



JUDICIARY
THE BAHAMAS

2022

Annual Report



VISION AND MISSION STATEMENTS



JUDICIARY
THE BAHAMAS



THE OFFICE OF THE JUDICIARY VISION

To provide the framework to minimize the time between the initiation and disposition of criminal complaints and between the organization and resolution of civil claims and provide the public with ethical, courteous, efficient and professional service in the process.

MISSION OF JUDICIAL OFFICERS

Judicial Officers, who comprise The Judicature, an independent arm of Government, are, by their oath of office, sworn: *"...to do right to all manner of people, after the laws and usages of The Bahamas without fear or favour, affection or ill will."*

MISSION OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

In support of the Vision of the Office of the Judiciary and the Mission of Judicial Officers, the Administration will seek to create and maintain the means necessary to ensure that all matters placed before the courts are dealt with competently and efficiently, within a reasonable time and with the minimum of expense and inconvenience to all parties, in the realization that the trust and confidence of the public in the judicial system is dependent upon the integrity and reliability of each person involved in the administration thereof.

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FOREWORD

The production of an Annual Report affords the judiciary an opportunity to provide information and a general report to its stakeholders as well as to the community of our work in the past year. Annual Reports ultimately provide the historical context to measure the growth of the judiciary over the many years.

The year 2022 was indeed a year of transition. Although the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic remain evident, the courts, as with the remainder of the country, continued to transition into a newer, less austere phase of the Covid-19 pandemic. A phase marked by lighter protocols and further expansion of in person services. Notwithstanding the relaxation of the health protocols, the judiciary continued to take care in order to maintain a safe environment for our staff and court users alike. In 2022 we continued to utilize the benefits of the virtual platform for case management and other interlocutory applications, saving litigants time and the expenses associated with travel to hearings.

Perhaps the more noticeable transition in the judiciary was reflected in the retirement of Sir Brian Moree Kt, KC as Chief Justice and my appointment as his successor in office on 3 August 2022. I convey the thanks and appreciation, on behalf of a grateful judiciary, to Sir Brian, for the hard work and commitment shown during his 3 year tenure as Chief Justice.

THE HON. CHIEF JUSTICE
IAN R. WINDER

Whilst Sir Brian has transitioned to sit on the Court of Appeal, his legacy will be marked by the strident efforts made to modernize our procedures and expand our use of technology. We continue to wish him well in his future endeavors.

I am both humbled and honoured to have been afforded the opportunity to lead the talented judicial officers and staff that make up the judiciary across New Providence, Grand Bahama and Abaco. These exceptional men and women, who make up the third arm of the Government, undertake their work in less than ideal accommodation and often making the best with very limited resources. I hereby publically express my thanks for all that they do to ensure the constitutional mandate of an independent, impartial and fearless judiciary.

One of the many highlights of 2022 was the completion and opening of the Training Center for The Bahamas Judicial Education Institute (BJEI) on Friday, 24 June 2022. The Training Center, located on the first floor of Charlotte House, now affords the judiciary a purpose built space capable of accommodating the training needs of the judiciary. The facility was outfitted with the assistance of a loan facility issued under the Inter-American Development Bank's Citizen Security and Justice Program.

In the 2022 the Rules Committee of the Supreme Court passed the long awaited

Supreme Court (Civil Procedure) Rules 2022. The passage of these rules followed several months of training conducted by judges, local practitioners and experts from the CAJO (Caribbean Association of Judicial Officers). It is expected these rules will come into force within the first quarter of 2023. The BJEI, with the assistance of the judges in the Civil Division of the Court and numerous eminent attorneys, produced a Practice Guide for these new rules. The Guide will be available when the rules are brought into force to assist judges and practitioners as we transition into a new civil justice regime. Another highlight of 2022 has been the work done towards the completion of the new Magistrates Court facility in Eight Mile Rock, Grand Bahama. Since the passage of Hurricane Dorian, the residents of Eight Mile Rock have had to be serviced from our facilities at the Garnet Levarity Justice Center in Freeport. We are happy to report that, very soon, this new Court will be available for occupation and operation.

In these pages we seek to provide:

a statistical account of some of the work undertaken during 2022 in the Magistrates Court and the Supreme Court; information on new staffing appointments and deployment; training undertaken both locally and abroad; the rostering of judges and magistrates in 2023; and other highlights of 2022. I wish to formally register my thanks and appreciation to the team of judicial officers responsible for preparing this Annual Report. That team, led by Registrar Constance Delancy and Justice Denise Lewis Johnson included, Justice Deborah Fraser, Deputy Registrars Stephana J. Saunders and Renaldo Toote, Senior Magistrate Kara Turnquest-Deveaux, HR Manager Annamae Neely, Human Resources officer Elizabeth Taylor, Information Technology Manager Darmeeke Isaacs and Mrs. Bathsheba Algreen. The team has performed a yeoman's task in collating the material to be found in these pages. I hope that you will find the Annual Report to be informative and uplifting.



CHIEF JUSTICE

OF THE COMMONWEALTH
OF THE BAHAMAS



THE HONOURABLE CHIEF JUSTICE
IAN R. WINDER

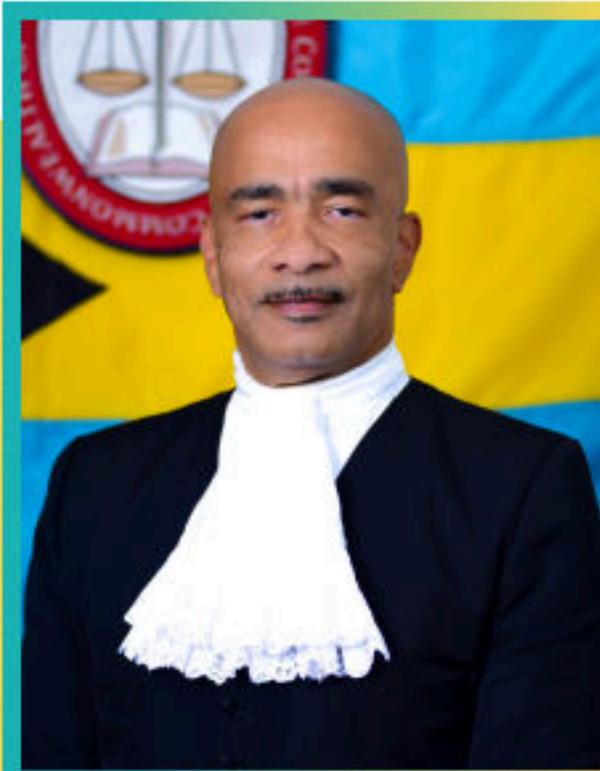
Court #

1 - HANSARD BUILDING

Date of appointment

3 AUGUST 2022

SENIOR JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT



The Honourable Mr. Senior Justice

BERNARD S. A. TURNER

Position

SENIOR JUSTICE

Court #

7 - ANNEX 1, GROUND FLOOR

Date of Appointment as Senior Justice

7 SEPTEMBER, 2020



The Honourable Madam Senior Justice

Indra Charles

Position

SENIOR JUSTICE

Court #

10 - SUPREME COURT ANNEX 1,
THIRD FLOOR

Date of Appointment as Senior Justice

1 APRIL 2022



The Hon. Madam Justice
DEBORAH E. FRASER

Position
JUSTICE
Court #
02 - SUPREME COURT BUILDING
Date of appointment
14 October 2014



JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT



The Hon. Madam Justice
CHERYL GRANT-THOMPSON

Position
JUSTICE
Court #
06 - SUPREME COURT ANNEX 1, GROUND FLOOR
Date of appointment
1 May 2016



The Hon. Mr. Justice
G. GREGORY HILTON

Position
JUSTICE
Court #
04 - SUPREME COURT BUILDING
Date of appointment
1 November 2016



JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT



The Hon. Madam Justice
PETRA HANNA-ADDERLEY

Position
JUSTICE
Court #
02 - GARNEY LEVARTY JUSTICE CENTRE
Date of appointment
1 February 2017



The Hon. Madam Justice
DONNA D. NEWTON

Position
JUSTICE
Court #
12 - SUPREME COURT ANNEX 1, THIRD FLOOR
Date of appointment
1 February 2018



The Hon. Madam Justice
GUILLIMINA ARCHER-MINNS

Position
JUSTICE
Court #
05 - SUPREME COURT BUILDING
Date of appointment
1 August 2017



The Hon. Madam Justice
W. RENAE MCKAY

Position
JUSTICE
Court #
17 - SUPREME COURT ANNEX II
Date of appointment
1 February 2018



JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT



The Hon. Madam Justice
G. DIANE STEWART

Position
JUSTICE
Court #
09 - SUPREME COURT ANNEX 1, THIRD FLOOR
Date of appointment
2 October 2018



The Hon. Mr. Justice
LOREN KLEIN

Position
JUSTICE
Court #
18 - SUPREME COURT ANNEX II
Date of appointment
8 January 2020



JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT



The Hon. Madam Justice

J. DENISE LEWIS-JOHNSON
MBE

Position
JUSTICE

Court #
11 - SUPREME COURT ANNEX 1, THIRD FLOOR

Date of appointment
31 May 2021



The Hon. Mr. Justice

ANDREW FORBES

Position
JUSTICE

Court #
01 - GARNET LEVARTY JUSTICE CENTRE

Date of appointment
31 May 2021



The Hon. Madam Justice

JEANINE WEECH-GOMEZ

Position
JUSTICE

Court #
14 - SUPREME COURT ANNEX II

Date of appointment
31 May 2021



JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT



The Hon. Mr. Justice
NEIL BRATHWAITE

Position
JUSTICE
Court #
13 - SUPREME COURT ANNEX II
Date of appointment
14 June 2021



The Hon. Madam Justice
CAMILLE DARVILLE-GOMEZ

Position
JUSTICE
Court #
14 - SUPREME COURT ANNEX II
Date of appointment
8 September, 2021



**ACTING
JUSTICES OF THE
SUPREME COURT**



The Hon. Madam Justice
SIMONE FITZCHARLES

Position
JUSTICE (Acting)
Court #
03 - SUPREME COURT BUILDING
Date of appointment
1 September 2022



The Hon. Madam Justice
NTSHONDA TYNES

Position
JUSTICE (Acting)
Court #
02 - SUPREME COURT BUILDING
Date of appointment
20 September 2022



The Hon. Madam Justice
CARLA CARD-STUBBS

Position
JUSTICE (Acting)
Court #
05 - SUPREME COURT ANNEX II, THIRD FLOOR
Date of appointment
20 September 2022



CONSTANCE A. DELANCY

Position
REGISTRAR
Date of appointment
9 September 2021



REGISTRARS OF THE SUPREME COURT



STEPHANA J. SAUNDERS

Position
DEPUTY REGISTRAR (NORTHERN REGION)
Date of appointment
2 January 2007



EDMUND V. TURNER

Position
DEPUTY REGISTRAR
Date of appointment
1 January 2016



REGISTRARS OF THE SUPREME COURT



RENALDO J. TOOTE

Position
DEPUTY REGISTRAR
Date of appointment
1 October 2021



JENNIFER STUART-BASTIAN

Position
DEPUTY REGISTRAR
Date of appointment
1 July 2022



OLIVIA BLATCH

Position
DEPUTY REGISTRAR (NORTHERN REGION)
Date of appointment
25 August 2022



MRS. JOYANN FERGUSON-PRATT

Position
CHIEF MAGISTRATE & DEPUTY CORONER
Court #
09 - MAGISTRATE COURT COMPLEX
Date of appointment
15 October 2013



STIPENDIARY & CIRCUIT MAGISTRATES



MS. DEBBYE FERGUSON

Position
**DEPUTY CHIEF MAGISTRATE & DEPUTY
CORONER**
Court #
01 - GARNET LEVARTY JUSTICE CENTRE
Date of appointment
1 February 2016



MRS. SUBUSOLA LAWANSON-SWAIN

Position
ASSISTANT CHIEF MAGISTRATE
Court #
01 - MAGISTRATE COURT COMPLEX
Date of appointment
1 August 2017



**STIPENDIARY
& CIRCUIT
MAGISTRATES**



MRS. CAROLYN VOGT-EVANS

Position
SENIOR MAGISTRATE & DEPUTY CORONER
Court #
05 - MAGISTRATE COURT COMPLEX
Date of appointment
1 May 2017



MR. DERENCE ROLLE-DAVIS

Position
SENIOR MAGISTRATE
Court #
05 - MAGISTRATE COURT COMPLEX
Date of appointment
1 May 2017



MS. ANELLA J. EVANS

Position
SENIOR MAGISTRATE & DEPUTY CORONER
Court #
01 - MARSH HARBOUR, ABACO
Date of appointment
1 September 2021



MRS. KARA TURNQUEST-DEVEAUX

Position
SENIOR MAGISTRATE & ACTING CORONER
Court #
02 - MAGISTRATE COURT COMPLEX
Date of appointment
1 September 2022



**STIPENDIARY
& CIRCUIT
MAGISTRATES**



MR. CHARLTON H. SMITH

Position
SENIOR MAGISTRATE & DEPUTY CORONER
Court #
02 - GARNET LEVARTY JUSTICE CENTRE
Date of appointment
16 September 2022



MR. SAMUEL MCKINNEY

Position
S & C MAGISTRATE
Court #
08 - MAGISTRATE COURT COMPLEX
Date of appointment
3 February 2014



**STIPENDIARY
& CIRCUIT
MAGISTRATES**



MR. LAQUAY V. LAING

Position
S & C MAGISTRATE
Court #
03 - GARNEY LEVARTY JUSTICE CENTRE
Date of appointment
4 May 2017



MS. SANDRADEE GARDINER

Position
S & C MAGISTRATE
Court #
03 - MAGISTRATE COURT COMPLEX
Date of appointment
1 January 2020



MR. SHAKA SERVILLE

Position
S & C MAGISTRATE
Court #
04 - MAGISTRATE COURT COMPLEX
Date of appointment
14 June 2021



MR. ALGERNON S. ALLEN, JR.

Position

S & C MAGISTRATE

Court #

01 - MAGISTRATE COURT COMPLEX

Date of appointment

14 June 2021



**STIPENDIARY
& CIRCUIT
MAGISTRATES**



MISS KENDRA KELLY

Position

S & C MAGISTRATE

Court #

10 - MAGISTRATE COURT

Date of appointment

14 June 2021



**MRS. IAN-MARIE DARVILLE-
MILLER**

Position

S & C MAGISTRATE

Court #

14 - MAGISTRATE COURT COMPLEX

Date of appointment

14 June 2021



**STIPENDIARY
& CIRCUIT
MAGISTRATES**



MS. SIMONE BROWN

Position
S & C MAGISTRATE
Court #
**04 - & EIGHT-MILE ROCK GARNET LEVARTY
JUSTICE CENTRE**
Date of appointment
5 July 2021



MR. DARRON D. ELLIS

Position
ACTING S & C MAGISTRATE
Court #
12 - MAGISTRATE COURT COMPLEX
Date of appointment
1 July 2016



MR. JAMES L. MOXEY

Position
ACTING S & C MAGISTRATE
Court #
13 - MAGISTRATE COURT COMPLEX
Date of appointment
14 April 2008



Registrar
Constance Delancy

Position
Head of Department



Deputy Registrar
Renaldo Toote

Position
Director of Court Services (Acting)



Mrs. Alphanette Grant

Position
Magistrate Court Administrator

COURT ADMINISTRATION



Mr. Darmeeko Isaacs

Position
Director of Information & Communication
Technology



Mrs. Annamae Neely

Position
Senior Manager, Human Resources



JUDICIARY
THE BAHAMAS

01

2022

Bahamas Judiciary
Annual Report

HIGHLIGHTS



HIGHLIGHTS

- 1.1 TRIBUTE TO THE HON. SIR BRIAN M. MOREE, KT; KC
 - 1.2 ARTICLES
 - 1.3 NATIONAL EVENTS
-

By Registrar Constance A. Delancy



**The Hon. Sir
BRIAN M. MOREE, KT; KC**

Chief Justice of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas
12 June, 2019 – 2 August, 2022

On 12 June, 2019, the Hon. Sir Brian M. Moree, KT, KC was appointed as the thirteenth Chief Justice of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

Sir Brian was admitted to The Bahamas Bar in February 1979 and appointed Queen's Counsel (now King's Counsel) in 2009. In January, 2020 the honour of knight bachelor was conferred on Sir Brian but due to the COVID-pandemic restrictions the Investiture Ceremony did not take place until 25 November 2021 at Windsor Castle.

Prior to his appointment as Chief Justice Sir Brian engaged in private practice which included Civil and Commercial litigation, Insurance, Banking and Financial Services, Arbitration, domestic and cross border Insolvency and Private Client work.

Sir Brian's private practice spans over 40 years and during that time he served as an Acting Stipendiary and Circuit Magistrate in 1983 and 1988; an Acting Justice of the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas 1997 and 2015. Sir Brian also served as a lecturer in Civil Procedure for The Bahamas Bar, a former Director of the Bahamas Financial Services Board, a former member of the Judicial and Legal Service Commission, a former Chairman of the Public Service Commission and a former Co-Chair of the Arbitration Tribunal.

Sir Brian's tenure as the Chief Justice marked the beginning of an era aimed at improving the efficiency of the delivery of justice through use of technology.

The phrase “Court Modernization and Reform Initiative” or “COMRIN” captured Sir Brian’s plan. COMRIN is the umbrella for a number of projects which were rolled out by the Judiciary during Sir Brian’s tenure, such as:

- [Bahamas Bail Management System](#)
- [Integrated Case Management System](#)
- [Digital Recording System](#)
- [Digitalization of Records](#)
- [Bahamas Judicial Institute Training Centre](#)
- [Civil Procedure Rules](#)

In September, 2019, Hurricane Dorian caused catastrophic damage to the islands of Abaco and Grand Bahama. The work of the Courts on those islands was negatively impacted as a number of the Judiciary staff in the Northern Region were forced to re-locate to other islands to seek shelter. As the country slowly started to recover in March, 2020 COVID-19 was declared a pandemic which further impeded access to services through traditional methods. Sir Brian issued a number of Practice Directions and directives to keep the Courts open and accessible while adhering to the Emergency Orders and health protocols. Sir Brian observed in his 2021 Opening of Legal Year Speech that “Indeed, for us in the Judiciary, the real takeaway from 2020 is best described in the well-known adage that “necessity is the mother of invention.”

Sir Brian’s proactive steps to provide judicial officers and court clerks with a complete technology package of computers and the required accessories made it possible to the Judiciary to pivot to a virtual hearings very quickly during the early days of the pandemic. Sir Brian led by example thinking outside the long established work

habits and processes. Virtual hearings, meetings and training became the norm and remains in place today. In 2021, the health protocols prohibited large indoor gatherings, the Opening of the Legal Year was held in Rawson Square and televised throughout The Bahamas and world.

The work processed in the Registries and other key areas, such as the Probate Registry and Listing Office, were reviewed and changed to address delays in completing applications. The Ministry of Finance assisted the Judiciary with introduction of Digipay to allow court users to pay for court filing fees, fines and traffic fines via debit and credit cards. The Judiciary’s website was re-launched and improved to allow for dissemination of information and online access to the Judiciary’s services.

In the early days of his tenure Sir Brian committed to modernizing the processes in the Civil Courts by the introduction of new rules to bring The Bahamas in line with best practices regionally and internationally. Sir Brian enlisted the assistance of Bahamian judicial officers and practitioners as well as members of the Caribbean Court of Justice. Webinars and online training sessions were conducted to familiarize judicial officers and legal practitioners with the new rules. The Supreme Court Civil Procedure Rules, 2022 are expected to come on stream in early part of 2023.

The end of Sir Brian’s tenure as Chief Justice did not mark the end of his public service. In August, 2022 he was appointed to serve as a Justice of the Court of Appeal of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

DIGITAL COURT RECORDING (DCR)

— Deputy Registrar Renaldo Toote



To some, digital court reporting (“DCR”) is a relatively new concept in the court reporting industry.

Since the Covid-19 pandemic, our courts have proven that we can successfully use remote hearings to conduct a wide range of court business. Remote hearings have been commonly embraced by court users and stakeholders. The use of digital court recording systems is pioneering to the efficient dispensation of justice. The Judiciary continues to make forward strides using technology to make the courts work well for the public.

In doing so, we have demonstrated that the use of technology is beneficially necessary for the dispensation of justice in a modern era.

In July 2022, the Judiciary in consultation with the National Center for State Courts approved a Policy and Procedure manual for the use, management, and support of the For The Record (“FTR”) DCR systems.

The manual is to be used as a guide for courtroom management, usage of the DCR system and supervision of the audio recordings. The manual is expected to be periodically updated, with both mandatory and recommended policies and procedures for all aspects of digital court recording and will be distributed to all users of the DCR system including judicial officers, court staff and the Bar.

To ensure that the manual remains contemporary, a “standing committee” was subsequently formed which is comprised of members of the Digital Court Recording Working Group. The committee will review the manual on an annual basis to make recommendations in connection with changes, additions, and deletions to the policies and procedures. This will ensure that the manual reflects on an ongoing basis, the experiences of staff and users together with evolving best practices.

Two of the important features of the DCR is recording and speech to text. When using the DCR, it is important to ensure that the recorded hearing is of good quality without interruptions while exercising proper courtroom etiquette. In 2022, the Judiciary conducted several training seminars in the use of digital court recording which was hosted by the National Center for State Courts. In June 2022, a team of court officers traveled to Milwaukee, Wisconsin and attended an American Association of Electronic Reporters and Transcribers (AAERT) conference which focused on the future of digital court recording and the introduction of speech to text (“STT”) technology which is expected to produce a rough draft transcript within a short period after a hearing.

In the Judiciary’s attempt to remain progressive, we added speech to text technology to enhance our judicial services and ensure efficiency of court hearings, particularly in our Magistrate courts.

The speech to text feature has not yet been utilized in our courtrooms as the necessary framework is being implemented and tested. The Judiciary is grateful to the Data Protection Commissioner and the Department of Transformation and Digitization (“DTaD”) for their involvement and support towards the speech to text software and ensuring that best practices are standardized and maintained. It is anticipated that by January 2023 the speech to text software will be utilized in all of the Magistrate’s Court inclusive of Grand Bahama and Abaco.



Justices of the Supreme Court and Stipendiary & Circuit Magistrates attending a Seminar on the Digital Recording System at the BJEI Training Institute

Unfortunately, all of our courtrooms are not equipped with the DCR system, however this will soon be a thing of the past, as we are in the process of procuring additional DCR systems for the Civil Supreme Courts and new constructed Eight Mile Rock Magistrate Court in Grand Bahama.

The purpose of the DCR is to enhance and improve the captured record and it is expected to aid Stenographers during their transcription.

With a fully operational DCR system, it is the

judiciary's hope that digital court recordings will be the official court record. The DCR is a fundamental building block for the enhancement of the judicial system, providing transparency for the public, accountability for the judiciary and for the progression of appellate reviews. An accurate, fully reviewable record builds respect and legitimacy for the court system, promotes accountability for court participants which ultimately enhances court effectiveness.



Justices of the Supreme Court and Stipendiary & Magistrates attending a Seminar on the Digital Recording System at the BJEI Training Institute



Ken Cook, NCSC Digital Recording Expert

THE ROLE OF THE JUDGES' COURT CLERK

The Clerk of Court or the Clerk to a particular Justice is better described as the key entry individual to gaining direct access to the Justice system in which persons go seeking relief or remedy from the Courts. This position is entrusted to a qualified Clerk of Court which seals him or her as a Communicator, the Eyes, a Protector, a Translator, and with these characteristics combined, a Clerk is therefore transformed into a dispensary for legal assistance.

A Clerk must be pleasant, courteous, and professional to the highest standard when interacting with external and internal customers. External customers such as Attorneys from various Law Firms call upon Judges' Clerks daily seeking assistance for numerous items to move cases forward with the goal of completing matters for their clients. It is very important Clerks know and understand the type, function and various applications brought into their chambers so in the instinct of approaching the judge they can communicate with clarity what is before the Court. The General Public is an important appendix as external customers. They attend the premises of the court seeking information, and assistance consistently from Judges' clerks daily. It is prudent to know your limitation, to what extent a clerk can offer vital information as relates to all matters before the court; not neglecting the attributes of staying professional and courteous at the same time.

The internal customers are those we come into contact with the moment we enter our work environment. These personnel will include but not limited to,

Administrative staff, Marshals, Secretaries, other Judges' Clerks, Registry Clerks, Registrars of all levels and Justices of all Divisions. It is vitally important to show and treat everyone with respect whom we come into contact with daily.

Each day Clerks must enter or communicate with the various registries i.e. Criminal, Civil, Family and Probate. Inquiries are made for files and essential documents which are part of the courts' record for progressive movement of all cases. Clerks should have the basic knowledge of each divisional file and documents which make up the record, ensuring the Judge or Registrar is not left handicap once counsel refer to the documents lodged into the record. It is important to check all registries frequently for files and documents so as to maintain accuracy of records/files that are assigned to the Judge. After years of working with various Judges the most important attribute or skill one must possess, as strongly expressed by a former Chief Justice, is "know your Judge."

A vitally important area of the Court System, which Clerks must frequently interact with and receive correspondence, is The Listing Office. New matters or actions from various civil divisions are processed at this office. The files are then distributed to Judges and Registrars for assigning of hearing dates. Clerks must in the most efficient manner return notices to the Listing Office for distribution of dates and times allotted. Clerks are, and will always be an essential human resource element for the administering of Justice.

DID YOU KNOW?

— *Mrs. Bathsheba Algreen*

In recognition of the 60th Anniversary of the Women's Suffragate Movement in The Bahamas, the Judiciary wishes to recognize the following female 'firsts' in the legal profession of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.



Mrs. Patricia Marjorie
Cole Cozzi

Q. Who was the first female lawyer in The Bahamas?

R. Patricia Marjorie Cole Cozzi, a Bahamian Lawyer, was the first female lawyer in The Bahamas. She completed her legal studies at the Middle Temple in London and was called to the English Bar in 1953 and admitted to the Bahamas Bar on 11 July 1953. Mrs. Cozzi later moved to Dorchester, England and died there at the age of 80 in 2006.



Dame Janet Gwennett
Bostwick, DBE

Q. Who was the first female Attorney General in the The Bahamas?

R. Dame Janet Gwennett Bostwick, a Bahamian Lawyer, was called to The Bahamas Bar on 2 April 1971 and served as the first female President of The Bahamas Bar Association from 1980 to 1982. Dame Janet acted as a Stipendiary & Circuit Magistrate. She entered politics in 1977 with an appointment to the Senate and was the second woman to hold a Cabinet post, the first woman to serve as acting Prime Minister, the first female Attorney General and the first female Member of Parliament in The Bahamas.



Dame Joan Augusta
Sawyer, DBE

Q. Who was the first female Chief Justice of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas?

R. Dame Joan Augusta Sawyer, a Bahamian Lawyer, was admitted to The Bahamas Bar on 12 September 1973. Dame Joan made history, not once but four times, by becoming the first female Justice of the Supreme Court Justice (1988), Chief Justice of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas (1996 to 2001), President of The Bahamas Court of Appeal (2001 to 2010), first judge of either sex of the Caribbean region to be a member of the Judicial Committee of the United Kingdom's Privy Council.



