In my previous editorial, I informed Commonwealth Judicial Journal (CJJ) readers about a study we are undertaking concerning the challenges of what may be termed ‘Austerity Justice,’ which include a reduction in, and lack of, sufficient resources provided to the administration of justice generally, a reduction in areas where legal aid is provided and a concomitant increase in court fees, all of which serve to make access to justice more difficult. This study is being led by Nicky Padfield, a former editor of the CJJ and Master of Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge. While we have received some helpful comments on this subject, may I once again appeal to our readers to send us any comments, observations or cases they think may be of relevance to the theme. This will enable us to draw a clearer and more holistic picture of how austerity justice is developing and manifesting itself in different Commonwealth jurisdictions. The study will be published in a future issue of the CJJ. Please send all submissions by email to the CMJA email account at: info@cmja.org, or by post to: CMJA, Uganda House, 58-59 Trafalgar Square, London, WC2N 5DX, United Kingdom.

As 21st century technology becomes more and more entrenched in society, this may pose some challenges for the judiciary, as Mensa-Bonsu explores in her article (in this Issue) on social media and judicial independence in Ghana. However, it also brings a host of new resources, including legal and judicial on-line blogs, which often provide real-time and in-depth commentary on legal developments around the Commonwealth and beyond. I am therefore pleased to note that future issues of the CJJ will contain regular reviews of legal blogs and other useful online resources and, to this end, we would welcome any suggestions from our readership. If you write or use a legal or judicial blog which you wish to bring to the attention of CJJ readers, please do contact us using the contact details above.

Finally, by way of announcements, registration for the CMJA Conference, entitled “The Judiciary as Guarantors of the Rule of Laws?”, taking place in Georgetown, Guyana on 18 – 22 September 2016 is now open. We urge readers wishing to attend, to register now and take advantage of the early bird offers.

In this issue, the Hon. Justice Patrick Kiage explores international refugee and asylum law, particularly in light of the recent migration crisis in Africa, Europe, and the US, and the act of closing borders by the various governments. The Right Hon. The Lord Thomas of Cwmgiedd considers judicial independence in a changing constitutional landscape, emphasising that transparency and openness are crucial to instilling public confidence in the justice system. Subsequently, Maame Abena S. Mensa-Bonsu discusses the appropriate threshold for bias in an age of Facebook and social media. In the Canadian context, the Hon. Martin R. Taylor assesses the ‘notwithstanding clauses’ in relation to the rule of law principles founded in Magna Carta. Thereafter, the Hon. Justice M Imman Ali examines the Children Act 2013 of Bangladesh, and considers the merit of community-based alternatives and informal methods of disposition for child offenders in Bangladesh. Finally, David R. Percy discusses the emergence of a duty of good faith in the Canadian law of contracts.

The CJJ has once again collaborated with the Law Reports of the Commonwealth (LRC) to publish two cases, namely State and another v Transferees and another, concerning judicial bias and Hunte and another v State, concerning, inter alia, the right to fair trial. In this respect, I wish to renew our thanks to Dr Peter E. Slinn and Prof. James S. Read, general editors of the LRC, for allowing us to republish these law reports. I would also like to welcome Katie Green from LexisNexis / Reed Elsevier (UK) Limited.

Finally, this Issue features a review of Dale Brawn’s book Paths to the Bench: The Judicial Appointment Process in Manitoba, 1870-1950, which was prepared by the Hon. Justice Gilles Renaud.