



PRESS RELEASE

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Judiciary of Jamaica Gains Membership to the ICCE

Kingston, Jamaica: On December 11, 2023, the Judiciary of Jamaica achieved its target of becoming a member of the prestigious International Consortium of Court Excellence (ICCE). Jamaica joins the Caribbean Court of Justice and the Superior Court of Justice of Brazil as the only ICCE members in the Latin America and the Caribbean region.

The main court excellence tool developed by the ICCE is the International Framework for Court Excellence (“the Framework”). The Framework is the accepted standard of good court governance and administration and is designed to be used as the ‘yardstick’ against which aspiring members are measured. These include the levels of backlog, efficiency, and service delivery.

Chief Justice Bryan Sykes introduced the courts to the ICCE when he took office in 2018 and since then the courts have applied the continuous improvement methodology (assess – analyse –implement –evaluate) developed by the Framework. The objective of the methodology is to

improve continuously the performance and administration of the courts. The ICCE requires all members to administer the IFCE self-assessment survey and to submit a report on the seven areas of court excellence, court leadership; development and implementation of strategies and policies; court workforce; court infrastructure, proceedings and processes; court user engagement; affordable and accessible court services; and public trust and confidence.

Chief Justice Sykes indicated that “this represents a major milestone for the Judiciary of Jamaica as we continue the work of transforming the courts into modern and efficient places of business. Under the ICCE Framework, we are required to measure our work each year in order to maintain membership, and as such while we celebrate this milestone, we must continue to work to maintain our membership, which means the courts must continue to perform efficiently and effectively.”

The Judiciary of Jamaica, under the leadership of Chief Justice Bryan Sykes, has supported, promoted, and applied the Framework to the Court of Appeal, the Supreme Court, and the Parish Courts, improving their performances and administration. In the Judiciary's first Strategic Business Plan (2019-2023), the Chief Justice openly expressed his desire for membership into the ICCE as it is the only global organization dedicated to identifying and developing best practices for courts. “As part of the journey toward court excellence, it is my intention that our courts become members of the International Framework for Court Excellence in 2020. This organization is the only one of its kind, globally, and is dedicated to identifying and developing best practices for courts. Included in these best practices is peer review, whereby, our courts would be subject to periodic review by other courts and supporting organizations, which are members of the International Framework.”

The Judiciary of Jamaica remains committed to continuous improvements which will result in a “world class judiciary utilizing innovation and technology for efficient service delivery”, and to “provide sound, timely judgments and efficient court services in an environment where all stakeholders are valued.”