

Archived News 2013-14

December 2014

22 December 2014: CLA, CLEA, CMJA issue a [statement](#) on the Strike of Judicial Officers and Staff in **Malawi**.

New Council Member for the **Indian Ocean Region**. On 1 December, the CMJA appointed a new Member of Council from Bangladesh Judge Shariff Reza Jaker.

16 December 2014: CLA, CLEA, CMJA issue [statement](#) on the Amendment to the Judicature Act and subsequent removal of Chief Justice Faiz and Justice Adnan from the Supreme Court of the **Maldives**.

November 2014

We were very sad to learn of the passing of our Council Member for Nigeria, **Mrs Nkiruka Franklin-Iguh** who was elected in 2012 and who was also President of the Magistrates Association of Nigeria. Our thoughts and prayers go to the Association and her family at this sad time

October 2014

800th Magna Carta Foundation award grant awarded to the CMJA, together with the Commonwealth Lawyers Association and the Commonwealth Legal Education Association for a Travelling Exhibition for the Magna Carta. [Click here](#) for the Press Release. For further information about the Commonwealth-wide Magna Carta Celebrations please see <http://magnacarta800th.com>

September 2014

The CMJA held its conference in Livingstone, Zambia from 7-11 September 2014. the Conference attracted over 214 delegates and 44 accompanying persons from 35 jurisdictions. The CMJA is grateful to the Zambian Judiciary and government for their support for the Conference. The Theme of the Conference was: "**Judicial Independence: the Challenges of the Modern Era**". A copy of the Keynote paper presented by the CMJA President on "**Judicial Independence: The Role of the Chief Justice**" is available [here](#).

The CMJA also participated in the Commonwealth Secretariat's workshop on Judicial Services Commissions which took place in the wings of the CMJA Conference.

August 2014

New Council Member for the Caribbean. The CMJA appointed two new Council Members for the Caribbean Region. They are Mrs Pamela Beckles of Barbados and Mrs Nicola Stoneham of Bermuda.

July 2014

The CMJA Secretary General was invited to attend the launch of the Summer Exhibition at the UK Supreme Court in London: "A Court at the Crossroads of Empire: Stories from the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council" on 31 July 2014. This exhibition is open until 26 September 2014 and is well worth a visit for those of you coming to London in August/September.

June 2014

DATE AND THEME OF NEXT TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE AGREED

The CMJA and the Judiciary of New Zealand have agreed the Theme for the **CMJA's Triennial Conference in Wellington, New Zealand: "Independent Judiciaries,**

Diverse Societies". The Conference will take place from 13-18 September 2015. Further details will follow in due course

Legal and Judicial Legacies of Empire - 17 June 2014

The CMJA together with the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, the Commonwealth Legal Education Association and the Overseas Services Pensioners Association to organise a one day conference on the Legal and Judicial Legacies of Empire. Speakers included Lord Judge the former Chief Justice of England and Wales, Justice Desiree Bernard of the Caribbean Court of Justice, Dr Haji Mohd Na'im Mokhtar of the Syariah Court of Malaysia, former Chief Justice Mahapela Lehohla of Lesotho, as well as the CMJA Executive Vice President, Judge Tim Workman. Lord Judge spoke eloquently about the influence of the Magna Carta and other presenters spoke on the application of English law and other legal systems in the Empire, the evolution of the courts, the legacy of old laws as well as human rights and the new common law in the Commonwealth. This one day conference was attended by over 200 participants.

March 2014

The CMJA Director of Programmes, Judge Shamim Quresh, Regional Vice President, Justice Margaret Ramsay-Halei and Mr Mark Guthrie (LCAD) Commonwealth Secretariat undertook a training of judicial officers in Guyana on domestic violence issues. We are grateful to the Commonwealth Secretariat for their support for this training. [Click here](#) for further details of the training.

February 2014

CMJA launches Brochure for the CMJA Conference in Livingstone, Zambia. "Judicial Independence: The Challenges in the Modern Era" being held from 7-11 September 2014

January 2014

Maldives

The CMJA Director of Programmes, Judge Shamim Qureshi and Mr Mark Guthrie (LCAD) Commonwealth Secretariat undertook a training of judicial officers in the Maldives on We are grateful to the Commonwealth Secretariat for their support for this training.

