

Embrace Digital Transformation: Managing Professional Development

A Guide



A GUIDE BY:
THE LAW ASSOCIATION OF
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

PROJECT:
LAW IN THE TIME OF CORONA:
EMBRACE DIGITAL
TRANSFORMATION:
MANAGING PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT





ONLINE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Making use of down-time to engage in online professional development

One of the silver linings of Covid-19, is arguably the fact that Attorneys may now have more free time on their hands — due to the limited operations of courts, tribunals and regulatory bodies, as well as the nature of the current market. This free time presents a golden opportunity for Attorneys to develop and nurture new skills which may enhance their quality of work, or, make them more marketable professionally. Of course, choosing to learn a new skill could be done as a personal challenge (and not necessarily be for professional life). Regardless of your motivation for higher pursuits, below are some ideas which could be considered for adoption, or which may (hopefully) act as inspiration and ultimately result in holistic development.

ONLINE COURSES

Short courses can be found online from different universities; or on online learning platforms, such as Coursera or Edx which partner with multinational companies and top universities to curate and develop short courses. These courses cover a diverse area of subjects including (but not limited to) law, negotiation and business management. Many of the courses on the popular learning platforms are for free and upon completion of an online assessment, a certificate of completion (with your grade) could be obtained upon payment of a prescribed fee. A young attorney can leverage these credentials to improve his/her employability – whether at his/her present position or prospectively.

NEWSLETTERS & WEBINARS

Many if not all, global law firms conduct webinars on various topics. By simply subscribing to a free newsletter service which collates and sends legal updates (for example – <https://www.lexology.com/>), one can be briefed frequently with updates on various areas of the law, and also be informed of upcoming webinars and easily sign up to attend the same. These legal analyses and webinars add international perspectives and can help develop how Attorneys approach issues in practice.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Organisations such as the International Bar Association, could be joined (subject to the payment of relevant fees) to access educational content on specific subject matters as well. Some organisations may also currently be offering discounted rates for either membership or training; for example the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators which is currently offering discounted virtual ADR during the Covid-19 crisis. Additionally, the Law Association of Trinidad and Tobago itself offers numerous seminars and webinars on topical issues as part of its drive for continuous legal education. The recordings of these sessions can also be accessed through the members' area of its website and viewed at your convenience.



Utilize virtual learning tools and resources

LAW FIRM PODCASTS

Some reputable law firms and law chambers in the United Kingdom and other countries publish via their websites and LinkedIn pages, podcasts on developments in the law, or cases they were involved in. A podcast is essentially an audio file that can be streamed online or downloaded and listened at your convenience. Depending on whether you prefer to multitask, this may be preferred, to newsletters and webinars.

ONLINE VIDEOS

The popular video hosting website <https://www.youtube.com> contains numerous recordings on a wide range of subject matter. Tutorials and classes on mediation, accounting, advocacy, amongst others, can be accessed at will for free and one can informally improve on or learn new skills. Alternatively, tutorials on cooking exist too — if you're looking to impress at your next dinner party!



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BACKGROUND

The Law Association of Trinidad and Tobago is committed to assisting all legal professionals as far as reasonably practicable. This brochure is produced by our Information Technology Committee and is one of a series containing guidance which we hope will assist legal professionals in continuing business operations during the Pandemic period.

We hope it will be useful to you. If you have any questions, comments and/or suggestions on how to improve the information contained in this brochure, please feel free to contact the IT Committee
admin@lawassociationtt.com

CONTACT DETAILS

Address: 2nd Floor, #95-97 Frederick Street,
Port of Spain, Trinidad, W.I.
Phone: 1-(868)-225-8715-7
Email: admin@lawassociationtt.com
Website: [https://lawassociationtt.com/
contact-us/](https://lawassociationtt.com/contact-us/)