Mrs. Zoe Allyson
Maynard-Gibson, KC

Q. Who was the first female to be appointed as a Queen's Counsel in The Bahamas?

R. Mrs. Maynard-Gibson, a Bahamian Attorney, was admitted to The Bahamas Bar on 19 December 1980. From 2012 to 2017 she was the Attorney General and Minister for Legal Affairs of The Bahamas, and leader of government business in the Senate of The Bahamas. On 8 January 2015, she made history as the first female to be appointed as one of Her Majesty's Counsel for The Bahamas.



The Hon. Madam
Senior Justice Vera
Shirley Watkins,
Retired

Q. Who was the first female Chief Magistrate?

R. The Hon. Madam Senior Justice Vera Shirley Watkins, [Retired] joined The Bahamas Public Service in 1970 in the Customs Department and later served as a Teacher under the Ministry of Education from 1972 to 1975. She decided to move on to the private sector and after pursuing a legal career, she was admitted to The Bahamas Bar on 12 September 1980. In 1987, she joined the judicial service as a Stipendiary and Circuit Magistrate, was appointed Senior Stipendiary & Circuit Magistrate and as the first female Chief Magistrate on 1 February 2002. The Hon. Madam Justice Watkins, [Retired], was elevated to the Supreme Court Bench as a Justice of the Supreme Court in September 2004. She retired from the Supreme Court as Senior Justice on 31 July 2020.



The Hon. Madam
Senior Justice Estelle
Geneva Gray Evans,
Retired

Q. Who was the first female Registrar of the Supreme Court?

R. The Hon. Mrs. Estelle Gray Evans, Justice Retired, is a Bahamian attorney who was admitted to The Bahamas Bar on 16 December 1988. In January 1995, she joined the judicial service as Acting Stipendiary & Circuit Magistrate (Jan 1995 to Jan 1996) and as Deputy Registrar of the Supreme Court in the Northern Region (Freeport, Grand Bahama) for the period January 1995 to April 1999. From April 1999 to February 2004, she was appointed to act as Project Coordinator for The Bahamas Integrated Justice Information System (automation of the Bahamian courts and integration with four (4) other justice agencies) and during the months of July to October 1999, acted as Registrar of the Supreme Court. She was substantively appointed as the first female Registrar of the Supreme Court, the administrative head of the Supreme & Magistrate Courts, in March 2004. The Hon. Mrs. Estelle Gray Evans was appointed to the Supreme Bench as a Justice of the Supreme Court on 1 November 2007 and retired as Senior Justice on 19 November 2021.

HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

Queen Elizabeth II, the longest serving monarch in British history and Head of The Commonwealth, died at Balmoral Castle in Aberdeenshire, Scotland, 8 September 2022 at the age of 96.

On 4 October 2022 a memorial service was held commemorating the life of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was held at Christ Church

Cathedral. The Honourable Chief Justice along with members of the Judiciary, Government, members of the uniformed branches attended the service.

Tributes were brought by our Prime Minister, the Hon. Philip Davis, KC and Governor General, His Excellency, the Most Hon. Sir Cornelius Smith.



/Above/ The Hon. Chief Justice Ian R. Winder, President of the Court of Appeal The Hon. Sir Michael L. Barnett, KI. and members of the Judiciary



/Right/ The Hon. Chief Justice Ian R. Winder and Commodore of the Royal Bahamas Defence Force Dr. Raymond King

REMEMBRANCE DAY 2022

Remembrance Day is the day on which Bahamians memorialize their veterans who served in the British Army in World Wars I and II, 1914-1918 and 1939-1945, respectively.

Remembrance Day was observed on Sunday 13 November 2022 with an ecumenical service at Christ Church Cathedral, followed by a parade and a brief interdenominational service is held led by the Bahamian Christian Council at the Garden of Remembrance which was followed by the laying of wreaths at the base of the Cenotaph.

In attendance at the services were the Governor General, the Prime Minister of The Bahamas, Chief Justice, other government dignitaries, members of the Diplomatic Corps., heads of the Police and Defence Force and Veterans from the Bahamian Chapter of the British Legion and their families.



The Hon. Chief Justice Ian R. Winder accepting the wreath to be placed at the Cenotaph in the Garden of Remembrance



His Excellency The Most Hon. Sir Cornelius A. Smith, O.N., G.C.M.G., Governor-General, The Hon. Chief Justice Ian R. Winder and Mrs. Marie-Jacqueline Winder

COURTESY CALL



Her Excellency Charge
d'Affaires Ms. Usha Pitts,
US Embassy and The
Hon. Chief Justice Ian R.
Winder

On 19 October, 2022, Her Excellency Charge d'Affaires Ms. Usha Pitts accompanied by Mrs. Bridget Premont, Director, International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, U.S. Embassy paid a courtesy call on The Hon. Chief Justice Ian R. Winder



The Hon. Dame Anita
Allen, DBE and The Hon.
Sir Brian M. Moree, KC, Kt.
(former Chief Justice)

On 11 March, 2022 Dame Anita Allen, DBE (former President of the Court of Appeal) presented The Hon. Sir Brian M. Moree, KC, Kt., Chief Justice (as he then was) with a copy of a book entitled '**Pioneering Caribbean Women Jurists,**' which features Dame Joan Sawyer, DBE and Dame Anita Allen, DBE of The Bahamas. The Book now is a part of the Judiciary Law Library Collection.



JUDICIARY
THE BAHAMAS

02

2022

Bahamas Judiciary
Annual Report

**THE
JUDICATURE**



JUDICATURE

- 2.1** CONSTITUTION, COMPOSITION AND JURISDICTION
 - 2.2** LOGOTYPES & EMBLEMS
 - 2.3** CEREMONIAL DRESS OF THE JUDICIARY
-

By Hon. Madam Justice Donna Newton

The Judicature is one of the three (3) branches of Government (Chapter VII of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas). The Judicature is independent of the Executive and the Legislature and is headed by the Chief Justice who is responsible for the administration of justice in The Bahamas.

THE PRIVY COUNCIL
(Her Majesty's Judicial Committee)

Highest Court to which appeals may be made from the decisions of the Court of Appeal

COURT OF APPEAL
(Justices of Appeal)

Hears appeals made from decisions of the Supreme Court, some appeals from Magistrate Courts and various Tribunals

SUPREME COURT
(Justices)

Hears Civil and Indictable Criminal matters, appeals from Magistrate Courts and various Tribunals

MAGISTRATE COURT
(S & C Magistrates)

Hears Civil and Criminal matters

FAMILY ISLAND ADMINISTRATORS
(Lay Magistrates)

Hear Minor matters

THE PRIVY COUNCIL

The Judicial Committee of Her Majesty's Privy Council is the highest Court of Appeal of The Bahamas. These appeals are heard in England.

COURT OF APPEAL

The highest resident court in the country is the Court of Appeal, which sits on a full time basis throughout the year. The Court of Appeal is composed of a President, and not more than six (6) Justices of the Court of Appeal. The Chief Justice, by virtue of his office as head of the Judiciary is also a member of the Court of Appeal but he shall not sit on the Court of Appeal unless he has been invited to do so by the President of the Court of Appeal.

The Court of Appeal has jurisdiction in Criminal, Constitutional and Civil matters under the Constitution, the Court of Appeal Act and other statutes. The Court of Appeal also hears appeals from the Industrial Tribunal. Appeals from the Supreme Court and from the Magistrate's Court (in some cases) lie to the Court of Appeal; and appeals from the Court of Appeal lie to the Privy Council.

THE SUPREME COURT

ESTABLISHMENT

The Judicial Committee of Her Majesty's Privy Council is the highest Court of Appeal of The Bahamas. These appeals are heard in England.

"93 (1) There shall be a Supreme Court for The Bahamas which shall have such jurisdiction and powers as may be conferred upon it by this Constitution or any other law.

(4) The Supreme Court shall be a superior court of record and, save as otherwise provided by Parliament, shall have all the powers of such a court."

JUSTICES

Justices of the Supreme Court include the Chief Justice and such number of other Justices as may be prescribed by Parliament. No office of Justice of the Supreme Court shall be abolished while there is a substantive holder thereof - Article 93(2) and (3).

The Chief Justice is appointed by the Governor-General on the recommendation of the Prime Minister, after consultation with the Leader of the Opposition. Other Justices of the Supreme Court are appointed by the Governor-General, acting on the advice of the Judicial and Legal Service Commission.

Section 3 of the Supreme Court Act, provides that there shall be, in addition to the Chief Justice, not more than twenty and not less than six Justices of the Court and that the title of Senior Justice may be conferred upon not more than two Justices by the Governor-General acting on the advice of the Judicial and Legal Service Commission. To qualify for appointment as a Justice of the Supreme Court, a person must be a member of The Bahamas Bar or the Bar of a Commonwealth country, membership of which is a qualification for admission to practice as a counsel and attorney in The Bahamas, and must have practiced as a counsel and attorney for not less than ten years.

Once appointed, the salaries and other terms of appointment of the Chief Justice, and Justices of the Supreme Court cannot be altered to their disadvantage. Justices of the Supreme Court can serve until the age of sixty-five (65) years and, where agreed, may serve until the age of sixty-seven (67) years.

JURISDICTION

Subject to the provisions of the Supreme Court Act or any other law, the Supreme Court has unlimited original jurisdiction in civil and criminal causes and matters; and such appellate jurisdiction as may be conferred upon it by the Supreme Court Act or any other law.

CIVIL

The civil jurisdiction of the Supreme Court includes causes and matters in the Admiralty, Probate, Matrimonial, Common Law and Equity and Commercial Divisions of the Court.

CRIMINAL

The criminal jurisdiction includes applications for bail and trials with a jury for indictable offences and those hybrid offences which the accused elects to be tried in the Supreme Court.

APPELLATE

In Criminal cases, appeals from a conviction by a Stipendiary & Circuit Magistrate lie to the Supreme Court, except where the term of imprisonment is not less than one (1) year or the offence falls within the category of offences set out in the Third Schedule of the Criminal Procedure Code Act, Chapter 91, Statute Laws of The Bahamas. In civil cases, appeals from decisions of the Chief Magistrate or an S & C Magistrate lie to the Supreme Court.

CONSTITUTIONAL

Article 28 of the Constitution provides that the Supreme Court shall have original jurisdiction

(a) to hear and determine any application made by any person in pursuance of paragraph (1) (i.e. if any person alleges that any of his fundamental rights and freedoms has been, is being or is likely to be contravened in relation to him), then, without prejudice to any other action with respect to the same matter which is lawfully available, that person may apply to the Supreme Court for redress; and

(b) To determine any question arising in the case of any person which is referred to it in pursuance of paragraph 3 which states:

“(3) If, in any proceedings in any court established for The Bahamas other than the Supreme Court or the Court of Appeal, any question arises as to the contravention of any of the provisions of Articles 16 to 27 (inclusive) the court in which the question has arisen shall refer the question to the Supreme Court”

In the exercise of the civil jurisdiction, matters are heard by a single judge. In criminal matters before the Supreme Court, proceedings are instituted in the name of the Queen and are heard by a Judge and Jury.

REGISTRARS

Registrars consists of The Registrar, Deputy Registrars and Assistant Registrars are appointed by the Governor-General in accordance with the advice of the Judicial Legal Service Commission under Sections 65, 66 and 67 of the Supreme Court Act, Chapter 53, Statute Laws of The Bahamas.

The Registrar is the Head of Department for the Office of The Judiciary. Registrars perform such administrative functions as designated by statute and upon the instructions the Chief Justice.

Registrars are judicial officers and act a judge in chambers within the limitations set out in the Rules of the Supreme Court. Section 68 of the Supreme Court Act also provides that the Registrar, Deputy Registrars and Assistant Registrars are also Masters of the Court and as such shall have all such authority and jurisdiction to transact civil business of the Court as may be conferred upon a Master by rules of court.

In order to be appointed a Registrar, a person must be an attorney-at-law and a member of the English, Irish, Scottish or Bahamas Bar, or of the bar of any other country of the Commonwealth to which a member of The Bahamas Bar is admitted without examination, for at least five (5) years.

DIVISIONS OF THE SUPREME COURT

By the Supreme Court (Divisions of Court) Order 2002, the Chief Justice, in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 7(2) of the Supreme Court Act, Ch. 53, established the Divisions of the Court as follows:

DIVISIONS OF THE SUPREME COURT

 COMMERCIAL DIVISION (COM)	Admiralty (adm) Bankruptcy and Insolvency (bnk) Applications under the Companies Act, 1992 (com) Labour (lab)
 COMMON LAW & EQUITY DIVISION (CLE)	Applications under the Legal Profession Act, 1992 (lpa) Quietting of Title (qui) Civil matters not allocated to any other Division (gen)
 FAMILY DIVISION (FAM)	Adoption (adn) Divorce (div) Guardianship and custody (qua) Applications under the Mental Health Act (men)
 PROBATE DIVISION (PRO)	Non-contentious probate matters (npr) Contentious probate matters (cpr)
 PUBLIC LAW DIVISION (PUB)	Administrative (adm) Constitutional (con) Judicial Review (jrv)
 CRIMINAL LAW DIVISION (CRI)	Coroner (cor) Financial Crimes (fin) Bail Applications (bai) Habeas Corpus (hcs) Information and Voluntary Bill of Indictment (vbi) Restraint and Forfeiture applications (rfa) Criminal matters not allocated to any other Division (crg)
 APPEALS DIVISION (APP)	Magistrates (mag) Statutory (sts)

THE MAGISTRACY

The Magistracy in The Bahamas consists of: Stipendiary and Circuit Magistrates and Lay Magistrates appointed under the Magistrates Act, Chapter 54, Statute Laws of The Bahamas.

STIPENDIARY AND CIRCUIT MAGISTRATES

Stipendiary and Circuit (S & C) Magistrates hold permanent appointments and travel on circuit to try cases in different districts in The Bahamas. In order to be appointed an S & C Magistrate, a person must be an attorney-at-law and a member of the English, Irish, Scottish or Bahamas Bar, or of the bar of any other country of the Commonwealth to which a member of The Bahamas Bar is admitted without examination, for at least five (5) years.

S & C Magistrates are appointed by the Governor-General acting in accordance with the advice of the Judicial and Legal Service Commission - Section 13 of The Magistrates Act, Ch.54.

LAY MAGISTRATES

Lay Magistrates, who require no legal training, are appointed by the Governor General acting on the advice of the Judicial and Legal Service Commission. Family Island Administrators, who also serve as Magistrates in their respective districts, form the largest group of such magistrates. Lay Magistrates are also appointed from the Roll of Justices of The Peace.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

Justices of The Peace are appointed by the Governor General by Warrant under his hand and the Public Seal, and, within the limits of an area or district in respect of which they are appointed, have the same powers as a magistrate to sign warrants or arrest and commitment, to issue search warrants and to take affidavits and administrator oaths.

JURISDICTION OF MAGISTRATES

CRIMINAL

In the Magistrates Court, criminal proceedings are instituted in the name of the Commissioner of Police. S & C Magistrates sit alone without a jury and are the judges of both the law and the facts in cases before them. S & C Magistrates hear summary matters or indictable matters which may be heard summarily.

S & C Magistrates have jurisdiction to impose a sentence of imprisonment of not more than five (5) years or a fine as stipulated in the relevant statute. They also conduct preliminary inquiries to determine whether a prima facie case has been made against an accused person. If a prima facie case is made, the accused is committed to the Supreme Court to stand trial.

Lay magistrates have jurisdiction to hear minor summary matters only.

CIVIL

S & C Magistrates also have jurisdiction to hear and determine any civil cause or matter where the amount sought to be recovered or the value of the property does not exceed \$5,000.00 and they have jurisdiction and authority to try summarily any case in which the title of land is involved where the value of the land does not exceed \$200.00 – Section 15, Magistrates Act, Ch.54. Lay Magistrates try civil cases in claims up to \$400.00 for contract and tort and \$600.00 for debts.

APPEALS IN THE MAGISTRATES COURT

Appeals from a conviction (criminal cases) or decision (non-criminal cases) by Lay Magistrates lie to the Chief Magistrate, an S & C Magistrate or Circuit Justice while on circuit.

QUASI-JUDICIAL ROLE OF MAGISTRATES

Magistrates also issue warrants of arrest and summonses to accused persons to attend Court to answer allegation e.g. Road Traffic Offences. They perform marriages and sit as Chairperson of the Rent Control Board and the Licensing Board or Authority for the grant of licences for the sale of alcoholic beverages as well as shop licences.

SPECIALIZED MAGISTRATES COURTS

JUVENILE COURT

The Juvenile Court tries criminal offences committed by children and young persons, except where an offence is triable only in the Supreme Court, or a child or young person is charged jointly with an adult. The Juvenile Court also hears matters with respect to children who are deemed beyond parental control and those in need of care and protection. The Magistrate is assisted by a Juvenile Panel, one of whom must be a female. The proceedings in Juvenile Court are governed primarily by the provisions of the Child Protection Act, Chapter 132 of Statute Laws of The Bahamas.

DOMESTIC COURT

The Domestic Court deals with applications for relief under the Child Protection Act, Ch.132, the Matrimonial Causes (Summary Jurisdiction) Act and the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act. Matters adjudicated include applications for legal separation, maintenance orders, arrears of maintenance payments, protection orders, custody, paternity and access to minor children.

CORONER'S COURT

The Coroner's Court holds inquiries in cases where a person dies in a sudden, violent or unnatural manner, or where the cause of death is unknown and in other situations where the law requires, for example, where a person dies while housed in a public facility or confined to a place of lawful detention.

NIGHT COURTS

The Night Courts were established for the convenience of persons who work during the day and are unable to take time off to attend court. Traffic and civil matters are dealt with by Magistrates sitting in two courts in the Magistrates Court Complex, New Providence. Night court sessions commence at 6:00 p.m., Mondays through Fridays.



THE LOGOTYPE OF THE SUPREME COURT



Weighing scales superimposed upon a cross-hilted sword, which is balanced on an open book and surmounted by an owl, the whole being encircled in an ellipse by the words “The Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas” in white letters on a dark red background.

The scales are the universally recognized symbol of judgment and the sword expresses authority and power to give effect to edicts. The owl, a species of Bahamian fauna, symbolizes vigilance, wisdom and prudence and distinguishes the Supreme Court as a court exercising “inherent powers”. The open book represents the corpus of law.

THE LOGOTYPE OF MAGISTRATE COURTS



Weighing scales superimposed upon a cross-hilted sword, which is balanced on an open book, the whole being encircled in an ellipse by the word “Magistrate” at the top and “the Commonwealth of The Bahamas” at the bottom in white letters on a dark blue background.

As with the Supreme Court, the scales are the universally recognized symbol of judgment and the sword expresses authority and power to give effect to edicts. The open book represents the statute laws, magistrates deriving their authority from statute.

THE LOGOTYPE OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE



Weighing scales, the symbol of justice, below which is a scroll having the motto “TODAY”, rising from eight alternating blue and white stripes “barry wavy”, the whole being encircled in the a ellipse having the word “Office of the Judiciary” at the top and “the Commonwealth of The Bahamas” at the bottom in white letters on an aquamarine background.

The motto “TODAY” encapsulates the declared “Vision” of the Office of The Judiciary:

To provide the framework to minimize the time between the initiation and disposition of criminal complaints and between the organization and resolutions of civil claims and to provide the public with ethical, courteous, efficient and professional service in the process.

And is a promise to the public and an internal reminder that procrastination and delay are unacceptable because “tomorrow” is guaranteed to none.

“Barry wavy” is a traditional heraldic device to represent the sea, and is appropriate to The Bahamas as an archipelago. It has also been used as a reminder of Providence in troubles that keep us in continuous exercise as in waves in a storm at sea.

THE MACE AND OAR MACE OF THE SUPREME COURT

(Excerpts from Sir Burton Hall, former Chief Justice, 2007 Supreme Court Annual Report)

THE ROYAL MACE



A mace, being essentially nothing more than a large club reinforced with or manufactured entirely out of metal, was one of the most ancient weapons of war. While it was not wholly replaced by more efficient weapons as society “developed”, when carried by persons responsible for protecting the King’s person, the mace easily evolved into a symbol of authority in its own right. The functional “battle mace” thus ceded its prominence to a ceremonial “civic mace”.

As a ceremonial object, the mace crafted from a variety of materials, sometimes highly ornamented (a process which historians fix, in Europe, as commencing in the 13th Century), which migrated in various styles and sizes, from The Royal Court to parliaments, cities, boroughs, universities, military commanders and courts. In every instance, however, it was intended to symbolize and verify the authority of the officeholder before whom or by whom it was carried.

The Mace of the Supreme Court has been in use for so long that, at the time of this writing, no practitioner can recall when the Court had no mace and the records of when the present mace was procured have yet to be located. The Royal Mace comprises as brass hemisphere, surmounted entirely by a crown, also of brass, the whole being attached to a 63 inch long wooden staff colored black. Its design requires that, in procession, it is carried upright in the manner of a processional cross in liturgical processions. It is borne by the Head Bailiff, who is also the Deputy Provost Marshal of the Court, the Provost Marshal (who is the Commissioner of Police) being the Court’s “sheriff”, that is the officer charged with enforcing the judgments of the Court.



To mark 30th anniversary of the admission to The Bahamas Bar in October 1976, former Chief Justice Sir Burton Hall, commissioned the production of an “Oar Mace” for presentation to the Court. The Oar Mace is used in conjunction with the Royal Mace at the Opening of Legal Year and State events. The archetypal oar mace, the Oar Mace of the High Court of Admiralty in London, served as the prototype for oar maces for Courts throughout the world. The symbolism of the oar mace for Bahamians in our experience of inhabitants of an archipelago and the use of small vessels as means of transportation and communication recognizes the oar as both a means of population and steering.

The Oar Mace was crafted by Mr. Gilbert Elliston who also carved and painted the rendition of the National Coat of Arms which is displayed on the wall above the bench in the ground floor courtroom of the Supreme Court building, Bank Lane.

The Oar Mace, measures 60 inches and was created from a single length of mahogany. The National Coat of Arms is carved on one face and the logo type of the Supreme Court is carved on the other face. The judicial oath, **“to do right to all manner of people after the laws and usages of The Bahamas, without fear or favour, affection or ill will”**, appears in gold lettering around edge of the blade.

(Excerpts from Sir Burton Hall, former Chief Justice, 2007
Supreme Court Annual Report)

The traditional garb worn by Justices, Registrars and Magistrates on ceremonial occasions such as the Opening of The Legal Year Sitting, The Annual Red Mass and at certain national events are a modified version of costumes worn by English judicial officers and in Commonwealth jurisdictions.

JUSTICE



The ceremonial dress for Justices of the Supreme Court consists of Aberdeen real wool panama with black artificial silk trim. The national coat of arms, embroidered in gold wire, on the right facing of the robe. The logo of the Supreme Court, also embroidered in gold wire, appears on the left facing. The Chief Justice's gown is also adorned with a $\frac{3}{4}$ " gold trim to the facings and cape collar. The gown is worn over a black sleeved waistcoat with a lace "stock" or jabot as neckwear. The cape collar is also adorned with a rosette comprised of several layers of ruffled black silk pinned with a button in the center, entirely covering a small cloth bag, and attached by a silk ribbon. Justices wear a full-bottomed wig as part of their ceremonial dress. The wig is crafted from white horsehair King's Counsel also wear similar wigs.

REGISTRARS



The ceremonial dress for Registrars of the Supreme Court consists of a charcoal grey panama weave wool gown, trimmed with Arberdeen red complementing the color of the justices' gown. The national coat of arms, embroidered in silver wire, on the right facing of the robe. The logo of the Supreme Court, also embroidered in silver wire, appears on the left facing. The gown is worn over a black sleeved waistcoat with a lace "stock" or jabot as neckwear. Registrars wear barrister's wig as part of their ceremonial dress.

STIPENDIARY AND CIRCUIT MAGISTRATES



The ceremonial dress for Magistrates consists of a Navy blue panama weave wool gown, trimmed with Arberdeen red complementing the color of the justices' and registrars' gowns. The national coat of arms, embroidered in gold wire, on the right facing of the robe. The logo of the Magistrate Court, also embroidered in gold wire, appears on the left facing. The gown is worn over a black sleeved waistcoat with barrister's wig and traditional neckwear of bands as part of their ceremonial dress.



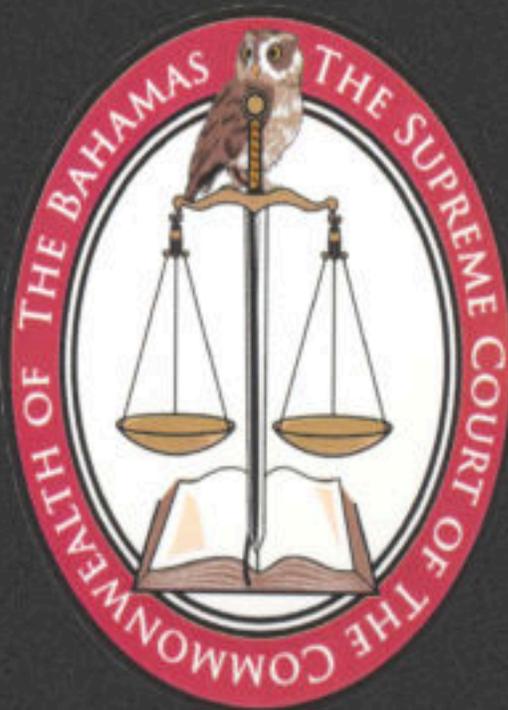
JUDICIARY
THE BAHAMAS

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OFFICE OF
THE CHIEF JUSTICE



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE

- 3.1** JUDICIAL AND LEGAL SERVICE COMMISSION
 - 3.2** JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS
 - 3.3** ADMISSIONS TO THE BAHAMAS BAR 2022
 - 3.4** JUDICIAL ASSIGNMENTS TO DIVISIONS OF THE SUPREME COURT
 - 3.5** COMMEMORATIVE SITTING 2022
-

The Judicial & Legal Service Commission was established under Articles 116 and 117 of The Constitution of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas 1973 and the Judicial & Legal Service Regulations (Article 125) of the Statute Law of The Bahamas.

The Members of the Commission shall be:

- 1 *The Chief Justice as Chairman;*
- 2 *Such other Justice of the Supreme Court or Justice of Appeal as may be designated by the Governor General, acting on the recommendation of the Chief Justice, by instrument under the Public Seal;*
- 3 *The Chairman of the Public Service Commission; and*
- 4 *Two persons appointed by the Governor General by instrument under the Public Seal, acting on the recommendation of the Prime Minister after consultation with the Leader of the Opposition*

Members are appointed for a maximum of three (3) years and the post shall become vacant at the expiration of the period from the date of his/her appointment or such earlier time as may be specified in the instrument by which he/she was appointed, or he/she becomes a member of either the House of Assembly or Senate.

