is also a television and radio personality. She has spent the last 24 years in public life and facilitates best practice media and communication skills training. A litigation PR specialist, she also offers strategic crisis communication support; issues management and stakeholder engagement; delivering direct communications and spokesperson assistance to organisations internationally. She’s also a university lecturer, motivational speaker and a sought after thought leader.

HER WORSHIP PRIYA SEWNARINE-BEHARRY

Priya Sewnarine-Beharry was admitted to practice as an Attorney at law on 12th October, 2001 by the Supreme Court of Judicature of Guyana. She was appointed Magistrate on the 4th May, 2005, Senior Magistrate on the 15th July, 2008, Principal Magistrate on 1st September, 2010, the Chief Magistrate (ag) on 8th September, 2010 and confirmed as Chief Magistrate on February 22nd, 2011; She is a fellow of the Commonwealth Judicial Education Institute, a past Secretary and President of the Magistrates’ Association of Guyana and its current Vice-President. She is married and the mother of two children. She enjoys swimming and cooking.
Mr. Alexander is an Attorney-at-Law and a consultant on restorative justice and counter human trafficking. He is a director of the non-profit organisation, Caribbean Umbrella Body for Restorative Behaviour, which successfully lobbied for March 25th to be observed as National Human Trafficking Awareness Day. From 2009-2010, Mr. Alexander sat on the Cabinet-appointed Multi-Sectoral Task Force which developed the policy document to address Trafficking In Persons in Trinidad and Tobago. He later helped draft the Trafficking In Persons legislation. Since 2010, Mr. Alexander has coordinated several human trafficking awareness events and facilitated workshops on counter human trafficking, child sexual exploitation and male demand for commercial sex. In 2013, he participated in the US State Department’s International Visitor Leadership Program on Combating Trafficking In Persons.

Recently, Mr. Alexander completed several smartphone applications to help users prevent and report human trafficking in Trinidad and Tobago and at the FIFA World Cup.

The Honorable Madame Justice Alice Yorke-Soo Hon, Justice of Appeal, was admitted to the Bar to Practice as a Barrister at Law in November 1982. She practised at the Criminal Bar for many years. In the year 1997, she was appointed a High Court Judge in Trinidad and Tobago. In 2008, she was appointed to the Court of Appeal. Judicial education is one of Justice Yorke-Soo Hon’s passions and for over fifteen years, she has been an Associate Tutor at the Hugh Wooding Law School at St. Augustine, Trinidad. She has been a member of the Judicial Education Institute of the Judiciary of Trinidad and Tobago for several years.
THE HONOURABLE MME. JACQUELINE CORNELIUS

Appointed to the High Court of Barbados in February, 2006. Ms. Cornelius attended Queen’s College, Barbados, The Faculty of Law Cave Hill, Barbados (1986), Hugh Wooding Law School (1988) and was a Pegasus Cambridge Scholar of Trinity Hall, Cambridge University (1993 LL.M (Commercial Law). Before her appointment to the Bench she carried on her private practice in commercial and family law in Bridgetown, and was a full time Lecturer at the Faculty of Law, Cave Hill, in various commercial subjects as well as family and administrative law. She has served on a number of committees in Barbados: director of the Central Bank, The Advisory Committee on International Business, and The Advisory Committee on Securities Law. She is well known for her work as a gender and human rights advocate and is a frequent speaker both regionally and nationally on family law and gender. As Chairman of the Family Law Council she is now engaged in advising on the reform of the child maintenance legislation, as well as reform of the Family Law Act. She is married to Queen Counsel Ralph Thorne, and has two children.

MR. FRANKLYN V. DOLLY

Mr. Franklyn V. Dolly is the Chief Executive Officer of Dolly and Associates Ltd, a behaviour change organization that he founded some 20 years ago. He has worked in senior management positions for over thirty (30) years.

