

ANNUAL REPORT

Empowering Justice: Building on the Past, Shaping the Future.

The Court's Transitional Journey

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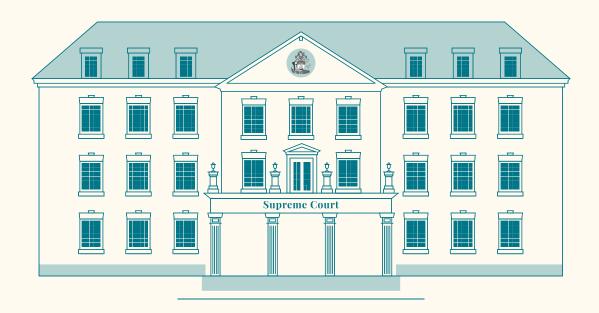
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INTRODUCTION:









STATEMENTS

VISION & MISSION

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

/1

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

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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.

FOREWORD

THE HON. CHIEF JUSTICE

SIR IAN R. WINDER, KT.

The year 2024 was an incredibly successful one for the Judiciary as we continued to reform and retool our way of doing business in the service of the people of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas. Having completed my second full year as Chief Justice I continue to be humbled and honoured to lead the talented judicial officers and staff of the Judiciary. I wish to publically thank them for their service and the support given to me during this very busy year. Undoubtedly, the most significant event of 2024 was the bringing into force of the Court Services Act 2023 (the Act). The Act came into effect on 1 July, 2024. This landmark and transformative legislation represents a significant step forward in modernizing and improving the efficiency of our judicial system.

The objectives of the Act are -

- (a) to enhance the independence of the judiciary by placing the courts under the administration of an autonomous body;
- (b) to confer on such body the power to provide courts with administrative facilities and services necessary for the proper administration of justice;
- (c) to enable the judiciary to manage its administrative and financial affairs; and
- (d) to promote transparency and accountability in the administration of justice. The Act establishes the Court Services Council (the Council) which shall be responsible for providing administration and support services for the courts. The functions of the Council are-
 - (a) to manage all matters related to the administration of the courts;
 - (b) to provide support services for judicial officers;
 - (c) to manage real and personal property under the control of the Council;
 - (d) to ensure adherence by judicial officers and staff of the Council to any administrative policies and guidelines established by the Board and to oversee the implementation of the policies and guidelines;

- (e) to ensure adherence by judicial officers and staff of the Council to any administrative policies and guidelines established by the Board and to oversee the implementation of the policies and guidelines;
- (f) to establish the qualifications for the appointment of staff;
- (h) to provide training and education for judicial officers and staff of the Council.
 - (a) determining the administrative and financial policies and guidelines to be observed by the courts;
 - (b) giving general or specific directions with respect to the administrative and financial matters of the courts as the Board deems necessary for carrying out the objectives of the Act.

The first members of the Board of Directors of the Council were myself, as Chairman, President of the Court of Appeal, Mr. Justice Jon Isaacs, Madam Justice Guillimina Archer-Minns, Supreme Court Registrar, Mrs. Constance Delancy, Chief Magistrate, Mr Roberto Reckley, Mr Herbert Cash, CPA, Mrs. Khrystle RutherfordFerguson, President of The Bahamas Bar Association, Mr. Kahlil Parker KC and Court of Appeal Registrar, Miss Kristina Wallace Whitfield. Mr. Renaldo Toote has since replaced Registrar Delancy on her promotion to the Supreme Court bench. The Board of Directors of the Council is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Act and developing the initial infrastructure of the Council.

The transition to the Council has not been without its challenges, the most notable of which has been the loss of some of our most valued and cherished team members who have chosen to remain in the Public Service. We respect their decision and wish them well in their new career paths. I wish to publically thank them all for their contributions over the years in the development of the Judiciary.

Another significant milestone in 2024 was the bringing into force of The Electronic Case Management Rules 2023, which was passed in September 2023. On 1 February 2024 the Supreme Court commenced the electronic filing of court documents remotely onto the Judiciary's E-Filing platform for the first time. The electronic platform provides a myriad of advantages: reduces paper usage and manual processing of case files; improves security by eliminating the incidents of lost or misplaces files; eliminates the need to physically transport files between judicial officers; improves accessibility by giving 24 hours access to the registry and the court files by judicial officers and lawyers; convenience as attorneys can immediately file documents directly into the portal from their chambers; instant updating as electronic filing means that files are immediately updated and the updates immediately available to all relevant parties; and strengthens financial accountability. I wish to express my gratitude to Assistant Registrars Rosanne Sweeting and Indy Hunter who have been managing the newly created E-Filing Registry and providing hands-on support in helping users access and utilize the platform.

The year 2024 also saw considerable infrastructural upgrades in the Judiciary. The Family Court Complex on Bernard Road moved considerably closer to completion as a soft opening was held on 19 December 2024. The Supreme Court Family and Probate Registries relocated to the Complex in November 2024 in advance of the complete relocation of the Magistrate's Family and Domestic Courts and the Family and Probate Divisions of the Supreme Court in January. In addition to modern fit for purpose court spaces and registries, provision in the complex is made for all of the attendant wrap around services such as the Department of Social Services, the Police and Daycare/Nursery facilities.

Work towards the construction of a Supreme Court Complex at the proposed Shirley Street site also progressed in 2024 with the completion of the acquisition of the several properties between Parliament and Charlotte Streets. A demolition permit for the removal of the Rodney Bain Building has been secured and it is expected that this building will be demolished very shortly to make way for the construction process to begin in earnest.

Other capital works in the Judiciary included significant upgrades at the Supreme Court Annex 1 to which the Office of the Chief Justice has been relocated. This will permit the utilization of an additional criminal court in the Hansard Building. The internal renovations, which involved each floor, was substantially completed by the end of 2024. Work to the basement and the roof continues.

In 2024 deliberate efforts were taken to engage in Criminal Justice Reform in the Supreme Court. Most notable of these efforts was the passage of the Supreme Court (Trial by Judge Alone) Act 2024 and Supreme Court Amendment Act 2024. The Supreme Court Amendment Act 2024 has permitted the Supreme Court Rules Committee to pass the Supreme Court (Criminal Case Management)(Amendment) Rules 2024. These new rules are intended to promote more efficient and effective case management in criminal matters by providing for the Defense Statement and a mechanism for Pre-trial Evidentiary Hearings. A period of sensitization and meaningful engagement took place amongst stakeholders and the rules came into effect on 31 December 2024.

The Bahamas Judicial Education Institute conducted several key training initiatives during the course of the year. A four day training program for judicial officers and judicial research counsel, facilitated by the Caribbean Association of Judicial Officers (CAJO) was held on January 15-18, 2024 under the theme, "Strengthening the Judicial Office". On 16-17 September 2024 a two day training program for judicial officers and criminal practitioners, facilitated by UK Counsel, was held on the new Criminal Case Management Rules. On 5-6 December 2024 a two day orientation program was conducted for newly appointed Judges and Magistrates.

In 2024 Magistrates began to hear civil disputes of up to \$20,000. This empowered Magistrates to preside over a broader spectrum of civil matters facilitating swifter and more accessible resolution for individuals and businesses alike. With the enhanced jurisdiction, the Magistrates Court emerged as a vital avenue for seeking justice and resolving disputes efficiently. In an effort towards enhancing accessibility and efficiency in legal proceedings we established the first full-time day court dedicated exclusively to civil disputes. We also added, as of 1 November 2024, an additional night civil court bringing the total number of civil night courts to two. It is hoped that this will streamline the civil litigation processes and alleviate the burden on Supreme Court schedules.

Following the opening of the Obediah H. Wilchombe Complex in December of 2023, the Eight Mile Rock Magistrates Court was finally opened for operations in April 2024. A second criminal Court in the Northern Region officially began hearing cases in September. Justice Petra Hanna Adderley sits in this new Court.

On 12 August 2024 the Judiciary was saddened to learn of the untimely passing of Deputy Chief Magistrate Debbye Ferguson, who died in office.

DCM Ferguson, a treasured member of the Judiciary team, had served as a Magistrate for over 20 years, all of which was in Grand Bahama. She will be sorely missed and we continue to keep her family and friends in our prayers.

In these pages we seek to provide: a statistical account of some of the work undertaken during 2024 in the Magistrates Court and the Supreme Court; information of new staffing appointments and deployment; training undertaken both locally and abroad; the rostering of judges in 2024; and, other highlights of 2024. I wish to formally register my thanks and appreciation to the team responsible for preparing this Annual Report. That team included Justice Denise Lewis-Johnson, Registrars Constance Delancy and Renaldo Toote, Senior Justice Deborah Fraser, CEO Delgardo Forbes, Deputy Registrar Olivia Blatch, Assistant Chief Magistrate Kara TurnquestDeveaux, Human Resources Manager Annamae Neely and Executive Director Miss Nicoya Neely. The team has done an incredible job in collating the material to be found in these pages. I hope that you will find this Annual Report to be informative and uplifting.



JUDICIAL STRUCTURE:





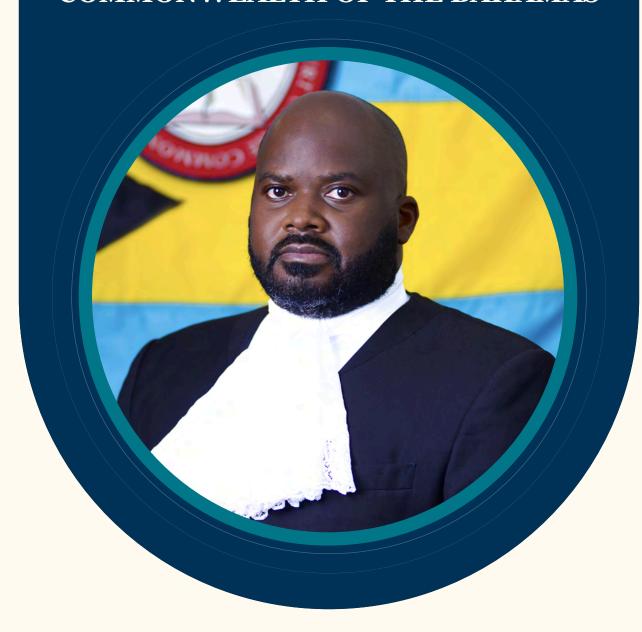




JUDICIAL STRUCTURE:

- CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS
- 1.2 SENIOR JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT
- 1.3 JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT

CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS



The Honourable Chief Justice

SIR IAN R. WINDER, KT.

COURT NO. 1

SUPREME COURT ANNEX I

DATE OF APPOINTMENT

4 AUGUST 2022

SENIOR JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT



The Hon. Madam Senior Justice **DEBORAH E. FRASER**

Court No. 10

SUPREME COURT ANNEX I

Date of Appointment

1 MAY 2023



The Hon. Madam Senior Justice
CHERYL
GRANT-THOMPSON

Court No. 19

HANSARD BUILDING

Date of Appointment

1 OCTOBER 2023



The Hon. Mr. Justice

G. GREGORY HILTON

Court No. 4

SUPREME COURT BUILDING

Date of Appointment
1 NOVEMBER 2016

The Hon. Madam Justice

PETRA HANNA-ADDERLEY

Court No. 2

GARNET LEVARITY JUSTICE CENTRE

Date of Appointment

1 FEBRUARY 2017





The Honourable Madam Justice

GUILLIMINA ARCHER-MINNS

Court No. 5

SUPREME COURT BUILDING

Date of Appointment

1 AUGUST 2017



The Hon. Madam Justice

DONNA D. NEWTON

Court No. 12

Date of Appointment

1 FEBRUARY 2018

The Hon. Madam Justice

W. RENAE MCKAY

Court No. 2

SUPREME COURT BUILDING

Date of Appointment

1 FEBRUARY 2018





The Hon. Mr. Justice

LOREN KLEIN

Court No. 9

SUPREME COURT ANNEX I

Date of Appointment

8 JANUARY 2020



The Hon. Madam Justice

J. DENISE LEWIS-JOHNSON, MBE

Court No. 11

SUPREME COURT ANNEX I

Date of Appointment 31 MAY 2021

The Hon. Mr. Justice

ANDREW D. FORBES

Court No. 1

GARNET LEVARITY JUSTICE CENTRE

Date of Appointment 31 MAY 2021





The Hon. Madam Justice

JEANINE WEECH-GOMEZ

Court No. 7

SUPREME COURT ANNEX I

Date of Appointment 31 MAY 2021



The Hon. Mr. Justice

NEIL BRATHWAITE

Court No. 6

SUPREME COURT ANNEX I

Date of Appointment
14 JUNE 2021

The Hon. Madam Justice

CAMILLE DARVILLE-GOMEZ

Court No. 12

SUPREME COURT ANNEX II

Date of Appointment
18 SEPTEMBER 2021





The Hon. Madam Justice

SIMONE FITZCHARLES

Court No. 3

SUPREME COURT BUILDING

Date of Appointment

1 FEBRUARY 2023



The Hon. Madam Justice

CARLA CARD-STUBBS

Court No. 8

SUPREME COURT ANNEX I

Date of Appointment

1 FEBRUARY 2023

The Hon. Mr. Justice

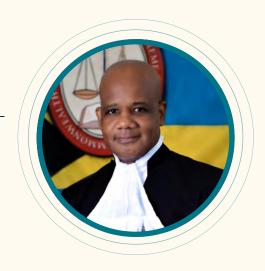
FRANKLYN WILLIAMS, KC, M.B.

Court No. 14

SUPREME COURT ANNEX II

Date of Appointment

1 FEBRUARY 2023





The Hon. Madam Justice

C. V. HOPE STRACHAN

Court No. 18

SUPREME COURT ANNEX II

Date of Appointment

1 MARCH 2023



The Hon. Madam Justice

JOYANN FERGUSON

Court No. 15

SUPREME COURT ANNEX II

Date of Appointment 25 MARCH 2024

The Hon. Mr. Justice

ANDREW MCKINNEY

Court No. 15
SUPREME COURT ANNEX I

Date of Appointment
2 SEPTEMBER 2024





The Hon. Mr. Justice

DARRON ELLIS

Court No. 17

SUPREME COURT ANNEX I

Date of Appointment

16 SEPTEMBER 2024



The Hon. Madam Justice

CONSTANCE A. DELANCY

Court No. 3

GARNET LEVARITY JUSTICE CENTRE

Date of Appointment

20 NOVEMBER 2024



REGISTRARS OF THE SUPREME COURT



RENALDO J. TOOTE

REGISTRAR (Acting)

Date of Appointment
20 NOVEMBER 2024

STEPHANA J. SAUNDERS

DEPUTY REGISTRAR (Northern Region)

Date of Appointment

1 JANUARY 2005





JENNIFER STUART-BASTIAN

DEPUTY REGISTRAR

Date of Appointment
1 JULY 2022



OLIVIA BLATCH

DEPUTY REGISTRAR (Northern Region)

Date of Appointment
1 JULY 2022

ROSANNE SWEETING

ASSISTANT REGISTRAR (Northern Region)

Date of Appointment 6 JANUARY 2024





INDY HUNTER

ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

Date of Appointment 6 JANUARY 2024

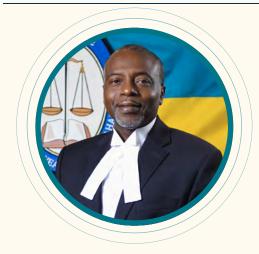
JONATHAN DEAL

ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

Date of Appointment 21 JULY 2024



STIPENDIARY & CIRCUIT MAGISTRATES



MR. ROBERTO RECKLEY

CHIEF MAGISTRATE & DEPUTY CORONER

Court No.9
MAGISTRATE COURTS COMPLEX

Date of Appointment 25 MARCH 2024

MRS. SUBUSOLA LAWANSON-SWAIN

DEPUTY CHIEF MAGISTRATE

(Acting)

Court No.11
MAGISTRATE COURT COMPLEX

Date of Appointment 20 NOVEMBER 2024





MR. CHARLTON H. SMITH

DEPUTY CHIEF MAGISTRATE

(Acting & Deputy Coroner, Northern Region)

Court No.2
GARNET LEVARITY JUSTICE

Date of Appointment 20 NOVEMBER, 2024

MRS. CAROLYN VOGT-EVANS

ASSISTANT CHIEF MAGISTRATE & DEPUTY CORONER

Court No. 6
MAGISTRATE COURT COMPLEX

Date of Appointment 1 JULY 2023



MS. ANCELLA J. EVANS

ASSISTANT CHIEF MAGISTRATE & DEPUTY CORONER

Court No.1
MARSH HARBOUR, ABACO

Date of Appointment 1 JULY 2023





MRS. KARA TURNQUEST-DEVEAUX

ASSISTANT CHIEF MAGISTRATE & ACTING CORONER

Court No.2
MAGISTRATE COURT

Date of Appointment 1 JULY 2023

MR. DERENCE ROLLE-DAVIS

SENIOR MAGISTRATE

Special Projects

Date of Appointment 1 MAY 2017





MR. SAMUEL MCKINNEY

SENIOR MAGISTRATE

Court No. 8

MAGISTRATE COURT COMPLEX

Date of Appointment 3 FEBRUARY 2020

MR. LA'QUAY V. LAING

SENIOR MAGISTRATE & DEPUTY CORONER

Court No.3
GARNET LEVARITY JUSTICE

Date of Appointment 1 AUGUST 2023





MISS SANDRADEE GARDINER

SENIOR MAGISTRATE

Court No.3
MAGISTRATE COURT COMPLEX

Date of Appointment 1 AUGUST 2023



SENIOR MAGISTRATE

Court No. 4
MAGISTRATE COURT COMPLEX

Date of Appointment 1 AUGUST 2023





MR. ALGERNON S. ALLEN, JR.

SENIOR MAGISTRATE

Court No. 1

MAGISTRATE COURT COMPLEX

Date of Appointment 1 JUNE 2024

MISS KENDRA KELLY

SENIOR MAGISTRATE

Court No.10
GARNET LEVARITY JUSTICE

Date of Appointment 1 JUNE 2024





MISS RAQUEL WHYMS

SENIOR MAGISTRATE

Court No.8
MAGISTRATE COURT COMPLEX

Date of Appointment 1 JUNE 2024



SENIOR MAGISTRATE

(Acting)

Court No. 5

MAGISTRATE COURT COMPLEX

Date of Appointment $10\ JUNE\ 2024$





MRS. IAN-MARIE DARVILLE -MILLER

S & C MAGISTRATE

Court No. 14

MAGISTRATE COURT COMPLEX

Date of Appointment 1 JUNE 2021

MISS SIMONE BROWN

S & C MAGISTRATE

Court:

EIGHT MILE ROCK DISTRICT
OBEDIAH H. WILCHOMBE COMPLEX

Date of Appointment 5 JULY 2021





MR. JAMES L. MOXEY

ACTING S & C MAGISTRATE

Court No.13
MAGISTRATE COURT COMPLEX
(Civil Night Court)

Date of Appointment 14 APRIL 2008



ACTING S & C MAGISTRATE

Court No. 15
MAGISTRATE COURT COMPLEX
(Firearms Court)

Date of Appointment 8 MAY 2023





MR. KEVIN FARRINGTON

ACTING S & C MAGISTRATE

Court No. 12

MAGISTRATE COURT COMPLEX

(Traffic Court)

Date of Appointment 16 SEPTEMBER 2024

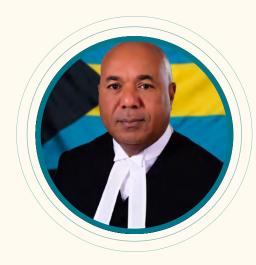
MR. K. MILES PARKER

ACTING S & C MAGISTRATE

Court No. 16
MAGISTRATE COURT COMPLEX

Date of Appointment 1 NOV. 2024





MR. PETROCELLI EDWARDS

ACTING S & C MAGISTRATE

Court No.11
MAGISTRATE COURT COMPLEX
(Civil Court)

Date of Appointment 1 NOVEMBER 2024



COURT SERVICES COUNCIL BOARD



(Left to right) -

Mr. Renaldo Toote, Acting Registrar Supreme Court;

Mr. Kahlil Parker, KC, President of The Bahamas Bar;

Miss Kristina Wallace-Whitfield, Registrar Court of Appeal;

Mrs. Khrystle Rutherford-Ferguson;

Hon. Madam Justice Guillimina Archer-Minns;

Hon. Sir Ian Winder, Kt., Chief Justice;

Hon. Mr. Justice Jon Isaacs, President of the Court of Appeal, Mr. Herbert Cash;

and Mr. Roberto Reckley, Chief Magistrate.

COURT ADMINISTRATION



MR. DELGARDO FORBES

Chief Executive Officer



MR. STEVEN SEYMOUR

Director of Court Security



MRS. ANNAMAE NEELY

Senior Manager, H.R.



MRS. ALPHANETTE GRANT

Magistrate Court Administrator



MILDRED BODIE

Director of Court Services

JUDICIAL RESEARCH COUNSEL



EZRANDA BODIE

Listing Officer



VICTORIA MORRIS



RASEAN LONGLEY



GLENN CURRY



RAYSHON DELEVEAUX



COURTNEY MARTIN



CHERIE BUTLER



SHAQUILLE DEAN



KRYSTIAN BUTLER



HIGHLIGHTS



HIGHLIGHTS

- 3.1 ARTICLES
- 3.2 NATIONAL EVENTS
- 3.3 COURTESY CALLS

3.1 ARTICLES

Empowering Justice: Building on the Past, Shaping the Future.

The Court's Transitional Journey

JUDICIAL OFFICERS IN TRANSISTION



The Hon. Madam Justice

DONNA D. NEWTON

66

Life before the Bar and as a Judge





Upon passing the Common Entrance Examination, Donna Newton attended Jordan Prince William High School and graduated from that school in 1975.

After graduating from High School, Ms. Newton studied journalism at the College of The Bahamas and graduated from that institution with an Associates of Arts in Journalism. After graduating from College of the Bahamas, Ms. Newton pursued studies at the London School of Journalism, from where she graduated with a Diploma in Journalism and Mass Communication in 1979.

Upon her return to The Bahamas, Donna Newton, worked at both The Tribune Limited and The Nassau Guardian, publishers of daily newspapers in The Bahamas. Her most memorable local event as a journalist was covering the Coroner's Inquest by Magistrate Burton Hall (as he then was) into the tragic

sinking of HMBS Flamingo, the Royal Bahamas Defence Force Patrol Vessel which was shot down by the Cuban military, killing four Bahamian Marines, which story was headlined in the Nassau Guardian.



As a journalist, Donna Newton was on the 'Court Beat', and covered stories stemming from the courts. As a result of this, Donna Newton was encouraged by Magistrate Emmanuel Osadebey (as he then was) to study law. She then pursued a Bachelor of Laws Degree at Ealing College (currently University of West London), from where she graduated in1985 with a Bachelor's degree in Law (LL.B.). She then returned to The Bahamas and entered into Articles of Clerkship under the pupillage of Retired Justice Neville Adderley at Adderley, Grimes & Co. in 1987. She was called to The Bahamas Bar in 1988, and that same year she became an Associate at Adderley, Grimes & Co. In 1991, she entered into partnership in the firm of Quant, Newton & Co. with Mr. Stirling Quant where she remained until 1995.

In 1995 she joined the Office of the Judiciary, and was appointed Assistant Registrar, Deputy Registrar (of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal) and eventually Registrar. During her tenure as Assistant Registrar and Deputy Registrar of the Supreme Court, she was responsible for overseeing the following divisions within the Registry: Probate, Family, Commercial and Civil. She was also instrumental in establishing the Judicial Research Counsel.

In 2017 she was appointed a Justice of the Supreme Court in an acting capacity and confirmed as a Justice in 2018. During the course of service as a Supreme Court Judge she was appointed the Family Court Judge and was the first Network Judge for The Bahamas appointed by the Hague Convention on the Abduction of Children.

As a Family Court Judge, she heard numerous cases which resonated with her as many of them were particularly heart-breaking, especially child abduction cases and divorce matters based on cruelty or involving cruelty.

Justice Newton also heard probate matters. She found many of those cases to be exciting challenges. There was always something new to learn or discover because no two cases were the same, though there were many similarities among them.

Justice Newton found the hearing of interlocutory matters in the civil court challenging, enjoyable and most rewarding. The experience gave her the foundation to hear and determine matters as a judge of the Supreme Court.

In February, 2025, Justice Newton would have spent 30 years as a Judicial Officer. During that time, she would have worked with Sir Joaquim Gonsalves-Sabola, P.C. Sir Cyril Fountain, Dame Joan Sawyer, P.C., Sir Burton Hall, Sir Michael Barnett, Sir Hartman Longley, Sir Brian Moree, K.C and Sir Ian Winder, the current Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

In working with the various Chief Justices, she has seen how the judicial system has grown, has become computerized and modernized.

Justice Newton has lectured in Civil Procedure and recently, Family Law at the Eugene Dupuch Law School for 20 years. She has been instrumental in stimulating the minds of many lawyers who are or will be practicing at the Bar of the Bahamas and elsewhere in the Caribbean as she would have taught many law students, some of whom have gone on and established admirable legal careers, becoming Justice of the Supreme Court, Stipendiary and Circuit Magistrates, and senior positions in the Attorney General's Office.

В

The Hon. Madam Justice

Constance Delancy



REGISTRAR TO JUSTICE OF SUPREME COURT

My journey to the bench begin in 2011 with my appointment to the Magistracy as a Stipendiary and Circuit Magistrate assigned to the Juvenile Panel. I also had the opportunity to sit in the Firearms Court and serve as Circuit Magistrate for three Family Island Districts (Cat Island, Central Andros and the Berry Islands). In 2017, Sir Hartman Longley, Chief Justice (as he then was) directed that I join the Registrars team in the Supreme Court to serve as an Assistant Registrar and the acting Director of the Supreme Court Services. This assignment proved to be challenging and rewarding as I encountered new situations daily. It allowed me to put to use the institutional knowledge from private practice and the Magistracy. I quickly recognized that our support staff perform fantastic feats in less that than ideal premises with limited resources.

My role as Director of Court Services allowed me to work closely with our former Registrars, Finance Officers, Human Resources, many of Governmental agencies and of course our hardworking support staff.

In 2021, I was appointed as the Registrar of the Supreme Court and handed over the reins of Court Services to my brother, Deputy Registrar Renaldo Toote. Sir Hartman Longley once referred to registrars as the engineers of the Judiciary, a very accurate description of the registrars' role. The Registrar of the Supreme Court, prior the advent of the Court Services Act, performed a number of roles: head of department, chief financial officer, secretary to the Judicial and Legal Services Commission and a number of tasks assignment by our Chief Justice and numerous statutes. Justice Donna Newton and Justice Camille Darville-Gomez supported me in this transition by providing advice and a shoulder to lean on.

The Judiciary has continued to transform and evolve despite the recent pandemic and hurricanes. The new administrative model under the Court Service Council allows the registrars to concentrate on judicial and statutory functions which will improve the disposition rates of interlocutory applications.

As I transition from a Registrar to a Justice I am reminded, several of our Justices like the late Chief Justice Stephen Isaacs also made this journey. I look forward to applying the knowledge that I have acquired during my tenure as a magistrate and a registrar to become an efficient justice of the Supreme Court.



Renaldo Toote

ACTING DIRECTOR OF COURT SERVICES TO REGISTRAR



The opportunity to transition from Director of Court Services to Registrar has been both a humbling and rewarding experience, marked by a deepened commitment to advancing the judiciary's mission of excellence in service delivery and judicial efficiency. This role has afforded me the privilege of establishing administrative leadership associated with the responsibilities inherent in the Registrar's office, where strategic oversight and operational precision are paramount.

During my tenure as Director of Court Services, my focus was on fostering a culture of innovation and collaboration within the judiciary. These principles remain central to my approach as Registrar. The management team at Judiciary have worked to ensure that our administrative frameworks are robust. transparent, and geared toward supporting the judiciary's evolving needs, and I intend to maintain that. One key area of focus has been streamlining procedural workflows within the respective Registries to reduce delays -- a critical step toward ensuring timely access to justice for all.

The judiciary has undergone transformative reforms in recent years, and I have been fortunate to play a pivotal role in these efforts. As Director of Court Services, I collaborated with others to identify initiatives aimed modernizing case management systems, improving data accessibility, and enhancing staff training. These reforms laid the groundwork for operational improvements that I will continue to champion as Registrar.

As Registrar, I will prioritize the following initiatives:

- Integration of Technology: Building on previous advancements, I will focus on the integration of cutting-edge technology into court operations, enabling more efficient case tracking and better user experiences for stakeholders.
- 2 Capacity Building: Recognizing the importance of well-trained personnel, I will collaborate with Court Administrators to implement comprehensive training programs that empower staff to excel in their roles.
- 3 Stakeholder Engagement: My office will prioritize fostering relationships with attorneys, litigants, and other stakeholders to ensure that the judiciary remains responsive to their needs while maintaining the highest standards of integrity and fairness.

The transition to Registrar has reinforced my commitment to service and excellence within the judiciary. Moving forward, I aim to build on the foundations laid by those who paved the way before me, while driving initiatives that enhance public confidence in our courts. It is my hope that through continuous innovation, collaboration, and dedication, we will further solidify the judiciary as a cornerstone of justice and progress.

I extend my gratitude to the Chief Justice, my colleagues, and the entire judiciary team for their unwavering support and shared commitment to our mission. Together, we will continue to advance the principles of justice, integrity, and service to the people.



Roberto Reckley PRIVATE PRACTICE TO CHIEF MAGISTRATE



When I joined the Magistracy, I honestly did not know what to expect. The duties and obligations of a Magistrate are so specific to the role it is truly one of those roles that you cannot understand it unless you sit in the Magistrate's chair. Certainly, I observed Magistrates in their capacity having appeared before them on hundreds of occasions in my capacity as an attorney. But to know exactly how they function is something that is shared only amongst Magistrates and as such to learn it you have to experience it.

Interestingly enough the transition from advocate/ litigator to Magistrate in terms of the trial process has not been as much of an adjustment as one might think. As a litigator I was familiar with all aspects of the trial process and when preparing for trial as a litigator, one always has to be mindful of the approach that the defence, prosecutor and plaintiff will take and what issues the Magistrate or Judge would have to turn their minds to. The law will always be the law, the way in which you approach the law will alter depending on the capacity in which you are operating in the trial process. As a litigator whether it be for the defence, prosecution or plaintiff, you are advancing the law from the position that most benefits the party that you represent. In that regard as a Magistrate, you are assessing which of those party's approach is most accurately aligned with those very same laws. In the trial process each party has role to play and having a full understanding of those roles has made the transition somewhat seamless.

The comradery that is shared amongst attorneys as colleagues is likewise shared amongst Magistrates. Leaning on each other for support and contesting contrasting opinions amongst seniors and contemporaries to arrive at comprehensive conclusions has also made the transition palatable.

One of the more noteworthy aspects of the transition would have to be the administrative aspect of the Chief Magistrate's duties. The Chief Magistrate manages all of the Magistrates and Family Island Administrators who are acting in the capacity of Magistrates. Additionally, the role encompasses overall responsibility for the entire Magistrate Complex, numerous ceremonial duties and oversight of the Magistracy in its entirety. Given the unique role of the Chief Magistrate the learning curve was a steep one, a curve which I have more than adequately navigated.

The transition from private practice to a Magistrate has largely consisted of an adjustment to the duties and functions one has in the trial process. The most significant insight of my new role has been the appreciation I have gained for the effort it takes for the Judiciary to function effectively. As an attorney I admittedly focused on my duty to my clients and gave little consideration to the inner workings of the Judiciary or only considered it to the extent that it affected my clients. Now, being a part of the machinery that is the judicial system, I am cognizant of the consistent needs this machine requires to operate effectively. The multiplicity of tasks that are executed on daily basis by employees along with the assortment of resources that are utilized just as frequently in order to provide judicial services to our community is nothing short of amazing. Having gained an awareness of the dedication that is required for the operation of the Judiciary, and the Magistracy specifically, through my new role I can sincerely say that I am honoured to have been given the opportunity to serve.

In conclusion the transition represents a significant professional and personal shift. There is an aspect of adaptation in terms of corporate culture that is subtle but existent. I had no preconceived notions of the public service coming in but having joined the Magistracy I can genuinely say the institution in which I serve and the persons that I serve with are determined to continue to provide the judicial services that the nation relies on.



Assistant Registrar

Jonathan Deal JUDICIAL RESEARCH COUNSEL TO JUDICIAL OFFICER



On 22 July 2024, I was sworn in as an Assistant Registrar of the Supreme Court by His Lordship the Honourable Chief Justice Sir Ian R. Winder following approximately one year's service as a member of the Supreme Court's Judicial Research Counsel Unit. Despite my short tenure of some five months, and without any presumption, I offer a few brief remarks on my transition from Judicial Research Counsel to Judicial Officer.

Judicial Research Counsel are primarily responsible for conducting research in connection with court actions and for preparing first drafts of judgments for review by Justices of the Supreme Court. The role of a Judicial Research Counsel is, by its very nature, one that is very much "behind the scenes". Precisely the opposite is true of being a Registrar. Registrars interact with court users daily and, in that sense, serve the public "on the front lines". That is a change that requires acclimatization.

Anything a Judicial Research Counsel prepares will be reviewed by another intelligent and experienced pair of eyes as Judicial Research Counsel are not decision makers. Registrars do not have the same luxury. Registrars are "solely responsible" for their own decisions when performing judicial functions (see the Code of Conduct for Judicial Officers). That is not to say that consultation is impossible, however. I have found the Office of the Registrar to be a collegiate and welcoming environment.

Judicial Research Counsel assist with legal research and judgment writing in any type of matter. Registrars, on the other hand, deal with a defined class of matters. The matters that I deal with presently are probate proceedings and civil proceedings. As one of the Registrars assigned to hear applications in civil proceedings, it has been stimulating dealing with the sometimes novel and complex procedural issues that have arisen as we continue to navigate the transition from the Rules of the Supreme Court, 1978 to the Supreme Court Civil Procedure Rules, 2022.

Perhaps the most pleasant part of the transition from Judicial Research Counsel to Judicial Officer has been working with more of the staff of the Supreme Court. I have found all those I have worked with as an Assistant Registrar to be friendly and hardworking individuals. I wish to take the opportunity to express my gratitude to my secretary, Ms. D'Vonya Cooper, for her assistance generally and to express my gratitude to Mr. Renaldo Toote, Deputy Registrar, Mrs. Sonia Tynes, Secretary to the Registrar, and the staff of the Probate Registry for their assistance when I was first appointed to the role.

While I have mentioned some of the differences between the role of Judicial Research Counsel and a Registrar, both roles play important but different parts in the administration of justice. Registrars have the privilege of making a more direct contribution to the administration of justice. I shall strive to continue to prove myself worthy of that privilege.

