

COURT
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DIVISION

The Gift of Justice

A Judiciary Steadfast in Hurricane Melissa's Shadow



THE COURT NEWSLETTER

The Official Newsletter of the Judiciary of Jamaica



Christmas Edition

Reflection: A Judiciary Steadfast in Hurricane Melissa's Shadow-Rising from the Ashes

In October, Jamaica faced one of the most powerful storms in its history, Hurricane Melissa, a Category Five storm of unprecedented force tested not only our physical infrastructure, but the very spirit of our people. Lives were upended, homes and court buildings destroyed, communities displaced, and essential services were pushed far beyond their limits. Yet, in the midst of this devastation, something profound emerged, the quiet, determined resilience that defines who we are as Jamaicans.

In the immediate aftermath of the hurricane, the Judiciary confronted unprecedented operational disruption across several parishes. Six parishes: St. Elizabeth, Westmoreland, Trelawny, St. James, St. Catherine, and Hanover, reported varying levels of structural and functional impact. St. Elizabeth and Westmoreland bore the brunt of the storm: The St. Elizabeth Parish Court-Black River was completely destroyed exposing case files, equipment and offices to severe water damage and the St. Elizabeth Parish Court-Santa Cruz Outstation lost sections of its roof. In Westmoreland, both the Family Court and the Parish Court suffered significant roofing loss, compromising their ability to safely house staff and the public.

The Trelawny Family Court also sustained major roof damage, forcing an immediate halt to in-person proceedings and a rapid assessment of alternative service points. Other courts across the island reported, compromised electrical systems, and water-logging, all of which required urgent stabilization.

Also In This Issue:

- *The Intelligent Future of Justice*
- *From the Driver's Seat to the Heart: One Colleague's Extraordinary Act*
- *DTC Graduates Celebrate New Beginnings*



St. Elizabeth Parish Courthouse in Black River completely damaged following the aftermath of Category 5 Hurricane Melissa.

A Judiciary Steadfast in Hurricane Melissa's Shadow-Rising from the Ashes

In response to this widespread impact, the Judiciary initiated an aggressive and carefully coordinated rescheduling of court dates, ensuring that no member of the public was left without guidance or access to justice. Public advisories were issued through national media, social media platforms, and Judiciary communication channels outlining new dates, relocated sessions, and emergency contact procedures. Where courthouses were deemed unsafe, matters were reassigned to outstations, partner facilities, and temporary venues activated specifically for continuity of service. Judges and court staff worked extended hours to reorganize dockets, prioritize critical matters, and maintain clear communication with attorneys, litigants, and the public.



Staff at the Westmoreland Family Court undertake roof repairs and restoration work after extensive damage caused by Hurricane Melissa.



The Honourable Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes, Chief Justice, gives an interview after touring the Parish Court in Black River -St. Elizabeth, which was completely destroyed by Hurricane Melissa in October.

Simultaneously, cleanup and stabilization efforts began across the affected regions. Judiciary relief teams were deployed to clear debris, retrieve and secure case files, and support staff who had suffered personal loss. Careful retrieval of documents, equipment, and other essential materials was carried out to prevent further loss or damage. Court Administration Division teams conducted rapid damage assessments to guide the restoration roadmap, including temporary relocation plans for the most heavily affected courts. The Chief Justice and senior administrators carried out on-site tours, offering support to staff and ensuring that recovery decisions were informed by real-time conditions.

Despite the destruction, the Judiciary's focus remained fixed on sustaining justice services as a stabilizing force for the nation. Even in heavily impacted parishes, essential matters continued, and other critical judicial functions were preserved. The rapid adaptation of spaces, systems, and schedules ensured that the rule of law did not falter but instead served as a steady anchor during a period of national upheaval.



A Judiciary Steadfast in Hurricane Melissa's Shadow-Rising from the Ashes

In Hurricane Melissa's shadow, the Judiciary stood steadfast. Notwithstanding that as courthouses sustained damage, as staff navigated personal loss, and as communities worked to clear roads and restore basic services, the commitment to justice did not waver. Judges, magistrates, and court staff responded with extraordinary courage and adaptability, ensuring that the rule of law remained a source of stability at a time when so much else felt uncertain. Their service reminds us that justice is not only delivered in moments of calm, it is upheld most meaningfully in moments of adversity.

This season, as we reflect on what has been lost and what is being rebuilt, we also honour the strength shown across the justice system and throughout Jamaica. Every parish, every court every member of staff demonstrated that even the fiercest storm cannot destroy our dedication to fairness, dignity, and service. Our collective resilience is not merely a response to crisis, it is a testament to our character, our unity and our unwavering belief in justice as a stabilizing force.

Recovery will continue in the months ahead. Communities are rebuilding, families are healing, and institutions, including the Judiciary are restoring full operations with renewed purpose and vision. Let this be a time of compassion, collaboration, and national resolve. In standing together, we honour those who suffered, support those still recovering, and strengthen the foundations upon which justice is delivered for every Jamaican.

In Hurricane Melissa's shadow, we found not darkness, but determination. In the face of the hurricane, our strength. And as we move forward, we do so with gratitude, resilience, and an unbroken commitment to justice.



Mrs. Sophia Cuff-Parchment, Court Operations Manager for St. Elizabeth, and Mr. Karon Ashmeade, Acting Building Manager at the Court Administration Division, prepare to assess the interior of the court.



A section of the Westmoreland Parish Court roof damaged following the storm



A section of the roof of the Trelawny Family Court damaged following the powerful storm



A Judiciary Steadfast in Hurricane Melissa's Shadow-Rising from the Ashes



Complete destruction in certain parts of Black River -St. Elizabeth following the storm



Operating with Resilience

As Jamaica continues its recovery from Hurricane Melissa, the Judiciary remains steadfast in delivering justice services that are safe, accessible, and responsive. Guided by the Judiciary of Jamaica Strategic Business Plan 2024–2028, our operations in this festive season and into

the New Year reflect a commitment to strong leadership, well-managed processes, and meaningful engagement with the public we serve.

Look out for practical tips and updates for court users and staff, each grounded in one of the Judiciary's Strategic Outcomes.

- ***Staying Informed Through Official Updates***

Strategic Outcome: Stakeholder Engagement — improving access, public trust, and communication

Several court locations continue to experience infrastructural challenges.

- ✓ Follow official Judiciary channels for changes in court dates, temporary relocations, and public advisories.
- ✓ Courts will continue using digital platforms to communicate quickly and clearly during the holiday period.

Why: Clear communication strengthens public trust and ensures users receive timely, reliable information.



Justice, Joy, and Renewal

A Christmas Reflection for the Judiciary of Jamaica – Chief Justice



***The Honourable Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes OJ, CD
Chief Justice***

Fellow members of the Judiciary,
This year has tested our endurance, our discipline, and our collective resolve. We have faced demanding caseloads, operational pressures, and the profound loss of our colleague, Judge Ruth Lawrence. Her passing reminds us that the highest virtues of judicial service—wisdom, integrity, and humanity—are not abstract ideals, but lived principles.

Yet in adversity, the Judiciary of Jamaica has demonstrated its strength. We have remained steadfast in our duty, adapted to evolving demands, and upheld the rule of law with clarity and conviction.

This is the essence of judicial perseverance: the unwavering commitment to fairness, even when the path is difficult.

