

Judicial Reform and Institutional Strengthening (JURIST) Project



The JURIST Project is a multiyear regional Caribbean judicial reform initiative funded under an arrangement with the Government of Canada and implemented by the Caribbean Court of Justice.

The year was one of great adjustment for the Project and several changes were made which enhanced the implementation rate of initiatives. Building on findings of an external management auditor, the following changes were made to the Project:

First, there were changes to the management of the Project, a full-time Project Director position was created within the Project Management Unit (PMU) – initially filled on a temporary basis. On 14 May 2018, Mrs. Gloria Richards-Johnson was hired to replace Dr. Penny Reddie as Project Director. Dr. Reddie had decided not to renew her contract when it ended on 31 March 2018. Several project administrative tools and guidelines, which had an immediate impact upon activity management and reporting, were also developed and implemented.

Secondly, the JURIST team conducted a second round of consultations throughout the region, to address concerns expressed by regional partners that their priorities were not being sufficiently addressed by the Project. While these consultations contributed to the slow rate of implementation in Year 3, they helped to establish buy-in on the part of regional partners, and ultimately were key to stronger regional engagement and increased implementation in Year 4.

Thirdly, the active implementation role of the PMU was expanded in Year 4 when portfolios were reallocated to correspond to the main components of the Project, such that each core Project Team member has primary responsibility for a Project component – helping to align internal accountabilities and reporting within the team.



Ms. Semone Moore, Public Education and Communications Officer at the CCJ, receives her certificate after training in gender issues from Dr. Penny Reddie, former Project Director of the JURIST Project.

Additionally, throughout Year 4, project management tools were introduced to ensure more effective allocation of resources and time. As part of this, several major initiatives of the Project with inter-related sub-components were packaged into Project Charters that tied the components together, ensured alignment with the Project Management Framework, gave a full costing and ensured buy-in on the part of stakeholders.

JURIST Project Continued

In the second half of Year 4, the Project focused its attention on developing a proposal requesting a four-year extension for the period 2019-2023. A consultant was hired in March 2018 to assist in the development of the proposal which was submitted to Global Affairs Canada in April 2018. The proposed Project extension builds upon considerable foundational work and an initial round of investments which started in 2014 and will continue to 2019, in baseline studies, tools, training programmes, protocols and guidelines.

The Project's work on improved court processes, public education, gender equality and the establishment of specialised courts will redound to the benefit of the men, women, youth and the poor in the Caribbean. If granted, the intention is that the extension will allow the Project to more than double the results achieved in the first five years and should ensure that its significant achievements are more sustainable.



The JURIST Project supported the Guyana judiciary with the donation and installation of 10 digital audio recording systems in 10 courtrooms across Guyana. The Project also provided training to judicial officers and court staff in the use of the equipment.



The Honourable Sir Marston Gibson, Chief Justice of Barbados, receives a copy of the Model Guidelines for Sexual Offence Cases in the Caribbean Region from the Honourable Mme. Justice Maureen Rajnauth-Lee, Judge of the Caribbean Court of Justice, at the launch of the guidelines at the CAJO Conference in Curaçao.