Ms. Nicoya Neilly

JUDICIAL HISTORICAL NUGGETS! THE JUDICIARY "TWENTY YEARS AGO"



Did You Know -

- That the Supreme Court Bench in 2004, was made up of 11 Justices, inclusive of the Honourable Chief Justice Sir Burton Hall:
 - The Hon. Mr. Justice Hartman G. Longley
 - The Hon, Mrs. Justice Anita Allen
 - The Hon. Mr. Justice **Jon Lyons**
 - The Hon. Mr. Justice **Hugh Small**
 - The Hon. Miss Justice **Jeanne Thompson**
 - The Hon. Mr. Justice **Jon Isaacs**
 - The Hon. Mr. Justice Faizool Mohammed
 - The Hon. Mr. Justice **Stephen Isaacs**
 - The Hon. Mrs. Justice Vera Watkins
 - The Hon. Mrs. Justice **Claire Hepburn** (Actg.)
- That the Courtrooms that made up the Supreme Court in New Providence, included the Chief Justice's Court located on the top floor of Hansard House, two (2) courts in the Senate Building, four (4) courts in the Main Supreme Court Building Bank Lane, and two (2) courts in Ansbacher House.
- That 20 years ago three of our honored and highly experienced Clerks of the Court were even then functioning as distinguished Court Clerks! Mr. Nolan Scavella was Clerk to the Hon. Chief Justice Sir Burton Hall, Mr. Barron Musgrove was Clerk to the Hon. Justice Hugh Small, and Mr. Andymore Saunders was Clerk to the Hon. Justice Jon Isaacs.



- That all of the New Providence Supreme Court Registries were located in Ansbacher Building. The Registrars at the time were:
 - Mrs. Estelle Gray-Evans, Registrar;
 - Mrs. Donna Newton, Deputy Registrar;
 - Mr. Ernie Wallace, Deputy Registrar;
 - Mrs. Tabitha Cumberbatch, Assistant Registrar;
 - Miss Stephana J. Saunders, Deputy Registrar (Actg.) in Grand Bahama.
- That there were 19 Magistrates Courts in the Bahamas, Fourteen (14) in New Providence, located in Bank Lane, Victoria Gardens, Parliament Street and Nassau Street; Four (4) were located in Grand Bahama and one (1) in Abaco.
- That the Magistrates and their courts in 2004 were:

DOWNTOWN

• Mr. Roger Gomez,

Acting Chief Magistrate – Court No. 2, Victoria Gardens;

- Mrs. Linda Virgil Court No. 1, Bank Lane;
- Mrs. Cheryl Albury Court No. 3, Victoria Gardens;
- Mrs. Marilyn Meeres Court No. 4, Bank Lane:
- Mrs. Renae McKay (Actg.) Court No. 6, Parliament Street;
- Mrs. Vera Watkins (until her appointment as a Judge) – Court No. 7, Bank Lane;
- Mrs. Carolita Bethel Court No. 8, Bank Lane;
- Mr. William Campbell Court No. 11, Parliament Street;
- Mr. Andrew Thompson (Actg.) Court No. 14, Parliament Street (Night);
- Mrs. Yvette McCartney (Actg.) Court No. 14, Parliament Street (Night).

NASSAU STREET

- Mrs. Guillimina Archer-Minns, Court No. 2
- Mrs. Susan Charles Sylvester, Court No. 3
- Mrs. Jeanine Weech-Gomez (Actg.), Court No. 9 (Night)
- Mr. James Moxey (Actg.), Court No. 10 (Night)
- Mrs. Carol Misiewicz, Court No. 13

GRAND BAHAMA

- Mr. Franklyn Williams, Deputy Chief Magistrate, Court No. 1;
- Mrs. Subusola Lawanson-Swain, Court No. 2;
- Mrs. Helen Almorales-Jones, Court No. 3;
- Miss Debbye Ferguson, Eight Mile Rock

ABACO

Mr. Crawford McKee

- That April 18th 2024, marked the 30th anniversary of the first special sitting of the Supreme Court outside of the Capital which took place in 1994, one month after Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, commissioned the Garnet Levarity Justice Centre in Freeport, Grand Bahama.
- The staff compliment of the Judiciary, inclusive of Judicial Officers was 218.



TRANSFORMING THE LEGAL LANDSCAPE: THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ELECTRONIC CASE FILING IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE BAHAMAS

Assistant Registrars

Rosanne Sweeting and Indy Hunter



Introduction

On 5 February 2024 at 9:30am the Integrated Case Management System (ICMS) portal went live. Undergirded by the Supreme Court Electronic Filing Rules 2023, the eagerly anticipated electronic case filing system, is a significant step towards modernizing the administration of justice in the country. This article will explore the key aspects of this implementation, including its benefits, challenges, and implications for the future of the Bahamian judicial system.



Background

The ICMS, is a suite of case management software, including Folio – the side of the platform used by parties to court actions to file and perform other aspects of case management. Court staff employed in the various Registries throughout the Court system whether in Freeport, Grand Bahama or in Nassau can view and manage cases through Attache. The launch of the platform aimed to improve the efficiency and accessibility of the Supreme Court by allowing for the electronic filing of court documents and online payment of filing fees. The system is available to all participants in the court system, including attorneys, litigants, judicial officers and court staff.



Benefits of Electronic Case Filing

• **Increased Efficiency:** ICMS eliminates the need for physical filing of documents, reducing processing time and allowing for faster resolution of cases.

- **Improved Accessibility:** The system is available 24/7, enabling users to file documents at their convenience, regardless of the court's operating hours.
- Reduced Costs: ICMS eliminates the costs associated with printing, copying, and transporting physical documents.
- Enhanced Transparency: The system provides a centralized repository for court documents, making it easier for parties to access and track case information.
- Environmental Sustainability: ICMS reduces paper usage, contributing to environmental conservation efforts.



Challenges and Considerations

- **Digital Divide:** Ensuring equitable access to technology for all participants, including those in remote areas or with limited digital literacy, is crucial. Several trainings were facilitated by the Bahamas Bar Association before the official launch date of the portal. Video tutorials remain available for virtual instruction for those in need on demand. Further, a kiosk was created at no cost to users in the Supreme Court offices in Nassau and Freeport to facilitate the registration of users to the platform. The kiosk is also outfitted with a scanner for those who need to scan physical documents for upload to the platform. Services at the kiosk are available during normal Court Registry hours of 9:30am to 4pm.
- Data Security and Privacy: Protecting sensitive court information from unauthorized access and cyber threats is paramount.
- Training and Support: Adequate training and ongoing support for users are essential for the successful adoption of the ICMS system.

• Integration with Existing Systems: Seamless integration with existing court systems and processes is necessary to avoid disruptions and ensure smooth operation. As part of the ongoing revision of ensuring that users of the platform get the most out of their experience, all of the Court's Registries are also being digitally connected. The days of waiting for nearly two (2) weeks to receive an action number for a newly filed case are no more.

?!

FAQ's

Are all documents filed on the platform?:

No. The following documents are still required to be lodged in person until otherwise directed –

- Probate applications for the grant of Probate and Letters of Administration
- Enduring Powers of Attorney
- Petitions for Call to the Bar
- Certificate of Title (issued by the Court)



TIPS -

How to search for an existing electronic case file:-

- 1. Once you log in to the E-Filing platform you will select "Upload Document" on the left side of the page underneath your dashboard.
- 2. Select "Upload Document" and it will take you to the next page where you will see "Case No.*".
- 3. Type in the action number until a drop down list appears with the action number.
- 4. Select the action number from the drop down list and it will prompt you to upload your document, select your document type and choose your document from your files.

Please note that sometimes the system will place a submission as an "Unknown Party" until the administrators verify the document is placed in the correct electronic case file and so the submitting party will receive a message advising that the document has been successfully submitted, but the case will not be visible until the submitter has been added as a party.

Common Reasons Why a Document Was 'Not Accepted'

- Document uploaded to the incorrect electronic case file
- · Document uploaded upside down or sideways
- Document not uploaded in sequential order
- Document faded, missing pages or portions cut off
- · Document includes blank pages
- Document is a duplicate document

How to find the reason your document was 'not accepted'

- Log into the Folio e-filing portal and go to the 'Documents' tab of your case.
- In the 'Status' column, click the hyperlinked words 'Not Accepted'.





Statistics

To date over 9,000 new electronic cases have been created using Folio. Additionally, over 2,000 new actions across all Supreme Court divisions were commenced using Folio.

Conclusion

The implementation of electronic case filing in the Supreme Court of The Bahamas marks a significant milestone in the modernization of the Bahamian judicial system. While there are challenges to overcome, the benefits of increased efficiency, improved accessibility, and reduced costs are undeniable. As the system matures and users become more familiar with its functionalities, it is expected to transform the way justice is administered in The Bahamas, paving the way for a more efficient, transparent, and accessible court system.



Deputy Registrar

Stephana J. Saunders

TRIBUTE TO DEPUTY CHIEF MAGISTRATE DEBBYE FERGUSON

"In pursuit of justice, they were a beacon. Though they have left this world their legacy endures in the countless lives they touched and in the principles they upheld. Their work will forever remind us that the law is not just a profession, but a calling to serve humanity with fairness and compassion."



Deputy Chief Magistrate Debbye Ferguson



Hon. Chief Justice Sir Ian Winder, Kt. at the Funeral Service for the late Deputy Magistrate Ferguson

Debbye Ferguson's journey in law began with her call to The Bahamas Bar on November 11, 1994, following her studies at the Norman Manley Law School. Just days later, she embarked on what would become a distinguished career in the Office of the Attorney General as an Assistant Counsel. Her dedication, sharp intellect, and unwavering commitment to justice quickly earned her a promotion to Senior Counsel, where she further honed her legal expertise.

On January2, 2003, Debbye Ferguson transitioned to the Judiciary as a Stipendiary & Circuit Magistrate assigned to the Northern Region in the Eight Mile Rock Magistrate Court. This marked the beginning of a new chapter in her legal career, one that would see impacting countless lives through her decisions from the bench. Her reputation quickly grew, and she became known for her prowess in the courtroom, where her dedication to upholding the rule of law never wavered.

Upon the vacancy at the Magistrate Court in Freeport, she was transferred to the Garnet Levarity Justice Centre to Magistrate Court No.1. Her expertise and commitment to justice did not go unnoticed, and on February 23, 2011, she was appointed as Deputy Coroner. Four years later, on February, 2015, she was appointed to Deputy Chief Magistrate (Northern Region), a role she embraced with the diligence and commitment.

In this capacity, she continued to serve with a focus on justice and equity, always mindful of the human element in each case she presided over.

Deputy Chief Magistrate Ferguson was not only a jurist but also a colleague, known for the camaraderie she fostered with the staff members and the police prosecutors who worked and frequented her courtroom. She was friend and mentor who genuinely cared about the wellbeing of those she worked with. Her nature and spirit created a sense of unity and respect. Making her courtroom a place where justice was not just served but experienced as a collective effort.

"Known for her exceptional work ethic, Deputy Chief Magistrate Ferguson was often the first to arrive at the courthouse," said Chief Justice. "Her punctuality and dedication inspired everyone around her. Her commitment to her duties was steadfast, reflected in the preparation she brought to each case and the consideration she gave to every decision. She embodied the principle that justice never sleeps, and her efforts ensured that the wheels of justice kept turning."

In her courtroom, Deputy Chief Magistrate Ferguson was a no-nonsense magistrate who had little patience for shenanigans. She was firm, always ensuring that proceedings were conducted with professionalism and respect. Her approach to justice was rooted in discipline and order, and she made it clear that her courtroom was a place where the rule of law prevailed.

Yet, despite her firm stance, she was also known for her ability to think outside the box and find creative solutions to complex problems. "She often stepped beyond the conventional boundaries to mediate between parties, seeking resolutions that were just and equitable for all involved," remarked Chief Justice. "Her thinking willingness and to explore alternative approaches made her a mediator, one who was committed to fairness and balance."

As we mourn her passing, we also celebrate the legacy she leaves behind – a legacy of justice, camaraderie, and dedication. Deputy Chief Magistrate Ferguson will be remembered not only for her contributions but also for the way she walked in this world. "Her demeanor and character will be remembered in the halls of justice for years to come," concluded Chief Justice."



3.2 NATIONAL EVENTS



1

RED MASS 2024



The Red Mass which dates back to the 13th Century marks the start of events to mark the beginning of the Legal Year. It is celebrated on the Sunday prior to the Opening of the Legal Year in the month of January. The Judiciary, The Honourable Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, the Director of Public Prosecutions, The Bahamas Bar Council and Members of The Bahamas Bar, attend St. Francis Xavier Cathedral fully regaled at the invitation of His Grace Roman Catholic Archbishop of Nassau, the Most Reverend Patrick C. Pinder. The Red Mass was held on 7 January 2024.



The Opening of the Legal Year is held on the second Wednesday of the month of January. The 2024 Opening of the Legal Year was held on the second Thursday as Majority Rule Day, 10 January, was observed on second Wednesday in January.

The members the Judiciary and the Bahamas Bar assemble at the Main Supreme Court, led by the Provost Marshal, parade along Bay Street to Christ Church Cathedral. A Mass is celebrated by the Dean of the Cathedral. At the end of the church service the Honourable Chief Justice inspects the Honour Guard of the Royal Bahamas Police Force.

The Honourable Chief presides over a special sitting of the Supreme Court to mark the official Opening of the Legal Year. Remarks are brought by the Honourable Attorney General and the President of the Bahamas Bar Association. The Honourable Chief Justice delivers a speech to highlight the work of the Judiciary and future plans for the new judicial year.

A Church Service is held at the Pro-Cathedral in Freeport, Grand Bahama on the second Friday in January as part of the Opening of The Legal Year. The Honourable Chief Justice, Justices, Registrars, Magistrates and Members of the Bahamas Bar (Northern Region) parade from the Garnet Levarity Justice Centre to the Pro-Cathedral. The Church service is followed by an inspection of the Royal Bahamas Police Honour Guard. Students from local schools are invited to view the inspection and greet the Honourable Chief Justice and other judicial officers.



On 15 October 2024, the Hon. Senior Justice Estelle Gray-Evans, MB (Retired), Hon. Mr. Justice Franklyn Williams, MB and Justice Indira Demeritte-Francis, MB (Acting) were awarded Member of the Order of The Bahamas by the Governor General, Her Excellency The Most Honourable Dame Cynthia A. Pratt at an Investiture Ceremony held at Baha Mar Resort.

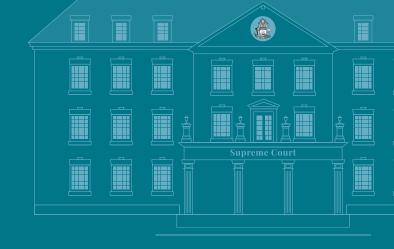
REMEMBRANCE DAY 2024

/1.2



On 10 November 2024, Remembrance Day was marked by an ecumenical church service at Christ Church Cathedral followed by a parade and a Ceremony at the Garden of Remembrance. Wreaths were laid by Her Excellency The Most Honourable Dame Cynthia A. Pratt, Governor-General, The Honourable Glenys Hanna-Martin, Acting Prime Minister, the Honourable Sir Ian R. Winder, Kt., Chief Justice, Members of the Diplomatic Corps and various youth organizations at the Cenotaph to memorialize veterans who served their country in World War I and II. Red poppy pins are worn during the month of November to remember those brave soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice.

3.3 COURTESY CALLS





Kimberly Furnish, Charge d'Affaires, a.i. and Hon. Sir Ian Winder, Kt., Chief Justice



Todd Christiansen; Kimberly Furnish, Charge d'Affaires, a.i.; Hon. Sir Ian Winder, Kt., Chief Justice; Constance Delancy, Registrar and Renaldo Toote, Deputy Registrar

On 30 Kuly, 2024, Ms. Kimberly Furnish, Charge d'Affaires, a.i. of the United States Embassy, Nassau, accompanied by Mr. Todd Christainsen, INL Director paid a courtesy call on the Hon. Sir Ian R. Winder, Kt., Chief Justice of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.



On 20 September, 2024, First Year Law Students of the Eugene Dupuch Law School, accompanied by Senior Tutor, Mrs. Raquel Williams, paid a courtesy call on the Hon. Sir Ian R. Winder, Kt., Chief Justice of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas. The Students were given a brief tour of Supreme Court Annex I and also visited the Court of Appeal and the Mahistrate Courts.



JUDICATURE





JUDICATURE

- 4.1 CONSTITUTION, COMPOSITION AND JURISDICTION
- 4.2 LOGOTYPES AND EMBLEMS
- 4.3 CEREMONIAL DRESS OF THE JUDICIARY

4.1 CONSTITUTION, COMPOSITION AND JURISDICTION

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.

PRIV			

(Her Majesty's Judicial Committee)

Highest Court to which appeals may be made from the decisions

COURT OF APPEAL

(Justices of Appeal)

Appeals made from decisions of the Supreme Court, some appeals from

SUPREME COURT

(Justices)

Civil and Indictable Criminal matters, appeals from Magistrate Courts

MAGISTRATE COURT

(S & C Magistrates)

Summary Civil and Criminal matters

FAMILY ISLAND ADMINISTRATORS

(Lay Magistrates)

Minor Civil and Criminal 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 seven (7) 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 Supreme Court of The Bahamas is established by Article 93 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas which states:

- "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

The Supreme Court of The Bahamas is established by Article 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-five 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. 93 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas which states:

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

The registrars consists of the Registrar, Deputy Registrars and Assistant Registrars and are appointed by the Judicial and Legal Service Commission under the Sections 65, 66 and 67 of the Supreme Court Act, Chapter 53 Statute Laws of The Bahamas.

The Registrars perform such functions as designated by statute and upon the instructions of the Honourable Chief Justice. The registrars are the managers of the Divisions of the Court and oversee the various registries.

Registrars are also judicial officers and heard matters within the limitations set out in the Supreme Court Civil Procedure Rules, Practice Directions and various other statutes. The Supreme Court Act Section 68 also provides that registrars are also Masters and as such shall have all such authority and jurisdiction to transact the civil business of the Court as may be conferred upon a Master by the rules of the Court. Registrars as part of judicial functions perform two (2) key functions that of Taxing Master and Assessor of Damages.

In order to be appointed a registrar a person must be an attorney-at-law and a member of The Bahamas, English, Irish, Scottish Bar, or of the Bar of any country of the Commonwealth to which a member of The Bahamas Bar is admitted without examination, for a period 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:

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) Quieting of Title (qui) Civil matters not allocated to any other Division (gen)
FAMILY DIVISION (FAM)	Adoption (adn) Divorce (div) Guardianship and custody (gua) 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 (bal) 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 of the 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 her] 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 administer 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 \$10,000.00 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 supervision, 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 (Protection Order) 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.

Firearms Court

This Magistrate Court was established to deal with offences committed contrary to the Firearms Act Chapter 213.

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 the Magistrates Court Complex, New Providence. Night court sessions commence at 6:00 p.m., Mondays through Fridays.



4.2

LOGOTYPES & EMBLEMS





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 THE OFFICE OF THE JUDICIARY



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: $\frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{n}} \left(\frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R$

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 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 ROYAL MACE AND OAR MACE OF THE SUPREME COURT

(Excepts 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 office-holder 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.

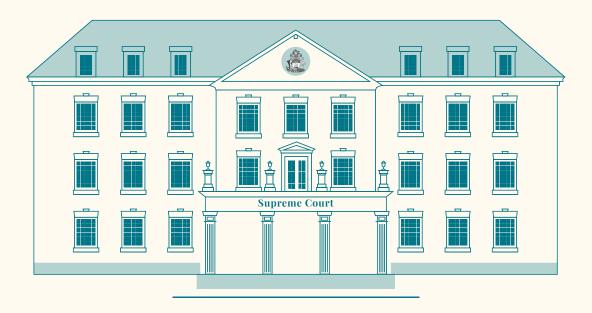


OAR MACE

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.



4.2

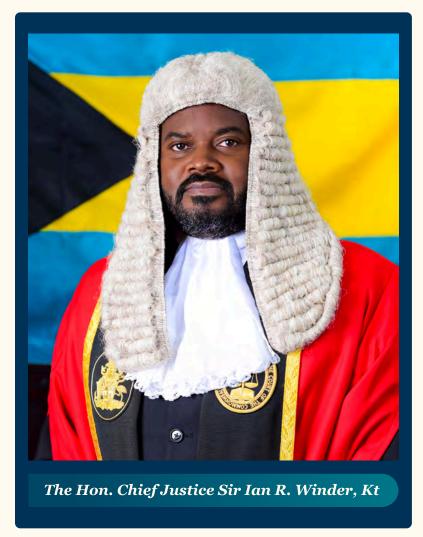
CEREMONIAL DRESS OF THE JUDICIARY



CEREMONIAL DRESS OF THE JUDICIARY

(Excepts 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.



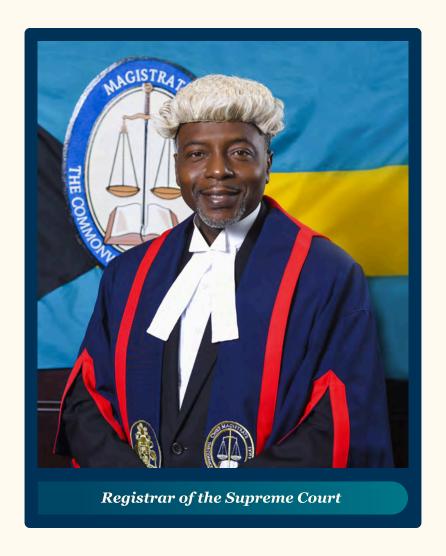
JUSTICES

The ceremonial dress for Justices of Supreme Court consists 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 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.

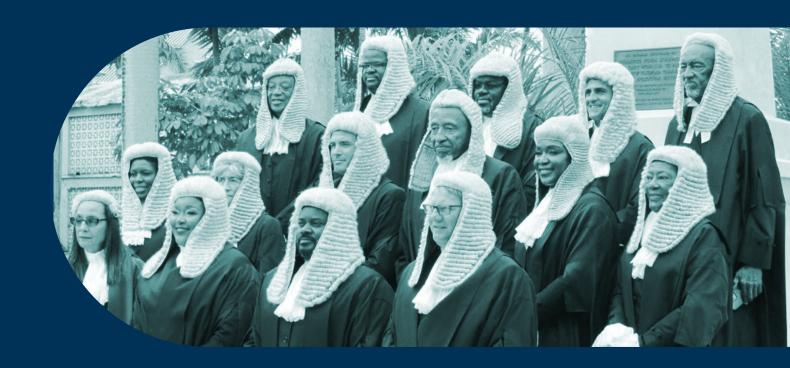


STIPENDIARY AND CIRCUIT MAGISTRATES

The ceremonial dress for Magistrates of 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.



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE

- **5.1** JUDICIAL AND LEGAL SERVICE COMMISSION
- **5.2** JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS
- 5.3 ADMISSIONS TO THE BAHAMAS BAR 2023-24
- **5.4** COMMEMORATIVE SITTING 2024

5.1 JUDICIAL AND LEGAL SERVICE COMMISSION

JUDICIAL OFFICERS IN TRANSISTION

The Judicial and Legal Service Commission was established under Articles 116 and 117 of the Constitution and the Judicial and Legal Service Regulations (Article 125) of the Statute Law of The Bahamas. Under the Constitution of The Bahamas, the Judicial and Legal Service Commission is one of only three Commissions within the Public Service, the other two being the Public Service Commission and the Police Service Commission.

The basic mission of the Judicial and Legal Service Commission is to recommend to the Governor-General the appointment of Judicial and Legal Officers who possess legal qualifications as prescribed by Parliament and to also recommend the removal and/or for disciplinary actions to be taken, as required, of persons appointed as Judicial and Legal Officers.

The members of the Commission, as prescribed by the Constitution, are comprised of the following:

- The Chief Justice as Chairman of the Commission;
- A Justice of the Supreme Court or Court of Appeal, appointed by the Governor-General upon the recommendation of the Chief Justice;
- 3 The Chairman of the Public Service Commission; and
- Two persons, appointed by the Governor-General, upon the advice of the Prime Minister after consultation with the leader of the opposition.

Members, with the exception of the Chairman of the Judicial and Legal Service Commission and Chairman of the Public Service Commission, are appointed for a maximum of three (3) years; however, they can be re-appointed subject to the relevant recommendations being made to the Governor-General.

In addition to the basic mission of the Commission, the Commission is also tasked with making recommendations to the Governor General for the following:

- Promotions:
- Reclassifications;
- Transfers;

- Secondments:
- Resignations;
- Retirements.

Depending on the nature of the recommendation to be made, the Commission in addition to reviewing files and supporting documents, at times may also have to:

- Conduct interviews:
- Seek legal opinions;
- Hear evidence from any public officer concerning any matter which it is required to consider in the exercise of its functions;
- Requests security vetting.

The administrative duties of the commission are under the management of the Secretary to the Commission, who in accordance with the Judicial and Legal Service Commission Regulations, is appointed by the Governor-General, upon the recommendation of the Commission. The current Secretary is the Registrar of the Supreme Court.

Although not a member of the Commission, the Secretary is responsible, as stated, for matters of an administrative nature and for the daily operations of the Commission's office through the Secretariat.

The duties of the Secretariat include but are not limited to the following:

- Maintaining a registry (physical and electronic) of Commission files;
- Responding to inquiries;
- Meeting preparations, including notifying members of upcoming meetings; preparing meeting agenda along with supporting documents; preparing meeting room;
- Taking action on Commission Decisions, including preparing and forwarding Decisions by the Commission to the Governor-General for approval and upon receipt of approval, forwarding the Orders to the Ministry of the Public Service;
- Scheduling interviews;
- Preparing Advertisements/Notices; etc.

During the period 1 November 2023 to 31 October 2024, the Commission held ten (10) meetings and made one hundred and seven (120) decisions.



JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS

JUDGES

	Substantive
Andrew McKinney	1 September 2024
Darron Ellis	16 September 2024
Constance Delancy	20 November 2024
Joyann Ferguson	25 March 2024

	Acting
Stephana Saunders	25 October 2023 to 25 January 2024
Constance Delancy	26 January 2024 to 25 April 2024
Indira Francis	21 May 2024 to 22 November 2024
Darron Ellis	21 May 2024 to 20 July 2024

REGISTRARS

	Substantive	
Rosanne Sweeting	6 January 2024	
Indy Hunter	6 January 2024	
Jonathan Deal	21 July 2024	
	Acting	
Rosanne Sweeting	28 April 2023 to 5 January 2024	
Indy Hunter	28 April 2023 to 5 January 2024	

MAGISTRATES

	Substantive
Roberto Reckley	Chief Magistrate – 25 March 2024
	Acting
Roberto Reckley	Chief Magistrate – 12 July 2023 to 24 March 2024
James Moxey	1 January 2024 to 30 June 2024 1 July 2024 to 31 December 2024
Darron Ellis	1 January 2024 to 30 June 2024 1 July 2024 to 15 September 2024
Lennox Coleby Sr.	8 May 2024 to 7 May 2025
Jonathan Deal	21 May 2024 to 20 July 2024
Viola Major	16 September 2024 to 20 November 2024
Kevin Farrington	16 September 2024 to 15 March 2024
K. Miles Parker	1 November 2024 to 31 May 2024

В

JUDICIAL PROMOTIONS

JUDGES

The Hon. Madam Justice Cheryl Grant-Thompson	Promoted to Senior Justice effective 1 October 2023
MAGISTRATES	
Magistrata Algornon Allon Ir	Promoted to Senior Magistrate effective 1 June 2024

Magistrate Algernon Allen Jr.	Promoted to Senior Magistrate effective 1 June 2024
Magistrate Kendra Kelly	Promoted to Senior Magistrate effective 1 June 2024

C

DEATHS

Miss Debbye Ferguson, Deputy Chief Magistrate	12 June 2024
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5.2

JUDICIAL APPOINTMENT 2024

SUPREME COURT

The Hon. Madam Justice

JOYANN FERGUSON

The Hon. Madam Justice Joyann Ferguson was sworn in as a Justice of the Supreme Court by Her Excellency The Most Honourable Dame Cynthia A. Pratt, Governor General on

25 March, 2024



The Hon. Mr. Justice

ANDREW MCKINNEY

The Hon. Mr. Justice Andrew McKinney was sworn in as Justice of the Supreme Court by the Governor General Her Excellency The Most Hon. Dame Cynthia A. Pratt.

1 September, 2024



The Hon. Mr. Justice

DARRON ELLIS

The Hon. Mr. Justice Darron Ellis was sworn in as Justice of the Supreme Court by the Governor General Her Excellency The Most Hon. Dame Cynthia A. Pratt.

16 September, 2024



The Hon. Madam Justice

CONSTANCE DELANCY

The Hon. Madam Justice Constance Delancy was sworn in as Justice of the Supreme Court by the Governor General Her Excellency The Most Hon. Dame Cynthia A. Pratt.

19 November, 2024



Mrs.

INDIRA DEMERITTE-FRANCIS

Mrs. Indira Demeritte-Francis was sworn in as an Acting Justice of the Supreme Court by Her Excellency The Most Honourable Dame Cynthia A. Pratt, Governor General on

21 May, 2024



Mrs.

INGRID COOPER-BROOKS

Mrs. Ingrid Cooper-Brooks was sworn in as an Acting Deputy Chief Magistrate by the Honourable Sir Ian Winder, Kt., Chief Justice on

13 January, 2023



Mrs.

VIOLA MAJOR

Mrs. Viola Major was sworn in as an Acting S & C Magistrate by the Honourable Sir Ian Winder, Kt., Chief Justice on

16 September, 2024





Assistant Registrar

MISS ROSANNE SWEETING

Miss Rosanne Sweeting was sworn in by the Hon. Madam Justice Petra Adderley as an Assistant Registrar of the Supreme Court (Northern Region) -

6 January 2024



Assistant Registrar

MS. INDY HUNTER

Ms. Indy Hunter was sworn in by the Hon. Chief Justice Sir Ian R. Winder, Kt., as an Assistant Registrar of the Supreme Court

6 January 2024



Assistant Registrar

MR. JONATHAN DEAL

Mr. Jonathan Deal was sworn in by the Hon. Chief Justice Sir Ian R. Winder, Kt., as an Assistant Registrar of the Supreme Court

21 July 2024



MAGISTRATES COURT

Chief Magistrate

MR. ROBERTO RECKLEY

Mr. Roberto Reckley was sworn in by the Hon. Chief Justice as the Chief Magistrate Sir Ian R. Winder, Kt.,

25 March, 2024.



Acting Senior Magistrate

MRS. ANISKA ISAACS

Mrs. Aniska Isaacs was sworn in by the Hon. Chief Justice Sir Ian R. Winder, Kt., as an Acting S & C Magistrate –

10 June 2024.



Acting S & C Magistrate

MR. KEVIN FARRINGTON

Mr. Kevin Farrington was sworn in by the Hon. Chief Justice Sir Ian R. Winder, Kt., as an Acting S & C Magistrate –

16 September 2024



Acting S & C Magistrate

MR. K. MILES PARKER

Mr. K. Miles Parker was sworn in by the Hon. Chief Justice Sir Ian R. Winder, Kt., as an Acting S & C Magistrate –

1 November 2024



Acting S & C Magistrate

MR. PETROCELLI EDWARDS

Mr. Petrocelli Edwards was sworn in by the Hon. Chief Justice Sir Ian R. Winder, Kt., as an Acting S & C Magistrate –

20 November 2024



5.3 ADMISSIONS TO THE BAHAMAS Supreme Court BAR 2023

A

ADMISSIONS TO THE UTTER BAR

Name	Presenter	Effective Date
Morgan Adams	Robert K. Adams, KC	
Azelia Pennerman	Raynard Rigby, KC	
Boykin Smith	Lillith E. A. Smith-Mackey	Friday, 8 December 2023
Preka Hanna	Audley D. Hanna Jr.	
Jacqueline Banona-Adderley	R. Dawson Malone	
Brent McNeil	Glenda Roker	Friday, 26 January 2024
Mia Pintard	Stephanie Pintard	Tuesday, 27 August 2024
Dominique Rolle	Giahna Soles-Hunt	Friday, 27 September 2024
Chastity Butler	Sean McWeeney, KC	
Rashea Newbold	Luther McDonald, KC	
Ashley Moree	Hon. Perry G. Christie	
Cyril Morris	Charlton Martin	
Lavar Ferguson	Caryl Lashley	
Hubert Edwards	Tanya McCartney	Thursday, 23 October 2024
Sashae Duncan	Paula Adderley-Wilmott	
LaPaige Gardiner	Paula Adderley-Wilmott	
Kaelan McCartney	Michaela Sumner-Budhi	
Danielle Capron	Ian Cargill	
Sloan Smith	Keod Smith	

Name	Presenter	Effective Date
Erica Ward	Gawaine Ward	
Diana Ferreira	Romauld Ferreira	
Eilyah Johnson	Jamal Davis	Thursday, 23 October 2024
Lynden Knowles	Ramona Farquharson-Seymour	
Shequel Renique McPhee	Ramona Farquharson-Seymour	
Debra Thompson	Elsworth Johnson	
Miashyia Saunders	Eucal Bonaby	
Tinarje Moxey	arje Moxey Gia Moxey-Lockhart	
Takera Perigord	Bernadette Bain	
Scymont Fountain	Julie E. Adderley	Friday, 25 October 2024
Delano Horton	Ian Mitchell	
Mcquessa Dawkins	Samuel Brown	
Shelly Coakley	elly Coakley Kendra Turnquest	
Sanjay Kelly	Perry McHardy	

SUPPLEMENTAL (SPECIAL) ADMISSIONS TO THE BAR

Name	Law Firm	Date
John Martin, KC	McKinney Bancroft & Hughes	24 January 2024
Alice Talbot Rice, KC	Alexiou Knowles & Co.	20 February 2024
Jonathan Adkin, KC	Delaney Partners	6 May 2024
Paul Bowen, KC	Murrio Ducille & Co.	8 May 2024
Vernon Flynn, KC	McKinney Bancroft & Hughes	26 June 2024
Nicholas Bacon, KC	McKinney Bancroft & Hughes	29 July 2024

C REGISTERED ASSOCIATES

Name	Law Firm	Date
Patricia Jackson	Higgs & Johnson	14 June 2024

5.4 COMMEMORATIVE SITTING 2024

In accordance with Practice Direction No.3 of 2006, the Chief Justice, on Friday, 1 March 2024, 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):



FREDERICK N. BOWE

Call date:

Date of Death:

12 JANUARY 1966

16 SEPTEMBER 2023

Condolences & Tribute by Mr. Richard Lightbourn

ANTHONY A. THOMPSON

Call date:

Date of Death:

30 NOVEMBER 1978

12 MARCH 2023

Condolences & Tribute by Mr. Sterling Quant





KELPHENE CUNNINGHAM, KC

Call date:

Date of Death:

21 AUGUST 1981

1 APRIL 2023

Condolences & Tribute by Ms. Kristy Kemp

FLOYD WATKINS

Call date:

Date of Death:

23 AUGUST 1989

22 DECEMBER 2023

Condolences & Tribute by Ms. Glenda M. Roker





DEVARD B. WILLIAMS

Call date:

Date of Death:

3 SEPTEMBER 1993

14 MAY 2023

Condolences & Tribute by Mr. Malcolm Adderley

LESHANDA FORDE-BROWN

Call date:

Date of Death:

31 OCTOBER 2003

3 JUNE 2023

Condolences & Tribute by Mrs. Yolanda Rolle





LEON E. BETHEL

Call date:

Date of Death:

27 OCTOBER 2006

11 MARCH 2023

Condolences & Tribute by Rodger Thompson

CLARA R. TAYLOR BELL

Call date:

Date of Death:

27 OCTOBER 2006

24 SEPTEMBER 2023

Condolences & Tribute by Mrs. Sharlyn Smith





NEWTON R. MCDONALD

Call date:

Date of Death:

26 SEPTEMBER 2008

24 AUGUST 2023

Condolences & Tribute by Hon. Myles LaRoda

WINNIFRED RUSSELL

Call date:

Date of Death:

31 OCTOBER 2008

12 OCTOBER 2023

Condolences & Tribute by Ryan O. Brown



JUDICIAL OFFICERS IN TRANSISTION

APPEALS (APP)

Manager:

Acting Registrar Renaldo Toote, Deputy Registrar Stephana Saunders (Northern Region) The Hon. Madam Justice Camille Darville-Gomez

The Hon. Mr Justice Leif Farquharson

COMMERCIAL DIVISION (COM)

Manager:

Acting Registrar Renaldo Toote, Deputy Registrar Stephana Saunders (Northern Region) The Hon. Chief Justice Sir Ian Winder

The Hon. Madam Senior Justice Deborah Fraser

The Hon. Madam Justice Simone Fitzcharles

The Hon. Madam Justice Constance Delancy (Northern Region)

The Hon. Mr Justice Leif Farquharson

PRE-TRIAL & SHORT FIXTURE COURTS

The Hon. Chief Justice Sir Ian Winder

The Hon. Mr. Justice Andrew McKinney

The Hon. Mr Justice Darron Ellis

COMMON LAW & EQUITY DIVISION (CLE)

Manager:

Acting Registrar Renaldo Toote, Deputy Registrar Stephana Saunders (Northern Region) The Hon. Madam Senior Justice Cheryl Grant-Thompson

The Hon. Mr. Justice G. Gregory Hilton

The Hon. Madam Justice Petra Hanna-Adderley (Northern Region)

The Hon. Madam Justice Guillimina Archer-Minns

The Hon. Madam Justice W. Renae McKay

The Hon. Mr. Justice Andrew Forbes (Northern Region)

The Hon. Madam Justice Jeanine Weech Gomez

The Hon Mr. Justice Neil Brathwaite [Bail, Case Management &

Evidentiary Hearings]

The Hon. Mr. Justice Franklyn Williams KC

The Hon. Madam Justice Joyann Ferguson Pratt

The Hon. Mr Justice Dale Fitzpatrick [Case Management &

Evidentiary Hearings]

FAMILY & PROBATE DIVISIONS (FAM/PRO)

Family Division Manager:

Assistant Registrar Indy Hunter

Probate Division Manager:

Assistant Registrar Jonathan

Deal

Assistant Registrar Rosanne Sweeting

(Northern Region)

The Hon. Madam Justice Denise Lewis Johnson

The Hon. Madam Justice Hope Strachan

The Hon. Madam Justice Constance Delancy (Northern Region)

PUBLIC LAW DIVISION (PUB)

Manager: Acting Registrar Renaldo Toote Deputy Registrar Stephana Saunders (Northern Region) The Hon. Madam Justice Carla Card-Stubbs

The Hon. Madam Justice Constance Delancy (Northern

Region)

The Hon. Mr Justice Leif Farquharson



OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR







OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR

- **6.1** OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR
- OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY REGISTRAR (NORTHERN REGION)

6.1 OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR

The Office of the Registrars of the Supreme Court consists of the Registrar, four (4) Deputy Registrars and three (3) Assistant Registrars.

