



PRESS RELEASE

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THE JUDICIARY OF JAMAICA HONOURS ENA COLLYMORE-WOODSTOCK, A BRILLIANT LEGAL MIND (1917–2025)

Kingston– December 4, 2025 – The Judiciary of Jamaica celebrates the life and legacy of Ena Collymore-Woodstock OD, MBE, an exceptional legal mind whose courage, intellect, and decades of dedicated service helped reshape the legal landscape and open pathways for generations of women now serving across the nation’s courts.

Reflecting on her extraordinary impact, The Honourable Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes, OJ, CD, Chief Justice of Jamaica, said, “Today, we honour a visionary jurist and trailblazer whose courage, integrity, and unwavering sense of duty helped to reshape the very character of our judiciary. Her legacy resonates in every courtroom where a woman now presides, and in the heart of every Jamaican who witnesses justice administered with fairness and without fear or favour.”

Adding to this tribute, The Honourable Mrs. Justice Marva McDonald Bishop OJ, CD, President of the Court of Appeal, remarked, “Her legacy is not confined to the courts she presided over, but lives on in the culture she cultivated—a Judiciary that prizes talent, integrity, and excellence above all else. She was a true architect of transformation, whose vision and work overall contribution to the administration of justice opened doors for every woman who now wears the robe with pride.”

Before entering the legal profession, Mrs. Collymore-Woodstock served with distinction in Europe during World War II as a radar operator in the Auxiliary Territorial Service, demonstrating courage, precision, and discipline long before these qualities defined her judicial career.

Her public service in Jamaica began even earlier. She joined the courts as a Temporary Clerk on May 11, 1937, serving across Spanish Town, Half-Way-Tree, St. Ann’s Bay and the Civil Division until January 8, 1940. She was then appointed Typist in the RM Court (Criminal Division) from January 9, 1940 to March 31, 1943.



Between 1943 and 1946, she served as a Female Clerk assigned from the Resident Magistrate Courts to the Ministry of Agriculture before returning to the judiciary as Assistant Clerk between 1946 and 1948. Her leadership ability was quickly recognized and she was appointed Deputy Clerk of Courts for Kingston RM on December 1, 1948, a post she held until November 30, 1953.

Her rise continued when she became Assistant Crown Solicitor in the Attorney General's Chambers from March 18, 1953 to May 13, 1959, breaking new ground for women in legal advisory roles. On May 14, 1959, she made history again when she was appointed Resident Magistrate, serving in the Civil Division in Kingston until her retirement on September 10, 1977.

During these decades, she chaired the Juvenile Court, later served as Senior Resident Magistrate, and after retirement undertook judicial assignments in the Turks and Caicos Islands and Anguilla, further extending her influence across the region.

Her career illustrates how persistence, excellence, and quiet courage can reshape institutions. Today, women form the majority of Jamaica's judiciary, a reality built on the foundations she laid over eight decades of public service.

The Judiciary of Jamaica extends heartfelt condolences to her family and pledges to honour her legacy by continuing the work she began, ensuring justice remains fair, accessible, and reflective of the people it serves.

**For further information, you may contact the Director for Client Services,
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