



LAW ASSOCIATION OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Report on

The Activities of the Law Association

**(Pursuant to section 21 (1)(a) of
the First Schedule Part A of the Legal Profession Act)**

Presented at the Annual General Meeting
23rd March 2018

Convocation Hall
Hall of Justice, Knox Street, Port of Spain

Elena Araujo
Secretary

March 23, 2018

REPORT OF THE 30TH COUNCIL OF THE LAW ASSOCIATION OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

MAY 2016 TO MARCH 2017

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1. INTRODUCTION

The members of the 30th Council of the Law Association of Trinidad and Tobago (“LATT”) were elected at a General Meeting held on 17 March 2016. The 31st Council officially took office when their appointment was published in the *Trinidad and Tobago Gazette* on 6 April 2017. At its first statutory meeting the Secretary was appointed.

1.1 Composition

The outgoing members of the Council are:

Officers:

Mr. Douglas Mendes	DLM	President
Mr. Rajiv Persad	RP	Vice President
Ms. Theresa Hadad	TH	Treasurer
Ms. Elena Araujo	EA	Secretary

<i>Senior Ordinary Members:</i>		<i>Junior Ordinary Members:</i>	
Mr. Darrell Allahar	DA	Mr. Shankar Bidaisee	SB
Mr. Ronnie Bissessar	RB	Mr. Trevor Clarke	TC
Ms. Reeyah Chattergoon	RC	Mr. Christopher Foderingham-Garraway	CFG
Mr. Frederick Gilkes	FG	Ms. Kimberleigh Peterson	KP
Mrs. Hyacinth Griffith	HG	Ms. Marissa Ciara Ramsoondar	MR
Mr. Elton Prescott SC	EP		
Mr. Andrew Rahaman	AR	Mr. Reginald Armour (Immediate past president)	RTAA
Mrs. Lynette Seebaran-Suite	LSS		
Mr. Richard Sirjoo	RJ		

1.2 Meetings and Attendances

Eleven (11) monthly statutory meetings of the Council were convened. The attendance records of members of Council were as follows:

DLM	10
RP	7
TH	11
EA	11
DA	4
RB	7
RC	7

FG	8
HG	6
EP	10
AR	10
LSS	9
RS	11

SB	11
TC	10
CFG	6
KP	11
MR	10
RTAA	2

Additionally, the Council and its committees held several meetings throughout the year to attend to the work of the Council and to consider issues as they arose. The activities of the Committees are reported on below.

Secretariat Staff

The staff of the Secretariat of LATT comprises:

Ms. Alyson M. Myers	Executive Officer
Mr. Eric Outridge	Information Technology Advisor
Mr. Fajr Alimayu	Compliance Officer/Clerk
Ms. Wendy-Ann Byng	Receptionist
Ms. Indira Ganesh	Office Assistant
Ms. Anais Hinds	Intern
Ms. Cherisse Beard	Intern

1.3 Membership

In the period May 2017 to March 2018, 254 attorneys were admitted to practice law in Trinidad and Tobago. For the period October 2017 to March 2018 2,266 attorneys were issued practicing certificates for the 2017/2018 term, 2113 regular members and 152 legal officers. There were 5 “special case” admissions of senior attorneys under s. 15A of the Legal Profession Act (“LPA”).

2. OVERVIEW from the President

The past year was an eventful and challenging one for the 31st Council of the Law Association.

The year began with a review of the 30th Council’s decision to charge and pay VAT on member subscriptions. A requisition for a Special General Meeting (“SGM”) sought the reversal of the decision and the resignation or withdrawal from nomination of persons involved in making the decision. Although the requisition was received during the life of the 30th Council, it was the first order of the day for the 31st Council as the SGM was held on the 11 April 2017, a week after the new Council was installed.

The SGM failed to attract a quorum of fifty members and as such, no official business could be transacted and as such the resolutions failed. Nevertheless, the members present were invited to and expressed their views on the issue.

At its meeting on 25 April 2017, the 31st Council agreed that having regard to the concerns expressed at the aborted SGM and to differing views among the members of the 31st Council, there was sufficient ground to consider an application to the Court for an interpretation of the VAT Act as it applies to member subscriptions. In July 2017, a brief was sent to Mr. Alvin Fitzpatrick SC, leading Mr. Kerwyn Garcia and Mr. Anil Maraj to advise and to draft the interpretation action. In the months following, the legal team has been reviewing the brief together with additional information located by the

Treasurer which shed light on the previous de-registration of LATT. The proceedings have been drafted and it is intended that they will be filed after a review by the Council.

In the meantime, the LATT implemented a system for the collection of VAT from members including the issuing of VAT invoices and receipts.

Barely two weeks later, we were confronted with the appointment of Chief Magistrate Marcia Ayers-Caesar to the High Court, even while she left behind more than 50 part-heard matters. This resulted in great consternation among members of the profession and the public, not to mention disquiet among those persons charged with offences who faced the prospect of their trials or preliminary enquiries being commenced de novo.

The Chief Magistrate took the brave step of resigning her position as a High Court judge, intending to resume her duties as Chief Magistrate, it appeared, but that never materialised.

The initial response by the Attorney General was to propose a Bill to be laid in Parliament to pave the way for the orderly transfer of the Chief Magistrate's part-heard matters to other Magistrates. After wide consultation with the membership, the Council of the Law Association submitted detailed and copious comments on the Bill, only to find that its efforts were in vain when the Government decided to change tack. Instead, a last-minute decision was taken to shelve its legislative plans and to launch legal proceedings to obtain guidance from the High Court on the way forward. Those proceedings are still pending, being for the time being mired in preliminary applications. The Law Association was served with the proceedings is represented by the President and the Treasurer, Ms. Theresa Hadad.

In the meantime, the part-heard matters have been variously assigned to other Magistrates and are proceeding through their normal course.

In the meantime, as well, the former Chief Magistrate launched proceedings alleging that her resignation actually amounted to a constructive termination in breach of the protection afforded to a High Court judge under the Constitution.

The Council of the Law Association responded to these events by issuing two statements, one expressing concern that a judge was appointed to the High Court leaving behind part-heard matters. We thought it "unfair that anyone should suffer the expense and anxiety of an avoidable, repeat trial." Then, upon the resignation of Madam Justice Ayers-Caesar, we applauded her courageous decision "to resign her post and thereby make herself available to attend to the matters which it was her responsibility to complete." We also expressed "concern that there appeared not to have been an established mechanism which would ensure that before elevation, a magistrate would complete all part-heard matters which could not properly be passed on to another magistrate." We urged the Judicial and Legal Service Commission to take immediate steps to remedy this "serious flaw in the system."

