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# THE COURT NEWSLETTER

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## NEW MANCHESTER FAMILY COURT WILL OPEN IN JANUARY 2022



Stakeholders pose for a photo op while cutting the ribbon for the new Manchester Family Court in Mandeville at a ceremony held on Friday, December 17, 2021.

The Ministry of Justice on Friday, December 17, 2021 officially transferred responsibility for the new Manchester Family Court to the Judiciary at a ceremony held at the courthouse located in Mandeville. The Manchester Family Court has been established through the refurbishing of the historic Mandeville courthouse, which was substantially damaged by fire in November 2019. The courthouse is said to be the oldest building in the town centre.

Justice Minister Delroy Chuck said the refurbished building now has a surveillance system, audiovisual equipment and a children's lounge.

“We hope that these technologies will improve the ambiance and the delivery of justice services. We now have a brand new audiovisual equipment, which was acquired at \$10 million in the court. We have three 60” television sets, which will facilitate the display of evidence.”

The new Manchester Family Court in Mandeville will become operational on Thursday, January 06, 2022.

Chief Justice the Honourable Mr Justice Bryan Sykes, OJ, CD said recruitment activities are underway to fully staff the court.

### Manchester Parish Court

The 2019 fire, which caused damage estimated

## **NEW MANCHESTER FAMILY COURT WILL OPEN IN JANUARY 2022**

at 35-million dollars, has resulted in cases at the Manchester Parish Court being heard at a rented property at James Warehouse Plaza in Mandeville. Mr. Chuck has reiterated his desire for a new courthouse to be built in Mandeville.

“We hope certainly within the next three years that the main parish court will be built. We have acquired the land. We are now working out the protocols. The likelihood is that we will do a public-private sector partnership for that court to come into existence,” he said.

Early last year lands were acquired for the construction of the new courthouse on Brumalia Road, off Caledonia Road, a few hundred metres north of the old courthouse. Soil testing was done at the location adjacent to the Southern Regional Health Authority's office last year.

## **CHIEF JUSTICE CALLS FOR SPECIALISED FAMILY COURT TO BE ESTABLISHED IN ALL PARISHES**

A call is being made for the establishment of a designated family court in each parish in an effort to better serve the needs of Jamaican families.

The call comes from the Chief Justice the Honourable Mr Justice Bryan Sykes, OJ, CD while addressing the audience at the handover of the Manchester Family Court to the Judiciary at a brief ceremony held in Mandeville on December 17, 2021.

Chief Justice Sykes said while the Parish Courts have been doing a good job at handling family matters, a specialized court would be able to do a better job because it is equipped with the necessary resources to attend to the needs of families.

“[This] stop gap measure that we have had in the parishes and it is not by virtue of blame, but by observation, where the parish courts have been filling the gap. We know when you have a designated and specialized family court, it enables the full range of services to be provided to those in need,” the Chief Justice explained.

He continued: “As well as the parish courts have done, specialized family courts can do even better. They have councillors and other support staff that will do an excellent job in that area.”

Meanwhile, Justice Minister Delroy Chuck said he is in agreement with the Chief Justice that each parish should have a specialized family court.

Mr. Chuck, who was also speaking at the handover ceremony, disclosed that the St. Ann Family Court will open early next year.

“It is completed but we are to get some IT [Information Technology] equipment,” Mr. Chuck added.

## **CHIEF JUSTICE CALLS FOR SPECIALISED FAMILY COURT TO BE ESTABLISHED IN ALL PARISHES**

The parishes of Trelawny, St. James, Kingston and St. Andrew and Clarendon also have specialized family courts.

### **PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS –MANCHESTER FAMILY COURT HANDOVER CEREMONY**



**(from left) Chief Judge of the Parish Courts His Honour Mr Chester Crooks, Chief Justice the Honourable Mr Justice Bryan Sykes, Justice Minister Delroy Chuck and Member of Parliament for Manchester Central Miss Rhoda Crawford engaged in a conversation at the handover ceremony of the Manchester Parish Court to the Judiciary in Mandeville on December 17, 2021.**

## PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS –MANCHESTER FAMILY COURT HANDOVER CEREMONY



The Manchester Family Court has been established through the refurbishing of the historic Mandeville courthouse, which was substantially damaged by fire in November 2019. The courthouse is said to be the oldest building in the town centre



(From left) Government Minister and Manchester North Eastern Member of Parliament Audley Shaw; Justice Minister Delroy Chuck; Member of Parliament for Manchester Central Rhoda Crawford; French ambassador to Jamaica Olivier Guyonvarch; and Deputy Head of the European Union Delegation to Jamaica Fredrik Ekfeldt viewing the Manchester Family Court children's lounge.



Justice stakeholders and politicians touring the new Manchester Family Court in Mandeville on Friday, December 17, 2021.



Members of the audience under a tent where the event took place on the grounds of the Manchester Family Court in Mandeville.

## \$120 MILLION UPGRADING FOR CLARENDON PARISH COURT UNDERWAY



The Clarendon Parish Court in May Pen is to be renovated at a cost of approximately \$120 million.

The Ministry of Justice signed a contract with Geecho Consultants and Construction Limited on December 10, 2021 to execute the project. It is slated to begin this year and is expected to be completed in the next financial year.

