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COURT
ADMINISTRATION
DIVISION

THE COURT NEWSLETTER

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Swearing-In Ceremony for Puisne Judge and Master-in-Chambers Held at King's House

In a solemn and dignified ceremony at King's House on Thursday, April 24, 2025, His Excellency the Most Honourable Sir Patrick Allen, Governor General of Jamaica, presided over the Easter Term swearing-in of two distinguished members of the judiciary: the Honourable Mrs. Justice Tracey-Ann Johnson as Acting Puisne Judge, and Miss Christine McNeil as Acting Master-in-Chambers.

The ceremony marked a significant moment in the ongoing effort to strengthen the administration of justice in Jamaica. With friends, family, members of the judiciary, and other dignitaries in attendance, both appointees took the Oath of Office, pledging to uphold the Constitution and serve with impartiality, integrity, and dedication.

In his address, the Governor General commended the appointees for their exemplary service and commitment to justice. He noted the importance of a robust and independent judiciary in fostering public trust and maintaining the rule of law.

Chief Justice, the Honourable Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes, OJ, CD, in extending congratulations, emphasised the judiciary's expectations for continued excellence. He noted that both the Honourable Mrs. Justice Tracey-Ann Johnson and Miss Christine McNeil have demonstrated admirable legal acumen and professional conduct in their previous roles, and he expressed confidence in their ability to rise to the challenges ahead.

The Honourable Mrs. Justice Tracey-Ann Johnson brings years of judicial experience and a strong record of service in the courts. She was appointed Senior Judge of the Parish Court in 2019 and since 2020, has been serving as Acting Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court. Miss Christine McNeil has likewise distinguished herself through her legal insight and dedication to the administration of justice, served as Acting Parish Judge from 2021 to 2022 and has been serving as acting Master-in-Chambers since 2023.

The Judiciary of Jamaica welcomes both appointees to their new roles and looks forward to their continued contribution to the delivery of timely and effective justice across the island.

Swearing-In Ceremony for Puisne Judge and Master-in-Chambers Held at King's House



(L-R) Acting Puisne Judge, the Honourable Mrs. Justice Tracey-Ann Johnson; His Excellency the Most Honourable Sir Patrick Allen, Governor-General; Chief Justice, the Honourable Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes, OJ, CD; and Acting Master-in-Chambers, Miss Christine McNeil.

Celebrating our Administrative Professionals

On April 23, 2025, the Court Administration Division (CAD) celebrated annual Administrative Professionals' Day under the theme, "Refresh, Recharge, Reconnect" at the Sandals Resort, Ocho Rios. The day was designed to honour the administrative staff in an atmosphere that encourage relaxation, and comfort.

With the charismatic Coleen Douglas and cultural icon Owen 'Blakka' Ellis at the helm, the event was filled with interactive sessions and good vibes that encouraged personal and professional development.



Cheers to Noelle Hamilton, Administrative Assistant, Information, Communication and Technology Unit, enjoying a moment in the Cozy Korna

The guests of honour were treated in Cozy Korna, with leg massages, and cocktail appetizers. The ambiance was vibrant and relaxing, a perfect start to a day of inspiration and celebration. Additionally, the administrative professionals enjoyed an interactive photo zone including a 360-camera booth as well as photo-op area with properties.

A tone of purpose, gratitude and growth was set through remarks by The Honourable Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes, OJ, CD, Chief Justice, His Honour Mr. Chester Crooks, Chief Judge of the Parish Courts, and Mrs. Tricia Cameron-Anglin, Director/ CEO of CAD. Their messages underscored the crucial role administrative professionals play in advancing justice and organizational excellence and encouraged them to enjoy their day to 'refresh, recharge and reconnect'.



Cultural icon Owen 'Blakka' Ellis engaging warmly with administrative professionals.

A major highlight of the day was the series of appreciation videos, that depicted stories of achievements and gratitude to all administrative professionals of the Judiciary. The esteemed guests were also entertained with a Fashionista Parade, interactive activities and other performances; an embodiment of camaraderie and relaxation.

Dr. Eleanor Moodie-White, Senior Social Worker from the Kingston & St. Andrew Family Court, delivered a motivational charge filled with encouragement to nurture their inner resilience and inspire continued excellence. She reminded the administrative professionals of the importance of work/life balance noting that recharging should not be done once per year but on a regular basis.

Celebrating our Administrative Professionals

The day culminated in the Rewards & Recognition segment, where our exemplary administrative professionals were honoured for their service and commitment. The event was more than just a celebration, it was a rejuvenating experience that reminded every attendee of their value, their community, and their contribution to Judicial performance.