The Council also resolved to appoint a Committee to examine the system and practice of appointments to the High Court and the Court of Appeal and to make appropriate recommendations. That Committee is headed by former judge of the Caribbean Court of Justice, Madam Justice Desire Barnard. The Committee is in the process of finalising its report, having conducted a series of public

consultations across Trinidad and Tobago, meeting with various individuals, and receiving writing submissions. A summary of the Committee's activities is included below. We expect to receive that report soon and the task falls to the 32nd Council to further the process, hopefully leading to the implementation of some if not all its recommendations as the membership sees fit.

In the meantime as well, 62 members of the Association duly requisitioned a special general meeting of the Association to examine the Judicial and Legal Service Commission's handling of the appointment and resignation of Justice Ayers-Caesar, to express the Association's lack of confidence in the Chief Justice and members of the JLSC, and to call for their resignations. At a well-attended meeting and after vigorous debate, the motions were all passed by substantial majorities. The President of the Association duly informed the Honourable Chief Justice and the members of the Commission of the membership's decision.

In the latter part of the year, more profound challenges were to confront the Association when a series of articles were published in the Trinidad Express newspapers levelling allegations against the Honourable Chief Justice. The Council of the Law Association initially called upon the Chief Justice to respond to those allegations which we thought called out for some explanation and we were later compelled to declare the Chief Justice's silence in the face of a cavalcade of allegations and public expressions of outrage and concern, to be reckless.

The Council took the decision to establish a Committee to seek to ascertain/substantiate the facts upon which the newspaper articles were based. The President and senior ordinary member Mr. Elton Prescott S.C. met the Honourable Chief Justice to express the Council's concern about his continued silence and to inform him about the appointment of the Committee. Suffice it to say that after the Committee provided the Honourable Chief Justice with a list of matters in respect of which his response was invited, legal proceedings were commenced which resulted in a declaration by Her Ladyship Madam Justice Nadia Kangaloo that the Law Association had no power to investigate the allegations made against the Chief Justice. That decision is now under appeal and an expedited appeal is to be heard on April 10th 2018. The Special General Meeting which had been called for 15th April 2018 to consider the Committee's report and advice received by external Queen Counsel was accordingly cancelled.

It goes without saying that the relationship between the Association and the Honourable Chief Justice is at an all time low.

Over the last few months, the Council's handling of the allegations made against the Chief Justice has, understandably, been the subject of searching criticism, not the least from members of the profession and the inner bar. We have been criticised for molly-coddling the Honourable Chief Justice, on the one hand, and carrying out a witch-hunt, on the other. It may be that those criticisms were as a consequence of the lack of communication with the membership as to the actions which we were taking. For example, it was not until two weeks had gone by that we informed the membership of the meeting which the President and Mr. Prescott had held with the Chief Justice. It was and is of course always the intention of the Council to keep the membership of the Association fully informed of the Council's activities. However, there were times when, in our judgment, it was necessary to time the disclosure of information in order not to jeopardise sensitive initiatives.

The expectations and demands on the Law Association from its members and the public at large have grown exponentially over the past decades. It is now widely considered to be our duty to comment on the various matters impacting on the administration of justice and the rule of law, and in particular to comment on the many pieces of legislation being considered by Parliament as part of the Attorney General's hectic legislative agenda. The 31st Council has gladly embraced these challenges which no doubt have resulted from the respect which the Association has earned over the years from the hard work and inspired leadership of past Councils.

Regrettably, we have been criticised, sometimes unfairly, for our failure to provide our comments on important pieces of legislation or rules. Our response has been to accept the criticism and strive to do better.

For example, although the Council had provided comments on the first incarnation of the Anti-Gang Bill, we were lambasted by the Attorney General and the Leader of the Opposition for not commenting on the latest Bill which was recently passed in the House. And when we did provide our comments this week, the day before the Senate debated the Bill, the Attorney General criticised us for commenting too late, at the same time as he and other members of the Senate appeared to have taken some of our comments on board. Dammed when you don't, and equally damned when you do.

Another example is the Honourable Chief Justice's criticism of the Law Association's failure to comment on the Children's Rules which he said had been submitted to us for comment a year earlier, the suggestion being that we were holding up the launch of the Children's Court. When a wide-ranging Committee was assembled, we discovered draft rules which suffered from numerous grammatical and typographical errors and which obviously had not yet been considered by the Rules Committee. After a number of meetings, we submitted our comments in October 2017. The Rules were eventually promulgated earlier this year.

The fact is, however, that the Council has not been able to respond in a timely fashion to all the requests for comments which have been made of us, although, I hasten to add, significant work has been done by our committees as the reports below demonstrate. But we can and must do more. The problem we face is a lack of capacity.

We are an Association primarily of volunteers. The Council is made up of busy professionals who have taken on responsibilities in various other areas of the work of the Association, in addition to the other volunteer work they carry out in other fields of endeavour. In sum, we are all stretched. We note that the executive officers of other Bar Associations are full-time employees. It may be that in time to come, we may need to go that route.

In the meantime, the 31st Council decided to employ a full-time attorney at law whose primary duty will be to provide research and drafting support to our many committees charged with the responsibility of commenting on the plethora of Bills which have been and are expected to be placed before Parliament. After an exhaustive interview process, we have selected a suitable candidate and are now in the process of finalising contractual arrangements.

3. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

3.1 Continuing Legal Education and Professional Development

Continuing Legal Education and Professional Development (CLPD)

The CLPD Committee of the 31st. Council of the Law Association continued in 2017/2018 to recognize the importance of providing the membership with leading edge, interactive seminars and workshops including joint seminars with external organisations.

In April 2017, incoming Vice President of the Law Association, Rajiv Persad, facilitated two seminars for members on the **New Criminal Procedure Rules**. The sessions entitled “**The New Criminal Procedure Rules: An Introduction**” took place in POS on April 6th, 2017 & San Fernando on April 7, 2017.