The scope of work includes the construction of additional public bathrooms; retiling of the walkways and corridors; installation of additional water storage capacity, air conditioning units, an elevator to support improved access by physically challenged persons, and fiberglass seating in the waiting area; improved water and sewerage lines, and electrical fixtures; and repairs to existing windows and doors.

Justice Minister Delory Chuck said that the project is intended to transform the Clarendon Parish Court into a modern, state-of-the-art facility. He added that the

(Seated from left) Acting Permanent Secretary in the Justice Ministry Mrs Graceann Stewart-McFarlane; Justice Minister Mr Delroy Chuck, Managing Director of Greenhouse Consultants and Construction Limited George Henry and Director of Court Administration Mrs Tricia Cameron Anglin signing the contract for the renovation of the Clarendon Parish Court. (Standing from left) Chief Justice, Bryan Sykes and Member of Parliament for Clarendon Central, where the court is situated, Lester Michael Henry look on. The event was held at the Ministry of Justice in St. Andrew on Friday, December 10, 2021.

project is in keeping with the Government's objective of providing first class facilities that deliver world class justice services.

Chief Justice, the Honourable Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes said Clarendon has been one of the better performing Parish Courts, particularly over the last two to three years, under the leadership of Senior Parish Court Judge His Honour Mr Dale Staple.

“Judge Staple has really engaged the staff and stakeholders in that parish in a very meaningful way to meet our objective of disposing of cases within 24 months of the point of entry into the court system,” Chief Justice Sykes said.

He added that the renovation “will contribute to the Judiciary’s mission of providing a first-class justice system, in terms of the infrastructure in which justice is delivered.”

## \$120 MILLION UPGRADING FOR CLARENDON PARISH COURT UNDERWAY (CONT'D)

Meanwhile, Acting Permanent Secretary in the Justice Ministry, Graceann Stewart-McFarlane, said the project reaffirms the government's commitment to the Judiciary and, by extension, all Jamaicans, to build a first-class justice system that facilitates "effective access to justice and allows for the efficient operation of justice services."

"Undoubtedly, the residents of Clarendon and the staff at the court will benefit significantly from the upgrades and renovations," she added.



(Seated from left) Acting Permanent Secretary in the Justice Ministry Mrs Graceann Stewart-McFarlane; Justice Minister Mr Delroy Chuck; Managing Director of Greenhouse Consultants and Construction Limited George Henry and Director of Court Administration Mrs Tricia Cameron Anglin at the contract signing ceremony for the renovation of the Clarendon Parish Court. (Standing from left) Chief Justice Hon Mr Justice Bryan Sykes and Member of Parliament for Clarendon Central, where the court is situated, Lester Michael Henry look on. The event was held at the Ministry of Justice in St. Andrew on Friday, December 10, 2021

## HISTORIC: JUDICIARY LIVE STREAMS OPENING PROCEEDINGS OF CRIMINAL TRIAL



**Mrs Kadiesh Fletcher**

**Director of Client Services, Communication and Information**

For the first time in the legal history of Jamaica, the opening proceedings of a criminal trial were live streamed to the public. The audio of both the arraignment and opening statements of the Crown in R v Andre Bryan et al were streamed on the Judiciary's YouTube channel (Jamaican Judiciary) on September 21, 2021.

Director at the Client Services, Communication and Information at Court Administration Division Mrs. Kadiesh Fletcher said the live audio streaming of the trial is part of efforts to improve access to justice.

"This is an area that we intend to improve in order to build public trust and confidence in our courts. The business of open justice in light of the pandemic is even more important," Mrs. Fletcher said.

She added that the public has an interest in greater transparency from the court system.

"The public has an interest in knowing what is taking place in our courtrooms. As such, we are going to do our best to meet that need. Also, to help the public to understand what takes

place in our courtrooms," Mrs. Fletcher explained.

Mrs. Fletcher was speaking with Nationwide News Network morning's programme with hosts Danielle Archer and Abka Fitz-Henley.

An order from the court has barred the media from mentioning the names of the Crown Counsels and civilian witnesses involved in the matter.

### Logistics

Thirty-three defendants and approximately forty (40) attorneys are involved in the matter. The defendants are being tried by a judge alone under the Criminal Justice (Suppression of Criminal Organizations) Act, 2014 and the matter is being presided over by Chief Justice the Honourable Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes, OJ, CD. The trial, which is believed to be the largest anti-gang trial in the English-speaking Caribbean, will feature 43 witnesses.

As a result of the large number of accused persons in the matter, the Judiciary is utilizing two courtrooms connected via media industry standard technology to hear the matter while adhering to the established COVID-19 protocols. Video link is also being utilized to hear testimonies remotely.

The summations and the verdict will also be live streamed to the public.

## JUDICIARY LAUNCHES REMOTE HEARING GUIDELINES

The Judiciary of Jamaica has launched its Remote Hearing Guidelines aimed at providing guidance on the technological arrangements for the conduct of remote hearings in all courts. The guidelines are designed to ensure consistency and uniformity in these proceedings.

Chief Justice the Honourable Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes, OJ, CD said the publication of the Remote Hearing Guidelines is part of the Judiciary's thrust to improve access to justice and to incorporate greater use of technology in its operation.

"It is a document that will guide how persons can gain access to the court remotely and how the court will conduct its proceedings. It's really in simple English; easily understood. It's on our websites and can be downloaded," he explained.

