

CMJA NEWS

The Newsletter of the Commonwealth Magistrates' and Judges' Association

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EDITORIAL

Firstly I would like to apologise for the tardiness of this edition of the newsletter due to limited resources during the last few weeks.

At this time of year the CMJA has usually just completed one Conference and is starting to prepare for the next. Nothing has changed there! We had an extremely successful Triennial Conference in Brisbane in September 2018 and we are deeply grateful for the support of the judiciary of Queensland, the governments of Queensland and the Commonwealth of Australia for their support of the Conference. The Local Organising Committee was chaired by Judge Ray Rinaudo, Chief Magistrate of Queensland and we are deeply grateful to him, his staff and the Local Organising Committee for their invaluable assistance and support in the run up and during the Conference.

We were however, extremely saddened to hear that one of our great supporters, Justice Leigh Gower passed away shortly after returning to Canada after the Conference. Many delegates will recall meeting him at our conferences as he and his wife had been regular attendees. Our sympathies go out to his colleagues and his family in the Yukon.

The Elections of Regional Council Members and representatives of the Gender Section took place at the Regional meetings during the Conference on 11 October 2018 and we were delighted to welcome Justice Mankhambira Charles Mkandawire (Malawi) who was elected as the President of the CMJA for the period 2018-2021 at the General Assembly.

In May 2018, CMJA Council member for England and Wales, Mrs Sybil Roach Tennant JP participated in the World Congress on Justice for Children organised by the International Association of Family and Youth Court Judge (IAFYCJ) held in Paris, France and co-sponsored by UNESCO.

The CMJA was also represented at the Senior Officials of Law Ministers Meeting and Small State Law Ministers meeting held in London at the beginning of October 2018 and was represented by the

CMJA President at the Southern African Chief Justices Forum held in Lilongwe, Malawi at the end of October 2018. At the Annual General Meeting of the Forum, a set of "Guidelines on the Selection and Appointment of Judicial Officers" were adopted. The President also represented the CMJA at the ICJ-Kenya Meeting in South Africa in November 2018. The theme of the meeting was: "The State of Judicial Independence in Africa: Threats, Challenges and Opportunities".

In November 2018, Magistrate Linda Bradford Morgan, CMJA Council Member for Australia and Gender Representative for the Pacific Region, was invited to contribute to the Expert Working Group developing a Handbook on Domestic Violence. Linda's report on their meeting in Vienna, Austria in November 2018 will appear in the next Gender News due in February 2019.

We are now in full preparation mode for the forthcoming Conference in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea and are grateful to the former Chief Justice, Sir Salamo Injia, for his support and the invitation to hold the Conference in PNG, from 8-12 September 2019. The Conference is on the theme "Parliamentary Democracy and the Role of the Judiciary".

CMJA COUNCIL

A number of Regional Representatives were re-elected onto the CMJA Council at the Regional Meetings in Brisbane, Australia on 11 September 2018. However, the CMJA said goodbye to Justice Francis Korbieh from Ghana, Sheriff Michael Fletcher from Scotland, Mrs Olufolake Oshin and Mrs Yewande Aje-Afunwa of Nigeria, as well as Justice Nicole Stoneham of Bermuda and Judge Nandarasekaran of Sri Lanka who had served on Council from 2015-2018.

The CMJA elected a new President, Justice Mankhambira Charles Mkandawire from Malawi.

The new CMJA Council for 2018-2021 is composed of the following representatives from each Region:

ATLANTIC AND MEDITERRANEAN

Regional Vice President:

Justice Lynne Leitch, Canada

Council Members:

Mrs Sybil Roach Tennant, England and Wales

Sheriff Gordon Liddle, Scotland

CARIBBEAN

Regional Vice President:

Justice Richard Williams, Cayman Islands

Council Members:

Mr Chester Crooks, Jamaica

the second position is currently vacant)

EAST CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

Regional Vice President:

Justice Patrick Kiage, Kenya,

Council Members:

Chief Magistrate Mantakiso Nthunya, Lesotho

Ms Katrina Walubita, Zambia

INDIAN OCEAN

Regional Vice President:

Justice Balasundaran Rajendran, India

Council Members:

Dr Ei Oh Sun, Malaysia

(the second position is currently vacant)

PACIFIC

Regional Vice President:

Judge Mary Beth Sharp, New Zealand

Council Members:

Mrs Linda Bradford Morgan, Australia

Judge Richard Cogswell, Australia

WEST AFRICA

Regional Vice President:

Justice Constant Hometowu, Ghana

Council Members:

Chief Magistrate Ibiere Foby, Nigeria

Mr Musa Sanah Baushe, Nigeria

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The Hon. Chief Judge John Lowndes (Australia) becomes the Immediate Past President.

