

CCJ's Third President

The Hon. Mr. Justice Adrian Saunders

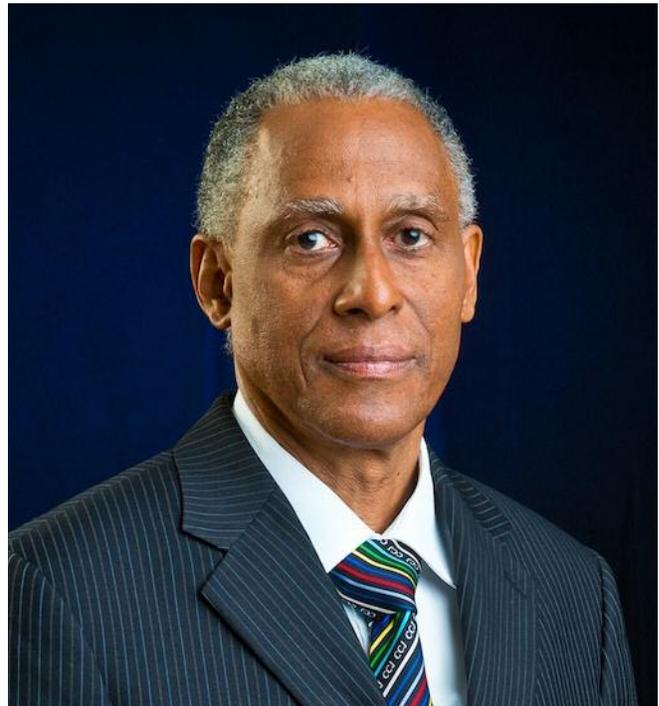
On the 4th July 2018, the CCJ's 3rd President, the Hon. Mr. Justice Adrian Saunders was inaugurated. The transition took place as a part of the activities before the 39th Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), held in Jamaica.

It was announced, in March 2018, that Mr. Justice Saunders would be appointed as President of the Court after an exhaustive international search. He has been a Judge at the CCJ since 2005 and has contributed significantly to the administration and judicial functions of the Court.

Biography

The Hon. Mr. Justice Adrian Saunders, a native of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, holds a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of the West Indies (Cave Hill) which he obtained in 1975 and a Legal Education Certificate from the Hugh Wooding Law School in Trinidad & Tobago which was earned in 1977. He began his legal career as a barrister and solicitor in private practice in his home country. In 1990, he established the firm of Saunders & Huggins before being invited to join the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court (ECSC) High Court Bench in 1996. On 1st May 2003, Mr. Justice Saunders was appointed to the ECSC's Court of Appeal and served as acting Chief Justice between 2004 and 2005.

While at the ECSC, Mr. Justice Saunders developed a passion for and was deeply involved in various judicial reform efforts. In 2005, Mr. Justice Saunders was among the first cohort of judges to join the bench of the CCJ. Mr. Justice Saunders has contributed greatly to regional judicial outreach and judicial education efforts.



The Hon. Mr. Justice Adrian Saunders

He serves as Chairman of the Caribbean Association of Judicial Officers (CAJO) which, in collaboration with UN Women, played a leading role in developing and promoting the adoption of Gender Sensitive Protocols for Judicial Officers for various Caribbean judiciaries. He also lectures part-time at The UWI, St Augustine Faculty of Law on Constitutional Law.

Mr. Justice Saunders is a faculty member of the Commonwealth Judicial Education Institute (CJEI), having himself been trained as a judicial educator by that body. He is currently, and has been for the last five years, the Course Director of the CJEI's Intensive Study Programme for Commonwealth Judicial Educators in Halifax, Nova Scotia. In addition, the Hon. Mr. Justice Saunders serves on the Board of the CJEI which provides support for the creation and strengthening of national judicial education bodies, encourages regional and pan-Commonwealth networking, the exchange of human and material resources, trains judicial education faculty; develops programme modules to be used in all

CCJ's Third President Continued

Commonwealth countries, and designs judicial education programmes.