The Remote Hearing Guidelines can be retrieved from any of our websites: [courtofappeal.gov.jm](http://courtofappeal.gov.jm), [supremecourt.gov.jm](http://supremecourt.gov.jm), [parishcourt.gov.jm](http://parishcourt.gov.jm) and [cad.gov.jm](http://cad.gov.jm). These guidelines apply to all remote hearings conducted in open court or chambers in any court in Jamaica. They come into effect immediately, and will continue to be in effect until amended or revoked by the Chief Justice. The guidelines were produced in consultation with stakeholders including the private Bar, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Department of Correctional Services.

Among other things, a judge shall ensure that hearings are conducted in a manner that ensures all parties are able to fully participate and that their rights to procedural and substantive fairness are observed.

Chief Justice Sykes launched the Remote Hearing Guidelines at a handover ceremony for two mobile buses retrofitted with audio-visual technology to hear testimonies from witnesses remotely. The units were handed over to the Court Administration Division at the Ministry of Justice offices in St. Andrew on Friday, November 5, 2021.



**Chief Justice the Honourable Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes, OJ, CD showing the audience a copy of the Judiciary's Remote Hearing Guidelines at a handover ceremony for two mobile units at the Ministry of Justice in St. Andrew on Friday, November 5, 2021. The buses retrofitted with audio-visual technology will allow for vulnerable witnesses to give their testimonies remotely.**

## THE WHEELS OF JUSTICE TO TURN FASTER WITH MOBILE UNITS



**(From left) Chief Justice the Honourable Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes cutting the ribbons as Director, Court Administration Mrs Tricia Cameron Anglin, Chief Judge of the Parish Courts His Honour Mr Chester Crooks, Justice Minister Delroy Chuck and Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Justice Mrs Graceann Stewart-McFarlane at the Ministry's headquarters on Friday, November 5, 2021.**

Two retrofitted buses equipped with video-link technology are seen as a game changer for the Judiciary and are expected to bolster operational efficiency within the court system.

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) on Friday, November 5, 2021 handed over two mobile units to the Court Administration Division (CAD) to be used by the courts to facilitate remote testimonies by vulnerable witnesses.

Chief Justice the Honourable Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes, OJ, CD said the mobile units will help with the disposition of matters within a timely manner because they will reduce the likelihood of cases being delayed due to witnesses who are not able to appear in court in person.

“The mobile units will allow for increased access to justice as witnesses will be able to participate and have their matters disposed of quickly, fairly and efficiently,” the Chief Justice stated.

He added that the buses represent a significant step to realizing the Judiciary's dream of having a first-class first-rate legal system.

Meanwhile, Justice Minister Delroy Chuck said the mobile units will allow for increased protection of vulnerable witnesses who are reluctant to give evidence because of fear.

“Witnesses who have a difficulty coming to court and victims of certain crimes who do not wish to face the accused in court will be able to use these buses to testify remotely,” the Minister said.

The units, purchased at a cost of approximately J\$23M, were handed over to the CAD at a ceremony held at the Ministry's headquarters.

The mobile units are equipped with video conferencing technology that will allow at-risk witnesses to deliver testimonies remotely. This will be facilitated by an end-to-end live link which will be shared with the courts from the remote site. Other features of the units include a wheelchair lift system which will be used to assist persons with mobility issues; storage cupboards and fittings; LED monitors and a 32-inch television.

## BUILDING A CUSTOMER-OBSESSED COURT SYSTEM



The Judiciary of Jamaica remains committed to building a customer-focused court system that prides itself on service excellence. The Judiciary participated in National Customer Service Week, which was observed from October 3-9, 2021 under the theme: *“You...Me...We got the power of service excellence”*.

During the week of activities, the Judiciary heaped praises on customer service representatives who continue to enhance service delivery and improve customer satisfaction during a staff recognition ceremony. Outstanding Customer Service Champions from each court received badges and baskets, while those who were deemed honorary mentions received certificates.

Director of Court Administration, Mrs. Tricia Cameron-Anglin, thanked all internal customers for their commitment to service excellence. She added that

(Left) Chief Court Statistician Mr. Denarto Dennis, President of the Court of Appeal the Honourable Mr Justice Patrick Brooks, Chief Justice The Honourable Mr Justice Bryan Sykes, Chief Judge of the Parish Courts His Honour Mr. Chester Crooks and Director, Court Administration Mrs Tricia Cameron-Anglin at “A Virtual Conversation with the Judiciary” held on Friday, October 8, 2021.

service is one of the cornerstones of a modern Judiciary as outlined in its Strategic Plan.

“As we celebrate and mark this Customer Service Week, it is fitting as a court that we are called to build a system that is courteous, pleasant, and customer-obsessed. We should focus on treating each person with respect and dignity and that is basically what it means to create excellent customer service.”

Mrs. Cameron-Anglin added that the Judiciary continues to employ a variety of means to empower staff members to interact with the public to raise the level of the service across the courts.

“We have partnered with HEART/NSTA Trust for training and certification among our staff. We have concluded certification exercise for more than 100 staff across the court system as customer service champions so we should see that reflected in terms of our service delivery across our court system,” she said.