A duo dedicated to excellence, Miss Christina Graham, Administrative Assistant for the Internal Audit Division and Miss Kortisha Edwards, Administrative Assistant for the Human Resources and Administration Division.



Miss Deloris Briscoe, Administrative Assistant in the Client Services, Communication and Information Division, beams as she watches an appreciation video from her team.



Mrs. Jody-Ann Fisher-Bell, Administrative Professional of the Supreme Court, is greeted with a welcome cocktail upon arrival.



Mrs. Carmen Campbell, Court Operations Manager, Portland Parish Court and staff gathered and engaged during the formal proceedings

Strengthening Justice: Senior Judges Convene to Lead Discussions



The CEO/Director of CAD and Chief Justice pictured during the commission.

Senior Judges united to strengthen justice and chart the way ahead for the Parish Court Commission on Friday, April 25, 2025, at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel. The event shone a light on the determination, teamwork, and problem-solving that continue to advance justice delivery across Jamaica's Parish Courts. The workshop aimed to equip judicial officers and legal practitioners with a deeper understanding of the operations of the parish courts; specifically, case backlog reduction.

The day's proceedings commenced with an interactive session led by the Honourable Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes, Chief Justice, that encouraged the parish court judges to share their respective limitations in applying the Jury Act, Bail Act and other challenges in reducing court backlog. As a result, a

team was formed dedicated to analysing the processes and formulating standardized solutions to improve efficiency in the parish courts.

Subsequently, the Chief Justice spoke to the Parish Court Judges about "Performance Measurement and Management: The Jamaican Judiciary's journey with ICCE, IFCE, Global Measures, and the Balanced Scorecard. He highlighted that performance measurement of the courts is still new to judiciaries around the world as the Jamaican Judiciary is just on its second strategic plan. In implementing these measures, the Judiciary is now capable of using the information gathered in fulfilling its vision and mission.

Senior Judge of the St. Mary Parish Court, Her Honour Ms. Nicole Kellier, provided a comprehensive presentation on how St. Mary Parish Court tackled its gross backlog. The feat of disposing of 580 civil cases and 407 criminal cases as of February 2025, was achieved through focused case management, and close teamwork.

In accordance with the Judiciary's journey to digitization, Mr. Dwayne Forbes and Ms. Keizia Burford from Return on Investment Consulting Limited provided a comprehensive address on Cascade, a leading strategy execution and performance management software. Cascade uses AI to automate reporting and generate real-time dashboards and alignment maps, allowing leaders to easily track progress on strategic goals and ensure that court-level plans align with national priorities. Court Operations Managers, directors of CAD and judges will use Cascade to manage their Tier 2 plans, monitor KPIs, and attach proof of activities, with strict governance to maintain data integrity. The initiative reflects the Judiciary's commitment to modernize operations, enhance leadership effectiveness, and support evidence-based decision-making as part of its journey to excellence.

Strengthening Justice: Senior Judges Convene to Lead Discussions

In the afternoon session, Her Honour Mrs. Mitsy Beaumont-Daley, Senior Parish Court Judge at the Traffic Court, presented on the general performance of the Traffic Court. She shared several limitations such as a massive backlog as well as overcrowded and split facilities. She outlined the urgent steps that were administrated to improve operations, like retrofitting containers for files and expanding courtrooms. She also mentioned that despite disposing of over 148,000 matters and collecting over \$856 million in fines, the court still struggles due to split locations, limited staff, inadequate holding areas, and system constraints made worse by rising caseloads under the new Road Traffic Act. Judge Beaumont-Daley proposed key solutions to restructure operations to improve efficiency and service.

Thereafter, Ms. Ieesha Graham-McIntosh, Chief Statistician for the Judiciary of Jamaica, provided an outline of the court excellence scores for both criminal and civil cases. She highlighted parishes such as St. Mary and Portland, that exceeded the minimum case clearance rates. It was noted that the Judiciary's net backlogs for criminal and civil are low, however there is room for improvement as gross backlogs remain.

The Chief Justice closed by thanking the judges and staff, noting that court excellence scores have shown modest improvement, with leadership and data management identified as priority areas. He urged all to keep improving case management, work towards clearing backlogs, and embrace digital tools.



Chief Justice, the Honourable Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes, OJ, CD, presenting on Performance Measurement and Management.



Her Honour Mrs. Paula A. Blake-Powell, Senior Judge of the Kingston and St. Andrew Parish Court, sharing insights during interactive session while His Honour William Campbell, Senior Judge of the Special Coroner's Court, looks on.