One of the pioneers of EAPs in Trinidad and Tobago, Mr Dolly has been a major contributor to the development of the field of human behaviour management in Trinidad and Tobago. His reputed effectiveness as a counsellor and behaviour change consultant is undergirded by a strong solution orientation focus with a drive to empowerment and goal achievement.

As a presenter, his dynamism, creativity and ability to see things from a different perspective make him a sought after speaker on a range of behaviour related topics. Mr. Dolly has specialist training in Trauma Management; Disaster Preparedness; Psychological Debriefing; Managing Change/Transition; Solution focused Management and Counselling and Dispute Resolution/Mediation services.
Madame Justice Jean Permanand CMT, S.C. entered private practice in 1962 and from 1965 to 1979, she worked as State Counsel in the Attorney General’s Chambers, prosecuting in criminal matters. From 1979-1980, she acted as Treasury Solicitor and in 1980, she was appointed Solicitor General. She held that post until 1982 when she was appointed to the High Court Bench of the Judiciary of Trinidad and Tobago. In 1993, Madame Justice Permanand was appointed to the Court of Appeal being the first woman to attain such a distinction. Indeed, she was the first woman to act as Chief Justice of Trinidad and Tobago. Madame Justice Permanand was Chairman of the Law Reform Commission from 2004-2010 and a member of the Judicial and Legal Service Commission until 2012.

Madame Justice Permanand has had a very distinguished career and has chaired many important committees. Indeed, in 2003, she was appointed the chair of the Committee appointed to prepare a Domestic Violence Investigative and Procedural Manual for Police Officers.

Mweia Elias is passionate about teaching women with weight and health challenges how to use the power of eating and exercise as medicine. As a registered dietitian/clinical nutritionist, personal trainer, and health coach, she has worked with thousands of people in private, clinical, community, and corporate settings, to improve their health and eating habits.

Mweia completed her Masters in Clinical Nutrition at New York University and her dietetic residency at New York Methodist Hospital. She received her Certificate in Holistic Health Coaching from the Institute of Integrative Nutrition, and was trained in the advanced practice of Functional Nutrition with the Institute of Functional Medicine. She is also a certified personal trainer through the American College of Exercise. Prior to entering the field of nutrition, Mweia worked as a molecular biologist, having received her Master’s degree in Pharmacology & Cancer Biology from Duke University.

Ms. Elias is the founder/director of EMPOWER NUTRITION, an integrative nutrition consulting company that provides one-on-one coaching, group programs, and corporate wellness services to promote health and well-being.
The Hon. Madame Justice Yonette Cummings-Edwards is an Appeal Court Judge in the Supreme Court of Judicature, Guyana. Justice Cummings-Edwards started her legal career in the Chambers of the Director of Public prosecution (DPP) as State Counsel/State Prosecutor. While at the DPP's office she was elevated to various positions including: Senior State Counsel, Assistant Director of Public Prosecution, Deputy Director of Public Prosecution and Acting Director of Public Prosecution. Justice Cummings-Edwards also served as a High Court Judge. She lectured and advised Prosecutors in the Guyana Police Force, Customs and Excise Department and other law enforcement Agencies. Justice Cummings-Edwards is a member in Expert Group meetings on narcotics prosecution, money laundering and preparation of manual for prosecution of sexual offences. She has been both a presenter and participant in seminars, colloquia, workshop on Human Rights, Domestic Violence, Gender Equality, Alternative Dispute Resolution. Justice Cummings-Edwards is a holder of Masters of Laws degree with specialization in Family Law, graduating with merit from the University of London, a Bachelor of Laws Degree graduating with Upper Second Class Honour from the University of the West Indies and a certificate of Legal Education from the Hugh Wooding Law School.

