



LAW ASSOCIATION OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

2nd Floor, 95-97 Frederick Street, Port-of-Spain

Telephone: 625-9350/225-8715-7

Email: ttlawassociation@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.lawassociationtt.com>

STATEMENT OF THE COUNCIL OF THE LAW ASSOCIATION OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

In its judgment delivered today, the Privy Council has confirmed that the Law Association is entitled in law to investigate allegations of misconduct made against the Honourable Chief Justice with a view either to assure the public that after due examination, the Association is satisfied that the allegations have no merit, or to refer a complaint to the Prime Minister under section 137 to treat with as he deems fit.

As the Association has maintained all along, it has no disciplinary power over the Chief Justice and he is not bound to participate in the Association's investigation. But it is within the Association's statutory mandate to investigate serious allegations against any member of the judiciary which may undermine the administration of justice and the rule of law. The Chief Justice's arguments to the contrary have been decisively rejected.

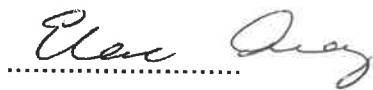
The Privy Council deferred to the concurrent findings of the Court of Appeal and the High Court that the Association's investigation was not tainted with the appearance of bias, and while it held that the Association as a public body must act fairly, it agreed with the Court of Appeal that the Association had met the requirement of fairness. Again, the Chief Justice's arguments to the contrary were rejected.

In the circumstances, the Privy Council dismissed the Chief Justice's appeal and discharged the injunction restraining the Association from convening a meeting of its membership to consider any legal advice it might receive in relation to its investigation of the Chief Justice.

With the guidance of the Privy Council and the Court of Appeal in mind, the Law Association will now proceed to complete its investigation with continued fairness and due deliberation.

Barring exceptional circumstances, no further public statements will be made until a Special General Meeting of the Association's membership is called.

16th August 2018

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Elena Araujo", written over a dotted line.

Elena Araujo

Secretary