JUDICIARY DAY 2025: A CELEBRATION OF LEGACY AND VISION

On Wednesday, May 7, 2025, courthouses across the island joined in celebrating the inaugural Judiciary Day under the theme “Preserving Justice, Honouring History, Embracing the Future.” This landmark event united judges, court staff, attorneys, students, and members of the public in a day of reflection, education, and pride in Jamaica’s justice system.

The day’s proceedings commenced with an Opening Pep Rally, which featured addresses from Chief Justice, The Hon. Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes, President of the Court of Appeal, The Hon. Mrs. Justice Marva McDonald Bishop, Chief Judge of the Parish Courts, His Honour Mr Chester Crooks and Director/CEO, Court Administration Division, Mrs Tricia Cameron-Anglin. The Chief Justice lauded the collective efforts of the Judiciary in upholding the rule of law and emphasised the importance of institutional memory in shaping the future of justice in Jamaica.

The Judiciary Dress Parade and Civic Ceremony added a striking visual element to the proceedings as it took place at all courthouses. Judges proudly wore their official regalia. At the Supreme Court, the ceremony featured the hoisting of the national and judicial flags. In addition, other courts held cultural presentations and paid tribute to the pioneers of the Jamaican legal system.

A central highlight of the day was the launch of Court History Exhibitions and Tours. From the historic Supreme Court in downtown Kingston to Parish Courts across the island, visitors explored carefully curated displays chronicling the evolution of Jamaica’s court system. Artefacts, photographs, and timelines offered a powerful glimpse into the nation’s legal heritage, while guided tours provided first-hand insight into the day-to-day workings of the courts.

In addition to showcasing judicial milestones, Judiciary Day provided an opportunity for community engagement. Students from various schools participated in special visits to the courts, where they learned about the roles of key court personnel, the structure of the justice system, and the values of fairness and integrity.

The celebration of Judiciary Day 2025 reaffirmed the Judiciary’s commitment to transparency, public trust, and institutional excellence. As the theme aptly captured, the day was not only about reflecting on the past but also about confidently embracing the future of justice in Jamaica.

Judiciary Day 2025: A Celebration of Legacy and Vision



Judges of the Supreme Court during their Judiciary Day march



Staff from the Probate Division pause for a photo during their Judiciary Day March



Staff from the Finance and Accounts Division of CAD pause for a photo at the Judiciary Day civic ceremony



The Coroner's Court and the Special Coroner's Court taking on the road for their Judiciary Day march

Judiciary Day 2025: A Celebration of Legacy and Vision



Students from the Wolmer's Girls School in attendance at the Judiciary day celebration



Mr. Bell, Director of ICT, CAD, poses with students from his alma mater, Kingston Technical High School, during Judiciary Day



Judges and staff of the St. James Parish Court pauses for a photo during their Judiciary day activities



Judiciary Day "Historical Corner" at the St. Mary Parish Court

Enhancing Court Operations: Court Operations Managers Management Retreat

Court Operations Managers converged at the Hilton Rose Hall Hotel from May 12 to 15 for a strategic management retreat aimed at advancing effective management practices and enhancing the delivery of justice services. Over four days, attendees participated in discussions, workshops, and networking opportunities aimed at refining operational strategies and fostering leadership within the judicial system.

The retreat commenced on May 12, 2025 with an opening reception, celebrating the collective dedication of Court Operations Managers in a vibrant setting. The Glitz and Glamour event provided an opportunity for professional camaraderie, setting the tone for the insightful discussions that followed.

From May 13 to May 15, participants engaged in specialised workshops and presentations addressing critical aspects of court administration. Sessions focused on optimising case management, integrating technological advancements, and refining leadership practices to enhance service delivery. Expert facilitators shared strategic approaches to improving efficiency, emphasising innovation as a driving force in modern judicial administration.

Discussions stressed the importance of collaboration and continuous learning in maintaining judicial excellence. The retreat provided an avenue for managers to exchange best practices, ensuring that operational reforms align with evolving legal and administrative requirements.

The Court Operations Managers Management Retreat reinforced the judiciary's commitment to excellence in governance and service. The insights gained from these sessions aim to inform future initiatives, supporting ongoing efforts to enhance judicial efficiency and accessibility for all.