Registrar Constance A. Delancy	Secretary to the Judicial & Legal Service Commission, Civil & Magistrates' Appeal Registries, Listing Office and Powers of Attorney Deposito
Deputy Registrar Stephana J. Saunders	Responsible for Civil, Probate & Magistrates' Appeals Registries (Northern Region)
Deputy Registrar Jennifer Stuart-Bastian	Criminal Registry inclusive of the Bail Management System
Deputy Registrar Renaldo Toote	Probate Registry and Wills Depository
Deputy Registrar Olivia Blatch	Criminal Registry inclusive of Bail Management System (Northern Region)
Assistant Registrar Rosanne Sweeting	Family Registry and Integrated Case Management Project (Northern Region)
Assistant Registrar Indy Hunter	Family Registry and Integrated Case Management Project
Assistant Registrar Jonathan Deal	Probate Registry

The Registrars of the Supreme Court perform judicial and statutory functions as directed by the Honourable Chief Justice and various statutes. The registries of the Supreme Court are overseen by a registrar and supervised by a senior staff member. The registries are accessible to the public Mondays to Fridays between the hours of 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (or as directed by the Honourable Chief Justice) except weekends and holidays.

The Supreme Court's website courts.bs provides a portal for parties to apply directly to Listing Office

for hearing dates before Judges and Registrars with an easy drop down options and fill in forms. The Supreme Court Civil Procedure Rules, 2022 (inclusive of forms), Practice Guide and Practice Directions can all be found on the website. The Office of the Judiciary also has virtual help desks managed by a registrar, resolutiondesk@courts.bs and resolutiondeskgb@courts.bs (Northern Region), to respond to questions and queries related new Civil Procedure Rules. Further information may also be obtained by sending an email to info@courts.bs.

Since 2023, Assistant Registrars Rosanne Sweeting and Indy Hunter continue work with Bahamian, Regional and International experts to refine the Courts processes and framework for the new integrated case management system (ICMS. Assistant Registrars Sweeting and Hunter are the administrators of the ICMS and provide a vital link between the developers and the court users.

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 Civil Registry is supervised by Esther Pinder. Ms. Pinder and her team are responsible for the assigning of case numbers in the various divisions, cataloging the filed documents, creating files. The Civil Registry team also work closely with the administrators of the ICMS and maintain the Cause Lists for the various divisions.

CIVIL REGISTRY					
	Statisti	cs for 1st November 2023 – 31	ıst Octobe	r 2024	
COMMON LAW & EQU	COMMON LAW & EQUITY COMMERCIAL LAW PUBLIC LAW				
QUIETING MATTERS:	61	COM/BNK:	2	PUB/CON:	14
CIVIL MATTERS:	1,208	COM/ADM:	1	PUB/JRV:	18
		COM/COM:	37		
COM/LAB: 3					
TOTAL:	1,269	TOTAL:	43	TOTAL:	32

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.

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 save and except the Criminal Division. All initial hearing dates are funneled through the Listing Office. Litigants and pro se litigants may request dates via the Judiciary online portal on its website (court.bs) 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 Ezranda Bodie, Listing Officer and Attorney.

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MATTERS	TAKEN OUT OF THE LIST	ADJOURNED	COMPLETED	PERCENTAGE COMPLETED
10,310	412	2,500	7,398	71%

REGISTRARS

APPLICATIONS	TAKEN OUT OF THE LIST	ADJOURNED	COMPLETED	PERCENTAGE COMPLETED
1,268	30	257	981	77%

Power of Attorney Registry - New Providence

Enduring Power of Attorney Filed for 2024	Standard Power of Attorney Filed for 2024	
125	32	
Total Filed	157	

CRIMINAL REGISTRY

1st November 2023 - 31st October 2024

The Criminal Registry remains committed to facilitating the efficient management of criminal matters within the Supreme Court. Over the reporting period, significant developments and operational milestones have been achieved.

Comparative Analysis: 2023 vs. 2024

- Voluntary Bills of Indictment (VBI): In 2023, a total of 310 VBIs were processed, while in 2024, this increased to 327, reflecting a 5% rise.
- **Bail Applications:** In **2023**, the Registry processed **230** bail applications, compared to **250** in **2024**, marking a **9% increase.**

Personnel Changes

- Deputy Registrar Turner commenced acting as Deputy Registrar of the Court of Appeal in July 2024.
- **Deputy Registrar Jennifer Stuart Bastian** assumed responsibility for the **Criminal Registry** following this transition.
- In August 2024, Justice Neil Brathwaite assumed responsibility for hearing criminal bail applications, ensuring continued efficiency in adjudicating these matters.

Legislative and Procedural Developments

- The **SUPREME COURT (CRIMINAL CASE MANAGEMENT) (AMENDMENT) RULES, 2024** is anticipated to come into effect on **2nd January 2025.** This amendment aims to enhance the efficiency and structure of criminal case management.
- The Bail Management System continues to be an essential tool in assisting the Court. It has remained fully operational across the Magistrate's Court, contributing to improved processing and tracking of bail applications.

Future Initiatives

In 2025, the Criminal Registry anticipates the exchange of kiosks within Police Stations
across New Providence and Grand Bahama. This initiative is expected to streamline
processes and enhance accessibility for bail applicants and stakeholders.

Challenges and Concerns

- There remain **growing concerns regarding the duplication of fees for Crown Briefs.**Addressing this issue is imperative to prevent unnecessary financial burdens.
- The **standard of sureties** presented by bail applicants continues to require attention. Ensuring that sureties meet the necessary legal and financial thresholds is essential for maintaining the integrity of the bail process.

Conclusion

The Criminal Registry continues to play a pivotal role in the administration of justice. A comparison of **2023 and 2024** demonstrates **incremental increases in case processing,** personnel restructuring, and ongoing improvements to the Bail Management System. Through operational advancements and continued collaboration with stakeholders, the Registry remains committed to enhancing efficiency and fairness within the judicial process.

PROBATE REGISTRY

- Deputy Registrar Renaldo Toote & Assistant Registrar Jonathan Deal

The Probate Registry is responsible for processing applications relating to the probate and administration of the estates of deceased persons. Whether an estate has to be probated depends upon how the deceased person's property was owned at the time of their death. The Probate Registry also acts as a depository for the safe custody and preservation of original wills.

The law and procedures for obtaining grants of representation in respect of the estates of deceased persons and matters related thereto are set out in the Probate and Administration of Estates Act (Ch. 108) and the Probate and Administration of Estates Rules. Part 63 of the Supreme Court Civil Procedure Rules, 2022 addresses contentious probate proceedings.

The main probate applications that the Probate Registry processes include:

- 1. Applications for Grants of Probate
- 2. Applications for Letters of Administration
- 3. Applications for Letters of Administration with Will Annexed
- 4. Resealing of Foreign Grants

The Probate Registry continues to receive a large volume of applications. Between 1 November 2023 and 31 October 2024, the Probate Registry processed 890 new applications. Between the same period, 865 grants were approved including 67 grants in respect of applications filed in previous years. I wish to thank the present and former staff of the Probate Registry for their hard work this past year in managing the demanding workload.

The Probate Registry team currently consists of Mrs. Loretta Maycock, Supervisor; Ms. Desiree Robinson; Ms. Tesha Storr; and Mr. Tetuan Johnson. Ms. Keisha Ferguson and Ms. Nicole Ferguson, former members of the Probate Registry, left to pursue other opportunities between November 2023 and October 2024.

Probate Registry Stats						
November 2023 to October 2024 New Applications						
Month	ch PB L/A LAW RS Total					
2023						
November	32	29	9	6	76	
December	27	28	3	6	64	

2024				1	
January	19	25	3	10	57
February	30	29	4	5	68
March	25	33	2	1	61
April	25	31	4	10	70
May	38	40	8	7	93
June	27	27	14	4	72
July	33	29	11	5	78
August	34	40	14	4	92
September	33	38	7	3	81
October	34	39	2	2	78
Totals	357	388	81	63	890

Wills Depository

(No. of Wills substituted or deposited for safe keeping) $$_{123}$$

Grants Approved

Month	PB	L/A	LAW	RS	Total			
2023	2023							
November	24	19	3	5	51			
December	22	47	6	11	86			
2024	2024							
January	27	32	7	2	68			
February	28	34	13	9	84			

March	13	13	1	2	29
April	28	17	3	8	56
May	27	41	3	4	65
June	32	23	6	6	67
July	29	39	12	3	83
August	35	44	10	4	93
September	32	42	8	14	96
October	32	33	10	12	87
Totals	329	374	80	82	865

Grants Approved (Prior year applications)
(A subset of total Grants Approved above)

Year application filed	PB	L/A	LAW	RS	Total
2018	1	О	О	О	1
2019	О	О	О	О	О
2020	О	0	1	0	1
2021	О	0	4	0	4
2022	2	5	1	1	9
2023	15	25	11	1	52
Totals	18	30	17	2	67

FAMILY REGISTRY

- Assistant Registrar Indy Hunter

FAMILY REGISTRY STATISTICS

(1st November 2023 – 31st October 2024)

APPLICATIONS FILED UNDER THE FOUR DIVISION				
Divorce (MCA. Ch. 125)	544			
Adoption (Ch. 131)	21			
Guardianship (Ch. 132)	34			
Mental Health Act (Ch. 230)	23			
TOTAL	622			

DECREE NISI

YEAR	AMOUNT
1999	1
2004	1
2006	1
2007	1
2009	2
2010	0
2011	1
2012	2
2013	1
2014	2
2015	1
2016	1
2017	1
2018	7
2019	5
2020	11

2021	35
2022	78
2023	234
2024	28
TOTAL	403

CERTIFICATE OF MAKING DECREE NISI ABSOLUTE

YEAR	AMOUNT
2000	1
2003	1
2005	1
2006	1
2007	3
2008	2
2009	4
2010	1
2011	2
2012	2
2013	1
2014	3
2015	4
2016	5
2017	5
2018	13
2019	16
2020	22
2021	49
2022	89
2023	128
2024	6
TOTAL	359

6.2

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY REGISTRAR (NORTHERN REGION)

- Deputy Registrar Olivia Blatch

In Grand Bahama, the office is located in the Garnet Levarity Justice Centre, Downtown Freeport. There are three Supreme Courts, three Magistrate Courts in Freeport and one Magistrate Court in Eight Mile Rock. The Eight Mile Rock Magistrate Court is located to Eight Mile Rock at the new Obadiah Wilchombe Complex in Pine Dale, Eight Mile Rock. The Supreme Courts are presided over by three resident Judges. The Magistrate Courts are presided over by an Acting 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, Office Manager III and Ms. Zenobia Duncombe, Accountant.

The usual pomp and pageantry of the opening of the Supreme Court ceremonies were on display for all to see.

We said farewell to Ms. Brenda Johnson, Executive Officer who retired. We thank her for her valuable service to the Office of the Judiciary, Northern Region and wish them all the very best in her retirement.

Throughout the year we also welcomed new staff members to assist with the administration of justice in the Northern Region. The following officers reported for duty: Sharmine Adderley, Carolyn Smith, Lesia Williams, Suzette Ferguson, Alejandra Johnson

As with the ebb and flow of the tide, the following officers were redeployed to other Government offices or left the Public Service for greener pastures: Samantha Delancy, Gloria Pratt, Judith Saunders, Rogan Smith, Hope Laing, Juanita Smith

In January, February, and March, the Garnet Levarity Justice Centre in Downtown Freeport underwent much-needed roof repairs and tenting to ensure that the building was safe and operational for the community and its staff.

In February, we lost a staff member, Mr. Solomon Saunders, who had joined us only a few months. While his time with us at the Judiciary was short, his memory continues to live on with all of those he touched. May his soul continue to rest in perfect peace.

In June we lost another one of our staff members, Ms. Dennae Forbes-Williams who has been with us for thirty (30) years. Her memory continues to live on with all of those she touched here at the Judiciary. May her soul continue to rest in perfect peace.

In August we lost Deputy Chief Magistrate Debbye Ferguson. Debbye Ferguson was integral to the pursuit of justice, and her contributions will be deeply missed.

We would like to congratulate Magistrate Charlton Heston Smith who received his designation of Acting Deputy Chief Magistrate. We are proud of their upward movement in the Magistracy here in Grand Bahama.

In October, our very own Deputy Registrar Saunders was appointed as Acting Justice for a three-month period (October – January), followed by Acting Justice Constance Delancy from January to April. Once Justice Delancy demitted office, we welcomed the Honourable Acting Justice Indira Demeritte-Francis who acted in this capacity from May to November 2024.

The Magistrate Court in Eight Mile Rock was completed and opened in April 2024. This development has helped the people of the Western District of Grand Bahama by providing a smoother transition and improved access to justice.

We strive to serve the citizens of the Northern Region to the best of our abilities in 2024 and look forward to the implementation of the various improvements to assist with the modernization of the Courts. We are sure that these reforms will help the Northern Region better discharge our constitutional role and duties to the greater public.

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 Registrars and Assistant Registrar (Northern Region) with staff members performing different functions. There are two Deputy Registrars and one Assistant Registrar in the Supreme Court Registry who are assisted by Mrs. Charmaine Fernander, Human Resource Officer. Staff members include Ms. Sophia Clarke, Assistant to Deputy Registrar Saunders and Probate Clerk, Ms. Shantell Adderley, Assistant to Deputy Registrar Blatch, Miss Angel Scott, Assistant to Assistant Registrar Sweeting, Stacey Culmer, Civil, Velta Gibson & Lonia Dean, Family, Stacey Culmer, cashier. These officers also perform duties in the Criminal Registry

MAGISTRATE COURTS

	1 ST NOVEMBER 2023 - 30th OCTOBER, 2024					
	Cases filed	in Magistrate	e's Court New	Providence	District	
Category	Cases as at 1 November 2023	New Cases	Transfers IN	Comple ted Cases	Transfers OUT	Total Cases as at 30 October 2024
Bound Over To Keep The Peace	413	263	4	329	3	345
Civil	6535	3648	10	3524	21	6221

Criminal	7781	3690	228	3407	350	7969
Family	822	645	3	616	3	876
Immigration	123	636	О	653	1	96
Juvenile	937	191	О	225	8	903
National Insurance Board	96	163	0	123	0	136
Traffic	128	15215	1	3302	0	12042

MAGISTRATE COURTS

1ST NOVEMBER 2023 - 30th OCTOBER, 2024

Cases filed in Magistrate's Courts Northern Region District s

Category	Cases as at 1 November 2023	New Cases	Transfers IN	Comple ted Cases	Transfers OUT	Total Cases as at 30 October 2024
Bound Over To Keep The Peace	43	55	0	46	0	51
Civil	1062	876	1	845	О	1185
Criminal	3651	1219	О	1148	1	3034
Family	280	237	О	269	О	248
Immigration	31	203	О	205	О	59
Juvenile	210	44	О	61	О	180
National Insurance Board	82	151	0	40	9	193
Traffic	1229	2146	0	1693	0	1682



THE MAGISTRACY



THE MAGISTRACY

- **7.1** OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MAGISTRATE
- 7.2 OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF MAGISTRATE (NORTHERN REGION)
- 7.3 REPORT ON THE ABACO MAGISTRATE COURT

7.1 OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MAGISTRATE

The Magistrates Court of the Bahamas continues to play a vital role in the judicial system as the first point of contact for all criminal offences and most legal disputes of a civil nature. These Courts oversee a significant volume of cases, ensuring accessible and efficient justice for our community. Adjudicating the majority of matters within the court system, we play a crucial role in upholding the rule of law and maintaining public trust, while also streamlining the process for more serious criminal cases that are elevated to superior courts.

The Magistrates Court routinely adjudicates a wide variety of matters including but not limited to criminal offences such as crimes against the person, crimes against property, dangerous drugs, firearm offences, financial crimes, sexual offences, extradition matters, juvenile matters and traffic offences. Daily, Magistrates determine domestic and family matters, civil claims and preside of Coroner's Inquest.

All Magistrates are qualified and obligated to hear any and all matters that are within a Magistrate's jurisdiction such as those listed above. As a matter of practicality and efficiency some Magistrates are tasked with hearing more matters of a specific nature. This system has proven successful as matters are resolved with greater efficiency given the Magistrates familiarly with laws and issues surrounding specific types of matters.

New Hires

In the past year, we welcomed new employees across various departments, including Magistrates, clerks, secretaries, administrative and custodial staff. These hires were essential to maintaining operational efficiency and enhancing the quality of service to the public.

Some hires were permanent while others offered their skills to the Magistracy on a temporary basis before returning to their original posting or going on to new opportunities. Ingrid Cooper-Brooks sat as the Acting Chief Magistrate before returning to the Industrial Tribunal, while both Jon Deal and Viola Major sat as Acting Magistrates before moving on to become a Deputy Registrar and returning to private practice respectively. We thank all of them for their service which was beneficial to our Courts and greatly appreciated. Annishka Isaacs joined the Magistrate Court as a Senior Magistrate and Kevin Farrington as an Acting Magistrate both on a permanent basis and as such we welcome them both.

For those who were already a part of the team of Magistrates, there were also changes in the forms of confirmations and promotions. The writer was confirmed as the Chief Magistrate in the past year, a year that also saw Stipendiary and Circuit Magistrates Algernon Allen, Kendra Kelly and Acting S&C Magistrate Raquel Whyms all elevated to the post of Senior Magistrates. These well deserved appoints are a reflection of the high calibre of work and dedication that these

Magistrates have displayed. We congratulate them knowing that they will continue to provide quality service to the community.

Training

The Magistrate's Courts implemented a comprehensive training program focused on skill enhancement and professional development. Key initiatives included judicial decision writing, the new Criminal Procedure Rules, issues relative to domestic and family law and more recently advancement in Court Reporting technology.

The step toward an Independent Judiciary by way of the birth of the Court Services Council required information sharing and sessions that apprised all relevant persons of the opportunities and alternatives available to them.

International Conferences

This year, several Magistrates had the opportunity to travel and participate in international conferences with an aim to garner experience, increase exposure and better serve the Magistracy.

Countries visited included, El Salvador, South Korea and Rwanda. Topics covered and areas of expertise discussed were of a wide variety including but not limited to judicial reforms, best practices, environmental law, financial crimes, human smuggling and artificial intelligence and its effect of the legal system.

These events fostered valuable networking opportunities and knowledge exchange, enhancing our Court's operations.

New Security Measures

In response to evolving security needs, we implemented several new measures that include enhanced screening procedures at certain court entrances and more restricted access with reference to sensitive areas of the Magistrate Court Complex.

The safety of our employees and the visiting public has always been a priority at the Complex and as such we have upgraded the surveillance system in both high-traffic and low-traffic areas.

Additional Court Marshalls were also hired at the Courts to ensure an environment that best suits any security concerns that may arise.

These initiatives are designed to ensure a safe environment for all court users.

New Courts

This year, we celebrated the grand opening of a new Magistrate Court House in Eight Mile Rock on the island of Grand Bahama which is strategically located to improve accessibility to that community. The Court was well received by the community and is yielding great results as expected.

To more effectively serve the needs of the needs of the high volume of civil claims at the Magistrate Court, the Chief justice implemented a full-time civil Court that hears exclusively civil matters during the day at the Magistrate Court Complex in New Providence. This addition to the Magistrate Court has been extremely successful.

Our Family Islands have also received more attention and improved service as Sr. Magistrate Samuel McKinney now services theses islands exclusively. Sr. Magistrate McKinney now sits in each district for a pro longed period allowing more matters to be completed with more frequency. The previous Circuit system consisted of a Magistrate visiting a district for one week at a time with breaks of approximately three months between each sitting. That is the past as Sr. Magistrate McKinney now sits in some districts for as long as three months allowing much greater access to the Courts for the residents of those communities.

The appointment of a singular Magistrate to service the Family Islands also has the added benefit of improving the efficiently of the Family Island Administrators who adjudicate some of the less serious criminal offences throughout the Family Islands. These Administrators now how have the opportunity to sit with the Magistrate for a longer period of time therefore gaining more experience and adding to their level of skills.

Farewell

This year we say farewell to the Hon. Mr. Justice Darren Ellis who served as an acting Magistrate for over eight years giving valuable service to the Magistracy. Having been appointed in September of 2023 to the Supreme Court, we at the Magistrate Court thank him for his service and we know that he will carry with him to the superior Courts the same dedicated work ethic that has come to define him when he worked alongside us. Congratulations Justice Ellis.

Sadly, we also say farewell to Deputy Chief Magistrate Debbye Ferguson who passed away in August of 2023 after serving as Deputy Chief Magistrate of the Northern Region from 2016 on the island of Grand Bahama. Debbye was loved and respected both as a person and in her capacity as a Magistrate. We celebrate her life, accomplishments and her contributions to our country and to the Magistracy. Debbye you will be missed.

Building Upgrades and New Developments

In the past year the Magistrate Court Complex in New Providence itself benefitted from upgrades and regularly scheduled maintenance with the aim of ensuring the bulging's longevity and improving its aesthetics. Visitors to the complex surely noticed the new visually pleasing tilework throughout the entire interior of the building that included lobby areas, court rooms and staff areas as well the freshly painted exterior of the building.

Much needed air conditioners were also installed in the complex to ensure that staff and the public alike were comfortable while working and attending court. Updated computer hardware and software along with photocopiers and printers required to service the demanding caseload of the Magistrates Court were also added to the Complex's resources in order to obtain more efficient productivity.

The Bahamas Bail Management System, a system designed to facilitate the management of information with regard to bail applications, and persons who have been granted bail, has been active in the Supreme Court for some time. This system has now been implemented in the Magistrates Court with much success. One of the many benefits of the system are the electronic kiosks that allow persons on bail to report to any Police Station in the Bahamas that has a kiosk. The specific credentials that are required to sign in are unique to each person, which ensures accuracy with regard to the tracking of reporting conditions. To complement the addition of the system to the Magistrates Court, a Bail Management Office has been constructed within the Magistrate Court Complex, equipped with the corresponding technology and staff required to give effect to the system.

One of the more significant changes to the Magistrates Court over the past year arises not from new hires, equipment or building improvements, all of which have undoubtedly fostered growth within the Magistracy, but from the law itself in the form of legislation.

The Amendment to the Magistrate Act, that was gazetted in August of 2023 increased the Civil jurisdiction of the Magistrate Court from \$5,000.00 to \$20,000.00. There has long been a cry, and a justifiable one, for the increase of said jurisdiction given the well-known fact that the Magistrates Court are the Courts in which the greatest volume of matters are adjudicated with regard to both civil and criminal cases. A primary reason for that volume is the access of the Magistrate Court to the everyday citizen. When one

considers the financial cost and the time taken to have a civil matter determined in the Supreme Court, that very same everyday citizen, in the past, may have found themselves discouraged. That is no longer the state of affairs. Plaintiffs can now bring actions in the Magistrate court for claims up to \$20,000 with the added benefit of lessened financial burden and a faster completion time than commencing an action in the Supreme Court.

The increase in the Magistrate's jurisdiction is balanced by the previously mentioned exclusive day time Civil Court which was certainly needed to service not only the existing number of matters but also the anticipated increase of claims that accompanies the increased jurisdiction. The increase has been well received as a vast number of Plaintiffs have taken full advantage of this option that is now available to them.

Given the increase in the amount that can be claimed in the Magistrates Court it would only seem logical and consistent that the amount of cost that can be claimed to bring a civil action in the Magistrate would also have to be increased, and as such the same has also been provided for by way of the Amendment. Cost, which was previously limited to \$500.00, can now be claimed up to \$1500.00 per action, a change that has been embraced by the everyday citizen and Attorneys alike.

Looking Forward

The Magistrates Court has had a productive year, and we look forward to continuing in the same manner. The new court houses that are nearing completion on Bernard Road will allow the growth that is in accord with the needs of a developing nation. The family courts that will be housed at the Bernard Road complex will provide an environment that is conducive to the resolution of domestic issues. Dedicated spaces for mediation and family services to promote resolution outside of traditional court settings will be a hallmark of the Bernard Road complex

and its opening is greatly anticipated for this and many other reasons.

Taking advantage of advancements in technology we also anticipate more enhanced record keeping and data compilation that will allow statistical data to be more readily available. We also expect to see more

utilization of digital platforms that allow parties to communicate and conduct hearings even if the parties are in different locations, making the Courts even more accessible and efficient.

Enhanced security measures are also on the way which will augment existing procedures and resources.

Going forward we will continue to increase public awareness of court services, focus on additional training and strive to obtain additional resources, all of which will allow us to better serve the public.

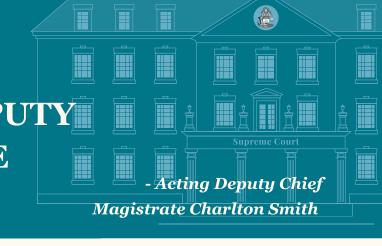
Conclusion

The year that the Magistrate Court has had could not be possible with all of those who work at the complex and those who support and interact with us to service the nation's judicial needs. As we move forward, our focus remains on enhancing service delivery, ensuring safety, and supporting our dedicated employees. That being said we thank the Magistrates and their staff as well as all administrative, support and custodial staff. We are grateful for the Royal Bahamas Police Force and the Bahamas Department of Corrections as well as other government and private agencies and the many Attorneys who all contribute to the operation of the Magistrate Court in their designated capacities. To the nation as a whole, we thank you for your support and your contribution to our mission.

7.2

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF MAGISTRATE

(NORTHERN REGION)



I am pleased to contribute to this year's annual report on behalf of the Magistrates of the Grand Bahama and Bimini District. There are four (4) Magistrate Courts on Grand Bahama and one (1) Circuit Court at Bimini. Two Magistrates are designated as His Majesty's Coroner.

The courts are presided over as follows:

Freeport Magistrate Court #1

The Late Debbye L. Ferguson, Deputy Chief Magistrate & Deputy Coroner, (appointed January, 2003 to 12th August, 2024)

Freeport Magistrate Court #2

Charlton H. Smith, Deputy Chief Magistrate (Acting) & Deputy Coroner & Bimini Circuit

Freeport Magistrate Court #3

LaQuay V. Laing, Senior Magistrate Eight Mile Rock, Magistrate Simone R. Brown, S & C Magistrate

The chapter of the year 2024 closes with solemn reflections on persons and personalities that contributed to the function of the Magistrate's Courts on Grand Bahama. It would be remiss of me not to pay tribute to the late Deputy Chief Magistrate Miss. Debbye L. Ferguson, who passed away on 12th August 2024. The late DCM served the Judiciary at Grand Bahama faithfully.

History should record that she was a committed Judicial Officer who served with dedication to her death. There is no doubt that many will remember that Debbye L. Ferguson, DCM, passed this way and gave her best during her most trying times. May her soul rest in peace.

Equally shocking was the death of noted Counsel & Attorney Carlson H. Shurland, KC who died on 15 July 2024, just one month prior to the death of DCM. Counsel Shurland earn his accolades and reputation primarily for his criminal advocacy. He has been featured in many notable cases before the Magistrate Court, Supreme Court, Court of Appeal and His Majesty's Privy Counsel. Counsel Shurland was a consummate professional and his contribution to the criminal bar has left a significant void. May his soul rest eternally.

We are also grateful for the service of the late Corporal 314 Algernon Anderson. Corporal Anderson served as an Assistant Prosecutor in the Court of the late DCM Ferguson and Court #2. Though he had many days struggling with his health, Corporal Anderson showed up, showed out and continued to soldier on. He worked and never complained. He left his earthly pains on 15 October 2024. We salute his dedication to service. Rest eternal grant onto him.

I thought it only fitting to pay homage to our fallen colleagues and friends. We at the Magistrates Court, Grand Bahama are thankful for the committed service of the late DCM Ferguson, Counsel Shurland KC and Corporal 314 Anderson. May their souls rest in peace and rise in glory.

There is no dispute that the sudden death of DCM Ferguson and Counsel Shurland, KC have had an adverse impact in the timely delivery of justice. In response we have been both active and considerate in case management; where possible cases have been reassigned or other appropriate action taken. We are confident that the vacancy at Court #1 will soon be filled.

The year 2024 has also been a year of change. We are now witness to the enactment of the Court Services Act. Its implementation should establish greater independence and efficiency in the management of the courts. While there might be some skepticism, we have embrace the transitions and are optimistic about the future of Court Services.

Overall Team Grand Bahama has performed well. Each judicial officer along with court staff have been diligent about providing quality service to the public. Our facilities continues to be improved for the benefit of the public and staff. This allows us to be preemptive and responsive to the needs of the people we serve. From my perspective I can only envision that the Office of the Judiciary is becoming a premier place of employment. There is good reason to be optimistic about future opportunities in the judiciary coupled with greater efficiency and accountability.

REPORT ON THE ABACO MAGISTRATE COURT

- Assistant Chief Magistrate Ancella Evans

The Marsh Harbour Magistate's Court continues to play a pivotal role in the administration of justice in the island of Abaco. This past year of 2024 has been a very busy and productive year. We are grateful that we have been spared any natural disasters. Throughout the year, the court has continued its work of adjudicating civil, criminal, juvenile, domestic, traffic immigration matters. Our dedicated staff – Miss Shandira Forbes (clerk), and Mrs. Carla Nixon (secretary) have continued to work efficiently and cohesively. This has contributed greatly to the continued success of the Marsh Harbour Magistrate's Court.



(Left to right) Administrator Keffienne Ferguson, Miss Shandira Forbes, Administrator Ricardo Ferguson and Mrs. Tracy Davis



Mrs. Carla Nixon (Secretary)



Mr. Paul Johnson, Court Marshall (ret.)

This year was also marked by several milestones. While we bade farewell to our court marshall, Mr. Paul Johnson, who retired in July, we also celebrated the successes and achievements of Miss Shandira Forbes and Mrs. Carla Nixon. Miss Shandira Forbes was recognized locally for her hard work and dedication to the Judiciary at a special church service during Public Service Week. Additionally, Mrs. Carla Nixon was promoted to Chief Clerk. We are also grateful for the continued assistance of Mrs. Kendra Smith. We thank Mr. Stephen Wilson, Administrator of North Abaco for continuing to allow her to assist the court at the Coopers Town Magistrate's Court.