Pursuant to the Judicial & Legal Service (Prescribed Public Offices) Act, Chapter 42 of the Statute Law of The Bahamas, Officers that fall under the jurisdiction of the Commission are as follows:

- 1 *Justices of the Supreme Court;*
- 2 *Registrars of the Supreme Court & the Court of Appeal;*
- 3 *Stipendiary & Circuit Magistrates;*
- 4 *Legal officers within - the Department of Legal Affairs, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and Industrial Tribunal - and other legal officers within the Public Service.*

Power to make appointments to public/judicial offices and to remove and exercise disciplinary control over persons holding or acting in such offices is vested in the Governor General acting in accordance with the advice of the Commission. Other responsibilities of the Commission include:

- 1 *Reclassifications*
- 2 *Promotions*
- 3 *Transfers*
- 4 *Resignations*
- 5 *Retirements*
- 6 *Vacancy Notices/Advertisements*
- 7 *Disciplinary Action*

The Secretary to the Commission is the Registrar of the Supreme Court. The Secretary is responsible to the Commission for the daily operations of the Commission's office through the Secretariat, which is staffed by Ms. Bathsheba Algreen, Mrs. Marinda Pritchard and Miss Kennice Burrows.

The duties of the Secretariat are:

- 1 *Maintaining a registry of all Commission files – general and confidential, including the receipt and registration of incoming correspondence;*
- 2 *Accounting Officer for the Commission's budget;*
- 3 *Responding to inquiries;*
- 4 *Meeting preparation, including: issuing notices to Members; preparing meeting Agenda and Minutes of Meeting;*
- 5 *Taking action on Commission Decisions;*
- 6 *Preparing and forwarding all Orders by the Commission to the Governor General for approval/signature;*
- 7 *Forwarding all signed Orders to the Ministry of the Public Service for the appropriate letters to be prepared and forwarded to the relevant persons/agencies;*
- 8 *Arranging interviews with applicants.*

The Commission held sixteen (16) meetings and made ninety-five (95) decisions during the current reporting period of 1 November 2021 to 31 October 2022.

SWEARING IN OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE

The Honourable Mr. Justice Ian R. Winder was sworn in as the fourteenth Chief Justice of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas by the Deputy to the Governor General Cynthia Pratt on 3 August 2022 in the Andros Room, Baha Mar. Prime Minister and Minister of Finance the Honourable Philip E. Davis, KC and Mrs. Davis, and the Leader of the Opposition the Honourable Michael Pintard were in attendance, among other government officials and dignitaries.



Hon. Chief Justice Ian R. Winder and Her Excellency Cynthia Alexandra Pratt, CD, JP Deputy to the Governor-General.



Mrs. Annmarie Davis; Hon. Philip E. Davis, KC, Prime Minister; Her Excellency Cynthia Alexandra Pratt, CD, JP Deputy to the Governor-General; Hon. Chief Justice Ian R. Winder; Mrs. Marie-Jacqueline Winder and Hon. Michael Pintard, Leader of the Opposition.

APPOINTMENTS



The Hon. Mr. Senior Justice Bernard Turner was sworn in as Acting Chief Justice by Her Excellency Cynthia Alexandra Pratt, CD, JP., Deputy to the Governor General,

21 September 2022.



The Hon. Madam Senior Justice Indra Charles was sworn in as Acting Chief Justice by the Governor General, the Most Hon. Sir Cornelius A. Smith,

2 October, 2022.

APPOINTMENTS



Miss Simone Fitzcharles, Vice-President of the Industrial Tribunal was sworn in by Governor General, His Excellency the Most Hon. Sir Cornelius A. Smith, to act as Justice of the Supreme Court,

1 September 2022.



Miss Ntshonda Tynes, Attorney-at-Law, was sworn in by Deputy to the Governor-General Her Excellency Cynthia A. Pratt, to act as a Justice of the Supreme Court,

20 September 2022.

APPOINTMENTS



Mrs. Carla Card-Stubbs, Attorney-at-Law, was sworn in by the Deputy to the Governor-General, Her Excellency Cynthia Pratt, to act as a Justice of the Supreme Court,

20 September 2022



Ms. Olivia Blatch was sworn-in by The Hon. Madam Petra Hanna-Adderley, as a Deputy Registrar in the Supreme Court,

25 September, 2022

(A) ADMISSIONS TO THE UTTER BAR

Friday, 10 June Marnique Dawneisha Christy Knowles

Friday, 30 September
 Aquelle Francesca Teletta
 Toreo Edmundo Taylor
 Toreo Edmundo Taylor
 Michael Daniel Othland Toote Jr.
 Vonisha Bernadette Loreen Rolle

Thursday, 3 November
 Tammy Tereze Knowles
 Doneth Andre Cartwright
 Bryan Graham Bastian
 Makeda Iman Stubbs
 Nicholas R. L. Pennerman
 Jana Devin Ward
 Karina Alexandria Rolle
 Shelly-Ann Margaret Nairn
 Jewelle Felisha Carroll
 Ellsworth Edward Darling II

Friday, 4 November
 Lisa Gibson-Woodside
 Gary Vaughn Rolle III
 Tylah Richea Murray
 Samuel Jun-Yah Taylor
 Tamika Roberts
 Kristin Ashley Butler
 Betty Eloise Wilson
 Crystal Elizabeth Stuart
 Duranda Kim Minus
 Rayshon Kadeem Deleveaux

(A) ADMISSIONS TO THE UTTER BAR

Friday, 4 November

Gary Zoilo Russell
Frank Leon Saunders
Jacklyn Ida Conyers
Devaughn Felix Avonte Rolle
Mirelle Mondelus
Ebonesse Arnelle Bain
Miquel Leah Cleare
Tamika Samantha Fernander
Caprice Vandera Johnson

(B) SUPPLEMENTAL (SPECIAL) ADMISSIONS TO THE BAR

1 February 2022	Stephen Mark Wilson, K.C
22 February 2022	Stephen Moverley Smith, K.C.
25 May 2022	Richard Colin Wilson, K.C.
30 June 2022	Eason Rajah, K.C.
30 June 2022	Nicholas Le Poidevin, K.C.
7 October 2022	Keith D. Knight, K.C.
24 October 2022	Elsbeth Talbot Rice, K.C

January – December 2023

APPEALS (APP)

Manager:

Registrar Constance Delancy

Deputy Registrar Stephana
Saunders (Northern Region)

- The Hon. Chief Justice Ian Winder
- The Hon. Madam Justice Petra Hanna-Adderley

COMMERCIAL DIVISION (COM)

Manager:

Registrar Constance Delancy

Deputy Registrar Stephana
Saunders (Northern Region)

- The Hon. Chief Justice Ian Winder
- The Hon. Madam Justice Petra Hanna-Adderley
- The Hon. Mr. Justice Loren Klein
- The Hon. Madam Justice Simone Fitzcharles (Ag.) (to 31 January 2023)
- The Hon. Justice (New Judge) (w.e.f. 1 February 2023)

COMMON LAW & EQUITY DIVISION (CLE)

Manager:

Registrar Constance Delancy

Deputy Registrar Stephana
Saunders (Northern Region)

- The Hon. Chief Justice Ian Winder
- The Hon. Madam Justice Deborah Fraser
- The Hon. Madam Justice Petra Hanna-Adderley
- The Hon. Madam Justice Camille Darville-Gomez
- The Hon. Madam Justice Simone Fitzcharles (Ag.) (to 31 January 2023)
- The Hon. Madam Justice Ntshonda Tynes (Ag.) (to 31 January 2023)
- The Hon. Madam Justice Carla Card-Stubbs (Ag.) (to 31 January 2023)
- The Hon. Justice (New Judge) (w.e.f 1 February 2023)
- The Hon. Justice (New Judge) (w.e.f 1 February 2023)

CRIMINAL DIVISION (CRI)

Manager:

Deputy Registrar
Edmund Turner

Deputy Registrar
Olivia Blatch
(Northern Region)

- The Hon. Mr. Senior Justice Bernard Turner
- The Hon. Madam Justice Cheryl Grant-Thompson
- The Hon. Mr. Justice G. Gregory Hilton
- The Hon. Madam Justice Guillimina Archer-Minns
- The Hon. Madam Justice W. Renae McKay
- The Hon. Mr. Justice Andrew Forbes
- The Hon. Madam Justice Jeanine Weech Gomez
- The Hon. Mr. Justice Neil Brathwaite (w.e.f 1 March 2023)
- The Hon. Madam Justice Camille Darville-Gomez
- The Hon. Justice (New Judge) (w.e.f 1 February 2023)

FAMILY DIVISION (FAM)

Manager:

Deputy Registrar Jennifer
Stuart-Bastian

Deputy Registrar Stephana
Saunders (Northern Region)

- The Hon. Madam Justice Petra Hanna-Adderley
- The Hon. Madam Justice Donna Newton
- The Hon. Madam Justice Denise Lewis Johnson
- The Hon. Madam Justice Ntshonda Tynes
(Ag.) (to 31 January 2023)
- The Hon. Justice (New Judge) (w.e.f 20 February 2023)

PUBLIC LAW DIVISION (PUB)

Manager:

Registrar Constance Delancy

Deputy Registrar Stephana
Saunders (Northern Region)

- The Hon. Madam Justice Petra Hanna-Adderley
- The Hon. Mr. Justice Loren Klein
- The Hon. Madam Justice Carla Card-Stubbs
(Ag.) (to 31 January 2023)
- The Hon. Justice (New Judge) (w.e.f - 1 February 2023)

In accordance with Practice Direction No.3 of 2006, the Chief Justice, on Friday, 4 March 2022, presided over the Annual Commemorative Sitting of the Supreme Court to mark the death of the following Counsel and Attorneys-at-Law (By Order of Call):

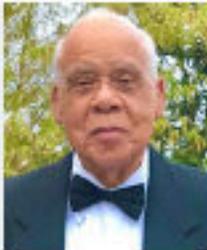


The Hon.

Arthur D. Hanna

Date of Call:
1 October 1955

Date of Death
3 August 2021



Allen J. Benjamin

Date of Call:
6 December 1967

Date of Death
18 April 2021



Roland J. Lowe

Date of Call:
14 January 1976

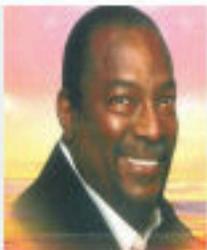
Date of Death
18 October 2021



Stephanie A. Wells

Date of Call:
7 January 1977

Date of Death
5 June 2021



Michael A. Francis

Date of Call:
23 August 1979

Date of Death
22 June 2021



Michael F. L. Allen

Date of Call:
29 January 1988

Date of Death
2 July 2021



JOSEPH C. LEDEE

Date of Call:
11 November 1994

Date of Death
11 April 2021



Dennis H. Richards

Date of Call:
20 October 1995

Date of Death
7 May 2021



Allan E. Emmanuel

Date of Call:
27 October 2006

Date of Death
11 June 2021



Dorothy Hilton

Date of Call:
30 October 2014

Date of Death
7 July 2021



Genae N. Nottage

Date of Call:
30 October 2014

Date of Death
18 August 2021



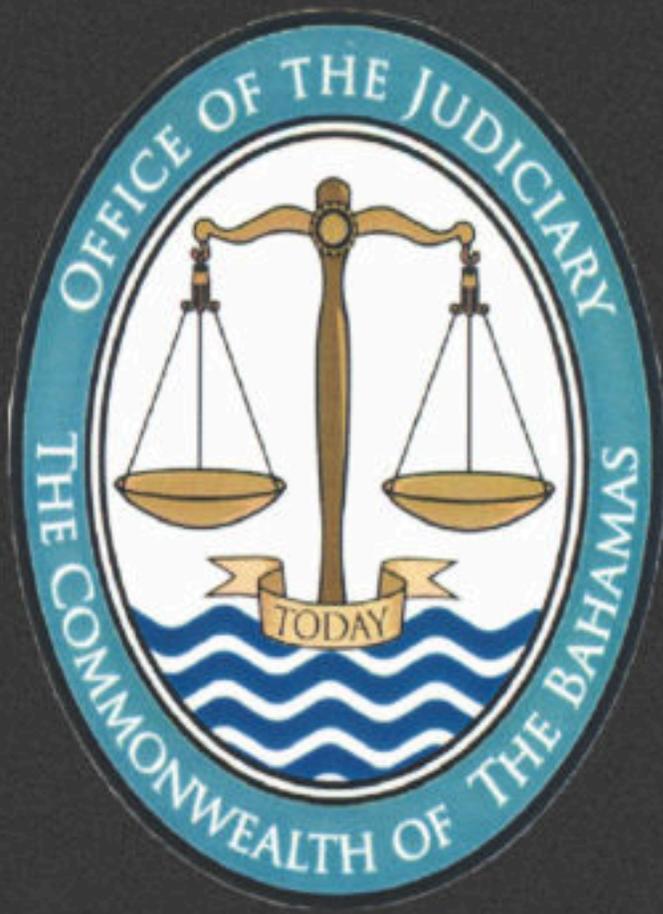
JUDICIARY
THE BAHAMAS

04

2022

Bahamas Judiciary
Annual Report

OFFICE OF
THE REGISTRAR



OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR

- 4.1** OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR
 - 4.2** HUMAN RESOURCE UNIT – ANNUAL STATISTICAL DATA REPORT 2022
 - 4.3** OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY REGISTRAR (NORTHERN REGION)
-

4.1 OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR

by Registrar Constance A. Delancy

“Some say the Office of the Registrar is to the Judiciary as the heart and soul is to the body. I prefer to describe the office as the engine that drives the Judiciary with the Registrars as engineers”

Sir Hartman G. Longley, 29 July, 2016

The Office of the Registrar comprises the Registrar and five (5) Deputies, two of whom are assigned to the Northern Region (Grand Bahama, the Abacos and the Biminis):-

Registrar
Constance Delancy

Head of Department, Secretary to the Judicial & Service Commission, Civil & Magistrates’ Appeals Registries and Listing Office

Deputy Registrar
Stephana J. Saunders

Responsible for operations and all registries (Northern Region)

Deputy Registrar
Edmund V. Turner

Criminal Registry inclusive of Bail Management System

Deputy Registrar
Renaldo Toote

Probate Registry and Director of Court Services (Acting)

Deputy Registrar
Jennifer Stuart-Bastian

Family Registry

Deputy Registrar
Olivia Blatch

Criminal Registry inclusive of Bail Applications (Northern Region)

The Office of the Registrar is also the Registry of the Supreme Court which are divided into sub-registries and managed by a registrar. The Registries are open to the public on every day except Saturdays,

Sundays and public holidays, between the hours of 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. or as otherwise directed by the Honourable Chief Justice. Access to the Registry is also available via appointments through the portal on the Judiciary's website at **bahamasjudiciary.com**. The public may also request information or make enquires via the Judiciary's email address **info@courts.gov.bs**. Requests for hearing dates before a Justice or a Registrar of the Supreme Court may be obtained by completing the online form on the Judiciary's website which are administered by the Listing Office.

The Registrars adopted a hybrid approach to the hearing of matters to allow for ease of access for litigants and counsel. The majority of applications are heard via an online platform such as Zoom, Webex or Microsoft Teams. Parties may also elect to have an in-person chamber hearing or a registrar assigned to a matter may determine that it ought to be held in in-person depending upon the particular circumstances.

The Court Modernization and Reform Initiatives (COMRIN), which was started by former Chief Justice Sir Brian M. Moree, Kt; KC, continues to be a work in progress and over 4 million pages have been scanned to be mitigated in the Court Integrated Court Management System. The Digitation Unit, headed by Grace Bostwick, continues to work with ZCom to ensure that files in the various Registries in the Supreme Court and Magistrate Courts in New Providence were made accessible to facilitate the scanning process. The Judiciary has also established its internal scanning unit to continue to capture data that is currently stored in our archives.

The Citizen Security and Justice Program (CSJP) which is funded by an Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) Loan through the Ministry of National Security provided the funding for the Judiciary's COMRIN. The Judiciary completed a training centre for its judicial officers and staff which has already been used in several training and orientation exercises. The WAN/LAN in the Judiciary's premises was also completed to provide the required infrastructure to support the Judiciary's various technology based initiatives to improve access to justice throughout The Bahamas. Dr. Dorcas Cox and her CSJP team along with subject matter expert Mr. Drazen Komarica have worked long hours with the Judiciary.

The Accounts Unit, whose work is often overlooked, ought to be commended for their stellar performance managing the Judiciary's financial resources. The Unit engaged in training and upgrading of skills on the new E-Procurement platform via online webinars with the Ministry of Finance's E-Procurement team. The Unit was led by Mrs. Shirley Moncur who commenced pre-retirement leave in June, 2022, Ms. Claudia Hall supervises the Unit and she is assisted by Claudia Hall, Terrecka Thompson, Brinnea Darville, Celeste Rahming, Wesinique Emmanuel, Lana Roseboro (Magistrate Court Supervisor), Allendra Sherman, Claudia Clarke, Arabella Rolle, Arnette Mackey, Shanishka Dean, Peryka Wallace, Brean Woodside, Antonya Moss and Tabitha Roberts.

Statistics- Registrar and Deputy Registrars

■ The period of 1st November, 2021 - 31st October, 2022

APPLICATIONS	TAKEN OUT OF LIST	ADJOURNED	COMPLETED
903	16	239	665

CIVIL REGISTRY

The Civil Registry which is the main repository for documents filed in all matters before the courts save and except for Family, Criminal and Probate matters which are kept in their respective registry. The Civil Registry is currently located at BAF Financial Centre in Nassau. The team members at the Civil registry are Esther Pinder, Supervisor, Sherman Campbell, Lorenzo Nixon, Sarah Meeres, Lizandria Taylor, Inacio Ward, Shemar Major, Denzel Lightbourne, Asia Burrows. Ms. Pinder and her team are responsible for the assigning of case numbers in the various divisions, cataloging the filed documents, creating the files and entering the information into the Cause List Books. Court users are allowed to visit the Civil Registry to search the records and review files.

CIVIL REGISTRY

■ 1 November 2021 - 31 October 2022

Division	Subdivision	Sub-Total
COMMON LAW & EQUITY	Quieting	73
	Civil	1729
COMMERCIAL	Admiralty	10
	Company	33
	Bankruptcy & Insolvency	8
	Labour	15
PUBLIC LAW	Constitutional Law	6
	Judicial Review	19

APPEALS REGISTRY

The Appeals Registry is the processing unit for all civil appeals from the Magistrate Courts, criminal appeals in cases where the possible custodial sentence is a year or less, appeals from registrars and in any other instance when an appeal lies to the Supreme Court. Appeals are heard by a single justice of the Supreme Court. The unit is operated by Ingrid Hunt.

MAGISTRATE COURTS' CIVIL APPEALS

■ 1ST November 2021 – 31 October 2022

TOTAL CIVIL APPEALS FILED	APPEALS COMPLETED	APPEALS WITHDRAWN, DISMISSED/ DISCONTINUED	APPEALS STRUCK OUT	CASE REMITTED TO MAGISTRATE COURT	OUTSTANDING CIVIL APPEALS
48	2	1	0	1	44

MAGISTRATE COURTS' CRIMINAL APPEALS

■ 1ST November 2021 – 31 October 2022

TOTAL CIVIL APPEALS FILED	APPEALS COMPLETED	APPEALS WITHDRAWN, DISMISSED/ DISCONTINUED	APPEALS STRUCK OUT	CASE REMITTED TO MAGISTRATE COURT	OUTSTANDING CIVIL APPEALS
17	1	1	0	0	15

LISTING OFFICE

The Listing Office is the gateway between the Court and Court users as it acts as the central calendaring unit for the Supreme Court. All initial hearing dates are funneled through this Office. Litigants and prose litigants may request dates via The Bahamas Judiciary online portal via its website or by delivering a request to the Listing Office which located in Supreme Court Annex 1. The team members in the Listing Office are responsible for retrieving the relevant files from the registries and forwarding them to a judge or registrar for assignment of hearing dates. The Listing Office is supervised by Sharmaine Bain-Archer, Deputy Listing Officer and she is assisted by D'Avante Curtis and Franklyn Burnside.

LISTING OFFICE

■ 1st NOVEMBER, 2021 TO 18th NOVEMBER, 2022

	AMOUNT OF APPLICATIONS RECEIVED	AMOUNT OF APPLICATIONS ASSIGNED	AMOUNT OF APPLICATIONS RECEIVED DATES
JUDGES	2,222 (file requested)	2,220 (file received)	2,220
REGISTRARS	1,093 (file requested)	1,068 (file received)	1,068

TOTAL AMOUNT OF APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

3,315

TOTAL AMOUNT OF APPLICATIONS ASSIGNED
(Files Received)

3,288

TOTAL AMOUNT OF APPLICATIONS RECEIVED
DATES

3,288

NOTE

The information in this list pertains to New Providence. This Listing Office is not responsible for distribution of cases to Judges and Registrars in the Northern Region (Freeport).

COURT REPORTING UNIT

The Court Reporting Unit is responsible for recording and transcribing testimony in proceedings in the Supreme Court, and in certain cases in the Magistrate Courts. The Court Reporters play an important role in the Judiciary as the transcripts which they produce is the official record of the Court. The Court Reporters are required to keep abreast of the latest innovations and best practices to maintain accreditation. The COVID-19 pandemic presented a challenge for the Court Reporters as they had to continue to provide stenographic services while working from home and training opportunities were suspended. In July 2022, two Court Reporters, Ms. Shakara Allen and Ms. Tonia D. Colebrook attended the National Association Court Reporting Conference 2022 which was held in Orlando, Florida. The Court Reporters Unit is supervised by Mrs. Judith Clare, acting Director, and there thirty Court Reporters and Ms. Augusta Johnson provides administrative assistance.

INFORMATION COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY UNIT

The Information Communication and Technology Unit (ICT) provides technical support for the Supreme and Magistrate Courts. ICT Unit ensures that the hardware and software is maintained in the Courts and the various registries and administrative offices. The Unit is comprised of Mr. Darmeeke Isaacs, Mrs. Keva Smith and Mr. Isreal Bodie.

COURT MARSHAL UNIT

Court Marshals are charged with providing security for the Courts, premises, staff and court users. Court Marshals are posted in the Supreme and Magistrate Courts and work along with the Police Court Liaison Unit. The Unit welcome several new recruits to fill the vacancies created by the retirement of Court Marshals who reached end of their tour of duty with the Judiciary. The Court Marshal Unit is supervised by the Head Court Marshal Mr. Eden Zonicle.

MAINTENANCE AND CUSTODIAL UNIT

The Supreme and Magistrate Courts occupy several premises located in the City of Nassau and South Street. Many of the building having retro fitted for the Courts present unique challenges in maintaining and cleaning those premises. The Maintenance and Custodial team members ensure that the judicial officers, staff and court users daily cleaning and sanitizing of throughout the various buildings. Prior to the relaxation of the Public Health Protocols the Custodial team members were stationed in the Courtrooms and provided sanitizing services during Court hearings. The Maintenance team members installed and maintained sanitizing equipment, re-organized courtroom and work areas for proper social distancing. The teams are led by Mr. Edward Gayle, Maintenance Supervisor and Mrs. Cecilia Davis, Head Janitress.

CRIMINAL REGISTRY

— *Deputy Registrar Edmund Turner*

It is with pleasure that I give this Annual Report for the Criminal Registry for 2022, my seventh (7th) such report since I took up this office in 2015, and some five Chief Justices later. In addition, it is with pleasure that I sit for the first time for a two week period from the last week of October 2022, to the first week in November 2022, as Acting Registrar of The Supreme Court of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas. This Annual Report will make reference to Protocols for Allocation of Crown Briefs, The Bail Management System, Digitization of files within the Criminal Registry, the Amendment to the Jury's Act, 2022, and Statistical Data regarding Civil Litigation hearings for the year, to name a few. In all, 2002 will be seen as a successful year for the Criminal Registry as a Registry of Record, which is in the constant process of developing through the use of technology, with the assistance of hard working able staff.

Protocols For Allocation Of Crown Briefs

Reference can be made to section 194 of the Criminal Procedure Code, Chapter 91, Statute Laws of The Bahamas. Here the following is seen, i.e.

'In any case in which it appears to the Supreme Court that an accused person committed for trial has not money wherewith to retain Counsel-

- a). if the accused is charged with an offence for which the punishment is death, the Court shall assign Counsel for the Defendant at the Public's expense; and**
- b). in any other case, the Court in its discretion may assign Counsel for the defendant at the public's expense.**

Public Defender's Office And Crown Brief System

The non-profit entity known as the Public Defender's Office came into effect in February of 2017, and the main object of the same is to provide competent legal representation for those unable to afford legal counsel. The unit is currently under the Chairmanship of Mr. Thomas Evans QC. The unit initially started out with four (4) Public Defenders, and now has Five (5) Public Defenders, and one pupil. Please note that at the time of its incorporation, the Public Defender's Office was expected to service a ten (10) Criminal Litigation Court system, which was impracticable. There were complaints of many of them not appearing at court, and in 2019 or thereabouts my Registry was informed that the Public Defender's Office was unable to accommodate any further criminal matters, and as a result, my office ceased in sending files to them. After all of this COVID 19 came along, and the rest is history. I said all of the above to bring out the fact that the traditional Crown Brief System, like an old pair of comfortable shoes you used to wear, never really went away and has always been in use.

To date in 2022 some 58 criminal matters have been allocated to the Crown Brief System, and only some three (3) matters have been allocated to the Public Defender's Office. The decision as to whether a matter is assigned to the Crown Brief System or ought to go to the Public Defender's Office remains with the sitting Justice who will hear the substantive matter.

Counsel

All Counsel interested in being eligible to be selected to represent accused persons unable to pay for legal representation are encouraged to write the Registrar, indicating their date of call to The Bar, as well as a Certificate of Good Standing from The Bahamas Bar Association. This is done to ensure that there is a relatively high standard in the practice of criminal litigation being offered to unrepresented accused who can't afford Counsel.

Once the letter is received, Counsel are referred to the Accounts Department where further particulars are provided to facilitate the payment process, i.e. Tin Number etc. Please note that there is a list of names from which Counsel are selected, and unless the aforementioned name is selected from this list, when there is time for financial remuneration, there will be a challenge.

The selection process as to Counsel is made by the Registrar going randomly down his list and calling to ascertain the availability of Counsel.

Upon completion of matters, a bill along with the contract letter, and cover letter from chambers is presented to The Registrar with relevant notation from the Court Clerk, of the Court where the matter was heard, that the subject matter was adjudicated on what days and times, etc. If approved, the same is signed off on by the Deputy Registrar with responsibility for crime.

Allocation Steps

1 *Counsel expresses concern in writing re being added to listing;*

- i. Letter of request;
- ii. Proof of Call that is verified by Bar Association;
- iii. Certificate of Good Standing from Bar Association;
- iv. Provision of TIN No. to Accounts Department; and
- v. Presentation of identification.

2 *Counsel added to list;*

3 *Recommendation made by sitting Justice re allocation of Crown Brief, and form is filled out;*

4 *Registrar goes to listing and assigns Crown Brief;*

5 *Contract letter is drawn up specifying payment of \$1000 for preparation and \$300 for each full day in Court. The same also specifies no-payment for Case Management, and informs Counsel to present an itemized, particularized billing indicating specifically what was done on each date;*

6 *At least 5 copies of contract letter produced and sent to accused at BDOC, Counsel assigned, one copy is placed on file;*

7 *Matter is completed, and letter presented by Counsel to Clerk of Court to verify dates of attendance at Court; and*

8 *Documentation signed off on by Deputy Registrar responsible for Crime, and is taken to the Accounts Department for processing so Counsel can be paid.*

The Bail Management System

The Bail Management System has made significant strides since its commencement about a year ago. There are many accused persons enrolled in the system currently with 65 active applications and some 238 hearings set according to the 'dashboard' located within the system. To date some 251 applications have been made where bail has been granted to accused persons, but sad to say these have been via the traditional 'hard copy' application process. An effort was made some time ago to have a cut-off date to transition from the traditional system of application and move into the full application of the new Bail Management System, there have been challenges technically that has resulted in this not

taking place. As a result, the old 'hard copy' system of application is still being subscribed to, and it is hoped that in the not too distant future at least an effort can be made to have a hybrid system of application and eventually a phasing out of the traditional system of application.

