Regular readers of the Commonwealth Judicial Journal (CJJ) may have noticed the absence of the publisher’s logo on the outer cover of this issue. Indeed, earlier this year, we were informed by Bloomsbury Professional (who took over Tottel Publishing) that, as a result largely of cost-saving measures, they would be unable to continue to support the publication of a number of Commonwealth-related journals, including the CJJ.

Naturally, in the eyes of commercial publishers, the CJJ finds itself at a disadvantage when compared to the journals of larger academic institutions. However, this view fails to take into account the particular strengths of the journal, not least its highly-specialised and devoted readership hailing from across the Commonwealth and beyond. Moreover, the CJJ continues to fulfil one of the primary aims of the Commonwealth Magistrates’ and Judges’ Association (CMJA), namely, to disseminate information on matters of interest to magistrates and judges concerning the legal processes within the various countries comprising the Commonwealth.

In view of the developments detailed above, I would firstly wish to thank the various entities which have already stepped in to support the CJJ. As the journal continues to search for a new publisher, moreover, I recognise that several of our readers themselves have contacts with bona fide publishers which, perhaps, may be interested in publishing the journal. I would therefore use this opportunity to call on readers to communicate any recommendations to the CMJA (email: info@cmja.org).

As the CJJ moves towards celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2013, moreover, we are looking to expand the Editorial Board. This is an opportunity for those who wish to be associated more closely with the CJJ, particularly in encouraging contributions to the journal and serving as its ‘ambassadors’. It is not envisaged that the position would entail any significant additional workload for members, although contributions in the form of articles for publication are always encouraged! Expressions of interest may be sent by email (info@cmja.org) or post (to the address indicated on the inside front cover).

In April 2013, our sister organisation, the Commonwealth Lawyers Association will be organising the 18th Commonwealth Law Conference (CLC) in Cape Town, South Africa. Those interested in attending may register on the CLC website (http://www.commonwealthlaw2013.org).

In this issue, we have two papers taken from the very successful 16th Triennial Conference of the CMJA in Kampala, Uganda. In his paper, the Deputy President of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom, Lord Hope of Craighead, sets out some guidelines for effective case management with respect to civil litigation, while the Chief Justice of Rwanda, Justice Sam Rugege, examines the legacy of the Gacaca courts, as well as judicial reforms which have been undertaken in Rwanda to improve the administration of justice after the Genocide. This issue also includes an incisive account, by the Resident Judge at Peterborough and Huntingdon Crown Courts, Nic Madge, of a trial before the Supreme Court of British Columbia in Vancouver relating to cannabis cultivation. The final article, by the President of the International Association of Refugee Law Judges, Geoffrey Care, relates to the role of judges and magistrates in the inspection of prisons.

While it is considered that the above articles provide a cross-section of important legal issues of relevance within the Commonwealth, I do not wish to simply brush over the fact that the majority of the authors in this issue hail from the United Kingdom. In this respect, I wish to urge readers to have a look at the Call for Papers at the back of this issue, and to submit articles and letters for publication, in the hope that the CJJ may continue to reflect a broader spectrum of opinion from across the Commonwealth.

The CJJ has once again collaborated with the Law Reports of the Commonwealth (LRC) to publish the following two law reports: (1) a decision of the Constitutional Court of South Africa relating to the presidential power to extend the term of office of the Chief Justice; and (2) a decision of the Supreme Court of India allowing an appeal from a group of lawyers who had been found in contempt of
court for abusing and threatening a magistrate. In this respect, I would like to thank Dr Peter E. Slinn both in his capacity as chairperson of the Editorial Board of this journal and as general editor, together with Prof. James S. Read, of the LRC, for allowing us to publish these law reports. I would also like to express my appreciation to Dr Karen Brewer, the Secretary General of the CMJA, for her ongoing support of the journal.

Finally, the Book Reviews section contains an entertaining review, by Judge Gilles Renaud of the Ontario Court of Justice, of the book *Bewigged, Bothered, & Bewildered British Colonial Judges on Trial, 1800–1900*.

The views expressed in the Journal are not necessarily the views of the Editorial Board or the CMJA but reflect the views of individual contributors.

**CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

Have you dealt with an issue/ a case which other members of the CMJA might find of interest?

Have you ever thought of writing a piece for the Journal on a topic close to your heart?

Have you spoken at a seminar/meeting recently and would like to share your presentations with others in the CMJA?

Why not send us an article? The Editorial Board is seeking articles on issues affecting judicial officers across the Commonwealth.

Contributions, ideally no more that 6,000 words should be sent to the Editor c/o the CMJA, Uganda House, 58-59 Trafalgar Square, London WC2N 5DX or by email: info@cmja.org.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

Have you an opinion about the articles we are publishing? Why not send us your feedback in the form of a letter to the Editor?