Topics covered included: The Thinking and Process behind the creation of the Rules; Why are the Rules necessary? Will these Rules assist in speeding up Criminal trials?; The provisions of the Criminal Procedure Rules; Dealing with Non-compliance and sanctions; and Special issues to be addressed, including what practitioners need to do to be prepared for the Rules

In May, 2017, The Hon. Mr. Justice Ronnie Boodoosingh continued his series of highly informative and interactive seminars on “**Evidence in Civil Cases: A Practical Approach**”. Participants were exposed to a number of relevant areas including, What are facts and evidence; The purpose of evidence; Relevance, weight and admissibility of evidence; Sufficiency of evidence to prove your case; What is hearsay; when is hearsay admissible and when it is not; The advocate’s role regarding evidence; Cross examination dos and don’ts regarding evidence; and Considering better approaches to civil evidence in different cases.

In June, 2017, based on the success of previous sessions and an overwhelming demand for additional presentations, Justice Boodoosingh once again very kindly prepared and presented a third session on “**Evidence in Civil Cases: A Practical Approach**” for the membership of the Law Association. The session was again well received.

In September, 2017 the Law Association collaborated with the **ICT Committee of the Chamber of Commerce** to host an extremely informative session on “**The Impact of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning on the Legal Community**”. Members who attended the Seminar at the Chamber Building in Westmoorings were given insight into how cutting-edge technology could shape the future of the legal profession and contract management.

Mr. Michael Cram, Global Director of Education Services, Seal Software and an industry recognized expert in the Contract Management Technology space was the feature presenter.

The CLPD Committee hosted two seminars in **November 2017**.

Justice Boodoosingh presented his fourth follow up session on **Evidence in Civil Cases: A Practical Approach** on November 1, 2017. As usual, the seminar was very popular amongst practitioners, with 120 members attending.

The second November 2017 Seminar held on the 16th, and tailored specifically for our criminal practitioner members, was on the topic **"Evidence in Criminal Cases"** Facilitated by The Hon. Justice Gillian Lucky, the Session was "sold out" within minutes of being advertised, therefore speaking to the demand within the profession for guidance in the area of criminal evidence.

The more than 100 participants who attended were given information on a cross section of topics including Key Concepts in Evidence- Relevance; Admissibility and Weight; Missteps in the Course of Testimony; Inferences from Evidence; Reversal of Burdens of Proof; Notice of Alibi; Admissibility of Digital Evidence; The Rules of Hearsay; Good and Bad Character; and The Good Advocate.

Justice Lucky, was as usual very spirited and interactive and received extremely positive feedback from her audience.

The Law Association as part of its move to adopting a system of **compulsory Continuing Legal Professional Development (CLPD)** as a requirement of legal practice in Trinidad and Tobago, hosted on **December 7, 2018** a public lecture on the subject. This Lecture was held in conjunction with the **Impact Justice Project** and was facilitated by **Mr. Michael Hylton QC**, immediate Past Chairman of the General Legal Council of Jamaica. Mr. Hylton who has a wealth of experience in the area, spoke to the implementation and operation of the CLPD system in Jamaica and the Caribbean.

The Lecture was followed by a short Reception giving members an opportunity to chat with Mr. Hylton, other members of the Impact Justice Project and members of the Continuing Legal Education Committee of the Law Association.

The **Conveyancing (C4) Committee** of the Law Association were responsible for planning and producing a second Workshop on **"Fraud Relating to Real Estate"** on **Friday 19th January 2018**.

This Seminar was held to raise awareness among our membership, and members of other organisations, including the Bankers Association, the Credit Union League and The Association of Justices of the Peace. Presentations were made on the incidence of suspicious elements in transactions involving real property, ways practitioners could protect themselves from inadvertently becoming involved in fraudulent transactions and what our members should do if they suspected that a fraud was perpetrated or about to be perpetrated with respect to the transfer of properties.

The three-hour Workshop was ably chaired by Barry Sinanan and supported by Ashmead Ali who gave a detailed and well researched feature presentation on Land Fraud. Bijili Lalla was also on point with her practical guidelines for practitioners. Special thanks to the Registrar General, Karen Bridgewater who delivered an extremely useful presentation, with on line live demonstration on strengthening information management at the Registry.

On **Wednesday 24 January 2018** The Law Association's second Seminar for the year was on the topic **"Drafting Witness Statements and Closing Submissions in Civil Cases: Some Practical Tips"**. Mr. Justice Ronnie Boodoosingh, following on his successful series of seminars on

Civil Evidence, facilitated this extremely well received programme. A second seminar on this area is planned for early May 2018.

The CLPD Committee of the Law Association would like to thank all the presenters who volunteered their time in the past year to facilitate our training and development sessions. The fact that registration for all sessions have been “sold out” within minutes and that the Hall of Justice has been filled, is a testament to the quality of the offerings.

3.2 Compliance and Professional Services

The Council received notice of 33 applications made under s. 24 of the Legal Profession Act.

The Compliance and Professional Services (“CAPS”) committee also handled a variety of requests by members and others concerning the practice of law in Trinidad. Among these were a request for permission to set up an office in Trinidad to provide legal services abroad, as well as several inquiries about the qualifications for admission to the Trinidad and Tobago Bar.

3.3 Legislative Review Civil & Criminal

Members: DLM, RP [members co-opted as needed]

The Legislative Review Committee has met on a number of occasions and held discussions on a number of Bills, including the (1) Cyber Crime Bill, (2) Special Zones of Operations Bill, (3) Anti-Terrorism Bill, (4) Anti-Gang Bill (5) Evidence Amendment Bill, (6) The Miscellaneous Provisions Bill dealing with the 53 Part heard matters before former Chief Magistrate Ayers Caesar.

The Amendment to the Sexual Offences Bill has also recently been sent for our consideration.

The work is still ongoing in relation to several of these Bills and we are hopeful that we can send out our views in the not too distant future. The Association is extremely grateful to the members who have volunteered their time to assist with this committee.

3.4 Commercial and Conveyancing Lawyers Sub-Committee

During the Financial year, the committee of Corporate Commercial & Conveyancing Attorneys continued its efforts in addressing the many issues affecting transactional attorneys, in particular, issues affecting the practice of conveyancing and commercial law in Trinidad and Tobago.