Currently my staff and I are manually enrolling all those persons granted bail at the time when the system was still being 'tweaked,' and was not in full operation. These persons would have been granted bail in the Magistrate's Court and would have not entered The Bahamas Department of Corrections, and as a result, would have to come to the Criminal Registry to be enrolled in the system.

There are benefits in using the new Bail Management System. From the perspective of the Defense Counsel, one would be able to upload and pay for applications at the 'click' of a button from their work desk instead of having to apply through the current traditional process.

From the perspective of the accused, those persons at The Bahamas Department of Corrections don't require the need for an attorney at law to apply for bail. Once the usual application form is filled out, the same is scanned onto the site and a date is allocated by the Deputy Registrar for Crime. Also, once enrolled in the system, accused persons on bail can sign in via a kiosk at any station that contains the same, hence there is no need to travel to any particular station to sign in once the station concerned has a kiosk. Currently the Police Stations with a kiosk include Central Police Station, Quakoo Street Station, Wulff Road Police Station, Elizabeth Estates Police Station, East Street South Police Station, Carmichael Road Police Station and Central Police Station in Grand Bahama.

As with everything in life, there is always room for improvement. The initiative to commence the process ought to lie with those who are adversely affected pursuant to the Constitution, i.e. the accused man, and not some Private Counsel.

Amendments To Juries Act 2014

The recent amendments to the Juries Act, Ch.59 sought to eliminate the concern expressed by many of having the names and address of potential jurors published within the daily newspapers. As a result, one of the main amendments will only require the name and date of birth of potential jurors to be printed, see amendment to section 8 of Principal Act, in particular 8(b) which replaced subsection 7 of the 2014 Amendment. As a result, the following must be noted, i.e.:

- 1** *The Juries Amendment Act now only requires a printing of the full list in the Official Gazette, i.e. Juries Amendment Act 2014, 8(6)(a)(1);*
- 2** *The list itself will be placed on the Judiciary's Official Website, see (Juries Amendment Act, 2022, 8(6) (a) (ii));*

- 3 *There is no further need to post the same at a Post Office Building, see Juries Amendment Act 2022, section 8(6)(a)v); and*
- 4 *The Notice itself and not to the complete listing are to be broadcast via radio, two television stations, and published within two newspapers.*

The aforementioned amendments are welcomed and greatly assists the Judiciary in further streamlining its process regarding jury selection. In addition, the same also save a significant amount of funding used before to publish all of the names within a daily newspaper twice. The new amendments make use of ‘Notices’ instead that will be placed within the local newspapers, broadcast via radio and television. Also, the said ‘Notices’ will refer members of the public to a specific location within the Judiciary where a hard copy of the Jury Listing can be viewed if need be.

The Juror’s Assistance office plays a significant role in the day to day running of the Jury System for the Judiciary. This unit has been ably operated by Ms. Shonaray Mackey, who has done an excellent job over the past six (6) to (7) years she has held the post as Manager for the unit. Considering the fact that this unit alone, manned by one person is responsible for assisting up to eight (8) criminal courts with supplying jurors on a consistent basis, is a ‘mammoth’ of a task, and Ms. Mackey has done a great job with the same. Sad to say, she will be transferred to Grand Bahama to assist in a greater capacity and is now replaced by Ms. Marcia Pinder, who so far is doing a great job of filling a pair of ‘big shoes.’

Thank You To My Staff

I want to say thank you to all the staff of the Criminal Registry for their hard work during the past year. Sad to say, Ms. Majorie Evans left the Criminal Registry to go into retirement this November 2022. Ms. Evans has made a significant contribution to the running of the Criminal Registry, especially in the area of Archival Research for Criminal Litigation files. In addition, the new staff members such as Ms. Crystal Russell and Ms. Starsheema Smith have also complimented the day to day operations of the Criminal Registry.

PROBATE REGISTRY

— *Deputy Registrar Renaldo Toote*

One of the Judiciary’s overriding objectives is to deliver timely justice to the public by providing access to a fair, impartial and efficient forum to resolve legal disputes. These disputes when filed, are processed through the various registries.

The probate registry in particular, has jurisdiction over Wills and the administration of a deceased’s person’s estate. Probate is the process of transferring property and ownership after someone has died. Whether an estate has to be probated depends on how the decedent’s

property is owned. The general probate applications includes: 1. Probates; 2. Letters of Administration; 3. Letters of Administration with the Will Annexed; and 4. Resealing of Foreign Grants.

Notwithstanding the passage of time, the probate registry continues to be inundated with a large volume of applications as a result of the remnant effects the Covid 19 pandemic and Hurricane Dorian disaster. In July, 2022, The Bahamas Government introduced the Evidence (Amendment) (No 2) Bill, 2022 in the aim of reducing the presumption of death from seven years to two years. Since 1 November, 2021 to 31 October 2022, the Registry has processed 922 new applications. This represents a 10.3% increase of new applications when compared to the year end of 2020/2021. As a result of the recent legislative amendment, the month of September was the registry's most demanding month. However, the probate team has done an impressive job to meet the command.

The present staffing consists of Mrs. Loretta Maycock- Supervisor, Ms. Desiree Robinson, Ms. Keisha Ferguson, Ms. Nicole Ferguson, and Ms. Brinique Rolle.

The processing of applications and record keeping of transactions in the registry are still done manually. Needless to say, that this is a time consuming and arduous task particularly as the volume of work in the registry has greatly increased over the years. I commend the staff for their efforts to keep up with the increased workload without the more modern tool of an automated case management system.

The automated case management system for the Registry as designed by the Anchor Group encapsulates the essential elements to propel the Registry to greater efficiency and accountability. A review of the system indicates that when appropriately and correctly utilized, probate applications will be more easily assessed and disposed of and there will be a quicker time response to the numerous queries made at the Registry.

Below Are The 2021/2022 Probate Statistical Data For Your Reference:

WILLS DEPOSITORY	
2020	55
2021	107
2022	127

PROBATE REGISTRY

1st NOVEMBER, 2021 TO 31st NOVEMBER, 2022

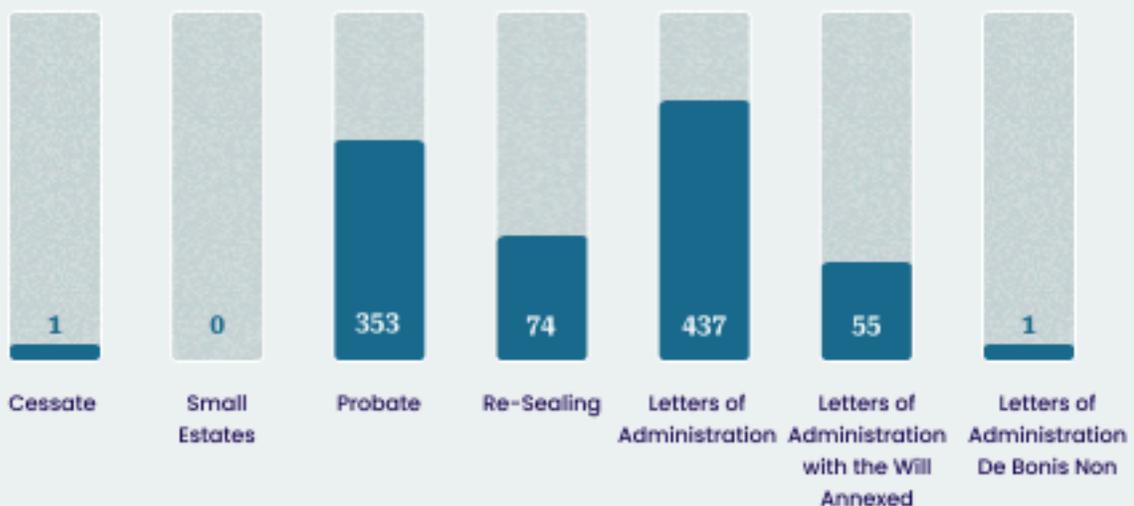
New Applications Received

CESSATE	1
SMALL ESTATES	0
PROBATE	353
RE-SEALING	74
LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION	437
LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION WITH THE WILL ANNEXED	55
LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION DE BONIS NON (WITH & WITHOUT WILL)	1
TOTAL	921

Grants Issued

2022	938
TOTAL GRANTS REFUSED	0

■ Series 1



FAMILY REGISTRY

— Deputy Registrar Jennifer Stuart-Bastian

The Family Registry is the administrative depository for the Family Division of the Supreme Court and is responsible for the procedural processing of matters in this Division from their initiation to final disposition.

Applications made to the Supreme Court and processed the Registry are predominately applications made pursuant the Matrimonial Causes Act, Chapter 125, the Adoption of Children Act, Chapter 131, the Mental Health Act, Chapter 230 and the Status of Children Act, Chapter 130. Additionally, there are applications also made pursuant to the Domestic Violence (Protection Orders) Act, Chapter 99A, however, as our statistics will reflect, the bulk of the matters managed by the registry are divorce and matrimonial matters.

The registry is the hub for family matters, an area which demands a heightened degree of sensitivity and confidentiality. During the past year, the registry implemented additional measures to ensure the protection and security of records; one such measure being, that collection of documents from the registry now requires the person collecting, to provide proof of identification and to acknowledge receipt of documents by signing for the same.

The Registry is supervised by Ms. Katie Smith-Mackey with the support of four (4) team members. Each team member is assigned a specific range of duties that facilitate the processing of applications through the division with an emphasis being placed on the appropriate and an efficient delivery of service to our customers.

The statistics compiled for the year ending 31st October, 2022 reveals a slight increase in the intake and dispositions of applications in the family division over the past years.

Statistical Data:

NEW APPLICATIONS	
Divorce (MCA. Ch. 125)	681
Adoption (Ch. 131)	24
Guardianship (Ch. 132)	44
Mental Health Act (Ch. 230)	13
Status of Children Act (130)	10
TOTAL	772

CERTIFICATE OF MAKING DECREE NISI ABSOLUTE ISSUED

YEAR	AMOUNT
2004	1
2005	2
2006	2
2007	3
2008	2
2009	6
2010	2
2011	1
2012	3
2013	5
2014	10
2015	11
2016	24
2017	18
2018	48
2019	73
2020	142
2021	173
2022	24
TOTAL	550

DECREE NISI GRANTED

YEAR	AMOUNT
1996	1
2012	1
2013	0
2014	1
2015	2
2016	3
2017	5
2018	12
2019	29
2020	107
2021	312
2022	59
TOTAL	532

ADOPTION ORDERS GRANTED

YEAR	AMOUNT
2018	2
2019	2
2020	5
2021	6
2022	1
TOTAL	16

The Human Resource Unit of the Office of the Judiciary supervises the daily movements of the support staff and liaises with its counterparts in the Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Public Service. The Unit is headed by Mrs. Annamae Neely who assisted by Mrs. Elizabeth Taylor, Miss Nicoya Neilly, Mrs. Deborah Gibson, Mrs. Sharece Davis-Pratt and Mr. Kirk Moss.

As at 7 November 2022, the Office of the Judiciary, which comprises the Supreme & Magistrate Courts. In addition to the Chief Justice, there were 44 judicial officers (17 Justices, 3 Acting Justices, 6 Registrars, 18 Stipendiary & Circuit Magistrates) and 313 administrative support staff all located in New Providence, Grand Bahama and Abaco

At The End Of The Reporting Year, The Judicial Officers And Administrative Support Staff Were Placed As Follows:

1	7	Office Of The Hon. Chief Justice, Mr. Ian R. Winder	Nolan Scavella, Monique Rolle, Curtis Adderley, Paige Mackey, Nelson Larramore, P/Sgt. Keith Sweeting And P/Cpl. 1978 Owen Palmer (Aides)
2	4	Office Of The Hon. Mr. Senior Justice, Bernard S. A. Turner	Doneva McDonald, Katreia Saunders, Sgt. 2345 Elkeno Brown (Aide)
3	3	Office Of The Hon. Madam Senior Justice Indra Charles	Genae Frazier, P/Cpl. 688 Thaddeus Woodside (Aide)
4	4	Office Of The Hon. Madam Justice Deborah Fraser	Wilkeishna McKenzie, Beverley Cooper, P/Sgt. Ramsey (Aide)
5	4	Office Of The Hon. Madam Justice Cheryl Grant-Thompson	Wilkeishna McKenzie, Beverley Cooper, P/Sgt. Ramsey (Aide)
6	4	Office Of The Hon. Mr. Justice G. Gregory Hilton	Javon Rahming, Earnestine Rahming, P/Cpl. 618 Ivan Deveaux (Aide)
7	4	Office Of The Hon. Madam Justice Petra Hanna-Adderley Grand Bahama (Northern Region)	Brenda Johnson, Arlington Farquharson, P/C 1810 Roosevelt Rolle (Aide)
8	4	Office Of The Hon. Madam Justice Guillimina Archer-Minns	Randy Forbes, Patricia Farrington, P/Sgt. 2497 Gregory Dean (Aide)
9	4	Office Of The Hon. Madam Justice Donna D. Newton	Tamiko Ginton, Kimberly Butterfield, P/Cpl. 961 Pedro Skippings (Aide)

10	4	Office Of The Hon. Madam Justice W. Renae McKay	Elizabeth Johnson, Freda Farrington, P/Sgt. 2319 Ricardo Neely (Aide)
11	5	Office Of The Hon. Madam Justice G. Diane Stewart	Christopher Penneman, Alyssa Forbes, Geofricka Hepburn, P/Sgt. 1473 Ricoh Mitchell (Aide)
12	4	Office Of The Hon. Mr. Justice Loren Klein	Rayja Smith, Thallya Winder P/Sgt. 2494 Freeman Rolle(Aide)
13	4	Office Of The Hon. Madam Justice J. Denise Lewis-Johnson	Jenatha McPhee, Ge'vaun Adderley, P/Sgt. 2525 Lenardo Simmons (Aide)
14	4	Office Of The Hon. Mr. Justice Andrew Forbes Grand Bahama (Northern Region)	Lavern Dean, Dale Bethel, P/Sgt.2085 Elio Mackey (Aide)
15	4	Office Of The Hon. Madam Justice Jeanine Weech-Gomez	Thomas Grant, Verlea Farrington, P/Sgt. 2550 Jonathan Adderley (Aide)
16	4	Office Of The Hon. Mr. Justice Neil Brathwaite	Donna Burrows, Antoinette Barr, P/Sgt Cassius Evans (Aide)
17	4	Office Of The Hon. Madam Justice Camille Darville-Gomez	Edwin Johnson, Shevonne Wilson P/Sgt. 2236 Dugay (Aide)
18	4	Office Of The Hon. Madam Justice Simone Fitzcharles(Acting)	Sherylin Bodle-Forbes, Justin Cash, Sgt. 2496 Ulysses Rolle (Aide)
19	3	Office Of The Hon. Madam Justice Carla Card-Stubbs (Acting)	Barron Musgrove, P/Sgt. 3135 Omar Woodside (Aide)
20	3	Office Of The Hon. Madam Justice Ntshonda Tynes (Acting) Grand Bahama (Northern Region)	Brenda Johnson, Craig Wallace
21	4	Office Of The Registrar Mrs. Constance A. Delancy Head Of Department, Court Administration, Civil Registry, Appeals Registry & JLSC Secretariat	Royanne Williamson, Keashia Strachan, Fabien Rolle
22	4	Office Of The Deputy Registrar Miss Stephana J. Saunders Grand Bahama (Northern Region)	Ricardo Russell, Sophia Clarke, Shonaray Mackey
23	2	Office Of The Deputy Registrar Mr. Edmund Von Turner - Criminal Registry	Marva Curtis
24	2	Office Of The Deputy Registrar Mr. Renaldo Toote - Probate Registry And Acting Director Of Court Services	Andi Neely
25	2	Office Of The Deputy Registrar Mrs. Jennifer Stuart Bastian - Family Registry	Lavendra Reckley

26	1	Office Of The Deputy Registrar Miss Olivia Blatch Grand Bahama (Northern Region)	
27	5	Office Of The Chief Magistrate And Deputy Coroner Mrs. Joyann Ferguson-Pratt	Nancy Saunders, Julie Buchanan, Christopher Thompson, P/Sgt. 2528 Sherlin Hanna (Aide)
28	2	Office Of The Deputy Chief Magistrate And Deputy Coroner Miss Debbye Ferguson Grand Bahama (Northern Region)	Shavonne Greene
29	4	Office Of The Assistant Chief Magistrate Mrs. Subusola Lawanson-Swain	Katelean Lockhart, Marvanique Sargent, Colin Butler
30	4	Office Of The Senior Magistrate And Deputy Coroner Mrs. Carolyn Vogt-Evans	Lavette Turnquest, Alliah Richards, Duke Percentie
31	3	Office Of Senior Magistrate Mr. Darence Rolle-Davis	Kristen Brown, Azaria Bartlett
32	3	Office Of Senior Magistrate And Deputy Coroner Ms. Anella J. Evans Abaco (Northern Region)	Shandera Forbes, Carla Nixon, Paul Thompson
33	3	Office Of Senior Magistrate And Acting Coroner Mrs. Kara Turnquest-Deveaux	Shezelle Rolle, Cruzell Nottage,
34	2	Office Of Senior Magistrate And Deputy Coroner Mr. Charlton H. Smith Grand Bahama (Northern Region)	Roganne Smith
35	3	Office Of S & C Magistrate Mr. Samuel S. McKinney	Deshae Robinson, Ulean Clarke, Wenzel Hanna
36	2	Office Of S & C Magistrate Mr. LaQuay Laing Grand Bahama (Northern Region)	Quincy Major
37	4	Office Of S & C Magistrate Miss Sandradee Gardiner	Thecola Cochiamogulos, Dalette Walkes, Patrick Knowles
38	4	Office Of S & C Magistrate Mr. Shaka Serville	Charmaine Musgrove, Shamyra Stubbs, Charles Charlton
39	4	Office Of S & C Magistrate Mr. Algernon Allen, Jr.	Maxverna McBride, Hyacinth Sands, Francis Campbell
40	4	Office Of S & C Magistrate Miss Kendra Kelly	Tamika Pennerman, Shiann Martin, Alfred Munnings
41	4	Office Of S & C Magistrate Mrs. Ian-Marie Darville-Miller	Rickesh Taylor, Kendi Storr, Tevin Farrington,

42	2	Office Of S & C Magistrate Miss Simone Brown Grand Bahama (Northern Region)	Cadesha Lightbourne
43	4	Office Of S & C Magistrate (Acting) Mr. James L. Moxey	Jacotta Sands, Christina Richards, Nathaniel Mackey
44	4	Office Of S & C Magistrate (Acting) Mr. Darron D. Ellis	Desiree Gibson, Shaquille Miller, Vincent Dorsett
45	2	Office Of The Director Of Services, Supreme Court	Edward Gayle, Jason Thompson
46	3	Office Of The Court Administrator, Magistrate Courts	Alphonette Grant, Ralph Rolle, Claudina Cooper
47	5	Office Of The Finance Officer	Claudia Hall, Terrecka Thompson, Brinnea Darville, Celeste Rahming, Wesinique Emmanuel
48	10	Office Of The Accountant Magistrate Courts	Lana Roseboro, Aliendra Sherman, Claudia Clarke, Arabella Rolle, Arnette Mackey, Shanishka Dean, Peryka Wallace, Brean Woodside, Antonya Mass, Tabitha Roberts
49	6	Office Of Human Resource Manager	Annamae Neely, Elizabeth Taylor, Nicoya Nelly, Deborah Gibson, Sharece Davis-Pratt, Kirk Mass
50	1	Office Of Human Resources Magistrate Courts	Jennifer Sweeting
51	3	Office Of The Director Of Information, Communication And Technology	Dameeko Isaacs, Keva Smith, Israel Bodie
52	3	Office Of The Judicial Legal Services Commission	Bathsheba Algreen, Kennise Burrows, Miranda Pritchard
53	3	Office Of The Listing Officer	Sharmaine Bain Archer, D'Avante Curtis, Franklyn Burnside
54	1	Office Of The Jury Assistant	Marcia Pinder
55	2	Law Library	Joycelyn Johnson, Samantha Butterfield

56	31	Court Reporting Unit	Judith Clare, Royanne Morrison, Tabitha Morley, Hubert Cash, Paula Henry-Reid, Sarah Saunders, Katrina Sears, Carla Nicolls, Karen Scavella, Gwen Deveaux, Patrice Johnson, Andrea Johnson, Lorraine Adderley, Katisha Bannister, Swakara Cash, Shakara Knowles, Tonia Colebrooke, Tahasha Ingraham, Tanya Adderley, Derricka Burrows, Calvin Johnson, Diandra Robinson, Krista Stubbs, Denna Williams (GB), Samantha Bain, Melissa Brown, Nathalee Edgecombe (GB), Derrinique Smith, Althea Miller, Augusta Johnson, Naomi Taylor
57	4	Criminal Registry	Majarie Evans, Debra Gittens, Starsheema Smith, Crystal Russell, Chaquell Cooper
58	9	Bailiff Unit	George Fernander, Brian Harvey, Peter Clarke, Walter Wilkinson, Godfrey Willie, Elvis Rolle, Darcy Cox, Gary Brennen, Randolph Munroe
59	9	Civil Registry Supreme Court	Esther Pinder, Sherman Campbell, Lorenzo Nixon, Sarah Meeres, Lizandria Taylor, Inacio Ward, Shemar Major, Denzel Lightbourne, Asia Burrows
60	2	Cashiers Supreme Court	Bianca Walkes, Makia Dean
61	7	Civil Registry Magistrate Courts	Kergsina Cochiamogulas, Betty Bostwick, Bridgette Ferguson, Brittany Knowles, Kerl Ramsey, Elaine Colebrooke, Shaniqua Sweeting
62	4	Warrants Section Magistrate Courts	Ailea Rolle, Lineka Carter, Rayven Lloyd, Magan Johnson
63	5	Family Registry	Katie Mackey, Jacara Smith, Mariah Tata, Patrick Williams, Brithney Higgs
64	1	Appeals Registry	Ingrid Hunt
65	6	Probate Registry	Loretta Maycock, Desiree Robinson, Keisha Ferguson, Nicole Ferguson, Brinique Rolle, Shamaine Lopez
66	13	Office Of The Judicial Research Counsels	Rosanne Sweeting, Indy Hunter, Kevin Armbrister, Lesley Brown, Akeira Martin, Alexandria Newton, Adrienne Bellot, Lesley Brown, Victoria Morris, Ezranda Bodie, Anna Moss, Jonel Johnson, Rasean Langley
67	1	Digitization Unit	Grace Bostwick
68	6	Court Security Supreme Court	Leroy Saunders, Sidney Campbell, Andrew Armbrister, Peter Rolle, Andrew Rodgers, Cynrettha Miller, Roy Burrows
69	14	Court Security Magistrate Courts	Eden Zonicle, Kervin Godfrey

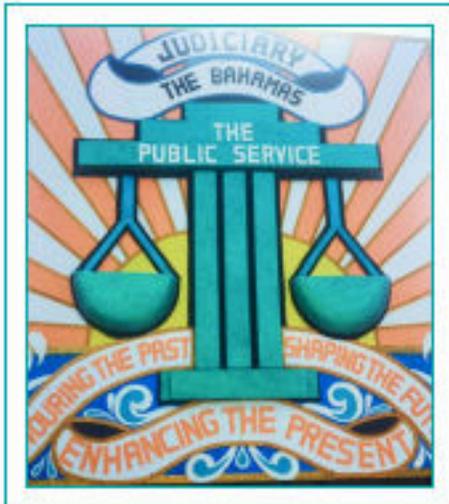
70	13	Custodial Services Supreme Court	Cecilia Davis, Sandra Lightbourne, Shellamae Brown, Donica Murphy, Shantiesh Mitchell, Brenisha Maxey, Oteasha Wright, Olivia Smith, Javia Gibson, Theresa Wallace, Shanda McKenzie, Donna Deveaux, Ashley Patton
71	7	Custodial Services Magistrate Courts	Tanaka Cookley, Carolyn Lopez, Monalisa Ferguson, Leneah Woodside, Nickesha Thompson, Patrieke Maynard, Natasha Parker
72	30	Grand Bahama (Northern Region)	Patrick Adderley, Alicia Andrews, Deborah Clarke, Erin Cooper, Ulysses Curry, Lonia Dean, Zenobia Duncambe, Charlene Garvey, Clara Johnson, Eugenia Johnson, Rachel Johnson, Hope Laing, Richard Leader, Elihu Mackey, Loylean McCartney, David McPhee, Valencia McPhee, Pearline Munroe, Hesley Rolle, Fretella Rolle, Ricardo Roosevelt Rolle, Caljanee Russell, Dean Smith, Tezel Smith, Mildred Thompson, Nicole Thompson, Lashad Roberts, Gloria Pratt, Aaliyah Edgcombe, Kadesha Armbrister

HR ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR 2022

	JUDICIAL	ADMINISTRATIVE
New Appointments	8	44
Deployments/ Transfers	1	12
Confirmation in Appointments	0	1
Reclassifications	1	3
Promotions	5	16
Retirees	1	2
Deaths	0	1
In-Service	0	1

PUBLIC SERVICE WEEK 2022

On the week of 31st October to 4th November, 2022, The Bahamas Public Service Week under the theme “The Public Service: Honouring the Past, Enhancing the Present and Shaping the Future” was captured as one of the most exciting events within the Public Service.



The following officers within the Office of the Judiciary served on the Public Service Committee:

- *Keva Smith (Chairman)*
- *Sarah Meeres*
- *Brinnea Nabbie*
- *Cecelia Davis*
- *Javon Rahming*
- *Mariah Tata*
- *Edwin Johnson*
- *Brithney Higgs*
- *Nolan Scavella*
- *Claudina Cooper*
- *Elvis Rolle*

PSCHRD COURSES

Writing Correspondences within the Public Service was a course offered by PSCHRD on 26th and 27th September, 2022, to specially to prepare those who would be eligible for the next Assessment. The following are the Officers who were chosen and successfully completed the two-day Course:

- *Marinda Pritchard*
- *Kesha Ferguson*
- *Marva Curtis*
- *Freda Farrington*
- *Deborah Gibson*
- *Randy Forbes*
- *Monique Rolle*
- *Sharece Davis*

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY REGISTRAR (NORTHERN REGION)

Deputy Registrar Stephana J. Saunders

The Office of the Judiciary (Northern Region) administers all judicial matters in the islands of Grand Bahama, The Abacos and Bimini.

In Grand Bahama, the offices are located in the Garnet Levarity Justice Centre, Downtown Freeport. There are two Supreme Courts and four Magistrate Courts in Freeport. The Eight Mile Rock Magistrate Court has been temporarily relocated to Freeport pending the completion of the new Government Complex in Pine Dale, Eight Mile Rock. The Supreme Courts are presided over by two resident Judges. The Magistrate Courts are presided over by a Deputy Chief Magistrate and three Stipendiary and Circuit Magistrates.