As we pause for Christmas, we do so not merely in celebration, but in reflection. Justice is not confined to rulings; it is the moral architecture of our society. It is the assurance that every citizen, regardless of circumstance, is treated with dignity and equity.

We also acknowledge joy, not as sentiment, but as purpose. The joy of knowing that our work matters. That each judgment rendered, each reform implemented, and each life redirected through the courts contributes to public trust and institutional integrity.

And we embrace renewal. Renewal is not forgetting, it is the disciplined transformation of experience into wisdom. It is the resolve to carry forward the lessons of this year, to strengthen our systems, and to deepen our compassion as judicial officers.

As we close 2025 and look ahead, let us recommit to the principles that define us: impartiality, courage, and service. Let us honour those we have lost by living their legacy. And let us continue building a Judiciary that is not only rigorous in law, but rich in humanity.

On behalf of the Judiciary of Jamaica, I extend warm Christmas wishes to each of you. May the coming year bring peace, strength, and renewal to our courts, our country, and our collective mission.

Thank you.

Season of Service, Season of Justice

Christmas Message from the President of the Court of Appeal



**The Honourable Mrs. Justice Marva
McDonald-Bishop OJ, CD
President of the Court of Appeal**

As the year 2025 draws to a close, the Court of Appeal takes this moment to reflect on a period defined by both significant challenges and notable achievements. Our commitment to upholding the rule of law, delivering fair and timely judgments, and serving the people of Jamaica with unwavering integrity, impartiality, diligence, and competence has been at the heart of every action and decision throughout the past year.

Throughout 2025, the Court has faced complex operational demands. Despite these challenges, we have implemented measures designed to enhance access to justice and ensure that court proceedings continue smoothly and efficiently for the public we serve. Through these ongoing efforts, the judiciary has strengthened its ability to adapt, innovate, and remain responsive to the evolving needs of the nation.

We pause to remember and honour the invaluable contributions of our esteemed colleagues who have passed. In particular, we reflect on the lives and service of Her Honour Miss Ruth Lawrence and Judges' orderly, Mr Adam Brown, whom we recently laid to rest. Their dedication to the administration of justice stands as a powerful reminder of the profound commitment required to serve justice with passion, compassion, dedication, and humility. We pray that the souls of our dearly departed colleagues may rest in perfect peace, with light perpetual shining upon them.

This season also offers an opportunity to acknowledge the unwavering dedication of those who continue to give yeoman service within our justice sector. Judges, court administrators and support staff have all demonstrated steadfast commitment, even in the face of adversity, particularly following the hardships many faced during Hurricane Melissa. Their tireless work ensures that our judiciary remains a continued source of national pride. We recognize the immense responsibility entrusted to us to maintain the public's trust and confidence in the administration of justice, a duty we uphold with humility and steadfast resolve.

As we celebrate this Christmas, let us reflect on our perseverance and triumphs, the progress we have achieved, the lessons we have learned, and the lives we have touched through our service. May this season bring peace to your hearts, joy to your homes, and renewal to your spirits as we pause to consider the true reason for the season.

Looking ahead to 2026, let us continue our mission with renewed vigor, strengthened by the knowledge that our work upholds justice, maintains peace, and fortifies the very fabric of our nation. Together, we move forward, committed to excellence, guided by compassion, and united in service.

On behalf of the Court of Appeal, we extend our warmest wishes for a joyful Christmas and a New Year filled with purpose, progress, and pride in the meaningful work we continue to do.

The Light of Justice Shines Bright in our Parish Courts

Message from Judge Chester Crooks – Chief Judge of the Parish Courts



**His Honour Mr. Chester Crooks
Chief Judge of the Parish Courts**

As we celebrate the festive season, I am reminded of the vital role the Parish Courts play in upholding fairness, integrity, and transparency across our communities. Every day, our work brings justice closer to the people we serve, ensuring that their rights are respected and their voices heard.

This year, we have continued to enhance access to court services, streamline processes, and embrace innovations that make it easier for staff and the public to engage with the justice system. These efforts reflect the dedication and professionalism of all court staff, whose commitment ensures that the light of justice shines brightly in every parish.

May this Christmas season be one of reflection, gratitude, and hope. Let it inspire us to continue

serving with compassion and integrity, and to uphold the principles that make our courts a source of pride for the nation.

As we look forward to 2026, may we carry forward the spirit of service and excellence, ensuring that justice continues to illuminate the path for all Jamaicans.

Wishing you peace, joy, and a fulfilling New Year.

Unity in Justice: A Season to Reflect and Strengthen

Message from the Director/CEO – Court Administration Division



Mrs. Tricia Cameron-Anglin
Director/CEO – Court
Administration Division

As 2025 comes to a close, we reflect on a year of meaningful progress and growth across our courts. The Courts Administration Division continues to ensure that the Judiciary operates efficiently, transparently, and in service of the people of Jamaica.

This year, our staff participated in extensive training programs, strengthening skills and building capacity to better serve the public. Strategic planning research has guided how we operate and make decisions, ensuring that our initiatives are forward-looking, informed, and aligned with national needs.

We have also advanced digitalization of records and archival systems, improving access to information for staff and clients alike. These changes streamline processes, enhance service delivery, and reinforce public confidence in the courts.

Our people, our systems, our commitment, together, these strengthen the foundation of justice and so, for this season, we celebrate the dedication, professionalism, and teamwork of all staff. Your efforts ensure that the Judiciary remains a source of pride for the nation. Every action taken in service of justice matters, and the progress we've made this year is a testament to that commitment.

Looking ahead to 2026, let us continue to strengthen our processes, enhance our services, and uphold the highest standards of justice. Together, we advance the Judiciary's mission and demonstrate that operational excellence and dedication go hand in hand.

On behalf of the Courts Administration Division, I extend warm wishes for a joyful and peaceful Christmas, and a New Year filled with purpose, achievement, and pride in the work we continue to do.

The Intelligent Future of Justice

Jamaica has become one of the first Caribbean countries to implement clear rules governing the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in its courts, marking a significant step in modernizing the judicial system. The Honourable Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes, OJ, CD, Chief Justice announced the new guidelines, designed to enhance efficiency while maintaining fairness, accuracy, and integrity.

“Generative AI will enhance efficiency and streamline court operations. It will simplify the preparation of legal submissions, reduce clerical delays, ease the filing process, and support self-represented litigants. Court staff will also use AI to improve document management, case scheduling, and information retrieval — ensuring proceedings are faster, more accurate, and transparent.” Chief Justice Bryan Sykes, OJ, CD

The new rules apply across Jamaica’s courts, guiding attorneys, litigants, and court staff in the responsible use of Generative AI tools for managing and preparing court documents. To ensure responsible and transparent use of AI, the Chief Justice has outlined specific protocols:

- Prohibition on using AI to draft affidavits, witness statements, expert evidence, or fabricated case law.
- Disclosure and verification of any AI-generated work.
- Sanctions for misuse, including cost orders, contempt proceedings, or referral to the General Legal Council.

“AI must be used responsibly to maintain the integrity of the Judicial process.” He said.



The Honourable Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes, Chief Justice, uses a laptop as part of his ongoing push to integrate technological devices to enhance court operations.

Jamaica’s proactive approach positions it as a regional leader in integrating AI into the judicial system. By balancing innovation with safeguards, the Judiciary ensures faster and more equitable access to justice for all Jamaicans.