The work of the Marsh Harbour Magistrate's Court could not be successfully completed without the assistance of the Juvenile Panelists and the hard working social workers in the Department of Social Services. We appreciate the time and sacrifice that the members of the Juvenile Panel have given to the courts and by extension to the community. We once again commend Mrs. Tonelle Cornish and her team for efficiently preparing social history reports and organizing professional counselling for defendants. In this regard, we wish to commend Dr. Gregory Swann who liaised with the Department of Social Services to provide professional counselling for defendants in Abaco. Dr. Swann travelled from Grand Bahama throughout the year to counsel defendants referred to him by the Department of Social Services. Additionally, the Department of Social Services has assisted the court by organizing community service and parenting classes. This year, I had the pleasure of speaking at the graduation ceremony in Marsh Harbour for participants in the Parenting Classes at the invitation of the Department of Social Services. The participants received the necessary skills to become better parents and better managers of their homes.



Assistant Chief Magistrate Ancella Evans addressing students of Patrick J. Bethel High School



Mrs. Carla Nixon giving students of Long Bay School a tour of the Marsh Harbour Magistrate's Court



Evans, Supt. Evans Oralhomme and Sgt. Ian Woodside, police



I was also pleased to address the students and guidance counsellors of Patrick Bethel High School on Sexual Offences. The students listened attentively and were eager participants in the discussion.

Earlier this year, we received a courtesy call from Mr. Grantley Ifill of Migrafil and his team. Mr. Ifill gave an overview of the electronic monitoring device system. It was a very thorough session.

More than 25 persons were sworn in as Justices of the Peace this year at the Marsh Harbour Magistrate's Court.



Throughout the year, we have worked consistently and tirelessly to provide the best service to the people of Abaco in the administration of justice. We celebrate our accomplishments and look forward in anticipation and hope for an even better 2025.

7.3 COURT SERVICES COUNCIL REPORT



The Court Services Act

The Court Services Act came into effect on 1 July 2024 and marked a significant step as it provided for the first time financial and administrative independence of the Judiciary. Prior to the Act, authorization and or financial clearance was required by the Ministry of Finance (MOF) for the utilization of funding within the Judiciary's budget. Procurement of goods, works, and services over \$25,000.00 required approval of the MOF's Tenders Board in accordance with law and established procedures.

As a coequal, yet independent, branch of government, the Judiciary having to seek approval to utilize allocated funding may give the appearance of subservience to the paymaster. Therein, to remove the appearance, whether real or perceived, it was necessary to provide the Judiciary with the ability to make its own financial and administrative decisions, whilst still being accountable to the Bahamian people through the audit process. The provision of this autonomy provided for a true deepening of the democratic process within The Bahamas, a long needed step.

In this new era, no longer would the Judiciary be required to request approvals for the purchase of goods, works, and services to support the undertaking of its functions. No longer would the Judiciary be required to request and or advocate

for new hires and or promotion of staff through the Ministry of the Public Service and the Public Service Commission, as under the Act this requirement would fall away.

So begins the era of increased efficiency and effectiveness of the Judiciary through enhanced administration and support services as provided by the Court Services Act.

For taking this bold step, we must thank the Executive, as led by the Prime Minister, the Honorable Philip Davis, KC., the Legislature, i.e., members of both the House of Assembly and the Senate, and all of the Chief Justices, and other Judicial Officers, that led the charge to bring this effort to the point where the current Chief Justice, the Honorable Sir Ian Winder, Kt., was able to carry it across the preverbal goal line. Thank you and congratulations to you all for securing this achievement in our nation's history.

Strategic Initiatives

With the Act enforced, I was engaged as the inaugural Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Court Services Council on 2 September 2024. Kindly permit me a moment to state that I am incredibly humbled and honored to be chosen to be the face of the Council, as its CEO, the 1st CEO, of such a prestigious organization. I would like to thank the Chief Justice, the Honorable Sir Ian Winder, Kt., and the Board of Directors of the Court Services Council for bestowing upon me this incredible honor.

With my engagement began the process of building out the organization via undertaking key strategic initiatives; including, but not limited to:

- 1. Working with the Strategic Planning Committee of the Board of Directors to draft the strategic plan for the Council;
 - a. Drafting the mission, vision, and values of the Council
 - b. Developing the short, medium, and long term goals and objectives;
- 2. Designing the organizational structure;
- 3. Drafting the human resource and strategic development policies;
- 4. Undertaking of a salary administration study to aid the determination of the appropriate salary levels and pay scales;
- 5. Drafting of the post requirements for the posts within the salary scales; and
- 6. Assessing current staff and staffing levels based on organizational requirements.

Notwithstanding all that was mentioned, the of important part organizational most development and change is human capital and how such change affects the existing human capital. A large part of my responsibility, especially within the 1st year, is to effectively manage the change process, inclusive of, the delicate transition process from the Office of the Judiciary to the Council, a subset of the Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs to the quasi-governmental entity. Included in that process is the transfer of some long-

serving members of the Judiciary back to the Public Service. We are indeed sadden by their decision to return to the Public Service, but respectful of their right to choose. Therefore, with that we wish those staff all the best on the remainder of their public service career as we look towards the future.

Also included in the aforementioned process was meeting with staff to provide guidance and support through the change process. Of critical importance was answering the questions and concerns of staff as it related to the Council, its policies and procedures, and their future, all in an effort to provide employees with some level of comfort and security and hopefully alleviate any consternation they may feel about the Council. I met with staff from the following institutions not only to answer questions and address concerns, but also to share the vision of the Board for the Council:

- 1. Supreme Court;
- 2. Court of Appeal;
- 3. Magistrates Court Nassau Street;
- 4. Supreme Court Grand Bahama; and
- 5. Magistrates Court Grand Bahama

Concerns from the staff centered most on the following areas:

- 1. How would this transition affect their permanency within the Public Service?
- 2. Who will be responsible for discipline and will they be properly and fairly treated if they decide to remain with the Council?
- 3. How will the benefits change with the Council and will it be better than those received with the Public Service?
- 4. Will there be better access to promotions?
- 5. What type of policies will the Council have and how will it compare to those in the Public Service?
- 6. Will there be a greater level of accountable in the Council in an effort to curb poor behavior?
- 7. If the Council is new how will job letters look and will they reflect the time spent in the Public Service or will they reflect only the time spent within the Council?
- 8. Does this transfer affect my pension?

I also met with all of the judicial officers of the Judiciary who equally had questions concerning the Council and the vision for the future and how the Council would address their concerns in an effort to make the Judiciary more efficiency and effective.

Management Structure of the Council

"What gets measured gets managed, what gets managed gets done"

- Peter Drucker.

Management theorists may argue over the best style to utilize to effectively manage an organization; however, one concept holds true. In order to be successful, you need to select the appropriate structure for the organization, hire the right people, and hold them accountable, based on the human resource policies and procedures.

Therefore, one of the more difficult tasks when structuring a new organization is determining the management structure. This is not simply the people and reporting relationships, but more broadly, the framework of the roles and responsibilities undertaken by key individuals, the level of authority and relationships therein, and communication channels within the organization and between key individuals. Even more so important, is how these all work together to achieve organizational success.

The Board of Directors has provided the vision and strategic plan for the Council from there it is the responsibility of the CEO to ensure implementation and successful execution.

Court Services Department

Since 2 September 2024, there have been a number of issues that negatively impacted the delivery of court services that had to be addressed hence are noteworthy,

Maintenance Issues

It is no secret that the provision of proper maintenance on key infrastructure remains a problematic issue within government. The Courts are no exception.

Magistrates Court – Nassau Street

In or around October 2024, there was a critical failure of the water chiller air condition system. The water pump malfunctioned due to burn out causing an electrical system fault, which totally shut down the system. There was no effective backup in place; therefore, there was no air conditioning in the Court for quite some time. Despite the circumstances, the hardworking staff continued to execute their functions with the expressed purpose of ensuring the courts remained open. Notwithstanding mitigation efforts to protect the health and safety of staff and clients, the level of moisture in the building created an environment ripe for the growth of mold. Therein, in addition to the work required to change out the pump and bring the air condition system back online there were a number of courts that required quarantine. In the end, in order to protect staff, and clients alike, mold remediation works were undertaken totaling in excess of over \$90,000.00 in cost. The air condition was brought online but works at the Court remain ongoing as there are a number of lingering issues with the air condition that require immediate redress to the cost of over \$155,000.00. I hope that these issues are addressed in the short term to avoid another health and safety issue as it relates to mold at the courts.

I would be remiss if I did not offer sincere thanks to the permanent secretary at the Ministry of Works and Family Island Affairs, inclusive of the staff of the Northern Compound, for continually providing assistance and answering the call when relied upon for aid for matters that fall under their purview and for which they have budgetary provisions.

The administration area for Night Court also received its long awaited, and much needed, air condition system after years of having to work in an environment devoid of proper cooling and ventilation. The cost associated with this project was upwards of \$20,000.00. Reports are that the staff are very appreciative of the improved working conditions. It should be noted that the ability to

swiftly address this matter was made possible by the new financial independence of the Council.

Nevertheless, there is more work to be done, as there are other legacy issues at the Magistrate's Court, i.e., leaking from the roof and windows after rainfall, the need for a perimeter wall for security purposes, replacement of old and damaged furniture etc. All of these issues are marked for remediation in the upcoming year.

Grand Bahama

Grand Bahama also presented some issues since 2 September 2024. Two (2) of the building's ten (10) ton air condition units suffered failure. This rendered two (2) of the three (3) Supreme Courts unusable due to concerns for health and safety. This hampered delivery of justice as it was difficult for the court to sit in such harsh conditions. A short-term solution was found to address both issues whilst a long-term solution involving change out of the units is being undertaken. The courts are now back in session thanks again to generous assistance by the Ministry of Works and Family Island Affairs.

Preventative Maintenance

The abundance of issues and critical failures of key infrastructure may be attributed to the lack of preventative maintenance. This will be addressed in the upcoming year subject to the engagement of the necessary personnel to undertake those responsibilities. This hopefully will reduce downtime of importance infrastructure and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Judiciary.

Future Plans

Over the next year, the plan is to continue to implement the strategic plan firstly by structuring each court into an institution with an executive management team (EMT) led by a

Court Administrator. Secondly, by ensuring each EMT conducts an assessment of their institution and design a budget for the effective running of their court. It is anticipated that this plan will allow the Council to function at the highest level of efficiency and effectiveness and improve the provision of court services to the Bahamian people.

HUMAN RESOURCE UNIT – ANNUAL STATISTICAL DATA REPORT 2024

On the 1st July, 2024, the Office of the Judiciary transitioned into the Court Services Council in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Court Services Act 2023. Administrative and support staff with permanent and pensionable status, stationed in the Office of the Judiciary on that date, were asked to indicate in writing their willingness to be transferred into the new Court Services Council (CSC), or to remain in the Public Service proper. Fifty-three (53) of the total staff compliment of two hundred eight five (285) opted to remain in the Public Service. In this regard, the CSC continues to systematically facilitate their transfer to other Public Service Ministries and Departments.

Charged with the mandate to build out the organization to properly manage all of the administrative functions required under the newly formed Council, the HR team undertook to:

- 1. Draft new post requirements for posts within the Council;
- 2. Undertake a Man Power Needs Assessments to determine staff shortages within the organization;
- 3. Create the necessary training plan and modules for the new staff;
- 4. Update all forms to change from reflecting Office of the Judiciary to Court Services Council;

- 5. Close out of personal files for staff that transferred out and opened new files of new entrants;
- Determine effective salaries for remaining and new staff based on the new salary scales and post requirements;
- 7. Liaise with the Public Service Commission through the Ministry of the Public Service to seek advice on public officers being considered for permanent employment; and
- 8. Make offers of permanent and pensionable employment to public officers, and other staff, with all the rights and benefits associated.

These actions bring to fruition the long-standing desire of the Honorable Chief Justice, past and present, to afford dedicated and hardworking staff better remuneration.

As of 1st November 2024, the Court Services Council had a staff compliment of 337. There are currently 285 administrative and support staff and 52 judicial officers

This total includes 1 Chief Justice, 17 Judges, 2 Acting Judges, 1 Chief Magistrate, 4 Assistant Chief Magistrates, 10 Senior Magistrates, 2 Magistrates and 5 Acting Magistrates, 1 Registrar, 4 Deputy Registrars, and 3 Assistant Registrars.

The Office of the Judiciary is divided into the Supreme Court, and Magistrates Courts. This division is duplicated on Grand Bahama. There is a Magistrates Court with a resident Assistant Chief Magistrate stationed at Marsh Harbour, Abaco.

As of 1st November, 2024, the Court Services Council was staffed as follows:-

NO.	COUNT	AREAS	NAMES
1	6	Office of the Hon. Chief Justice, Sir Ian Winder, Kt.	Nolan Scavella, Monique Rolle, Curtis Adderley, Nelson Larramore, P/Sgt. 1496 Sweeting, P/Sgt. 2114 Greenslade
2	4	Office of The Hon. Madam Senior Justice Deborah Fraser	Wilkeishna McKenzie, Breann Woodside, P/Sgt. Ramsey
3	4	Office of the Hon. Madam Senior Justice Cheryl Grant-Thompson	Andymore Saunders, Sasha Martin, P/ Sgt. Alexander Laroda
4	4	Office of the Hon. Mr. Justice G. Gregory Hilton	Javon Rahming, Earnestine Rahming, P/Cpl. 618 Ivan Deveaux
5	4	Office of the Hon. Madam Justice Petra Hanna-Adderley (GB)	Brenda Johnson, Arlington Farquharson, P/Sgt 2870 Mario Moss
6	4	Office of the Hon. Madam Justice Guillimina Archer-Minns	Randy Forbes, Rickesh Taylor, P/Sgt. 2497 Gregory Dean
7	3	Office of the Hon. Madam Justice W. Renae McKay	Elizabeth Johnson, P/Sgt. 2319 Ricardo Neely

8	4	Office of the Hon. Mr. Justice Loren	Tamiko Glinton, Deandra Dean, P/Sgt.	
	'	Klein	2494 Freeman Rolle	
9	4	Office of the Hon. Madam Justice J. Denise Lewis-Johnson	Clarence Smith, Alyssa Forbes, P/Sgt. 2525 Lenardo Simmons	
10	4	Office of the Hon. Mr. Justice Andrew Forbes (GB)	Lavern Dean, Dale Bethel, P/Cpl. 3233 Bernardo Greene	
11	4	Office of the Hon. Madam Justice Jeanine Weech-Gomez	Thomas Grant, Verlea Farrington, P/Sgt. 2550 Jonathan Adderley	
12	4	Office of the Hon. Mr. Neil Brathwaite	Doneva McDonald, Rinique Stubbs, P/ Sgt Cassius Evans	
13	4	Office of the Hon. Madam Justice Camille Darville-Gomez	Sherelle Martin, Shevonne Wilson, P/ Sgt. 2236 Dugay	
14	4	Office of the Hon. Madam Justice Simone Fitzcharles(Acting)	Christopher Pennerman, Paige Mackey, Sgt. 2496 Ulysses Rolle	
15	4	Office of the Hon. Madam Justice Carla Card-Stubbs (Acting)	Genae Frazier, Emily Watkins, P/Sgt. 3135 Omar Woodside	
16	2	Office of the Hon. Justice Mr. Franklyn Williams	Barron Musgrove, Vanesa Nixon, P/Sgt 2118 Julian Butler	
17	2	Office of the Hon. Justice Madam Hope Strachan	Desiree Gibson, P/	
18	3	Office of the Hon. Justice Madam Joyann-Ferguson-Pratt (Acting)	Nancy Saunders, Kristen Bethel, P/Cpl. Strachan	
19	3	Office of the Hon. Justice Indira Demeritte-Francis	Craig Wallace, Brenda Johnson, P/ Constable 4249 Castromer Griffin	
20		Office of the Hon. Justice Andrew McKinney	Kimberly Butterfield, P/Sgt 2755 John Knowles	
21	2	Office of the Hon. Justice Darron Ellis	Samuel Sherman, P/ Conliffe	
22	2	Office of The CEO – Delgardo Forbes (Head of Administration)	Craidell Brown, Nicole Musgrove	

23	4	Office of the Registrar Constance Delancy (Civil Registry, Appeals Registry & JLSC Secretariat)	(Royanne Williamson), Sonia Tynes
24	4	Office of the Deputy Registrar Stephana J. Saunders (Northern Region)	Ricardo Russell, Sophia Clarke, Shonaray Mackey
25	2	Office of the Deputy Registrar Renaldo Toote – Probate Registry/ Director of Court Services	Tammara Johnson
26	2	Office of the Deputy Registrar Jennifer Stuart Bastian - Criminal Registry	Lavendra Reckley
27	2	Office of the Assistant Registrar Olivia Blatch (GB)	Shantel Adderley
28	2	Office of the Assistant Registrar Indy Hunter- Family Registry	Kristin Higgins
29	2	Office of the Assistant Registrar – Rosanne Sweeting (GB)	Angel Scott
30	2	Office of the Assistant Registrar Johnathan Deal – Probate Registry	D'Vonya Cooper
31	4	Office of the Chief Magistrate Roberto Reckley	Tameka Pennerman, Dalette Walkes, Roy Burrows
32	4	Office of the Assistant Chief Magistrate Carolyn Vogt-Evans (Dep. Coroner)	Maxverna McBride, Leneah Woodside, Craig Hanna
33	3	Office of Assistant Chief Magistrate Ancella J. Evans (Abaco)	Shandira Forbes, Carla Nixon
34	2	Office of Assistant Chief Magistrate Kara Turnquest-Deveaux (Juvenile Ct.)	Azaria Bartlett, Sherelle Martin, Teshon Lockhart
35	1	Office of Senior Magistrate Derence Rolle-Davis (Juror's Office)	
36	2	Office of Senior Magistrate Charlton H. Smith (GB)	Rogann Smith

37	4	Office of Senior Magistrate Sandradee Gardiner (Family)	Tevin Farrington, Julie Buchanan, Frances Butterfield	
38	2	Office of Senior Magistrate Shaka Serville	Savannah Davidson, Marco Smith	
39	2	Office of Senior Magistrate LaQuay Laing (GB)	Quincy Major	
40	4	Office of Magistrate Senior Algernon Allen, Jr.	Ulean Clarke, Alexa Higgs, Patrick Knowles	
41	4	Office of Senior Senior Magistrate Anishka Isaacs	Shezelle Rolle, Thecola Cochinamogulos, Charles Anthon	
42	4	Office of Magistrate Senior Kendra Kelly	Deshae Robinson, Kendi Storr, Wenzel Hanna	
43	3	Office of Magistrate Ian-Marie Darville- Miller	Hyacinth Sands, Khirsten Brown, Noel Kemp	
44	2	Office of Magistrate Simone Brown (GB)	Cadesha Lightbourne	
45	4	Office of Magistrate James L. Moxey (Acting)	Christina Richards, Nathaniel Mackey	
46	2	Office of Magistrate Lennox Coleby Sr.,	Lavette Turnquest	
47	2	Office of Magistrate Raquel Whymns	David Stubbs	
48	3	Office of the Acting Magistrate Petrocelli Edwards	Alliah Richards, Cyntheretta Miller	
49	3	Office of Magistrate Kevin Farrington	Justin Cash, Charles Charlton	
50	1	Office of Magistrate Miles Parker		
51	6	Office of the Director of Court Services, Supreme Court (Director – Mildred Bodie)	Rajya Smith, Enith Darling, Bridgette Ferguson, Fabien Rolle, Edward Gayle	
52	4	Court Administrator, Magistrates Court	Alphanette Grant, Ralph Rolle, Claudina Cooper	

		Finance Officer	Claudia Hall, Celeste Rahming, Berneka	
53	3	Account	Russell	
54	9	Office of the Accountant –(MC)	Allendra Sherman, Claudia Clarke, , Rayven Lloyd, Valneisha Cargill, Lyndia Moss, Sharon Brown, Falesha Lowe, Kristen Bennett	
55	2	Receptionist (MC)	Chaquell Cooper, Bobby-Anne Rolle	
56	8	Court Security (MC)	Sterlin Charlton, Noel Kemp, Teshon Lockhart, Roy Burrows, Perry Charlton, Duke Percentie, Harry Newton, Seabury Ferguson	
57	5	Office of Human Resources	Annamae Neely, Deborah Gibson, Sharece Davis-Pratt, Olivia Smith, Kirk Moss	
58	1	Office of Human Resources, (MC)	Jennifer Sweeting	
59	3	Office of Information, Communication and Technology,	Bernadine Deveaux, Isreal Bodie, Mario Lightbourn	
60	2	Office of the Judicial Legal Services Commission	Nicoya Neilly, Kennise Burrows	
61	3	Office of the Listing Officer	Esranda Bodie,, Mariah Tata, Linda Florvil	
62	1	Law Library	Samantha Butterfield	
63	30	Office of Court Reporting	Judith Clare, Royanne Morrison, Tabitha Morley, Hubert Cash, Paulia Henry-Reid, Sarah Saunders, Katrina Sears, Carla Nicolls, Karen Scavella, Gwen Deveaux, Patrice Johnson, Andrea Johnson, Lavonne Adderley, Katisha Bannister, Swakara Cash, Shakara Knowles, Tonia Colebrooke, Tahesha Ingraham, Tanya Adderley, Derricka Burrows, Calvern Johnson, Diandra Robinson, Krista Stubbs, Samantha Bain, Melissa Brown, Nathalee Edgecombe (GB), Derrinique Smith, Althea Miller, Augusta Johnson,	

		T		
64	4	Transcriptionist Unit	Derrenique Smith, Onike Archer, Geofricka Hepburn	
65	2	FTR Department	Katrea Saunders, Lathario Dean	
66	2	Criminal Registry	Debra Gittens, Starsheema Smith	
67	10	Office of the Bailiffs	George Fernander, Brian Harvey, Phillip Clarke, , Godfrey Willie, Elvis Rolle, Randolph Munroe, Julian Mackey, Joycelyn Smith, Dennis Brown, Bertram Carey	
68	3	Civil Registry	Esther Pinder, Sherman Campbell, Craig Thompson	
69		Cashiers' Cage	Kamia Curtis, Sandra Lightbourn	
70	5	Civil Registry (MC)	Kergsina Cochinamogulos, Betty Bostwick, Brittany Knowles, Keri Ramsey, Elaine Colebrooke,	
71	4	Warrants Section (MC)	Aliea Rolle, Lineka Carter, Rayven Lloyd, Megan Johnson	
72	3	Family Registry	Katie Mackey, Jacara Smith, Charlene Munnings	
73	1	Appeals Registry	Lizandria Taylor	
74	4	Probate Registry	Loretta Maycock, Desiree Robinson, Tesha Storr, Tetuan Johnson	
75	6	Office of the Judicial Research Counsels	Glen Curry, Rayshon Deleveaux, Victoria Morris, Krystian Butler, Shaquille Dean, RaSean Longley	
76	4	Office of the Digitization Unit	Grace Bostwick, Darcy Cox, Dennia Davis, Kachari McPhee	
77	15	Office of Court Security (Marshals – Supreme Court)	Steven Seymour, Alfred Munnings, Sidney Campbell, Andrew Armbrister, Peter Rolle, Andrew Rodgers, Kevin Greenslade, Wayne Rodgers, Cleveland Williams, Loretta Duncombe, Andrew Rodgers, Sharon Hanna, Michelle Farrington, Susan Smith	

78	6	Custodial (Supreme Court)	Cecilia Davis, Donica Murphy, Shantiesh Mitchell, Javia Gibson, Donna Deveaux, Ashley Patton	
79	6	Custodial (MC)	Tanaka Coakley, Monalisa Ferguson, Nickesha Thompson, Patrieke Maynard, Natasha Parker, Shanda McKenzie,	
80	2	Human Resources (Grand Bahama)	Charmaine Fernander, Caljanae Russell	
81	1	Court Services	Ricardo Russell	
82	1	Judicial Research Counsel	Courtney Martin	
83	3	Court Reporting Unit (GB)	Samantha Bain, Nathalee Edgecombe, Alejandro Johnson	
84	5	Accounts Department (GB)	Bienka Farrington, Zenobia Duncombe, Audiliah Nortelus, Aaliyah Edgecombe, Alexcia Nesbitt	
85	6	Supreme Court Registry (GB)	Juanita Smith, Rachel McIntosh- Johnson, Lonia Dean, Deon Smith, Velta Gibson, Stacy Culmer	
86	4	Magistrate's Court Registry (GB)	Tezel Smith, Nicole Thompson, Eugenia Johnson, Mildred Thompson	
87	3	Bailiff Unit/ Juror's Office (GB)	Hesley Rolle, Steve Hepburn, Shonaray Mackey, Albury	
88	6	Marshals/ Security (GB)	Patrick Adderley, Roosevelt Rolle, Arlington Farquharson, Suzette Ferguson, Richard Leadon, Terry Barry	
89	1	Receptionist (GB)	Kaylor Pinder	
90	6	Messenger & Janitorial Unit (GB)	Rocqual Brown, Deorin McPhee, Valencia McPhee, Pearline Munroe, Darlene Taylor, Carolyn Smith	

NO.	Activities	Names	Amount
1	New Appointments	Bernadine Deveaux, Samuel Sherman, Mario Lightbourn, Kamia Curtis, Sheikera Calma, Tesha Storr, Kristin Higgins, Onike Archer, Falesha Lowe, Kachri Mcphee, Rineque Stubbs, Charlene Munnings, Berneka Russell, Philiper Gardiner, Kristian Bennett, Craidell Brown, Tamara Johnson, Nicole Musgrove, Linda Florvil, Jerome Young, Craig Thompson, Sherrell Martin, Dennia Davis, Tetuan Johnson, Clarence Smith, Bobby-Ann Rolle, Latario Dean, D'Vonya Cooper, Anthon Charles, Suzette Ferguson, Dwight Hanna, Andrew Rodgers, Stephen Russell, Jocelyn Smith, Marco Smith, Jimmylee Stevens, Cleveland Williams, Loretta Duncombe, Vanessa Nixon, Kevin Greenslade, Alexander Bannister, Harry Newton, Levio Braynen, Bertram Carey, Michelle Farrington, Dennis Brown, Sharon Hanna, Terrance Collie, Alexander Laroda, Seabury Ferguson, Susan Smith, Perry Charlton,	53
2	Deployment/ Transfers	Marva Curtis, Kesha Ferguson, Arnette Mackey, Brithney Higgs, Brenisha Moxey, Keva Smith, Antoinette Barr, Sharon Maynard, Donna Burrows, Charmaine Musgrove, Marinda Pritchard, Sharmaine Archer, Ingrid Hunt, Brinnea Darville, Nicole Ferguson, Patrick Williams, Movina McKenzie, Sarah Meeres	18
3	Confirmation in Appointment Chaquell Cooper, Brinnea Nabbie-Darville, Sarah Meeres, Starsheema Smith, Julie Buchanan, Mariah Tata, Shantiesh Mitchell, Brenisha Moxey		8
4	Reclassifications	Arnette Mackey, Sheneka Dawkins-Tador	2
5	Promotions	Ralph Rolle, Marilyn Bastian, Florence Deleveaux, Portia Taylor, Mazel Knowles, Nolan Scavella, Katie Smith-Mackey, Earnestine Miller-Rahming, Raquel Jones-Sands, Joycelyn Johnson, Dellaresse Lightbourne, Jenetha McPhee, Tamesha Pyfrom, Clara Johnson, Antoinette Barr, Patricia Farrington, Claudina Cooper, Sherilyn Bodie-Forbes, Ingrid	50
6	In-Service	Shakara Knowles, Andrea Johnson, Patrice Johnson, Royanne Williamson	4

HR ACTIVITIES 2024

Color	Activities		Amount
	New Appointments		53
	Deployments/ Transfers		18
	Confirmation in Appointments		8
	Reclassifications		2
	Promotions		50
	Retirees		2
	Deaths		2
	In-Service		4

RETIREES 2024



Carolyn Lopez, Janitress

Start Date: Retirement Date: 20 MARCH 2002

1 JANUARY 2024



Peter Clarke, Bailiff

Start Date:

Retirement Date:

5 AUGUST 1992

1 MARCH 2024

DEATHS



Lana Roseboro, Accountant

Treasury Staff

Decease Date:

6 FEBRUARY 2024



On Friday 17th November 2023, six staff members will be attending the BAAP Annual Administrative Educational Seminar under the theme: "Pursuing Success With Courage Through Teamwork". The following Officers were selected:

- Mrs. Sonia Tynes
- Ms. Augusta Johnson
- Ms. Shevonne Wilson
- Ms. Megan Johnson
- Ms. Kerri Ramsey
- Ms. Monique Rolle

Public Service Center for Human Resource Development (PSCHRD) Courses



Denna Williams, Court Reporter

Start Date:

Decease Date:

2 APRIL 1997

22 MAY 2024

BGSCE

-BGSCE English Olivia Smith

PITMAN

-Office Procedures II – Spring 2024 Donna Deveaux

-Office Procedures I- Fall 2024 Shanda McKenzie, Loretta Duncombe, Brittany Curtis

COURT SECURITY

- Steven D. Seymour, Director Of Security

Introduction

The judicial system is a cornerstone of democracy, safeguarding the rule of law and ensuring justice. However, it also faces significant threats, both general and cyberrelated. Implementing robust security measures is essential to protect court facilities, personnel,

sensitive information, and the integrity of judicial processes. In May 2023, I was appointed as the Director of Security for the judicial court of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, and I surveyed a series of assessments that my team has made recommendations on and we have implemented strategic law enforcement tactics to improve the current security stature. We have on boarded staff for New Providence, and Grand Bahama, where entry points are for all members of the public, and an estimated 1000-1500 personnel transiting within the Magistrate complex. We need Marshall's for screening purposes. The Bernard Court is coming on stream, and we are currently addressing security protocols in that jurisdiction.

Physical Security Measures

1. Access Control

- Identification Systems: Correct use of ID badges, public guest passes, and biometric systems to restrict access to authorized personnel only.
- Security Personnel: Trained security staff at entrances and throughout court facilities to monitor and manage access.
- Controlled Entry Points: Limiting entry points to court facilities to enhance security in supreme and magistrate courts. Each entry point should have a security checkpoint staffed.
- Visitor Screening: Implementing metal detectors and bag checks for visitors to courtrooms can significantly reduce risks. This process should be efficient to avoid long wait times.

2. Surveillance Systems

• CCTV Cameras: Installation of comprehensive surveillance systems to monitor all areas, particularly sensitive zones such as Magistrate and Supreme courtrooms and evidence storage.

- Real-Time Monitoring: My team has established a control room where security personnel can monitor CCTV feeds in real-time, allowing for immediate response to incidents.
- Alarm Systems: Deployment of alarms to detect unauthorized access or breaches in secure areas.
- Integration with Local Law Enforcement: Collaborate with the Royal Bahamas Police Force to share surveillance data during critical incidents, enhancing response times.

3. Facility Design

- Secure Layout: Design courtrooms and administrative areas to minimize vulnerabilities, with a focus on natural surveillance and restricted movement zones.
 The Bank Lane Parking issue was addressed and allocated parking in Victoria Gardens for all staff.
- Lighting: Ensure adequate lighting in and around court facilities to deter criminal activity and enhance surveillance effectiveness.
- Emergency Exits: Clearly marked and easily accessible emergency exits to ensure rapid evacuation if necessary, during the hours of 7:00 am- 7:00 pm in parking areas of Bank Lane.
- Safe Rooms: Designate secure areas within court facilities where personnel can retreat during emergencies. These should be equipped with communication tools and emergency supplies.

4. Training and Drills

- Regular Training: Conduct regular training for staff on emergency procedures, security protocols, and recognizing potential threats.
- Drills: Implement periodic security drills to prepare for various scenarios, including active shooter situations, evacuations, and real-life emergencies
- Interagency Collaboration: Involve local emergency services in drills to improve coordination and response during actual emergencies.

Cyber Security Measures

1. Data Protection

- Encryption: Implement encryption for sensitive data, both in transit and at rest, to protect against unauthorized access.
 Implement a data classification scheme to identify and categorize sensitive information, ensuring appropriate security measures are applied based on its classification.
- Access Controls: Strict user authentication and role-based access controls to limit data access to authorized personnel.
- Regular Backups: Maintain regular backups of critical data to ensure recovery in case of data loss or ransom ware attacks.

2. Network Security

- Network Segmentation: Segment networks limit access between different systems, reducing the risk of a breach spreading across the entire network.
- Firewalls and Intrusion Detection: Deploy and improve advanced firewalls and intrusion detection systems to monitor and protect the network from cyber threats.

3. Incident Response Plan

- Develop a Plan: Establish a clear incident response plan outlining steps to review to identify weaknesses and improve response.
- Clear Communication Channels: Establish clear channels for reporting security concerns or incidents, ensuring that employees feel empowered to speak up.

4. Employee Training

- Cybersecurity Awareness: Provide ongoing training for all employees about recognizing phishing attempts, practicing safe browsing, and maintaining strong password hygiene.
- Reporting Protocols: Implement clear protocols for reporting suspicious activities or potential breaches.

Challenges in Implementation

- Budget Constraints: Limited funding can hinder the ability to implement comprehensive security measures. Prioritizing high-risk areas and seeking grants or partnerships may help mitigate this issue.
- Resistance to Change: Employees may be resistant to new security protocols. Continuous training and highlighting the importance of security can help foster a culture of awareness.
- Technological Advancements: Rapid advancements in technology can outpace current security measures. Staying updated on the latest security technologies and trends is crucial.

Best Practices

- Regular Security Assessments: Conduct regular assessments of both physical and cyber security measures to identify vulnerabilities and areas for improvement.
- Policy Development: Develop and maintain clear security policies that outline expectations for staff behavior and protocols in both physical and cyber contexts.
- Community Engagement: Engage with the community to promote awareness of security issues and encourage cooperation in reporting suspicious activities.

Conclusion

The overarching goal of implementing effective general and cyber security measures, within the judicial system, is to create an environment where justice can be administered fairly and safely. By addressing potential vulnerabilities through comprehensive strategies, judicial institutions can protect their integrity, personnel, and the public, ultimately fostering trust in the judicial process. Continuous evaluation and adaptation of these measures will be essential in the face of evolving threats.

THE BAHAMAS JUDICIAL EDUCATION INSTITUTE (the "BJEI")

- Justice Camille Darville GomezVice President (Operations)

The BJEI remains committed to its vision of "Enhancing the delivery of justice through education and training." This education and training applies to both judicial and non-judicial staff of the judiciary. Given this focus, it is prudent that the BJEI from time to time facilitate training opportunities for members of the Bahamas Bar Association and other stakeholders involved in the administration of justice. It will be seen from the training conducted or facilitated in 2024, that it included, Family Island Administrators, members of the Bar and officers from the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Judicial Officers

This year commenced with the annual Judicial Officers' training seminar in January; it was held over four days to incorporate specialized training for the Judiciary's Research Counsel simultaneously. This training remains a staple in the BJEI's Training calendar since its inception in January, 2019; even throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, albeit virtually. In 2025, it will be held over two days; on 6th and 7th January, 2025.

