



LAW ASSOCIATION OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

MEDIA RELEASE

Our esteemed member, Mr Israel Khan SC, has been on record robustly calling for jury trials to be retained. That is his right. Indeed, he has supported this view with reasoned arguments, and many members of the Law Association of Trinidad and Tobago (LATT) share his view.

Mr Khan graciously accepted the LATT's invitation to make a presentation on the issue of the retention of jury trials at the LATT Inaugural Law Conference, which was held at the Hyatt Regency Trinidad on October 11 and 12, 2024. He also gave much appreciated support to the LATT's Inaugural Conference, as indeed he has done to other events aimed at bringing members of the LATT together. The LATT, however, cannot support views expressed by Mr Khan at the conference, to the effect that the current political directorate and the Honourable Chief Justice have contrived to abolish all jury trials and that judge-alone trials are more susceptible to corruption than trials held before a judge and jury. Mr Khan provided no evidence to support either proposition, and the LATT is aware of no such evidence.

As far as the LATT is aware, there has been a transparent process of review of jury trials in which the LATT and the Judiciary of Trinidad and Tobago both participated as stakeholders. The LATT has consistently condemned utterances made by politicians and others that impugn or appear to impugn, without evidence, the integrity of members of the Judiciary. It is most unfortunate that it now falls to the LATT to condemn utterances of that nature, falling from the lips of one of its own.

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13th October 2024