For ordinary Jamaicans, these changes mean faster access to justice, clearer processes, and a system that works for everyone. By embracing AI responsibly, the Judiciary demonstrates its commitment to modernization,

transparency, and service excellence, ensuring that justice in Jamaica remains both accessible and intelligent.

“By embracing technology responsibly, we are shaping a Judiciary that is efficient, fair, and prepared for the future.” Chief Justice Bryan Sykes, OJ, CD.

The Intelligent Future of Justice



Chief Justice Sykes remains committed to advancing the Judiciary's capabilities through technology. His leadership ensures that Jamaica's courts are not only keeping pace with global advancements but also setting a benchmark for others to follow.

Operating with Resilience

- ***Protecting Your Legal Documents During Recovery***

Strategic Outcome: Court Processes & Procedures — ensuring efficiency and resilience

With ongoing cleanup and unpredictable weather:

- ✓ Keep court-related documents in waterproof folders.
- ✓ Email yourself copies of important files for redundancy.
- ✓ Take photos of receipts, orders, and agreements to speed up processing if originals are affected.

Why: Proper document preservation reduces case delays and supports efficient operations.

- ***Safe and Orderly Visits to Court Facilities***

Strategic Outcome: Court Infrastructure — ensuring facilities are customer-focused and safe

Where cleanup and repairs continue:

- ✓ Observe safety signage and restricted areas.
- ✓ Use official entry points and follow security guidance.
- ✓ Report hazards such as leaks or fallen debris immediately.

Why: Safety is essential to restoring full functionality while maintaining continuous service.

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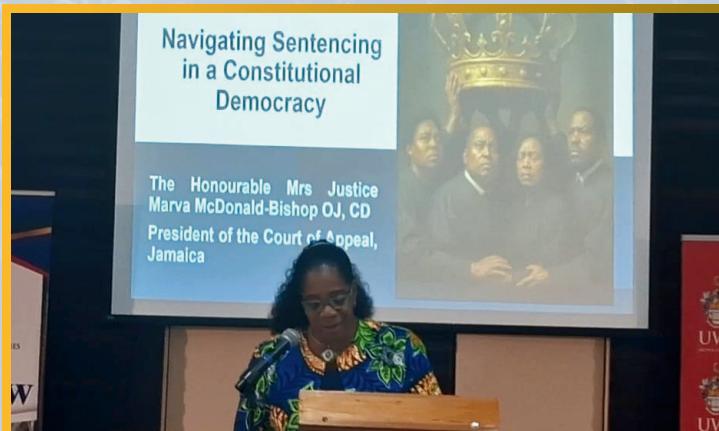
Why: Safety is essential to restoring full functionality while maintaining continuous service.

Heavy is the Crown: Sentencing in a Modern Constitutional Democracy

On October 9, 2025, The Honourable Mrs. Justice Marva McDonald-Bishop, OJ, CD, President of the Court of Appeal, delivered an address to judges, lawyers, scholars, and students at the Faculty of Law, University of the West Indies, Mona, as part of the Distinguished Lecture Series. Her lecture, titled “Heavy is the Crown: Sentencing in a Modern Constitutional Democracy,” prompted thoughtful reflection on the profound responsibilities borne by judges and the complex realities of sentencing in a contemporary society.

Justice McDonald-Bishop highlighted a prevailing public view in Jamaica: justice is often equated with imprisonment. News headlines, social media, and community discussions frequently call for custodial sentences. She provided a timely reminder that judges are bound by statutory provisions, such as the Criminal Justice Reform Act, which mandate that non-custodial sentences—including fines, community service, or probation—must be considered before incarceration. Imprisonment, as she emphasized, should be reserved as a last resort for the most serious offences.

“Imprisonment should be a last resort, reserved for the most serious offenses.” – The Honourable Justice Marva McDonald-Bishop, OJ, CD



The Honourable Mrs. Justice Marva McDonald-Bishop, President of the Court of Appeal at her presentation at the University of the West Indies, Kingston

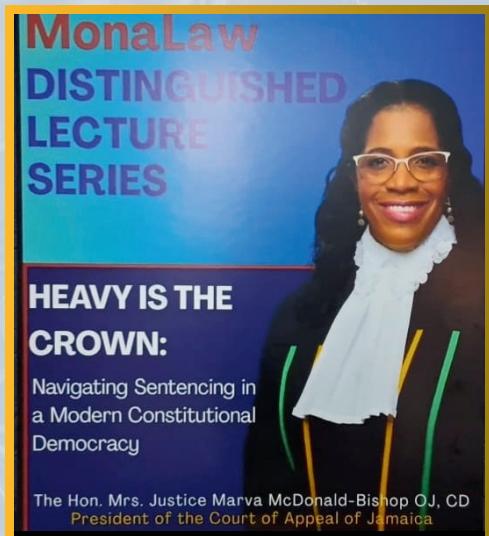
Justice McDonald-Bishop underscored that non-custodial sentences are not acts of leniency, but rather are carefully measured responses designed to balance accountability with rehabilitation. She offered examples: a teenager convicted of minor theft may benefit more from community service and participation in restorative programs than from incarceration, allowing them to remain in school and avoid the cycle of recidivism. Similarly, a parent given a restorative sentence can continue to support their family, ensuring household stability. Each judicial decision, she stressed, resonates far beyond the courtroom, influencing lives and communities.

The lecture also explored the interaction between mandatory sentencing laws and constitutional obligations. While Parliament may establish minimum sentences for certain offenses, it remains the judge's duty to ensure outcomes are equitable, proportionate, and humane. Justice McDonald-Bishop outlined the careful navigation required to balance the intent of legislation with the demands of individual justice, taking care that no sentence becomes cruel or unjust.

“The burden borne by judges in the dispensation of criminal justice is immense. The metaphorical crown is heavy, and the challenges confronting the judiciary are substantial.” – The Honourable Mrs. Justice Marva McDonald-Bishop, OJ, CD

Heavy is the Crown: Sentencing in a Modern Constitutional Democracy

Through her metaphor of the “heavy crown” Justice McDonald-Bishop captured the immense responsibility carried by judges. Each decision has the power to shape lives, affect families, and influence public confidence in the justice system. She emphasized the delicate balance judges must maintain among the demands of the law, the principles of fairness, and the human impact of their rulings, a responsibility made even more pronounced during periods of crisis, such as the aftermath of Hurricane Melissa.



Sentencing, she concluded, is not solely a legal exercise but a societal one. Every ruling has consequences for neighborhoods, families, and communities. Justice McDonald-Bishop's remarks prompted reflection on the broader effects of both punishment and lenience, urging consideration of how justice can repair harm without perpetuating cycles of crime.

The lecture reinforced that judicial discretion exists not for convenience, but as a vital tool for achieving fairness. Every decision must balance statutory requirements with the human impact involved, and every choice reverberates beyond the courtroom's wall. While Justice McDonald-

Bishop did not pose a direct question, her analysis encouraged all present to contemplate the broader ethical and societal dimensions of sentencing. It is essential to consider how a modern constitutional democracy can ensure that justice serves the law, the people, and the wider moral and social fabric, all at the same time.

The lecture leaves us with a poignant reminder: the true weight of the judicial “crown” lies not in authority alone but in the enduring responsibility to uphold fairness, balance public expectations with the law and serve society with unwavering integrity.

