

Jamaican Lawyer Elected To Inter-American Commission On Human Rights Board

The Gleaner



Photo taken from caribbean360 websit
Jamaican lawyer Margarete May
Macaulay.

**Jamaican lawyer Margarete May
Macaulay has been elected to serve on
the board of the Inter-American
Commission on Human Rights**

(IACHR).

She will serve as Second Vice-Chair.

Mccaulay is a mediator in the Supreme Court of Jamaica and an Associate Arbitrator.

She also served as a judge of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights from 2007 to 2012, contributing to the formulation of the Court's Rules of Procedure.

The IACHR board is led by James Cavallaro, an American lawyer, who was elected Chair.

The IACHR says the election was held at the beginning of the Commission's 157th regular Period of Sessions.

The Commission, an autonomous body of the Organization of American States (OAS), has a mandate to promote respect for human rights in the region and acts as a consultative body to the OAS in this area.

It is composed of seven independent members who are elected in an individual capacity by the OAS General Assembly and who do not represent their countries of origin or residence.

Ruling In Appleton Injunction Case Again Pushed Back



The Gleaner

• **J. Wray & Nephew Limited, which owns the Appleton Sugar Estates in St Elizabeth, says it is holding discussions with industry stakeholders and the Government on how best to alleviate the challenges being faced by cane farmers.**

The company says the decision comes in light of another delay in the ruling from the Court of Appeal on its application to get an injunction against Appleton lifted.

The court had reserved judgment to March 18, but it was pushed back to yesterday.

The ruling was again postponed to Friday, April 8.

In a statement this morning J. Wray & Nephew said it acknowledges the concerns of its employees about the continued closure of the sugar factory.

It also sought to assure that the company will continue to retain its workers.

It also stressed that the injunction will continue to have a negative impact of the sugar industry.

Operations at Appleton have been on hold since January after fish producer, Algix Jamaica Limited, obtained an injunction in the Supreme Court against the company as part of a lawsuit filed against J. Wray & Nephew.

Algix has argued that effluent from Appleton Estates was entering its fish farm affecting its business and as a result it wants compensation from J. Wray & Nephew.

J. Wray & Nephew denies the allegations.

According to the company, Algix has upped the amount of money it is seeking in compensation. J. Wray & Nephew says the company is now asking for US\$49.5 million, up from US\$23 million.

It says it will put up a vigorous defence when the matter comes up for trial in September.

Court Postpones Decision On Appleton Injunction Again

The Gleaner

J. Wray & Nephew Limited (JWN) says it will retain the services of its employees despite a continued injunction that has prevented it from resuming operations at the Appleton Estate sugar factory in St Elizabeth.

A ruling on an appeal filed by JWN against the injunction has been postponed again and is now set for Friday, April 8, the company said in a statement Tuesday.

The Court of Appeal's ruling on the injunction was originally set for March 18, then postponed to April 4 when the new date was set.

The injunction obtained by Algix Jamaica Limited in January 2016 bars Appleton Estate from discharging effluent that does not meet trade standards into two rivers in the parish pending the resolution of a suit.

US\$49.5 Million Suit

JWN said Algix originally sought US\$23 million (\$J2.8 billion) as compensation for damage allegedly suffered at its property some six miles downstream, but recently inflated its claim to US\$49.5 million (\$J5.5 billion).

Algix argued that effluent from the sugar estate was entering its fish farm and that this was affecting its business. However, JWN denies any causal link between its factory and Algix's alleged losses.

JWN maintains that its sugar factory had been operating with due regard for the environmental legislation and any representation to the contrary is inaccurate.

JWN Chairman Clement 'Jimmy' Lawrence says the injunction prevents the company from starting up operations of the sugar factory and, as a result, the negative impact of this continued closure will be far-reaching, impacting staff at the factory, cane farmers and communities in St Elizabeth, Clarendon and Trelawny that are sugar-dependent.

"In light of the delayed ruling, we are now holding discussions with industry associations and the Government with a view to alleviating the challenges being faced by the cane farmers. We also acknowledge the concerns of our employees and so, despite the continued injunction and the negative impact on the business, we will retain the services of our employees," said Lawrence.

JWN said trial of the substantive case is now set for trial in September 2016.

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In Jamaica's Televised School Quiz, Adults Were the Sore Losers

The [Schools Challenge Quiz](#), an annual series broadcast by [Television Jamaica](#) just before its prime time newscast, is a 47-year-old national institution. It is always a closely watched event with high viewership. This year's competition among Jamaican high school teams has been fraught with controversy with complaints flying, legal action taken, and insults traded among supporters on social media.

The 30-minute competition includes a “speed challenge” when each team has the chance to answer as many questions as possible in three separate 60-second periods, and a “buzzer challenge,” where the first team to press a buzzer answers the question — but can lose points if they answer wrongly. This final section has caused many dramatic reversals of fortune for teams in the past. It is a knockout competition, with the winning teams advancing to the next round.