The Deputy Registrar is responsible for the overall administration of the Office of the Judiciary in the Northern Region and oversees the daily operations of the Courts, assisted in the performance of her administrative duties by a team of supervisors. These officers are Mr. Ricardo A. Russell, Administrative Officer, Mrs. Charmaine Fernander, Ms. Zenobia Duncombe, Assistant Accountant, and Ms. Clara Johnson, Executive Officer.

The months of November and December of 2021 saw the Office of the Judiciary (Northern Region) continuing to adhere to the Covid 19 protocols mandated by the former Honourable Chief Justice Sir Brian Moree to keep ourselves and the general public safe. Protocols such as the mandatory wearing of masks for the staff and the general public and ensuring that those entering the Garnet Levarity Justice Centre (limited) sanitized their hands and the taking of temperatures were enforced. In January 2022, as like the previous year, the traditional pomp and pageantry of the Opening of the Supreme Court Ceremonies in New Providence had to be transformed to remain compliant with the Covid 19 Emergency Protocols maintained by the Government of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas. By the same token the Church Service to mark the opening of the Supreme Court usually held in Grand Bahama after the ceremonies in Nassau was cancelled. Supreme Court Judicial Officers, The Honourable Madam Senior Justice Estelle Gray-Evans, The Honourable Madam Justice Petra Hanna-Adderley and The Honourable Mr. Justice Andrew Forbes, attended the ceremonies in New Providence in person.

The Annual Staff contest was announced for the theme of the year 2022. The winner, Mrs. Mildred Thompson was successful with the theme **“Be an Agent for Justice”**

In May, we welcomed Mr. Drazen Komarica, Consultant with the IDB. His visit was to view and assess the way forward in the digitization of the records for the Northern Region. A tour of the Records and Archiving Management (RAM) facility where the bulk of the files are kept post Hurricane Dorian gave a bird’s eye view of the dire need for our records to be digitized. The proposed Eight Mile Rock Magistrate Court was also viewed on the short and productive visit.

In June, in an effort to ensure the continuing advancement of the efficiency with which the Judiciary metes justice, Consultants with National Centre for State Courts NSCS, Ken Cook and Gillian Lawrence visited our shores to conduct hands on training with the Digital Recording System. All who would be involved in the use of the system participated in training from Judges, Deputy Registrar, Stipendiary and Circuit Magistrates, Court Reporters and Clerks. It was a most productive two days of learning.

Later in June, Mr. Keaton Stacks, Technician with FTR and Mrs. Keva Smith, Network Manager with the Office of the Judiciary visited to ensure the smooth operation of the digital recording devices within the Courts.

The proposed Magistrate Court in Eight Mile Rock is nearing completion and it is projected that in 2023 its opening will alleviate the need for the people of the Western end of Grand Bahamas to come to the Magistrate Courts in Freeport and will have closer access to justice in their district.

We said farewell to Ms. Deborah Clarke-Forbes, Janitress and Mr. Ulysses Curry, Marshall who retired. We thank them for their valuable service to the Office of the Judiciary, Northern Region and wish them both the very best in their retirement.

In July, we welcomed new Staff Members to assist with the administration of justice in the Northern Region. The following officers reported for duty:-

- 1 *Mrs. Charmaine Fernander, Chief Executive Officer deployed from the Road Traffic Department*
- 2 *Ms. Pherne Sands, Marshall*
- 3 *Mr. Craig Wallace, Marshall*
- 4 *Miss Audliah Nortelus, Clerk*
- 5 *Mrs. Rocqual Carey-Brown, Janitress*
- 6 *Miss Bienka Farrington, Clerk deployed from Registrar General's Department;*
- 7 *Mr. Kobe Lloyd, GSW deployed from the Public Hospitals Authority;*
- 8 *Ms, Gloria Pratt, Sanitizer deployed from Parliamentary Registration Department*
- 9 *Mr. Lashad Roberts, Sanitizer deployed from Parliamentary Registration Department*
- 10 *Miss Aaliyah Edgecombe, Sanitizer deployed from Parliamentary Registration Department*

As with the ebb of the tide, it comes in and out, the following officers were deployed:

- 1 *Ms. Tamesha Pyfrom-Munroe, Senior Executive Officer to the Ministry of Education;*
- 2 *Mrs. Laverne Dean, Chief Executive Office to the Ministry of Education;*
- 3 *Ms. Charlene Garvey, Telephonist to the Office of the Prime Minister*
- 4 *Ms. Quincy Major, GSW to the Office of the Prime Minister*

We wish them the very best in their future endeavours.

In August, we welcomed a new Deputy Registrar, Miss Olivia M. Blatch to our family in the Northern Region. Miss Blatch brings a wealth of experience having worked in the Office of the Attorney General as a prosecutor, at the Office of the Prime Minister and most recently, Registrar General's Office. We hope that her tenure will be a fruitful and fulfilling one.

On 7th September, 2022, the Northern Region of the Office of the Judiciary welcomed our new Chief Justice, The Honourable Ian Winder along with Mrs. Constance Delancy, Registrar of the Supreme Court and Mrs. Annamae Neely, Director of Human Resources. The Chief Justice met with all Staff of the Northern Region to impart his vision and to hear pressing concerns. The party also toured the proposed Eight Mile Rock Magistrate Court and RAM facility to familiarize themselves with the progress in the Northern Region.

Also during the month of September, we welcomed The Honourable Acting Justice Mademoiselle Ntshonda Tynes who will act for the period from 20th September, 2022 to 31st January, 2023.

The Bahamas Bar Association held a training seminar in Supreme Court Number 1 on the 15th October, 2022. Madame Deputy Registrar Stephana J. Saunders presented on the topic of Costs from the Registrar's Perspective. The information was well received from those members who attended.

We strive to serve the citizens of the Northern Region to the best of our abilities in 2022 and look forward to the implementation of the reforms to modernize the Court system in the Northern Region in order to better discharge our constitutional role as the third branch of Government

The Deputy Registrar in addition to being administrator also exercises a judicial function by hearing and determining matters.

■ Listed Below Are Statistics For Matters Heard By The Deputy Registrars (Northern Region) During The Period Of November 2021 – October, 2022.

MATTERS SCHEDULED	MATTERS DETERMINED	NO APPEARANCE	TAKEN OUT OF THE LIST	MATTERS ADJOURNED
153	71	0	10	72

● THE SUPREME COURT REGISTRY

Unlike New Providence, where the Registries of the Supreme Court are separated and supervised by different Deputy Registrars, all Registries of the Supreme Court are located at the Garnet Levarity Justice Centre and overseen by the Deputy Registrar (Northern Region) with staff members performing different functions. There are now two Deputy Registrars in the Supreme Court Registry who are assisted by Mr. Ricardo Russell, Administrative Officer. Staff members include Miss Sophia Clarke, Assistant to the Deputy Registrar Saunders and Probate Clerk, Mrs. Rachel Johnson, Assistant to Deputy Registrar Blatch, Alicia Andrews, Civil; Mildred Thompson, Family; Eugenia Johnson and Audliah Nortelus, Cashiers. These Officers also perform the work of the Criminal Registry and process and file bail applications.

■ The Statistics For The Applications And Matters Filed Under The Said Divisions From November 2021 – October, 2022 Are Set Below:

CIVIL AND COMMERCIAL DIVISION (CLE)				
COMMON LAW & EQUITY	COMMERCIAL	PUBLIC LAW	QUIETING TITLES	ADMIRALTY
205	4	3	3	3

FAMILY DIVISION (DIV)			
DIVORCE	ADOPTION	GUARDIAN-SHIP	MENTAL HEALTH
Applications: 150	16	8	1
Decree Nisi: 105	-	-	-
Decree Absolute: 134	-	-	-

PROBATE DIVISION (PRO)	
NEW APPLICATIONS RECEIVED	GRANTS ISSUED
124	108
BAIL APPLICATIONS	BAIL VARIATION
18	44



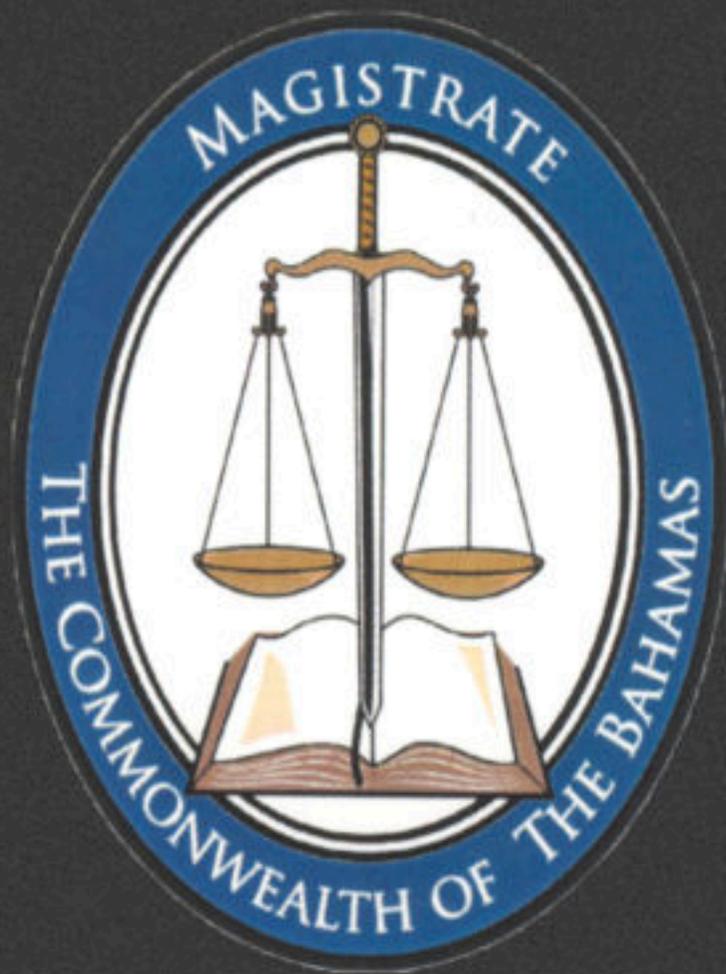
JUDICIARY
THE BAHAMAS

05

2022

Bahamas Judiciary
Annual Report

OFFICE OF
THE MAGISTRACY



OFFICE OF THE MAGISTRACY

- 5.1 OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MAGISTRATE
 - 5.2 OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF MAGISTRATE
(NORTHERN REGION)
 - 5.3 REPORT ON THE ABACO MAGISTRATE'S COURT
-

It is my pleasure to present the Magistrates Courts of the Bahamas annual report. These Courts continue to provide access to an effective and efficient Justice system at the summary level.

Last year at this time, I reflected with humility and pride on the magnitude of work engaged by the Magistrates Courts in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic. This year, despite some challenges the magisterial team continues to fulfill its mandate. The annual statistical data of all magistrates in each division: Criminal, Civil, Family, Juvenile, Traffic, and Immigration will follow my report and speaks to the voluminous calendar in the Magistrates Court together with the relentless work and competence of my colleagues.

The greatest majority of Criminal cases have their genesis in the Magistrates Courts. Accordingly with any spike of Criminal activity in our country at all levels, it is a reasonable conclusion that the rate of these matters which come in our courts are exponentially greater than they are being completed. Additionally, the nature of criminal cases at the summary level are raising more complex legal issues at trial and requiring more time to adjudicate. The reality is that we probably need more Courts on the Criminal side to aggressively tackle matters laid before the Court.

Similarly, the growing volume of civil litigation is a matter that may require an increase of Magistrates on the civil side. It will also be necessary to contemplate an increase in the right fit of personnel to properly support the judicial officer. A comprehensive audit is necessary to determine the exact number of active files on both the civil/criminal divisions as at the moment this number is elusive. This in my view is a top priority moving forward.

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN THE MAGISTRATES COURT

The implementation of technology has become a necessary subject in today's world. Likewise, in order to produce optimal efficiency and functionality within the Magistrates Court these platforms must be embraced. Below is a brief synopsis related to several of the technological programs:-

COURT AUTOMATED PAYMENT SYSTEM (CAPS)

My last year's report introduced the Court Automated Payment System in the Magistrates Court. It is a tool available for parties before the family court, who either make or collect payments. Such persons have the ability to benefit in real time with direct deposits or withdrawals. Usage of the system has not been appealing to as many users as anticipated. The full implementation of CAPS will allow the public to have a more timely delivery of court ordered payments. Moving forward more public education is necessary to break the back of apprehension with the new technology.

BAIL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Regrettably, the new software module dealing with bail applications issuing biometric fingerprint data is not yet implemented in the Magistrates Court. Magistrates are fully engaged in numerous bail applications however this presently is done manually on paper files. I fully support the implementation of the Bail Management System in the Magistrates Court. I am confident that it will facilitate a modern and efficient delivery of a vital service.

DIGITAL RECORDING SYSTEM

At present there is no stenographer assigned to the Magistrates Court. Accordingly, the relaunch of the Digital recording system in the Magistrates Court is a welcomed strategic tool to ensure the reduction in the disposition cycle for trials. Over the years, engaging in longhand note taking during a trial has been a painstaking exercise. Additionally, a fully functional digital recording system will assist in the delivery of more timely records necessary for the appellate process.

Although the Digital recording system has not reached perfection, it is much improved and we look forward to its full implementation particularly as it relates to the voice to text feature. Further, priority must be given in ensuring that all Courts inclusive of family island courts (as we are an archipelagic nation) are property outfitted as soon as possible.

CONCLUSION

The Magistrates and court staff have continued to work very hard to bring the Courts back to pre-pandemic performance levels during this reporting period. I am extremely proud of the Magisterial team shouldering this massive workload. During last year's report, I advocated that Magistrates be given the same respect and regard as other judicial officers, as well as comparable remuneration packages commensurate with the depth of vital work they are charged to perform. I have recently engaged Chief Justice Winder of this grave oversight and I am optimistic that some tangible and very substantial result will manifest before the next reporting period.

I also acknowledge and thank Family Island Administrators for their collective efforts in managing their respective Districts until a Circuit Magistrate is able to be in place. I have been in preliminary discussions with Chief Justice Winder to revisit the extent to which administrators who by virtue of their remit are ex officio Magistrates may be more utilized in the judicial process. In this regard, I have commenced refresher training in conjunction with the Department of Local Government. To date six (6) administrators in Eleuthera and Exuma have been the beneficiaries of this initiative which is ultimately intended for all administrators.

I acknowledge and thank Mrs. Alphanette Grant, Court Administrator for the Magistrate Court, and her hardworking team for their dedication and tireless efforts in all non-judicial operations. Their collective contribution is invaluable and has allowed me to be more focused on my judicial remit.

Special thanks to the staff of the Chief Magistrates Office who has so capably provided high quality support over the years. It would be remiss if I did not single out Mrs. Nancy Saunders who has worked in the Magistrates Court for the past thirty years, and served as my clerk for the past eleven years. Her patience, persistence, professionalism, keen sense of duty, and unquestionable integrity is greatly applauded. This example should be a blueprint for others to emulate.

As the New Year begins and we turn to the tasks before us, I encourage my judicial colleagues to continue their efforts and do our best to maintain the public's trust and confidence in the Magistracy. As Magistrates we should reflect on our duty to judge without fear or favor, deciding each matter with humility, integrity, and dispatch. As court personnel, I encourage each of you to discharge your duties with excellence and dedication to the public we serve. As we exit a challenging year, looking ahead to 2023 and beyond, our achievements of the past year are testament to the resilience of our body. I am privileged to be in a position to lead you and thank you for your continued excellence.

MAGISTRATE COURTS STATISTICS (NEW PROVIDENCE DISTRICT)

MAGISTRATE COURTS NEW PROVIDENCE DISTRICT (Amended) (13 Magistrate Courts)

Cases file 1st November 2020 to 31st October 2021

CATEGORY	CASES AT 1ST NOVEMBER 2020	NEW CASES	TRANSFERS IN	COMPLETED CASES	TRANSFERS OUT	CASES AT 31ST OCTOBER 2021
Bound Over To Keep The Peace	11	358	2	353	1	17
Civil	4686	3702	8	3164	15	5217
Criminal	5205	4958	160	3194	166	6963
Family	220	818	8	685	0	361
Immigration	26	144	0	129	0	41
Juvenile	125	82	5	135	3	74
National Insurance Board	3	108	0	29	0	82
Traffic	2043	9844	0	5054	0	6833
TOTAL	12319	20014	183	12743	185	19588

MAGISTRATE COURTS NEW PROVIDENCE DISTRICT (13 Magistrate Courts)

Cases file 1st November 2021 to 31st October 2022

CATEGORY	CASES AT 1ST NOVEMBER 2021	NEW CASES	TRANSFERS IN	COMPLETED CASES	TRANSFERS OUT	CASES AT 31ST OCTOBER 2022
Bound Over To Keep The Peace	17	170	0	114	4	69
Civil	5217	3615	34	3357	31	5478
Criminal	6963	3134	115	3376	154	6682
Family	361	836	0	693	13	491
Immigration	41	288	0	296	0	33
Juvenile	74	96	0	102	0	68
National Insurance Board	82	198	0	69	0	211
Traffic	6833	12240	0	5925	1	13147
TOTAL	12319	20014	183	12743	185	19588

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF MAGISTRATE (NORTHERN REGION)

Deputy Chief Magistrate Debbye Ferguson

The northern region consists of the Abaco Magistrate Court, with Senior Magistrate Ancella Evans presiding; Magistrate Court #1, Freeport Deputy Chief Magistrate Debbye L. Ferguson presiding; Magistrate Court #2 Freeport and the Bimini District Court/ Senior Magistrate Charlton Smith presiding; Magistrate Court #3 Freeport Stipendiary & Circuit Magistrate LaQuay Laing presiding and Magistrate Court #4 and the Eight Mile Rock District Court/ Stipendiary & Circuit Magistrate Simone Brown presiding.

We in the north extend our welcome to the new Chief Justice the Honorable Mr. Ian Winder/ we give thanks to God for having successfully navigated through another hurricane (hurricane Nicole) for a noticeable decline in the spread and deaths due to the Covid virus, for the lifting of some of the Covid restrictions, and for the end of a successful legal year and the beginning of a new one in 2023.

As we in the north continue to recover and rebuild/ all of the Magistrate Courts began trials as of March 2021 after some delay. Many of us faced the challenge of finding our “customers” because many of them made the choice to move off island or out of the jurisdiction for employment. All of the Magistrates pursued those who were available so as to bring their respective outstanding matters to an end. The amendment to the Evidence Act became a useful tool and providing assistance with the hearing of the evidence of persons not within the jurisdiction and brought closure to a number of outstanding cases.

There was a noticeable increase in applications to the courts in Grand Bahama when persons sought the assistance to have payments due in rent and child support (arrears) enforced. The lack of resources in some instances contributed to an increase in warrants and offenders. In an attempt to relocate for employment many offenders found themselves before the courts thereby reducing the outstanding bench warrants in the system. Magistrates were faced with the issue of the unemployment of many and the need to have the issue of arrears addressed and resolved.

In October 2021, some thirteen coroner’s cases were submitted to the courts. Ten (10) of them involved persons missing from the East End district after the passage of hurricane Dorian in September of 2019 to date seven of them have been complete.

There was also a noticeable increase in immigration cases with persons coming from Cuba, China, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and the Philippines being deported back to their homeland.

As the Magistrates in the northern Bahamas as we continue to observe the existing protocols for the safety and protection of all citizens we shall continue to ensure justice and no unnecessary delay for all concerned.

Senior Magistrate Ancella J. Evans

The year 2022 has indeed been a year of change, transition and renewed focus for the Abaco Magistrate's Court. We are eternally grateful that this year we were spared the ravages of another natural disaster. The Marsh Harbour Magistrate's Court remains a fully function court which adjudicates upon civil, domestic, traffic, immigration, coroner's and criminal matters.

MODERNIZATION OF THE COURT

There have been several measures implemented to modernize the courts this year. These have included the installation of plexi-glass barriers and training the staff on the use of digital recording system. In June of this year, Mr. Keaton Stacks of FTR along with Mrs. Keva Smith visited the Marsh Harbour Magistrate's Court and conducted an on-site assessment of the digital recording system. Additionally, Mrs. Keva Smith seized the opportunity to conduct a training session with staff on the digital recording system.

COURT MARSHALL – MR. PAUL JOHNSON



We were also pleased to welcome Mr. Paul Johnson as our new court marshal. Mr. Johnson's passion for law enforcement and love for working in a legal environment made his transition to the Marsh Harbour Magistrate's Court a very smooth one. Mr. Johnson has been a welcome addition to our staff complement and we wish him continued success in his new role as the court marshal.

The staff of the Marsh Harbour Magistrate's Court, Miss Shandira Forbes, Mrs. Carla Nixon, and Mr. Paul Johnson continue to work diligently despite the myriad of challenges that we have faced with the building's infrastructure.

These challenges include mold, air-conditioning and plumbing issues resulting in frequent flooding. We have been assured by the Maintenance Department of the Government Complex that these problems are being addressed. Additionally, Mrs. Kendra Smith of the Administrator's Office in Cooper's Town must be commended for her diligent service in her role as court clerk in Cooper's Town. We thank Administrator Leonard Dames for permitting Mrs. Smith to continue to assist the Magistrate's Court in Coopers' Town.

The Juvenile Panel and the Department of Social Services must also be commended for their efforts. The Department of Social Services continues to assist the court by completing Social History Reports within a timely manner. In this regard, Mrs. Toneill Cornish, Officer-in-charge of the Department of Social Services (Abaco) and her team of social workers and case workers must be commended.



Senior Magistrate Evans, Members of the Juvenile Panel, Staff of Dept. of Social Services and Students of Agape Christian School

Members of the Juvenile Panel and staff of the Department of Social Services also visited Agape Christian School on April 26th and May 3rd, 2022, respectively, where Senior Magistrate Ancella Evans gave a presentation on bullying to high school and primary school students. The topics included “Cyber Bullying”, “the Work of the Juvenile Panel”, “Legal Consequences of Bullying” and “How to Protect Yourself from Being Bullied”. The presentations were well-received by the faculty and students.

BAHAMAS CRISIS CENTER

On May 11, 2022, Dr. Sandra Patterson and her team from The Bahamas Crisis Center also paid a courtesy call on the court.



Senior Magistrate Evans and Dr. Sandra Dean Patterson along with her Team from Bahamas Crisis Centre



METRO SECURITY

Mr. Orion Bethel and the team of Metro Security also paid a courtesy call on the Marsh Harbour Magistrate's Court. Mr. Bethel gave a thorough presentation on the electrical monitoring devices. Also in attendance were Administrator Keffieanne Ferguson and members of the Royal Bahamas Police Force and the Department of Customs.



Senior Magistrate Evans and Family Island Administrator Keffieanne Ferguson with representatives from Dept. of Customs, Royal Bahamas Police Force and team from Metro Security



CONCLUSION

In retrospect the year 2022 has undoubtedly been a year of change, transition and growth – three essential components of survival. The changes have empowered us to move forward with grace, determination and acuity. We look forward to a new and exciting legal year in 2023.

MAGISTRATE COURTS STATISTICS (NORTHERN REGION)

MAGISTRATE COURTS NORTHERN REGION (Amended)

(Abaco, Bimini and Grand Bahama Magistrate Courts)

Cases file 1st November 2020 to 31st October 2021

CATEGORY	CASES AT 1ST NOVEMBER 2020	NEW CASES	TRANSFERS IN	COMPLETED CASES	TRANSFERS OUT	CASES AT 31ST OCTOBER 2021
Bound Over To Keep The Peace	39	51	1	38	0	53
Civil	339	529	22	404	0	486
Criminal	2183	2595	2	1932	18	2830
Family	144	147	4	126	0	169
Immigration	8	183	0	178	0	13
Juvenile	155	44	0	66	0	133
National Insurance Board	77	0	0	4	0	73
Traffic	231	2938	1	1091	1	2078
TOTAL	3176	6487	30	3839	19	5835

MAGISTRATE COURTS NORTHERN REGION

(Abaco, Bimini, Eight-Mile Rock and Freeport)

Cases file 1st November 2021 to 31st October 2022

CATEGORY	CASES AT 1ST NOVEMBER 2021	NEW CASES	TRANSFERS IN	COMPLETED CASES	TRANSFERS OUT	CASES AT 31ST OCTOBER 2022
Bound Over To Keep The Peace	36	99	0	76	0	127
Civil	601	1057	0	711	0	1855
Criminal	2028	1403	11	1333	6	3101
Family	111	198	0	178	3	334
Immigration	1	319	0	319	0	227
Juvenile	109	34	0	45	0	162
National Insurance Board	76	10	0	17	0	69
Traffic	1048	3720	0	1590	0	5130
TOTAL	4010	6840	11	4269	9	11005





JUDICIARY
THE BAHAMAS

06

2022

Bahamas Judiciary
Annual Report

THE BAHAMAS
JUDICIAL EDUCATION
INSTITUTE



THE BAHAMAS JUDICIAL EDUCATION INSTITUTE

- 6.1** THE BAHAMAS JUDICIAL EDUCATION INSTITUTE
 - 6.2** INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES
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-

6.1 THE BAHAMAS JUDICIAL EDUCATION INSTITUTE

The Hon. Madam Justice Camille Darville-Gomez (ACTING CHAIRPERSON OF BJEI)

THE OPENING OF THE BJEI TRAINING CENTRE

In our last Annual Report, the completion of The Bahamas Judicial Education Institute (“BJEI”) Training Centre was touted as the crowning achievement for 2021. Therefore, the cutting of the ribbon and the official opening of the Training Centre which took place on June 24, 2022 can only be regarded as the installation of another jewel in the crown. The Training Centre is located on the ground floor of Charlotte House, Shirley Street, Nassau. The BJEI was established to fulfil the increasing need for education and training of judicial officers and the staff of the judiciary so as to enhance the delivery of justice in the Bahamas. The Institute is mandated to provide structured, judiciary specific programs throughout the course of the legal year for the judiciary.

In 2020, the Judiciary acquired the space on the ground floor of Charlotte House and for approximately, two years renovated and furnished the space to ensure that it had the capacity to host in-person and virtual training sessions. The Centre’s close proximity to the majority of the Court buildings makes it ideal. The Judiciary was able to achieve this through the assistance of a loan from the Inter-American Development Bank and executed through the Ministry of National Security via the Citizens Security for Justice Programme (CSJP).

In attendance at the opening were: then Chief Justice Sir Brian M. Moree, Kt. KC, then Chairman of the BJEI, the Honourable Chief Justice Ian R. Winder, Minister of National Security, Mr. Wayne Munroe, KC, Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs Senator the Hon. Ryan Pinder, KC, President of The Bahamas Bar Association, Mr. Khalil Parker KC and CSJP Project Manager, Dr. Dorcas Cox. Also in attendance were Justices, Registrars, members of the Citizens Security for Justice and Program and delegates from the United States Embassy.