Operating with Resilience

- **Continued Use of Technology During the Festive Season**

Strategic Outcome: Leadership & Governance — efficient use of resources and modern systems

The Judiciary continues relying on technology to maintain operations:

- ✓ Virtual hearings and digital submissions will remain available.
- ✓ Staff are encouraged to use electronic systems for efficiency.
- ✓ Court users are urged to monitor online platforms during the holiday period.

Why: Technology supports continuity of justice, especially when travel or physical access is limited.

Raising the Bar: ISO and the Future of Justice

A Judiciary of Excellence

In an era of increasing complexity, transparency, and public expectation, the Judiciary of Jamaica is taking bold steps to ensure that justice is delivered efficiently, fairly, and consistently. Central to this vision is the adoption of a Quality Management System (QMS) based on the ISO 9001:2015 international standard, a strategic initiative designed to strengthen operations, enhance service delivery, and establish Jamaica as a regional leader in judicial excellence.

Implementing a QMS is more than a bureaucratic exercise, it is a commitment to operational excellence. By systematically managing processes, the Judiciary ensures that court services from case filings to judgments meet both statutory requirements and the expectations of citizens. This approach mirrors global best practices:

- Singapore's Supreme Court implemented a quality management framework to reduce delays and improve case tracking, resulting in faster, more transparent access to justice.
- Canada's Federal Court uses ISO-aligned process management to monitor workflow efficiency, ensuring consistent service across regions.
- New Zealand's courts integrate quality standards to streamline case management and improve public satisfaction, particularly for self-represented litigants.

For Jamaica, adopting ISO principles means enhancing reliability, predictability, and accountability within every court division.

ISO 9001:2015 emphasizes a process approach, ensuring that all interrelated activities from case registration to judgment delivery are planned, executed, monitored, and improved. Coupled with risk-based thinking, this method allows the Judiciary to anticipate potential bottlenecks, implement preventive measures, and maximize opportunities for improvement.

For example, digital archiving initiatives and modernized case management systems allow staff to retrieve information quickly, reduce clerical delays, and improve public access to court records. These innovations echo the approaches of other leading judiciaries that have leveraged process-based management to increase efficiency and fairness.



***Director of Organizational Development (Assigned),
Mrs. Jaunya-Alayne Anderson, during an interview at the close of
the Judiciary of Jamaica's ISO 9001:2015 Series.***

Raising the Bar: ISO and the Future of Justice

A Judiciary of Excellence

ISO standards encourage continual improvement, inviting organizations to go beyond correction and embrace innovation. In the context of the Judiciary of Jamaica, this means:

- Strengthening staff capabilities through targeted training and workshops.
- Using strategic planning research to align operations with national priorities.
- Exploring technology-enabled solutions, including AI-assisted document management, to enhance transparency and service delivery.

Such measures demonstrate that the Judiciary is not static but adaptive, committed to learning, evolving, and raising the standards of justice.

A Judiciary of Excellence thrives on engaged leadership and empowered staff. By clearly defining responsibilities, evaluating performance using data-driven insights, and fostering a culture of accountability, Jamaica's courts are ensuring that every decision reflects both legal rigor and operational efficiency.



**Director of Organizational Development (Assigned),
Mrs. Jaunya-Alayne Anderson, during an interview at the
close of the Judiciary of Jamaica's ISO 9001:2015 Series.**

underscores the nation's dedication to building a Judiciary of Excellence.

By embracing international quality standards, the Judiciary ensures that every process, every interaction, and every judgment is guided not only by law but by principles of fairness, efficiency, and integrity raising the bar for justice and building a Judiciary of which Jamaica can be proud.

Public trust is strengthened when citizens experience a judiciary that is predictable, responsive, and fair. ISO-aligned practices help the Judiciary deliver on these promises, reinforcing confidence in the rule of law.

Additionally, the adoption of ISO 9001:2015 principles positions the Judiciary of Jamaica alongside leading courts worldwide. It signals a commitment to service excellence, transparency, and modernization, and

Historic 560% Judgment Delivery Rate Sets New Standard for the Court of Appeal

The Court of Appeal opened the Michaelmas term on September 23, 2025, reporting an extraordinary performance for the 2024 period, including a record-breaking 560% judgment delivery rate. The announcement was delivered at the Court's official opening by the Honourable Miss Justice Paulette Williams, CD, Judge of Appeal, deputizing for the Honourable Mrs. Justice Marva McDonald Bishop, OJ, CD, President of the Court of Appeal.

Justice Williams confirmed that the Court's output far exceeded international standards, reflecting both efficiency and discipline in justice delivery. She noted: "For every 10 new judgments reserved in 2024, approximately 56 were delivered, surpassing the international benchmark of 100%."



She also reported that the Court achieved three consecutive years of maintaining a case disposal rate higher than the rate of incoming cases, with the 2024 rate standing at 102%. While slightly lower than 2023, the figure still surpassed the 100% benchmark critical to reducing the Court's backlog and maintaining a manageable case congestion rate.

Quoting the Chief Justice of Jamaica, the Honourable Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes, OJ, CD, Justice Williams reaffirmed that the Court of Appeal's clearance rate positions it as "one of the most productive courts in the Commonwealth Caribbean." She emphasized that these efficiency gains were being achieved without compromising the quality of judicial decisions.

Operating with Resilience

• Patience as Teams Work Through Backlogs and Rescheduling

Strategic Outcome: Case Management — timely, sound disposition of matters

Hurricane disruptions affected some listings.

- ✓ Courts will continue adjusting schedules into early 2026.
- ✓ Users should ensure contact details are updated for swift notification.

Why: Timely resolution of matters remains a core priority, even as we navigate post-disaster realities.

Historic 560% Judgment Delivery Rate Sets New Standard for the Court of Appeal

Justice Williams also reported:

- Hearing Date Certainty: In 2024, the Court achieved an 86.1% certainty rate, meaning 86 out of every 100 hearings proceeded as scheduled. Although below the 95% international standard, this represented a 1.08% increase over 2023.
- Reserved Judgments: Significant strides continued in improving the timeliness of reserved judgments.
- ISO Certification Pursuit: The Court of Appeal has been selected to pursue ISO 9001:2015 E certification, an international designation that will enhance service quality and operational processes.

With such a strong performance foundation, the Judiciary is poised to report even greater achievements for the 2025 judicial year.

Operating with Resilience

• ***Supporting Each Other Through the Holiday Season***

Strategic Outcome: Stakeholder Engagement — improving culture and capacity

The festive season can bring emotional strain, especially after national loss.

- ✓ Staff are encouraged to check in on teammates.
- ✓ Court users experiencing trauma may access support from partner agencies.
- ✓ Share verified court information with community members who lack internet access.

Why: A strong, supportive environment is essential for service excellence.

• ***Preparing for a Strong Start to 2026***

Strategic Outcome: Strategic Leadership — policies and structures supporting future performance

As the Judiciary transitions into the New Year:

- ✓ Staff are encouraged to review updated processes and new protocols.
- ✓ Court users should note new January listings and system improvements.
- ✓ Teams will continue rebuilding, strengthening, and modernizing facilities and services.

Why: 2026 represents an opportunity to apply lessons learned during recovery and drive continued transformation.

Building Excellence: Digital Transformation Workshop

Empowering Jamaica's Judiciary through Knowledge and Innovation

2025 has been a remarkable year for professional growth within the Judiciary of Jamaica. Across all divisions, judges and court staff participated in a wide range of training programmes and workshops aimed at enhancing skills, deepening knowledge, and improving operational efficiency.