(Back L-R) Ms. Marsha Grant, Senior Director of Strategic, Planning Reform, Management, CAD, Court Operations Managers: Karen Johnson, St. Mary Parish Court, Ms. Silma Ellis, Trelawny Family Court, Judith Whyte-Green, Court of Appeal, Ms. Ishaunda Qualo, Traffic Court, Ms. Letecia Grant, Western Regional Court, Ms. Gianna Hacker, Mandeville Parish Court, Mrs. Devene Gordon-Phoenix, Trelawny Parish Court, Ms. Gaye-Ann Lewis, Senior Human Resource Officer, Ms. Keisha Roberts, Manchester Family Court, Mrs. Sophia Parchment-Cuff, St. Elizabeth Parish Court, Ms. AnnMarie Green, Kingston & St. Andrew Family Court, Mrs. Nickesha Jones-Royal, Clarendon Parish Court and Ms. Philisha Talbert, Director of Public Procurement and Administration, CAD (Front L-R) Court Operation Managers: Mr. Rajeve Johnson, Kingston & St. Andrew Court (Civil & Taxation Division) and Ms. Sasha Manning, Chapelton Family Court, Mrs. Veronica Poyser, JP, Director, Court Support Services, CAD, Mrs. Tricia Cameron Anglin Director/CEO, CAD, H.H. Mr. Chester Crooks, Chief Judge of the Parish Courts, Court Operation Managers: Mrs. Andrea Montague-Williston, Hanover Parish Court, Ms. Carmen Campbell, Portland, Mrs. Kaddian Clare-Major, St. Catherine PC, and Mr. Marlon Malcolm, Kingston and St. Andrew Parish Court (Criminal Division) gleefully posing for a photo on the final day of their retreat.

Enhancing Court Operations: Court Operations Managers Management Retreat



Gaye-Ann Lewis, Senior Human Resource Officer, Supreme Court poses at the Glitz and Glamour Reception



Rajeve Johnson, Court Operations Manager, Kingston and St. Andrew Parish Court (Civil and Taxation Division), poses with Krystal Tomlinson.



Mrs. Andrea Montague-Williston, Court Operations Manager for the Hanover Parish Court posing with her artwork



Court Operations Managers, Gianna Hacker, Manchester Parish Court, Nickeisha Jones-Royal, Clarendon Parish Court, Devene Gordon-Phoenix, Trelawney Parish Court and Kaddian Clare-Major, St. Catherine Parish Court, captured in a light moment during their session.

Strengthening the Judiciary with the Judicial Service Commission Retreat



Chief justice bringing greetings at the Judicial Service Commission Retreat

The Judicial Service Commission (JSC) convened a strategic three-day retreat on May 16, May 17, and June 13, 2025 at the Pegasus Hotel, aimed at reinforcing the Commission's commitment to integrity, efficiency, and transparency in Judicial administration. This forum provided an opportunity for Judicial leaders to engage in thoughtful discourse on key initiatives essential to the advancement of the nation's legal framework.

The retreat commenced with Chief Justice Bryan Sykes leading discussions on shaping the JSC's vision and mission. His insights emphasised the need for continuous improvements in judicial administration, focusing on integrity, accessibility, and efficiency in service delivery. The first day also featured

an insightful session on psychometric evaluations in HR recruitment, delivered by Trevor Smith, looking at the importance of data-driven hiring practices to ensure a competent and unbiased judicial workforce.

The second day delved into optimising court operations, with sessions covering advancements in technology, procedural efficiency, and strategies for enhancing public trust in the Judiciary. Experts presented innovative solutions for case management and digitalisation, reflecting the global shift toward modern judicial systems.

The retreat culminated in action-oriented discussions, focusing on the implementation of key initiatives. Judicial leaders engaged in collaborative dialogues on policy refinements, emphasising accountability and service excellence. It also reinforced the collective commitment to advancing Jamaica's judicial framework, ensuring sustained progress in legal governance.

Service and Unity Across Jamaica's Courts: Labour Day Edition



Ms. Shanakaye Allman, Customer Service Officer, CAD, at the Trelawny Family Court for Labour Day

In a display of unity, commitment, and service, courts across Jamaica observed Judiciary Labour Day 2025 on May 23 with a series of beautification, restoration, and court upliftment projects.

This island-wide initiative brought together Judges, Court Staff, and volunteers under the national Labour Day theme: “Protect the Environment: Our Land, Our Duty, Our Future.”

Organised and coordinated by the Court Administration Division (CAD), the Judiciary Labour Day Project 2025 was more than a civic duty, it was a tangible demonstration of the judiciary’s ongoing commitment to justice, service, and nation-building.

From the Supreme Court in Kingston to Parish Courts in rural communities, courthouses saw teams of judicial officers and staff rolling up their sleeves to repaint buildings, refurbish key areas, plant trees, and create more welcoming, functional spaces for both court staff and the public.

Notable activities included:

- St. Thomas: Court staff undertook a major beautification project at the Yallahs Courthouse, upgrading the accounting area to accommodate the Government Financial Management System (GFMS) and ensuring it was both secure and visually enhanced.
- Hanover: Staff collaborated to clean and repaint the courtroom, refreshing the space for a better user experience.
- Trelawny: Parish court personnel launched a “Lunchroom Project,” refurbishing the staff lunchroom and replacing outdated appliances and infrastructure to improve staff welfare.