1. **Real Estate Fraud** – The committee assiduously continued its efforts to address the spiraling incidents of real estate fraud in Trinidad and Tobago, its adverse effects on members, the public at large and members of the banking community, and the increase risks for members associated with the practice of conveyancing and commercial law in Trinidad and Tobago. In

addressing the issue of real estate fraud, the committee persisted at intelligence gathering and public education efforts by the following measures:

- (i) Compilation of a database of Deeds under Scrutiny – i.e., Deeds which cannot be authenticated;
 - (ii) Meeting with stakeholders to address the issue of fraud relating to real estate and develop measures to combat same, these included:
 - a. meetings with the Registrar General; and
 - b. presentation to financial institutions, real estate agents, co-operative societies, Justices of the Peace and Commissioners of Affidavit.
 - (iii) Education Seminars to alert the membership on issues relating to real estate fraud. These seminars were held on the 2nd June in the High Court in San Fernando and on the 19th January, 2018 at the Convocation Hall of the Hall of Justice respectively and saw participation by well over 250 members.
 - (iv) Public Notification – publication of two press releases on real estate fraud.
2. **Development of Guidelines for Conveyancing Attorneys** – The committee is in the process of developing Guidelines on the Conditions of Sale for Conveyancing Attorneys for Council's approval and dissemination to members.
3. **Legislative Review** – The committee has and continues to review various pieces of legislation impacting the practice of Conveyancing in Trinidad and Tobago. The committee has submitted its comments to the Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago on the Package of Land legislation and on the Miscellaneous Provisions (Registrar General, Registration of Deeds, Conveyancing and Law of Property, Real Property and Stamp Duty) Bill, 2017. The committee is currently compiling its comments on the proposed Companies Amendment Bill 2018 for submission to the Attorney General.
4. **Processing of Returns of Ownership at District Revenue Offices** – Arising out of the several complaints which came to the committee's attention on the challenges of homeowners in having Returns processed at District Revenue offices, the committee through Council wrote to the Minister of Finance on the issue and will be scheduling meetings with the relevant authorities.

Registrar General's Department – The committee has and continues to hold numerous meetings with the Registrar General and her technical team to address the several issues which impacted on the property transfers, including, issues relating to the Vault and its inaccessibility, and the suspension of the Property Information Management System e-service (PIMS Online). The suspension of PIMS Online led to the unavailability of the computerized records of Deeds, which limited to the manual records to conduct investigations on title.

3.5 Publications

Members: Kimberleigh Peterson (convener), Christopher Foderingham-Garraway, Edmund Christo, Shawn Mahase, Ria Mohammed- Davidson, Jason Nathu, Roshan Ramcharitar, Alicia Ramdeo, Koya Ryan, Andre Sinanan, Shoshanna Lall.

The Lawyer

The publication of the Lawyer Journal has long been in the pipeline. The Committee decided that a 30th anniversary commemorative edition of the Lawyer would be well-appreciated by the members and a welcome trip down memory lane to reflect and acknowledge our milestones and achievements as an Association.

Retired CCJ Judge, Mr. Rolston Nelson, S.C., a long-standing contributor and Editor of the Lawyer has agreed to be the Editor of this commemorative edition. It is anticipated that it should be published before the close of the 2017-2018 Law Term.

Book Drive

The Association, through this Committee is collaborating with the National Library and Information System Authority (NALIS) in the establishment of its Anti-Recidivism Literacy Project which will see the institution of Legal Centres at each library at four (4) correctional institutions, namely, the Maximum-Security Prison, Women's Prison, Youth Training Centre and St. Jude's Home. The project aims to improve these libraries' resources in order to promote literacy, rehabilitation, legal knowledge and reintegration. We trust that our members will agree that we are all stakeholders in a more restorative justice approach and that we will all benefit from a more healthy society and developed nation if our offenders reintegrate properly and productively.

The Committee proposes to host a Book Drive whereby members can donate unused legal texts to these institutions. It is anticipated that the required resources will include books, instructional DVDs, research tools, case material and legal forms.

Consolidated Civil Proceedings Rules 2016

The Association is engaging in talks with the Judicial Education Institute (JEI) as it relates to the Association's proposal to publish and offer for sale to its members the JEI's e-book catalogue which currently includes the following titles: The Consolidated Civil Proceedings Rules 2016, Exploring the Role of the CPR Judge, The Criminal Bench Book 2015 and Statements of Principle and Guidelines for Judicial Conduct.

Undoubtedly one of the JEI's most popular offerings to date, the CCP Rules 2016 include the Civil Proceedings Rules 1998 with all updates and amendments as at January 2017 as well as cases with written decisions relevant to the CPR, primarily from January 2005 to May 2016.

3.6 Entertainment

Members: **Shankar Bidaisee (convener)**, Patricia Dindyal, Trevor Clarke, Kimberleigh Peterson, Christopher Foderingham-Garraway, Reeyah Chattergoon

ANNUAL WINE AND CHEESE EVENT 2017

The Annual Wine and Cheese was held on Friday 28th day of July, 2017 at the Foyer at the Hall of Justice, Knox Street, Port of Spain. The event was extremely well attended since all tickets were sold out days prior to the event. It marked a return to the traditional format of the event that was effectively marketed to ensure maximum attendance. At the event there was a very wide assortment of wine and other premium beverages, cheeses, fruits and food items. Several Judicial Officers, Senior and Junior practitioners were in attendance and the event provided an excellent ambience and opportunity for socializing at the conclusion of the Law Term 2016-2017. Members in attendance were very pleased with the event and expressed their desire to attend and look forward to the 2018 Wine and Cheese.

The effective management and execution of the Wine and Cheese event for 2017 by the Entertainment Committee resulted not only in an extremely well attended sold out event but also in a surplus of funds in 2017 which moved from a net loss in 2016.

ANNUAL DINNER AND AWARD CEREMONY 2017

LATT's Annual Dinner and Award Ceremony ("Event") was held at the Grand Ballroom at the Trinidad Hilton on Friday 1st day of December, 2017 at 6:30pm. This Event was titled "Pearls of Wisdom" geared towards the 30th Anniversary of the Law Association of Trinidad and Tobago and the honouring of Awardees who have attained 50 years call to the Bar in 2017.

At the event the following persons were honoured based on the attainment of 50 years since admission to practice in the Supreme Court in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago: *Justice Monica A.C. Barnes, Justice Zainool Hosein, Mr. Leslie Janeed Mohammed, Justice Margot Warner, Justice Melville Baird, Mr. Tracey A. Bazie, Mr. Edward Collier, Mr. Albert Knowles, Mr. Ramesh Lawrence Maharaj S.C., Mr. Satyernand Seemungal and Mr. Gaston Benjamin.*

Ms. Natasha Lamy-Ramsden was a gracious and entertaining hostess and Mr. Ramesh Lawrence Maharaj SC delivered the feature address, in which he touched on the independence of the judiciary. Some of the awardees took the opportunity to share words of wisdom and anecdotes of their lives in the Law and thanked the Law Association for recognising the milestone in their career.