From specialized courses in case management and customer service, to workshops on digital tools and archival systems, these initiatives have strengthened the Judiciary's capacity to serve the public effectively.

Strategic planning and research conducted this year also informed how the Judiciary organizes, operates, and delivers justice ensuring that our efforts remain aligned with both current needs and future goals.



The participants from the Digital Transformation Workshop at the Grand Palladium Jamaica Resort and Spa in early October.

The Judiciary of Jamaica hosted a Digital Transformation Workshop from October 1-3, 2025, at the Grand Palladium Jamaica Resort and Spa in Hanover. The three-day event brought together parish court staff from across the island for intensive training on the use of the Judiciary Case Management System (JCMS), as well as the Registry Records and Information Management (RIM) Standard Operating Procedures and JARD policies related to the preservation, retention, and disposal of files.



Building Excellence: Digital Transformation Workshop

Empowering Jamaica's Judiciary through Knowledge and Innovation

The workshop also explored:

- ISO Standards for Records Management
- Records appraisal techniques
- Digital transformation tools and best practices

To reinforce the Judiciary's direction and reassure staff as the digital transition continues. The Honourable Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes OJ, CD Chief Justice emphasized the positive impact training would have had on modernization of court procedures, "We should not fear this transition. Moving our records and processes into electronic systems does not mean staff will lose their jobs. It simply means we are moving toward more efficient, modern, and reliable ways of working, so that we can deliver justice at the standard the people of Jamaica deserve."



The Honourable Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes OJ, CD speaking to participants at the Digital Transformation Workshop in Hanover.

The main objective was to enhance the efficiency, transparency, and digital readiness of the parish courts, aligning record management processes with international standards and Jamaica's broader digital transformation goals.

"This training will help me strengthen my ability to manage court records efficiently and positively impact the processes of the." -Participant at the Digital Transformation Workshop"

Throughout 2025, several additional professional development initiatives were held across parishes. These sessions reflect the Judiciary's ongoing commitment to continuous learning, capacity building, and institutional excellence.



Mr. Bruce Preston, President of Bruce Preston International, Justice Consultancy Inc and Adjunct Professor at York University speaks about the Registry RIM Standard Operating Procedures- Creation Capture and Registration of Records to participants.



Building Excellence: Digital Transformation Workshop

Empowering Jamaica's Judiciary through Knowledge and Innovation

Speaking on the strategic importance of RIM and ongoing digital conversion efforts, Mrs. Tricia Cameron-Anglin, Director/CEO of the Court Administration Division, noted, *“Effective Records and Information Management is essential to a modern justice system. Several of our courts have already transitioned their files to electronic formats such as the Gun Court in Kingston, demonstrating clear improvements in efficiency, accuracy, and service delivery. Our goal is to ensure that every court—regardless of size or location—benefits from these advancements.*



Director/CEO of the Court Administration Division (CAD), Mrs. Tricia Cameron-Anglin, highlighted the many benefits of transitioning court records to electronic formats.



CAD team members took part in a Digital Transformation Workshop in Hanover, strengthening their skills to support the Judiciary's modernization efforts.

The Judiciary remains steadfast in its mission to build a modern, efficient, and people-centered justice system. The success of this year's training programmes demonstrates that investing in people is the key to building excellence, and the strides made in 2025 lay the foundation for deeper transformation in the years ahead.

Operating with Resilience

- **Preparing for a Strong Start to 2026**

Strategic Outcome: Strategic Leadership — policies and structures supporting future performance

As the Judiciary transitions into the New Year:

- ✓ Staff are encouraged to review updated processes and new protocols.
- ✓ Court users should note new January listings and system improvements.
- ✓ Teams will continue rebuilding, strengthening, and modernizing facilities and services.

Why: 2026 represents an opportunity to apply lessons learned during recovery and drive continued transformation.



Judiciary Making a Difference in the Community

Public Education Day Symposium – Family Court, St. Ann

The Judiciary of Jamaica hosted a successful Public Education Day Symposium at the Family Court in St. Ann on Wednesday, October 8, bringing together students, members of the public, and key stakeholders for a day of engagement and learning.

Visitors explored information tents from agencies such as the Integrity Commission, Jamaica Customs, St. Ann Probation Office, and the Dispute Resolution Foundation, gaining first-hand insights into the work that supports families and communities.

Delivering the main address, the Honourable Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes, OJ, CD, Chief Justice emphasized the role of the Family Court in promoting harmony and therapeutic justice, *“We have been creating opportunities like this to give knowledge to our citizens. That way they can make wiser decisions. We have a justice system designed to resolve conflicts. The Family Court system is now a part of what we call therapeutic justice.”*



The Honourable Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes, Chief Justice at the official opening of the Public Education Day Symposium in St Ann

He encouraged members of the public to make use of the Family Court's free counselling and mediation services, *“The Family Court exists not only to settle disputes but to help families heal and work out their disputes in an acceptable way so they can live harmoniously. Too often, matters that could be settled through dialogue escalate into conflict. I encourage you to take advantage of these services.”*

Her Honour Mrs. Paula-Rosanne Archer-Hall, Senior Judge of the Family Court in St. Ann praised her team for their commitment and sacrifices, “I am proud of the work we are doing here in St. Ann. Managing the volume of cases as the sole judge is challenging, but my staff's dedication, professionalism, and willingness to go above and beyond ensures that justice is delivered efficiently and with quality. By engaging directly with the community, we make justice accessible, responsive, and meaningful.”



Judiciary Making a Difference in the Community

Public Education Day Symposium – Family Court, St. Ann



Her Honour Mrs. Paula-Rosanne Archer-Hall, Senior Family Judge, St. Ann Family Court being interviewed by Nationwide FM's Journalist and Radio Talk Show Host Mr. Cliff Hughes at the event.

The event attracted students from York Castle High School, Brown's Town Primary, Mar Jam Preparatory, St. Hilda's High, Moneague College, and other schools in the surrounding areas. They asked questions and learned about the courts' role in daily life and community well-being.

The Public Education Day highlighted the Judiciary of Jamaica's commitment to public education, transparency, and community engagement, demonstrating how the courts empower families and strengthen communities across the island.



Several of the Judiciary's key partners showcased their services and initiatives at the Public Education Day Symposium in St. Ann.



Mrs. Tricia Cameron-Anglin, Director/CEO of the Court Administration Division, and Justice David Fraser of the Court of Appeal, interacting with students and a teacher from Ocho Rios Primary School after the event.



DTC Graduates Celebrate New Beginnings

What unfolded at the Alhambra Inn in Kingston was more than the conclusion of a programme, it was the opening of a new chapter defined by possibility, self-discovery, and hope. On Wednesday, October 22, 2025, eleven (11) graduates of the Drug Treatment Court (DTC) took their place before family, judicial officers, and supporters, people who had witnessed their setbacks, their courage, and ultimately their transformation.



A police officer places a corsage on a graduate of the Drug Treatment Court ahead of the group's official march.

The graduates were addressed by the Honourable Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes OJ, CD, Chief Justice who delivered a powerful reflection on resilience and the process of change. He reminded the graduates that life evolves through different seasons, and with time, dedication, and the right support, the weight of past struggles can begin to shift. He underscored that rehabilitation is not merely a formal exercise but a meaningful opportunity for individuals to rediscover their identity, strengths, and potential.