Mrs. Cameron-Anglin added “We are reminded that as a Judiciary, that coming to court is not a voluntary experience and that we start with our customers being unhappy and so every day we remind our court staff that this is an opportunity for each court staff to impact the lives of persons who come to the court and not to make the experience burdensome or onerous.”

The Judiciary values the feedback of its customers and have created several ways for them to interact with the

## BUILDING A CUSTOMER-OBSESSED COURT SYSTEM

court system. These include: a dedicated telephone and email system, social media platforms, suggestion boxes among others.

Mrs. Cameron-Anglin was speaking at an award ceremony to recognize staff for service excellence in observation of National Customer Service Week.

## NEW ONLINE SPIRIT LICENCE APPLICATION PROCESS



Persons who wish to apply for a spirit licence to sell large quantities of certain alcoholic beverages will soon be able to fill out and submit their application forms online.

Chief Judge of the Parish Courts His Honour Mr. Chester Crooks said the initiative is aimed at making court services more accessible and improving the ease of doing business with the courts.

Speaking at “*A Virtual Conversation with the Judiciary*” on October 8, 2021, Judge Crooks said efforts are underway to digitize the application process and it is expected to be implemented shortly.

Judge Crooks added: “We have created fillable application forms for persons to apply online. Instead of coming to the physical courthouse to deliver their applications, applicants can submit them via email. We are still working out the details and will announce a date for implementation very soon.”

The Judiciary will launch a campaign to sensitise members of the public about the new application process.

Chief Judge of the Parish Courts, His Honour Mr. Chester Crooks, addressing members of media at “*A Virtual Conversation with the Judiciary*” held on Friday, October 8, 2021.

## RIGHT OF APPEAL FOR THE PROSECUTION FUNDAMENTAL



**(From left): His Honour Mr Dale Staple, Senior Judge of the Parish Court, The Honourable Miss Nicole Simmons, Judge of Appeal, The Honourable Mr Justice David Fraser, Judge of Appeal, The Honourable Mr Justice Patrick Brooks, OJ, CD, President, of the Court of Appeal, The Honourable Mr Justice Bryan Sykes, OJ, CD, Chief Justice, The Honourable Miss Justice Jennifer Straw, Her Honour Miss Sanchia Burrell, Senior Judge of the Parish Court and His Honour Mr Chester Crooks, Chief Judge of the Parish Courts at the Annual Assize Service held at the St. Andrew Parish Church to mark the opening session of the Michaelmas Term of the Home Circuit Court.**

Chief Justice, the Honourable Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes, OJ, CD has emphatically expressed his support for the right of appeal being granted to the prosecution, adding that it is fundamental to creating a robust justice system.

Two Bills, the Judicature (Appellate Jurisdiction) (Amendment) Act 2021 and the Judicature (Parish Courts) (Amendment) Act 2021, were passed without amendment in the Senate in October. The amendments seek to grant the prosecution a right of appeal with the consent of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) where there has been a verdict of acquittal in an administration of justice offence.

Speaking at the Annual Assize Service held at the Saint Andrew Parish Church to mark the opening session

of the Michaelmas Term of the Home Circuit Court on Sunday, October 24, 2021, Chief Justice Sykes said the right to appeal will allow for victims to achieve justice as this is primarily done through the prosecution.

“Institutionally, the victims of crime come to the court by way of prosecutions. That is how victims are heard. That is how they get the opportunity to say what it is that they say happened to them because they too are in need of justice. Given our high crime rate, there are more than enough persons who need justice. So a criminal trial is not just about the defendant. It is how a society expresses its commitment to truth, commitment to integrity and commitment to establishing fair processes,” Chief Justice stressed.

He added that the right to appeal allows for new evidence to be admitted which may arise as technology advances. Additionally, the Chief Justice said “a judicial ruling that results in an error is an injustice, in the

## RIGHT OF APPEAL FOR THE PROSECUTION FUNDAMENTAL

same way that a judicial error that results in a wrongful conviction is an injustice.” He said the right of appeal for the prosecution has been widely accepted across the world and Jamaica’s justice system should embrace the concept.

“We must not be afraid to join Australia, Scotland, New Zealand, Canada, India - 44 Member States of the European Union and seven other CARICOM countries that have embraced the right of appeal for the prosecution in varying circumstances,” Chief Justice added.

Some critics who are not in favour of granting the prosecution the right of appeal, say it goes contrary to the double jeopardy principle. Double jeopardy is a procedural defence (primarily in common law jurisdictions) that prevents an accused person from being tried again on the same (or similar) charges following an acquittal in the same jurisdiction. However, Chief Justice Sykes said the criminal justice system’s responsibility is to provide the accused with a fair trial, not an acquittal.

He explained: “No criminal has a right to be acquitted. What he has a right to is a fair trial. In the event of a conviction that he feels is wrong, then he has the right to appeal. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, unlike centuries past, they never spoke of victim rights. They never spoke of victim charters. Modern criminal justice systems must begin to recognize that witnesses are human beings and not just sources of evidence. They too need to be assured that the criminal justice system that we operate will give them a fair and reasonable opportunity to seek justice.”

### **Justice Minister**

Justice Minister Delroy Chuck, who was also speaking at the Annual Assize Service, said he was not immediately supportive of the Bills to grant the right of appeal to the prosecution. He said the proposed legislation has been modified over the years to become what he describes as “one of the most limited rights of appeal” across the Commonwealth.