Justice Allyson Ramkerrysingh is a High Court Judge of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago currently assigned to the Family Court. She was called to the Bar in 1985 and entered private practice and served the judiciary as an Assistant Registrar for nine years. While in the position of Assistant Registrar she worked closely with Justice Richard Greenslade and Mrs Stephanie Daly SC in formulating the Family Proceedings Rules and was involved in the training of judges and masters in the Civil Proceedings Rules. Justice Ramkerrysingh lectured in Family Law Practice and Procedure and was an Associate Tutor in Civil Practice and Procedure at the Hugh Wooding Law School for seven years. She was a member of the Family Court Committee and has been recently appointed a member of the Family Court Monitoring Committee. Justice Ramkerrysingh is married and has two adult children.
MR. DOMINIC DOS SANTOS
Dominic Dos Santos provides extensive pre marital, marital, post marital and family counseling in schools, families, churches and organizations through workshops, seminars, retreats, couples and individual sessions.

He holds Bachelor degrees firstly in Biblical Studies and secondly in Psychology and Counseling. He also holds his Masters in Family Life Education and is a Certified Family Life Educator. Dos Santos is a lecturer in The Caribbean Nazarene College in the Psychology Department and the Guidance Counselor at The Kenson School of Production Technology San Fernando. He is also a licensed Marriage Officer. He is married to the beautiful Anastasia and together they have one son Paul.

THE HONOURABLE MME. JUSTICE CARLA BROWN-ANTOINE
Ms Carla Brown-Antoine is a Judge of the High Court of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. She ascended to that bench after a lengthy career in the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. A national scholarship winner from St Joseph’s Convent, Port of Spain, Madame Justice Brown-Antoine studied law at the University of the West Indies, graduating with her LLB (Second Class Honours) in 1987, and at the Hugh Wooding Law School where she received her Legal Education Certificate in 1989. She joined the Office of the DPP in 1989, beginning as a State Counsel, and rising to the position of Deputy Director in 2001, and also acting on several occasions as Director. Her responsibilities included representing the State in all Courts in Trinidad and Tobago in criminal litigation, and also advising the DPP, the police and other state agencies on criminal matters. She has as well been involved in the training of attorneys, police officers, prisons officer and other officials in the criminal justice system. Madame Justice Brown-Antoine has in addition been involved in drafting legislation which impacts on the criminal justice system, including the Criminal Procedure (Plea Discussion and Plea Agreement) Act 1997, and the Indictable Offences (Preliminary Inquiry) (Amendment) Act, 2004. Ms Brown-Antoine was also Course Director for Criminal Procedure and Practice at the Hugh Wooding Law School during 2007 – 2008, and has delivered lectures and conducted training at workshops organised by the Law Association of Trinidad and Tobago and other national bodies. Madam Justice Antoine has been an Associate Tutor at the Hugh Wooding Law School for second year students in Trial Advocacy since 2010. She is also a certified mediator since 2012.
MS. LYNETTE SEEBARAN SUITE

Lynette Seebaran Suite is a leading family attorney and advocate and researcher in the women’s movement in Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean over many years. She is a founding member and current chairperson of ASPIRE. Lynette is a veteran of numerous law reform campaigns, including in the area of domestic violence and sexual offences law reform. She has also been a regional resource person in HIV/Aids and the law. For the past 8 years Lynette has led ASPIRE’s advocacy for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights of the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago. Lynette has presented in many local and international conferences over the years.

THE HONOURABLE MME. JUSTICE BETSY ANN LAMBERT PETERSON

The Honourable Mrs. Justice Betsy Ann Lambert Peterson was admitted to the Bar in 1988 and holds a Masters degree in Child Law. Justice Lambert Peterson served as a magistrate for fifteen years from 1995. From March 2010, Justice Lambert Peterson then a Senior Magistrate, was appointed a Judge of the High Court of Trinidad and Tobago and assigned to the Family Court. Justice Lambert Peterson is a member of the Trinidad and Tobago Judicial Education Institute, the Caribbean Association of Judicial Officers and the International Society of Family Law. She served as the Deputy Chairman of the Mediation Board of Trinidad and Tobago between 2008 and 2012 and a member of the Family Court Committee from 2006 to 2010.
The Caribbean Association of Women of Judges would like to extend its sincerest thanks to its sponsors.