The day concluded with a shared sense of accomplishment and pride. For many participants, it reinforced the mission of justice through service and the belief that every brushstroke, every planted tree, and every repaired bench was a meaningful step toward making our courts more accessible and user-friendly.

Service and Unity Across Jamaica's Courts: Labour Day Edition



Trelawny Parish Court "Legal Eagles" hard at work



Staff of the Kingston & St. Andrew Parish Court (Criminal Division) pause to take a photo amidst their Labour Day activities



Staff of the St. Catherine Parish Court tilling and pruning on Labour Day



Staff of the Hanover Parish Court pause for a well-deserved break during Labour Day activities.

Public Education Day Symposium-Portland Parish Court



Chief Justice, the Honourable Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes, OJ, CD, delivering remarks at the Portland Parish Court Public Education Day.

The Portland Parish Court opened its doors for the Judiciary of Jamaica's quarterly Public Education Day Symposium on May 27, 2025. Under the theme, "Judiciary at Work: Educating, Engaging and Empowering," the residents of Port Antonio and surrounding communities welcomed the opportunity to directly engage with the judiciary of Jamaica. Despite intervals of rain throughout the day, the Portland Parish court transformed into a vibrant domain for learning, dialogue, and community connection.

Students, residents, and key stakeholders, including legal professionals, Justices of the Peace, Ministry of Justice divisions, and civic and educational groups attended. Notably, Passport, Immigration and Citizenship Agency (PICA) and Registrar

General's Department (RGD) offered on-site services such as passport applications, birth and death certificate requests, and other civil documentation.

The civic ceremony, moderated by Her Honour Ms. Jacqueline Wilcott, Senior Judge of the Portland Parish Court featured remarks from His Honour Mr. Chester Crooks, Chief Judge of the Parish Courts, the Hon. Lincoln A. Thaxter, Custos Rotulorum of Portland, the Hon. Mrs. Justice Marva McDonald-Bishop, OJ, CD, President of the Court of Appeal and the Hon. Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes, OJ, CD, Chief Justice. In his remarks, the Chief Justice commended the court staff for the reduction in backlog cases as this achievement does not solely lie on the shoulders of the judges, but all the hands on deck. A key moment of the event was the spirited performances by the Portland Theatre Group, featuring two traditional folk dances and melody. The young talents of Portland brightened the cloudy skies and brought smiles and great entertainment.

The Portland Parish Court Public Education Day Symposium successfully bridged the gap between the Judiciary, the public, and civic services.

Public Education Day Symposium-Portland Parish Court



Residents in attendance at the Public Education Day Symposium's Civic Ceremony



Ministry of Justice's Victims Services Division engaged at their booth



President of the Court Appeal engaging with young talent from the Portland Dance Troupe



Chief Justice and Director/CEO of CAD learning and connecting with the Jamaica Fire Brigade

Case Progression Officers Trained to Thrive, Execute and Excel



Case Progression Officers gearing up to thrive, execute and excel

In a decisive move toward greater efficiency and service excellence, the Judiciary of Jamaica hosted a dynamic four-day training retreat for Case Progression Officers (CPOs) from May 27–30, 2025. The training brought together over 50 officers and stakeholders under the empowering theme: “Thrive, Execute, Excel. Defining the Case Progression Officer Path for Efficient Case Management.”

Case Progression Officers are vital in ensuring cases move smoothly through the court system. They monitor the status of matters, coordinate with judges, attorneys, and court staff. They prevent unnecessary delays by making sure documents are filed, hearings are scheduled, and parties are prepared. By tracking deadlines, and providing updates they improve efficiency and support timely access to justice.

The initiative was designed to sharpen the skills, knowledge, and alignment of CPOs with the Judiciary’s Strategic Business Plan. From opening greetings by Director and CEO of Court Administration, Mrs. Tricia Cameron-Anglin and Chief Judge Mr. Chester Crooks, to strategic insights delivered by Chief Justice Mr. Bryan Sykes and Senior Director Ms. Marsha Grant, the tone was clear: CPOs are vital to the delivery of timely, quality justice.

Through workshops led by Mr. Bruce Preston of International Justice Partners, officers explored the CPO manual, case readiness standards, records management, and stakeholder coordination. Emphasis was placed on integrity, timeliness, and collaboration, pillars for ensuring case progression is seamless and people-centred.