Additionally, during the year, training was delivered to judicial officers and others on various areas of the law, including family law and criminal law. It is expected that this type of specialized training will also feature on the BJEI's yearly training calendar. Finally, in December, the new Judges' orientation seminar was delivered over two days for the recently appointed and the soon to be appointed judges, as well as the recently appointed magistrates.

This June, the Bahamas Bar Council recommenced its training and since the Courts were closed during this period, it makes sense that the BJEI will schedule training simultaneously going forward. Instead creating a website for judicial officers, the BJEI joined counterpart Institutes from within the Caribbean Community on a shared website called JUSTConnect. The portal will permit the Institute to upload its own courses designed specifically for its judicial officers, as well as, access courses created with its regional counterparts in areas of common interest and best practices.

Non-Judicial Staff

The staff orientation training for onboarding of new staff has been scheduled for two weeks in December, 2024. This training will in the future also feature on the BJEI's annual training calendar.

Publications

When the Civil Procedure Practice Guide was published in March, 2023, it was foreshadowed that it would be edited and updated from time to time. Just over nine months later, in January, 2024, the Practice Guide was updated. Additionally, a Manual for Research Counsel was produced as a tool to assist them in their work.

Future plans

It is expected that a Training Officer will be engaged by the judiciary in 2025 who will be able to amongst other things, facilitate the development of a yearlong training program for the BJEI for judicial and non-judicial staff and, facilitate the creation of a dedicated website for the BJEI.

Thank you

As always, the BJEI remains grateful to those organizations that continue to permit our judicial and non-judicial staff to participate in their training virtually and also, to underwrite the cost of in-person attendance as well. In particular, the Caribbean Judicial Officers Organization (CAJO), the National Centre for State Courts (NCSC), the U.S. Embassy and others.

Training held in 2024

THE JUDICIARY'S ANNUAL TRAINING DAY

January 15 – 18, 2024

Theme: "Strengthening the Judicial Office: A Judicial Officer and Research Counsel Programme"

Programme Faculty/Presenters:

Justice Peter Jamadar, Judge of the Caribbean Court of Justice and Chair of the CAJO; Justice Gregory Smith, Judge of the Court of Appeal of The Bahamas; Ms. Kerine Dobson, Former Legal Officer to the President of the Caribbean Court of Justice

Topics included:

- 1. Projectising Cases: Tools for Effective & Efficient Caseflow Management
- 2. The Imperatives of Legal Research and Case Preparation
- 3. Writing Legal Opinions: The General Principles
- 4. Writing Legal Opinions: An Issue Driven Approach Beyond Introductions
- 5. The Perfect Judgment
- 6. Ethics for Judicial Officers
- 7. Constitutional Approaches to Statutory Interpretation
- 8. Legal Argumentation: Exploring Huhn's Five Modes
- 9. Ethics for Judicial Research Counsel

10. Mapping a Judicial Research Counsel Handbook

SUPREME COURT CRIMINIAL DIVISION WORKSHOP

January 26, 2024

Presenter: Justice of Appeal Mr. Milton Evans

PANEL DISCUSSION - PREPARATION OF BAIL APPLICATION

February 2, 2024

Conducted for Prosecutors of the Office of the Attorney General

Panelists:

Chief Justice – Sir Ian Winder, Kt

President COA – Sir Michael Barnett

Justice Milton Evans, JA

Justice Bernard Turner, JA

Justice Cheryl Grant-Thompson, Senior Justice of the Supreme Court

Justice Renae McKay, Justice of the Supreme Court

TRAINING DAY SEMINAR – for Public & Private Bar on "Criminal Case Management Rules, 2024"

September 16, 2024

TRAINING DAY SEMINAR – for Judicial Officers on "Criminal Case Management Rules, 2024"

September 17, 2024

TRAINING DAY – FAMILY LAW WORKSHOP – for Judicial Officers & Family Island Administrators on "Domestic Violence Protection Orders"

September 27, 2024

TRAINING DAY - Orientation for New Judges

December 5 - 6,2024

STAFF ORIENTATION

December 9-13, 2024 December 16 – 20, 2024

CONFERENCES

HEADS OF JUDICIARY CONFERENCE

The Honourable Chief Justice Sir Ian R. Winder, Kt. attended the two-day biennial Chief Justices and Heads of Caribbean Judiciaries Conference was held in Kingston, Jamaica 20-22 June, 2024. The Conference was hosted by the Honourable Mr. Justice Bryan Skyes, Chief Justice of Jamaica. The theme of the Conference was "Judicial Leadership in a Changing Environment".



The topics covered at this year's conference included:

- The Role of Visionary Leadership: Guiding Courts in a Changing Environment,
- The Modern Judiciary and Governance,
- The Global Standard Context, and AI The Judiciary's New Tool.

CMJA Conference in Kigali Rwanda

- Chief Magistrate Roberto Reckley



The annual Commonwealth Magistrates and Judge's Association (CMJA) Conference was held at the Kigali Conference Centre, Kigali, Rwanda on the 8th - 13th of September 2024. The Bahamian delegation consisted of Chief Justice Sir Ian Winder, the Hon. Justice of Appeal Milton Evans, the Hon. Madam Justice Renae McKay and Chief Magistrate Roberto Reckley.

Lectures, presentations and panel discussions covered a wide range of topics providing valuable information and inciting engaging discourse. Themes on the agenda included:

- Environmental Justice
- Private Remedies in trans-boundary pollution
- Public and Private law rights to a better environment
- Sentencing in wildlife smuggling cases
- · Restorative justice after conflict
- Ensuring Our Courts Can Handel Disputes About Our Environment
- Reciprocal Enforcement with the New York and Singapore Conventions

- Case management: Reducing backlogs through problem-solving courts, plea bargaining and using part time judiciary
- Creating an association of employment/ industrial judges
- Commonwealth Military Justice systems
- Gender issues
- · Fighting corruption in the judiciary
- Can the judiciary say or do anything in public?
- Sports Regulation
- Cross-border disputes in private family law
- Empowering prisoners in their own cases
- · Admissibility of computer- generated evidence

The discussion on "Admissibility of computergenerated evidence" was particularly interesting given the impact such evidence may have on the judicial system. The discourse highlighted that while evidence from computers is necessary, inevitable and common place, in certain instances the same can be erroneous or intentionally manipulated having devastating effects. More importantly the advancement of Artificial Intelligence has given rise to computers that not only record and report but now have the ability to learn, evolve and teach themselves. Society went from a time when we were skeptical of computers to a time when we relied on them in every aspect of our lives, trusting them wholeheartedly, almost without question, now to a place where some level of skepticism has crept back in. The discussion did not suggest in any way that the court should not admit or accept evidence of computers but certainly the court must be mindful of the advancements in this area and as such suggests we scrutinize, verify and guide ourselves accordingly.

President Paul Kagame of the Republic of Rwanda made an appearance at the conference. The conference concluded with a Gala Dinner hosted by the Chief Justice of Rwanda Faustin Ntezilayo, which included a cultural show consisting of traditional Rwandan dance.

The Bahamian delegation visited the Kigali Genocide Museum. This year makes 30 years since the Genocide that began in April of 1994 and lasted for 100 days. Chief Justice Winder was chosen from the CMJA participants to lay a wreath at the memorial in honour of the fallen.

ILEA HUMAN TRAFFICKING & CHILD EXPLOITATION TRAINING COURSE

- S & C Magistrate Simone Brown



The ILEA Human Trafficking and Child Exploitation training course in San Salvador, El Salvador from the 12th to the 16th February, 2024. The training course consisted of various members of the Judiciary, Law Enforcement Officers and Attorneys from Latin and Caribbean countries inclusive of Columbia, Brazil, El Salvador and Mexico.

The Bahamian representatives included the Chief Magistrate Roberto Reckley, Stipendiary and Circuit Magistrate Ian Marie Darville-Miller, Circuit Magistrate Simone Brown, ASP Geneice Barr and Senior Immigration Officer Shanori Francis.

The aim and purpose of the course was to not only educate Latin and Caribbean countries on the current human trafficking and child exploitation laws in the United States but was also for our respective counties to share our experiences with like matters and to develop and improve our own laws to eradicate such crimes in our respective countries. During the five day course participants heard from a number of Home Land Security officers with regards to current investigative practices from current case files; interview tactics for

victims of these crimes and the important role that non-governmental agencies play in providing assistance to these victims during and after the investigation.

A key take away from the course is how Judicial Officers can educate frontline officers in dealing with human trafficking matters which fall under the Trafficking In Persons (Prevention and Suppression) Act. Also, recognizing the Bahamian non-governmental agencies that are presently in place and ensuring that they are utilized effectively to provide assistance for victims who may appear before our Courts.

Ultimately, the course was informative as to the processes under the Trafficking In Persons Act and provided much needed guidance on how the Court can ensure that victims are assisted, ensure that investigations are handled effectively and that perpetrators are penalized and sentenced appropriately.

CARIBBEAN ASSOCIATION OF JUDICIAL OFFICERS (CAJO)

- Justice Constance Delancy

The Caribbean Association of Judicial Officers (CAJO) 8th biennial conference was held in Bermuda from November 21 to 23, 2024 under the theme of "Justice 360: Holistic Approaches to the Administration of Justice".

The Conference was attended by several heads of Caribbean judiciaries: CCJ President, the Hon. Mr. Justice Adrian Saunders; Chief Justice of The Bahamas, Sir Ian Winder; Chief Justice of Barbados, the Hon. Mr. Justice Leslie Haynes; Chief Justice of Bermuda, the Hon. Mr. Justice Larry Mussenden; Chancellor of the Judiciary of Guyana (Ag), the Hon. Madam Justice Yonette Cummings-Edwards; Chief Justice of Guyana (Ag), the Hon. Madam Justice Roxane George; Chief Justice of Jamaica, the Hon. Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes; and Vice President of the Joint Court of Justice of Aruba, Curaçao, Sint Maarten and Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba, Mrs. Maroeska Scholte.

The CCJ President, the Hon. Mr. Justice Saunders the keynote speaker presented on the topic "Celebrating Caribbean Jurisprudence: Intersections between Law, Politics, and Society", reinforcing the need for judiciaries to incorporate outcome thinking alongside process thinking. President Saunders also encouraged participants to share his dream of control over constitutions to pass exclusively into the hands of Caribbean people.

Justice Jamadar was re-elected as CAJO Chair and Chief Justice Roxane George of Guyana was re-elected as Vice Chair at the Association's Third Annual General Meeting.



A new CAJO Management Committee was elected to office for 2024 - 2026:

- 1. Justice Peter Jamadar Chair (Judge, CCJ)
- 2. Justice Roxane George Vice Chair (Chief Justice (Ag), Guyana)
- Justice Adrian Saunders ex officio (President, CCJ)
- 4. Justice Carol Edwards (Judge, Jamaica)
- 5. Justice Maria Wilson (Judge, Trinidad & Tobago)
- 6. Justice Shade Subair-Williams (Judge, Bermuda)
- 7. Justice Gregory Smith (Judge, The Bahamas)
- 8. Justice Maroeska Scholte (Vice President, Joint Court)
- 9. Justice Tanya Lobban Jackson (Judge, Turks and Caicos Islands)
- 10. Justice Sandra Nanhoe-Gangadin (Judge, Suriname)
- 11. Justice Anneil Coote-Guiness (Judge, Jamaica)
- 12. Justice Cicely Chase (Judge, Barbados)
- 13. Ms. Michelle John-Theobalds (Chief Registrar, ECSC)
- 14. Ms. Kristina Wallace Whitfield (Registrar, The Bahamas)
- 15. Her Worship Maxanne Anderson (Senior Magistrate, Bermuda)

The CAJO, adopted a statement on the wellbeing of judicial officers and judiciary staff, based on the July 2024 Nauru Declaration on Judicial Wellbeing. The Association also re-affirmed the duty and responsibility of all judiciaries to operate with integrity, and to secure the trust and confidence.

IACA CONFERENCE

- Mr. Delgardo Frobes, CEO

The 2024 IACA Conference was held in Singapore from 11 – 14 November 2024 under the theme "Building Trust in the Judiciary". The conference has attendees from over fifty – two (52) countries around the world. The session and speakers covered topics in the following areas:

- 1. Artificial Intelligence (AI)and Impact on the Judiciary;
- 2. Disinformation and Impact on Trust in the Judiciary;
- 3. Access to Justice (A2J) and Impact on Trust in the Judiciary;
- 4. Excellent Courts in the Administration of Justice;
- 5. Court leadership and the Professionalism of Court Administrators.

One of the major topics of the Conference was the use of artificial intelligence within the Judiciary and the benefits and pitfalls of same.

Uses of Artificial Intelligence

On the liberal end of the spectrum, it was indicated that jurisdictions may want to utilize artificial intelligence to assist with the production of verdicts on cases by use of an algorithm. In these cases, artificial intelligence would undertake the necessary research on similar cases and based on the algorithm and parameters set provide a recommended verdict. That was a very interesting concept to say the least.



On the conservative end of the spectrum, jurisdictions may want to utilize artificial intelligence to undertake the functions of the Judicial Research Counsels (JRC). Based on the case, the artificial intelligence software would scan all law books and case law and provide the Judge with all research information on the case.

Also on the table, and currently being utilized in some jurisdictions, is the use of artificial intelligence through ChatGPT, and other AI software, to undertake most of role and functions of Court Clerks and Secretaries, now known by the new nomenclature of Judicial Support Officers, and Court Reporters and Transcriptionists. The artificial intelligence are so advanced, in this regard, that they can detect variations in dialect and other language idiosyncrasies.

Another use of artificial intelligence is to schedule cases removing the human element with the AI also providing pre-trial documentation.

Challenges to the use of Artificial Intelligence

Notwithstanding some of the applicable uses for artificial intelligence, there are some challenges. One the more pronounced challenges was that of bias. If the data utilized by the AI system reflects existing biases then the system might actually amplify such bias to the detriment of those the system would set up to serve, the people.

Another issue found what that if an AI system recommended a verdict that may, subject the nature of the verdict, require additional explanation how will this explanation be provided to a Judge, or even clients of the Court. There should be a means to explain the factors that led to the recommended verdict to ensure it is fair and appropriate.

In conclusion, there were some very good uses of AI, which could benefit judicial systems worldwide via making access to justice for efficient and effective. The applicability of it based on cultural norms and practices could be a determining factor however. Ultimately, there should be, and there were, guidelines discussed that will be utilized to ensure the necessary protections are in place.

JUDGES OF THE INTERNATIONAL HAGUE NETWORK



Hon. Madam Justice J. Denise Lewis, M.B.E. Haque Network Judge

The First Regional Meeting of Judges of The International Hague Network – Latin America and The Caribbean was held in May 2024 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The Judges after days of meetings produced "Letter of Rio de Janeiro" which is a diplomatic note on proposed considerations to the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Abduction of Children. Focus was placed on identifying challenging elements to the application of the convention in Latin America and The Caribbean courts and through the letter six (6) amending recommendations were made.

TOWARDS AN INCLUSIVE & SUSTAINABLE DIGITAL JUSTICE

- Registrar Renaldo Toote

In keeping with our commitment to innovation and the delivery of efficient and accessible justice, representatives from The Bahamas Judiciary participated in the international conference "Towards an Inclusive & Sustainable Digital Justice" held in Madrid, Spain, from September 23–27, 2024. Sponsored by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the conference brought together leaders, jurists, and policymakers from The Bahamas, Belize, Ecuador, and Paraguay to explore the future of digital justice and its transformative impact on judicial systems.

The delegation from The Bahamas included Chief Justice Sir Ian Winder, Justice Andrew Forbes, and Deputy Registrar Renaldo Toote, who actively contributed to discussions on critical aspects of digital transformation in the justice sector. The conference agenda highlighted pressing themes essential to the evolution of justice in the digital age:

- 1. Technology Tour of the Supreme **Focus Digital Justice Court:** on **Participants** embarked on guided exploration of the Supreme Court in Madrid, which showcased state-of-the-art technologies integrated into judicial processes. The tour underscored the importance of leveraging digital tools to enhance case management, streamline workflows, and improve public access to justice.
- 2. Conversations on the Digital Transformation of Justice

A series of panel discussions examined the transformative power of technology within justice systems. Topics included artificial intelligence in case adjudication, digital evidence management, and the integration of electronic filing systems. Delegates shared experiences and best practices, fostering a collaborative spirit of innovation.

3. Conversation on the Role of Lawyers in Digital Justice .

Discussions centered on how the legal profession must evolve to remain relevant in a rapidly changing technological landscape. This included the need for lawyers to be proficient in digital tools, the ethical implications of AI in legal practice, and strategies to ensure inclusivity in accessing digital justice services.

Chief Justice's Address



Chief Justice Sir Ian Winder delivered a keynote address during the conference, providing an update on The Bahamas' progress in digitalization of its judicial processes. He highlighted implementation the the Judiciary's e-Filing System, the phased rollout of electronic case management, and ongoing initiatives to integrate digital platforms across all registries. Sir Ian emphasized the judiciary's commitment to fostering public trust by enhancing transparency and accessibility through technology.

Key Takeaways

The conference reinforced The Bahamas' position as a progressive leader in judicial innovation within the Caribbean. It provided invaluable insights into the policies, practices, and technologies that drive effective digital transformation. Our participation has further strengthened partnerships with regional and international counterparts, paving the way for greater collaboration and shared learning.

Conclusion

The conference on "Towards an Inclusive & Sustainable Digital Justice" has underscored the importance of embracing technological advancements to deliver timely, transparent, and equitable justice. As we continue to implement these principles, the Judiciary of The Bahamas remains steadfast in its vision of fostering a justice system that is responsive to the needs of all citizens in the digital age.

This initiative not only demonstrates our judiciary's leadership but also reflects our collective commitment to inclusivity, sustainability, and innovation.

TOWARDS AN INCLUSIVE & SUSTAINABLE DIGITAL JUSTICE

The Caribbean Association of Women Judges held its 10th Anniversary Professional Development Conference and Gala the 26-28th April 2024 in Port of Spain, Trinidad. The Honourable Justices Denise Lewis-Johnson and Jeanine Weech-Gomez attended the Conference. This conference covered a wide range of topics such as:-

- 1. Case flow- The Inside Story
- 2. Justice in the Age of AI
- 3. Judicial Wellness Caribbean Style
- 4. Remarkable Journey of Outstanding Women Judges of the Caribbean



Concluding on the third day with a riveting address by Her Excellency Paula Mae Weekes, ORTT, Former President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Justice of Appeal (Retired)

7.4 SUPREME COURT PUBLISHED DECISIONS 2023 - 2024

No.	File No.	Parties	Judicial Officer	Date
1	2023/CRI/bal/	Trevon Stevens v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Williams J	1/11/2023
2	2023/CRI/bal/00054	Jamaal Akeem Taylor v Director of Public Prosecutions	Hilton J	2/11/2023
3	2023/CRI/bal/00205	Delano Kelly v Director of Public Prosecutions	Hilton J	2/11/2023
4	2021/CLE/gen/00038	Michael Martin v Commissioner of Police	Newton J	2/11/2023
5	2023/COM/ com/00057	The Committee to Restore Nymox Shareholder Value, Inc. (CRNSV) et al. v Paul Averba	Fraser SJ	3/11/2023
6	VBI No. 167/6/2022	Adrian Paulk Gibson et al. v Director of Public Prosecutions	Grant- Thompson SJ	6/11/2023
7	2023/CRI/bal/	Godfrey Minnis v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Weech-Gomez J	7/11/2023
8	2020/COM/ com/00049	In the Matter of Jet Test International Limited BETWEEN Gloyd Robinson v Steven J. Giordano et al.	Darville-Gomez J	7/11/2023
9	2022/CRI/vbi/298/11	Julian James v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Weech-Gomez J	8/11/2023
10	2021/CLE/gen/01043	Cheryl Hammersmith-Stewart v Cromwell Trust Company Limited	Winder CJ	8/11/2023
11	2019/CLE/gen/01498	Wanda Higgs v Christine Higgs et al.	Winder CJ	9/11/2023

No.	File No.	Parties	Judicial Officer	Date
12	2022/COM/ adm/00012; 2022/ COM/adm/00013; 2022COM/adm/ FP/00006 and; 2022/ COM/adm/FP/00007	In The Matter of an Admiralty Action in Rem against the M.V. Crystal Symphony BETWEEN dnb Bank ASA v The Owners and Parties Interested in the Motor Vessel Crystal Symphony AND In The Matter of an Admiralty Claim in Rem Against the M.V. Crystal Serenity Between DNB Bank ASA and The Owners and Parties Interested in the Motor Vessel Crystal Serenity	Hanna-Adderley J	9/11/2023
13	2015/CLE/gen/01157	In the Matter of The Petition of Robert Barry, Hugo Barry and Eardly Barry	Winder CJ	9/11/2023
14	2023/COM/ com/00053	MDollaz Ltd. (trading as Arawak X) a Registered Marketplace and Clearing Facility	Winder CJ	9/11/2023
15	N/A	Ngozi Adeyemi Cash v Department of Public Prosecution and Hon. Attorney General	Williams J	11/11/2023
16	2021/PUB/jrv/00013	Demiko Rolle Jr. v Paul Rolle, Commissioner of Police Royal Bahamas Police Force Commonwealth of The Bahamas et al.	Darville-Gomez J	13/11/2023
17	2010/COM/com/ FP/00002	Tyrone Anderson v Coral Beach Management Company Limited	Sweeting, Acting Asst. Registrar	15/11/2023
18	2022/CLE/gen/01000	RBC Royal Bank (Bahamas) Limited v Deals Bus Service Limited and Arthur W. Deal	Card-Stubbs J	16/11/2023
19	2022/COM/ com/00049	Jet Test International v Gloyd Robinson and Steven Giordano, Robert Allen et. al.	Darville-Gomez J	17/11/2023
20	2010/CLE/gen/ FP/00113 and 2014/ CLE/gen/FP/00116	Elizabeth Misha Diana Collie v Lady Henrietta St. George and Jacy A.J. Whittaker (As Trustee of the Estate of Edward Gerald Patrick St. George, Deceased) AND; Rosalind (Roslyn) Collie v Lady Henrietta St. George and Jacy A.J. Whittaker (As Trustee of the Estate of Edward Gerald Patrick St. George, Deceased)	Forbes J	17/11/2023

No.	File No.	Parties	Judicial Officer	Date
21	2019/COM/bnk/00077	In The Matter of Pacifico Global Advisors Ltd.	Winder CJ	20/11/2023
22	2010/CLE/qui/01684	In The Matter of the Petition of Arlington Wood and Nelson Wood	Grant- Thompson SJ	23/11/2023
23	2021/CLE/gen/00439	Kelsie Melvin Munroe v The Commissioner of Police and The Attorney General	Fraser SJ	23/11/2023
24	2022/CLE/gen/01521	Glenard Evans v Airport Authority	Card-Stubbs J	23/11/2023
25	2020/CLE/gen/00363	James Alexander Darling v The Attorney General	Brathwaite J	24/11/2023
26	2019/CLE/gen/00608	Lakeisha Pinder v Ministry of Foreign Affairs and The Attorney General	Brathwaite J	24/11/2023
27	2021/CLE/gen/00621	Nomiki Drosos Tsakkos et al. v Pantelis Tsakkos (As Executor of the Will of the late Emmanuel Pantelis Tsakkos and Adita Boy)	Brathwaite J	24/11/2023
28	2023/CRI/vbi/99/3	Jason Lynes v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Grant- Thompson SJ	27/11/2023
29	2022/CLE/gen/00995	Peter J. Nygard v Nygard Foundation, IPG Family Office Limited & Galaxy Group Limited	Grant- Thompson SJ	28/11/2023
30	2019/CLE/gen/00665	John Pinder v Peter Outten, Theophilus Dean, Terrance Dorsette (in their capacity as Trustees of) The Bahamas Public Services Union	Klein J	29/11/2023
31	2019/CLE/gen/01161	Scotiabank (Bahamas) Limited v Ramiro Eduardo Del Amo and Del Amo Investments Limited	Fitzcharles J	30/11/2023
32	2018/PUB/con/00022	WPC 1896 Maria Daxon v W/INSP Donell Brown, Sgt. 88 Paul Jones, Mark Barrett, Leon Bethel, Ellison Elroy Greenslade, The Ministry of National Security and The Police Service Commission	Klein J	30/11/2023

No.	File No.	Parties	Judicial Officer	Date
33	2013/PUB/ con/000006	WPC 1896 Maria Daxon v Drexel Armbrister, Donnella Bodie, Assistant Commissioner Hulan Hanna, The Commissioner of Police, Ministry of National Security, The Department of Public Service, The Public Service Commission, The Police Service Commission and The Attorney General	Klein J	30/11/2023
34	2021/CLE/gen/01318	Steven M. Chess and Karen Chess v Bimini Sands Phase II Condominium Association and Bimini Sands HOA Phase 2 Inc.	Fraser SJ	30/11/2023
35	2021/CLE/gen/01279	Amanda Michelle Smith v Trevor Rolle	Klein J	30/11/2023
36	2019/PUB/con/00002	Jamile Ferguson v The Commissioner of Police and Attorney General	Klein J	30/11/2023
37	2020/COM/ adm/00016	MS Amlin Corporate Member Limited (suing on behalf of itself and all other underwriters subscribing to policy of insurance, including underwriters at Lloyds of London) v Buckeye Bahamas Hub Limited	Fraser SJ	4/12/2023
38	2023/FAM/adn/ FP/00127	In the Matter of an Application to adopt CYV by RM	Hanna- Adderley J (NR)	5/12/2023
39	2023/FAM/div/00232	J.W.N. v S.L.N.	Strachan J	6/12/2023
40	2023/CLE/gen/00125	The Attorney General v Securities Exchange Commission, Mintbroker International Limited (formerly known as Swiss America Limited and doing business as Suretrader) and Guy Gentile aka Guy Gentile Nigro	Card-Stubbs J	6/12/2023
41	2018/CLE/gen/01171	Hughdon Bowe et al. v Shenique Rolle et al. (in the capacity as the Rolleville Commonage Committee) and Shavago McPhee et al (in the capacity as the Rolleville Commonage Land Committee	Winder CJ	7/12/2023
42	2012/CLE/gen/01147	Sandyport Homeowners Association Limited v Nathaniel Bain	Winder CJ	7/12/2023

No.	File No.	Parties	Judicial Officer	Date
43	2021/COM/lab/00038	Robert Forbes v Ministry of Tourism and Attorney General of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas	Winder CJ	7/12/2023
44	2022/CRI/bal/00021	Cosintino Gervais v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Weech-Gomez J	12/12/2023
45	2019/CRI/bal/00589	Alexander Sands v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Archer-Minns J	13/12/2023
46	2023/CRI/bal/00147	Glenroy Brown v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Archer-Minns J	13/12/2023
47	2021/CLE/gen/00101	David Pugh, Lisa Pugh and Devron Pugh v Meronacer Rolle-Morley	Darville-Gomez J	13/12/2023
48	2019/CLE/gen/00596	In the Matter of Registering and Enforcing a Judgment from a Court in the United States of America at Common Law Between Dale Peterson (Florida, United States of America) v Rocky Griffith (Florida, United States) and Randy Wilson (Florida, United States of America)	Fraser SJ	14/12/2023
49	2022/COM/com/00035	Doris Thompson (Complainant pursuant to Section 280 of the Act) v Stephen J. Albury and Jeffrey Albury (Sued in their capacity as Officers and Directors of the Company)	Fraser SJ	15/12/2023
50	2023/CRI/bal/00188	Denero Tishon Whyms v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Grant- Thompson SJ	15/12/2023
51	2017/CRI/con/00059	Samuel Knowles Jr. v Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas and The Attorney General of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas	Forbes J	15/12/2023
52	2019/CLE/gen/00289	Gary A Ritchie v Delores Victoria Cartwright	Winder CJ	19/12/2023
53	2023/CRI/VBI/00237	Brian Gray v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Archer-Minns J	20/12/2023
54	2021/CLE/gen/00091	Bahamas Resolve Limited v DLC Investments Limited and Donald Cooper	Klein J	28/12/2023

No.	File No.	Parties	Judicial Officer	Date
55	2020/APP/sts/00013; 2020/APP/sts/00018	Gabriele Volpi v Delanson Services Ltd., Matteo Volpi and Simone Volpi AND between Delanson Services Limited v Matteo Volpi and Simone Volpi - Consolidated	Klein J	28/12/2023
56	2014/CLE/gen/ FP/00283	Dorothy Bain v Royal Bank of Canada (Bahamas) Limited	Forbes J	29/12/2023
57	2019/CLE/gen/01040	Theodore Theresa Clarke v Commonwealth Brewery Limited (d.b.a. Burns House and also d.b.a. 700 Wines & Spirits)	Winder CJ	5/1/2024
58	2016/APP/mag/ FP/3/703	Gary Grande v Scalpro Ltd.	Hanna- Adderley J (NR)	9/1/2024
59	2004/CLE/gen/00492	Elva Lindsay v Goodman's Bay Development Company Ltd.	Toote, Dep. Registrar	19/1/2024
60	2019/CLE/gen/01042	Rosalyn Brown v Cotswold Group Limited, Cotswold Corporate Services Limited, Cotswold Insurance (Barbados) Limited and Cotswold Group Holdings Limited	Card-Stubbs J	22/1/2024
61	VBI No. 167/6/2022	Adrian Paul Gibson, Rashae L. Gibson, Joan V. Knowles, Jerome Missick, Peaches Farquharson and Elwood Donaldson v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Grant- Thompson SJ	22/1/2024
62	2012/CRI/bal/00230	The Director of Public Prosecutions v Donald Cox	Grant- Thompson SJ	25/1/2024
63	2020/CRI/bal/00539	The Director of Public Prosecutions v Berkley Fowler	Grant- Thompson SJ	25/1/2024
64	2009/CLE/gen/01367 and; 2011/CLE/gen/ FP/00276	Incorporated Trustees of St. John's Particular Church of Native Baptists in The Bahamas v Freeport Commercial and Industrial Limited, Grand Bahama Development Company Limited, Godfrey R. Williams Ministries, Godfrey R. Williams, Bank of The Bahamas AND Godfrey R. Williams v Incorporated Trustees of St. John's Particular Church of Native Baptists in The Bahamas and Royal Bank of Canada Limited	Charles SJ	26/1/2024

No.	File No.	Parties	Judicial Officer	Date
65	2019/CLE/gen/01728	Grafton Court Condominium Company Limited (a body Corporate by virtue of the Law of Property and Conveyancing (Condominium) Act, Chapter 139) v Caroline Sayers, Gretchen Paruch and Thaddeus Paruch	Fraser Snr SJ	26/1/2024
66	2017/FAM/div/00237	T.K.B. v T.E.B.	Lewis-Johnson J	30/1/2024
67	2022/CLE/gen/00106	Kenwood Kerr and Bjorn Ferguson v The Bahamas Lawn Tennis Association	Lewis-Johnson J	30/1/2024
68	2023/FAM/div/00077	T.D. v P.D.	Strachan J	30/1/2024
69	2011/CLE/gen/01304	Valderine Henfield v Dr. Anthony W.D. Carey	Turner, Registrar (Acting)	30/1/2024
70	2017/CRI/bal/00383	David Alexander Higgs v Director of Public Prosecutions	Hilton J	1/2/2024
71	2021/CLE/gen/01043	Cheryl Hammersmith-Stewart v Cromwell Trust Company Limited, Adam Stewart (acting in his capacity as the Enforcer, a member of the Advisory Board and personal capacity), Jaime Stewart-McConnell (acting in her capacity as a member of the Advisory Board and personal capacity), Brian Jardim, Gordon Stewart et al	Winder CJ	1/2/2024
72	2021/CLE/gen/01043	Cheryl Hammersmith-Stewart v Cromwell Trust Company Limited, Adam Stewart (acting in his capacity as the Enforcer, a member of the Advisory Board and personal capacity), Jaime Stewart-McConnell (acting in her capacity as a member of the Advisory Board and personal capacity), Brian Jardim, Gordon Stewart et al	Charles SJ	1/2/2024
73	2023/CRI/hcs/00017	Sadeki Greg Davy v Attorney General and Director of Immigration	Hilton J	2/2/2024

No.	File No.	Parties	Judicial Officer	Date
74	2022/COM/adm/ FP/00012; 2022/COM/ adm/FP/00013; 2022/ COM/adm/FP/00006 and; 2022/COM/adm/ FP/00007	DNB Bank v Owners and Parties Interested in the M.V. Crystal Symphony Owners and Parties Interested in the M.V. Crystal Serenity	Hanna- Adderley J (NR)	4/2/2024
75	2024/CRI/bal/00004	Daran Moree aka Dudley Moree v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Brathwaite J	5/2/2024
76	2023/CRI/bal/00254	Nakito Paul Pinder v Director of Public Prosecutions	Brathwaite J	5/2/2024
77	2019/CLE/gen/01594	HNR Company Limited v Palm Cay Development Company Limited	Winder CJ	6/2/2024
78	2023/CRI/vbi/105/5	The Director of Public Prosecutions v Dwayne Lodimus	McKay J	6/2/2024
79	2023/CRI/bal/00114	Aljaron Stubbs v Director of Public Prosecutions	Archer-Minns J	7/2/2024
80	2021/CRI/bal/00018	Shanton G. Munroe v Director of Public Prosecutions	Archer-Minns J	7/2/2024
81	2023/CRI/bal/00229	Blake Strachan v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Grant- Thompson SJ	7/2/2024
82	2020/CRI/bal/00032	Mark Augustine v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Grant- Thompson SJ	7/2/2024
83	2024/CRI/bal/00006	Mario Cash Jr. v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Hilton J	8/2/2024
84	2021/CRI/bal/00106	Leonardo Brown v The Director of Public Prosecutions	McKay J	8/2/2024
85	2020/CRI/bal/00258	Nathan Rolle v The Director of Public Prosecutions	McKay J	8/2/2024
86	2022/FAM/div/00438	E.H.J. v K.S.J.	E.H.J. v K.S.J.	8/2/2024
87	2018/CLE/gen/00096	Fairness Limited v Larry Phillip Davis	Turner, Registrar (Acting)	9/2/2024