The Event was very well attended. A total of **Two Hundred and Seventy-Four (274)** tickets were sold (excluding the Awardees and their guests and Special Invitees). The effective management and execution of the Annual Dinner for 2017 by the Entertainment Committee resulted not only in a rejuvenated event but also in a surplus of funds in 2017 which moved from a net loss in 2016.

3.7 IT/Social Network/Website

Members: Kimberleigh Peterson (Convenor), Christopher Foderingham-Garraway, Christopher Sieuchand, Jason Nathu, Jason Charles, Leon Kalicharan, Eric Outridge.

Website

Our upgraded website continues to be a conduit through which our members, law students and the public access relevant, up-to-date information about the Law Association and our range of services.

For improved ease of use, we now upload links to large attachments to our website so that members with stricter e-mail attachment size controls will no longer be inconvenienced by not receiving our emails.

To streamline the registration process for our continuing legal education events which are consistently well-received, we have implemented an online registration form hosted by Google forms. This platform assists in confirming who has registered on a “first come first served” basis and ensures that we collect accurate registration details thus limiting any inconvenience to our members on attendance at the event.



Social Media

After our insightful Social Media & Ethics seminar with Her Excellency President Weekes, as she now is, the IT Committee considered itself duty-bound to be at the forefront of responsible and ethical social media engagement.

We recognised that we must adapt and become more accessible to and interactive with our members and be exemplars in our use of social media. To this end, we commissioned new graphic artwork and inserted same across our social media accounts on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LawAssociationTT/>

Since 2014, the Association has had a presence on Facebook albeit a limited one. In 2017, we updated our Facebook where we share updates with members of the goings-on of Council, media releases and helpful legal material. Member interaction has been phenomenal with members often sharing our posts and engaging in healthy debate on topical issues.

We have noted that the most popular posts were the update on the Land Registry, the pdf link to the JEI's Consolidated Civil Proceedings Rules 2016, the updates from Council on the progress of the on-going litigation with the Chief Justice and the notices of the Annual General Meeting and the now-rescheduled Special General Meeting of March 2018.

Our Facebook page has 1541 likes with 1562 followers. On average, the page attracts 25+ new followers weekly which reflects a 39% increase in page followers from the last 28-day period. User engagement with posts is good with a 118% increase in engagement. The page and/or our posts have reached 8152 people in a 28-day period.

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/LawAssocTT>

In January 2018, the Association joined the Twitter social media platform. Twitter is a news and social networking site where people communicate in short messages of 280 characters or less. It has quickly become recognised by members as an avenue through which one can receive prompt updates on Privy Council decisions relating to Trinidad and Tobago, real-time updates on the work of the Council and live-tweeting of Association events.

The response to the new profile has been good with the profile attracting 87 followers with over 10 persons following the profile weekly. Over 28 days, there have been over 7,132 impressions of our 33 tweets. The profile was visited 653 times and mentioned in the tweets of others 10 times.

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/lawassoctt/>

In January 2018, the Association joined the LinkedIn social media platform. LinkedIn is primarily a professional networking website. It can be used for job searches and recruitment as well as keeping in touch with past colleagues, past client and potential clients. When maximised, it can expand your professional network.

The response to the new page has been good with 100% engagement with our posts and 100% increase in follower numbers.

Members are being encouraged to add the Association as one of their organisations on their respective LinkedIn profiles.

We are confident that member engagement with our social media will continue to grow. The IT Committee is considering launching an Instagram account to illustrate the Council's work through photographs.

Members are encouraged to follow us on all social media. Members may contact our IT Specialist, Mr. Eric Outridge at the Secretariat, who is available to assist members to connect with the LATT

3.8 Committee on Judicial Appointments

In June, 2017 the Law Association of Trinidad and Tobago appointed a Committee on Judicial Appointments ("Committee") with the following Terms of Reference:

- (i) To examine the constitutional and other arrangements pertaining to the selection and appointment of judges of the High Court and the Court of Appeal and to make recommendations, including changes to the Constitution and/or current practices and/or procedures and/or selection criteria, with a view to ensuring due process, transparency and accountability whilst maintaining the dignity of judicial officers and the independence of the judiciary;
- (ii) To consult with stakeholders and members of the public and to receive and consider their written and oral submissions; and
- (iii) (iii) To report to the Council of the Law Association within three months or such further period as the Council may allow. (The time was later extended to 31 January, 2018).

The Committee comprised the following persons: Madame Justice Désirée Bernard (Chair) - Former Chancellor of the Judiciary of Guyana and former Judge of the Caribbean Court of Justice, Dr. Terence Farrell - Economist and Attorney at Law and former Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. David Abdulah - Economist and Former General Secretary of the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union, Mr. Rajiv Persad - Attorney at Law and Vice President of the Law Association of Trinidad and Tobago, Ms. Tracy Robinson - Senior Lecturer in Constitutional Law, University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, Ms. Vanessa Gopaul - Attorney at Law and Mr. Rishi P.A. Dass - Attorney at Law.

The Committee was assisted with secretarial services by Mrs. Renesha Abraham, Legal Intern at Marie de Vere Chambers.

The Committee held twelve (12) meetings between the period July, 2017 and January, 2018.

In keeping with its Terms of Reference to consult with stakeholders and members of the public, the Committee invited members of the Judiciary, past and present as well as Magistrates and former Chief Justices to submit written opinions or give oral testimony concerning the appointment procedure. A meeting was also arranged with the present Chief Justice and current and former members of the Judicial and Legal Service Commission ("the Commission"). Invitations were extended to civil society organisations for written or oral testimony and visits by members of the Committee to a few areas in the country were also arranged.

Oral testimony was received from three (3) current judges and one (1) former judge. Written submissions were also received from one (1) former judge and four (4) current judges of the High Court as well as one (1) judge of the Family Court. Five (5) former members of the Commission made written submissions as well as two (2) civil society organisations.

In further pursuit of its mandate, the Committee held public consultations in Port of Spain, Arima, Chaguanas, San Fernando and Tobago, at which the Committee received useful suggestions and information for its deliberations.