The Chief Justice shared, "Many, would not have believed, when they first stood before the court, that they would ever reach this moment. Yet through discipline and perseverance, they proved themselves capable of rising above circumstance. Success is not sudden; it is the accumulation of effort over time. If nothing else, you have proven that you can commit to a programme for twelve to eighteen months and see it through. And for that, you deserve to be congratulated."



The Honourable Chief Justice Bryan Sykes, addresses participants and graduates during the Drug Treatment Court event.



DTC Graduates Celebrate New Beginnings

Parish Court Judge Maxine Ellis followed with an emotional message of pride and encouragement. She reminded the graduates that their transformation was supported by community counsellors, court staff, families, and stakeholders, who believed in their ability to change. She reflected on the visible growth she had witnessed: confidence restored, discipline strengthened, and hope rekindled. She assured them that the journey ahead, though not without challenges, is one they are now equipped to navigate. "You have worked long and hard, and you deserve every accolade," she said.



Parish Court Judge Maxine Ellis addresses graduates of the Drug Treatment Court during the ceremony.

National Council on Drug Abuse (NCDA) counsellor Lashae Grant, who supported the group closely throughout their journey, spoke with heartfelt emotion about their resilience. She recalled moments when participants relapsed or felt overwhelmed, yet found the strength to return, recommit, and continue. "Recovering from addiction is not easy," she said. "But they stuck it out. "She shared that several graduates entered the programme without basic literacy or numeracy skills but left with newfound confidence and competence, evidence of how transformative the DTC experience can be.

The valedictorian and recipient of the Peer Support Award shared a moving testimony about overcoming addiction and learning to manage deep-rooted anger. "I've become a better person," he said. "I'm not angry all the time... and when I feel the urge to drink, I now know how to overcome it." Another participant shared, "I needed to do this for my baby girl, she saw how angry I was with her mother and that's what led to me to the DTC programme. I know she is proud of me."

The 2025 DTC graduating cohort stands as a testament to the power of second chances, community support, and personal resilience. Their stories reflect not just the success of a programme, but the restoration of dignity, purpose, and belief in a brighter future.

A Season of Strength, Service & Renewal

From immediate post-hurricane adjustments to long-term improvements, the Judiciary remains focused on:

- protecting access to justice,*
- ensuring safe and efficient operations, and*
- strengthening trust and engagement across Jamaica.*

Together, we look forward to a resilient holiday season and a stronger, more connected 2026.

From the Driver's Seat to the Heart: One Colleague's Extraordinary Act



In the wake of Hurricane Melissa, while much of the nation struggled to regain its footing, a quiet act of humanity unfolded deep in the hills of Hanover.

Mr. Kevion Puranda, a driver with the Court Administration Division (CAD), moved by compassion, traveled to help a colleague who had lost everything in the storm.

"I just knew I had to do something with the little that we have to help a colleague," Mr. Puranda said. True to his word, he joined others the colleague had mobilized, working tirelessly to rebuild a structure that the colleague could safely live in.



Mr. Kevion Puranda Driver of the Court Administration Division lends hands-on support in Hanover as he assists a staff member with the reconstruction of a home.



The rebuilding of the home, which was completely destroyed by Hurricane Melissa, is being carried out in sections.

His dedication went beyond daylight hours. Mr. Puranda spent one night under the stars to ensure the project was as close to completion as possible. He described his motivation with humility and resolve, "I made a promise to assist, and I needed to go there and fulfill my word."

Even now, he has plans to return before the year ends to continue helping, demonstrating that his commitment is not a one-time act but a sustained effort to make a meaningful difference.

Christmas in Jamdung



Jamaican Christmas isn't complete without without sorrel, gungo peas, and rich Christmas cake — the flavours and aromas fill homes with festive cheer.

Fact or Myth?

From the Driver's Seat to the Heart: One Colleague's Extraordinary Act



Though he is a driver by profession, Mr. Purunda is driving his way into the hearts of those affected, showing that compassion and initiative often travel further than any vehicle ever could.

This selfless act reminds us that even a single individual can create profound impact. Beyond material aid, it was a gesture of solidarity, reassurance, and hope, an affirmation that in times of hardship, the bonds of humanity and workplace family endure.



Mr. Purunda's actions illuminate a timeless truth, humanity thrives when we choose to see and support each other, and in giving, we too are uplifted.

A Jamaican Judiciary Christmas

*The island glows with Christmas cheer,
The breeze is soft, the skies are clear.
Within our courts, both near and far,
Justice stands strong, the work on par.*

*Staff and judges, steadfast and true,
Serve the people in all they do.
Laughter, hope, and stories shared,
Show dedication and how much they cared.*

*As we give thanks for what we share,
And lift our voices in a prayer,
May peace and joy fill every home,
And love guide all as we freely roam.*

*Here's to a New Year shining bright,
With justice served, both fair and right.
From our courts to the people we serve,
A year of progress we all deserve.*



Care Packages and Cleanup

In the aftermath of Hurricane Melissa, staff from the Judiciary of Jamaica and the Court Administration Division (CAD) came together in a remarkable display of solidarity, compassion, and dedication.

Recognizing the hardships faced by colleagues who lost homes or possessions, staff organized care packages filled with essential items to assist affected colleagues. This initiative reflected the Judiciary's and CAD's culture of empathy and teamwork, showing that the workplace is also a supportive community.



A Judiciary Relief Team stands at the Trelawny Family Court following post-cleanup operations and the distribution of care packages to staff affected by the recent disruption.

For weeks following the storm, Judiciary and CAD staff worked tirelessly to clean and restore courts damaged by the hurricane. From clearing debris to repairing facilities, teams ensured that court services could resume safely and efficiently. This collective effort exemplified the spirit of "staff helping staff."

"Seeing everyone come together, helping each other and the courts, reminded me of the strength we have when we act as one," said a senior staff member involved in the cleanup.

"Seeing everyone come together, helping each other and the courts, reminded me of the strength we have when we act as one," said a senior staff member involved in the cleanup.

The response went beyond recovery, it reinforced the Judiciary's and CAD's commitment to resilience and continuity, ensuring that justice services remain operational even in the face of natural disasters. By supporting colleagues and restoring vital court infrastructure, staff demonstrated the values of community, responsibility, and service that are at the core of their work.

The Hurricane Melissa response is a powerful reminder that, in times of adversity, collective action and compassion can make a profound difference and that the Judiciary's and CAD's greatest strength lies in the people who bring their mission to life.



Highlights of the Care Packages and Cleanup Initiative



Mrs. Tricia Cameron-Anglin Director/CEO of Court Administration Division shows appreciation to staff for their donations.



The Honourable Mrs Justice Marva McDonald Bishop, OJ, CD President of the Court of Appeal coordinating the packaging of relief items for staff.



Highlights of the Care Packages and Cleanup Initiative



Highlights of the Care Packages and Cleanup Initiative



Jamaica Showcases World-Leading Court Performance at Dubai Conference

Jamaica's justice system continued to earn international attention in November, following its powerful participation at the 2025 International Association of Court Administration (IACA) Conference held in Dubai from November 16–19. The Jamaican delegation presented several of the country's groundbreaking judicial reforms, positioning the nation as a global leader in court modernization and backlog reduction.