The problems began on March 16, when Television Jamaica aired the match between two Kingston schools (reigning champions [Ardenne High](#) and [Camperdown High](#)), which ended in a win for Camperdown by a two-point margin, moving the school into the quarterfinal. However, after the show was aired, Television Jamaica recognized a scoring error on its part involving a buzzer question, which would have resulted in a draw but was not immediately corrected on the show.

The television station therefore organized a replay (an unusual occurrence), which Ardenne won. Camperdown immediately [sought an injunction](#) to halt the current season until the issue was resolved, which the Supreme Court [refused](#), ordering the school to pay damages to Television Jamaica.

Passions ran high. One Camperdown coach [described the situation](#) thus:

We were the underdogs, it was a classic tale of ‘David and Goliath’ gone wrong and the whole situation opened up a Pandora’s Box, which has been years in the making.

The underdog wins

Ardenne eventually took third place in the competition.

Later that week, former President of the Kingston College (“KC”) Old Boys’ Association, Ambassador Stephen Vasciannie, wrote to the television station's general manager, [complaining](#) that the judges had incorrectly and unfairly deducted four points from his alma mater's team in another qualifying match. After the commercial break, the judges noted that after “careful review” the score was tied, with the tie-breaker resulting in a loss for KC.

Television Jamaica responded to the complaint by saying that correct procedures had been followed.

On to the Grand Final on March 3, which was surrounded by glitzy publicity and heightened social media attention. Two well-known but highly contrasting institutions competed: Kingston's [Campion College](#) (regarded as a school for the academic elite) vs. the historic [Titchfield High School](#), based in rural Port Antonio. As the show proceeded, the atmosphere among supporters and participants became extremely tense. A Titchfield team member's exhortation to his nervous colleagues to “settle, settle” — called “unprecedented” by quiz master John Paul Menou — resulted in five extra seconds being added to the Buzzer section.

After the double-checking of results, Titchfield won by just two points.

Man on fraud rap after lodging cheque for almost US\$94,000

The Observer



Gavel

A senior citizen accused of defrauding Sagicor Bank of US\$65,000 and J\$3 million, after lodging a fraudulent cheque for approximately US\$94,000, is to appear in the Kingston and St Andrew Parish Court on Thursday for a bail application.

The accused, Carlton Buckley, 69, business development director of East Kirkland Heights in Kingston 19, was remanded last Thursday on two counts of obtaining money by fraud and uttering false documents.

The matter was initially set for mention for Buckley to settle his legal representation and have a lawyer present in court.

However, Buckley's lawyer, Hopeton Marshall arrived late resulting in another mention date being scheduled.

According to allegations, on February 23, Buckley went to the Duke Street branch of Sagicor Bank in downtown Kingston and lodged the cheque for US\$93,938.16 to his account.

Buckley was accused of later withdrawing J\$3 million and US\$15,000 from his account.

It is further reported that on another date Buckley withdrew US\$50,000 from the account, and sometime after it was discovered that the cheque that he had lodged was fraudulent.

An investigation was done and he was subsequently arrested and charged.

— Tanesha Mundle

Alleged lottery scammers remanded

The Observer



Gavel

SEVEN of 19 people wanted by the United States for their alleged involvement in the lottery scam were remanded when they appeared in the Parish Court of Kingston and St Andrew on Monday.

Kimberly Carl-Jean Hudson, Alrick McLeod, Dahlia Hunter, O'Neil Brown, Xanu Ann Morgan, Dario Palmer, and Jason Jahalal are to return to court on April 13 when their cases will be mentioned.

Karae Gray, who was not brought to court on Monday, is also to make an appearance on April 13. All were arrested during a multi-parish operation last week.

Allegations are that Hudson — who is charged with attempt and conspiracy to wire fraud, wire fraud, mail fraud, money laundering and conspiracy, is a part of a criminal organisation in Jamaica and elsewhere that manifested in 2009.

The organisation, that goes by the name Labrick Willock, is alleged to have bilked more than 80 people in the US and elsewhere of US \$5.6 million.

It is alleged that the money was sent to middlemen in the US, who then moved it via bank cheques, wire transfer, mail or courier.

It is further alleged that Hudson's role was to make calls to the victims informing them that they had won the lottery and that they were to send money to pay the taxes.

On Monday, the prosecutor opposed bail on the basis that if bail is granted Hudson might not return to court.

“I am in receipt of a warrant of address for Ms Hudson from an officer who attempted to bring her to court,” the prosecutor explained.

Hudson’s attorney Bert Samuels, during the unsuccessful bail application, told the court that his client — who is heavily pregnant — needs antenatal care and that she is not a flight risk.

“My client is on a list published by the two leading newspapers,” Samuels said.

But Senior Parish Judge Judith Pusey, who was not convinced, told the court that Hudson was perfectly healthy and that pregnant women accused of crimes have their babies at Fort Augusta Adult Correctional Centre.

Samuels argued that this is the most critical stage of his client’s pregnancy and that she was being kept at the Duhaney Park Police Station.

The mention date was subsequently set for the accused individuals to reappear in court.

— Racquel Porter

The End