“So this in essence is to balance justice so that the victims can see where there are certain circumstances emerging; that they can urge the prosecution to appeal. Going forward, I don’t think there will be a flood of appeals. But in appropriate places, there should be appeal,” Mr. Chuck said.

Meanwhile, President of the Jamaica Bar Association Alexander Williams said the Association supports the right of appeal for the prosecution for an administration of justice offence and point of law. However, Mr. Williams said “we [Members of the Jamaican Bar Association] differ with a mixed point of law and fact.”

Mr Williams explained: “Talking about the demeanour of a witness and how a person answers a question. Those cues you get into a trial process that an appeal court wouldn’t be privy to.”

The Annual Assize Service is where those charged with dispensing justice in Jamaica seek God’s blessing and guidance for the legal year. It was held under theme: “Upholding Justice with Gratitude, Courage and Hope.”

## PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS - ANNUAL ASSIZE SERVICE



**Director of Public Prosecutions Miss Paula Llewellyn at the St. Andrew Parish Church in Half Way Tree at the Annual Assize Service on Sunday, October 24, 2021 held under the theme: “Upholding Justice with Gratitude, Courage and Hope.”**



**President of the Jamaican Bar Association Alexander Williams receiving a taper from Assistant Curate at the St. Andrew Parish Church, Reverend Deacon Bertram Gayle, to light a candle for attorneys who have passed away since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.**



**Chief Justice the Honourable Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes greets Justice Minister Delroy Chuck at the Annual Assize Service held at the St. Andrew Parish Church on Sunday, October 24, 2021. They abandoned the customary handshake for an elbow-bump due to the COVID-19 pandemic.**



**Judge of Appeal The Honourable Mr. Justice David Fraser placing his offering in a basket at the Annual Assize Service held at the St. Andrew Parish Church on Sunday, October 24, 2021. Justice Fraser is Chairman of the Assize Services Committee tasked with planning and executing the yearly events.**

## PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS - ANNUAL ASSIZE SERVICE



**Rector at the St. Andrew Parish Church Reverend Canon Sirrano Kitson, D.Min. handing Senior Judge of the Clarendon Parish Court His Honour Mr Dale Staple the body of Christ during Holy Communion on Sunday, October 24, 2021.**



**Judge of Appeal (Ret'd) Justice Hilary Phillips, CD reading the epistle at the Annual Assize Service held at the St. Andrew Parish Church. She retired as a Judge of Appeal on May 28, 2021 after serving the Court of Appeal for more than a decade.**



**President of the Court of Appeal The Honourable Mr. Justice Patrick Brooks, OJ, CD reading the first lesson at the Annual Assize Service held under the theme: "Upholding Justice with Gratitude, Courage and Hope" on Sunday, October 24, 2021.**



**Bishop, The Reverend Christina Gooden-Benguiche delivering the sermon at the Annual Assize Service held at the St. Andrew Parish Church. She challenged members of the legal profession to rise up and repair and build a foundation of hope in the judicial system for the people of Jamaica.**

## CHIEF JUSTICE SYKES: “JUSTICE FOR JUDGES!”



**(From left) Chief Justice the Honourable Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes engages in a conversation with Custos of St. James Bishop Conrad Pitkin after the Assize Service at the St. John’s Methodist Church on Sunday, October 31, 2021. Attorney General Marlene Malahoo Forte looks on.**

Chief Justice the Honourable Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes, OJ, CD is bemoaning the state of some of the nation’s courthouses and is calling for suitable facilities to conduct the business of the court.

Speaking at the Assize Service to mark the opening session of the Michaelmas Term of the St. James Circuit Court on Sunday, October 31, 2021, Chief Justice Sykes said the St. James Parish Court, the St. James Family Court and the Westmoreland Family Court are located in flood-prone areas.

He noted that the St. James Parish Court is located beside a gully that overflows its banks whenever there is torrential rain.

“Whenever there is a heavy downpour of rain or it looks as if there is going to be a heavy downpour, lawyers, litigants and judges, while addressing cases, have to be

looking out to see if the drops have started, because they know that they should not wait around for too long because their cars might be flooded and they may be unable to retrieve them, and that has happened on innumerable occasions,” the Chief Justice said.

He further stated that “the time has come to end the search for an appropriate space to locate the court and it must be in a place that is befitting and consistent with the dignity of what the judiciary and what courts are about.”

Chief Justice Sykes highlighted the link between good working conditions and quality output.

“So, if we want to minimise judicial errors, we need to put the judges, lawyers, litigants and everyone in circumstances where they don’t have to be worrying about whether the rain is going to fall heavily or not, whether the place is going to be flooded, and it must be appropriate,” he added.

Chief Justice Sykes also lamented the time it is taking to relocate the courts.

“One of the unfortunate things about our legal system is that temporary solutions have a way of continuing for too long. For example, where the St. James Family Court is located in Montego Bay, that was supposed to be a temporary solution, but in Jamaica, temporary has become 30 years,” he said.

The Chief Justice continued: “And so, as we continue to strive for justice, truth, and let those be ours

## CHIEF JUSTICE SYKES: “JUSTICE FOR JUDGES!”

forever, let us also address, shall we say, justice for the judges?”

The Assize Service was held at the St. John’s Methodist Church in Montego Bay, St. James under the theme: “Upholding Justice with Gratitude, Courage and Hope.”



