

Archived News 2005-2012

January 2013

Judicial Assistance Working Group

CMJA Council Members, Justice Mkandawire, Justice Norma Wade Miller and Judge Tim Workman and the CMJA Secretary General participate in the Commonwealth Secretariat's Judicial Assistance Working Group.

January 2013

CMJA appoints new Hon.Treasurer, Mr Patrick Latham

Mr Latham comes with 40 years experience as a chartered accountant. Following extensive work experience in the food manufacturing and shipping industries, he joined the voluntary sector in 1987 where his accounting knowledge has been enhanced by experience of tax, investment, probate and trust law as well as charity law

December 2012

Human Rights Day Seminar

The CMJA Secretary General participates in the Human Rights Day Seminar organised by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers and Law Firm Kennedy Van der Laan, in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, focussing on Judicial Independence.

December 2012

CMJA, CLA and CLEA issue statement on the Impeachment of the Chief Justice of Sri Lanka. [Click here](#) for the full text.

November 2012

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October 2012

Environmental Law for Judges Training

Judge Keith Hollis facilitated and spoke at the above Training organised by the Eastern Caribbean Court of Justice.

September 2012

New Council appointed to CMJA. Justice John Vertes, Canada appointed as President for 2012-2015 and new Council appointed to CMJA. [Click here](#) for details

September 2012

CMJA Council adopt Resolution calling for better respect for the Commonwealth (Latimer House) Principles. [Click here](#) for Resolution

August 2012

Commonwealth Lawyers Association (CLA), Commonwealth Legal Education Association (CLEA) and Commonwealth Magistrates' and Judges' Association (CMJA) issue joint statement on the **SADC Tribunal**. [Click here](#) for Statement

May 2012

Sad News: Justice Paul Evande Mwambo passes away

The CMJA's Regional Vice President for West Africa and Council Member for the Cameroon passed away suddenly on 23 May 2012. Paul became a Council Member of the CMJA in 2000, becoming Regional Vice President in 2006 a position he held until his death in May. He will be remembered for his contributions to the advancement of the CMJA's activities and projects

and was always an active participant at the CMJA conferences. His family and friends have set up a memorial website that you can contribute to at:
<http://www.forevermissed.com/paul-mwambo-evande/#about>

April 2012

Special Consultation with Commonwealth Organisations on a Framework for engagement in High Level Meetings

The CMJA Secretary General participated in a meeting about the Framework of Engagement of accredited Commonwealth Associations with the Commonwealth on 16 April 2012 and the interaction between the official Commonwealth and the unofficial Commonwealth.

April 2012

Consultation on the Vision and Mission of the Commonwealth Foundation

Following the restructuring of the Commonwealth Foundation with a view to the Foundation being re-launched in November 2011, the CMJA Secretary General participated in a consultation on the vision and mission of the Foundation on 16 April 2012.

March 2012

Written Submission on the proposal for a Commissioner for Democracy, Rule of Law and Human Rights

The CMJA, Commonwealth Lawyers' Association (CLA) and Commonwealth Legal Education Association (CLEA) made a joint submission to the Commonwealth Secretariat on the proposal put forward by the Eminent Persons Group in their report to CHOGM in November 2011.

March 2012

Written Submission on the proposal for a Commonwealth Charter

The CMJA, Commonwealth Lawyers' Association (CLA) and Commonwealth Legal Education Association (CLEA) made a joint submission to the Commonwealth Secretariat on the idea of a Commonwealth Charter put forward by Eminent Persons Group in November 2011.

February 2012

Commonwealth Secretariat sets up Cybercrime Working Group

In line with the mandate established by the Commonwealth Law Ministers Meeting held in Sydney, Australia in July 2011, the Legal and Constitutional Division of the Commonwealth Secretariat (LCAD) has set up a Cybercrime Working Group to

- Explore the practical implications of addressing cybercrime in the Commonwealth;
- Identify the most effective means of international cooperation and enforcement to combat cybercrime taking into account the work of other international organisations;
- Identify best practice and educational materials for training of criminal justice officials, investigators, prosecutors and judicial officers, and;
- Identify suitable training programmes for investigators, prosecutors and judicial officers.