The Hon. Life Vice Presidents remain unchanged: Mrs Justice Norma Wade-Miller, Lord Hope of Craighead, Mr Michael Lambert and Judge Sandra Oxner.

At the Council Meeting following the General Assembly the following were co-opted:

Sheriff Douglas Allan, as Chair of the CMJA's Steering Committee, Sir James Dingemans (England and Wales), Sir Salamo Injia (Papua New Guinea), Justice Winston Patterson (Guyana), Hon. John Vertes (Canada).

The following were re-appointed:

Mr Tim Workman CBE, Executive Vice President, Mr Patrick Latham, Hon. Treasurer Judge Shamim Qureshi, Director of Programmes.

Mrs Justice Lynne Leitch from Canada was appointed Chairperson of the Gender Section.

The Regional Vice Presidents have agreed to provide their email details to Members and this information will appear on the Members area of the Website www.cmja.org

NEW CMJA PRESIDENT



Justice Charles Mkandawire completed his University studies at the University of Malawi in 1986 and later joined the Malawi Judiciary as Resident Magistrate in 1986. He rose through the ranks of Senior, Principal and Chief Resident Magistrate, Senior Deputy Registrar of the High Court and Supreme Court of Appeal and later appointed as a Judge of the high Court of Malawi in 2004.

He holds several post graduate certificates in International Law, Human Rights, Labour and Employment Law, Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), Judicial Education and Judicial Administration.

In 2006, he was appointed Registrar of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Tribunal based in Windhoek Namibia. He is also the

present Chairman of the Police Service Commission (2015-2021). He returned to the Malawi Judiciary as Judge of the High Court in 2014.

He has since 1994 attended all the triennial conferences of the CMJA and has represented CMJA at various international workshops and conferences. Justice Mkandawire has a very clear understanding of the workings of the CMJA and how it collaborates with other Commonwealth Associations and international organizations. Having worked as a diplomat with the SADC Tribunal for 8 years where he interacted with Cabinet Ministers and Heads of State and Government, Justice Mkandawire possesses special skills on international diplomacy which is an asset to the CMJA.

Justice Mkandawire was appointed CMJA President (2019-2021) at the just concluded CMJA Triennial conference in Brisbane Australia and we wish him well in his new position.

CMJA PRESIDENT INAUGURAL SPEECH

The following speech was given by Justice Charles Mkandawire at the conclusion of the General Assembly.

This honour to be elected President of the Commonwealth Magistrates' and Judges' Association (CMJA) gives me great joy and represents a personal challenge to me. I would like to thank you all members of the General Assembly, for the trust that you have placed in me. I promise one and all that I will be worth of the mandate of President of the CMJA, with which the General Assembly has just entrusted me.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the immediate past President of CMJA His Hon. Chief Judge John Lowndes for his enlightened leadership and generous spirit with which he has served our Association since 2015. I would further like to thank all the outgoing Council Members for their wonderful contributions to the Association during their tenure of office. Last but not least, I would like to thank Dr. Karen Brewer our Secretary-General and Temi Akinwotu from our secretariat in London for their tireless efforts on behalf of the ideals of this Association.

The CMJA was founded almost five (5) decades ago thanks to the determination of its founder:

- 1. to advance the administration of the law by promoting the independence of the judiciary,*
- 2. to advance education in the law, the administration of justice, the treatment of offenders and the prevention of crime within the Commonwealth and*

- 3. to disseminate information and literature on all matters of interest concerning the legal process within the various countries comprising the commonwealth.*

The community of peoples that they founded is very different today from what it was in 1970. It is global first of all because the representative of the Associations affiliated to it are far more numerous that they were then and now exemplify all the diversity of the commonwealth judiciaries.

