

# **COURT OF APPEAL OF JAMAICA ANNUAL REPORT 2024**



# Court of Appeal of Jamaica

## Vision

A world-class appellate court, serving all stakeholders with excellence.

## Mission

To serve all stakeholders with integrity and fairness, by delivering sound, timely judgments, and efficient, accessible court services, in a healthy and fulfilling work environment.



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# President's Message



**The Hon Mrs Justice Marva  
McDonald-Bishop OJ, CD**

As the newly appointed President, I am honoured to present the Court of Appeal of Jamaica Annual Report 2024. Mine is an easy and most pleasurable task in the presentation of the report, the heavy lifting for its compilation having been expertly undertaken by our diligent Registrar, Mrs Stacie-Anne Brown, with invaluable contributions from other esteemed court personnel, including Hon Mr Justice David Fraser CD, Judge of Appeal and Chair of the Court of Appeal Tier 2 Implementation Oversight Committee for the Judiciary's Strategic Plan; Dr Denarto Dennis, Consultant Statistician, and Mr Christopher Headley, Chief Court Assistant in the court's registry.

The court experienced significant achievements and challenges in 2024. There were high and low points, moments of joy and sorrow, and gains and losses. However, our team's resilience and determination to achieve our goals against all odds remained unwavering.

The court's resilience was tested by the untimely passing of our beloved former President, Hon Mr Justice C Dennis Morrison, OJ, CD, and our equally beloved and vibrant Executive Secretary, Mrs. Jean Wilson-Gordon. Their sterling contributions and memories are honoured in this report, and we are deeply grateful for the opportunity afforded to us by their loved ones to share in the celebration of their lives, work, and legacy. We continue to miss them and mourn their passing.

The court also paid tribute to and joined in the celebration of the lives of Hon Mr Justice (retired) Kenneth Henry, who passed away in the United States of America and Hon Mrs Justice Sarah Thompson-James, CD, recently retired Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court.

Until his passing, Justice Henry reportedly had the distinction of being this court's oldest living retired judge. We honour their exemplary lives, work and legacy.

The year was also marked by farewells that continued to add a sombre note to the court's operations. We bid goodbye to Hon Mr Justice Patrick Brooks, OJ, CD, President of the court, who retired on 17 July 2024. Although we anticipated his departure, the farewell was more painful than expected. This report includes a tribute to his impactful tenure and enduring contribution to Jamaica's judicial and legal landscape, with the citation from his retirement ceremony included in an appendix. We also bid farewell to Mrs Rochelle McCallum and Mrs Clowenese Brown-McIntosh, who transitioned to other roles within the justice system, and Mr Devern Henry, who retired. We extend our heartfelt thanks for their significant contributions and wish them success in their future endeavours.

Despite the sadness of deaths and farewells, there were bright moments as we welcomed new members to the team. This included the acting appointments of two judges, Hon Mr Justice Kissock Laing and Hon Mrs Justice Georgianna Fraser as well as several Senior Judicial Counsel and Attendants. Details of these appointments and our formal salutations are in the report.

On a personal note, my appointment as the first female President of the court on 18 July 2024 marked a historic milestone in my life as well as the life of the court. While it is natural to feel elation and pride at this achievement, I have embraced this new position with humility, a sharp awareness of its considerable demands and responsibilities, and an uncompromising commitment to the court's vision of excellence. It is an honour to build upon the strong foundation laid by my predecessors, and I am inspired to continue their work towards creating a world-class court that meets the needs of all its stakeholders.

While our data indicates that the court has not yet achieved perfection in all operational areas, we are, nevertheless, making steady progress toward optimal performance. Upon taking office, I immediately reorganised the court's management structure, including assigning each judge a specific area of oversight in the court's operations. This initiative

aims to, among other things, streamline and strengthen our processes, improve judicial and staff welfare, and enhance external stakeholder engagement and satisfaction.

Additionally, following the recommendation of the Honourable Chief Justice, with which President Brooks agreed, the court initiated a program to achieve ISO 9001:2015(E) certification as a court of excellence. Our consultants in this initiative conducted a gap audit to identify areas for improvement. While addressing these deficiencies will be challenging, we are fully committed to the process and ready to enhance our operating standards, practices and processes.

While we embarked on pursuing ISO certification in 2024, we remained dedicated to our core function of adjudicating cases and delivering high-quality service. Our efforts yielded notable results, as detailed in the report. The data is encouraging, showing, among other things, a case clearance rate of 102% in 2024. This is a slight decrease from 117.94% in 2023, but it remains encouraging, especially considering the reduced court sittings during the Michaelmas Term to allow judges more time for clearing outstanding reserved judgments. This expected dip in the case clearance rate has informed our 2025 scheduling, and we anticipate regaining positive results in our clearance rate in the upcoming terms.