The delegation: -Chief Justice Bryan Sykes, OJ, CD; Tricia Cameron-Anglin, Director/CEO the Court Administration Division (CAD), and Marsha Grant, Senior Director, Strategic Planning, Reform and Performance Management departed in November to share Jamaica's success story with the international court administration community.



The Honourable Chief Justice Bryan Sykes, and Director/CEO of the Court Administration Division, Tricia Cameron-Anglin, deliver their presentation at the International Association of Court Administration (IACA) Conference in Dubai, held from November 16–19.

Reflecting on the country's progress, Chief Justice Sykes highlighted the transformation taking place across the courts. "Our courts are demonstrating what disciplined planning and data-driven leadership can achieve," he said.

"The Court of Appeal has increased its output, the Parish Courts are now backlog-free, and the Supreme Court has significantly improved its productivity. One of the most impressive developments has been in the Traffic Court, which despite its high caseload is on track to become backlog-free next year."

He noted that these gains have real impact on the public. "Reducing backlog means Jamaicans experience faster and more transparent access to justice," he emphasized.



Ms. Marsha Grant, Senior Director of Strategic Planning, Reform and Performance Management at the Court Administration Division, delivers her presentation in one of the breakout sessions at the IACA Conference in Dubai, supported by the Honourable Chief Justice Bryan Sykes, and Director/CEO of the Court Administration Division, Tricia Cameron-Anglin.

Jamaica Showcases World-Leading Court Performance at Dubai Conference

The Judiciary's innovative, evidence-based approach to securing funding was also highlighted during the conference. By clearly linking investment to performance outcomes, the Judiciary has strengthened support from the executive and secured increased budgetary allocations. "This has been critical to our ability to sustain improvements in court efficiency and productivity," he said.

During the conference, the Jamaican delegation contributed to three key sessions:

- Empowerment, Enablement, and Equality of Court Administrators
- Successful Judicial Reform in Jamaica: Leveraging the Balanced Scorecard Model for Strategic Transformation
- Designing Policy Conversations that Secure a 'Yes'

These sessions showcased how Jamaica has effectively integrated the Balanced Scorecard methodology with the International Framework for Court Excellence, resulting in stronger institutional accountability and sustained efficiency gains across the court system.

As a member of IACA for the past six years, Jamaica continues to expand its global presence sharing reforms that are now viewed as best practices by several jurisdictions.

Jamaica's participation in Dubai reinforced the Judiciary's emerging reputation as a regional and international model for court modernization, performance management, and access to justice.



(L-R) Marsha Grant, Senior Director of Strategic Planning, Reform and Performance Management, Court Administration Division, the Honourable Chief Justice Bryan Sykes, Joanne Richardson, CEO NCSC and Director/CEO of the Court Administration Division, Tricia Cameron-Anglin posing for a photo

Christmas in Jamdung

Grand Market is a one-of-a-kind street festival on Christmas Eve, with colourful stalls, music, food, and laughter lighting up towns across the island.

Fact or Myth?

Jamaica selected to host Prestigious Commonwealth Conference in 2026



Jamaica's selection as host of the 2026 Commonwealth Magistrates' & Judges' Association (CMJA) Annual Conference is more than international recognition, it signals Jamaica's strengthened position among judiciaries across the world. The decision affirms the Judiciary of Jamaica and the Court Administration Division (CAD) as regional leaders in modernization, institutional development, and judicial excellence.

This achievement reflects years of deliberate reform, capacity building, and strategic alignment with the Judiciary's 2024–2028 Strategic Objectives. These objectives: - enhancing access to justice, improving court efficiency, strengthening governance, leveraging technology, and elevating public trust, have positioned Jamaica as a model for other jurisdictions pursuing transformation.

The hosting of CMJA 2026 demonstrates how Jamaica's Judiciary is not merely keeping pace with global developments but actively contributing to the international discourse on judicial reform. Through investments in digital case management, data-driven decision-making, records and information management, and continuous training for judges and court staff, Jamaica has built a framework that mirrors global best practices while remaining responsive to local realities.

The Honourable Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes, OJ, CD, Chief Justice underscores this approach, stating, "Hosting CMJA 2026 is far more than an honour for Jamaica, it is a clear signal that our Judiciary has reached a level of maturity, sophistication, and institutional strength that commands international respect. It gives us the opportunity to demonstrate how far we have come in modernizing our systems, improving our service delivery, and building a resilient and future-ready court administration. This conference allows us not only to share our achievements, but to engage the global community in ways that will further elevate the standards of justice in Jamaica for generations to come."

As Jamaica prepares to welcome judicial officers from across the Commonwealth, the conference becomes a platform to reflect on what it means to build a justice system for the future, one that is efficient, accessible, transparent, and anchored in strong leadership and continuous improvement. It invites deeper consideration of how reforms can be sustained, how modernization can remain people-centered, and how Jamaica can continue to distinguish itself as a global contributor to judicial advancement.

Congratulations, Judiciary of Jamaica & Court Administration Division—CMJA 2026 awaits.

Judiciary Leads Historic Modernisation Effort with Signing of IECMS Contract

The Judiciary of Jamaica has marked a defining moment in its modernisation agenda with the signing of the contract to implement the Integrated Electronic Case Management System (IECMS). The ceremony, held on November 12, 2025, brought together key justice-sector leaders from the Judiciary, the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs (MoJCA), and strategic international and technical partners — including the Rwanda Cooperation Initiative (RCI), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and other collaborators. This milestone signals the beginning of a new digital era designed to transform how justice is delivered across Jamaica.



From Left: The Hon. Mrs Marva McDonald Bishop, OJ CD President of the Court of Appeal, The Hon. Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes OJ, CD. Chief Justice, The Hon. Delroy Chuck KC, MP, Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs and Ms. Grace Ann Stewart McFarlane Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs (MOJCA) following the signing of the contract signing of the Integrated Electronic Case Management System (IECMS)

The IECMS is envisioned as a single, interconnected digital platform that will align every stage of the justice process from investigations and prosecutions to court adjudication and correctional oversight. Media coverage has described the initiative as “a big step towards a more efficient justice system,” marking one of the most significant technological advancements in Jamaica’s judicial history.

At the signing, the Honourable Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes OJ, CD Chief Justice emphasized that digitization is essential to ensuring equitable, efficient, and inclusive access to justice. He noted, “Once persons have reliable connectivity, the IECMS will give them access to court services in ways we have never had before in the Judiciary. Many of our hearings are still not fully accessible to persons with disabilities, although we are moving in that direction. The IECMS provides the foundation for meaningful, remote interaction with the courts, allowing individuals to participate from wherever they are.”

He added that modernisation is necessary to remove barriers, “Why should someone be prevented from carrying out their profession simply because they cannot physically get to a courthouse? If the technology exists to support their participation, then we have a responsibility to make it available.”



The Honourable Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes Chief Justice speaking at the contract signing of the IECMS

Judiciary Leads Historic Modernisation Effort with Signing of IECMS Contract

Speaking on behalf of the Government, the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs the Honourable Delroy Chuck KC, MP affirmed strong institutional backing for the project. He described the IECMS as “a single, seamless digital platform that connects every component of the justice chain from investigation to prosecution, adjudication and, if necessary, correctional management.” He said the system will lead to reduced delays, improved tracking and coordination, and significant cost savings, benefiting both the public purse and court users.