The progress made in information technology, which we could not even have imagined just a few decades ago, and the increasing flows of persons, goods and capital creates a network that underpins our interdependence.

Everything is moving faster and is close by. In that environment, new global challenges have emerged. Climate change, terrorism, International crime, extremism, money laundering, human trafficking, corruption and Cyber Crime have now joined war and poverty. This has led judiciaries in the Commonwealth face more complex issues hence making the CMJA more relevant than before.

I would like to conclude with some more personal reflections, whilst confirming my absolute commitment and great motivation. I also want to assure the General Assembly that I intend to be accessible to every member and to ensure the effectiveness of our secretariat through our Secretary General.

Our secretariat is facing great challenges that it must overcome. But I accept my mandate with great hope and steadfast conviction.

I sincerely thank all of you for your attention.

May God bless you

Justice Charles Mkandawire

CMJA TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE

The CMJA's 18th Triennial Conference took place at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, South Brisbane, Australia from 9-13 September 2018.

The Theme of the Conference was "Becoming Stronger Together" We are most grateful to the judiciary of Queensland, the Queensland Government and the Federal Government as well as the magistrates and judicial staff at the Magistrates Court in Brisbane for their support and valuable assistance during the Conference. The Chief Justice of Queensland kindly hosted a Chief Justices Meeting on 9th September 2018 which attracted over 40 Chief Justices from

Australia and the Commonwealth of Nations, a record number for a CMJA Chief Justices Meeting. The Conference started on Monday 10th September 2018 with the procession of Commonwealth flags brought in by the boys of Brisbane Grammar School and a welcome speech by “Uncle” Albert Holt representing the traditional custodians of the land where the Conference was being held. The CMJA President welcomed the 450 participants from 49 jurisdictions in the Commonwealth and spoke about the increasing verbal attacks on judicial officers across the Commonwealth. The Conference was opened by His Excellency, Paul de Jersey, Governor of Queensland, a former Chief Justice of the territory, who stressed the importance of conferences like the CMJA’s Triennial in broadening the horizons of judicial officers who participated in them.

In his speech, the Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales, Lord Burnett spoke to the theme of the Conference. Although he pointed out that working together was not a basis for judicial independence, judicial independence could be enhanced by creating better understanding not only at governmental level of the reasons for judicial independence, including resources, but also vis a vis the public through outreach programmes in schools and ensuring that the public understood that judicial officers took decisions based on the of law and should stand firm in the face of criticism or adversity. Lady Dorrian, the Lord Clerk of Scotland (equivalent to Deputy Chief Justice elsewhere) in her Keynote address spoke about The Treatment of Children in Criminal Justice Systems and the importance of having benchmarks for juvenile justice. She spoke about the minimum age of criminal responsibility; the development of supportive and technological measures that may be employed to ensure the effective participation and fair treatment of children in criminal proceedings. Dr Dianne Douglas, eminent psychologist from Trinidad and Tobago was the third Keynote Speaker at the Triennial Conference. Those who attended the CMJA’s Annual Conference in Guyana in 2016 will recall her impassioned presentation. She did not disappoint in Brisbane and once again spoke about the effects of domestic violence and particularly the psychological effects of on the victims of crime. She pointed out that according to the World Health Organisation (WHO) *“nearly one-third (30%) of all women worldwide who have ever lived in a relationship have experienced physical and/or sexual violence from an intimate partner”*.

We were also privileged to hear the President of Trinidad and Tobago and former Judge, Her Excellency Paul Mae

Weekes speak about Strengthening Judicial Independence. She stressed the importance of accountability and outreach programmes to explain the role of the judiciary and to ensure that the public supports the independence of the judiciary. She shared the panel session with our immediate past President, Chief Judge Lowndes, who spoke about the importance of Judicial Associations in ensuring solidarity and collegiality when issues of judicial independence arise.