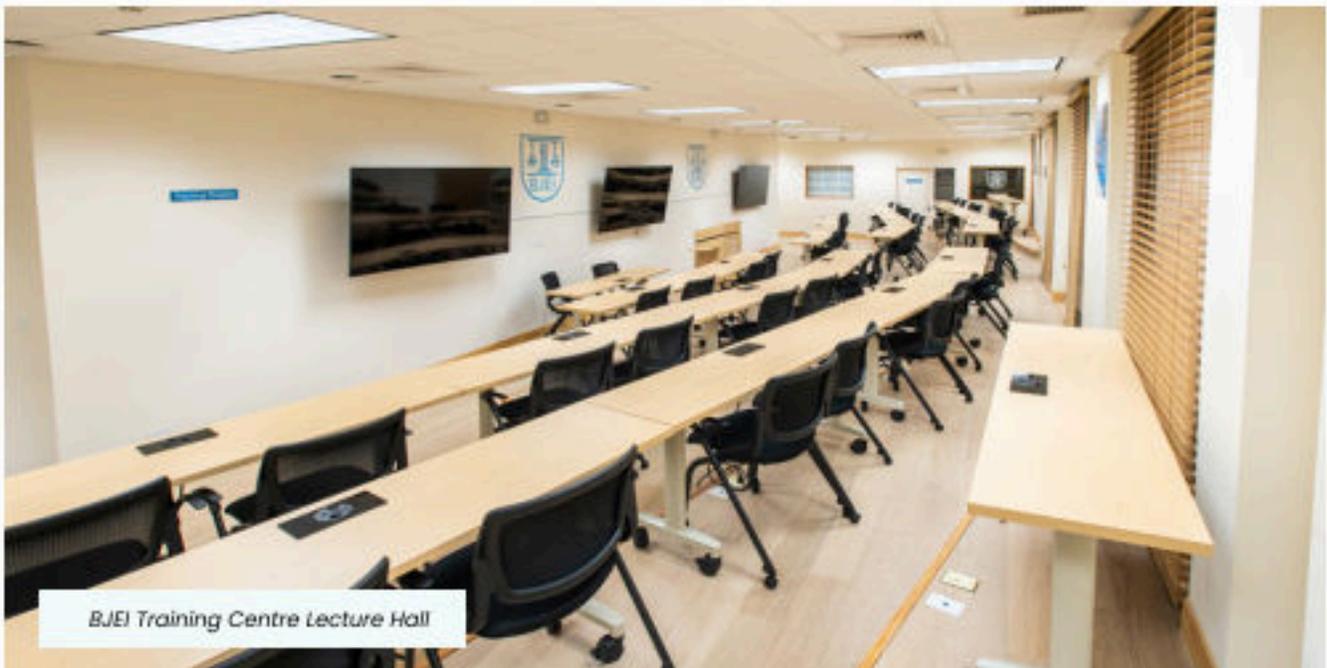


Ms. Cheryl Darville, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of National Security, The Hon. Wayne Munroe, KC, Minister of National Security, The Hon. Sir Brian M. Moree, Kt; KC, former Chief Justice, The Hon. Chief Justice Ian R. Winder, The Hon. L. Ryan Pinder, KC, Attorney General & Minister for Legal Affairs and Mr. Khalil Parker, KC, President of The Bahamas Bar

The Honourable Chief Justice Mr. Ian R. Winder delivered the opening address and explained that venues to host training in the past were not ideal, however, the new facility is equipped with modern furniture, plug and play devices, laptops, state-of-the-art audio/visual equipment and modern kitchen

facilities to accommodate catering requirements. He also expressed gratitude to the former Chief Justice for making the facility a top priority and the Attorney General and Minister of National Security for the role they played in making the Centre a reality.

The specially designed Training Centre boasts a large theatre styled room which can accommodate up to 48 participants as well as a conference room that can seat 30 participants, two smaller conference rooms which can be used as “breakout rooms”, a kitchen and an office for the Administrator. Additionally, there are five 60 inch televisions which can facilitate virtual training sessions.



BJEI Training Centre Lecture Hall

The completion of the Training Centre is a crowning accomplishment for the Judiciary and the timing of its opening could not have been better. The Judiciary is currently engaged in upgrading its technology platform which includes the acquisition of a Bail Management system in the Magistrates and Supreme Court, the digitization of the courts' files, and a re-launch of the voice recording in the criminal courts with expansion into the civil courts and the Magistrates Court. Additionally, the introduction of the new Civil Procedure Rules, 2022 will require training for the judicial officers, staff and members of the Bar. Therefore, the Training Centre will bode well for the conduct of such training.

The BJEI remains grateful to those that continue to extend their programs to our judicial officers including, but not limited to, the Caribbean Judicial Officers Organization (CAJO), the National Centre for State Courts (NCSC) and others.



SIGNING OF A MEMORANDUM BETWEEN THE BJEI AND THE UNIVERSITY OF THE BAHAMAS

On July 21, 2022, the former Chief Justice, Sir Brian M. Moree, Kt. KC signed a Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of The Bahamas Judicial Education Institute (BJEI) with the University of The Bahamas (UB) for a period of two years with an option to renew with the consent of both parties.



The Hon. Madam Justice Camille Darville-Gomez, Mrs. Constance A. Delancy, Registrar of the Supreme Court, The Hon. Sir Brian M. Moree, Kt; KC, former Chief Justice, Mrs. Alyson Maynard Gibson, KC, Chair of UB Board of Trustees, Dr. Rodney Smith, former President of UB and Dr. Erik Rolland, President of UB

The historic MOU provides for UB to work directly with the BJEI to provide professional development for judicial officers and staff and for the conduct of research to enhance the administration of justice. Additionally, Mrs. Allyson Maynard Gibson, KC, Chair of the UB Board of Trustees highlighted the access to justice aspects of the MOU and the former Chief Justice echoed this sentiment. He said that the “administration of justice is a collaborative exercise involving all stakeholders and it is important for the judiciary to establish relationships with suitable institutions within our country to enhance the work of the courts and increase access to justice for all persons”. The agreement is the first of its kind between the judiciary of The Bahamas and a learning institution. This agreement further provides avenues to increase dialogue with the public on civic responsibility and create a better understanding of various issues from access to justice and human rights to sexual offences. The Registrar of the Supreme Court, Mrs. Constance Delancy signed the MOU on behalf of the BJEI and President of UB Dr. Rodney D. Smith signed on behalf of UB.



THE TRAINING INITIATIVES FOR 2022

Due to the myriad of challenges brought on by the COVID 19 pandemic and the recent surge of cases worldwide in light of the Omicron variant, the training program remained primarily virtual in the first quarter of 2022. Therefore, the program for the year was modest and not as robust as we would have foreshadowed. The last in-person training day was held in January 2020. However, we have benefitted from the smorgasbord of virtual training proffered from our judicial education institutes in the region and elsewhere.

The National Center for State Courts and the International Narcotics and Law Enforcement continue to host a monthly series entitled Judicial KIT on relevant topics affecting the judiciary.

ANNUAL JUDICIAL OFFICERS TRAINING - JANUARY 11, 2022 (VIRTUAL)

The BJEI kicked off its training program with its annual training day held the day before the opening of the legal year.

This year's topics included: (1) updates in trust litigation; (2) an introduction to the Integrated Case Management System; (3) Criminal Case Management; (4) Digital Court Reporting software called For the Record; and (5) An overview and Refresher on applications to the Supreme Court under the Trustee Act.

JUDICIAL RESILIENCE AND WELLNESS FEBRUARY 24, 2022 (VIRTUAL)

The National Center for State Courts hosted a training for the Judiciary on this most timely topic which rose to prominence more recently due to the isolation and trauma caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The session was an interactive one and was well attended by judicial officers.

CRIMINAL JUDGES TRAINING APRIL 29, 2022 (IN-PERSON)

The judges in the Criminal division held a retreat in which relevant topics were discussed including witness anonymity, an update on the bail management system and issues which create delay in criminal trials.

THE CIVIL PROCEDURE RULES TRAINING SESSIONS FEBRUARY – JUNE, 2022 (VIRTUAL)

The BJEI hosted along with the Caribbean Association of Judicial Officers a series of training sessions geared towards introducing the members of the Judiciary and members of the Bar Association to the new Civil Procedure Rules, 2022. Some of the members of the Rules

Committee including the Chief Justice, Justices of the Supreme Court and members of the Bar Association were presenters. All of the sessions were recorded and uploaded to the Judiciary website for future reference.

NEW STAFF ORIENTATION TRAINING – JULY 18, 2022 – JULY 19, 2022 (IN-PERSON)

The judges in the Criminal division held a retreat in which relevant topics were discussed including witness anonymity, an update on the bail management system and issues which create delay in criminal trials.



The Hon. Chief Justice Ian R. Winder addressing new staff at Orientation Session

NEW JUDGES INDUCTION TRAINING – SEPTEMBER 20, 2022 (IN-PERSON)

The BJEI hosted an inaugural training session geared specifically towards judges who had been sworn in within the last twelve months. Topics included case management for civil and criminal trials, the role of the judicial research counsel and the impact of integrity, competency, efficiency and effectiveness on public trust and confidence in the judiciary.

JUDICIAL WELLNESS – NOVEMBER 21, 2022 (IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL)

Dr. Joseph Sadek is a psychiatrist and has been a frequent speaker at the Caribbean Association of Judicial Officers (CAJO) conferences on judicial wellness. He was visiting The Bahamas and conducted a session at the BJEI Training Institute for all judicial officers and judicial research counsel in the Magistrates Court, Supreme Court and Court of Appeal. It was a hybrid session with some judicial officers participating in person and others, virtually.

CARICOM HEADS OF JUDICIARY CONFERENCE

The Hon. Chief Justice Ian R. Winder attended the two-day biennial CARICOM Heads of Judiciary Conference which was held at the Ritz Carton, Grand Cayman, 28 and 29 July, 2022. The Conference was hosted by Hon. Sir Antony Smellie, KCMG, KC, Chief Justice of the Cayman Islands under the theme *“Administering Justice by Use of Information Technology: Building on COVID-19 Experiences”*



President Adrian Saunders, Caribbean Court of Justice; Justice Michelle Arana Acting, CJ Belize; Justice Narinder Hargun, CJ Bermuda; Sir Patterson Cheltenham, CJ Barbados; Sir Anthony Smellie, CJ Cayman Islands; Justice Yonette Cummings-Edwards, Acting Chancellor of the High Court of Guyana; Justice Ian Winder, CJ Bahamas; Justice Mabel Agyemang, CJ Turks and Caicos Islands; Justice Ivor Archie, CJ Trinidad and Tobago; and Justice Bryan Sykes, CJ



CARIBBEAN ASSOCIATION OF JUDICIAL OFFICERS (CAJO) BIENNIAL CONFERENCE 2022



Deputy Registrar Stephana J. Saunders, Hon. Madam Justice Camille Darville-Gomez, Registrar Constance Delancy, Hon. Madam Justice W. Renae McKay, Hon. Chief Justice Ian Winder, Hon. Mr. Senior Justice Turner and Senior Magistrate Charlton Smith

The 7th Biennial Caribbean Association of Judicial Officers (CAJO) Conference was held in person at the Castries on the beautiful island of St. Lucia 27 – 29 October, 2022. The theme of the Conference ***“The Caribbean Judiciary in a Changing World”***

The Bahamas Judiciary delegation was headed by the Honourable Chief Justice Ian R. Winder along with The Hon. Senior Bernard Turner, The Hon. W. Renae McKay, The Hon. Madam Justice Camille Darville-Gomez (Bahamas CAJO representative), Registrar Constance Delancy, Deputy Registrar Stephana J. Saunders, Senior Magistrate Charlton H. Smith.

The Hon. Dame Janice Pereira, DBE, LL.D, Chief Justice, ECSC. Hosted a welcome reception with a taste of St. Lucian culture. Delegates were also treated to a Cocktail reception hosted at the Government House overlooking the colorful skyline of St. Lucia. At the Opening session the delegates were treated to a colorful performance showcasing the rich and diverse culture of St. Lucia.

The Conference consisted of plenary sessions and panel discussions on a wide range of topics. Meeting were also held for Judges, Registrars and Magistrates to become better acquainted with their counterparts around the Caribbean and exchange information.

Registrar Delancy was elected to represent The Bahamas on the CAJO Management Committee during the CAJO General Meeting. The Hon. Justice Peter Jamadar was re-elected to the Chair of the CAJO Management Committee. The next CAJO Conference is scheduled to take place in Bermuda in 2024.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE JUDICIAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE



Senior Magistrate Ancella Evans, Hon. Madam Justice Cheryl Grant-Thompson, Hon. Madam Justice J. Denise Lewis-Johnson and Hon. Madam Justice Deborah E. Fraser (left to right)

The National Association of State Judicial Education was held at the Royal Sonesta NOLA in New Orleans' French Quarter, Louisiana, United States of America, 23 – 26 October, 2022. The Conference brought together Judicial educators from around the world to collaborate, network and exchange best practices on educating judges. There was also a social event hosted at the Louisiana Supreme Court. The Bahamas Judiciary delegation consisted of The Hon. Madam Justice Deborah E. Fraser, The Hon. Justice Cheryl Grant-Thompson, The Hon. Madam Justice J. Denise Lewis-Johnson and Senior Stipendiary & Circuit Magistrate Ancella Evans.

10TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON TRAINING THE JUDICIARY

The 10th Annual Conference on Training the Judiciary was hosted by the National Judicial Institute (NJI, organized jointly with the International Organization for Judicial Training (IOJT) was held under the theme: ***“Effective Judicial Education: Understanding Vulnerable Populations”***. The Conference was held at the historic Fairmont Château Laurier, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, 30 October, 2022 – 3 November, 2022. The Conference consisted of workshops, panel presentations and plenary sessions on a wide range of issues to:

- “Identify areas of vulnerability and disadvantage of accused people, victims, witnesses – everyone who comes into the courtroom.
- provide tools and materials that assist in developing effective judicial education on issues of vulnerability and societal context;
- analyze and evaluate pedagogical techniques for delivering effective online and in-person, synchronous and asynchronous judicial education;
- address challenges that judges face in doing their job”

The Judiciary was represented by the Hon. Madam Justice Camille Darville-Gomez and Registrar Constance Delancy who were sponsored by National Centre for State Courts and INL/US Embassy, Nassau, Bahamas.

NATIONAL COURT REPORTING ASSOCIATION CONVENTION AND EXPO



Mrs. Tonia Colebrook and Mrs. Shakara Allen from the Court Reporting Unit attended the National Court Reporting Association Convention and Expo which be held in Orlando, Florida, 19 – 25 July, 2022



FILE NO.	PARTIES	JUDICIAL OFFICER	DATE
2013/CLT/gen/00252	Paul Richardson Major v Rowson McDonald et al	Misiewicz, Dep. Registrar	2/12/21
2018/CLT/gen/00096	Fairness Limited v Larry Philip Davis	Bowe-Darville J	3/12/21
2015/CLT/gen/0070100	Zinnia Rolle v Lincoln Bain et al	Grant-Thompson J	6/12/21
2021/CLT/gen/01410	Monalisa Veronica Walker v Deno Alexander Smith Jr.	Klein J	6/12/21
2021/PUB/jv/0027	Cable Bahamas Ltd. v URCA	Charles J	6/12/21
2017/CLT/gen/00937	Maria Iglesias Rouco et al v Juan Jose Sanchez Busnadiego et	Charles J	7/12/21
2014/CLT/gen/01615	Finance Corporation of Bahamas Limited v Donzel Henry Pratt	Darville-Gomez J	8/12/21
	R v Vincent McKinney	Archer-Minns J	7/12/21
2018/CLT/gen/01225	Barbro Anna Plich AND Daniel Edward Fancher	Winder J	9/12/21
	R v Telson Francois	Archer-Minns J	10/12/21
2020/CLT/gen/00354	Fergs Air Ltd. et al v Odyssey Aviation	Winder J	9/12/21
021/CLT/gen/01128	Alpha Aviation Limited et al v Randy Butler et al	Klein J	14/12/21
2020/APP/ats/00015	Carla Outben-Minnis v The Insurance Commission	Morse CJ	14/12/21
	R v Frankie John Neme	Archer-Minns J	14/12/21
	R v Randy Mackey	Archer-Minns J	15/12/21
2020/COM/com/00020	RE: Mintbroker International Ltd.	Stewart J	15/12/21
	R v Tyrone Francis	Archer-Minns J	16/12/21
2021/FAM/div/00138	Denise Durcombe (nee Albury) v Edward Durcombe	Hanna Adderley J	17/12/21
2019/CLT/gen/00276	Rose Island Beach and Harbour Club Limited et al v IRLA Rose Island Ltd et al	Charles J	20/12/21
2013/CLT/gen/01472	Wallace v Doctors Hospital (Bahamas) Limited	Winder J	20/12/21
2020/CLT/gen/0000	RE: Donna Donsett-Major	Charles J	20/12/21
2020/CLT/gen/00385	RE: One Ocean Association v Qarnia Stanley Limited et al	Winder J	20/12/21

FILE NO.	PARTIES	JUDICIAL OFFICER	DATE
2021/CLG/gen/0025	Betram Paul v The Airport Authority et al	Darville-Gomez J	21/12/21
2020/CR/bat/00032	Frank Curtis v DPP	McKay J	21/12/21
2018/CR/vbi/No.187/8/	DPP v Socrates Burrows	Forbes J	21/12/21
2021/CLG/gen/FP/00039	Dr. Charlene Reid (d.b.a Easy Dental Care) v Teachers and Salaried Workers Cooperative Credit Union Limited	Klein J	22/12/21
2017/CLG/gen/00014 2014/CLG/gen/773 consolidated with 2014/CLG/gen/0889	Old Fort Bay Property Owners Association Limited v Old Fort Bay Company Limited - AND Matthew Chance Hudson et al v Old Fort Bay Company Limited et al	Charles J	4/1/22
2019/CLG/gen/00211	Anthony Myers v Lady Aloha Delores Allen (Representative of The Estate of Sir William Clifford Allen) et al	Winder J	13/1/22
	R v Bernard Storr	Hilton J	07/12/21
2018/CLGEN/00755	John Henry Lightbourne (as personal representative of the estate of Wellington Lightbourne, deceased) v Bank of The Bahamas Limited et al	Winder J	13/1/22
2021/CLG/gen/00232	Investor Securities Ltd. v Sun Island Transfers Ltd.	Winder J	13/1/22
	R v Mark Augustine	Hilton J	13/1/22
2015/CLG/gen/00341	Ashley Dawson-Damer v Grampian Trust Company Limited et al	Winder J	17/2/22
2019/COM/bak/00077	IN THE MATTER of the Pacific Global Advisors Ltd.	Winder J	17/2/22
2011/CLG/gen/01581	Great Lakes Reinsurance (UK) PLC (as Subrogee of Modrono's Simini Place Limited) v RAV Bahamas Ltd.	Winder J	17/2/22
2020/APP/ats/No.00015	Carla Outten-Minnis v The Insurance Commission of The Bahamas	Maree CJ	18/1/22
2019/CLG/gen/MP/0057 and 2021/FP/CLG/gen/00040	Norriah Sophia Newman et al v. Apes International Marketing Company Limited	Hanna Adderley J	21/1/22
2018/CLG/gen/00597	James Fleck v Pittstown Points Landing Limited	Stewart J	21/1/22
2018/COM/lab/00028	Leon Palmer v. The Attorney-General	Charles J	21/1/22
2018/CR/bat/No.00076	Rashid Johnson v DPP	Darville-Gomez J	27/1/22
2020/PUB/jv/0005	Gustavas Ferguson v. Buildings Control Officer	Klein J	27/1/22
2019/CLG/gen/00273	Ion Bradley Nison v The Director of The Bahamas Civil Aviation Authority et al	Klein J	27/1/22
2020/PUB/con/	Marco Oliver v The Commissioner of The Bahamas Department of Corrections et al	Fraser J	28/1/22

FILE NO.	PARTIES	JUDICIAL OFFICER	DATE
2018/CLL/gen/01312	Darren Lester v The Registrar General of The Bahamas et al	Winder J	28/1/22
2020/CLL/gen/000594	Satish Daryanani v Griffin et al v Jitender Keswani et al	Klein J	28/1/22
2007/CLL/gen/FP/00118	Wendy Willis Johnson v Keithnell Hanna	Forbes J	28/1/22
2018/CLL/gen/FP/00208	Waugh Construction (Bahamas) Limited v. Albury's Freeport Limited	Hanna Adderley J	31/1/22
	R v Marco Davis	Hilton J	31/1/22
2020/CLL/gen/00976	The Public Institution For Social Security v Fahed Ma'ad Rajaon Al-Rajaan	Charles J	31/1/22
2015/CLL/gen/01470	Timothy Dames et al v Desmond Fraser et al	Winder J	1/2/22
2019/CLL/gen/01797	Mychal Betheli (T/A Esquire Builders) v Sydney Watkins and Dahl Bethel	Winder J	1/2/22
	R v Marvin Coleby	Archer-Minns J	2/2/22
	R v Dominique Rolle	Archer-Minns J	2/2/22
	R v Tamico Kieme	Archer-Minns J	3/2/22
	R v Marco Davis	Hilton J	3/2/22
2008/CLL/gen/00929	Western Air Limited AND Airport Authority	Winder J	4/2/22
2020/CLL/gen/00592	Gathina IntL Limited AND Replay Destinations(Bahamas) Ltd. -	Winder J	4/2/22
2017/CLL/gen/00014	Old Fort Bay Property Owners Association Limited v Old Fort Bay Company Limited -	Charles J	8/2/22
2017/FAM/div/00105	CR (nee G) AND GR	Hanna Adderley J	10/2/22
2013/CLL/gen/01409	Angelina Turnquest AND Stephen Rahming	Charles J	14/2/22
	R v Ivan Pinder	Hilton J	14/2/22
2021/PUB/jv/00018	Dwayne Woods et al v Dion Faulkes (in his capacity as the Minister of Labour) et al	Klein J	15/2/22
	R v Bernard Storr	Hilton J	15/2/22
2016/CLL/gen/FP/00081	Koydee Limited et al v Bank of The Bahamas Limited	Hanna Adderley J	16/2/22
	R v Fred Lilaibe	Hilton J	17/2/22
	R v Ivan Pinder	Hilton J	17/2/22

FILE NO.	PARTIES	JUDICIAL OFFICER	DATE
2017/CLL/gen/00954	Kevin Nigel Andrews v Scotiabank (Bahamas) Limited	Bowe-Darville J	17/2/22
2017/COM/lab/00041	Pamela Watkine v Paradise Enterprises Ltd.	Stewart J	21/2/22
2020/CLL/gen/00079	Finance Corporation of Bahamas Limited v Charlene M. Jones	Hanna Adderley J	23/2/22
2016/CLL/gen/01031	Adrianna Thompson v Clearview Management Ltd. d/b/a Sandata Grande Emerald Bay	Charles J	23/2/22
	R v Daniel Cookley	Hilton J	24/2/22
2019/CLL/gen/00734	Béltza Marling Sagaray Silva v Replay Destinations (Bahamas) Ltd.	Klein J	24/2/22
2017/CLL/gen/01042	Rainbow Bay Property Owners Association Limited v Warren Farquharson et al	Charles J	25/2/22
2018/CLL/gen/00008	Samantha Johnson v Paradise Enterprises Limited	Stewart J	25/2/22
2013/COM/lab/00662	Nikita Bastwick -v Ministry of Education	Cooper-Burnside Ag J	28/2/22
2013/CLL/gen/01662	Dr. Theodore Ferguson v The Public Hospitals Authority	Hanna Adderley J (NR)	1/3/22
2017/CLL/qui/00845	Re: Stafford Bain	Winder J	1/3/22
2013/COM/lab/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/48/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58	Bradford Roberts et al v Zomar Group Companies Ltd.	Charles J	2/3/22
	R v Sean Higgs	Archer-Minns J	2/3/22
2013/CLL/qui/01041	IN THE MATTER of the Petition of Bahamas Trading Post Inc.	Winder J	4/3/22
2020/CLL/gen/Nos. 01354, 01355 & 01357	Lucayan Towers South Condominium Association v H. Godfrey Waugh et al -	Klein J	7/3/22
2019/CLL/gen/00438	BH RIU Hotels Ltd. v Barbara Johnson	Stewart J	8/3/22
2016/COM/lab/00074	Lanora McKenzie v Wemco Security & Collections Limited	Charles J	10/3/22
	R v Telson & Brenson Francois	Archer-Minns J	14/3/22
	R v Ishmael Forbes	Archer-Minns J	16/3/22
	R v Kristen Francis	Archer-Minns J	16/3/22
	R v Donovan Brennan	Archer-Minns J	16/3/22
2021/CLL/gen/0138	Halsbury Chambers (A Firm) v Water and Sewerage Corporation and The Attorney General	Charles J	16/3/22
	R v Cosentino Gervais	Hilton J	17/3/22

FILE NO.	PARTIES	JUDICIAL OFFICER	DATE
2018/CLL/gen/01417	Nicholas Simmons AND Johnson Brothers Ltd. (d/b/a Little Switzerland)	Charles J	18/3/22
2018/CLL/gen/00317, 00318 and 00319	Typhany Clarke v The Government of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas,	Stewart J	18/3/22
2015/CLL/gen/FP/00153	Gelbex Trading Corporation Limited v Fidelity Bank (Bahamas) Limited	Hanna Adderley J	21/3/22
2014/FP/CLL/gen/00264	Barry Meador v Taino Beach Limited	Hanna Adderley J	22/3/22
	R v Charles Carter	Archer-Minns J	23/3/22
	R v Jeffrey Lunn	Archer-Minns J	23/3/22
2007/CLL/gen/FP/00118	Wendy Willis Johnson v Keithrell Hanna	Forbes J	25/3/22
2018/CLL/gen/FP/00277	Stacy Culmer v Expert Customs Broking Ltd.	Hanna Adderley J	29/3/22
2020/CLL/gen/No. 01354, 01355 and 01357	Lucayan Towers South Condominium Association v H. Godfrey Waugh et al	Klein J	29/3/22
2017/COM/com/00040	Sterling Asset Management Ltd. v Sunset Equities Ltd.	Winder J	30/3/22
2022/PUB/JRV/00002	Breon Davis v COP et al	Darville-Gomez J	31/3/22
	R v Shaquille Munroe	Hilton J	31/3/22
	R v Mauricio Webster	Hilton J	31/3/22
2018/CLL/gen/01048	Coroleane Munroe-Vespy v Ministry of Education	Darville-Gomez J	4/4/22
	R v Dentain Grant	Archer-Minns J	6/4/22
2021/CLL/gen/00084	Commonwealth Bank Limited v Mark Oscar Gibson	Charles J	7/4/22
2018/CLL/gen/00891	Ida Rose v Lionel Whyly aka Lionel Roker	Stewart J	8/4/22
2018/CLL/gen/0252 2010/CLL/gen/1137	Richard Anthony Haywood et al. v Striker Trustees Ltd. et al. Julius Trevor Bethel v Patricia Bloom et al.	Winder J	8/4/22
2005/CLL/gen/0069	Wallace i Rolle et al v Town Court Management Company	Winder J	8/4/22
2018/CLL/gen/FP/00371	Stephen B. Wichecombe v Frederick R. M. Smith	Hanna Adderley J	12/4/22
2013/CLL/gen/FP/00399	Paul Wallace Whitfield v The AG	Hanna Adderley J	13/4/22
2017/CRJ/bal/00087	Larry Artibus Jr. v DPP	Forbes J	16/4/22
2021/pub/JRV/00039	R v Director of Environmental Planning and Protection et al	Klein J	16/4/22