In a riveting session, Mrs. Melody Palmer, Modernisation Projects Coordinator of the Public Sector Modernization Division, unpacked strategies for customer relationship management and effective communication. The value of soft skills and empathy in the courtroom process took centre stage.

Dr. Sheryl Anderson, Managing Director of Quality Systems Solutions & Initiatives (QSSI), guided CPOs in developing SOPs and process flows aligned with ISO standards. With the Judiciary embracing ISO 9001, this was a timely reinforcement of quality management as a cultural norm.

Case Progression Officers Trained to Thrive, Execute and Excel

From the High Court to the Gun Court and Parish Courts, CPOs and Judges shared best practices in civil and criminal case management. Judges such as Justice Carole Barnaby and Her Honour Mrs. Sasha-Marie Ashley offered real-world examples of how differentiated case management and strategic scheduling can ease backlogs and improve outcomes.

There was also an important session on stress management and work-life balance, led by HR specialist Mrs. Sharon Carruthers. Participants were reminded that justice work, while demanding, must be sustainable.

The retreat concluded with the presentation of certificates by Chief Justice Sykes and Director Cameron-Anglin. Their final charge? Continue to serve with integrity, passion, and purpose.

This training wasn't just a professional requirement; it was a recognition of the Case Progression Officer as a cornerstone of Jamaica's justice system. As the Judiciary advances in its reform agenda, these officers stand equipped not only to move cases forward, but to move the system forward, one file, one stakeholder, one courtroom at a time.

CPOs are not just managing cases; they are managing change.



Chief Justice presenting a certificate of participation to Gaylia Graham, Case Progression Officer, Western Regional Family Courts.



Chief Justice presenting a certificate of participation to Afrecia Hall, Case Progression Officer, Supreme Court

Unleashing the Power of People: Judiciary Hosts Transformational HR Training Retreat



Mrs. Tricia Cameron-Anglin, CEO/Director of CAD, welcoming HR Professionals to their Training Retreat

The Judiciary of Jamaica, through the Court Administration Division (CAD), successfully hosted a four-day Human Resource Management Training Programme from June 16 to 19, 2025. Held under the theme “Designing the Future: How Human Resource Management Thrives to Create a Culture of Excellence,” the retreat brought together HR professionals, Court Operations Managers, and key partners for a dynamic and thought-provoking journey to sharpen skills, strengthen strategy, and ignite purpose.

From the very first session, it was evident that the programme was designed not just to train but to transform. Chairing the first day was Miss Janice Donaldson, Senior Human Resource Officer at CAD, who set the tone for a rich and engaging agenda. Ms. Marsha Grant, Senior Director for Strategic Planning, Reform, and Performance Management, placed the spotlight on the people behind the Strategic Business Plan, highlighting the role of the Human Resource Department in driving institutional goals.

Mrs. Tricia Cameron-Anglin, Director/CEO of CAD, offered a warm welcome and opening greetings that stirred and awakened participants to the significance of their roles. Her message was followed by impactful remarks from His Honour Mr. Chester Crooks, Chief Parish Court Judge, and The Hon. Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes, Chief Justice, both of whom reinforced the centrality of HR to the judiciary’s vision and strategic direction.

The remainder of the day included impactful presentations, one of which was delivered by Mrs. Lois Walters, the Principal Director of HR Policy and Information at the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service. She provided eye-opening yet stern guidance to HR practitioners, drawing on the wisdom of the ant from Proverbs 6. In her address, she encouraged participants to embrace foresight, initiative, and consistent effort. She reminded them that, like the ant, HR professionals must work diligently and proactively, anticipating needs and planning rather than waiting for instructions. Her message reinforced the retreat’s theme: excellence begins with each individual and is sustained through deliberate and disciplined action.

Other noteworthy contributions included Mr. Nicholas Ranger, Legal Officer at CAD, who spoke about the Judiciary’s Disciplinary Procedures Framework, offering insight into strengthening internal accountability and fairness.

Unleashing the Power of People: Judiciary Hosts Transformational HR Training Retreat

With a fresh energy, Day Two was chaired by Mr. Kenneth Williams and centred on self-leadership and procedural stability. Sessions such as “Bottom-Up Brilliance: How Self-Leadership Fuels Collective Success” and “Developing Procedural Stability for the HR Management Division” challenged attendees to reflect on their roles in organisational excellence. The day also featured practical group presentations and a timely discussion on Vital Records Management for Human Resources, delivered by Dr. Georgetta Grant from Management Institute for National Development (MIND).