Delegates also heard distinguished speakers on the issue of fighting corruption, mentoring newly appointed judicial officers, dealing with strikes in the judiciary, international justice systems, the need for judicial education, managing modern criminal justice systems, the impact of climate change on justice and judicial wellness. Sir Salamo Injia, Chief Justice of Papua New Guinea at the time of the conference gave a stimulating and thought provoking presentation on Virtual Courts and digital filing. It seems that Papua New Guinea is well ahead of some of the other jurisdictions around the Commonwealth and presentations were also given on the issue by Chief Justice Sam Rugege of Rwanda and Justice Hoo Sheau Peng of Singapore. Specialist sessions were held on restorative justice, military courts, coroners courts and countering violent extremism. The learning session which has become a feature of the last day of the CMJA Conferences was on handling the media with presentations by Senior District Judge Tan Ikram of England and Wales and Justice Julie Dutil of Quebec, Canada.

The Conference also included a breakout session on the terms and conditions of service which included a survey of those who attended the sessions, the results of which are to be compiled into a report in due course. If you would like to contribute to the survey, please inform the Secretary General.

DECLARATION ON THE INDEPENDENCE AND INTEGRITY OF THE LOWER COURTS

As readers will recall, the Report on the Status of Magistrates was published in February 2013. The Report contained a set of **“Guidelines on the Independence and Integrity of the Magistracy”**. In July 2011, a paper was presented to the Commonwealth Law Ministers Meeting (CLMM) in Sydney, Australia (an adapted version of this paper was published in Volume 3, no 4 of the Commonwealth Law Bulletin of December 2011). The Law Ministers agreed that

“The Meeting agreed to note suggested

Guidelines for Ensuring the Independence and Integrity of Magistrates prepared by the CMJA, and Ministers resolved: to consider taking appropriate steps to strengthen their domestic legal frameworks and other measures for assuring the independence and integrity of their magistracy in compliance with the Commonwealth fundamental values, having due regard to the suggested Guidelines.” CLMM Communiqué July 2011.

Prior to the last two Law Ministers Meetings (Botswana 2014 and The Bahamas 2017), the CMJA sought information from the Attorneys General and Ministers of Justice on the measures taken.

Whilst the CMJA published the **“Guide for the Magistrate in the Commonwealth: Fundamental Values and Recommended Practices”** in January 2018 as part of the process for supporting the magistracy (judicial officers of the lower courts) in the Commonwealth and this was widely circulated, there continued to be a need for a Declaration to support these judicial officers and the General Assembly in September agreed the **“Declaration on the Independence and Integrity of the Lower Courts”** as part of this process. A copy of the full Declaration is available on the CMJA’s website at www.cmja.org

WORLD CONGRESS ON JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN

Mrs Sybil Roach Tennant JP represented the CMJA at the above Conference in May 2018. The Conference which was held in Paris, France brought together 900 judicial and legal officers from 100 countries. The aim of the conference was to share best practice in promoting Justice for Children from around the world and to make recommendations that will assist government in different countries to develop child friendly policies for justice.

According to UNICEF there are over one million under-18s deprived of their liberty worldwide. Many of whom are detained alongside adults. The following is a short summary of the report produced by Sybil Roach Tennant for the CMJA.

“Speakers spoke about upholding children’s rights and their dignity and viewing children as potentials that we can develop, as opposed to a risk that we have to control.

There was a need to plan programmes that care for children in a holistic manner, covering ethical, legal and social issues, education and a measure of identity, alongside providing children with a new intent of belonging to society.

There was huge support with examples of good practice and suggestions for policy changes, in favour of introducing specific measures to make judicial procedures and practices more child-friendly. To facilitate children's effective participation in judicial proceedings and to avoid restricting or violating the rights of children who are involved in such proceedings."

The [Guidelines for Children in Conflict with the Justice System](#) drafted by IAYFJM and adopted in 2017 were also discussed at the Congress.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE ISSUES

ENGLAND AND WALES

Further to our previous report informing readers that 200 judicial officers had won their pension case at the High Court, the Lord Chancellor (Minister of Justice) is appealing the decision made that the Lord Chancellor had discriminated against younger judicial officers by forcing them to leave the existing pension scheme in April 2015 whilst allowing older members to remain in a better pension scheme thus unilaterally amending their terms and conditions of service.

KENYA

In August 2018, it was reported that Deputy Chief Justice Mwilu had been arrested allegedly for corruption and abuse of office in relation to a commercial case which she was involved in. This arrest was seen in some quarters as "revenge" by the Kenyan President, as she had presided over the case in August 2017 which had led to the annulment of the Kenyan elections. In early November 2018, the Chief Justice appointed 5 judges to investigate the allegations against Justice Mwilu but also to determine under the Constitution whether a serving judicial officer can be charged for criminal acts committed outside their duties or whether they were immune from prosecution whilst serving.