No.	File No.	Parties	Judicial Officer	Date
88	2019/CLE/gen/00394	Omar Archer Sr. v The Commissioner of Police	Fraser SJ	9/2/2024
89	2022/COM/lab/00017	Minette A. Cartwright v Halsbury Chambers and W.A. Branville McCartney Trading as Halsbury Chambers	Darville-Gomez J	13/2/2024
90	2020/CLE/gen/00011	Elrene Jones Edwards v Deanser Smith and The Public Hospitals Authority	Darville-Gomez J	13/2/2024
91	2020/CLE/gen/01025	Ashley Reid-Pascarella and Jeffrey Pascarella v West Bay Management Limited (d/b/a Sandals Royal Bahamian Spa & Resort Offshore Island), Sandals Resort International Ltd. And Moral Adderley	Darville-Gomez J	13/2/2024
92	VBI No. 87/6/2020	Rex v Damaine Sterling	Forbes J	13/2/2024
93	2023/CRI/bal/00238	Lougens Francouer v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Archer-Minns J	14/2/2024
94	2020/CRI/vbi/129/9	The Director of Public Prosecutions v Odne Timothee	Archer-Minns J	14/2/2024
95	2023/CRI/vbi/5/1	Director of Public Prosecutions v Craig Deveaux	McKay J	14/2/2024
96	2010/CLE/gen/00448	Terry K. Marr v Bryant O. Collie	Brathwaite J	16/2/2024
97	2021/CLE/gen/01115	Maurice O. Glinton & Co. (a Firm) (by the principal and sole proprietor of the Firm) v Robert K. Adams (as counsel and attorney and a member and partner of Graham Thompson & Co. (a Firm) (as attorneys of record for parties to proceedings in each of the intituled actions)	Winder CJ	16/2/2024
98	2011/CRI/bal/00073	Director of Public Prosecutions and Marissa Rolle, Allerdice Moxey and Rashad Paul	Grant- Thompson SJ	19/2/2024
99	2023/CRI/bal/00244	Alfred Coakley v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Archer-Minns J	21/2/2024

No.	File No.	Parties	Judicial Officer	Date
100	2023/FAM/adn/00106	A.J. and F.J. v O.E.J. (an infant)	Delancy J (Acting)	21/2/2024
101	2020/CLE/gen/00662	Andrew Smith and Sophia Smith v First Caribbean International Bank (Bahamas) Limited and Insurance Management (Bahamas) Limited	Winder CJ	26/2/2024
102	2023/CRI/con/00010	Marion Newbold v The Attorney General	McKay J	26/2/2024
103	2023/CRI/bal/00169	Latario Whyms v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Weech-Gomez J	27/2/2024
104	2022/FAM/div/00322	D.A.A. (nee B) v J.K.A.	Strachan J	27/2/2024
105	2023/FAM/div/00292	Williams v Williams	Lewis-Johnson J	27/2/2024
106	2023/CRI/bal/00237	Brian Gray v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Archer-Minns J	28/2/2024
107	2023/CRI/con/00014	Tyrese Clarke v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Archer-Minns J	29/2/2024
108	2024/CRI/bal/00019	Alfred Lloyd v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Hilton J	29/2/2024
109	2021/CLE/gen/00863	Tyson Strachan v Anthony Simon, Yorkshire Holdings Ltd., First Caribbean International Bank (Bahamas) Limited and McKay Culmer & Associates	Fraser Snr. J	1/3/2024
110	2014/CLE/gen/01620 and; 2015/CLE/ gen/01451	Junkanoo Estates Ltd., Yuri Starostenko and Irina Tsareva-Starostenko v UBS (Bahamas) Ltd. (In Voluntary Liquidation)	Card-Stubbs J	1/3/2024
111	2023/CLE/gen/00452	Cem Okullu'nun Yeminli Beyani v Weiser Global Capital Markets Ltd., Bentley Rothschild Capital 3 Limited and Jaitegh Singh	Brathwaite J	4/3/2024
112	2017/CLE/gen/01486	Daquille Missick aka Daquille Hanna aka Bennett Hanna v Chi Keung Yuen (Trading as Canton House Chinese Restaurant)	Turner, Registrar (Acting)	4/3/2024
113	2024/CRI/bal/00007	Malik Oswald Smith v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Weech-Gomez J	5/3/2024

No.	File No.	Parties	Judicial Officer	Date
114	2022/CLE/gen/01468	Chandler v Hiscox Dedicated Corporate Member Limited and Certain Underwriters at Lloyd's London Subscribing Severally on General Policy No. B1230GP4015A19	Card-Stubbs J	5/3/2024
115	2016/CRI/bal/00485	Spencer Lewis v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Hilton J	7/3/2024
116	2023/CLE/gen/00006	Byron Bullard (t/a B & B Horseback Riding) v The Minister Responsible for Lands and Surveys	Card-Stubbs J	8/3/2024
117	2023/CRI/con/	Sergeant Antoine Sweeting, Inspector Raymond Saunders, Sargeant 3039 Jamal Johnson and Corporal Deangelo Rolle v Attorney General of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas and Her Majesty's Coroner	Williams J	10/3/2024
118	2020/CLE/gen/ FP/00102	Ricardo F. Pratt (in his capacity as Administrator of the Estate of Ruel Pratt) v West End Resort Limited	Winder CJ	11/3/2024
119	2021/COM/lab/00038	Robert Forbes v Ministry of Tourism	Winder CJ	11/3/2024
120	2019/COM/lab/00289	Gray A. Ritchie v Delores Victoria Cartwright	Winder CJ	11/3/2024
121	2020/COM/com/00015	Syla Ltd., Laurent Dreux-Leblanc and Sylbie Dreu-Leblanc v Real Estate Funding Ltd. and Power Windsun Ltd.	Fraser SJ	11/3/2024
122	2021/APP/mag/ FP/00011	Jennifer Mackey v Emil Hylton and Dalvis Hylton	Hanna- Adderley J (NR)	12/3/2024
123	2015/CRI/bal/00169	Dennis Mather Jr. v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Archer-Minns J	13/3/2024
124	2022/CRI/bal/00036	Latariano Mackey v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Archer-Minns J	13/3/2024
125	2024/CRI/bal/00001	Emilio Depass v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Archer-Minns J	13/3/2024
126	2018/CLE/gen/01502	Tava Newton v Dodricka Bain and Kelsey Pierre	Card-Stubbs J	13/3/2024

No.	File No.	Parties	Judicial Officer	Date
127	2021/FAM/div/00329	Natalie Chantal Jupp (nee Harding) v Alexander Ken Jupp	Lewis-Johnson J	14/3/2024
128	2023/COM/com/00057	The Committee to Restore NYMOX Shareholder Value, Inc (CRNSV, Randall Lanham, Christopher Riler et al. v Paul Averback et al and NYMOX Pharmaceutical Corporation	Fraser SJ	15/3/2024
129	2016/CLE/gen/ FP/00214	Luther Burrows v Oswald Greene	Hanna- Adderley J (NR)	15/3/2024
130	2020/CLE/gen/ FP/00104	Finance Corporation of the Bahamas Ltd. v Oscar A. Deveaux	Hanna- Adderley J (NR)	15/3/2024
131	2024/CRI/bal/	Dino Lafleur v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Weech-Gomez J	18/3/2024
132	2023/CRI/bal/00081	Marvin Pinder v Director of Public Prosecutions	Weech-Gomez J	18/3/2024
133	2019/CLE/gen/01250	City Holdings Limited v Arnold Forbes	Toote, Dep. Registrar	19/3/2024
134	2023/CRI/bal/00049	Trevano Jermaine Greene aka Glasses v The Director of Public	Archer-Minns J	20/3/2024
135	2022/CRI/bal/00125	Kazinski Johnson v Director of Public Prosecutions	Archer-Minns J	20/3/2024
136	2023/CRI/bal/00032	Brandon Major v Director of Public Prosecutions	Archer-Minns J	20/3/2024
137	2024/CRI/bal/00026	Eulan McKinney v Director of Public Prosecutions	Archer-Minns J	20/3/2024
138	2021/CLE/qui/01121	Petition of Stephanie Ivore Morley	Card-Stubbs J	20/3/2024
139	2021/FAM/div/00578	V.M. v L.M.	Newton J	21/3/2024
140	2021/CRI/vbi/41/2	The Director of Public Prosecutions v Othello Greene	McKay J	21/3/2024
141	2016/CLE/gen/ FP/00014	Carlson Shurland v Donna Gray v Anton Bowleg	Hanna- Adderley J (NR)	22/3/2024
142	2018/FAM/div/ FP/00134	Ryree Bowe v Kathy Bowe	Hanna- Adderley J (NR)	22/3/2024
143	2022/CRI/con/00002	Shavon Bethel v The Commissioner of Police	Darville-Gomez J	22/3/2024

No.	File No.	Parties	Judicial Officer	Date
144	2020/CLE/gen/01025	Ashley Reid-Pascarella and Jeffrey Pascarella v West Bay Management Limited (d.b.a. Sandals Royal Bahamian Spa & Resort Offshore Island), Sandals Resort International Ltd. And Moral Adderley	Brathwaite J	22/3/2024
145	2021/CLE/gen/00626	Deborah M. Volodzdo and Steve and Carole Lee v Royal Palm Condominiums Phase III Condominium Association	Brathwaite J	22/3/2024
146	2020/CLE/gen/00169	Magalie Humes and Kenesha Franceka Humes (a minor by Magalie Humes, her mother and next friend) v Presley Humes, Clarina Humes McKenzie, Estate of Antoinette Humes, deceased, Kevin Humes and Steven Humes	Brathwaite J	22/3/2024
147	2015/CLE/gen/01930	Margaret Cleare et al. v McQuinella Bernadette Cleare-Bonimy (Attorney by Deed pf Power of Attorney for Shirley Bowe-Cleare)	Brathwaite J	22/3/2024
148	2021/CRI/bal/00234	Ashtino Douglas v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Brathwaite J	25/3/2024
149	2019/FAM/div/ FP/00091	Moses Zephy v Mpela Zephy and Andrea Glover	Hanna- Adderley J (NR)	25/3/2024
150	/CLE/qui/	Petition of Candice Dionne Davis and Patricia Ann Johnson	Card-Stubbs J	25/3/2024
151	2020/CLE/gen/00493	Petition of Nellie Marshall and Isadora Maynard	Card-Stubbs J	25/3/2024
152	2022/CRI/vbi/180/7	The Director of Public Prosecutions v Maurice Reynolds	Weech-Gomez J	25/3/2024
153	2021/CLE/gen/00949	Esther Miller and James Miller v Gregory Higgs (trading as G&H Enterprises	Winder CJ	25/3/2024
154	2021/CLE/gen/00443	Gateway Ascendancy Ltd. V Phyllis A. Sullivan and The Attorney General	Lewis-Johnson J	26/3/2024
155	2021/CLE/gen/01548	Charles Murphy v The Honourable Wayne Munroe (in his capacity as Minister of National Security), Mrs. Cheryl Darville (in her capacity as acting Permanent Secretary Ministry of National Security) and The Attorney General	Card-Stubbs J	26/3/2024
156	2020/COM/lab/00061	Zane Lightbourne v The Bahamas Union of Teachers	Fitzcharles J	27/3/2024

No.	File No.	Parties	Judicial Officer	Date
157	2017/CLE/gen/00322	P/C Dion Miller v Chief Superintendent Ashton Greenslade, Assistant Supt. Lula Dean, D/Inspector Darren Nixon, Assistant Supt. David Lockhart, The Commissioner of Police and Minister of National Security	Winder CJ	27/3/2024
158	2000/CLE/gen/00009	Dom's International Importers Limited v CIBC Bahamas Limited and Havanaturs (Bahamas) Limited	Fraser SJ	27/3/2024
159	2023/CLE/gen/ FP/00073	Gerard Turner, Geranda Turner-Taylor and Gerard Turner II V The Attorney General, The Public Hospital Authority and The Rand Memorial Hospital	Delancy J (Acting)	28/3/2024
160	2024/CRI/bal/00044	Ma'lek Sawyer v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Hilton J	28/3/2024
161	2020/CLE/gen/ FP/00122	Dale Louise Morgan v Kings Bay Condominium Association	Hanna- Adderley J (NR)	2/4/2024
162	2020/CLE/gen/ FP/00079	Finance Corporation of the Bahamas v Charlene Jones	Hanna- Adderley J (NR)	2/4/2024
163	N/A	IN THE MATTER OF an Application by Deltec Bank & Trust Limited as Trustee, for advice or direction v IN THE MATTER OF A bare Trust arising from assets previously held on bank account in the name of Nicostone SA (the "Trust")	Winder CJ	3/4/2024
164	2016/FAM/div/00245	McDonald v McDonald	Newton J	4/4/2024
165	2016/FAM/div/00548	Lloyd v Lloyd	Newton J	4/4/2024
166	2021/FAM/div/00210	J.M. v E.M.	Newton J	4/4/2024
167	2021/FAM/div/ FP/00005	Marvette Laing v Anton Laing	Hanna-Adderley J	4/4/2024
168	2020/COM/ adm/00016	MS Amlin Corporate Member Limited (suing on behalf of itself and all other underwrites subscribing to policy No.B0621MMILYFY16CVA, including underwriters at Lloyds of London) v Buckeye Bahamas Hub Limited	Fraser SJ	5/4/2024
169	2023/PRO/cpr/00010	Harold Carter Scrimgeour and MacGregor Kirk Scrimgeour v Timothy Atwater	Strachan J	5/4/2024
170	2021/PUB/jrv/034	Lawpapito Sands v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Williams J	5/4/2024

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171	2023/CLE/gen/00175	Calvert Hart v The Attorney General of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, The Minister of National Security, The Bahamas Department of Correctional Services and The Commissioner of Police	Fraser SJ	8/4/2024
172	2010/CRI/bal/00018	Errol Knowles v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Weech-Gomez J	9/4/2024
173	2024/CRI/bal/00048	Shando King v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Weech-Gomez J	9/4/2024
174	2017/CLE/qui/00601	IN THE MATTER OF the Petition of Naomi Roker (in respect of Lot No. 29) v IN THE MATTER OF the Petition of Herbert Roker and Naomi Roker (in respect of Lot No. 28)	Winder CJ	9/4/2024
175	2018/CLE/gen/01039	RBC Royal Bank (Bahamas) Limited (formerly Royal Bank of Canada) v Earl Miller	Strachan J	10/4/2024
176	2009/CLE/gen/01367 and; 2011/CLE/gen/ FP/00276	Incorporated Trustees of St. John's Particular Native Baptists in The Bahamas v Freeport Commercial and Industrial Limited, Grand Bahama Development Company Limited, Godfrey R. Williams Ministries, Godfrey R. Williams, Bank of Bahamas Limited and RBC Royal Bank Bahamas Limted	Winder CJ	10/4/2024
177	2023/CRI/bal/00092	Perry David Grant Jr. v Director of Public Prosecutions	Williams J	10/4/2024
178	2018/CRI/bal/00892	Antonio Thompson v Director of Public Prosecutions	Weech-Gomez J	11/4/2024
179	2022/CLE/gen/01767	Nelson McFall v Scotiabank (Bahamas) Limited, Gateway Financial Ltd., and Gateway Ascendancy Ltd.	Strachan J	12/4/2024
180	2021/CLE/gen/00354	Alpha Aviation Limited v Kevin Peter Turnquest, Randy Larry Butler and Larona Butler	Card-Stubbs J	5/4/2024
181	2024/CLE/gen/00088	Tony Cornelius Alexander Kemp Sr. v Sherman Johnson	Fitzcharles J	16/4/2024
182	2019/CLE/gen/ FP/00084	Mary Higgs v Kelly's Freeport Limited	Delancy J (Acting)	16/4/2024
183	2023/CRI/vbi/189/06	Director of Public Prosecutions v Anthony Marcus Forbes, Frankie Seymour and Demetrius Bartlett	Forbes J	16/4/2024

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184	2017/CRI/vbi/89/03	Rex v Romeo Major aka Mice	Forbes J	16/4/2024
185	2023/CLE/gen/00763	Dr. Paul Fuchs and MC Grotto LLC v Lockhart & Co. (a firm), Elliott B. Lockhart, KC and Patricia Bullard	Fraser SJ	16/4/2024
186	2018/CLE/gen/ FP/00123	Kyle Cartwright and Ivanette Thompson v Mavis Major et. al.	Hanna-Adderley J (NR)	22/4/2024
187	2023/CLE/gen/00715	Cem Okullu'nun Yeminli Beyani v Weiser Global Capital Markets Ltd., Keith Kelty and Shelby Brice	Darville-Gomez J	23/4/2024
188	2009/CLE/gen/01367 and; 2011/CLE/gen/ FP/00276	Incorporated Trustees of St. John's Particular Native Baptists in The Bahamas v Freeport Commercial and Industrial Limited, Grand Bahama Development Company Limited, Godfrey R. Williams Ministries, Godfrey R. Williams, Bank of Bahamas Limited and RBC Royal Bank Bahamas Limited	Hanna- Adderley J (NR)	23/4/2024
189	2010/CLE/qui/01364	IN THE MATTER OF the Petition of F.A.R. Ltd., a Company incorporated under the Laws of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas and therein doing business	Winder CJ	23/4/2024
190	2021/CLE/gen/01470	Brindel Pratt v AML Foods Limited	Darville-Gomez J	24/4/2024
191	2019/CRI/bal/00391	Samuel McCoy v The Director of Public Prosecutions	McKay J	25/4/2024
192	2023/CLE/gen/ FP/00084	Jevan Hollingsworth v Fredicia Christina Harvey Hollingsworth	Delancy J (Acting)	25/4/2024
193	2024/CRI/bal/00053	Pedro Knowles v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Brathwaite J	29/4/2024
194	2018/CRI/bal/00832	De'Angelo Patrick Culmer v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Brathwaite J	29/4/2024
195	2023/CRI/vbi/278/9	The Director of Public Prosecutions v Kirk Cornish	McKay J	30/4/2024
196	2020/FAM/div/ FP/00050	Keisha Outten v Edward Outten	Hanna- Adderley J (NR)	1/5/2024
197	2016/CLE/gen/01196	Stellar Energy Limited and Stellar Waste to Energy (Bahamas) Limited v Renward Wells, Ministry of Works & Urban Development, The Attorney General, Allen, Allen & Company and Frank Forbes (Sigma Holdings Limited)	Brathwaite J	2/5/2024

No.	File No.	Parties	Judicial Officer	Date
198	2023/CLE/gen/00547	Sail Rock Limited v Old Fort Bay Property Owners Association Limited	Fraser SJ	2/5/2024
199	2021/APP/sts/00020	The Comptroller of Value Added Tax v CTK Holdings	Brathwaite J	2/5/2024
200	2021/CRI/bal/00334	Antonio Archelus Neely aka "Theo" aka "Smokey" v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Brathwaite J	6/5/2024
201	2018/CLE/gen/00898	Joseph McCoy v Zharvago Archer and Archer's Messenger Services	Fitzcharles J	6/5/2024
202	2019/CLE/gen/01594	HNR Company Limited v Palm Cay Development Company Limited	Winder CJ	7/5/2024
203	2021/CLE/gen/00949	Esther Miller and James Miller v Gregory Higgs (Trading as G&H Enterprises)	Winder CJ	7/5/2024
204	2016/FAM/div/ FP/00046	BMS v RJS	Delancy J (Acting)	7/5/2024
205	2014/FAM/div/ FP/00122	Lester Roache v Royanne Roache	Hanna- Adderley J (NR)	7/5/2024
206	2014/CRI/bal/00190	Cordero Johnson v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Weech-Gomez	8/5/2024
207	2023/CRI/bal/00028	Emerson Johnson v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Hilton J	9/5/2024
208	2024/CRI/bal/	Trevon Stevens v The Director of Public Prosecutions	WilliamsJ	9/5/2024
209	2020/COM/lab/00058	Vaughn Miller v Island Hotel Company Limited	Darville-Gomez J	9/5/2024
210	2017/CLE/gen/01424	Nathalie Parks and Lashawn Parks (Court Appointed Personal representatives in the Estate of Livingstone Richard Parks, who was the Administrator of the Estate of the Late Lavard Ashley Parks) v BAF Financial Insurance (Bahamas) Ltd.	Fraser SJ	9/5/2024
211	2022/FAM/div/00437	IN THE ESTATE OF Casey Michael Cunningham of #1491 Donahue Terrace of Golden Gates No.2 South Western District on the island of New Providence, Deceased AND Kaedyn Amari Griffin (a Minor) (by his next friend and mother Krystalyn Antonia Griffin) AND The Estate of Casey Michael Cunningham AND Stacey Sherra Cunningham (in her capacity as an Intermeddler in the Estate of Casey Michael Cunningham)	Lewis-Johnson J	13/5/2024

No.	File No.	Parties	Judicial Officer	Date
212	2021/CLE/gen/00001	Tyrone Coakley, Sharon Musgrove-Hanna and the Bahamas Public Service Union v University of The Bahamas	Lewis-Johnson J	13/5/2024
213	2022/CLE/gen/00031	Win Business Energy Caofeidian Limited (formerly known as Kerr-McGee China Petroleum Ltd,) v Anadarko Petroleum Corporation and Anadarko China Holdings 2 Company A	Fitzcharles J	13/5/2024
214	2022/CLE/gen/00031	Win Business Energy Caofeidian Limited (formerly known as Kerr-McGee China Petroleum Ltd,) v Anadarko Petroleum Corporation and Anadarko China Holdings 2 Company B	Fitzcharles J	13/5/2024
215	2017/CLE/gen/00803	Kenneth Thompson v Golf Stream Food Services Limited and Oral Scott	Turner, Registrar (Acting)	13/5/2024
216	2022/CLE/qui/00231	IN THE MATTER of the Petition of Margaret Bodie-Thompson	Winder CJ	14/5/2024
217	2010/CLE/gen/01429	Lionel Ferguson v Bertram Morley t/a Crystal Builders	Winder CJ	14/5/2024
218	013/CLE/gen/01945	Cheerene Green (as Administratrix of the Estate of Jacinda Jasmine Colebrooke, (deceased) and on behalf of all dependents of Jacinda Jasmine Colebrooke) v Peter Corey Bowe and Gold Rock Corp. Ltd.	Winder CJ	15/5/2024
219	2021/CLE/gen/00353	Renee Ferguson, Edcil Ferguson v Bank of The Bahamas Limited	Fraser SJ	17/5/2024
220	2024/CRI/bal/ FP/00023	Monty Phillip Sevil v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Forbes J	21/5/2024
221	2024/CRI/bal/00029	Cristin Johnson v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Grant- Thompson SJ	22/5/2024
222	2017/CLE/gen/00123	Lloyd McQueen v The Airport Authority	KleinJ	22/5/2024
223	2020/APP/sts/00013 and; 2020/APP/ sts/00018	Gabriele Volpi v Delanson Services Ltd., Matteo Volpi and Simone Volpi AND Delanson Services Limited v Matteo Volpi, Gabriele Volpi and Simone Volpi – Consolidated Appeals	Klein J	22/5/2024
224	2023/CRI/bal/00099	Sherman Joseph v Director of Public Prosecutions	Archer-Minns J	23/5/2024
225	2021/CRI/vbi/287/11	Rex v Vakeito Melkeva Ferguson	Archer-Minns J	23/5/2024

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226	2018/CLE/gen/01248	Edward O'Donnell and Diane Ward v Pauline Chestnut	Klein J	27/5/2024
227	2021/CLE/gen/00863	Tyson Strachan v Anthony Simon, Yorkshire Holdings Ltd., First Caribbean International Bank (Bahamas) Limited and McKay Culmer & Associates	Fraser SJ	27/5/2024
228	2022/CLE/gen/01116	Derick Walton Sands v Dr. Magnus Ekedede	Fraser SJ	27/5/2024
229	2023/CRI/bal/00519	Francky Eugene v The Director of Public Prosecutions	McKay J	28/5/2024
230	2007/CRI/vbi/150/20	The Director of Public Prosecutions v Lincoln Poitier	McKay J	29/5/2024
231	2022/CLE/gen/00233	Palm Cay Development Company Limited v Catapult Construction Company	Strachan J	29/5/2024
232	2021/FAM/div/ FP/00005	Marvette Laing v Anton Laing	Hanna- Adderley J (NR)	30/5/2024
233	2023/CLE/gen/01243	Etienne Farquharson II v Morton Bahamas Limited	Darville-Gomez J	30/5/2024
234	2023/CLE/gen/00122	Denise Thurston v Shantell Rodgers	Strachan J	30/5/2024
235	2019/CRI/bal/00589	Alexander Sands v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Weech-Gomez J	4/6/2024
236	2017/CRI/bal/00720	Rodman Rodger Knowles (aka Rodman Cyril Knowles) v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Weech-GomezJ	4/6/2024
237	2023/CLE/gen/00452	Cem Okullu'nun Yeminli Beyani v Weiser Global Capital Markets Ltd., Bentley Rothschild Capital 3 Limited and Jaitegh Singh	Darville-Gomez J	4/6/2024
238	2023/CRI/bal/00146	Junior Maglorie v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Brathwaite J	5/6/2024
239	2023/CRI/vbi/95/03	The Director of Public Prosecutions v Orlando Antonio Williams	Forbes J	5/6/2024
240	2023/CRI/vbi/42/02	The Director of Public Prosecutions v Okino Lyndero Whyms	Weech-Gomez J	5/6/2024
241	2017/CLE/gen/01506	Kayla Ward, Hope Miller, Dwayne Archer, Latoya Knowles and Georgette Johnson v The Gaming Board for The Bahamas	Turner, Registrar (Acting)	6/6/2024
242	2018/CLE/qui/00433	IN THE MATTER OF the Petition of Mark Anthony Fox	Fraser SJ	10/6/2024

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243	2022/FAM/div/00484	S.C. v B.C.	Newton J	10/6/2024
244	2019/PRO/cpr/00046	In the Estate of Henriette Deveaux	Newton J	10/6/2024
245	2021/FAM/div/00802	C.M. v D.M.	Strachan J	11/6/2024
246	2022/CLE/gen/01767	Nelson McFall and Martha McFall v Scotiabank (Bahamas) Ltd. And Gateway Financial Ltd. and Gateway Ascendancy Ltd.	Strachan J	12/6/2024
247	2018/CLE/gen/ FP/00102	Alpha Aviation Limited and Fred Kaiser v Scott Ferguson	Forbes J	12/6/2024
248	2002/FAM/div/00038	T.V.N. v K.A.D.	Strachan J	17/6/2024
249	2018/CRI/bal/00815	Eddington Burrows v The Director of Public Prosecutions	McKay J	18/6/2024
250	2021/CLE/gen/00708	Stefanie Ann Schaffer, Stacey Dee Bender, Paul Thomas Bender, and Brooke Marguerite Schaffer (a minor) by her next friend Stacey Bender v Clayton Patterson Smith, Four C Adventures, Roderick Waton and Insurance Company of The Bahamas Ltd.	Card-Stubbs J	18/6/2024
251	2016/CRI/bal/00495	Jonathan Duvalier v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Williams J	18/6/2024
252	2022/CRI/bal/00114	Aljaron Stubbs v The Director of Public Prosecutions	McKay J	20/6/20 24
253	2021/CRI/bal/00183	Raymond Trae Bain v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Weech-Gomez J	20/6/20 24
254	2023/CLE/gen/00346	Dr. Bertram Sears v Bahamas Medical Council	Fraser SJ	20/6/20 24
255	2020/CLE/gen/00950	North Bimini Bay Condominiums Ltd. V Myron Saunders and "To Persons Unknown"	Fraser SJ	20/6/20 24
256	2022/CLE/gen/00967	Pratt v Bayer	Newton J	25/6/20 24
257	2014/CRI/bal/00164	The Director of Public Prosecutions v Jadre Evans	Archer-Minns J	26/6/20 24
258	2015/CLE/gen/00746	Sidney Duran Cunningham v Scotiabank (Bahamas) Limited, First Caribbean International Bank (Bahamas) Limited and Commonwealth Bank Limited	Darville-Gomez J	26/6/20 24
259	2020/FAM/div/00668	M.W. V M.W.	Newton J	27/6/20 24

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260	2018/CRI/bal/00912	Brentiano Sands v The Director of Public Prosecutions	McKay J	27/6/2024
261	2019/FAM/div/ FP/00147	Sonia Russell v Gilbert Russell	Hanna- Adderley J (NR)	28/6/2024
262	2023/CRI/vbi/00173	Jeffrey Sherman v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Grant- Thompson SJ	3/7/2024
263	2021/FAM/and/00676	In the Matter of the Adoption of D.W.	Newton J	3/7/2024
264	2020/CRI/bal/ FP/00031	Denise Wilson v Monica Smith	Forbes J	4/7/2024
265	2017/PRO/cpr/00071	In the Estate of Sedrick Hepburn	Newton J	5/7/2024
266	2024/CRI/bal/00116	Jamal Maycock v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Weech-Gomez J	5/7/2024
267	2023/APP/sts/00007	Dr. Gauri Shirodkar v The Bahamas Medical Council	Klein J	8/7/2024
268	2015/CLE/gen/01333	Wilton Livingston Saunders and Nivron Limited et. Al. v Sunshine Finance Limited and Sharon Wilson & Co. (a Firm)	Fitzcharles J	12/7/2024
269	2022/FAM/div/00411	Angeleana Myrtle Miller (nee Virgo) v Ronrick Ian Miller	Lewis-Johnson J	12/7/20 24
270	2024/CRI/bal/00219	Marcus A. Saunders v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Williams J	12/7/20 24
271	2021/CLE/qui/01053	IN THE MATTER OF the Petition of the Executor of the Estate of the Late Albert Livingston Clarke Sr., Albert Clarke Jr., Margaret Clarke Melvin, Sharon Clarke Moosa, Mavis Clarke Seymour, Kenneth Clarke and Fernon Clarke	Winder CJ	15/7/20 24
272	2015/CLE/gen/00341	The New Providence Development Company Limited and Old Fort Bay Company v The Director of Physical Planning and Henry F. Storr Electric Company Limited	Card-Stubbs J	16/7/20 24
273	2023/CLE/gen/01010	Ashley Dawson-Damer v Grampian Trust Company Limited and Lyndhurst Limited	Winder CJ	16/7/20 24
274	2018/CLE/gen/00451	New Providence Development Company Limited v Windsor Field Development Ltd. And Windsor Place Ltd.	Winder CJ	16/7/20 24
275	2020/FAM/div/00054	P.M. v S.M.	Newton J	17/7/20 24

No.	File No.	Parties	Judicial Officer	Date
276	2016/FAM/div/00408	R.S. v D.S.	Newton J	18/7/2024
277	2013/CLE/gen/01945	Cheerene Green (As Administratrix of the Estate of Jacinda Jasmine Colebrook, (deceased) and on behalf of all dependents of Jacinda Jasmine Colebrook) v Peter Corey Bowe and Gold Rock Corp. Ltd.	Winder CJ	18/7/2024
278	2019/CLE/gen/00683	Maygen P. Smith t/a Pyramid Builders v Michael Wring and Tamara Wring	Winder CJ	19/7/2024
279	2010/CLE/gen/01429	Lionel Ferguson v Bertram Morley t/a Crystal Builders	Winder CJ	19/7/2024
280	2024/CRI/bal/00116	Garshano Miller v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Weech-Gomez J	23/7/2024
281	2013/CLE/gen/00869	Gateway Ascendancy Ltd. V Bobbie Shanell Ferguson	Fitzcharles J	24/7/2024
282	2017/CLE/gen/ FP/00193	Tamika Goodman v The Public Hospitals Authority	Forbes J	26/7/2024
283	2023/CRI/bal/00251	Kyvaughn Strachan v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Williams J	29/7/2024
284	2022/COM/bnk/00031	Win Business Energy Caofeidian Limited (formerly known as Kerr- McGee China Petroleum Ltd.) v Anadarko Petroleum Corporation and Anadarko China Holdings 2 Company	Fitzcharles J	31/7/2024
285	2024/CRI/bal/00032	Brandon Miller v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Archer-Minns J	31/7/2024
286	2021/CLE/gen/00961	Dupuch & Turnquest (a Firm) v Reverend Mitchell Jones as Pastor of Annex Baptist Church	Darville-Gomez J	31/7/2024
287	2024/PUB/jrv/00020	Darby Shores Ltd. V The Treasurer of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas	Ellis J (Acting)	31/7/2024
288	2018/PUB/jrv/00026	Daphene Nonord v The Queen, The Rt. Hon. Hubert Minnis, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas (in his capacity as presiding of the proceedings of the Board of Immigration), The Hon. Brent Symonette, Minister of Immigration, The Board of Immigration, Mr. Clarence A. Russell, Director of Immigration and Carl W. Bethel, QC, Attorney General of The Bahamas	Bowe-Darville J	2/8/2024

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289	2017/CLE/gen/01181	Matthew Sewell v The Attorney General of The Bahamas, The Minister of Immigration, The Commissioner of Police, Superintendent of the Bahamas Department of Correctional Services, Director of Immigration and Officer in Charge of the Carmichael Road Detention Center	Bowe-Darville J	2/8/2024
290	2021/CLE/gen/01115	Maurice O. Glinton % Co. (a Firm) (by the principal and sole proprietor of the Firm) v Robert K. Adams (as counsel and attorney and a member and partner of Graham Thompson & Co.) and Graham Thompson & Co. (a Firm) (as attorneys of record for parties to proceedings in each of the intituled actions)	Winder CJ	2/8/2024
291	2023/CLE/gen/00209	Vakis Limited v Andrew Murray (trading as "Daq Shack" or "Tropical Daiquiri"	Card-Stubbs J	2/8/2024
292	2014/FAM/div/00638	A.R. V B.R.	A.R. V B.R.	6/8/2024
293	2016/CRI/bal/00167	Emile Cordero Hepburn v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Brathwaite J	7/8/2024
294	2023/CRI/bal/00085	Treyvar Taylor v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Brathwaite J	7/8/2024
294	2023/FAM/div/00377	Peter Marshall v Jamelia Cleare	Lewis-Johnson J	7/8/2024
295	2012/CRI/bal/00392	Sean Higgs v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Weech-Gomez J	8/8/2024
296	2017/CLE/gen/ FP/00038	Single Service Ltd. v Bahamia Realty Ltd. and Bahamia Service Co. Ltd.	Hanna- Adderley J (NR)	9/8/2024
297	2024/CRI/bal/00153	Yewill A.S. Moreta v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Weech-Gomez J	9/8/2024
298	2020/COM/lab/00058	Vaughn Miller v Island Hotel Company Limited	Darville-Gomez J	9/8/2024
299	2023/CRI/con/00001	Anthon Lightbourn Sr. v The Attorney General and The Director of Public Prosecutions	Darville-Gomez J	9/8/2024
300	2021/FAM/div/00107	A.H. v B.H.	Newton J	13/8/2024
301	2023/CRI/bal/00199	Adari Wright v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Weech-Gomez J	13/8/2024
302	2013/CRI/bal/00039	Micha Johnson v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Brathwaite J	13/8/2024