Wednesday’s programme, led by Chairperson Mrs. Gaye-Ann Lewis of the Supreme Court, explored key governance issues. Topics ranged from “The Role of HR in Facilitating and Managing Delegation of Functions” to “Understanding the Grievance Procedures of the Public Service.” With expert insights from the Jamaica Civil Service Association and the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service, participants gained valuable tools for navigating conflict, enhancing compliance, and building trust across departments.

As the curtains closed on Thursday, the focus shifted to benefits administration and evaluation. Under the guidance of Mrs. Devene Gordon-Phoenix, Court Operations Manager for Trelawny Parish Court, the day’s highlight was a robust presentation and discussion on the 360-Degree Evaluation of the Judiciary’s HR Functions, led by Mrs. Tricia Cameron-Anglin, Director and CEO, Court Administration Division.

The retreat concluded with a renewed sense of direction, commitment, and camaraderie.

Excellence is not an act; it is a habit. Let’s keep building it together.



Director of Human Resource Management, Mrs. Henry-Grant and HR professionals during an interactive session



Sasha Manning, Court Operations Manager, Chapelton Family Court, and Gaye-Ann Lewis, Senior Human Resource Officer, Supreme Court, pose after presentation of gift

Careers in Court – Clerk of Court Tanya Francis-Clayton



Clerk of Court, Tanya Francis-Clayton poses in her formal attire

Q: Who is a Clerk of the Court, and what role do you play in the judicial system?

A Clerk of the Court is a trained Attorney-at-Law who prosecutes matters on behalf of the Crown. As ministers of justice, Clerks ensure that cases progress efficiently, preventing delays and protecting the rights of court users.

Q: What are your core responsibilities daily?

On any given day, Clerks prepare indictments and court documents, manage jurors, take pleas, swear in witnesses, and liaise with judges, attorneys, probation officers, police, and victim services. We also review files, conduct legal research, advise judges, and supervise junior staff to keep the courts running smoothly.

Q: What does a typical day in court look like?

A day often begins with calling up matters, advising judges and investigating officers on outstanding issues, and prosecuting cases.

Clerks may also resolve matters through mediation or restorative justice, plead accused persons, and prepare the necessary orders and documents to move cases forward.

Q: How do you prepare for court sessions?

Preparation is key. I review case files, ensure charges are properly framed under the law, contact investigating officers, and prepare documents such as indictments, allegation sheets, and committal bundles. This behind-the-scenes work ensures the smooth running of each sitting.

Q: What qualifications or skills are needed for this role?

A Bachelor of Laws degree and a Certificate in Legal Education are required. Beyond academics, persistence, adaptability, strong communication skills, patience, and the ability to think on your feet are critical for success as a Clerk.

Careers in Court – Clerk of Court Tanya Francis-Clayton



Q: What do you find most rewarding about your job?

The most rewarding part is being able to impact people's lives through fairness and impartiality. Knowing that my work helps deliver justice makes the demands of the role worthwhile.

Q: What advice would you give to someone considering this career?

Be resilient and prepared to serve selflessly. This role requires not just legal knowledge but also respect for all court users, teamwork, and a genuine commitment to justice.

Clerk of Court Tanya Francis-Clayton
with members of her dedicated team.

Clerk of Court Training Seminar: Enhancing the Prosecutor's Toolkit

In an effort to strengthen one of its vital links, the Judiciary of Jamaica through the Court Administration Division (CAD) in collaboration with the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) hosted a four-day training seminar for the Clerks of Court. From June 26th to 29th, 2025, Clerks of Court from each court gathered at the Grand Palladium Jamaica Resort & Spa for “Enhancing the Prosecutor’s Toolkit”.

The opening session featured heartfelt remarks from Mrs. Tricia Cameron Anglin, Director/CEO of CAD, who described Clerks of Court as the “backbone of the Judicial System; the unseen force that ensures the wheels of justice turns precisely and justly.” She urged Clerks to “thrive, execute and excel” for greater excellence. His Honour Mr. Chester Crooks, Chief Judge of the Parish Courts, the Honourable Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes, OJ, CD, Chief Justice and Ms. Paula Llewellyn, CD, KC, Director of Public Prosecutions, reaffirm the Judiciary’s gratitude for the clerks of courts and the unwavering commitment to develop skilled and learned litigators.

Ms. Marsha Grant, Senior Director of Strategic Planning, Reform and Management at CAD, illustrated the Judiciary’s Strategic Business Plan. She highlighted that unlike then, the Judiciary has a clear blueprint understood by all. She emphasized the roles of clerks in achieving the objectives by aligning resources, managing risks, and ensuring operational precision. Brand development emerged as a powerful tool to add to their toolkit, with speakers reminding clerks that integrity and resilience are the bedrock of public service. Hon. Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes, Chief Justice, and His Honour Mr. Chester Crooks, Chief Judge of the Parish Courts underscores the importance of continued learning for professional growth.