LESOTHO

In June 2018 the CLA, CLEA and CMJA issued a statement on the threats of impeachment against the Chief Justice of Lesotho (see: [www.cmja.org](#) for further details). The decision was seen as politically motivated by some. The government however claimed that the Chief Justice had not presided over contested matters in court for some two years; not taken action against judges who were behind in delivering their judgements; not dealt with allegations of her own misconduct in relation to the renting of an official residence from a judicial colleague; she should have sought permission from the Attorney General to

appoint a lawyer. These were amongst the eight reasons for an investigation. Unfortunately, during in the CMJA's Triennial Conference, we were informed that it had been announced that Chief Justice, Justice Nthomeng Majara, who was attending the Conference and Chief Justices' Meeting in Brisbane, had been suspended from her office pending the investigations by the Tribunal set up to consider the case against her. The CMJA issued a further statement on 13 September 2018 (see: [www.cmja.org](#) for the full statement) which was endorsed by the General Assembly. The suspension was enacted by the President at the request of the Attorney General despite the fact that that Justice Majara had secured interim orders against any action against her. The Ministry of Justice in correspondence with the CMJA have indicated that they followed due process. In the meantime, Justice Maseforo Mahase was appointed Acting Chief Justice. Shortly after her appointment in September 2018, Justice Mahase declared that she was holding in abeyance the case in the constitutional court against Chief Justice Majara "until she studied the issues". The CMJA continues to monitor the situation in Lesotho.

In October 2018, following a mission to Lesotho, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights recommended that the Lesotho government take immediate steps to ensure that the Judiciary was independent effective, efficient and that human rights related bodies were established or strengthened to handle allegations of violations.

In October 2018, five acting Judges appointed to the Court of Appeal, re-instated the former President of the Court of Appeal, Dr Mosito. The Constitutional Court was found to have "violated the principle of stare decisis by setting aside the deed of settlement reached between Dr Mosito and the Government of Lesotho". A full report on the case is available from Africanlii at: [www.africanlii.org/article/2018027/Lesotho-new-judgment-reinstates-Mosito.html](#)

PAKISTAN

In November 2018, the CLA, CLEA and CMJA issued a Statement calling for the respect for the judiciary following threats against the three judges who had found Asia Bibi, a Christian woman accused of blasphemy, not guilty. A copy of the Statement was circulated to members in November 2018 and is available on the CMJA website at: [www.cmja.org](#)

SEYCHELLES

In June 2018, the CLA, CLEA and CMJA issued a statement supporting

the Chief Justice following the setting up of a Tribunal to investigate allegations of misconduct against her. The SACJF mission in June 2018 urged the Government to:

(a) *There must be an expeditious finalisation of the investigations of Judge Duraikannu Karunakaran and Chief Justice Dr. Mathilda Twomey, in accordance with the dictates of natural justice and fairness.*

(b) *Judicial officers must continue to be vigilant in ensuring independence of the Judiciary and their own independence in accordance with the Constitution and the law.*

(c) *Lawyers must continue to act in a professional manner and continue to assist the Judiciary in their efforts to attain due administration of justice.*

(d) *The Legislative and the Executive branches of Government must respect and promote the independence of the Judiciary;*

(e) *The legislative authorities should consider amending the Constitution to include the Head of the Judiciary as an ex officio member of the Constitutional Appointments Authority.*

(f) *The authorities should consider introducing legal reforms to promote the independence of the legal profession in accordance with international and regional best practices.*