Our judgment delivery rate is also commendable, achieving 560% in 2024. This far exceeds the international standard of 100%. A 5.88% decrease in outstanding judgments from the previous year, with marked reductions in older judgments, reflects our improved efficiency. This was partly facilitated by the reduced court sittings for one term, allowing more time for judgment preparation. However, despite these positive gains, we must continue addressing the backlog of outstanding reserved judgments, which remains a significant concern for litigants. Although we have implemented strategies for faster case disposal, a singular solution for reducing reserved judgments to acceptable levels has yet to be found. We remain committed to seeking practical solutions.

Despite challenges in expediting judgment preparation, the court's judgment delivery timeline for 2024 remains promising. Although there was a slight decline from 2023, 55.83% of cases were determined within six months of the hearing. Many of these cases were resolved on the same day or within a week of the conclusion of the hearing. Although

our performance slightly lags behind 2023, the judgment delivery timeline demonstrates that the court continues to manage cases effectively for improved efficiency. I hope that this swift turnaround of a week, in most cases, will become a consistent feature of our performance.

For the court to achieve a consistently satisfactory judgment delivery rate, we must reduce our reliance on written judgments, which currently dominate at 56.91%. Encouragingly, there has been a notable increase in the use of endorsements in 2024, rising by 6.42% compared to 2023. This trend is possibly due to evolving case management strategies. However, every effort should be made to utilise more oral judgments and memoranda of reasons as alternative modes of delivery for the expeditious disposal of cases.

Another relatively positive aspect of our data is the hearing date certainty rate, which reached 86.1% in 2024, marking an improvement over the previous year. However, this rate still falls short of the international standard of 95%. To address this, we are working closely with stakeholders to enhance readiness for court hearings and have adopted a stricter policy on granting adjournments.

The setbacks we encountered in 2024 have provided valuable lessons. Therefore, I view our shortcomings as constructive feedback, guiding our efforts to improve our internal systems and processes in order to achieve consistently successful outcomes. We have embarked on critical initiatives to bolster our services and competencies by strengthening our human resource and technological capabilities, communication channels, and stakeholder engagement.

Undeniably, the progress we achieved in 2024 is due to the hard work and dedication of our judges, registrar, and staff, who tirelessly strive for service excellence, sometimes under challenging conditions. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to this remarkable team—the constant wind beneath the court's wings - lifting it to new heights.

I also sincerely thank the Chief Justice, Hon Mr Justice Bryan Sykes, OJ, CD, for his unwavering support as head of the judiciary and judge of the court *ex officio*; the Minister and Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Justice for their support in the improvements

of the court infrastructure that falls within their purview; Mrs Cameron-Anglin and her team at the CAD for their invaluable support in crucial aspects of the court's operations; the Close Protection Officers and other members of the Jamaica Constabulary Force, responsible for the security of the judges and the court, respectively; and, last, but by no means least, our external stakeholders, especially the litigants and counsel, for their patience, confidence, trust, and helpful feedback through the Court Users' Committee and other media.

Despite the challenges we faced throughout 2024, we exited the year steadfastly committed to our mission: to serve all stakeholders with integrity and fairness by delivering sound, timely judgments and providing efficient, accessible court services within a healthy and fulfilling work environment. This mission perfectly aligns with our vision of becoming a world-class appellate court serving all its stakeholders with excellence while reflecting our embrace of the judiciary-wide vision to be a world-class judiciary utilising innovation and technology for efficient service delivery.

As we look to the future, I pray for unwavering faith, knowledge, wisdom, good health, and abundant strength to seize opportunities for the court's growth, evolution, transformation, and enduring success in the years ahead.

**Marva McDonald-Bishop OJ, CD**  
President  
April 2025



# The Court's Statistical Summary

Throughout 2024, the Court of Appeal maintained its focus on adjudicating cases and delivering high-quality service to all its stakeholders. The following summary captures the results of the court's efforts:

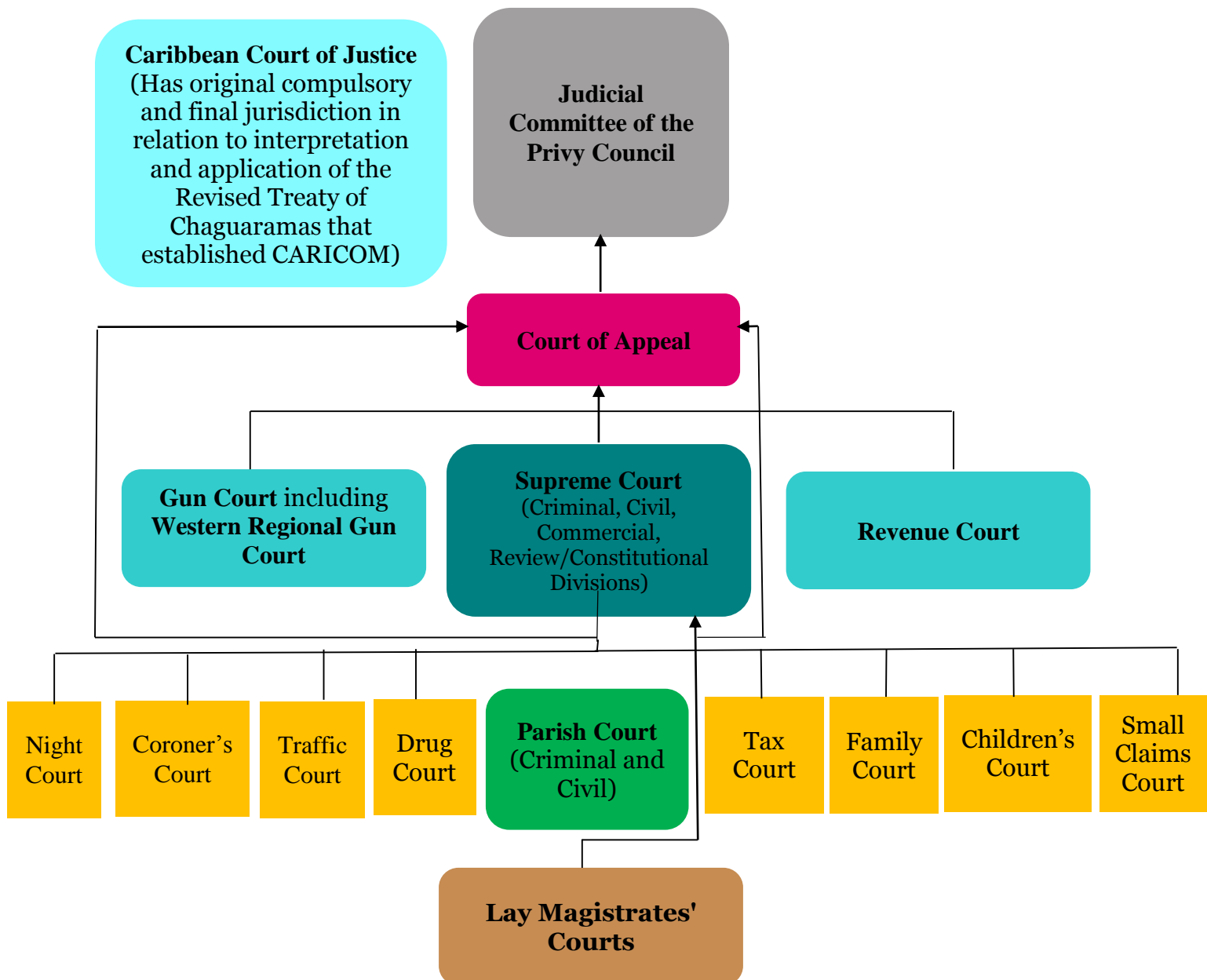
- **Clearance rate** – In 2024, the court ended the year with an appeal clearance rate of 102%, indicating that for every 1 newly filed appeal, approximately 1 was determined. This reflects a decrease of 15.94 percentage points compared to 2023, when a clearance rate of 117.94% was recorded. Notwithstanding this decrease, the court still performed creditably well, exceeding the prescribed annual rate of 100% which is critical to maintaining a manageable case congestion rate and reducing case backlog.
- **Judgment delivery rate** – The court's overall judgment delivery rate for 2024 was 560%. This suggests that for every 10 newly reserved judgments in 2024, roughly 56 judgments were delivered. The international standard for judgment delivery is 100%, and so the Court of Appeal continued to perform exceptionally well in this metric.
- **Hearing date certainty** - The court registered an overall hearing date certainty rate of 86.1%. This reflected an increase of 1.08 percentage points compared to 2023 and suggests that for every 100 hearing dates set during the year, roughly 86 proceeded without postponement. The international standard for hearing date certainty is a minimum of 95%. While the court is 9 percentage points away from the international standard, it is again trending in the right direction.