From the Rwandan partner’s side, RCI’s CEO shared her vision for the collaboration, “This collaboration represents a significant milestone, not only in digitalizing justice systems but also in demonstrating how African-led innovation can address global challenges. Jamaica and Rwanda are set to jointly pioneer modern, technology-driven justice reforms that could become a benchmark worldwide.”



Ms. Patricia Uwase -Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Rwanda Corporation speaks about the development of the system virtually

She underscored the practical benefits: the system is accessible from any device, supports data recovery in case of power outage, and allows users to follow case proceedings via SMS and email features that, she said, will “empower the citizens of Jamaica by ensuring that justice is not only served but delivered transparently and efficiently.”

The IECMS forms part of a broader judicial transformation strategy, one that includes strengthening institutional resilience, improving data management, and modernising infrastructure. The need for such resilience was underscored earlier this year, as the Judiciary responded to widespread damage caused by Hurricane Melissa. The new system will safeguard court records, support remote participation, and provide operational stability needed during national disruptions.

The contract signing marks not just the adoption of new technology but a commitment to a modern, transparent, accessible, and digitally empowered justice system.

As implementation begins, the Judiciary, MoJCA, and international partners will collaborate to train staff, prepare justice partners, and guide the public into this new digital environment.

This milestone demonstrates the Judiciary’s determination to lead Jamaica into a future where justice is delivered more efficiently, more equitably, and with greater technological strength ensuring that every Jamaican can access a justice system built for the demands of a modern society.

PADF Donation Accelerates Judiciary's Digital Transformation



The Honourable Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes, OJ, CD receives 10 Dell Laptops from Ms. Althea McBean Senior Justice Advisor of the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF)

The Judiciary of Jamaica received a significant boost in its digital transformation efforts following the donation of 63 audio/visual devices, 10 Dell laptops, and other essential technological equipment from the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF). The contribution supports ongoing initiatives to modernize court operations and enhance the efficiency and accessibility of services across the island.

The equipment was officially handed over to the Honourable Chief Justice Bryan Sykes, OJ, CD, in November, who expressed appreciation for PADF's continued partnership in strengthening the justice system.

Chief Justice Sykes highlighted the importance of improved recording technology in the administration of justice. "The introduction of digital audio recording represents a major step forward in how we manage and preserve court proceedings," he said. "By improving the way evidence is captured, we can reduce delays in transcript production and enhance the efficiency and transparency of our courts."

The donation directly supports the Digital Audio Recording (DAR) project—one of the Judiciary's key strategic initiatives aimed at modernizing how court proceedings are captured, managed, and stored. The enhanced technology will help reduce transcript delays and enable more timely and accurate records in both the Court of Appeal and the Parish Courts.

The partnership with PADF underscores the Judiciary's commitment to modernization, resilience, and improved service delivery as it continues to transform justice delivery across Jamaica.

Careers in the Court: Featuring Deputy Registrar of the Court of Appeal Adriel Williams

Q: As the Christmas season approaches, what accomplishment or defining moment from this year in the Court of Appeal are you most proud of?

A: The hosting of the Occupational Safety and Health Committee's Know Your Numbers Mini Health Fair stands out as a key accomplishment. It was a meaningful initiative that provided valuable healthcare services to nearly 60 persons, and I am very proud of the work my team and I put into successfully executing it.



Mr. Adriel Williams, Deputy Registrar of the Court of Appeal

Q: As the Christmas season approaches, what accomplishment or defining moment from this year in the Court of Appeal are you most proud of?

A: The hosting of the Occupational Safety and Health Committee's Know Your Numbers Mini Health Fair stands out as a key accomplishment. It was a meaningful initiative that provided valuable healthcare services to nearly 60 persons, and I am very proud of the work my team and I put into successfully executing it.

Q: How do you maintain balance between the demands of the Registry and taking time to reflect, rest, and reconnect during the holidays?

A: Work-life balance is a moving target and remains an aspirational goal for me. However, I try to compartmentalize the demands of the Registry within work hours so that when it is time to rest, reflect, and reconnect, I can do so fully and without reservation. Taking time off is essential for one's mental health and overall wellness.

Q: What key lesson or insight from this past year has most influenced your leadership or professional growth?

A: Adaptability, flexibility, and the ability to pivot have been crucial. Given the unprecedented events and rapid changes experienced at the Court of Appeal, these qualities have been vital in navigating shifting circumstances. As Deputy Registrar, I have had to adjust my approach quickly, and this has significantly shaped both my leadership and professional development.

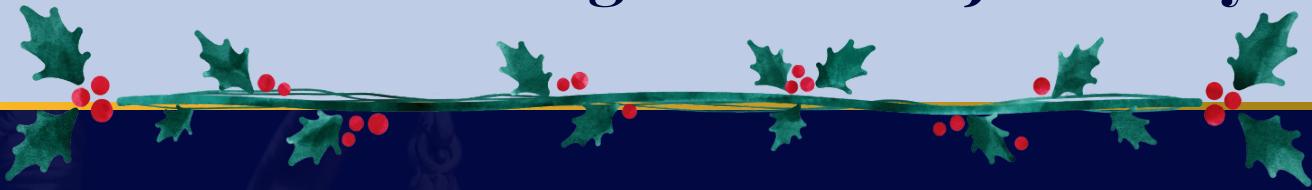
Photo Highlights from the Judicial Excellence Programme in Singapore

The Hon. Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes, OJ, CD, Chief Justice of Jamaica; The Hon. Mrs. Justice Marva McDonald-Bishop, OJ, CD, President of the Court of Appeal and Mrs. Tricia Cameron-Anglin, Director/CEO of the Court Administration Division attended the Judicial Executive Programme, Singapore in November 2025.

The Judicial Executive Programme (JEP) is a flagship programme for judicial leaders worldwide to acquire the knowledge and thinking skills needed to understand, embrace, and be future ready to lead judicial transformation in an increasingly complex and uncertain environment.



Season's Greetings from the Judiciary

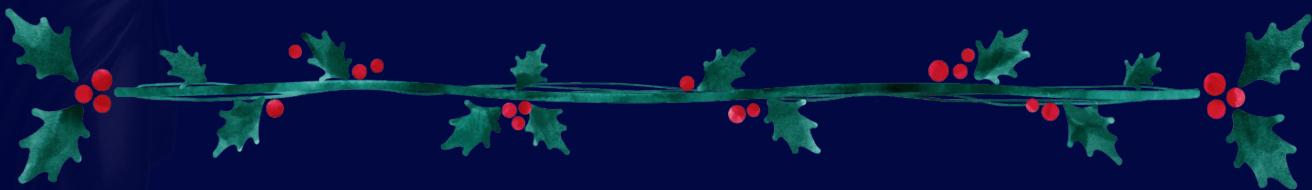


As 2025 comes to a close, we extend warm seasonal greetings to all our readers, stakeholders, and partners. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and your loved ones.

This past year has been one of resilience, innovation, and progress for the Judiciary, as we continued to serve the people of Jamaica even in the face of unprecedented challenges.

Looking ahead to 2026, we remain committed to advancing justice through innovation, modernization, and excellence in service. We anticipate a year of continued growth, stronger systems, and even greater impact for the Judiciary and the nation.

This newsletter is produced by the Client Services, Communications, and Information Division of the Court Administration Division, and we thank all our partners and readers for their continued support in strengthening the justice system.





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