Following the investigation by the Tribunal composed of Hon. Michael Adams of Australia, Justice John Murphy of South Africa and Judge Olufunmilayo O. Atilade of Nigeria, the CMJA is delighted to announce that the Tribunal found that there was no basis to the allegations against the Chief Justice of the Seychelles and concluded in their report issued in October 2018 that: "evidence, either taken piecemeal or as a whole, does not disclose any misconduct or inappropriate conduct on the part of the Chief Justice. To the contrary the only conclusion reasonably open on that evidence is that she acted with complete propriety on all the occasions called into question. It follows that no action should be taken by the President under Article 134 of the Constitution in respect of the office of Chief Justice.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Earlier this year, the Chief Justice of Trinidad and Tobago, Justice Ivor Archie was accused of misconduct and misbehaviour in the press. Amongst the accusations, the media reported that Chief Justice had allegedly used his influence to try and get a contract for a private security firm as well as linking him to a known criminal. The allegations of misconduct were refuted immediately by the Chief Justice. Despite the fact that these allegations were

fabricated, the Law Association of Trinidad and Tobago took it upon themselves to undertake an investigation into these allegations, though the Prime Minister of Trinidad did not find that there was any evidence to proceed with an investigation under the constitution. The Chief Justice took the Law Association to court arguing the Association had no right to undertake an investigation of a judge's activity separately to the constitutional provisions for investigation. However, he lost his case and appealed the decision to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. In August 2018, the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council found that *"The Law Association of Trinidad and Tobago had power under the Legal Profession Act 1986 (Trinidad and Tobago) to set up a committee to inquire into allegations of misconduct against the Chief Justice. While it could not make binding findings of fact, it could inquire into whether there were sufficient grounds to refer a complaint to the Prime Minister, and was not prevented from doing so by the Constitution of Trinidad and Tobago 1976 s.137"*.

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS AROUND THE COMMONWEALTH

NAURU

In September 2018, the CMJA was informed that the Supreme Court of Nauru had decided to permanently stay the prosecution of 16 of the Nauru 19 defendants who were charged in 2015 following their protests at the breakdown in the rule of law and in particular the sacking of the former Chief Justice and the suspension of MPs from the Opposition in Parliament. Judge Mueke, former Chief Justice of South Australia, who presided on the case, indicated that: *"In my judgement, such conduct by the prosecuting and administrative authorities within the Executive Government of Nauru was inappropriate, unjustified and unjustifiable, intimidatory, unprofessional*

and wrong. My assessment of the defendants' Australian legal team is that at all times they acted appropriately, professionally and courageously in putting their clients' case to the courts. In all these respects, I am satisfied and find that each and every one of them upheld their duties as lawyers and their responsibilities to their clients. The threatening conduct and the submissions that they were constantly abusing the processes of the court, in contempt of it and scandalising it were, in my judgement, symptomatic of how the Executive Government, including the Minister for Justice, considered and expected others to consider that these defendants deserved no assistance and anyone who gave them assistance deserved whatever they got, including threats, intimidation and abuse."

In November 2018, it was announced that the DPP was appealing the case in the newly formed Court of Appeal following the unilateral decision of the Nauru Government to terminate appeals to the High Court of Australia in December 2017. In addition three of the Nauru 19 are also appealing an increase in their sentence.

SRI LANKA

Following the elections in Sri Lanka, the President of Sri Lanka, in what was has been described by some as "a presidential coup", sacked Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe in late October 2018 and placed former President, Mahinda Rajapaksa, this despite the fact that there had been no consultation with Parliament thus causing a constitutional crisis in Sri Lanka. The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) issued a Statement asserting *"the importance of upholding the rule of law as well as the essential role of the Parliament of Sri Lanka, as defined in and protected by the Constitution of Sri Lanka"*. A copy of the full statement is available at: http://www.cpahq.org/cpahq/Main/News/News_Items/CPA_Statement_Sri_Lanka_Nov_2018.aspx

In November 2018, the CLA, CLEA and CPA issued a Statement expressing their concern about the continued crisis in Sri Lanka and called on the Sri Lankan President to respect the Commonwealth

Charter. Please see full statement at: http://www.cpahq.org/cpahq/Main/News/News_Items/CPA_CLA_CLEA_Statement_on_Sri_Lanka_Nov_2018.aspx

MEET OUR MEMBERS

MRS JUSTICE OLIVIA OBENG OWUSU - GHANA



Mrs Justice Olivia Obeng Owusu was called to the bar in 1994 at the Ghana School of law. She joined the bench as a district magistrate in 1997. In 2008 she was appointed a circuit judge.

In 2011 she was appointed a Justice of the High Court. She is currently at the High Court Cape Coast in the Central Region of Ghana. She handles all types of cases ranging from criminal to civil cases.