No.	File No.	Parties	Judicial Officer	Date
303	2024/CLE/gen/00212	Alonzo Butterfield v Bahamas First General Insurance Co. Ltd. And Essence Bowles	Winder CJ	14/8/2024
304	2019/FAM/div/00191	A.C. v B.C.	Newton J	14/8/2024
305	2024/CRI/bal/00110	Kevon Bain v The Director of Public Prosecutions	McKay J	15/8/2024
306	2019/FAM/div/00174	D.S. v A.S.	Newton J	16/8/2024
307	2018/CLE/gen/ FP/00043	Colina Mortgage Corporation Ltd. v Axcel Investments et.al.	Hanna- Adderley J (NR)	19/8/2024
308	2023/COM/lab/00027	Tanya Thompson-Newbold v IPG Family Office Ltd.	Darville-Gomez J	19/8/2024
309	2015/FAM/div/00148	E.N. v C.N.	Newton J	20/8/2024
310	2017/FAM/div/00087	C.S. v D.S.	Newton J	20/8/2024
311	2023/CRI/vbi/31/2	The Director of Public Prosecutions v Joseph Gordon	McKay J	20/8/2024
312	2020/CLE/gen/01180	Bank of The Bahamas Limited v Galleria Cinemas Limited, Island Bloom Restaurant Limited (Guarantor), Grand Bahamas Theaters Limited (Guarantor) and Christopher Mortimer (Guarantor)	Brathwaite J	20/8/2024
313	2018/CRI/bal/00243	Marquella Dean v The director of Public Prosecutions	Archer-Minns J	21/8/2024
314	2022/CLE/gen/00517	Geslin Pierre v Shield Insurance Agents and Brokers	Brathwaite J	21/8/2024
315	2022/PUB/jrv/00010	Stubbs v Commissioner of Police	Newton J	22/8/2024
316	2020/CLE/gen/ FP/00098	Roland Albury Jr. v Bullard's Plumbing Supplies Ltd.	Hanna- Adderley J (NR)	23/8/2024
317	2021/PUB/con/00017	Russell v Minister of Immigration	Newton J	26/8/2024
318	2024/CRI/bal/00156	Ancy Kenol aka "Ancy" v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Brathwaite J	26/8/2024
319	2015/CRI/bal/00290	Philip Boodle v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Brathwaite J	26/8/2024
320	2024/CRI/bal/00155	Jaico Choute v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Brathwaite J	26/8/2024
321	2010/CRI/bal/00022	Brinton Thompson v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Archer-Minns J	28/8/2024
322	2015/FAM/div/00387	M.T. v H.T.	Newton J	28/8/2024

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323	2020/FAM/div/00408	A.M. v B.M.	Newton J	28/8/2024
324	2020/CLE/gen/01362	Kendal Smith Jr. v Police Constable 3988 Derron LEWIS, Police Constable 3746 Derek Burrows, the Commissioner of Police and The Attorney General of The Bahamas	Deal, Asst. Registrar	28/8/2024
325	2024/CRI/bal/00100	Dakota Wilmore v The Director of Public Prosecutions	McKay J	29/8/2024
326	2021/CLE/gen/00568	First Caribbean International (Bank) Bahamas Limited v Emilco Ltd. And Emily T. Ferguson	Brathwaite J	29/8/2024
327	2015/FAM/div/00416	L.C. v M.C.	Newton J	30/8/2024
328	2016/FAM/div/00556	S.N. v T.N.	Newton J	30/8/2024
329	2018/CLE/gen/ FP/00043	Colina Mortgage Corporation v Axcel Investments et.al.	Hanna- Adderley J (NR)	2/9/2024
330	2024/CRI/bal/ FP/00032	Leon Lloyd Spence v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Forbes J	3/9/2024
331	2022/CRI/bal/ FP/00011	Jonathan Moore v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Forbes J	3/9/2024
332	2022/CLE/gen/00484	Cordelia Delores Ward and Lashone Rodgers v FML Group of Companies Limited	Fraser SJ	3/9/2024
333	N/A	Ricardo Pratt v Jerreth Rolle & Eric Darville Jr.	Hanna- Adderley J (NR)	4/9/2024
334	2024/CRI/bal/00135	Larano Davis v The Director of Public Prosecutions	McKay J	4/9/2024
335	2020/CRI/vbi/223/11	Director of Public Prosecutions v Gregg Israel Pinder	Forbes J	5/9/2024
336	2022/FAM/div/00557	Cedric Dereck Smith v Scarlette Clara Smith (nee Smith)	Lewis-Johnson J	5/9/2024
337	2023/CLE/gen/00045	Gary Snell and Valentina Snell (nee Dezelebova) v Hugh Gordon Cash (Trading as North Eleuthera Builders)	Toote, Dep. Registrar	10/9/2024
338	2020/FAM/div/00349	J.A. Johnson v M.E. Johnson	Strachan J	10/9/2024
339	2024/CRI/bal/00106	Ashtin Simms v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Archer-Minns J	11/9/2024
340	2023/COM/lab/00010	Captain Joseph J. Moxey v Bahamasair Holdings Limited and Bahamas Airline Pilots Association	Fraser SJ	11/9/2024

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341	2023/CLE/gen/00763	Dr. Paul D. Fuchs and MC Grotto LLC v Lockhart & Co. 9a Firm), Elliott B. Lockhart, KC, Patricia Bullard and First Caribbean International Bank (Bahamas) Limited	Fraser SJ	11/9/2024
342	2019/CLE/gen/00577; 2019/CLE/gen/00578 and 2019/CLE/ gen/00763	Mertis B. Archer v Family Guardian Insurance Company Ltd. AND Pamela Russell v Family Guardian Insurance Company Ltd. AND Nicolette S. Clarke v Family Guardian Insurance Company Ltd.	Fraser SJ	13/9/2024
343	2024/CLE/gen/00106	Wentworth Musgrove v Winifred Musgrove-Taylor	Darville-Gomez J	16/9/2024
344	2012/CLE/gen/ FP/00041	Victoria Allen, Charlene Forbes, Emily Adderley, Karia Cooper, Nancy Evans, Andrew Major, Malissa Saunders, Mavie Grant, Idella Grant and Anishka Bartlett v BAHAMAS Supermarkets Limited, Mark Finlayson, Garet O. Finlayson, Philip Kemp (Trustee of the Retirement Plan of the Bahamas Supermarkets Limited Employees) and Trans Island Traders Limited	Darville-Gomez J	18/9/2024
345	2019/CLE/gen/00260	Cherelle Cartwright v Sapodilla of West Bay Street Ltd.	Toote, Dep. Registrar	18/9/2024
346	2022/APP/mag/00035	Suzette Dyer v Lashanda Thurston	Card-Stubbs J	18/9/2024
347	2020/CRI/vbi/228/11	The Director of Public Prosecutions v Tamar Teandre Forbes	Forbes J	18/9/2024
348	2021/CLE/gen/01365	BAF Financial & Insurance (Bahamas) Ltd. V Vincent Arthur Peet and T.R. Management Ltd.	Deal, Asst. Registrar	23/9/2024
349	2023/CLE/gen/00223	Hazel Lady Butler v Ruth Lavaughan Bland	Card-Stubbs J	24/9/2024
350	2022/CRI/bal/00125	Kazinski Leroy Johnson v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Weech-Gomez J	25/9/2024
351	2022/CRI/bal/00164	Jarvis Joseph v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Brathwaite J	25/9/2024
352	2023/CRI/bal/00127	Julian Geo Seide aka "Fish Boy" v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Brathwaite J	25/9/2024
353	2022/CRI/bal/00154	Aaron Virgil v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Weech-Gomez J	26/9/2024
354	2018/CLE/gen/ FP/00269	Zhivargo Collie v The Attorney General	Hanna- Adderley J (NR)	27/9/2024

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355	2015/CLE/gen/ FP/00005	Ricardo Bauld v The Commissioner of Police	Hanna- Adderley J (NR)	27/9/2024
356	2016/PUB/jrv/ FP/00006	Jennifer Rolle v The Commissioner of Police	Hanna- Adderley J (NR)	27/9/2024
357	2021/CLE/gen/00621	Nomiki Drosos Tsakkos and Peter Drosos Tsakkos v Pantelis Tsakkos (as Executor of the Will of the late Emmanuel Pantelis Tsakkos) and Adita Boy	Winder CJ	30/9/2024
358	2022/CLE/gen/00167	Hugh Patrick Rollins v Bahamas Power and Light Company Limited	Winder CJ	30/9/2024
359	2024/CLE/gen/00224	Tomlinhess Investments Inc. v Lamalot Ltd.	Winder CJ	30/9/2024
360	2017/FAM/div/00181	Mavis Leary (nee Wells) v Mario Leary	Strachan J	1/10/2024
361	2017/CRI/bal/00383	David Alexander Higgs v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Brathwaite J	2/10/2024
362	2018/CRI/bal/00785	Ahmad Clarke v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Brathwaite J	2/10/2024
363	2024/CRI/bal/00157	Jamaal Hamilton v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Brathwaite J	2/10/2024
364	2021/CRI/bal/00018	Shanton Munroe v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Brathwaite J	2/10/2024
365	2021/CLE/gen/00203	Montana Holdings Limited v The Matrix General Portfolio Limited Partnership Acting by its general partner Matrix Portfolio (General Partner) Limited	Brathwaite J	2/10/2024
366	2018/CRI/bal/00653	Antonio Paul v The Director of Public Prosecutions	McKay J	3/10/2024
367	2021/CRI/bal/00234	Ashtino Douglas v The Director of Public Prosecutions	McKay J	3/10/2024
368	2020/CLE/gen/ FP/00100	Sonia Moss v Insurance Management (Bahamas) Ltd.	Hanna- Adderley J (NR)	8/10/2024
369	2024/CRI/bal/ FP/00044	Kenny Mitchell v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Forbes J	8/10/2024
370	2024/CLE/gen/00466	Carlton A. Martin v Peter John Nygard and Galaxy Group Limited	Fitzcharles J	8/10/2024
371	2024/CRI/bal/00334	Antonio Neely v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Brathwaite J	8/10/2024
372	2024/CRI/bal/00160	Addison Hepburn v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Brathwaite J	8/10/2024

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373	20224/CRI/bal/ FP/00044	Kenny Mitchell v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Forbes J	8/10/2024
374	2018/CLE/gen/00451	New Providence Development Company Limited v Windsor Field Development Ltd. And Windsor Place Ltd.	Winder CJ	9/10/2024
375	2019/CLE/gen/ FP/00083	Temeka Curry v Gary Maurin and Ateaka Maurin	Hanna- Adderley J (NR)	9/10/2024
376	2024/CRI/bal/00173	Christopher Ramsey v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Brathwaite J	9/10/2024
377	2024/CRI/bal/00184	Dwayne Wilson Jr. v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Brathwaite J	9/10/2024
378	2024/CRI/bal/00182	Wadlet Meris v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Brathwaite J	9/10/2024
379	2016/FAM/div/ FP/00093	Crystal Adderley v Clynton Adderley	Hanna- Adderley J (NR)	10/10/2024
380	2024/PUB/con/	Kenny Mitchell v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Williams J	10/10/2024
381	2022/CLE/gen/00297	Teachers and Salaried Workers Cooperative Credit Union Limited v Heidi Lynn Rolle	Darville-Gomez J	11/10/2024
382	2019/CRI/bal/00436	Apolonia McLean Smith v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Brathwaite J	15/10/2024
383	2018/CRI/bal/00912	Brentiano Sands v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Brathwaite J	16/10/2024
384	2011/COM/lab/ FP/00001	Philip Hepburn v Polymers International Limited	Blatch, Dep. Registrar	16/10/2024
385	2023/CLE/gen/01054	S. Thompson v Registrar General of The Bahamas and The Minister Responsible for the Registry of Records	Strachan J	17/10/2024
386	2021/CLE/gen/ FP/00080	Clintwood Rolle Sr. v Summit Insurance Company Limited and Island Heritage Insurance Co. Ltd	Francis J (Acting)	17/10/2024
387	2002/CLE/gen/02280	Leshelmaryas Investment Company Limited v Albert C. Higgs on behalf of the Estate of Kenneth McKinney Higgs, Albert C. Higgs on behalf of the Estate of Clothilda Higgs, deceased, and Kenneth McKinney Higgs	Winder CJ	18/10/2024

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388	2017/CLE/gen/00885	JN Improvement Limited t/a J&N Home Improvement v The Public Hospitals Authority	Fraser SJ	18/10/2024
389	2023/CLE/gen/00748	Linda Elizabeth Lam and Michael Lam (t/a Mike's Stainless Steel Manufacturing Company) v Osprey Construction Company Ltd.	Fraser SJ	18/10/2024
390	2017/CLE/gen/00885	JN Improvement Limited t/a J&N Home Improvement v The Public Hospitals Authority	Fraser SJ	18/10/2024
391	2023/CLE/gen/00670	William Lamar Chester v Darby Shores Ltd., William Gordon Crichton Cook Jr., Richard Henry Davis, Aillen Marty and Willaim Saeger	Fraser SJ	18/10/2024
392	2021/CLE/gen/01434	Richie Tori Goodman and Rajai Richea Goodman (as Beneficiaries of the Insurance Policy of the late Richie Wilfred Goodman Jr.) v Brighthouse Life Insurance Company Limited	Fitzcharles J	18/10/2024
393	2007/CLE/gen/00221	Kevin Collie and Wayne Collie v Andrew Johnson and Louis Major	Turner, Registrar (Acting)	21/10/2024
394	2020/CLE/gen/00667	Paulette Major v Xtra Valu Food Stores Ltd.	Winder CJ	21/10/2024
395	2018/CLE/gen/00091	Loretta Nathan and Philip Nathan v Leslie Stubbs and Laverne Palacious	Winder CJ	21/10/2024
396	2013/CLE/gen/ FP/00415	Richard Hepburn v Beauport Investment Company Limited et. al.	Hanna- Adderley J (NR)	21/10/2024
397	2023/CRI/vbi/278/9	The Director of Public Prosecutions v Kirk Cornish	McKay J	21/10/2024
398	2020/CRI/bal/00219	Marcus Saunders v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Brathwaite J	22/10/2024
399	2020/CRI/bal/00219	Jamine Amando Ferguson Jr. v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Brathwaite J	23/10/2024
400	2024/CLE/gen/00208	Bright Mill Inter Corp. and KSV Ltd. V 17 Arm Africa and Cis Opportunity Fund Ltd. And 17 Arm UAE (FZ) LLC.	Fitzcharles J	24/10/2024
401	2024/PUB/con/ FP/00001	Albury's Freeport Limited and Stephen Albury v Minister of Labor, The Vice President of Industrial Tribunal and The Attorney General of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas	Forbes J	25/10/2024

No.	File No.	Parties	Judicial Officer	Date
402	2014/CLE/gen/ FP/00542	Bank of The Bahamas Limited v Philip Kendal Franks and Bonnie Valarie Franks	Forbes J	25/10/2024
403	2023/CRI/vbi/278/9	The Director of Public Prosecutions v Kirk Cornish	McKay J	29/10/2024
404	2020/CRI/bal/ FP/00055	Kyas Duncombe v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Forbes J	29/10/2024
405	2020/CRI/vbi/109/07	Director of Public Prosecutions v Jamal Laroda and Isaiah Walkine	Forbes J	29/10/2024
406	2020/APP/sts/00013 and; 2020/APP/ sts/00018	Delanson Services Limited v Matteo Volpi, Gabriele Volpi and Simone Volpi — Consolidated Proceedings	Klein J	29/10/2024
407	2024/CRI/bal/00153	Yewill Soto Moreta v The director of Public Prosecutions	Brathwaite J	30/10/2024
408	2023/CRI/bal/00128	Alano Stringfield v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Brathwaite J	30/10/2024
409	2023/CRI/bal/00054	Jamal Taylor v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Brathwaite J	30/10/2024
410	2022/CLE/gen/00727	Finance Corporation of the Bahamas Limited v Archibald Lowell Minnis and Aisha Leta Minnis	Fraser SJ	30/10/2024
411	/CRI/	The Director of Public Prosecutions v Tameko Dorsette aka "Dee Angelo Tameko Theo Dorsette"	Grant- Thompson SJ	30/10/2024
412	2024/CRI/vbi/93/3	The Director of Public Prosecutions v Stanley Deveaux and Raynel Saint-Vil	Grant- Thompson SJ	30/10/2024
413	2024/CRI/vbi/123/4	The Director of Public Prosecutions v Quincy Kevin Edgecombe	Grant- Thompson SJ	30/10/2024
414	2015/CLE/gen/01333	Wilton Livingstone Saunders and Nivron Limited v Sunshine Finance Limited and Sharon Wilson & Co. (a Firm)	Fitzcharles J	31/10/2024
415	2021/CRI/vbi/73/3	The Director of Public Prosecutions v Cheguvera Moxey	Williams J	1/11/2024
416	2019/CLE/gen/00678	Adonna Morton v Super Value Food Stores Limited	Fitzcharles J	1/11/2024
417	2021/CLE/gen/01022	Ephraim B. E. Morley v Teachers and SALARIED Workers Co- operative Credit Union Limited	Deal, Asst. Registrar	1/11/2024
418	2023/CLE/gen/00856	S.M. v A.D.	Strachan J	6/11/2024

No.	File No.	Parties	Judicial Officer	Date
402	2014/CLE/gen/ FP/00542	Bank of The Bahamas Limited v Philip Kendal Franks and Bonnie Valarie Franks	Forbes J	25/10/2024
403	2023/CRI/vbi/278/9	The Director of Public Prosecutions v Kirk Cornish	МсКау Ј	29/10/2024
404	2020/CRI/bal/ FP/00055	Kyas Duncombe v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Forbes J	29/10/2024
405	2020/CRI/vbi/109/07	Director of Public Prosecutions v Jamal Laroda and Isaiah Walkine	Forbes J	29/10/2024
406	2020/APP/sts/00013 and; 2020/APP/ sts/00018	Delanson Services Limited v Matteo Volpi, Gabriele Volpi and Simone Volpi – Consolidated Proceedings	Klein J	29/10/2024
407	2024/CRI/bal/00153	Yewill Soto Moreta v The director of Public Prosecutions	Brathwaite J	30/10/2024
408	2023/CRI/bal/00128	Alano Stringfield v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Brathwaite J	30/10/2024
409	2023/CRI/bal/00054	Jamal Taylor v The Director of Public Prosecutions	Brathwaite J	30/10/2024
410	2022/CLE/gen/00727	Finance Corporation of the Bahamas Limited v Archibald Lowell Minnis and Aisha Leta Minnis	Fraser SJ	30/10/2024
411	/CRI//	The Director of Public Prosecutions v Tameko Dorsette aka "Dee Angelo Tameko Theo Dorsette"	Grant- Thompson SJ	30/10/2024
412	2024/CRI/vbi/93/3	The Director of Public Prosecutions v Stanley Deveaux and Raynel Saint-Vil	Grant- Thompson SJ	30/10/2024
413	2024/CRI/vbi/123/4	The Director of Public Prosecutions v Quincy Kevin Edgecombe	Grant- Thompson SJ	30/10/2024
414	2015/CLE/gen/01333	Wilton Livingstone Saunders and Nivron Limited v Sunshine Finance Limited and Sharon Wilson & Co. (a Firm)	Fitzcharles J	31/10/2024
415	2021/CRI/vbi/73/3	The Director of Public Prosecutions v Cheguvera Moxey	Williams J	1/11/2024
416	2019/CLE/gen/00678	Adonna Morton v Super Value Food Stores Limited	Fitzcharles J	1/11/2024
417	2021/CLE/gen/01022	Ephraim B. E. Morley v Teachers and SALARIED Workers Co- operative Credit Union Limited	Deal, Asst. Registrar	1/11/2024
418	2023/CLE/gen/00856	S.M. v A.D.	Strachan J	6/11/2024
419	2024/CLE/gen/00093	Holmes Company Limited v Eric Morley	Ellis J	8/11/2024

No.	File No.	Parties	Judicial Officer	Date
420	2023/CRI/vbi/157/5	The Director of Public Prosecutions v Carol Garcia	McKay J	15/11/2024
421	2021/CLE/gen/00477	Bahamas National Council for Disability v Monique Roker-Carey	Darville Gomez J	18/11/2024
422	2022/CRI/vbi/321/12 and; 2022/CRI/ vbi/322/12	The Director of Public Prosecutions v Emerson Harding	Forbes J	19/11/2024
423	2018/CLE/gen/00119	Pamela Graham v Cost Right Nassau Limited	Darville-Gomez J	19/11/2024
424	2024/CRI/bal/00048	The Director of Public Prosecutions v Shando King and Berttina Rolle and Christopher Bain	Weech-Gomez J	20/11/2024
425	2015/CLE/gen/01840	Single Phase Investments Ltd (t/a Bain's Electric Company) v Adler Construction Co. Limited	Fraser SJ	21/11/2024
426	2022/CLE/gen/01209	Sunpower Business Group PTE Ltd., Tournan Trading PTE Ltd. v America 2030 Capital Limited and Weiser Global Capital Markets Ltd.	Fraser SJ	25/11/2024
427	2019/CLE/gen/01775	Chavis S. Rahming, Anastacia E. Adderley (as Co-Administrator and Legal Guardian of Amber A. Rahming), Sudia Munroe (as Co- Administrator and Legal Guardian of Amber A. Rahming) and Scotiabank v Colina Insurance Limited		25/11/2024
428	2021/CLE/gen/00350	Bebie Farrington v Bahamas First Holdings Ltd. and Bahamas First Corporate Services Ltd.	Fitzcharles J	28/11/2024
429	2024/PUB/con/ FP/00001	Albury's Freeport Limited and Stephen Albury v The Minister of Labor, The Vice President of the Industrial Tribunal and The Attorney General of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas	Forbes J	28/11/2024
430	2018/CLE/gen/ FP/00102	Alpha Aviation Limited and Fred Kaiser v Scott Ferguson	Forbes J	28/11/2024

7.5 OPENING OF THE LEGAL YEAR SPEECH 2024

My Lords, My Ladies, other Judicial Officers, Mr. Attorney, President of the Bahamas Bar Association and members of Bar Council, Counsel and Attorneys, invited guests, ladies and gentlemen. Under the Supreme Court Act the sittings of the Court commence on the second Wednesday in the month of January. Yesterday's observance of the Majority Rule Day holiday delayed the usual statutory Wednesday fixture to today. The size of bench and bar has caused us to outgrow our traditional accommodation in the main Supreme Court. It is expected that the new Supreme Court Complex, which the Honourable Attorney-General has spoken to, will provide for a suitable space from which special sittings and other convocations of this nature can take place.

Today is the second occasion, on which, as Head of the Judiciary, I have the pleasure and duty to welcome you and thank you for taking the time to share this occasion. It is always appropriate to begin such an address by expressing thanks to the Almighty God of His abundant mercies. I continue to be both humbled and honoured to have been given the opportunity to serve The Bahamas as her Chief Justice. I remain ever thankful for the support of my family, colleagues and friends.

Acknowledgements

We began the week with the usual uplifting Red Mass at St Francis Xavier Cathedral on Sunday past. We gratefully received the payers and fellowship of His Grace, the Most Reverend Patrick Pinder Archbishop of the Catholic Diocese of Nassau invoking the guidance of the Holy Spirit on the work of the courts. Following this morning's procession we gratefully received the usual spirited charge of the Very Reverend Harry Bain, Dean of Christ Church Cathedral, who so graciously accommodated us for our annual official service.

I thank the Commissioner of Police, Mr. Clayton Fernander OPM, for the usual excellent presentation of the guard of honour by the Internal Security Division accompanied by the Police Force Band and for facilitation of our procession by the Traffic Division. Let me also register my thanks to the Commissioner and through him to the Royal Bahamas Police force for the many services which are provided to the Court to carry out our mutual mandates. The Commissioner of Police is the Provost Marshal for the Court. For this reason, we always welcome his presence sitting with us in these ceremonies. The Provost Marshall is the proverbial sheriff, charged with the execution of certain Court processes. His actual work in this area is carried out by Deputies acting in his name. During the year, Commissioner Fernander made some very positive strides in reforming the process of appointing deputy provost marshals, and for their management and oversight. The Rules Supreme Committee of the Court accommodate that process by introducing a longoverdue proper fee structure for the services undertaken by his deputies.

During the year we celebrated our 50th year as an independent nation and the 50th anniversary of the entrenchment of the Supreme Court in our constitutional framework. Judicial officers and the staff celebrated, like all Bahamians and residents, the many events marking The Bahamas' Golden Jubilee of Independence.

In the Court of Appeal, in 2023, we said farewell to Justices of Appeal Roy Jones, Carolita Bethel and Sir Brian Moree KC, having all reached the constitutionally mandated retirement Justice Bethel had already proceeded on preretirement leave at the time of my last opening address. Justices Jones who retired at the end of September, came to the appellate bench after distinguished service on the Supreme Court benches of Jamaica, the Cayman Islands and The Bahamas. Sir Brian retired in July. His short tenure on the Court began following his service as the Chief Justice of The Bahamas in August of 2022. All of these jurists have contributed in their own way to the jurisprudence of The Bahamas and their talents will be sorely missed as the Court of Appeal continues it work. We wish them well in the next chapters of their lives.

Justices Indra Charles, Gregory Smith and Bernard Turner have joined the Court of Appeal in the past year to replace the retired judges. Justices Charles and Turner have provided long and exemplary service to the Supreme Court both inside and outside of the Courtroom. While Justice Charles and Turner are well known to

you, Justice Gregory Smith may not be. Justice Smith joined the Court following a distinguished 26 year career in the Courts of the Trinidad and Tobago, the last 14 of which were in the Court of Appeal. We congratulate each of them and wish for them a successful and rewarding tenure on the Court.

At the time of the next opening of the legal year the Court of Appeal will have lost the services of its President Sir Michael Barnett. Sir Michael came to the office of President having previously served for many years as Chief Justice of The Bahamas. Sir Michal had an exemplary career as a civil and commercial litigator and developed a reputation on the bench for, concise, wellreasoned decisions often flavored comparative analysis from jurisdiction across the Commonwealth. Sir Michael has provided invaluable and immeasurable contributions to the jurisprudence of The Bahamas and the loss of his service will create a void which will be difficult to fill. Whilst opportunities will arise for a proper farewell to Sir Michael, I want to use this occasion to publicly recognize commitment and service to the Judiciary and wish him well in the next chapters of his life.

We also said farewell to Judicial Counsels Jonnel Johnson and Anna Moss who have moved to the private sector. We thank them for their contributions and wish them well in their new careers.

In May of 2023 Justice Deborah Fraser was appointed as Senior Justice and in December 2023 the Judicial and Legal Service Commission recommended the appointment of Justice Grant-Thompson as a Senior Justice. appointments fill the offices left vacant on the promotions of Senior Justices Charles and Turner. During 2023 we also welcomed Justices Simone Fitzcharles, Carla Card-Stubbs, Franklyn Williams KC and Hope Strachan to the Supreme Court bench. The Judicial and Legal Services Commission's press release in January detailed the many antecedents of these judges so I need not repeat them here.

I wish to thank Acting Justices JoyAnn Ferguson and Stephana Saunders for agreeing to serve as Acting Justices of the Supreme Court during 2023. I also wish to thank Registrar Constance Delancy for agreeing to act for a three-month stint in Grand Bahama beginning January 26, 2024. She and Acting Justice Saunders are providing the much needed judicial assistance in

the Civil Divisions of the Court in Grand Bahama allowing Justice Hanna Adderley to complete long outstanding judgments.

We also welcome Assistant Registrars Rosanne Sweeting and Indy Hunter who have been acting in the role since April 2023 and have been instrumental in the implementation of the CPR Rules and the Court's Digital platform. They have been confirmed in their posts with effect from 6 January 2024. Assistant Registrar Rosanne Sweeting is assigned to the Northern Region and Assistant Registrar Hunter has been assigned to the Registry here in New Providence. They have also been assigned the increased administrative functions associated with the CPR and the Intergraded Case Management System.

I also wish to congratulate Justice Denise Lewis-Johnson on her appointment as an International Hague Network Judge, joining Justice Donna Newton as the Bahamian representatives in the Network. The Network facilitates international cooperation and communication between judges on the cross-border protection of children. Justices Grant Thompson, Renae McKay and Lewis Johnson are also to be congratulated on each attaining fellowships with the Halifax based, Commonwealth Judicial Education Institute in June of 2023.

I also wish to highlight the appointment of Justice Bernard Turner as a Judge of the Court of Appeal of the Turks and Caicos Islands in May of 2023 and the appointment of Retired Justice Neville Adderley as the Acting President of that Court for the entirety of 2023. We must celebrate our judicial officers, especially when their impact extend beyond our shores.

During the year several judges and former judges were recognized with King's and National honours. In June 2023, I was formally invested with the Award of Knight Bachelor in a ceremony at Windsor Castle. In October, Justices of Appeal Jon Isaacs, Milton Evans and Bernard Turner, and Retired Justice of Appeal, Neville Adderley

were each awarded the Order of the Bahamas in ceremonies held at Government House. In November: Sir Michal Barnet Kt, Sir Burton Hall Kt, Dame Anita Allen and Retired Senior Justice Joseph Strachan were among the 101 prominent Bahamian citizens specially selected to receive the first ever Jubilee Awards in recognition

of their significant contributions to the development of The Bahamas in our first 50 years.

In August 2023, the judiciary lost the services of Mrs. Bathsheba Algreen who had served faithfully for many years rising to the post of Office Manager in the Judicial and Legal Services Commission (JLSC). She managed the administrative arm of the JLSC and was essentially the human resources manager for judicial officers. We will certainly miss her and wish her well in her retirement.

The Courts

In 2023 we returned to in person trials in all Supreme Courts. The return came with it, the lessons learned from the pandemic experience as we have now incorporated the greater use of virtual technology in our operations. Hearings in the Court of Appeal remains virtual. Although it continues to be the most efficient Court in our system, notwithstanding it virtual operations, we look forward to their return to normalcy soon.

Criminal Courts

In 2023 the work of the criminal courts were ramped up in the wake of the slowdown in the pace at with trials could be completed during the Covid 19 pandemic. In February 2023 we introduced an additional Criminal Court to provide additional capacity following the setbacks caused by the pandemic. With the recent amendment to the Supreme Court Act, to increase the complement of Judges by 5, it is the intent to add an additional Criminal Court in 2024,

when court space becomes available following the relocation of the Family Division.

The establishment of a third Court in Grand Bahama, which was also expected to do some criminal work, experienced some setbacks as a result of the delayed opening of the Magistrates Court at Eight Mile Rock. The space designated for the third court is currently being used by the Eight Mile Rock Magistrates court. Once the Eight Mile Rock court has relocated to its permanent home in 8 mile rock, the Third court can be established. This is now anticipated within the first quarter of 2024.

Sexual Offences Court

The efforts to establish a standalone sexual offences Court also continues. The long term goal is to convert two of the courts in the existing Main Supreme Court building into dedicated sexual offences courts, once the New Supreme Court Complex is completed. In the short term, during the course of this year, one of the courts in Annex II, which has a separate entrance to the road, will be dedicated to the hearing of sexual offences involving particularly sensitive and delicate victims.

Bench book

A draft bench book for the criminal courts, has been prepared by the Criminal Division. A consultant has been engaged to conduct the editing of the Benchbook and that process in ongoing. It is expected that this project will be completed before the end of the second quarter and the Criminal Division will be equipped with an updated, professionally edited, modern Bench book for their use. I wish to thank Justice Renae McKay for her effort in marshalling this project thus far.

Bail

When I first drafted this address, I had intended to avoid the usual conversation defending the

grant of bail, having had to publically address this issue several times during the course of 2023. I had hoped to focus only on what could be done to improve the pace of criminal trials and wider reform of the criminal justice process. Public commentary in recent days however, suggests that, at the risk of being repetitive, I ought nonetheless to say a few words on this recurring, albeit important issue. The Carnage on our streets is indeed distressing and unfortunate, as citizens of The Bahamas, we too are affected by this. As judges we take very seriously the oaths that we have taken, to uphold the law, as the Constitution and our people expect nothing less. We do not make the laws, we merely interpret and apply them.

Former Court of Appeal President Dame Anita Allen, in the decision in Hepburn and The Attorney General SCCr. App. No 276 of 2014, points out the challenges which bail decisions pose for judges: She states:

"5. Bail is increasingly becoming the most vexing, controversial and complex issue confronting free societies in every part of the world. It highlights the tension between two important but competing

interests: the need of the society to be protected from persons alleged to have committed crime; and the fundamental constitutional canons, which secure freedom from arbitrary arrest and detention and serve as the bulwark against punishment before conviction.

Contrary to the opinion of some, there is no prohibition on the grant of bail for murder. This was settled recently in the Privy Council case of **AG for Trinidad v Akili Charles [2022] UKPC 49**. Also, contrary to the opinion of some, the law does not prescribe a two year requirement before an accused can be admitted to bail for the offence of murder. A charge is not a conviction, the fact that the police have alleged

that you have committed an offence does not automatically suspend your constitutional rights for 2 years. The Police and the prosecution must demonstrate that there is a basis for the pre-trial detention beyond the fact that it is a murder charge. The seriousness of the offence alleged is indeed a very relevant factor, but not the only factor. The nature of the charge and of the evidence available in support thereof, the likely sanction in case of conviction, whether conditions can be put in place to ensure the accused attends at his trial, the accused's record, if any, the likelihood of interference with witnesses, the need to prevent public endangerment and the safety of the accused are some of the other factors1 the Court must also consider.

As judges we do our best but we are not infallible. The judge does not have the only word on bail. Where the judge grants bail it is open to the DPP to appeal that decision as far as they need to. The law permits the accused to remain in custody until the appeal is heard. Supreme Court Judges are bound by decisions of the Court of Appeal and only seek to abide with the rules established in those decisions. Attributing blame is not the answer, there is enough for all of us to share. We need to take a holistic approach to the resolution of this crime problem, an approach which embraces co-operation and collaboration. The Minister of National Security's Crime Commission, which the judiciary is fully committed to supporting, is a step in the right direction.

Reform

I would like to speak of reform, in as much as my remit can allow.

In October 2023, I along with several judges of the Criminal Division and several magistrates attended the CCJ Seventh Biennial Law Conference in the Republic of Barbados. The Deputy Commissioner of Police and other senior members of the Royal Bahamas Police Force also attended. The Conference was themed: "Criminal Justice Reform in the Caribbean: Achieving a Modern Criminal Justice System". It brought together all of the stakeholder communities in the Criminal Justice Sector in the Caricom region. Justice Ministers, the judiciary, the police, the prosecution and the defence bar.