**(From left): Mr Shannick Dawkins, Senior Public Relations Officer, His Honour Mr Chester Crooks, Chief Judge of the Parish Courts, Mrs Tricia Cameron-Anglin, Director, Court Administration, The Honourable Mr Justice Bryan Sykes, OJ, CD, Chief Justice, Mrs Kadiesh Fletcher, Director, Client Services, Communications and Information and Mr. Jelani Clachar, Court Protocol Officer at the Assize Service held at the St. John’s Methodist Church to mark the opening session of the Michaelmas Term of the St. James Circuit Court.**

## PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS - ASSIZE SERVICE



**Superintendent Minister at the St. John's Methodist Church Reverend Dr Robert E. Pierre officiating the Assize Service held under the theme: "Upholding Justice with Gratitude, Courage and Hope" on Sunday, October 31, 2021 in Montego Bay, St. James. Also pictured is Apostle Dr. Richard M. Keane who delivered the sermon.**



**(From right): The Honourable Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes, Chief Justice, the Honourable Mr. Justice David Fraser, Judge of Appeal and the Honourable Mrs. Justice Sandria Wong-Small, Acting Puisne Judge worshipping at the Assize Service held at the St. John's Methodist Church on Sunday, October 31, 2021.**



**(From right): Director, Court Administration Mrs. Tricia Cameron-Anglin and behind her Acting Director, Client Services, Communication and Information Mrs. Kadiesh Fletcher and Attorney-at-Law Michael Erskine at the Assize Service held at the St. John's Methodist Church.**



**Attorney General Mrs. Marlene Malahoo-Forte, and Chief Justice the Honourable Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes leading the procession into the St. John's Methodist Church for the Assize Service to mark the opening session of the Michaelmas Term of the St. James Circuit Court.**

## PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS -ASSIZE SERVICE



**Judge at the Western Regional Family Court Her Honour Ms Pamella Blackhall reads the Prayers of Adoration, Thanksgiving and Confession at the Assize Service held at the St. John's Methodist Church where those charged with dispensing justice in Jamaica gathered to seek God's guidance for the legal year.**



**Soprano Jana-Lee Henry, 3rd year student at the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, delivering a melodious rendition of "Bridge Over Troubled Waters" at the Assize Service held at the St. John's Methodist Church held under the theme: "Upholding Justice with Gratitude, Courage and Hope"**



**President of the Cornwall Bar Association Mr. Michael Hemmings urged members of the legal profession to play their part in ensuring a safe return to normalcy, noting that "we are often times seen as a repository of wisdom."**



**There was a special Candle Lighting Ceremony at the Assize Service to pay tribute to the 10 Judges and 38 Attorneys-at-Law who passed away since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.**

## CAREERS IN OUR COURTS



Data Entry Statistical Officer Essejo Williams at his desk at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court.

*Careers in our Courts* is a quarterly feature in our newsletter to examine how jobs within the courts are aligned to the Judiciary's strategic objectives as outlined in its Strategic Plan – "Benchmarking the Future: Courting Success." The strategic objectives for the courts include: significant reduction in backlogs; automation of court processes and reducing delays and multiple adjournments by 2023.

For this newsletter, we will be looking at the roles and responsibilities of a Data Entry Statistical Officer. The job title was recently changed to formalize the job in the establishment order. Data Entry Statistical Officers play an integral role in allowing the courts to make decisions based on data. Furthermore, they also assist with modernizing the data storage and retrieval system.

The Court Newsletter spoke with Data Statistical Officer Essejo Williams who is assigned to the St. Elizabeth Parish Court. Mr. Williams has five years of experience in the post.

**Court Newsletter:** What does a Data Entry Statistical Officer do?

**Essejo Williams:** A Data Entry Statistical Officer is tasked with gathering and inputting data into the respective databases and maintaining accurate records of valuable information. The job requires accuracy and attention to details, fast typing speed and knowledge of database structure.

My daily tasks include collecting case files from the Registry, numbering files using the process book, entering case file information in the Court Information Statistical System (CISS) sheets, keeping track of criminal cases from the point of entry into the system to disposition and assisting with providing court dates to internal and external customers.

**Court Newsletter:** What is the link between your job and the strategic priorities of the Judiciary?

**Essejo Williams:** My job fosters proper record keeping thereby assisting the Judiciary with managing the cases coming into the courts to prevent backlogs. For example, I ensure that nothing is left off the court list and I also prioritize cases in setting mention, trial and hearing dates. This helps to build public trust and confidence in the judicial system as court users can be assured that their matters will be heard on the dates that they are scheduled. I also assist with providing data that are used to assess the overall performance of the courts against our strategic objectives as outlined in our strategic plan in an effort to ensure that we remain on track to becoming "the best in the Caribbean in three years and one of the best globally in six years."

## CAREERS IN OUR COURTS

**Court Newsletter:** What are the requirements to become a Data Entry Statistical Officer?

**Essejo Williams:** Five Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) subjects including Mathematics, English and Information Technology. Apart from academics, good interpersonal and communication skills are required.

**Court Newsletter:** What was your first day on the job like?

**Essejo Williams:** My first day on the job was a training session with professionals from the Information Communication Technology Division of the Court Administrative Division (CAD) and Chief Court Statistician Dr. Denarto Dennis. The session was very informative and interactive. Furthermore, it provided a framework for what is expected of us as Data Entry Statistical Officers and how to utilize the CISS to collect, input, store and retrieve data.

