

ARCHIVED NEWS 2016-2015

December 2016

The CMJA President, His Hon. Chief Judge John Lowndes has agreed that a paper he presented to a Seminar in Dili, East Timor in July 2016 on "**JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE AND JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY AT THE COALFACE OF THE AUSTRALIAN JUDICIARY**" should be made available on the CMJA's website. [Click here](#) to view the paper.

November 2016

The CMJA was represented at the **East African Magistrates and Judges Association (EAMJA)** Conference and AGM held in Munyonyo, Kampala, Uganda from 31 October-4 November 2016. The Theme of the Conference was: Transformation of Judiciaries in East Africa for Improved Service Delivery. The CMJA was represented by Dr Karen Brewer, Secretary General, Chief Magistrate Matankiso Nthunya, Regional Vice President and Justice Patrick Kiage, Council Member for Kenya. Dr Karen Brewer made a presentation on "Transformation of the Judiciary in the Commonwealth with reference to the Commonwealth (Latimer House) Principles". Chief Magistrate Nthunya made a report to the EAMJA AGM and Justice Kiage attended the pre-Conference Council Meeting of the EAMJA.

Dr Brewer and Justice Kiage also attended the pre-conference Colloquium on "Gender Equality Jurisprudence and the Role of the Judiciary in Promoting Women's Access to Justice"

[Click here](#) for the Resolutions from the Meeting

October 2016

The CMJA was represented at the **Senior Officials of Law Ministers Meeting and the Meeting of Small States of Law Ministries** which were held in London at the Commonwealth Secretariat. The CMJA presented a report to both meetings on its activities and work. It was also involved in the presentation in the wings of this meeting on the Latimer House Toolkit.

September 2016

The CMJA holds a successful **Conference in Georgetown, Guyana** on the theme: "**The Judiciary as Guarantors of the Rule of Law**" which was attended by over 220 delegates from 33 jurisdictions in the Commonwealth. The following are some of the reports issued at the time:

<http://www.kaieteurnewsonline.com/2016/09/17/commonwealth-judges-and-magistrates-conference-opens-on-monday/>

<http://www.kaieteurnewsonline.com/2016/09/20/prime-minister-tells-commonwealth-judges-and-magistrates-conference-guyanas-judiciary-remains-free-from-political-influence/>

<http://www.kaieteurnewsonline.com/2016/09/23/use-of-optional-protocol-in-balancing-the-anti-terrorism-legislation-with-human-rights-highlighted/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X3o2O-zRmmQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BJeX0GCjksk>

August 2016

The CMJA is delighted to announce the launch of the we are delighted to announce the launch of the updated **A Guide for the Magistrate in the Commonwealth: Fundamental Principles and Recommended Practices** (formerly "The Magistrate in the Commonwealth : A Training Manual"). We are deeply grateful to the CMJA President, Chief Judge, John Lowndes for all his assistance with this Guide. Click here for further information.

June 2016

The CMJA, CLEA and Rechters voor Rechters (Judges for Judges) issued a **Statement relating to the judges in Botswana** in 2015 on 16 June 2016.

The CMJA supported the International Commission of Jurists oral statement given to the UN Human Rights Council on 16 June 2016 on "**Judicial Accountability and Attacks on Lawyers**" which coincides with the launch of the [ICJ's new Practionners Guide on Judicial Accountability](#).

The CMJA also supported the International Bar Association Human Rights Initiative's oral statement on "[Indicators of Independence of Justice Systems](#)" which was delivered at the UN Human Rights Council on 16 June 2016.

The CMJA and CLA provided a **Joint Written Briefing on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers** for the UN Special Rapporteur on the Independence of judges and Lawyers in anticipation of the Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers held on 15 June 2016.

The CMJA was represented by Council Member, Mrs Sybil Roach Tennant, JP and the CMJA Secretary General at the Joint Commonwealth Secretariat /British Red Cross seminar, "**Law, Humanity and the Commonwealth,**" held in London on 13 June 2016

As Her Majesty The Queen is the CMJA Patron, we were invited to send two representatives to the **Patron's Lunch** held on the Mall in London on 12 June 2016. Despite the inclement weather, Dr Karen Brewer and Temi Akinwotu were present on the day. The CMJA also sent a letter of congratulations to Her Majesty on her birthday in April 2016.

Justice John Logan represented the CMJA and spoke on "**Relationship between Parliament, the Judiciary and the Executive**" at the 27th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Seminar held in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia from 7-11 June 2016.

May 2016

The CMJA Secretary General participated in the Commonwealth Meeting for Civil Society, Business and Government Leaders on Anti- Corruption on 11 May 2016 at Marlborough House, London. This meeting was organised prior to the Anti- Corruption Summit organised by the British government on 12 May 2016.