Justice Owusu was the treasurer of the Association of Magistrates and Judges of Ghana (AMJG) from 2005-2016. She was a founding member of the Ghana chapter of the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ). She was a member of the Ethics Committee in 2009. She has delivered papers at various conferences.

Papers delivered include "Dealing with the litigant in person" (CMJA Toronto 2006), "Juvenile Justice in Ghana" (IAWJ Conference Zambia 2011) and "Gender issues across the Commonwealth" (CMJA Conference Bermuda 2007). She mentors law students in the Faculty of Law, University of Cape Coast. She loves to dance, travel and read. She is married with two children.

CMJA'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY 2020

The CMJA will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary in 2020. We are looking for interesting anecdotes from our Membership to celebrate this eventful occasion. Do you remember participating in any events that were memorable? In what way? How has your membership helped you in your career in the judiciary? Have you any funny /interesting stories to tell about your experiences with the CMJA?

Have you any ideas about how we should be celebrating this momentous event? We would love to hear from you.

Please send the information to the Secretary General by email or by letter.

Uganda House, 58-50 Trafalgar Square, London WC2N 5DX or email kbrewer@cmja.org



CMJA 18TH TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE



NEW MEMBERS

We were delighted to welcome Guernsey as a New Member Association in August 2018.

We welcome the following Individual Members since the last newsletter:

AUSTRALIA

- Ms Lillian Lesueur
- Mr Rodney Madsen
- Magistrate Christine Clements
- Miss Sheryl Louise Cornack
- Ms Viviana Keegan
- Mr Brian Patrick Kilmartin
- Judge Vincent Luppino
- Mr Leanne O'Shea
- Mrs Sandra Pearson
- Mrs Kay Anson Ryan
- Magistrate Robert Spencer
- Magistrate Bronwyn Springer
- Magistrate Haydn Stjernqvist
- Magistrate Anne Thacker
- Mr Glenn Theakston

BAHAMAS

- Mr George Hilton

BANGLADESH

- Judge Shahriar Kabir

CANADA

- Registrar Elaine Thompson
- Hon Judge Sandra Corbett

ENGLAND & WALES

- Major Jason Pegg
- Judge Sailesh Mehta
- The Rt. Hon. The Lord Ian Duncan Burnet
- Mr Brian Berry
- Mr Sonny Leong
- Mr Peter Greenfield
- Ms Elizabeth McMahon
- Prof Racheal Murray

GHANA

- His Honour Yaw Owoahene-Acheampong
- Chief Justice Sophia Akuffo
- Mr Seih Aduedem Alafa
- Mrs Cynthia Blagooee

GUERNSEY

- Deputy Bailiff Richard McMahon

JAMAICA

- Hon Chester Alwyn Crooks
- Justice Marvia Angela McDonald-Bishop
- Hon. Chief Justice Bryan Sykes

JERSEY

- Jurat Geoffrey John Grime

KENYA

- Hon Lady Justice Jacaveline Kamau
- Judge Mary Kasango
- Hon Derrick Kuto
- Judge Charles Mutungi
- Hon Everlyne Olwande
- Judge Hedwig Ong'udi
- Justice William Ouko
- Hon Maureen Shimenga
- Ms Grace Omodho

KIRIBATI

- Hon Justice David Lambourne

MALAWI

- Chief Justice Andrew Nyirenda
- Mr Kenyatta Nyirenda

NAMIBIA

- Mr Justice Maphios Cheda
- Chief Justice Peter Shivute

NEW ZEALAND

- Mr Nick Pacey
- Judge Stephen Clark
- Judge Craig Coxhead

NIGERIA

- Mrs Amina Ahmad Bello
- Justice Anthony Okorodas
- Justice Abubakar Abbazih Musa
- Justice Foluke Awolalu
- Hon Justice Rqayat Ayoola
- Mrs Ibiere Foby
- His Worship Godwin Ibemesi
- Justice Olabisi Ige
- Justice Peter Obiorah
- Judge Kwame Okpu

- Chief Justice Walter S.N Onnoghen
- Justice Marshal Umukoro
- Ms Chituru Joy Wigwe-Oreh
- Justice Edward Asante