FILE NO.	PARTIES	JUDICIAL OFFICER	DATE
2016/CLL/gen/01564	Petition of Scott E. Findelsen et al (as Trustees of the Stephen A. Orlando Revocable Trust)	Charles J	20/4/22
2021/CLL/gen/00181	Aiana Major v Family Guardian Insurance Company	Klein J	25/4/22
	R v Luken Deshord	Archer-Minns J	20/4/22
2009/CLL/gen/01819	Gateway Ascendancy Ltd. v Tuesday St. Agnes White	Winder J	25/4/22
2011/CLL/gen/01196	Daniel Sears v Central Bank of The Bahamas	Winder J	27/4/22
2016/COM/lab/00076	Warren Taylor v BPL	Winder J	27/4/22
2020/CLL/gen/00509	Kemuel Stuart et al v Rodney Darville et al	Winder J	29/4/22
2020/CLL/gen/01105	Charles Butler v Clarice Muriel Butler et al	Darville-Gomez J	2/5/22
2011/CLL/gen/00194	Bank of The Bahamas v Clyde Stephen Ferguson	Winder J	3/5/22
2014/CLL/gen/001815	FINCO v Donzel Henry Pratt	Weech-Dornez J	4/5/22
2014/CLL/gen/01364	Laverne Scriven-Armbrister v Tracy Brown et al	Turner, Dep. Registrar	4/5/22
	R v Randy Mackey	Archer-Minns J	4/5/22
	R v Eddington Burrows	Archer-Minns J	4/5/22
	R v Anderson Tamolean	Hilton J	5/5/22
	R v Geoffrey Gray	Hilton J	5/5/22
2015/FP/CLL/gen/00164	Stephen B. Wilchcombe (Executor of the Estate of Reverend Raymond Jones Sr.) v Raymond Jones Jr.	Forbes J	6/5/22
	R v Devon Carey	Archer-Minns J	9/5/22
2015/CLL/gen/00884	Triple S. Company Limited v Juliet Nymour	Stewart J	11/5/22
2011/CLL/gen/1598	Belfas Limited v HSBC et al	Charles J	12/5/22
2018/CLL/gen/01961	Zampa Overseas Ltd. v CBH (Bahamas) Ltd.	Winder J	12/5/22
2020/CLL/gen/FP/0125	Re:Mariner's Cove Condominium Association	Hanna Adderley J	13/5/22
2017/CLL/gen/FP/00123	Daniel Mitchell et al v Freeport Concrete et al	Hanna Adderley J	13/5/22
2018/CLL/gen/00212	D'Esther Fox v Ministry of Labour et al	Stewart J	13/5/22
2018/CLL/gen/FP/00208	Waugh Construction (Bahamas) Limited v Albury's Freeport Limited	Hanna Adderley J	16/5/22

FILE NO.	PARTIES	JUDICIAL OFFICER	DATE
2020/CLE/gen/00025	Ashley Reid-Pasconello et al v West Bay Management Limited et al	Darville-Gomez J	17/5/22
	R v Raven Cooper	Hilton J	17/5/22
	R v Dominic Stuart	Archer-Minns J	18/5/22
	R v Imibe Belfort	Archer-Minns J	18/5/22
	R v Vanto Sturup	Archer-Minns J	18/5/22
2020/CLE/gen/FP/000131	Petition of Desmond Dean and Sharmaine Dean	Hanna Adderley J	18/5/22
2016/CLE/gen/00032	Anheuser-Busch International Inc. et al v Burns House Commonwealth Brewery Limited	Charles J	18/5/22
	R v Wilson Ford	Hilton J	18/5/22
2013/CLE/gen/FP/00078, 00079 and 00080	Kevin Archer et als v Freeport Container Port, Hutchinson Parts (Bahamas) Holdings Limited et al	Hanna Adderley J	20/5/22
VB/155/8/2019	DPP v Jeffrey Musgrove et al	Forbes J	23/5/22
2018/CLE/gen/01222	Trevor Sunderland v Butterfield Trust (Bahamas) Limited	Winder J	23/5/22
2017/CLE/gen/01268	Verita Bain v Jamaal Davis	Turner, Dep. Registrar	23/5/22
2014/CLE/gen/02740	Rudolph Barry Kerr v Marcia Kerr et als	Winder J	24/5/22
2018/COM/lab/00641	Aaron Forbes v Saliyya Feaste	Winder J	24/5/22
2020/CLE/gen/00287	Brigitte Seymour et al v Karen G. Rigby	Charles J	26/5/22
2015/CLE/gen/00746	Sidney Duran Cunningham v Scotiabank (Bahamas) Limited et als	Darville-Gomez J	27/5/22
2021/CLE/gen/01043	Cheryl Hamersmith-Stewart v Cromwell Trust Company Limited et als	Charles J	30/5/22
2009/FAM/div/00314	Deborah Charlton v Perry Benson Charlton	Lewis-Johnson J	31/5/22
2014/CLE/gen/00407	Gateway Ascendancy Ltd. v The Estate of The Late Percy C. Burrows	Lewis-Johnson J	31/5/22
2018/CLE/gen/1127	David E. Cummings v Summer Point Properties Limited	Lewis-Johnson J	31/5/22
2008/CLE/gen/FP/00218	Florida Marine and Carey Marine International T/A Carey Marine v New Hope Holding Co. Ltd.	Forbes J	1/6/22
2016/CLE/gen/01887	Kendall Marshall et al v Delcina Collie Saunders	Stewart J	2/6/22
	R v Marvin Ferguson	Hilton J	7/6/22

FILE NO.	PARTIES	JUDICIAL OFFICER	DATE
2020/CLE/gen/00359	Richard Escobar et al v Chub Coy Realty LLC	Charles J	8/6/22
	R v Marco Davis	Archer-Minns J	8/6/22
	R v Eric Arthur	Archer-Minns J	8/6/22
	R v Kervin Pierre-Louis	Hilton J	9/6/22
	R v Fenold Estime	Hilton J	9/6/22
2020/CLE/gen/00632	Gabriela Volpi v Delanson Services Ltd. et al (Consolidated Appeals)	Klein J	13/6/22
2022/CL/gen/00845	MO Apartments Limited v Hon. Philip Davis QC et als	Winder J	13/6/22
	R v Rashawn Wallace	Archer-Minns J	15/6/22
	R v Dion Exallant	Archer-Minns J	15/6/22
	R v Shaquille Munroe	Hilton J	16/6/22
	R v Gregory Sands	Hilton J	21/6/22
	R v Dustin Taylor	Archer-Minns J	21/6/22
	R v Collin Storr & Rodericka Miller	Hilton J	23/6/22
	R v Nelson Bevana Jr.	Hilton J	23/6/22
2018/COM/lab/00059	Chenara Carey v Cape Eleuthera Island School	Winder J	27/6/22
	R v Carlos Perchval Bain	Archer-Minns J	29/6/22
	R v Roobens Eburna	Hilton J	30/6/22
2016/CL/gen/01428	Rhiannon Thomas et als v Thomas John Baldwin	Newton J	30/6/22
196-4/CL/qui/00333	Petition of Building Heritage Limited	Winder J	4/7/22
	R v Gregory Sands	Hilton J	5/7/22
2020/COM/com/00038	Re: Winding-Up Petition filed in relation to the said Finethic Limited	Klein J	7/7/22
2021/CR/can	Jahmal Daniels v The Director of Public Prosecutions et al	Fraser J	7/7/22
2018/CL/gen/01309	Lashawn Cooper v AG et als	Charles J	15/7/22
2019/COM/bnk/00077	Re: Pacific Global Advisors Ltd.	Winder J	18/7/22
2021/CR/ba/00180	Shamar Rolle v DPP	Darville-Gomez J	20/7/22

FILE NO.	PARTIES	JUDICIAL OFFICER	DATE
2021/COM/00049	Baron's Court Holdings Ltd. et al v Registrar General	Morse CJ	21/7/22
	R v Sophia Colebrooke-Rose	Hilton J	21/7/22
2017/CLT/gen/01294	Glendon E. Rolle v Scotiabank (Bahamas) Limited	Charles J	22/7/22
2021/PUB/jv/00003	Dr. Gauri Shirodkar The Bahamas Medical Council	Klein J	22/7/22
	R v Allen Adderley Thompson	Hilton J	25/7/22
2021/CLT/gen/01043	Cheryl Hamersmith-Stewart v Cromwell Trust Company Limited et als	Charles J	26/7/22
	R v Allen Thompson	Hilton J	27/7/22
	R v Gregory Sands	Hilton J	27/7/22
2017/CLT/gen/00180	Ramon Lop v AG	Charles J	29/7/22
2022/CRI/con/00002	Shavon Bethel v COP	Darville-Gomez J	29/7/22
2021/CLT/gen/00988	Commonwealth Bank Limited v Julian Pedican	Darville-Gomez J	2/8/22
2003/CLT/gen/02380	Leahmaryas Investment Company Limited v Albert C. Higgs et als	Winder CJ	4/8/22
2017/CLT/gen/00473	Pedro Knowles v Syngad Services Limited et al	Winder CJ	4/8/22
2018/PRO/cpe/00005	Betty Norma Smith-Forbes v Barrington Smith et al	Winder CJ	4/8/22
2019/CLT/gen/01536	Tynese Jordan Martin v AG et als	Toote, Asst. Registrar	5/8/22
2021/COM/com/00083	Re: Atelier Design e Planejamento de Moveis Ltd et als	Charles J	8/8/22
	R v Pedrito Mejias Jr.	Archer-Minns J	10/8/22
	R v Tahj Charlie	Archer-Minns J	10/8/22
	Regina v Dennaie Johnson	Hilton J	12/8/22
2020/CLT/gen/00058	Fidelity Bank (Bahamas) Limited AND Whittia Damien Forbes (nee Adderley)	Turner, Dep. Registrar	12/8/22
2015/CLT/gen/01079	Miriam Callender d.b.a. Silverline Tours v American Eagle Airlines	Toote, Asst. Registrar	16/8/22
	R v Wonya Cooper, Marquila Dean and Antonio Thompson	Hilton J	17/8/22
2017/CLT/gen/00147	Kim McDeigan AND The Bahamas Co-operative League Insurance Brokerage Ltd.	Cooper-Burnside Ag J	18/8/22
2022/PUB/jrv	Breon Davis AND Commissioner of Police and The Attorney General	Darville-Gomez J	18/8/22

FILE NO.	PARTIES	JUDICIAL OFFICER	DATE
2016/CLL/gen/01346	Delaporte Point Limited AND King Enterprises Limited and Leonette Ferguson	Charles Snr. J	24/8/22
2019/CLL/gen/01828	Caribbean Tobacco Enterprises Ltd. v AG et al	Stewart J	24/8/22
2020/CLL/gen/00963	AG v Jocelyn Bennett et als	Newton J	25/8/22
2019/CLL/gen/00133	Paulette Newton v Lake Cunningham Estates Common Area Management Limited	Stewart J	25/8/22
2021/FAM/div/412	AA v BB	Lewis-Johnson J	29/8/22
2017/CLL/gen/00568	Cusman Bojang v AG et als	Charles Snr. J	30/8/22
	R v Jovardo Adderley	Archer-Minns J	31/8/22
	R v Dominique Rolle	Archer-Minns J	31/8/22
2021/PUB/con/FP/00001	Anishka A. Missick a.k.a Anishka Hanchell v AG	Klein J	2/9/22
2012/FAM/div/00614	AW v FW	Stewart J	9/9/22
2017/CLL/gen/00377	Desmond Andrew Darville v AG	Charles Snr. J	9/9/22
2018/PUB/con/0013	Rayn Cartwright v AG	Fraser J	9/9/22
2021/CLL/gen/00423	Marva McPhee Rolle v Leo Valentino Rolle -	Winder CJ	12/9/22
2018/CLL/gen/00540	Harvey Nixon et als v Nixon et al	Winder CJ	12/9/22
2021/COM/com/00068	Nathalie Whilmara Dorsett v Bernadette Turnquest	Winder CJ	13/9/22
2022/CLL/gen/00852	Heritage Cruise Holdings Ltd. v Silversea Cruise Holdings Ltd. et al	Detancy, Registrar	14/9/22
2018/PRO/cpr/00056	Sherise Hamilton et als v Lanatha D. Williams et al	Stewart J	14/9/22
2014/CLL/gen/01934	Iva Priscilla Dean v Ocean Point Estates Limited et al	Winder CJ	15/9/22
2022/APP/mag/ats/000023	Tiffany Lindsey et al v Angelia Murphy	Darville-Gomez J	16/9/22
2022/CRJ/bal/00189	Salomon Lameach Williams v DPP	Darville-Gomez J	16/9/22
2022/FAM/div/00090	EF and LF	Stewart J	16/9/22
2013/CLL/gen/01344	Commonwealth Franchise Holdings Limited v Casual Dining Restaurants Ltd. et al	Winder CJ	16/9/22
2016/CLL/gen/01465	Janice Curry et al v Roger Cox et al	Charles Snr. J	21/9/22
2017/CLL/gen/01330	Dale Turnquest AND The Attorney General -	Fitzcharles Ag J	22/9/22

FILE NO.	PARTIES	JUDICIAL OFFICER	DATE
2014/FAM/div/FP/00109	BK v CK	Forbes J	23/9/22
2021/PUB/con/FP/00003	Alexander Baneby v COP et al	Forbes J	23/9/22
2015/CRI/vbi/287	Anthony Bethel v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Fraser J	26/9/22
2017/CLT/gen/00505	BAF Financial & Insurance (Bahamas) Ltd. v Kendal Williams Construction Co. Ltd. et al	Charles Snr. J	28/9/22
2022/CLT/gen/00618	Patrice R. Mosley v Bahamas First General Insurance	Delancy, Registrar	3/10/22
2019/CLT/gen/01639	Michel Trepanier v Karen Moss Timothy-	Charles Snr. J	4/10/22
2017/FAM/div/00400	EJ v LJ	Stewart J	7/10/22
2019/CLT/gen/00741	Effie Walls v Winton Wellington Roberts	Charles Snr. J	12/10/22
2018/CLT/gen/00128	Aithya Knowles et al v Monique Rolle et al	Stewart J	13/10/22
2018/CLT/gen/01069	Pauline Virginia Curry v BTC The Bahamas Telecommunications Company Limited -	Winder CJ	17/10/22
2021/CLT/gen/01318	BETWEEN Steven M. Chess and Karen Chess v Bimini Sands Phase 1 Condominium Association and Bimini Sands HOA Phase 2 Inc.	Charles Snr. J	17/10/22
2015/CLT/gen/00341	Ashley Dawson-Damer v Drampian Trust Company Limited and Lyndhurst Limited	Winder CJ	18/10/22
2018/FAM/div/FP/00088	AR v JR	Hanna Adderley J (NR)	18/10/22
2018/FAM/div/00042	JC v DC	Stewart J	20/10/22
2015/FAM/div/00526	AL v EL	Stewart J	20/10/22
2018/CLT/gen/01480	Luccyan Towers South Condominium Association v Grand Bahama Utility Company Limited et al	Klein J	21/10/22
2021/CLT/gen/1556	Gladstone Adderley et al v Dion Bethel et al -	Klein J	21/10/22
2018/CLT/gen/1667	AJ Telecom Bahamas Limited v BTC	Charles Snr. J	28/10/22
2021/PUB/con/FP00001	Anishka A. Missick "a.k.a." Anishka Hanchell v Justice Ruth Bowe-Darville et al	Forbes J	31/10/22
2019/CLT/gen/01444	Ornel Gilbert v Nassau Flight Services	Charles Snr. J	31/10/22
2015/CRI/bai/FP/00131	Jaycee Jeffrey Simmons v DPP	Forbes J	1/11/22
2018/CRI/bai/FP/00116	Shamar Moss v DPP	Forbes J	1/11/22
2021/CLT/gen/00293	Edward Roker v Derrick Munnings	Lewis- Johnson J	

FILE NO.	PARTIES	JUDICIAL OFFICER	DATE
2020/FAM/div/00174	Wayne Sicaud v Kakier Sicaud	Lewis-Johnson J	
2005/CLL/gen/0069	Wallace I Rolle and Krystal D Rolle v The Town Court Management Company	Winder CJ	4/11/22
2016/CLL/qj/01055	Re: Pauline Ferguson	Stewart J	9/11/22
2021/FAM/div/00039	J.H.W and C.W	Stewart J	9/11/22
2018/CLL/gen/001148	Re: Wilfred Butler Jr., Kipling Butler, Don Butler and Perez Butler	Stewart J	9/11/22
2018/CLL/gen/01088 & 2018/CLL/gen/01003	Roma Bartlett v Romona Farquharson-Seymour (d/b/a R.A. Farquharson & Co.)	Winder CJ	14/11/22
2010/CLL/qj/00885	Re: Kirkwood D. Knowles	Winder CJ	14/11/22
CR/vbi/261/11/2018	DPP v Clayton Patterson Smith and Roderick Watson -	Weech-Comez J	16/11/22
2018/CLL/gen/01223	Fairness Limited v Gregory Chipman -	Stewart J	25/11/22
2018/CLL/gen/01042	Rosalyn Brown v Cotswold Group Limited et al	Stewart J	25/11/22





Ms. Carol Munnings Misiewicz, Deputy Registrar

Ms. Carol Munnings Misiewicz, Deputy Registrar, joined the Judiciary as Acting Stipendiary & Circuit Magistrate on 1 March 2016 and was appointed as Acting Deputy Registrar of the Supreme Court on 1 November 2016. She was substantively appointed as Deputy Registrar of the Supreme Court on 1 November 2017. During her tenure as Deputy Registrar of the Supreme Court, she served as Manager, Family Registry, and was appointed to act as Vice-President of the Industrial Tribunal for the period of 30 July to 12 August 2018. Mrs. Misiewicz was granted early retirement with effect from 28 February 2022.



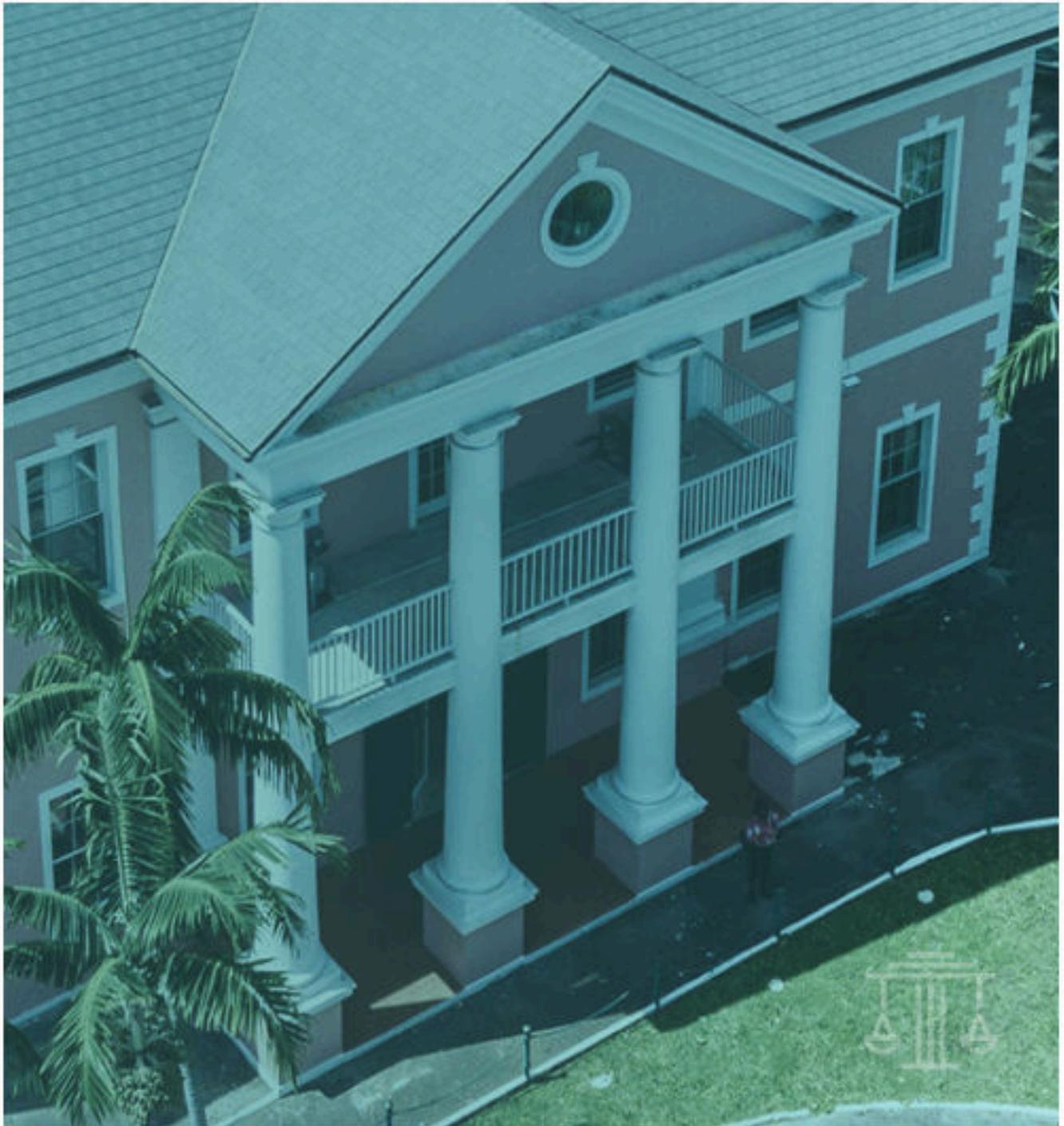
Mrs. Jane E. Rolle (nee Williams)

Mrs. Jane E. Rolle (nee Williams), Senior Court Reporter was appointed to the Public Service on 30th May 1989 and was granted early retirement from the Public Service with effect from 1st December, 2022.



Mrs. Deborah Mae Clarke-Forbes a.k.a. Debra Mae Clarke-Forbes

Mrs. Deborah Mae Clarke-Forbes a.k.a. Debra Mae Clarke-Forbes, Janitress, was appointed to the Public Service on 17th October, 1984, and attained the mandatory retirement age of sixty five (65) years on the 1st August, 2022 and retired from the Public Service with effect from the same date.





JUDICIARY
THE BAHAMAS

07

2022

Bahamas Judiciary
Annual Report

OPENING OF THE
LEGAL YEAR 2022



OPENING OF THE LEGAL YEAR 2022

- 7.1 OPENING OF THE LEGAL YEAR 2022
 - 7.2 FINANCIAL INFORMATION & BUDGET
 - 7.3 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS
-

7.1 OPENING OF THE LEGAL YEAR 2022

The Hon. Sir Brian M. Moree, Kt; KC Chief Justice



The Hon. Mr. Senior Justice Bernard Turner, The Hon. Chief Justice Sir Brian M. Moree, KC, Kt. (as he then was), The Hon. Madam Justice Indra Charles (as she then was) and the Commissioner of Police and Provost Marshal Mr. Clayton Fernander – Opening of the Legal Year January, 2022

As a result of the pandemic, I preside over these virtual court proceedings today with only two of my colleagues – Senior Justice Turner and Justice Charles – in the court room with me. I nonetheless wish to publically acknowledge and pay tribute to the enormous contributions made to the administration of justice in The Bahamas by all the Supreme Court Justices. I deeply regret that they are not all physically present today as they each deserve the spotlight of public recognition for their sterling and outstanding work throughout 2021. I thank them for their national service.

I also wish to thank the Registrars, the Magistrates and all members of staff of the Judiciary for their work, commitment, diligence and support throughout 2021. It is only on the back of these persons that the Courts are able to function.

I am grateful to Reverend Father Kendrick Forbes, J.C.L., Vicar General of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Nassau for his prayer and blessing for the work of the Judiciary and the Bar in 2022.

I thank Acting Commissioner of Police Clayton Fernander for joining us today in his capacity as the Acting Provost Marshall. I am grateful to him for his support and assistance in organizing this event.

I remain grateful and humbled by the opportunity to serve my country and the Bahamian people as the Chief Justice and thank God for his many blessings in my life and recognize His providential hand in all things.

In 2021 Senior Justice Estelle Gray Evans and Justice Ruth Bowe-Darville retired both leaving behind a legacy of outstanding judicial service. Senior Justice Gray Evans had a career in the Judiciary spanning 26 years. During that time she made an enormous contribution to the work of the courts and her many judgments during her fourteen years as a Justice of the Supreme Court form part of the ongoing development of Bahamian jurisprudence.

Senior Justice Gray Evans was the senior judge in the Northern Region and served as acting Chief Justice on three occasions. Her instinctive sense of justice and fair minded approach to judicial decision making will be remembered as part of her legacy. I thank her for her judicial service and wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

Justice Bowe-Darville gave sterling service to the Judiciary during her tenure as a Justice of the Supreme Court. Her case management skills are well known as she firmly but fairly managed cases to trial. Justice Bowe-Darville brought expertise, sensitivity to the human realities behind cases and decades of private practice experience to the resolution of litigious disputes which enabled her to adeptly discharge her judicial duties. Her principled approach to judging was apparent in all of her judicial decisions. I wish her continued success as she moves into another phase of her life.

In December of 2021 Deputy Registrar Carol Misiewicz commenced her pre-retirement leave prior to demitting her substantive office in February, 2022. Her administrative responsibilities included oversight of the Family Registry and her judicial duties involved hearing interlocutory chamber applications in all Divisions of the Court except the Criminal Division. I recognize and thank Deputy Registrar Misiewicz for her service to the Judiciary and her contribution to the administration of justice. As she pursues new opportunities within her areas of interest and expertise I wish her success in all her undertakings.

In 2021 we welcomed five new judges to the Supreme Court - Justice Denise Lewis-Johnson, Justice Andrew Forbes, Justice Jeanine Weech-Gomez, Justice Neil Brathwaite and Justice Camille Darville-Gomez. These appointments significantly increased our judicial resources bringing the total number of judges to twenty before the retirement of Justice Gray Evans and Justice Bowe-Darville. This provided much needed assistance in dealing with the increasing number of cases filed in the courts. Justice Forbes is assigned to the Northern Region while the other four Justices are sitting in New Providence. They each bring to the Judiciary specialized skills and expertise in different areas thereby strengthening the Supreme Court Bench.

There were also five new Magistrates appointed in 2021 - Magistrate Shaka Serville, Magistrate Algernon Allen, Jr., Magistrate Kendra Kelly, Magistrate Ian-Marie Darville-Miller and Magistrate Simone Brown. I welcome each of the new Magistrates to the Judiciary. Magistrate Brown is currently working out of the Garnet Levarity Justice Centre in Freeport

but will be moving to the new court in Eight Mile Rock as soon as the premises are ready for occupancy. The other four Magistrates are assigned to courts in New Providence. The newly appointed Magistrates have already made a significant impact on the volume of cases which are being cleared and I have no doubt that their work will increase our capacity to deal with the backlog.

The 2021 Annual Report will be circulated within the next few days setting out an overview of the work of the Courts during the past 12 months. The Report includes key statistics for 2021 and other important information in connection with the progress in reforming and modernizing the Courts in The Bahamas. I commend it to all who are interested in the work of the Courts.

The theme of the Opening ceremony this year is the centrality of justice to the way of life in The Bahamas. It is my firm view that a functioning, efficient, fair and effective administration of justice anchored in the Rule of Law providing open access to justice is essential to the establishment, development and sustainability of a peaceful, civilized and cohesive society in a democratic country. It is important for members of the public to fully grasp the reality of the centrality of justice to their way of life and not see the administration of justice as a distant abstract concept which is best left to lawyers. The simple point is that the preservation of the liberties and fundamental rights which all in our country expect to enjoy are inextricably linked to and depended upon a competent, efficient and independent judiciary. The profundity of this nexus should inform decisions by the Executive relating to the allocation of resources to the Judiciary.