On the second day, His Honour Mr. Chester Crooks and his panelists highlighted the clerks’ crucial role in case management, trial readiness and people management, dubbing them custodians of fairness and guardians of due process. Subsequently, the DPP’s panel candidly discussed ethics, collegiality, the value of mentorship, and the clerk–defence relationship. “All is fair in love, war and litigation,” was shared as a reminder to balance relationships between stakeholders, colleagues and friendships. Ms. Llewellyn’s further delved into plea bargaining legislation across the Commonwealth, the art of plea negotiations (covering charges, sentencing and facts) and the principles of fair and just sentencing.

The third day began with an entertaining simulation by Ms. Llewellyn and Mr. Malike Kellier, JP, Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions (Ag.), bringing the real dynamics of the courtroom to life. Sessions on Financial Crimes by Ms. Anita Hall, Assistant Crown Counsel, Identification Evidence by Ms. Claudette Thompson, Senior Deputy DPP and Case File Preparation by Mrs. Kimberley Dell-Williams, Senior Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions (Ag.), reinforced that clerks are constantly building their personal brand, they should aim to create one that aligns with integrity and unquestionable work ethics. It was underscored that the clerks of court must aim to make clear, concise and correct allegations, forge professional alliances that will shape their careers as litigators.

The final day concluded with practical guidance on Committal Proceedings by Mr. Malike Kellier, and a vital refresher on Indictments, Joinder of Offences and Offenders by Mr. Jeremy Taylor, BH(M), KC, Senior Deputy Director of DPP. Across every session, the value of continuous learning and supportive mentorship was clear, reminding clerks to refine their craft and uphold their role as trusted advocates for the people of Jamaica.

Clerk of Court Training Seminar: Enhancing the Prosecutor's Toolkit



Clerks of court posing with Her Honour Ms. Nicole Kellier, Her Honour Mrs. Natiesha Fairclough-Hylton, Mrs. Tricia Cameron-Anglin, His Honour Mr. Chester Crooks and Ms. Paula Lewellyn, CD, KC with celebratory smiles to mark the end of their seminar training.

Third Place Finish For Judiciary Debating Team

The Judiciary of Jamaica's Debating Team has once again distinguished itself on the national stage, securing a third-place finish in the 2025 Public Sector Debate Competition. The tournament was hosted by the Transformation Implementation Unit (TIU), in collaboration with the Jamaican Association for Debating and Empowerment Limited (JADE).

The competition, which commenced in April and concluded on July 10, 2025, featured parliamentary-style debates focused on public-sector transformation and current affairs. It served as a powerful platform for public servants to hone their critical thinking, advocacy, and communication skills, while highlighting the vital role government entities play in national development.

Throughout the tournament, the Judiciary's team faced off against several formidable opponents, including:

- Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN)
- Universal Service Fund (USF)
- Ministry of Tourism
- National Irrigation Commission
- Passport, Immigration and Citizenship Agency (PICA)

Their journey to the semi-finals was marked by resilience, strategic thinking, and an unwavering team spirit. The team consistently delivered well-reasoned arguments, demonstrating composure, clarity, and a firm grasp of complex subject matter that impressed both judges and audiences.

A highlight of the group was Jaya Kamoze, who earned the Best Speaker title in several matches, a testament to her eloquence, analytical skill, and persuasive delivery. The team also captured the Fan Favourite award, further affirming their exceptional performance throughout the competition.



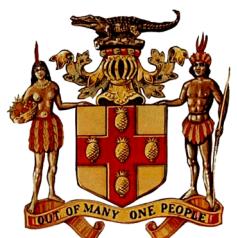
The Judiciary's Debating Team: (L-R) Nicholas Ranger – Legal Officer, CAD; Sanique Richards – Senior Judicial Counsel; Adriel Williams – Senior Judicial Counsel; Jaya Kamoze – Executive Legal Officer to the Chief Justice; and Jaquan Beckford.

Judiciary Debating Team Secures Third Place in TIU Public Sector Debate Competition

The Judiciary extends heartfelt congratulations to the entire team for their dedication, professionalism, and outstanding representation. Their success exemplifies the Judiciary's commitment to continuous learning, public engagement, and excellence.



The Debating Team posing with a few of their avid supporters; Mrs. Bobette Dawkins, Senior Director, Human Resource Management & Administration (HRMA), Mrs. Tricia Cameron Anglin, Director/CEO of the Court Administration Division, Mrs. Janet Duffus-Beale, Customer Service Coordinator, and Rosemarie Alridge, Customer Service Assistant.



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