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

- Mr Andrew Michael Watson
- Mr John Carey

SCOTLAND

- Lady Leeona June Dorrian

SIERRA LEONE

- Justice Miatta Maria Samba
- Justice Vivian Solomon

SOLOMON ISLAND

- Judge Rex Faulkona
- Justice John Keniapisia
- Magistrate Jim Seuika

SRI LANKA

- Judge Khema Wickremasinghe

TANZANIA

- Judge Ignasi Kitusi
- Mr Mohammed Ali Shein

UGANDA

- Ms Immaculate Busingye
- His Worship Robert Mukanza
- Her Worship Annie Wagana
- Justice Nyondo Nabisinde
- Judge John Eudes Keitirima
- Judge Alexandra Rugadya
- Justice Albert Rugadya – Atwoki

ZAMBIA

- Mr Charles Chanda
- Miss Idah Chuuka
- Justice Charles Kajimanga
- Magistrate Simukama Malupenga
- Ms Amy Masoja
- Prof Justice Mulela Munalula
- Ms Nachembe Nalomba
- Mrs Jane Sifali
- Mr Exnobot Zulu

DIARY OF CONFERENCES AND EVENTS 2019

CMJA/CSC TRAINING COURSE ON CASE MANAGEMENT AND JUDICIAL ETHICS,

11-14 FEBRUARY 2019 - London, United Kingdom.

Contact ade@civilservicecollege.org.uk for further details.

CALRAS (COMMONWEALTH ASSOCIATION OF LAW REFORM AGENCIES) CONFERENCE

4-5 APRIL 2019 - Livingstone, Zambia.

Contact the General Secretary, Michael Sayers (thesayers@hotmail.com) for further details.

COMMONWEALTH LAW CONFERENCE,

8-11 APRIL 2019 - Livingstone, Zambia

"The Rule of Law in Retreat? Challenges for the Modern Commonwealth" see www.commonwealhlawconference.org for further details

CMJA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

8-12 SEPTEMBER 2019

Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea,

"Parliamentary Democracy and the Role of the Judiciary". Information to appear shortly on www.cmja.biz

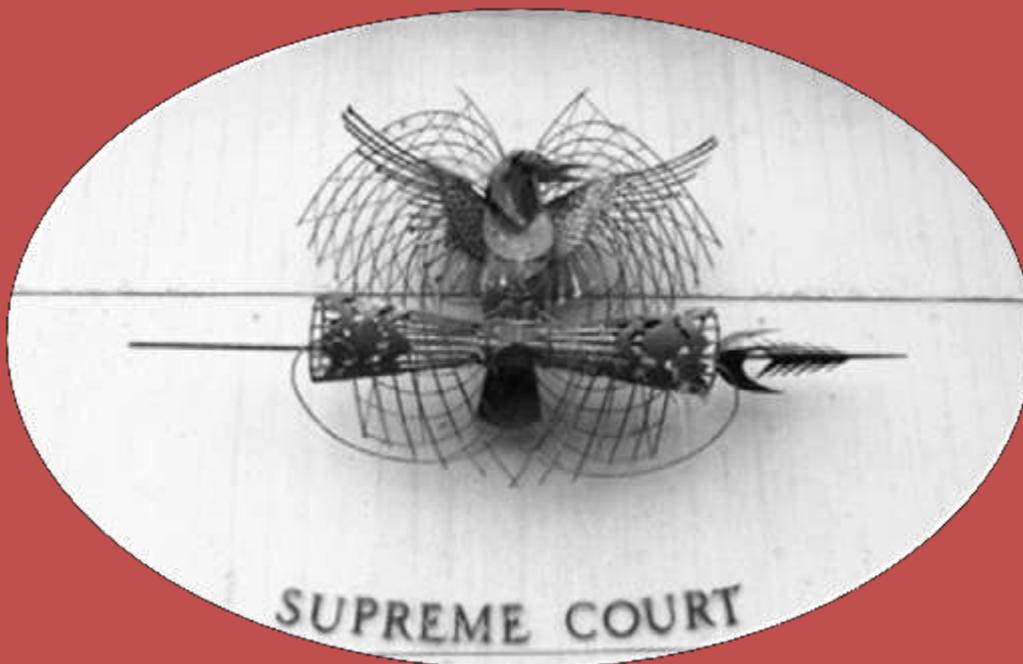


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