Nauru

The CLA, CLEA and CMJA issued a statement following the forced removal and deportation of Magistrate Peter Law from Nauru, the disregard for the Chief Justice's injunction on the matter and the revocation of the Chief Justice's visa to enter Nauru. [Click here](#) to view the statement.

On 19 January 2014 Magistrate Peter Law was removed from his office as Resident Magistrate for Nauru and summarily deported without prior notice to the Chief Justice. The Chief Justice issued an injunction on the matter and was due to fly out to Nauru on Sunday 19 January 2014, the Chief Justice visa to enter Nauru was revoked.

December 2013

The CMJA, together with the [Commonwealth Lawyers Association \(CLA\)](#) and [Commonwealth Legal Education Association \(CLEA\)](#) launches the report on: "**JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS COMMISSIONS: A MODEL CLAUSE FOR CONSTITUTIONS**"

"The judiciary is one of the cornerstones of a modern democratic state and the way judicial officers are appointed has been an issue in many countries in the Commonwealth for a number of years."

The report follows an in-depth examination of the different types of appointments systems across the Commonwealth and proposes a model clause that may assist Commonwealth countries in future reforms of their constitutions and/or statutes in relation to judicial appointments. [Click here](#) to view the full report.

October 2013

The CLA, CLEA and CMJA made a submission to the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office and to the Canadian Foreign Affairs Department about their concerns about the lack of respect for the Commonwealth fundamental values in the run up the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting being held in Sri Lanka in November.

September 2013

"Is your Latimer House in Order?"

The CMJA held its Conference in Jersey from 23-26 September 2013 on the above theme. The Conference attracted 240 participants from 30 countries in the Commonwealth. We are grateful to the Jersey Judiciary for their generosity and support of the CMJA's Conference. Discussions centered around the the implementation or lack of implementation of the Commonwealth Latimer House Principles around the Commonwealth.

Senior Officials of Commonwealth Law Ministries and Small States Law Ministers Meeting
The CMJA participated as an accredited association in the Commonwealth Senior Officials of Law Ministers Meeting and the Commonwealth Law Ministers and Attorney Generals of Small Jurisdictions Meeting held in London from 9-13 September 2013. The CMJA was represented by the Secretary General and Judge Tim Workman, the Executive Vice President. Dr Karen Brewer gave a presentation on the challenges faced in the implementation of the Commonwealth Latimer House Principles.

New Council Member

Following the resignation of Prof. John Howson JP from the Council in May 2013, the Council were delighted to announce the appointment of Mrs Sybil Roach Tennant JP of England and Wales as the new Council Member in the Atlantic and Mediterranean Region.

June 2013

The CMJA Director of Programmes, Judge Shamim Qureshi, Dr Karen Brewer (CMJA Secretary General) and Mr Mark Guthrie (LCAD) Commonwealth Secretariat undertook a training of judges and magistrates in Yaounde, Cameroon following the recommendations that emerged from the second training of judges and magistrates in June 2012. We are grateful to the Commonwealth Secretariat for the funding of this Training

May 2013

The CMJA Director of Programmes, Judge Shamim Qureshi and Mr Mark Guthrie (LCAD) Commonwealth Secretariat undertook a training of magistrates in Kiribati following the recommendations that emerged from the November 2011 needs assessment mission. We are grateful to the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Commonwealth Foundation for the funding of this Training.

April 2013

The CLA, CLEA and CMJA issued a Resolution at the 18th Commonwealth Law Conference being held in Cape Town, South Africa on the rule of law and threats against judicial independence in Sri Lanka and urged the Commonwealth to consider placing Sri Lanka on the agenda of the next CMAG meeting and consider not moving the CHOGM from Sri Lanka. Click here for the full statement.

March 2013

Details now available on the website for the next CMJA Conference: "Is your Latimer House in Order?", Jersey, Channel Islands, 23-26 September 2013.

February 2013

CMJA launches STATUS OF MAGISTRATES REPORT.

The General Assembly in Turks and Caicos in 2009 deplored *"the fact that in parts of the*

Commonwealth the independence of the magistracy is inadequately safeguarded and requests Council in collaboration with the Commonwealth Secretariat to take positive steps to eliminate these breaches of the Latimer House Principles wherever they occur."

A Taskforce was set up to report on the issue around the Commonwealth. [Click here for the full report](#)

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.

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.