April 2016

The CMJA was invited to participate in the International Commission of Jurists Conference on Emerging Threats to Judicial Independence held in Harare, Zimbabwe from 28-29 April 2016. His Hon. Justice Charles Mkandawire, Council Member and ICJ Commissioner spoke about the importance of implementing the Commonwealth (Latimer House) Principles at the Conference.

March 2016

The CMJA supported the International Bar Association's Human Right Initiative (IBAHRI) oral submission on 17 March 2016 to the UN Human Rights Council on "[The Role of the UPR in advancing human rights in the administration of justice](#)". The IBAHRI also produced a report on the same issue which was also launched on port which was launched on 17 March 2016. A copy of the report is available from the IBAHRI website. [Click here](#) for the report.

February 2016

The CMJA Secretary General, Dr Karen Brewer, participated in a mission to Bangladesh with Mrs Katalaina Sapolu (Director) Mr Mark Guthrie (Justice Section) sponsored by the Commonwealth Secretariat's Rule of Law Division.

January 2016

The CMJA Director of Programmes, Judge Shamim Qureshi, along with Chief Justice Margaret Ramsay-Hale (Turks and Caicos Islands), Magistrate Kirsty-Ann Gunn (Cayman Islands) and Mr Mark Guthrie (Rule of Law Division, Commonwealth Secretariat) undertook separate training of police prosecutors and magistrates in Guyana on domestic violence issues. We are grateful to the Commonwealth Secretariat for their support of this training. The opening was attended by the President of Guyana and Chancellor Carl Singh, Head of the Guyanese Judiciary.

December 2015

The CMJA signs Memorandum of Understanding with the International Association of Youth and Family Court Judges and Magistrates for the exchange of Journals

The CMJA Secretary General participated in a Caribbean Regional Consultation organised by the Commonwealth Secretariat on a draft Model Law For Judicial Services Commissions. The consultation brought together judicial heads and senior judges in the Cayman Islands

November 2015

The CMJA Secretary General speaks at the First Commonwealth Women's Forum on Women's Leadership in the Judiciary. The Meeting was held in Malta from 22-24 November 2015, prior to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.

September 2015

At its meeting on 18th September, the CMJA General Assembly passed two resolutions:

Resolution on the Lack of Sufficient Resources in the Courts- [Click here](#) to read the resolution

Resolution on the tribunal set up to impeach four judges in Botswana: The CMJA General Assembly resolved to invite Council to consider a statement on the suspension and setting up of a tribunal to investigate the misbehaviour of four high court judges. [Click here](#) for the statement issued on 3 October 2015

The CMJA General Assembly also elected their new President on 18th September and the Regional Meetings held on 15th September elected Regional Council Members. The Hon. John Lowndes, Chief Magistrate of the Northern Territory, Australia took over as President of the CMJA. [Click here](#) for the list of current Council Members.

August 2015

The Magna Carta to Commonwealth Charter Exhibition is now in Malaysia since 27 July 2015- it is at the Kuala Lumpur Court and then will be going to Penang. Follow the route on the CLA website. [Click here](#) to follow progress.

July 2015

On 1 July 2015, CLA, CLEA, CMJA issue a statement on the failure of the South African State to abide by court orders for the arrest of Al-Bashir in line with their ICC obligations.

June 2015

The Magna Carta to Commonwealth Charter Exhibition is now in Malawi at the Parliament Building in Lilongwe, Malawi until 10 July 2015.

May 2015

Justice Charles Mkandawire, Regional Vice President for East, Central and Southern Africa and ICJ Commissioner, participated in the ICJ mission to Swaziland (supported by the CMJA) following the arrests and suspension of the Chief Justice and Justices Simelane and Annadale in April. A full report will be available in due course but the mission found deep flaws in the justice system:

<http://www.icj.org/swaziland-mission-finds-deep-flaws-in-justice-system/>

The Magna Carta to Commonwealth Charter Exhibition was in Osgoode Hall, Toronto from 4-14 May.

April 2015

On 23 April 2015, LA, CLEA, CMJA issue a statement on the arrests of the Chief Justice of Swaziland and Justice Simelane and Justice Annadale.

The CMJA Secretary General also participated in the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation Cybersecurity Forum held in London on "Securing Cyberspace for Economic and Social Development". She participated as one of the panellists on the Commonwealth's response to Cybercrime.

The CMJA Secretary General participated in the Commonwealth Law Conference held in Glasgow from 12-16 April 2015. She spoke in the session on Model Form of Judicial Appointments. A copy of her speech is available from the CMJA secretariat.

February 2015

We were very sad to learn of the passing of the Chairperson of the Gender Section and Hon. Life Vice President, Mrs Clover Thompson Gordon who was a dedicated member of Council for many years. She will be sadly missed by all of us.