The Honourable Mr. Justice Saunders is married to Marilyn née Joslyn and the couple has two sons, Yuri and Yanek.

Selected Achievements

The following is a selected listing of some of Mr. Justice Saunders' achievements during his distinguished career:

- Oversaw the work of various working committees at the CCJ that shaped how the Court is perceived and ensures constant improvement on how stakeholders are served. He has headed the Court's Strategic Planning Committees for the first and second Strategic Plan for the CCJ. He has also chaired the Court's Website and Communications Committees and other pivotal projects aimed at ensuring the effective and efficient running of the Organisation.



Ms Candis Cayona, Senior Executive Assistant, presents the Hon. Mr. Justice Adrian Saunders with congratulatory flowers which were sent by the Joint Court of Justice of Aruba, Curaçao, Sint Maarten, and of Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba to congratulate him on his elevation to President of the CCJ.

- In April 2018, he was appointed to the Advisory Board of the Global Judicial Integrity Network by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime's (UNODC) Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration. The Advisory Board will assist in the identification of priority challenges and emerging issues in judicial integrity and will guide the work-plan to address the priorities that have been identified.
- He chaired the Eastern Caribbean States Court's Ethics Committee which established a Judicial Code of Ethics for Judges of the Court. He also chaired the Mediation Committee that supervised the introduction to the Eastern Caribbean of court-connected mediation.
- Since its inception in 2009, he has been elected and consistently re-elected Chairman of the Caribbean Association of Judicial Officers (CAJO), a regional association of judicial officers. CAJO's objectives include the improvement of the quality of Caribbean judicial officers, through judicial education and other initiatives, and the enhancement of judicial services and systems of the region.
- Contributing editor of *The Caribbean Civil Court Practice*, the essential guide to the Civil Procedure Rules (CPR) as they apply in the Caribbean, he is also the author of a wide range of published articles and papers on legal subjects. He is also the co-author of the *Fundamentals of Caribbean Constitutional Law*, a resource for students, legal professionals and judges of Caribbean public law, that articulates, discusses, and clarifies fundamental principles of constitutional law in the region.

Inauguration & Special Sitting Pictorial

The 3rd President of the CCJ was sworn in by the Governor-General of Jamaica, His Excellency, the Most Honourable Sir Patrick Allen, ON, GCMG, CD, KSt.J.

Following that event, there were two special sittings to commemorate this milestone in the Court's history. The first Special Sitting was held on Friday, 13 July 2018 at the CCJ's headquarters in Trinidad and Tobago. The second Special Sitting took place in Mr. Justice Saunders' home country of St. Vincent and the Grenadines on the 20th of July.



At the Special Sitting held at the CCJ on the 13th of July, the Bench of the CCJ was augmented by heads of judiciaries from CARICOM.



Courtroom 1 of the Caribbean Court of Justice was filled to capacity during the Special Sitting, held on the 13th of July, to honour the new CCJ President



While they could not be in Jamaica for the swearing-in of the CCJ's 3rd President, the Court's employees watched remotely and celebrated the occasion.

Inauguration & Special Sitting Pictorial Continued



The President of the CCJ, the Hon. Mr. Justice Adrian Saunders, arrives at the Special Sitting at the House of Assembly in his home country of St. Vincent and the Grenadines on the 20th of July.



Dr. the Honourable Ralph Gonsalves, the Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines noted that, “he never thought he would see the day that the Caribbean Court of Justice sat in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.”



The Honourable Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes (left), Chief Justice of Jamaica, said that, “all the judges of Jamaica look forward to the continued growth and expansion of this Court under the presidency of Justice Saunders. He is joined on the bench by the Hon. Mr. Justice Denys Barrow and the Hon. Mr. Justice Winston Anderson, both CCJ Judges.



Ms. Jacqueline Graham (right), Registrar and Chief Marshal of the CCJ, hands the President the Seal of the Court in a symbolic gesture of the change of leadership of the 13-year-old organisation.