The Committee intends to complete the formal Report to be submitted to the Law Association within the next two (2) weeks.

3.9 Legal Profession Act Revision

The revisions to the Legal Profession Act carried out under the 30th Council, were approved by the 31st Council and circulated to the membership for comment. The response has been underwhelming. The Committee intends to carry out further consultations with the membership and a group of concerned students, before resubmitting its report to the 32nd Council for approval and further action.

3.10 Children's Affairs

Members: Douglas Mendes S.C., Hyacinth Griffith, Lynette Seebaran-Suite, Stephanie Daly S.C. Kimberleigh Peterson, Margaret Hinds, Margaret Burgess.

With the Children Court set to come on stream in March 2018, the Association considered it prudent to establish a committee charged with reviewing the new suite of legislation. Thereafter, this Committee will offer support to practitioners as they adjust to practice in this new Court.

Over the course of a number of weeks, this committee met on numerous occasions, sometimes twice per week, with the Association's Rules Committee Representative, Alvin Fitzpatrick S.C., to painstakingly examine the Children Court Rules in order to furnish the Rules Committee with our feedback and recommendations.

The Children Court Rules are now in force and the Committee would like to thank its members for their yeoman service.

3.11 Human Resource/ Personnel

Members: The Executive, AMM

As the work of the LATTT continues to grow, the demands on the Secretariat are increasing, particularly in the organizing of special events such as SGMs and seminars, providing administrative

services to our members such as the issuing of ID cards, VAT invoices and receipts, and generally rendering support for the work of the Council.

The LATT therefore decided to hire two interns to provide administrative assistance and their help has proved to be invaluable.

The LATT also took the decision to hire a Legal Officer to assist with the legal tasks such as instructing counsel, assisting with the review of legislation and providing research. The LATT received 27 applications in response to its advertisement and this was narrowed down to eight suitable persons. After a second round of interviews, the LATT offered the position to one of the candidates, which has accepted. It is expected that she will join the LATT in May 2018.

3.12 Sports Committee

Members: Trevor Clarke (Convener) Tejprakash Persad, George Busby and Shashi Seecharan

Since the formation of the Lawyers' Football Club (TTLFC) in 2014 and its participation in the 18th Mundiavocat, Football World Cup for Lawyers hosted in La Manga Spain in 2016, the membership of the Club has grown and now comprises more than fifty (50) Attorneys located throughout Trinidad and Tobago. The venture has as its main focus, the mentorship of young practitioners through their interaction with Senior Members of the Bar.

In March of 2017, no doubt on the strength of our creditable showing the year before, TTLFC were invited to participate in the 5th Lawyers of the Americas Football Cup hosted in Panama. At that tournament the team gave a decent showing and walked away with the *Fair Play Trophy* in recognition of the exemplary discipline and behavior that promoted the spirit of fair play, enthusiasm and passion for the game. Indubitably, in so doing, the TTLFC represented the LATT and the country well.

As the Club continues to grow in recognition, we felt that it was equally important to give back to the community. Accordingly, with the assistance of the Barataria Ball Players' Club, several pro-bono outreach seminars were hosted at the Barataria Community Centre during which free advisory services were provided to members of the public. These seminars, held during the last third of 2017, were well attended and extremely well received, not only by those in the Barataria area, but also by persons in the wider community, some attending from as far as Moruga and San Fernando.

In addition, as a tangible way of giving back, the TTLFC donated a white board and stationery to be used at the newly commissioned Homework Centre housed at the Barataria Community Centre. This Homework Centre was established to provide free lessons to those who cannot afford such as well as after-school care for schoolchildren of parents in the community so that they may have a safe and supervised place to work while their parents complete their work day. Further seminars are planned for 2018 in the Sangre Grande, Arima and Couva districts and the Club has every reason to believe that the experiences in those areas will be just as encouraging.

In May 2018, the TTLFC is looking forward to its newest venture, participation in the 19th Mundiavocat Football World Cup for Lawyers, to be hosted in Cambrils, Spain. In preparation for the Club's hopeful participation in this competition, the Club has been under the guidance of a certified coach, Mr. Gregory Nurse and, as part of our broader objective, they have been playing several practice games against various community-based teams nationwide with a view to building camaraderie among the players and the community.

The Trinidad and Tobago Lawyers' Cricket Association (TTLCA), much of which the TTLFC was modelled after, had another successful year in 2017 in which 11 of its members joined forces with comrades from Barbados, Antigua and Guyana to form the West Indies Lawyers Cricket Team that participated in the recently concluded 6th Lawyers' Cricket World Cup which was held in Colombo Sri Lanka (between August 8th to 20th).

The West Indian Team (which was captained by the TTLCA's captain, Shashi Seecharan) made a good showing in the tournament which included teams from Australia, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, England and Bangladesh.

The Team comprehensively defeated Australia B in its opening match thanks to a great knock from former West Indies Under 19 batsman Loy Weste who made 78 not out. The West Indian Team then suffered its first defeat to the hosts Sri Lanka notwithstanding stellar contributions from several players. However, great character was shown as the Team recovered well and comprehensively defeated Bangladesh by 40 runs.

Whilst Australia was the tournament's overall winner, it was clear all teams had a great experience in Sri Lanka. The next tournament is set for New Zealand in 2019 and is expected to be another fantastic opportunity for members of the legal fraternity to build camaraderie through the lovely game of cricket.

The successes of 2017 undoubtedly carried over into 2018, with TTLFC hosting its annual Carnival fund raiser (the Caught of Appeal) which was held on January 26, 2018 at the residence of Mr. Brian Charles Lara. The event was well attended and enjoyed by several members of the legal fraternity. The 2018 TTLCA schedule includes the North vs South Classic, the Justice Guy Hannays Memorial match, participation in the Bryan Davis Festival of Cricket 2018 (hosted in the Queen's Park Oval and played under lights) as well as a possible tour to Antigua, Guyana or Barbados in preparation for World Cup 2019 in New Zealand.

On the agenda for both the TTLFC and TTLCA is a joint collaborative fundraiser which the Sports Committee, through the LATT, will disseminate further information to the membership.

3.13 Elections

Members: Elena Araujo (Convenor), Shankar Bidaisee, Reeyah Chattergoon, Marissa Ramsoondar, assisted by Allison Myers and Fajr Alimayu

In light of the unpopularity of the decision of the previous Elections Committee to host the 2017 AGM in Port of Spain only, due to the unpredictability of the Hall of Justice video link equipment to achieve and maintain connectivity throughout the meeting, the Elections Committee was determined to resolve the issue of hosting the AGM in Port of Spain, San Fernando and Tobago.