It was Lord Neuberger who said:

“...rights which cannot be enforced are rights bereft of meaning. A legal right is a sham if it cannot be vindicated in court, and enforced once established. As already mentioned, it is one thing to create bare institutions; to create a justice system, but it is another to render it effective and accessible to all citizens. In our modern consumer, market based society, with its multiplicity of laws and rights, and its increasing scope for legal disputes, it is more important than ever that we have effective, accessible institutions of law.”

In these difficult times when there is increasing competition for public funds it is essential for the decision makers who control the public purse and the general public at large to fully comprehend that the administration of justice is foundational to the peace, order and good governance of our society. This is not merely a slogan but an enduring principle of high importance. In setting national priorities and allocating public funds one ignores this principle at great risk to the country

I am reminded of the words of an English judge when he stated that:

“[w]hen the financial masters are cutting budgets they should heed the warning that “we must be careful that we do not end up knowing the price of everything and the value of nothing.”

It is folly to try to measure the value of the administration of justice in terms of dollars and cents. Properly understood, it is essential to all else which is a part of a civilized and ordered society.

Under the Constitution, the Judiciary is a co-equal independent branch of Government. This constitutional status must be reflected in the way in which the court conducts its operations thereby strengthening the institutional independence of the Judiciary. The Judiciary must not be treated as another Government Department or agency. It bears reminding the public that it is an independent Judiciary which is the ultimate custodian of their rights and liberties. If we are to fulfil our vital constitutional role the Judiciary must be given adequate financial resources, competent staff, proper equipment and supplies and suitable physical premises to operate the courts.

The Judiciary needs to have more control over its administrative, financial and operational matters in order to implement the necessary reforms within the court system. It is for this reason that I am disappointed that the Court Services Bill has not been passed by Parliament. It was tabled in the House of Assembly last year but was not advanced prior to the dissolution of Parliament before the general election. I am in communication with the Attorney General on this subject and I am encouraged by his assurance that this matter will receive the urgent attention of the new Administration. I strongly urge the Government to re-introduce the Court Services Bill in the House of Assembly and expedite its passage and enactment into law. The Bill, if passed, would be a transformative legislative intervention which would fundamentally change the operations of the Courts.

It was Lord Bryce who observed that:

“[t]here isn’t any better test of the excellence of a government than the efficiency of its judicial system”.

We in the Judiciary stand ready to do our part in improving efficiencies and productivity if we are provided with the means to do so.

In reviewing the year of 2021 for the Courts I am reminded of the iconic opening words penned by Charles Dickens in ‘A Tale of Two Cities’ - “It was the best of times, it was the

worst of times." For the Judiciary, it was a year of innovation, reform and significant progress in modernizing important components of the Court system at a time where there was minimal resistance from stakeholders mindful of the imperative to change in order to conduct business during the pandemic – in this sense it was the best of times. On the other hand, the devastation and intrusion of Covid 19 into almost all human behavior was, in a sense the worst of times.

Throughout it all the take away message is that 2021 was a productive year for the Courts.

However, there is still much more work to be done in 2022 and going forward we will be focused on execution and the implementation of the many projects and initiatives which we have been working on for the past two years.

The long awaited new Case Management System in the Courts, known as JWorks, has now been installed and the configuration and migration of the data will be completed in February. The Go Live Dates for the various Divisions of the Court will start in February. JWorks will be installed across the court system including the Magistrates Courts, the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal. The migration of the Court of Appeal data will start later this month.

The E Filing portal has been activated and we are only waiting for the integration with the Government payment system to be completed before launching this service. Lawyers and litigants should be E Filing

court documents in The Bahamas by the end of February. This will substantially change the function and role of the Civil Registry and I will be saying more about this in the coming months.

During 2021 we digitized approximately 3.2 million pages of court records and these scanned documents will be ingested into JWorks over the next few weeks. Another 4.5 million pages of court records will be digitized between January and the end of July. The newly renovated office for the Digitization Unit is expected to be completed by the end of January. I wish to acknowledge the ongoing work of the members of our team in the new internal Digitization Unit headed by Mrs. Grace Bostwick who have performed under difficult circumstances.

The Digital Court Reporting system is ready to be implemented in the Criminal Division of the Supreme Court and the Magistrates Courts and has already been activated in a pilot programme. The system will go live across the courts as soon as we complete the training of judicial staff and finalize the new Policy and Procedures Manual.

The Bail Management System has been launched and is operational. Effective 7 March, 2022 all bail applications in the Supreme Court will have to be made through the new Bail Management system thereby fully automating this process. The version of the software for the Magistrates Court has been completed and will be launched in February.

The Court Automated Payment system in the Family Magistrates Courts is operational and we are now working on increasing utilization through training and the launch of a public awareness programme.

We have automated the process for obtaining court hearing dates and in most cases dates are given within 14 days of submitting the request. In interlocutory applications we now aim to hear those applications within 3 months.

In the Supreme Court Criminal Division we continue to have difficulties with fixing trial dates within reasonable time periods. Lawyers who practice in this area are accustomed to obtaining trial dates which are far into the future based on their calendar. Every case must be considered on its own facts and circumstances but as a general principle the court will not surrender its calendar to the commitments of counsel. It is time that we address the problem of scheduling conflicts and adjournments. Lawyers who are booked for 18- 24 months into the future should not assume that this will dictate the pace of the case and the trial date. I am aware that constitutional issues are engaged in this discussion but the court is not impotent in the face of counsel who claim to have no availability for 2 or 3 years. I intend to discuss this matter with members of Bar Council, the Director of Public Prosecutions and members of the Criminal Bar in an attempt to find a sensible and balanced approach to this problem but the current position is no longer sustainable. We have a duty to the public to address the backlog and to get criminal cases to trial within a reasonable period of time.

We will be setting up in the Registrar's Office a Resolution Desk which will deal with all enquiries relating to procedural anomalies and cases where the targeted dates for action are not met. We in the Court system must be accountable for our commitments with regard to work flows and where we are not meeting our self-imposed deadlines the matter can be referred to the Resolution Desk for early intervention.

It is necessary for the court on the civil and family side to better triage cases at the intake stage to more efficiently direct their course through the court system. We will make this intervention through Case Progression Officers who will proactively manage the life cycle of cases assigned to them using the new case Management System.

I will be issuing a Practice Direction in February establishing 'Motion Days' for hearing interlocutory applications which are not expected to take more than 30-60 minutes. The Motion judge will also hear applications which do not qualify as urgent for the Urgent Duty Judge but which nonetheless justify an expedited hearing. The time is over where lawyers and litigants must wait months for hearing dates for non-contentious applications or applications which are procedural or case management related.

There will be an increased use of 'Paper Applications' where the matter will be disposed of on the papers without a hearing. I also intend to increase the utilization of telephone hearings for appropriate applications. I will be releasing a Practice Direction setting out the details relating to these applications. When there are hearings, counsel will be expected to comply with time limits set by the presiding judicial officer for oral submissions. There simply is not enough judicial time to listen to counsel for as long as he/she wants to talk. Careful, thorough, clear and reasoned written submissions by counsel will reduce the need for long oral submissions.

We will continue to rely heavily on remote video/Zoom court hearings in the Supreme Court. There have been many enquiries about the use of these hearings going forward. It is my view that remote video hearings in the Supreme Court are here to stay and are now a permanent part of the court system and will be used as one of the Disposition Modes in addition to In-Person Hearings, Telephone hearings and Applications on the Papers.

I am in discussion with the Attorney General with regard to conducting remote court hearings in the Family Islands using court rooms where available and the Office of the Administrator when there is no court room. There is no good reason why we cannot deliver greater access to justice for persons in the Family Island where they will not have to incur the costs and endure the inconvenience of travelling to either Grand Bahama or New Providence to deal with their cases. The solution will involve the deployment of the necessary technology and a package of legislative amendments to facilitate the process. Once the necessary legislative amendments are made, we will be able to conduct hearings in the Family Islands between the visits of the Magistrates on Circuit.

I have also had discussions with the Attorney General relating to proposed amendments to the Magistrates Act to increase the civil jurisdiction of the Magistrates to \$20,000.00 and to award costs up to \$1,000.00. This is a part of a compendium of legislation relating to the administration of justice which I have discussed with the Attorney General which includes proposed amendments to the Evidence Act, The Criminal Procedure Code, The Jurors Act, The Child Protection Act as it pertains to the Juvenile Court and the Coroners Act.

I am in consultation with the Attorney General in an effort to locate suitable premises for a breakout Juvenile Court, a Commercial Court fitted out with the necessary technology and a separate Family Court with all the ancillary support services including counselling, social services, child care facilities and mediation services. It is my hope that resources will be made available to the Judiciary to set up these courts by the end of the second quarter of this year.

A new system of court connected mediation will be introduced into the Family and Commercial Divisions during the first quarter. I have circulated a draft of the Practice Direction and Schedules to the key stakeholders and will be proceeding with this project during the first quarter. I have no diffidence in stating that a modern court system must have a mediation component as an alternative method of resolving disputes to reduce the number of cases which proceed to trial.

The following observation is as applicable to the Bahamas as it was to the intended audience of the speaker when he said:

“If Alternative Dispute Resolution [and specifically mediation] is to become a practical reality and not, in the main, a literary subject in this country, [attorneys] will have to recognize the conciliation of cases out of court, and not only the winning of cases in court, as part of their professional vocation.”

Coroners Inquests have been hampered largely due to the ongoing COVID 19 pandemic which continues to impact the smooth running of the Coroner's Court. The Acting Coroner completed several Inquests in 2021 and one in 2022 but the pace of future Inquests is dependent on providing an environment which is compliant with the Covid 19 protocols and regulations.

We will make further changes in the Probate Registry in 2022 to ensure that we can deliver on our policy to process all compliant applications within 90 days.

The Judicial Research Counsel programme is now in its third year. Two members of the unit will be moving on to other engagements but we will have 12 Judicial Research Counsel working in the Judiciary by the end of January.

There remains a compelling need for a customized New Supreme Court Complex. Progress on this project has been severely impacted by the pandemic and it remains to be seen whether this will be financially viable in the short term through innovative ways of financing using the capital markets and/or possibly some form of Public/Private Partnership.

The Bahamas Judicial Education Institute is now responsible for all training in the Judiciary. The Institute is mandated to provide structured, judiciary specific programs throughout the course of the legal year for the judiciary and will be engaged in a massive training programme in 2022 in connection with the new software applications, new work flows, new procedures and general up skilling in computer technology. The new Training Centre in Charlotte House is completed but for a few remaining items on the Punch List and this will now provide us, for the first time, with a customized 'plug and play' training facility for our judicial officers and our staff.

I am acutely aware of the existence of the digital divide in our country which means that all court users do not have access, or in some cases the same level of access as others, to the technology needed to use the new ICT solutions underpinning the modernization of the courts. For this reason, the reform of our work processes in the courts will include the establishment of 'Service Centres in Court buildings and the appointment of 'Court ICT Support Officers to assist court users who do not have access to technology. We will also open Zoom Rooms in our Court Buildings for use by parties and witnesses who do not have access to the requisite technology to participate in video remote hearings. I also intend to speak with the President of the Bar about the possibility of providing a similar facility in the offices of the Bar.

We in the Judiciary are cognizant of the issues arising from the delivery of judgments in Supreme Court cases, most particularly in the non-criminal divisions. I intend to address this matter head on with the judges and will be rearranging court calendars to ensure that judges will have time to prepare their judgments shortly after completing the matter. Timelines will be put in place for the delivery of judgments and I will be saying more about this after I complete my discussions with judges on this important subject. It is axiomatic that improved

work flows and greater efficiencies in our procedures will be marginalized if lawyers and litigants cannot get judgments within a reasonable period of time. The judges are in court hearings and trials almost every day and they are left to write their judgments after working hours or on weekends. Notwithstanding their diligence and commendable commitment this is not working and we will make the changes during the first quarter of 2022 to address this problem.

Time restrictions only permit to say that the new Civil Procedure Rules will be circulated to members of the Bar and other key stakeholders by Monday of next week. There will be a 3 month period of consultation with members of the Bar with the intention of promulgating the new Rules by the end of May, 2022.

The multiple initiatives and projects in the courts which I have summarized all have a single overriding objective – to provide a modern, efficient, fair and accessible court system headed by an independent Judiciary which is functioning in line with best practices and fulfilling the reasonable expectations of court users. This is our mission and once we are given adequate resources by the Government we in the Judiciary will spend 2022 in and about the business of fulfilling this mission.

I borrow the words of a former Master of the Rolls in England when I say that “.....fair and equal access to the courts is not a privilege but a fundamental right ...which is a requirement of a modern civilized society.” In 2022, for the Judiciary, it will be all about making this a reality. I join one of my predecessors in quoting the words of Sir Winston Churchill spoken to the President of the United States at the height of World War II when he said “Give us the tools and we will get the job done.” This is my message to the Executive branch of Government.

I DECLARE THE 2022 LEGAL YEAR OPEN.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

REVENUE REPORT (1 November, 2021 – 31 October, 2022)

TRANSCRIPTS OF COURT PROCEEDINGS

	NEW PROVIDENCE	FREEPORT		TOTAL
Nov-21	3,670.00	236.50		3,906.50
Dec-21	3,070.00	421.00		3,491.00
Jan-22	2,790.50	20.00		2,810.50
Feb-22	4,333.00	706.00		5,039.00
Mar-22	5,044.50	425.00		5,469.50
Apr-22	3,731.50	411.50		4,143.00
May-22	5,895.00	694.00		6,589.00
Jun-22	3,911.00	308.00		4,219.00
Jul-22	5,259.00	67.50		5,326.50
Aug-22	5,183.50	200.50		5,384.00
Sep-22	5,270.50	378.75		5,649.25
Oct-22	5,721.00	368.00		6,089.00
TOTAL	53,879.50	4,236.75		58,116.25

REVENUE REPORT (1 November, 2021 – 31 October, 2022)

JUDICIAL FEES AND SERVICE CHARGES

	NEW PROVIDENCE	FREEPORT		TOTAL
Nov-21	44,928.15	11,782.25		56,710.40
Dec-21	83,925.60	8,341.40		92,267.00
Jan-22	55,279.55	2,174.70		57,454.25
Feb-22	81,635.05	13,227.70		94,862.75
Mar-22	88,694.15	9,655.35		98,349.50
Apr-22	65,120.46	6,960.55		72,081.01
May-22	88,387.40	8,491.90		96,879.30
Jun-22	68,526.65	18,572.25		87,098.90
Jul-22	52,127.30	11,289.00		63,416.30
Aug-22	86,594.95	8,304.30		94,899.25
Sep-22	77,681.10	11,415.80		89,096.90
Oct-22	86,457.00	11,936.20		98,393.20
TOTAL	879,357.36	122,151.40		1,001,508.76

REVENUE REPORT (1 November, 2021 – 31 October, 2022)

JUDICIAL FINES AND FORFEITURES				
	NEW PROVIDENCE	FREEPORT	ABACO	TOTAL
Nov-21	592,489.69	76,616.00		669,105.69
Dec-21	172,997.85	49,560.00		222,557.85
Jan-22	318,299.10	9,935.00		328,234.10
Feb-22	330,746.91	97,615.00		428,361.91
Mar-22	379,927.90	103,120.00		483,047.90
Apr-22	272,497.80	54,860.00		327,357.80
May-22	298,615.55	73,020.00		371,635.55
Jun-22	329,378.30	76,645.00		406,023.30
Jul-22	212,691.05	55,073.00		267,764.05
Aug-22	265,102.85	75,520.00		340,622.85
Sep-22	289,014.10	77,660.00		366,674.10
Oct-22	292,961.30	91,292.00		384,253.30
TOTAL	3,754,722.40	840,916.00	169,991.00	4,765,629.40



[Head 008] OFFICE OF THE JUDICIARY



ITEM NO.	TITLE OF ITEM	PROVISIONAL ACTUAL EXPENDITURE	EXPENDITURE (PROVISIONAL) JUL - MAR 2021/2022	REVISED APPROVED ESTIMATES 2021/2022	ESTIMATES 2022/2023	PRELIMINARY FORECAST ESTIMATES 2023/2024	PRELIMINARY FORECAST ESTIMATES 2024/2025
		2020/2021	2021/2022	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025
		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS							
21100EE	Wages & Salaries (In Cash)						
2111001	Salary-Permanent/Pensionable	9,559,760	7,315,314	8,866,571	8,382,688	8,459,260	8,417,051
2111002	Salary-Contract Workers	217,431	606,503	2,190,981	2,299,550	2,299,550	2,299,550
	Wages & Salaries (In Cash)	9,777,191	7,921,817	11,057,552	10,682,238	10,758,810	10,716,601
21120EE	Allowances						
2112101	Honoraria	23,940	13,297	30,900	20,400	20,400	21,000
2112102	Overtime - Monthly Employees (General)	478	5,038	20,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
2112103	Housing Allowance	838,549	652,081	913,000	1,117,711	1,063,000	1,060,000
2112104	Scarcity Allowance	429,717	280,719	424,000	424,000	424,000	424,000
2112106	Educational Allowance	0	0	70,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
2112107	Technical Allowance	0	0	3,300	3,300	3,300	3,300
2112112	Transport & Mileage Allowance	57,443	34,599	156,912	156,912	156,912	153,452
2112115	Responsibility Allowance	260,389	204,804	277,000	328,635	330,000	330,000
2112116	Acting Allowance	81	195	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
2112133	Official Entertainment Allowance	10	10	0	12,885	13,000	13,500
2112199	Other Allowances	45,000	31,368	46,900	60,429	62,000	65,000
	Allowances	1,666,497	1,234,696	1,972,012	2,294,272	2,242,612	2,240,252
	Personal Emoluments	11,443,688	9,155,915	13,029,564	12,976,510	13,001,422	12,956,853
22000EE	Use of Goods & Services						
22111EE	Domestic Travel & Subsistence						
2211101	Air Transport of Persons Within The Bahamas	0	3	2,300	17,000	28,350	29,768
2211103	Mileage Within The Bahamas	750	1,400	300	8,000	10,000	12,000
2211110	Subsistence for Travellers Within The Bahamas	5,280	10,680	27,000	27,000	28,350	29,768
	Domestic Travel & Subsistence	11,330	12,415	62,000	62,000	66,700	71,536
22112EE	International Travel & Subsistence						
2211201	Air Transport of Persons Outside The Bahamas	0	0	3,000	10,000	10,500	11,500
2211210	Subsistence for Travellers Outside The Bahamas	0	0	3,000	10,000	10,500	11,500
	International Travel & Subsistence	0	0	6,000	20,000	21,000	23,000
22210EE	Rent						
2221101	Rent - Living Accommodation (General)	28,340	7,500	36,000	0	0	0
	Rent	28,340	7,500	36,000	0	0	0
22410EE	Supplies & Materials						
2241201	Office Supplies & Stationery	35,209	10,139	60,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
2241205	Food, Ice & Drinking Water	29,048	18,672	50,400	7,000	7,000	7,000
2241206	Publications	6,913	2,698	9,440	9,440	9,876	10,645
2241211	Cleaning & Toilet Supplies	40,357	29,411	50,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
2241212	Computer Software Supplies & Materials	7,696	3,484	19,600	19,600	20,580	21,609
2241213	Clothing & Clothing Supplies	5,190	1,643	17,000	17,000	17,850	18,525
2241299	Other Supplies & Materials	6,308	3,572	17,467	17,467	19,116	20,172
	Supplies & Materials	130,811	69,619	223,907	74,507	78,422	81,951

[Head 008] OFFICE OF THE JUDICIARY



ITEM NO.	TITLE OF ITEM	PROVISIONAL ACTUAL EXPENDITURE	EXPENDITURE (PROVISIONAL) JUL - MAR	REVISED APPROVED ESTIMATES	ESTIMATES	PRELIMINARY FORECAST ESTIMATES	PRELIMINARY FORECAST ESTIMATES
		2020/2021	2021/2022	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025
		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
22510EE	Services						
2251101	Printing & Duplication Service	15,782	6,583	23,700	0	0	0
2251102	Advertising & Public Notices	3,797	1,504	14,400	14,400	14,800	16,320
2251104	Professional Services (Audit, Accounting)	0	0	800	800	1,000	1,200
2251107	Workshops, Conferences, Seminars, Meetings & Exhibits	5,583	1,860	14,400	14,400	19,650	20,396
2251108	Tuition, Training, In-service Awards, Subsistence	1,223	140	16,000	16,000	16,800	17,640
2251109	Licensing & Inspection of Vehicles	3,705	235	4,472	0	0	0
2251110	Postage, Postal Machines & Services	0	0	120	120	150	1,507
2251115	Consultancy Services	0	0	4,410	4,410	4,631	4,862
2251128	Fees & Other Charges	114,233	11,014	41,527	43,392	46,807	50,218
2251129	Staff Engagement	243	2,104	7,500	7,500	7,875	8,269
2251134	Special Projects	0	50,000	1,000,000	500,000	500,000	600,000
2251203	Freight & Express	2,776	1,709	30,000	10,000	10,500	11,025
2251302	Building Maintenance	34,194	12,186	46,000	46,000	46,800	47,640
2251322	Office Furniture Upkeep	1,650	261	5,600	5,600	6,200	6,410
2251337	Operation of Facilities or Other Services	179,645	506,363	873,962	623,962	679,762	630,077
2251399	Other Contractual Services	0	0	1,050	1,050	1,050	1,050
	Services	362,831	593,959	2,063,941	1,287,634	1,356,025	1,416,614
22610EE	Minor Capital Repairs						
2261201	Transportation Equipment Upkeep	12,549	9,270	27,200	27,200	28,560	29,988
	Minor Capital Repairs	12,549	9,270	27,200	27,200	28,560	29,988
22710EE	Operational Expenses						
2271001	Operational Expenses	449,918	223,610	450,000	450,000	470,000	470,000
	Operational Expenses	449,918	223,610	450,000	450,000	470,000	470,000
22810EE	Special Financial Transactions						
2281105	VAT Expenses	0	0	950	100	100	100
2281151	Judicial Service Commission Operational Expenses	120	0	3,000	3,000	3,150	3,308
	Special Financial Transactions	120	0	3,950	3,100	3,250	3,408
	Use of Goods & Services	995,899	916,373	2,872,998	1,924,441	2,023,957	2,096,497
27000EE	Social Benefits						
27200EE	Social Assistance Benefits						
2721108	Legal Aid	260,900	195,464	350,000	350,000	368,500	430,125
2721109	Victim Care Fund	285,287	400,344	550,000	550,000	609,500	684,500
	Social Assistance Benefits	546,187	595,808	900,000	900,000	978,000	1,114,625
	Social Benefits	546,187	595,808	900,000	900,000	978,000	1,114,625
	OFFICE OF THE JUDICIARY TOTAL EXPENSES	12,985,574	10,668,096	16,802,562	15,800,951	16,003,379	16,167,975

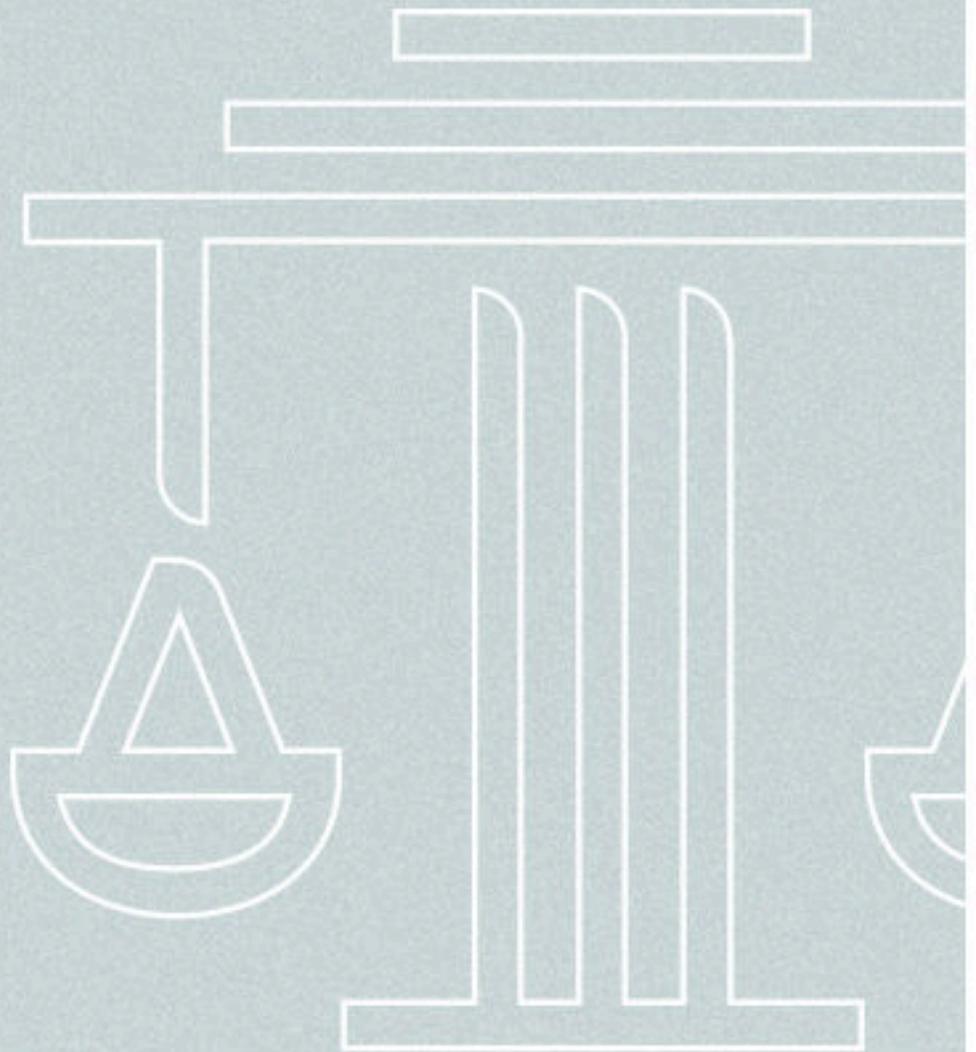
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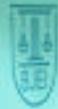
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Annual Committee is co-Chaired by the Honourable Madam Justice J. Denise Lewis-Johnson and Registrar Constance A. Delancy, Editor, the Honourable Madam Justice Deborah E. Fraser, Deputy Registrar Stephana J. Saunders (Northern Region), Deputy Registrar and Acting Director of Court Services Renaldo Toote, Senior Magistrate and Acting Coroner Kara Turnquest-Deveaux, Office Manager Bathsheba Algreen, Human Resource Manager FAS Annamae Neely, Mrs. Elizabeth Taylor, Ms. Nicoya Neilly and Ms. Royanne Williamson.

The Judiciary wishes to thank the talented and hardworking team at The Bahamas Government Printing Department, especially Mr. Stephen Collins, Mr. David Knowles of Pro Photo, Mr. Justin Cancino and the Starboard Softworks, Ltd. team and The Bahamas Information Service.

Judiciary the Bahamas
Annual Report 2022





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