The CMJA was represented by its Secretary General at the first meeting of the Cybercrime Working Group held in February 2012.

February 2012

Training Seminar on Judicial Independence and Integrity

Fort Moresby - Papua New Guinea

The CMJA and the Legal Division of the Commonwealth Secretariat (LCAD) ran a Training Seminar on Judicial Independence and Integrity for judicial officers in Papua New Guinea. For further information [see here](#).

February 2012

100 Days of the Eminent Persons Group (EPG) Report

One Day Seminar – London, United Kingdom

The Secretary General of the CMJA spoke about the proposal put forward by the EPG for a Commissioner for Democracy, Rule of Law and Human Rights at the one day seminar run by the Commonwealth Advisory Bureau (formerly the Commonwealth Policy Studies Unit). A full report on this event [can be found here](#).

January 2012 UK

CMJA submits report to UK Foreign Affairs Select Committee on the role and future of the Commonwealth

2011

November 2011 Jamaica

Environmental Law Workshop

The CMJA together with the Jamaican Environmental Commission held a Workshop on Environmental law for judicial officers in the Caribbean in Montego Bay, Jamaica. The CMJA former Director of Programmes, HH Judge Keith Hollis, facilitated and organised the programme.

Kiribati

Secretary General assists the Legal and Constitutional Division of the Commonwealth Secretariat with a Needs Assessment Mission for the Judiciary in Kiribati.

October 2011

"The Role of the East African Judiciaries in the electoral process"- Entebbe, Uganda The CMJA was represented by the Secretary General and the Hon. Treasurer at the East African Magistrates and Judges Conference which took place in Entebbe, Uganda from 10-14 October 2011. The Theme of the Conference was: "The Role of the East African Judiciaries in the electoral process".

Judicial officers from Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda attended the Conference as well as representatives from the electoral commissions from East Africa. In addition there were observers from the East African Court and from Zambia. Judicial officers around the world have seen an increase in their involvement in elections through the increase in election petitions.

The lack of independence of electoral commissions, the lack of training of polling agents and the staff involved in elections, the delays in hearings of election petitions were all issues which were raised at the Conference. The Chief Justice of Uganda, Justice Odoki in opening the Conference pointed out that judicial officers play an essential part in ensuring electoral justice. Even though jurisprudence in this area is not as developed as other fields of law, "Courts have a duty to inspire confidence that any disputes can be handled expeditiously, transparently, fairly and honestly", He spoke about the recent work undertaken to create a set of standards to guide developments in the area of Electoral Justice and which outlines the main principles which need to be in operation and which those involved in the electoral process should follow. A copy of the Principles is available from TIRI at: www.tiri.org

In their recommendations at the conclusion of the meeting they agreed that they would try and make electoral justice more effective. [Click here for a copy of the recommendations from the Conference in PDF format.](#)

2010

Brighton Conference

2009

**CMJA Triennial Conference, Turks and Caicos
September - October 2009**

2008

**Commonwealth Latimer House Principles Colloquium - Report on the Colloquium
held in Edinburgh July 2007**

2007

**Equality in the Courts: The Commonwealth Experience - Report on the Regional
and Gender Conference, Bermuda August 2007**

2005

**Nairobi Plan of Action on the Implementation of the Commonwealth Latimer
House Principles
Commonwealth (Latimer House) Principles
Commonwealth Law Ministers Meeting**

Judicial Reform in the Commonwealth: CMJA Ghana Conference;
Pan African Forum on the Commonwealth (Latimer House) Principles

2004

**Senior Officials and Small States Law Ministers Meeting;
Justice at the Grassroots - CMJA Jersey Conference ;
Gender and Human Rights Workshop;**

2003

**[Commonwealth Principles on the Accountability and Relationship between the
three branches of government](#)**