In the Needhams Point Declaration which emanated from the conference, it was expressly observed that "there is an unacceptable situation as it relates to crime in the Member States of the Caribbean Community, that there are intolerable delays in the administration of criminal justice including unreasonably long periods spent on remand. The declaration acknowledged "that crime is inimical to peace, order, and stability within societies, and therefore stifles social and economic development.

The Declaration, which is available on the Court's website, made 30 broad and wide ranging recommendations across all stakeholder classes from policy and legislative interventions to recommendations for the prosecution and police and for judicial interventions.

Recommendations 29-39 related to Judicial Interventions: Three of these recommendation will be specifically pursued by the judiciary during 2024:

- 29. That a new category of judicial officer should be created, or existing judicial officers be deployed, to deal specifically with pre-trial issues in criminal matters.
- 32. That a Sentencing Guidelines Commission be established in each jurisdiction...
- 34. That courts should adopt a focused and integrated approach to eliminate criminal case backlogs, by using tools and measures such as robust case- management, coupled with plea bargaining discussions.

 $^{^{\}rm 1}$ Jonathan Armbrister v The Attorney General SCCrApp. No.145 of 2011 per John JA

As I sought to argue in my address to you last year, we must find ways to counter the decrease in the speed at which criminal trials can be concluded, without affecting its fairness. If we can provide for binding evidentiary hearings to take place, pre-trial, this would obviate the need for a jury to be empaneled, especially in circumstances where the determination of the issue may decide the entire action. At the very least, it shortens the length of a jury empaneled trial.

A draft amendment to the Criminal Case Management Rules to encourage and provide for pretrial evidentiary hearings in the Supreme Court, has been favourably considered by the judges in the Criminal Division. The draft will be sent to the Rules Committee for consideration. The draft will also be shared with the Attorney General for his comment and input.

I propose, when space becomes available, to cause 2 judges be assigned to engage in a pilot program to conduct pretrial hearings and to deal specifically with pre-trial issues in criminal matters.

I will establish a Sentencing Guidelines Commission as recommended by the Needhams Point Declaration with a broad remit including the obtaining of data and the making of recommendations to the legislature and judiciary to assist in the formulation of sentencing ranges for various offences falling for determination by parliament or judges. I will ask the President of the Court of Appeal to recommend one of his members to co-chair the Commission along with Senior Justice Grant Thompson. In addition to judicial officers, the Commission will also have membership from the DPP, the private Bar and a legislative drafter. I propose that the President and I will be ex officio members of the Commission. The Commission will have a mandate to return guidelines by the end of 2024.

Civil Divisions Civil Rules Reform

On March 1, 2023, the Supreme Court (Civil Procedure) Rules 2022 were brought into force. This represented a significant milestones as it ushered in a new civil justice regime. Two separate comprehensive amendments to the Rules were necessary to tidy them up. Additionally, 13 practice directions were issued to supplement the rules or to assist parties in applying them. I am happy to advise that a reprint of the CPR Rules has been completed, which will give you a single document incorporating all of the amendments. I wish to express my thanks to the Law Revision team for the significant assistance with the amendments and the reprint.

In order to assist in the implementation of the Rules a Practice Guide was made available for use. An updated practice guide is set to be issued by the Bahamas Judicial Education Institute during the course of this month. The updated guide will incorporate the amendments and the several cases decided since the rules were brought into force. I wish to thank Judicial Counsel Jonathan Deal for his efforts in coordinating the update.

I wish to thank the members of the Supreme Court Rules Committee, the judges in the civil divisions and the practitioner's at the civil bar, for a fairly successful implementation process. I also wish to express my gratitude to Assistant Registrars Rosanne Sweeting and Indy Hunter who manned the CPR help desks in Freeport and in New Providence allowing us to be flexible and responsive in ensuring that the transition was as seamless and as efficient as possible.

I am pleased to announce that LexisNexis will be releasing a 2024 edition of the Caribbean Civil Court Practice which will now include The Bahamas' new rules. The text is due for release in the Spring. I wish to thank Justice of Appeal Indra Charles and Judicial Counsel Jonathan Deal who along with myself worked with the editors in the production of this 2024 edition.

Outstanding Judgements

The problem of delayed judgments, principally in the civil divisions, continues to plague us. Whilst considerable progress has been made to achieve the standard now established by Court of Appeal authorities, much road remains to be travelled to arrest the backlogs in several courts. Those judges have either been taken out of court or have not been assigned any new matters. Judges are generally trying to achieve this benchmark but challenges remain. Arresting this problem continues to receive my full attention and I hope to report at my next address that this issue has been fully taken in hand.

Commercial Court

The establishment of a commercial court also continues to receive some attention. The Attorney General and I have identified a location in the vicinity of the site of the New Supreme Court Complex which is proposed to house the facility. It is expected that the discussions and development of this project will continue in this legal year.

On December 19th 2023 I issued a practice direction on Cross Border Insolvency. This practice direction approved the use of the Judicial Insolvency Network (JIN) Guidelines for Communication and Cooperation between courts border insolvency matters. in cross Guidelines have been adopted by a number of other courts in financial services jurisdictions. The Practice Direction will offer insolvency practitioners and the Court with an additional tool efficient conduct of cross-border for the insolvency and restructuring proceedings and a framework for communication and cooperation between courts in different jurisdictions, within the confines of applicable law.

The Family Court

During my last address I announced that the Executive has allocated a site for the

development of a Family Court in New Providence. Considerable progress was made in 2023 towards the build out of a state of the art modern Family Court Complex. The Family Court Complex, when completed, will house the Magistrate's Family and Domestic Courts as well as the Family Division of the Supreme Court. The complex will accommodate three Magistrates and three Supreme Court Judges inclusive of registries and adequate support staff complements. The complex will also be equipped with the attendant wrap around services such as social services, the police, mediation facilities, facilities for supervised visitations and for daycare services for court users. The judiciary is grateful to the executive for the considerable infrastructural investment in this complex.

The time estimates for the Magistrates Court section of the family Court is the end of the first quarter of 2024 whilst the hope is to complete the Supreme Court elements at the end of the second quarter.

I repeat the observations made in my address last year, that to meaningfully develop the family court a holistic approach must be undertaken, as a proper family Court is more than just adequate and appropriately appointed building spaces. We need a reformed legislative framework to be put in place to achieve this goal.

Increased remuneration of Magistrates and Registrars

I am happy to report that the proposal foreshadowed in my last report, to enhance the remuneration of Registrars and Magistrates not only received the favorable consideration of the government but has already been put into effect. The judicial officers received increases and back pay in December 2023. The adjustments, the first meaningful increase in well over a decade, were long overdue. In addition to the salary increases, a contributory medical insurance plan has now been made available by the Government

to all Registrars and Magistrates. I am advised that the Commission required under the Judges Remuneration and Pensions Act has been appointed and is being chaired by Retired Sr Justice Estelle Gray Evans.

Magistrates Courts

Quite a bit of promotions took place in the Magistracy during 2023. Magistrates Laquay Laing, Sandra Dee Gardiner and Shaka Serville were promoted to Senior Magistrates. Senior Magistrates Ancella Evans, Carolyn Evans and Kara Deveaux were promoted to Assistant Chief Magistrates. We congratulate them all on their promotions. In July, Attorney Roberto Reckley agreed to assist as Acting Chief Magistrate whist the substantive office holder acts in the Supreme Court. Acting Chief Magistrate Reckley is doing a remarkable job in this role and we express our thanks to him. In 2023 the Magistracy also welcomed Attorneys Raquel Whyms and Lennox Coleby as Acting Magistrates. We thank them both for agreeing to serve.

Firearms Court

During 2023, a dedicated Firearms court was established. This development was a result of consultations and discussions with the Commissioner of Police, the Minister of National Security and the Judiciary. Acting Magistrate Lennox Coleby presently presides in this new court, which is already having a positive impact on the disposition of firearms matters. It is the intent, when space become available, to establish a 2nd firearms court during the course of the year.

Magistrates Civil Claims Court

During 2023, the civil jurisdiction of the Magistrates Court was increased four-fold from

\$5,000 to \$20,000. This is a significant and welcomed change, as it means that matters valued at \$20,000 or slightly higher can be

diverted from the Supreme Court and heard in a quicker, less expensive and less formal environment. This can only augur well for the access to justice for our citizens.

In order to accommodate the expected increase in the demand at the Magistrate Court level, it is intended to establish, for the first time, 2 dedicated civil day courts. Vice President of the Industrial Tribunal Ms. Ingrid Brooks has agreed to a secondment to the Magistrates Court, as Deputy Chief Magistrate, to establish the first of these 2 Courts. Her secondment takes effect on 15 January 2024. It is expected that the second of these Courts will be established towards the end of the first quarter, when the court room space becomes available in the Magistrates Court Complex. With this development it is anticipated that the Magistrates who currently hear one day of civil matters in their calendars will yield this time to the dedicated Civil Court. This will make way for the hearing of more criminal matters in their schedule. There is currently one fulltime night court dedicated to civil matters. We will monitor the demand, and should the need arise, as I suspect it will, an additional civil night court may be added.

The Eight Mile Rock Magistrates Court

The Eight Mile Rock Magistrates Court was officially opened on 13 November 2023 when the Obediah H. Wilchombe Complex was officially named and opened. We only await the final delivery of some necessary furniture, to be in a position to complete the relocation of the Court back to Eight Mile Rock. We look forward to the Court being fully functioning very shortly.

Coroners Court

We are happy to report that during 2023 the Coroner's Court has return to full operation after a considerable period of inactivity due to a variety of reasons. Since then, Acting Coroner Deveaux has concluded a considerable number of inquests during the course of the year, particularly those concerning police involved deaths.

Lay Magistrates

On 1st January of this year, Family Island Administrators began receiving criminal and family cases in their jurisdictions as Magistrates once again. You would recall that in 2018 a decision had been taken to rely only on the Circuit Magistrate to hear matters in the family Islands. Prior to that time the Administrator heard a range of matters and provided much needed support to the judicial system. Much has happened in that time, most notably the Covid-19 pandemic. The pandemic, and the temporary limitations on travel, demonstrated the inefficiencies in that model. It was determined that there is a need to return certain matters to Administrator for hearing. People should not have to wait long periods in Family Island communities to have to answer to a case of disorderly conduct, or for a simple traffic matter, to have someone bound over to keep the peace, or to apply for child support.

In preparation for this return to duty an intensive two-day training session was held for all administrators in New Providence by the Judicial Training Institute. Additionally, each Administrator has been paired with a Magistrate and has sat with them as observers during circuit visits in 2023. The Stipendiary and Circuit Magistrate will still conduct circuits, hopefully much less frequently and certainly with more productive sessions, focusing only on those matters which will not be assigned to Administrators.

Judicial Education

We undertook a deliberate effort to reform the Judicial Training Institute during 2023. The reformed structure replaced the Chairman with two Vice Presidents, each with specific responsibilities for Operations and

Programming. The Vice President (Operations) is Justice Camille Darville-Gomez whilst the Vice President (Programming) is Justice Carla Card-Stubbs. The other members of the Board are now Justice of Appeal Bernard Turner, Justice Denise Johnson, Justice Andrew Forbes, Registrar Constance Delancy, Assistant Chief Magistrate Ancella Evans and Nicoya Neilly. In order to inform the process of reforming the Institute we engaged the professional services of Ms. Yvette Bethel of Organizational Soul to facilitate the development of a strategic plan to chart its course for the next three years. The development of the plan secured the input of all stakeholders of the Institute. The Strategic Plan was completed in December 2023 and will be shared with all relevant stakeholders. 4

Notwithstanding the reform process, the Institute conducted or facilitated several key training initiatives during the course of the year. The annual January conference for all judicial officers was held at the Paul Farguharson Conference Center. In February 2023, Justice Kokoram of the Court of Appeal of Trinidad & Tobago was brought in to provide additional training opportunities for the judicial officers and attorneys on the CPR. Training on the Case Management System and Electronic Filing took place during the course of October, November and December of 2023 for judicial officers and members of the Bar. In November the Institute conducted the 2 day training seminar for all Family Island Administrators.

Judicial officers were afforded the opportunity to attend several training programs and conference overseas. These included:

- a) Conference of the International Association of Women Judges, Marrakech Morocco
- b) Commonwealth Judicial Education Institute, Intensive Study Course for Judicial Educators in Halifax, Canada
- c) The Commonwealth Magistrates and Judges Association Annual Conference, Cardiff Wales

- d) UWI, Caribbean Commercial Law Workshop, Miami Florida
- e) OECS Bar Association Annual Law Conference, Miami Florida
- f) CCJ Law Academy Conference on Criminal Justice Reform, Bridgetown Barbados
- g) National Association of Women Judges, Annual Conference, Indiana USA.
- h) International Association for Court Administrators Conference, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- i) National Association of State Judicial Educators (NASJE) Conference, Columbus Ohio
- j) Justice Digitization Seminar, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

A number of the overseas training was undertaken at the expense and support of the US Embassy here in Nassau. Without that support our attendance and participation in these valuable training opportunities would not have been possible, considering our budgetary constraints. I again wish to publically express the thanks and gratitude to Charge d'Affaires, Mrs. Usha Pitts and her team on behalf of the judiciary for the continued assistance of the US Embassy in these initiatives which only deepen an already strong partnership.

As Chief Justice, I attended the annual Conference of Caribbean Heads of Judiciaries, in Port of Spain Trinidad. The Head of Judiciaries Conference was attended by nine other heads of judiciaries from across the Caribbean. The theme of the conference was "Moving beyond the Familiar: Creating a Judiciary for the Modern World". It provided an important forum for the Heads of Judiciaries to consult and collaborate towards the improvement of access to justice for citizens of the Region. The conference focused on issues of Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity, Judicial Independence, support for pro se litigants and collaboration on judicial education.

Court Technology

The year 2023 saw considerable strides being made in advancing the use of technology in the work of the Judiciary. We were able to complete the digitization of a considerable portion of the New Providence Courts files. We have now engaged Record Archive Management, a Freeport based company, to complete the digitization of court records for the northern region.

The Caribbean Agency for Justice Solutions (CAJS), has digested the digital records into the court's new Integrated Case Management System (ICMS) which is now fully operational and is in the final stages of being launched in the Supreme Court. The Electronic Case Management Rules, which was passed in September 2023, provide for the court to implement electronic filing of court documents remotely and directly onto the ICMS platform. The platform too, is in the final stages of implementation following the training of judges, judicial staff and attorneys at the end of the year. The go-live date for the system is scheduled for February 5, 2024 and the Electronic Case Management Rules is expected to be brought into force on that date. The software is expected 5

to have a transformative effect on our judicial system and the way records are kept and viewed. The Judiciary, is committed to ensure that there will be access to justice for all our citizens regardless of their means. In this vein we will ensure that our advancements in technology will be available for all. Kiosks and self-help counters are being made available to permit pro se litigants, and lesser established attorneys to also share in the benefits of the advancement in technology.

In April 2023 we relaunched the Digital Court Reporting Systems throughout the judiciary. The systems are now available in all courts including the civil courts. We now have access to the speech to text feature which will permit the audio recording to be converted to text immediately following the proceedings. In December the last of the civil courts were outfitted with the equipment to support the Digital Court Reporting. We therefore expect that the delays presently being experienced in receiving transcripts will now be a thing of the past.

It is doubtful if much of this would be possible without the support of our friends and partners at the United States Embassy in Nassau through INL's Caribbean Anti- Crime Program which is being implemented by the National Center for State Courts (NCSC). The partnership and support involved not only the technical support, in the outfitting of many of our Courts with the recording systems, but it also involved the provision of expert advice and a significant training component. I again unreservedly express our thanks and appreciation on behalf of a grateful judiciary.

Court Services Department

This year we took deliberate steps to build out a Court Services Department under the able leadership of Deputy Registrar Renaldo Toote as the Acting Director of Court Services. The Court Services Department has separate premises located at Charlotte House. Three new units have been established under the management of the Court Services Department during 2023. These are Court Security, the Transcription Unit to support digital court reporting and the Digitization Unit to support the ongoing need to scan court documents.

The Court Security Department is led by Director Stephen Seymour and Deputy Director Sterling Charlton. All Court marshals and security personnel now report into this Department. The work of this new unit is already having a positive impact on the overall security and efficiency of the judiciary in so many ways. The result is an enhanced focus on the security of our staff,

stakeholders and property. I welcome both the Director and the Deputy to the Judiciary and look forward to their continued positive impact on the development of the Judiciary.

In addition to the day to day administration of the operations of the Court, the Court Administration Department was involved in the oversight of many projects during the course of the year. The major projects included:

- Considerable renovations at the Magistrate Court Complex in Nassau Street;
- Repairs and/or installation of Digital Court Reporting Systems in all Courts; and
- 3) The Complete renovation of the Main Supreme Court building. Work to renovate Annex I, the former Ansbacher building, began at the end of December and is moving at an acceptable pace.

The Judicial Plant

The Honourable Attorney General has spoken to the developments relative to the proposed Supreme Court Complex. This is another huge and transformational development. Whilst we are extremely grateful for the considerable investment being made to outfit the Judiciary's existing facilities, the current Courts campus remains illsuited to take The Bahamas into another 50 years of development. We need a modern court facility outfitted with the adequate technology and facilities to support the staff which are now required for the Judiciary. Our physical plant has not kept pace with the growth of the bench, the increased size of the bar, the workload of the court and security threats which were not envisioned when these buildings were first commissioned. When these courts were designed the technology considered necessary for Court to function was probably limited to the telephone. Today, the presence of stenographers and transcribers, judicial research counsel, IT personnel, court administration staff, court security and judicial education personnel are all now common place and necessary in modern courts.

A modern courtroom today looks completely different from the traditional, austere facilities that we are accustomed. A modern Court complex will centralized services and permit greater and more efficient use of resources and harness the benefits of technology.

The Court Services Act

The Attorney General has also spoken to the Court Services Act, which successive Chief Justices had been promoting for some time now. The Act is progressive and a first for this region. The independence of our judges, in their courtrooms has never been questioned. The Act gives the judiciary control over its budget and represents a significant step forward in achieving the constitutional ideal of administrative independence for the judiciary. When brought into force, the Act will require a complete build out of new systems and processes to support the new independent Court Council and Administration for the Courts. These are indeed exciting times for the judiciary and will require our collective efforts to make it successful and to achieve the intended objectives of the legislation.

Annual Report

I commend to you the 2022 Annual Report which covers the work of the Courts during the past year. It also contains important information and statistics about the work and operations of the Courts. It will be available in a digital format on the Courts Website and in hard copy. I wish to formally register my thanks and appreciation to the team responsible for preparing the Annual Report. I should also extend my thanks to the Registrar and Director Toote and their teams including the staff in my chambers for the enormous work done in bringing off today's proceedings.

Conclusion

As I conclude I will pause to express my gratitude and thanks to the Minister of Finance and to the stakeholders and property. I welcome both the Director and the Deputy to the Judiciary and look forward to their continued positive impact on the development of t Financial Secretary Mr. Simon Wilson for the provisioning of significant needed capital expenditure for the judiciary during the course of the year and for securing the change in the aged fleet of vehicles for the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court.

I wish to thank the President of the Bar, Mr. Khalil Parker KC and his hard working Bar Council for partnering with us during the course of 2023. I look forward to continuing our partnership in 2024. Last year required significant engagement between us, across a range of areas of mutual interest, from rules reform to legal education, from court security to access to Bank Lane. As an ex officio member of the new Court Council I look forward to the President's valuable contribution in moving the judiciary forward.

I wish to thank the Hon. Attorney General, the leader of the Bar, and his team at OAG, in particular the Permanent Secretary Mrs. Anya Symonette, for their unwavering support for the judiciary. Since appointment I have found the Hon. Attorney-General to be extremely supportive of all of our initiatives and projects. His ideas are progressive and his desire for the advancement of the judiciary and the justice system undeniable. The results of his support, and efforts are self-evident in what has been achieved in 2023. We look forward to working with him in 2024 to achieve our shared goals of enhancing the administration of justice.

I remain privileged 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. I again publically express my thanks for all that they do to ensure the constitutional mandate of an independent, impartial and fearless judiciary. Finally, I give special thanks to the senior management team of the judiciary comprising of Senior Justices Fraser and Grant-Thompson,

Registrar Delancy, Deputy Registrars Saunders and Blatch, Acting Director of Court Services Toote, Acting Chief Magistrate Reckley, Magistrate Court Administrator Grant, HR Manager Annamae Neely and Financial Officer Claudia Hall.

With these few words then, I declare the 2024 Legal Year Officially Open.

> Sir Ian Winder Chief Justice





BUDGET & REVENUE





BUDGET & REVENUE

- 8.1 OFFICE OF THE JUDICARY REVENUE REPORT
- 8.2 BUDGET JUDICIARY AND COURT OF APPEAL COURT SERVICES COUNCIL

OFFICE OF THE JUDICARY REVENUE REPORT 1 November 2023 to 31 October 2024

TRASCRIPT OF COURT PROCEDINGS

008-0100-0099-011-1422501-15 - New Providence 008-0100-0099-201-1422501-15 - Freeport

_	New Providence	Freeport	Abaco	Total
Nov_23	940,00	10,00		950,00
Dec-23	2.501,50	151,00		2.652,50
Jan-24	565,05	186,50		751,55
Feb-24	1.042,00	318,00		1.360,00
Mar-24	881,50	728,50		1.610,00
Apr-24	425,50	115,00		540,50
May-24	250,00			250,00
Jun-24	125,00			125,00
Jul-24	4.525,00	7,50		4.532,50
Aug-24	54.035,00	5,00		54.040,00
Sep-24	3.492,00			3.492,00
Oct-24	4.612,00	16,00		4.628,00
Total	73.394,55	1.537,50		74.932,05

JUDICIAL FEES AND SERVICE CHARGES

008-0100-0099-011-1422503-15 - New Providence 008-0100-0099-201-1422503-15 - Freeport

_	New Providence	Freeport	Abaco	Total
Nov_23	73.885,30	12.748,80		86.634,10
Dec-23	201.649,00	7.804,15		209.453,15
Jan-24	75.345,75	9.656,85		85.002,60
Feb-24	71.635,00	3.365,65		75.000,65
Mar-24	99.137,30	15.535,30		114.672,60
Apr-24	117.577,20	5.954,65		123.531,85
May-24	105.974,35	105,00		106.079,35
Jun-24	87.074,65		4.125,00	87.074,65
Jul-24	81.424,50	3.607,50	220,00	85.032,00
Aug-24	57.256,50	3.876,50	80,00	61.133,00
Sep-24	54.723,00	3.929,50		58.652,50
Oct-24	65.245,50	3.886,50	810,00	69.132,00
Total	1.090.928,05	70.470,40	5.235,00	1.161.398,45

JUDICIAL FINES AND FORFEITURES

008-0100-0099-011-1430001-15 - New Providence 008-0100-0099-201-1430001-15 - Freeport

_	New Providence	Freeport	Abaco	Total
Nov_23	428.842,85	53.070,00	30.200,00	481.912,85
Dec-23	132.701,65	34.145,00	16.109,00	166.846,65
Jan-24	447.453,20	50.481,00		497.934,20
Feb-24	448.927,00	47.180,00	6.815,00	496.107,00

JUDICIAL FINES AND FORFEITURES

008-0100-0099-011-1430001-15 - New Providence 008-0100-0099-201-1430001-15 - Freeport

_	New Providence	Freeport	Abaco	Total
Mar-24	467.712,00	78.351,00	20.200,00	546.063,00
Apr-24	487.700,10	30.650,35	5.050,00	518.350,45
May-24	449.069,50	1.720,00	1.850,00	450.789,50
Jun-24	442.749,48		40.456,00	442.749,48
Jul-24	361.997,00	72.945,00		434.942,00
Aug-24	446.790,00	49.485,00		496.275,00
Sep-24	411.534,00	57.000,00		468.534,00
Oct-24	411.929,95	57.310,00		469.239,95
Total	4.937.406,73	532.337,35	120.680,00	5.469.744,08

REVENUE COLLECTED DECEMBER 2023- OCTOBER 2024

Month	Total Collected
December 2023	\$ 4,954.00
January 2024	\$ 7,800.00
February 2024	\$ 16,350.00
March 2024	\$ 8,650.00
April 2024	\$ 19,771.00
May 2024	\$ 16,565.00
June 2024	\$ 12,345.00
July 2024	\$ 9,060.00
August 2024	\$ 10,390.00
September 2024	\$ 20,970.00
October 2024	\$ 16,650.00
Overall Total:	\$143,505.00

BUDGET JUDICIARY AND COURT OF APPEAL - COURT SERVICES COUNCIL

2024-2025

DESCRIPTION		2024/2025 ALLOCATION			
PERSONAL & EMOLUMENTS					
Salary Permanent/ Pensionable (JUDI)	US\$	8.616.835,00			
Salary Contract Workers (JUDI)	US\$	3.006.250,00			
Salary Permanent/ Pensionable (COAP)	US\$	1.621.596,00			
Salary Contract Workers (COAP)	US\$	164.250,00			
Total:	US\$	13.408.931,00			
Honoraria (JUDI)	US\$	16.800,00			
Honoraria (COAP)	US\$	4.600,00			
Overtime Monthly Employees (General) (JUDI)	US\$	10.000,00			
Housing Allowance (JUDI)	US\$	1.163.000,00			
Housing Allowance (COAP)	US\$	154.309,00			
Scarcity Allowance (JUDI)	US\$	510.025,00			
Scarcity Allowance (COAP)	US\$	42.000,00			
Education Allowance (JUDI)	US\$	100.000,00			
Education Allowance (COAP)	US\$	10.000,00			
Technical Allowance (JUDI)	US\$	3.300,00			
Transport & Mileage Allowance (JUDI)	US\$	147.110,00			

DESCRIPTION		2024/2025 ALLOCATION
Transport & Mileage Allowance (COAP)	US\$	3.600,00
Responsibility Allowance (JUDI)	US\$	393.680,00
Responsibility Allowance (COAP)	US\$	106.481,00
Acting Allowance (JUDI)	US\$	20.000,00
Acting Allowance (COAP)	US\$	20.000,00
Official Entertainment Allowance (JUDI)	US\$	10.000,00
Official Entertainment Allowance (COAP)	US\$	10.000,00
Other Allowances (JUDI)	US\$	46.000,00
Other Allowances (COAP)	US\$	66.261,00
Total:	US\$	2.887.166,00
Total:	US\$	16.296.097,00

OTHER CHARGES

BLOCK 221 - TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE

Air & Other Transport -Domestic (General Admin)	US\$	10.000
Air & Other Transport - Domestic (Freeport)	US\$	5.000
Air & Other Transport - Domestic (Abaco)	US\$	3.000
Air & Other Transport (Domestic)	US\$	1.670
Sub-total	US\$	19.670
Mileage In The Bahamas	US\$	5.000
Subsistence - Domestic (General Administration)	US\$	10.000
Subsistence - Domestic (Freeport)	US\$	5.000
Subsistence - Domestic (Abaco)	US\$	3.000
Subsistence (Domestic) (COAP)	US\$	1.000
Sub-total	US\$	24.000

DESCRIPTION		2024/2025 ALLOCATION
Air & Other Transport (International)	US\$	10.000
Subsistence (International)	US\$	5.000
Sub-total	US\$	24.000
Grand Total for Travel and Subsistence	US\$	58.670
BLOCK 224 SUPPLIES & MATERIALS		
Office Supplies & Stationery (General Admin)	US\$	2.000
Office Supplies & Stationery (Freeport)	US\$	-0
Office Supplies & Stationery (Abaco)	US\$	-0
Office Supplies & Stationery (COAP)	US\$	3.000
Sub-total	US\$	19.670
Food, Ice & Drinking Water (General Admin)	US\$	7.000
Food, Ice & Drinking Water (Freeport)	US\$	1.000
Food, Ice & Drinking Water (Abaco)	US\$	-0
Food, Ice & Drinking Water (COAP)	US\$	2.500
Sub-total	US\$	10.500
Publications (General Administration)	US\$	5.120
Publications (Freeport)	US\$	4.320
Publications (COAP)	US\$	3.200
Sub-total	US\$	12.640
Cleaning & Toilet Supplies (General Admin)	US\$	20.000
Cleaning & Toilet Supplies (Freeport)	US\$	-0
Cleaning & Toilet Supplies (Abaco)	US\$	-0
Cleaning & Toilet Supplies (COAP)	US\$	4.000

US\$

Sub-total

24.000

DESCRIPTION		2024/2025 ALLOCATION
Computer Software Supplies & Mat (General Admin).	US\$	8.000
Computer Software Supplies & Mat (Freeport)	US\$	6.000
Computer Software Supples & Mat. (Abaco)	US\$	-0
Computer Software Supplies & Materials (COAP)	US\$	4.000
Sub-total	US\$	18.000
Clothing & Clothing Supplies (General Admin)	US\$	10.000
Clothing & Clothing Supplies (Freeport)	US\$	7000
Clothing & Clothing Supplies (COAP)	US\$	3.000
Sub-total	US\$	20.000
Other Supplies & Materials (General Admin)	US\$	6.880
Other Supplies & Materials (Freeport)	US\$	8.000
Other Supplies & Materials (Abaco)	US\$	-0
Other Supplies & Materials (COAP)	US\$	6.700
Sub-total Sub-total	US\$	21.580
Grand Total for Supplies & Materials	US\$	111.720
BLOCK 225-SERVICES		
Workshops, Conf., Sem, Meetings & Exh (Gen. Adm.)	US\$	8.000
Workshops, Conf., Sem, Meetings & Exh (Freeport)	US\$	6.400
Workshops, Conf, Sem, Meetings & Exh. (COAP)	US\$	1.000
Sub-total	US\$	15.400
Tuition, Training & In-Service Awards (Gen. Admin)	US\$	8.000
Tuition, Training & In-Service Awards (Freeport)	US\$	10.000
Tuition, Training, In-Service Awards, Sub. (COAP)	US\$	10.000
Sub-total	US\$	28.000

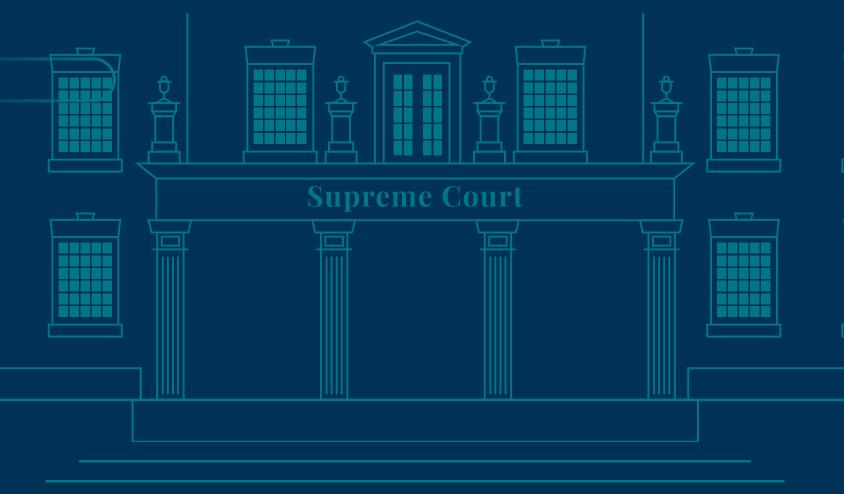
DESCRIPTION		2024/2025 ALLOCATION
Postal Service (COAP)	US\$	100
Consultancy Services (COAP)	US\$	60.000
Fees & Other Services (General Admin)	US\$	19.861
Fees & Other Services (Freeport)	US\$	20.000
Fees & Other Services (Abaco)	US\$	3.000
Fees and Other Charges (COAP)	US\$	27.330
Sub-total	US\$	130.291
Staff Events (General Administration)	US\$	5.00
Staff Events (Freeport)	US\$	2.500
Staff Events (COAP)	US\$	7.500
Sub-total	US\$	15.000
Local Transportation of Goods	US\$	200
Freight & Express (General Admin)	US\$	3.000
Freight & Express (Freeport)	US\$	1.600
Freight & Express (Abaco)	US\$	-0
Freight & Express	US\$	1.000
Sub-total	US\$	5.800
Maintenance and Support (COAP)	US\$	10.000
Building Maintenance (General Admin)	US\$	10.000
Building Maintenance (Freeport)	US\$	12.000
Building Maintenance (COAP)	US\$	-O
Emergency Maintenance COAP)	US\$	-0
Fumigation and Pest Control (COAP)	US\$	2.000
Sub-total	US\$	34.000

DESCRIPTION		2024/2025 ALLOCATION
Maint. Of Office Furniture (General Admin.)	US\$	-0
Maint. Of Office Furniture (Freeport.)	US\$	-0
Sub-total	US\$	-0
Operation of Facilities or Other Ser Cont. (Gen.Adm.)	US\$	651.196
Operation of Facilities or Other Ser Cont. (Freeport)	US\$	78.000
Operation of Facilities or Other Service Cont. (Abaco)	US\$	-0
Operations of Facilities or Other Serv. (COAP)	US\$	64.853
Sub-total	US\$	794.049
SPECIAL PROJECTS		
Special Projects - Office of The Chief Justice	US\$	1.000.000
Grand Total for Services	US\$	2.022.540
BLOCK 226 - MINOR CAPITAL REPAIRS	1	
Transportation Equipment - Upk (General Admin.)	US\$	20.000
Transportation Equipment - Upkeep (Freeport)	US\$	3.200
Transportation Equipment - Upkeep (Abaco)	US\$	4.000
Transportation Equipment Upkeep (COAP)	US\$	10.000
Grand Total for Minor Capital Repairs	US\$	37.200

BLOCK 227 - OPERATIONAL EXPENSES		
Operational Expenses - Magistrate Courts	US\$	450.000
Operational Expenses - Magistrate Courts (Freeport)	US\$	-O
Grand Total for Operational Expenses	US\$	450.000

BLOCK 228 - SPECIAL FINANCIAL TRANSACTION		
Judicial Service Commission	US\$	1.500
Grand Total for Special Financial Transaction	US\$	1.500

DESCRIPTION		2024/2025 ALLOCATION
BLOCK 272-SOCIAL BENEFITS		
Legal Consultation Meetings - Legal Aid (General Admin.)	US\$	103.756
Legal Consultation Meetings - Legal Aid (Freeport)	US\$	30.000
Legal Aid (COAP)	US\$	16.000
Sub-total	US\$	149.756
Victim Care Fund - Jury (Gen. Admin)	US\$	100.000
Victim Care Fund - Jury (Freeport)	US\$	30.000
Sub-total	US\$	130.000
Grand Total for Benefits	US\$	279.756
GRAND TOTAL FOR OTHER CHARGES	US\$	2.961.386
	US\$	19.257.483,00







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