**Court Newsletter:** Tell me about the time when you discovered an interest in working with the court system.

**Essejo Williams:** I started working in the court system through a job placement program with the HEART/NSTA Trust. Consequently, I developed an interest whilst working in this field. The management in the court system was pleased with the quality of my output and I was gainfully employed at this said institution to which I am grateful.

**Court Newsletter:** What do you like the most about your job?

**Essejo Williams:** I like the continuous training that is offered to staff, which provides me with an opportunity to hone my skills and also to obtain new information.

**Court Newsletter:** What motivates you to stay focused on the job?

**Essejo Williams:** I am motivated daily by my job, knowing that I am able to assist with providing reliable information to internal and external customers. I am also intrinsically motivated to meeting deadlines. Over the years, I have grown more to love this field.

**Court Newsletter:** How do you manage your day?

**Essejo Williams:** On a day-to-day basis with a full agenda, I normally number case files and enter them in the CISS. After which I would update cases that are already on the system from the court sheet.

**Court Newsletter:** Thank you very much for speaking with us!

## CAD GOES PINK FOR THE CAUSE

Employees at the Court Administration Division (CAD) welcomed October by filling the lobby and other areas of the office with pink balloons in observance of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The Human Resource Management and Administration Division led a series of activities aimed at raising awareness about the disease and promoting early detection and treatment.

One of the major highlights of the month was “Pink Day” on Friday, October 22, 2021 where employees at the CAD wore something pink. Men and women from all divisions wore all shades of pink to support the cause. In the end, Senior Director of HRM&A Mrs. Bobette Dawkins took the prize as the best-dressed female in her pink and black outfit and Senior Public Relations Officer Mr. Shannick Dawkins received the award as the best-dressed man with his pink and grey flamingo socks sealing the deal.

On Friday, October 29, 2021, designers and models were out in full swing for the bra competition. The Procurement Unit was the second runner-up, while Executive Unit was first runner-up and the Client Services, Communication and Information Division copped the top spot.

Court Protocol Officer Mr. Jelani Clachar conceptualized the winning bra, which was inspired by his grandmother who is a survivor of breast cancer. The bra was built for women who have had a mastectomy to remove an infected breast.

“My team used Styrofoam cups and plates to make the cups of the bra. Additionally, we wrapped one of the cups into rose pink gift paper. The other cup we used a marker to draw a surgical mark on it to reflect what happens after a woman has gone through the process of removing an infected breast. For the straps, we used light pink ribbons. We were thinking that the bra should be functional to survivors of breast cancer and not solely fashionable,” Mr. Clachar said.

### **Scope of the Problem**

Data by the Cancer Society of Jamaica show that Jamaica recorded 7, 197 new cancer cases in 2020 in both sexes. A further breakdown of the data revealed that females accounted for 3, 546 new cancer cases. Thirty-four per cent (34%) of females from all ages were diagnosed with breast cancer.

### **Signs and symptoms**

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), breast cancer most commonly presents as a painless lump or thickening in the breast. The WHO recommends that women who feel an abnormal lump in their breasts consult a health practitioner even when there is no pain associated with it. The WHO noted that early medical intervention at the first sign of a potential symptom allows for more successful treatment.

“Approximately half of breast cancers develop in women who have no identifiable breast cancer risk factor other than gender (female) and age (over 40 years). Certain factors increase the risk of breast cancer including

## CAD GOES PINK FOR THE CAUSE

increasing age, obesity, harmful use of alcohol, family history of breast cancer, history of radiation exposure, reproductive history (such as age that menstrual periods began and age at first pregnancy), tobacco use and postmenopausal hormone therapy,” the WHO said on its website.

## HOW TO DO A BREAST-SELF EXAM

A breast self-exam is a step-by-step method women can use to examine their breasts. By looking at and feeling your breasts regularly, you can notice anything that seems abnormal. Women should do a breast self-exam every month to look and feel for changes. Regular breast exams can help you maintain breast health and detect cancer early, when it is easier to treat and more likely to be cured. Most lumps and abnormalities aren't cancer, but you should still report changes to your doctor.

Source: <https://my.clevelandclinic.org/>

EVERYDAY HEALTH

### Breast Self-Examination



The illustration shows a woman with dark hair and a brown complexion. She is standing and looking towards the viewer. Her right arm is raised, with her hand behind her head. Her left hand is placed on her right breast, with her fingers spread, as if feeling for lumps or changes.

**Pick the same time each month.**

**Look at your breasts in a mirror, with your hands at your sides, then above your head.**

**Use the pads of the fingers to feel for any unusual changes around breasts and armpit.**

**Look and feel for lumps, hardened knots, or other changes—**

**—signs of swelling, redness, or skin dimpling—**

**—and changes in the nipples, including appearance, texture, or discharge.**

## PINKTOBER: BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH



We are the champions! CSC&I copped the coveted title of best bra. The bra was inspired by a breast cancer survivor who has undergone a mastectomy. (Centre) Jelani Clachar sports the winning bra. Director, Industrial Relations and Well-being Nigel Grey presents the cake to Director, CSC&I Mrs. Kadiesh Fletcher.