The previous Council had obtained an estimate of \$75,000 for providing the video link-up for the 2017 AGM by hiring cameramen and technical personnel as well as renting equipment from TSTT.

The 31st Council Elections Committee therefore made contact directly with TSTT to explore options either with the use of the Hall of Justice equipment or through the lease or purchase of equipment from TSTT. However, there were difficulties with the TSTT proposal, as the equipment if purchased through TSTT would have had to remain fixed at the Hall of Justice and other offsite locations and would have required an upgrade of the Hall of Justice's equipment.

The Committee therefore retained the services of Kradius Limited, an IT consulting firm who recommended the purchase of equipment which combines audio and visual capacity in movable units. A decision was taken by the Council to acquire the equipment to be used at the three locations, as well as to engage technical support at each location, to ensure the effectiveness of the video link up for the AGM. It was also necessary to boost the bandwidth in each location and to rent screens at each location to play the video stream from the other two locations. The equipment was acquired at a cost of \$101,250 with a software license cost of \$750 per month,

In the future, the equipment will enable the LATT to host meetings and seminars at different offsite locations and also to conduct live-streaming of our events, which it is hoped will foster greater connectivity with our members.

3.14 Insurance

Members: Theresa Hadad (Convener), Shankar Bidaisee

The Committee charged with responsibility for the monitoring of the LATT Group Health Plans has communicated with the Insurers, Brokers and Members throughout the 2017-2018 Insurance period.

The Committee has in the course of the aforementioned year addressed queries and in rare instances, complaints, regarding the administration of the Group Health Plans. The Plans are separately considered and reported on in this Report.

(i) TATIL

At the inception of the Group Health Plan with TATIL Members were informed that pre-existing conditions would be covered after the expiry of the initial twelve-month period. Due to an unusually high number of claims and a low rate of subscription by the Membership, the Insurer indicated that the coverage of pre-existing conditions for the Insurance year 2016-2017 would result in an increased premium.

As a consequence, the 29th Council agreed to a cap on coverage for pre-existing conditions of \$5,000.00 and avoided an increase in premium. This position was similarly agreed to by the 30th Council and maintained for the Insurance year 2017-2018.

All Members who subscribed to the Group Health Plan with TATIL for the Insurance years 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 were duly notified by the Insurer of the cap on pre-existing conditions prior to their renewal of their subscriptions to the Plan.

Due to complaints received from Members about the cap on pre-existing conditions the Committee held discussion with TATIL in order to secure the removal of the cap and ensure coverage for pre-existing conditions for renewing Members.

In addition, the Committee communicated with and met with TATIL representatives to consider the size and number of claims made for the Insurance year 2017-2018. The loss ratio increased dramatically between the Insurance years 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 from 84% to 162%. There are 260 persons enrolled in the Plan for the insurance year 2017-2018. The deterioration in the loss ratio is attributable to an increased number of claims (481 over a 10-month period) and the increased quantum of the claims.

In order to secure the removal of the cap on pre-existing conditions for renewing Members and in light of the deterioration of the loss ratio, a rate increase in the premiums payable could no longer be avoided and the 31st Council agreed to the new rates which are set out in the Table below:

Under 60 years	Member	Member + 1	Family
Existing Premiums	\$2,519	\$4,549	\$7,068
New Premiums	\$4,786	\$8,643	\$13,429

Over 60 years	Member	Member + 1	Family
Existing Premiums	\$3,511	\$6,669	\$10,182
New Premiums	\$6,671	\$12,671	\$19,346

(ii) Guardian Life (US\$ Group Health Plan)

The Insurer for the US Dollar Group Health Plan was originally Pan American and was subsequently changed to Guardian Life. The US Dollar Group Health Plan appears to be functioning well and there have been no complaints relayed by Members to the Committee as to the administration of the Plan.

The Committee is pleased to advise that there will be no increase in the premiums for the insurance year 2018-2019 and the Council has accordingly agreed to the renewal of the Plan on existing terms and conditions.

The Insurance Broker, Global Financial Brokers, has provided the Members of the Law Association with dedicated customer service since the inception of the Group Health Plan in 2015 and we anticipate another productive year with them.

At present there are 69 Members enrolled in the Plan and the loss ratio for the insurance year 2017-2018 is 69%. Global Financial Brokers predicts that a rate increase in the premium payable is likely in the insurance year 2019-2020 if the subscription to the Plan is not increased.

(iii) Increased Subscription

Both TATIL and Global Financial Brokers have communicated to the Committee that the Group Health Plans are under subscribed and that additional efforts need to be made to increase the number of Members enrolled in each Plan.

In order to encourage increased subscription, TATIL has an open enrollment period until the 30th April 2018 which allows Members under the age of 40 to join the Group Health Plan without medical underwriting.

Members may also join the Group Health Plan with Guardian Life by contacting Global Financial Brokers, but the enrollment period is not open and medical underwriting is required.

The Council of the Law Association intends to convene meetings of Members throughout Trinidad and Tobago in order to disseminate information about both Group Health Plans and facilitate presentations by the Insurers.

(iv) Group Professional Indemnity Insurance

The Committee is still considering options as to Group Professional Indemnity Insurance and negotiations are likely to continue for the next three months until all available options are duly considered and the costs evaluated.

The Committee will then report to Council before a meeting of the Members is convened in order to discuss and vote on whether such a Group Plan is desirable and required by Members.

(v) Availability of Information and Documentation

The Committee has received queries from Members throughout the course of insurance year 2017-2018 requesting copies of the policy documents relative to both Plans and claim forms.

In order to ensure that Members have access to all available material, the Committee is in the process of uploading the policy documents and all endorsements to the website as well as copies of the claim form for download.

3.15 Scale Fees Committee

Members: Mr. Darrell Allahar (Convenor), Joan Byrne, Tara Allum, Herman Bolai, Nisha Mathura-Allahar, Rionne Boyke, Patricia Dindyal, Bijili Lalla, Paul Vilain and Ajay Baball (recorder).

The Attorneys-at-Law (Remuneration) (Non-Contentious Business) Rules, 1997 (made under the Legal Profession Act) govern the prescribed fees for conveyances and applications for Probate/Letters of Administration.