Accounts and Finance Division created a bra using a bright pink cartridge paper and single-use masks to make the cups of the bra. It also had bows and butterflies on it. Who knew masks could be that functional?! By the way, did you notice those dollar coins?



Registrar at the HRM&A Christopher Williams designed this pink pointy bullet bra that his model Leave Officer Shakera Mighty is sporting. Who knew Chris had that talent?!



It looks like Victoria shared the Secret about making exquisite bra with the Executive Division. Executive Secretary Janet Hardy fastens the bra on her model Administrative Assistant Shamika Lindsay. Also pictured is Executive Secretary Orleen Moore-Linton.

# PINKTOBER: BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH



The Procurement team placed third in the competition for their maternity bra. It is designed from recyclable material to provide additional support to lactating mothers and permits comfortable breastfeeding without the need to remove the bra.



Acting Senior Training and Development Officer in the HRM&A Division Kenneth Williams shows his support for the cause by wearing a rose pink shirt. After all, real men wear pink!



Team members in the Accounts and Finance Division also created a public education corner to raise awareness about the signs and symptoms of breast cancer. They also posted flyers with tips on how to examine one's breasts.



Staff members at CAD releasing pink helium balloons in the car park in observance of Breast Cancer Awareness Month on Friday, October 29, 2021.

## SUPREME COURT OFFICE ATTENDANT AMONG TOP TEN CIVIL SERVANTS — THE GLEANER

After working in the government service for 32 years, Hewan Lloyd Campbell, an office attendant supervisor at the Supreme Court, is proud to have been shortlisted in the top 10 civil servants for 2021-2022.



“I feel good about it. I am so happy that my dedicated service was recognised,” Campbell said.

He is the first employee from the Supreme Court to be selected to vie for the position of Civil Servant of the Year. Although he did not get the top spot, Campbell says just being shortlisted in the top 10 brings great joy to him as well as his co-workers, friends and family.

Campbell is described by his co-workers, attorneys-at-law and judges as very helpful, hard-working, dedicated and courteous.

Hewan Lloyd Campbell  
Office Attendant Supervisor  
Supreme Court

“He goes above and beyond the call of duty to help everyone. Even when litigants cannot find a courtroom, he is ready to take them there or instruct them how to find it,” one of his co-workers told the Gleaner.

A senior member of the court staff said it was Campbell’s honesty, hard work and courtesy that was recognised, and she was happy for him. “He takes pride in doing his job,” she added.

“It is not the type of job you have, but it is how you do the job you are entrusted to do,” Campbell said.

### **Proud Moment**

Asked how he felt about the nomination, Campbell said, “It was a very proud moment for me, after working for 32 years and five months, and still going.” Campbell said he feels good about his job and is happy that his service has been recognised.

“My advice to those who work in the public service is to do the best that they can and it will bear fruit,” he added.

## SUPREME COURT OFFICE ATTENDANT AMONG TOP TEN CIVIL SERVANTS (CONT'D)

Campbell recounted that when he was interviewed by the panellists, they were very impressed with his knowledge of the job, the interest he displayed in the work, and how he ensured that the Supreme Court building was properly maintained and the material to get the job done was not wasted.

He is also responsible for the photocopying of documents, which include judgments and transcripts of cases to be sent to the Court of Appeal.

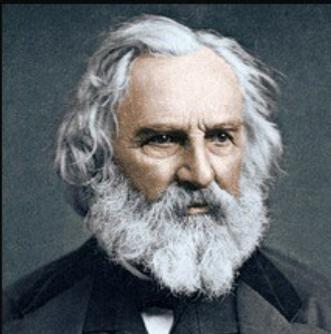
“There are many evenings when I and my co-workers stay at work very late just to ensure that the transcripts are ready to be sent to the Court of Appeal,” Campbell said.

He is aware of recent complaints that appeal cases are being held up because transcripts of cases are not ready.

“This is the reason we work extra hours to expedite the photocopying of the documents as soon as we get them, so that our department cannot be blamed,” Campbell said.

Campbell, who was presented with a gift on November 26 at the ceremony at The Knutsford Court Hotel, New Kingston, said he gives thanks to God for always guiding him and giving him the courage to do his best at all times.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow



The heights by great men reached and kept were not attained by sudden flight, but they, while their companions slept, were toiling upward in the night.



I wish for you and your families good health and peace this holiday season. May God grant you favour and may you experience the goodness of God!

**-The Honourable Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes, OJ, CD  
Chief Justice**



Season's Greeting! We wish you joy, safety and peace,  
And that your years of abundance will never cease.

**- The Honourable Mr Justice Patrick Brooks, OJ, CD  
President, Court of Appeal**



Christmas is a time to be thankful. Let us all be thankful for our lives and our families and friendships. Thank you for the work you do towards the administration of Justice in our courts.

May love, joy and peace fill your homes and hearts this holiday season!

**-His Honour Mr. Chester Crooks  
Chief Judge of the Parish Courts**



I wish for you and your families a happy and healthy holiday season.

The year has been one filled with challenges and loss; but we were reminded of the strength in team. Thank you for being part of the team at the courts and the Court Administration Division.

May the joy of Christmas be yours!

**-Mrs. Tricia Cameron-Anglin  
Director, Court Administration  
Court Administration Division**



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