The rules were made and published on the 25 April 1997, some 19 years ago. They are now out of sync with actual property values and have been affected by inflation, the rising costs of running a practice and the risks of conveyancing fraud.

The prescribed fees for obtaining grants of representation are also not commensurate with the amount and type of work required in the current practice.

Furthermore, with the introduction of FIU requirements, the onerous paperwork, time and due-diligence required for non-contentious transactions represent an added cost which could not have been foreseen when the rules were drafted.

This committee was therefore established to review the rules and to make proposals for their reform to Council, having regard to all relevant considerations including (but not limited) to the:

- (a) current range of property values
- (b) effects of inflation since 1997
- (c) current costs of operating a legal practice
- (d) incidents of conveyancing fraud
- (e) FIU requirements
- (f) current challenges facing the Probate Registry
- (g) anti-competitive provisions.

The Committee rendered an interim report after its second meeting. Some of the interim proposals were reviewed at its third meeting, when the Committee completed its review of all of the rules. After consideration of further comments, a final report was presented to and accepted by Council in November 2017.

The proposed amendments and also proposed amendments to the Code of Ethics were forwarded to the Hon. Chief Justice for his approval on 15 January 2018, as a prerequisite to Gazetting and coming into force. That approval has not yet been obtained.

4. LITIGATION REPORT

4.1 CV 2016-01567 - Shevanand Gopeesingh v the Attorney General

This is an action for the interpretation of the Legal Profession Act arising out of the practice under Section 15A of the LPA to collect fees per matter for special admissions. The applicant's counsel Mr. Timothy Straker QC was retained to act in 6 related (but not consolidated) matters and was required to pay the admission fee of \$15,000 per matter in which he was briefed. The Law Association is participating as in interested party.

The claim has proceeded to trial and the parties have filed written submissions. A decision is expected in Mary 2018. The LATT is represented by Rishi Dass instructed by Antonio Emmanuel.

4.2 CV 2016 – 02319: Peter Taylor v Law Association of Trinidad and Tobago (Disciplinary Committee)

This is an application for leave to file for Judicial Review of a finding made by the Disciplinary Committee by an attorney at law. The Intended Claimant seeks various declarations, damages and costs.

On 16 November 2017 the Honourable Mr. Justice Mohammed dismissed the Intended Claimant's Application for leave to apply for Judicial Review and his Application to amend the same. The Law Association is pursuing the issue of costs. The LATT is represented by Ravi Heffes Doon instructed by John Paul Nahous of Pollonais, Blanc, de la Bastide & Jacelon.

4.3 Claim No. 2016-03654 between Legal Aid and Advisory Authority -v- The AG and LATT

This claim was brought by the Legal Aid and Advisory Authority for an interpretation of the Legal Aid and Advice Act and in particular Paragraph 3 of Part III which reads:

"Where three or more accused persons are appearing in a capital case being tried before the High Court and the Authority reasonably believes that the trial may be lengthy in time, the Authority shall pay to an Attorney at law a sum not exceeding thirty thousand dollars per month during the process of the trial and such payment may be prorated by the Authority as it things fit."

The LAAA was seeking guidelines on who determines the length of the trial, at what stage is the length of the trial determined and what should the Authority consider in determining the payment of fees to attorneys and at what stage is the monthly sum payable.

On Tuesday 25th July 2017 the Honourable Mr. Justice Ronnie Boodoosingh delivered judgment in which he upheld the submissions of the Attorney General and LATT and held *inter alia* that while the Court had the power to interpret a statutory provision it was not within its remit to fill gaps in a

statute, perform the administrative functions of statutory bodies or perform duties which are within the province of the legislature and the Executive. Notwithstanding this position Boodoosingh J offered his views on several of the requests for interpretation as follows:

“It is not for this court to lay down guidelines on what a judge should consider in determining what are exceptional circumstances. This is best left for the trial judge in the criminal court to consider and to determine in each particular case. No two cases will be the same. A judge resident in the civil court is not well placed to make that determination or to issue guidelines to a judge of concurrent jurisdiction.”

“The Authority has no power to vary the trial judge’s certification under this part. This is a function which the judge is required to perform. If the judge does not certify an additional sum, the amount certified by the judge not to exceed \$15,000.00 for the trial will be payable.”

The LATT was represented by Mr. Ronnie Bissessar.

4.4 CV2017-03190 The AG v JLSC, Marcia Ayers Caesar & Ors

This is a summons brought by the Honourable Attorney General for the interpretation by way of declaration or otherwise of, *inter alia*: the manner in which matters commenced but not completed before Chief Magistrate Marcia Ayers-Caesar are to be determined or concluded; whether Mrs. Ayers-Caesar is a Magistrate; whether the matters are required to be restarted *de novo* or whether the said matters can be continued and/or completed by any other magistrate.

The matter is proceeding before the Honourable Madame Justice Carol Gobin. The LATT is one of many interested parties appearing in this matter. At the last hearing the Honourable Judge gave directions for the filing of applications to strike out and the next hearing is fixed for 10 April 2018.

4.5 Civ. App. 075 of 2018: LATT v. Chief Justice Ivor Archie / CV 2018-00680 Chief Justice Ivor Archie v. LATT

This matter has been dealt with in Section 2 above

5. OTHER MATTERS

5.1 Revitalization of the Organisation of Commonwealth Caribbean Bar Associations (OCCBA)

The President of the Law Association attended a meeting of the Organisation of Commonwealth Caribbean Bar Associations (OCCBA) in Miami on the 2nd and 3rd March 2018. The intention was to breathe life into the organisation which has been virtually defunct for the past many years.

The meeting was well attended by almost all of the bar associations in the region, as well as by a representative of the Commonwealth Lawyers Association and the Miami Based Caribbean Bar Association. Members present pledged to devote the necessary time and energy to making OCCBA the vital organisation its founders intended it to be.

The meeting was addressed by President Elect of the Caribbean Court of Justice, Mr. Justice Adrian Saunders who spoke on the topic "OCCBA and some disparate aspects of the Rule of Law in the Caribbean".

A new executive was elected comprising of: Ruggles Ferguson - President; Douglas Mendes SC - Vice-President; Donovan Walker - Vice-President; C Debra Burnette - Secretary; and Lorraine Debra Glace - Treasurer.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED ON BEHALF OF

THE 31st COUNCIL OF THE LAW ASSOCIATION OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ELENA ARAUJO

SECRETARY