## Key metrics at a glance

	2021	2022	2023	2024
Clearance rate (%)	71.72	111.69	117.94	102%
Judgment delivery rate (%)	360.38	449.05	382.35	560.25%
Hearing date certainty rate (%)	83.33	85.56	85.02%	86.1%

- Older outstanding judgments/reasons for judgment – At the end of 2024, there was an overall decrease of 5.88% in the number of outstanding judgments when compared to the previous year. Notably, the number of judgments that were outstanding for 2021 decreased by 62.5%, and the number outstanding for 2022 decreased by 52.94%. Also of note is the number of reasons for judgment outstanding for 2021 to 2023, which saw an overall decrease of 66.66%.
- Judgment delivery timeline – In 2024, of the total number of matters determined, 55.83% were determined within six months of hearing. This is a decrease of 26.17 percentage points over 2023. Of the 244 matters determined within six months in 2024, 53.27% were determined on the same day of hearing, 81.55% were determined within a week of hearing, and 93.44% were determined within three months of hearing.

# Structure of the Jamaican Court System



# **The Tier 2 Strategic Plan for the Court**

11 April 2024 saw the launch of the second strategic business plan developed internally by the Jamaican Judiciary (Tier 1). This plan, “Benchmarking the Future: Consolidating Excellence”, builds on the significant improvements in the delivery of court services achieved under the first plan, “Benchmarking the Future: Courting Excellence”. These achievements led to the Jamaican Judiciary being admitted, on 11 December 2023, to membership of the prestigious International Consortium on Court Excellence, comprised of courts and partner organisations that identify and develop best practices for courts.

The strategic pillars of the new plan are Court Proceedings, Processes and Infrastructure; Strategic Leadership and Governance; and Stakeholder Engagement. This new plan again utilised the Balanced Scorecard Methodology to identify strategic objectives with corresponding measures, targets and initiatives. The initial 14 strategic objectives were retained and a 15<sup>th</sup>, Improve Court Infrastructure, added to address the parlous state of several court complexes. To build resilience in the Judiciary, enterprise risk management (ERM) was integrated as a key feature of the new plan to manage and mitigate factors that threaten the attainment of our strategic objectives.

The Tier 2 plan (T2P) developed for the court under the first Tier 1 plan, remains aligned with the new Tier 1 plan. As necessary, it will be refined to integrate the ERM programme.

A main feature of the T2P was the creation of four standing committees to enhance key aspects of court operations and life — Social Affairs (SAC); Occupational Safety and Health (OSHC) (formerly ‘Health and Safety’); Court of Appeal/Court Administration Division (CAD) – ICT Improvement Team (CCIIT) (comprising members from the court and the ICT Team from the CAD); and Budget. These committees have remained dynamic and positively impactful on the operations of the court.

## **Social Affairs Committee (SAC)**

*(Related Objectives – Improve Culture and Improve (Internal) Stakeholder Satisfaction)*

Some of the activities of the SAC, which is tasked with enriching the work life of internal stakeholders, included: celebrating special days: judges of appeal and staff members' birthdays (the birthday club); farewell gatherings; Valentine's; international women's/men's; mother's/father's; happiness and fun days/events (tie; hot dog; smoothie, movie and games days/evenings). The following additional activities are highlighted:

- 'Fish Fry Fiesta' fundraiser held on 31 May 2024.
- Easter bun sale.
- Staff Appreciation Week, under the theme "**Celebrating a Generous, Resourceful, Empowered, Accomplished and Talented (GREAT) Team**", featuring a motivational speaker session; paint & sip; group colouring activities; exercise session; smoothie day; and karaoke evening.
- Commemoration of World Kindness Day on 13 November 2024 – the President and members of staff presented donations collected from staff members to the Wortley Home for Girls.
- Christmas Luncheon & Awards Ceremony held on 20 December 2024 on the second floor of the court.

## **Occupational Safety and Health Committee (OSHC)**

*(Related Objectives – Improve Health & Safety of Plant and Improve (Internal) Stakeholder Satisfaction)*

The OSHC supports the preservation and improvement of the health and safety of the court family and promotes a pleasant work environment for both internal and external court users. Initiatives pursued include:

- Earthquake preparedness session held on 16 January 2024.
- Procurement from CAD of safety gear for safety wardens.
- Emergency protocols and plans have been drafted and are to be circulated to the staff.

- Emergency evacuation signage was replaced throughout the court.
- The court's team participated in the Sigma ICWI pink runs.
- Food handlers' certification was obtained for members of staff who deal with food-based initiatives and assist with the preparation of meals for judges.
- A security post was established at the stairwell entrance to the court on King Street to enhance safety in the precincts of the court.
- A Labour Day beautification project (extended to the month of June) was carried out which resulted in the installation of additional seating areas in the courtyard, renovation of the sick bay and the procurement of plants for both inside and outside the court.
- Pink Day (a breast cancer awareness day) was observed on 25 October 2024.
- A representative from Jamaica Reach to Recovery conducted a presentation on breast cancer awareness.
- Decoration of the court (in collaboration with the SAC) for special events and seasons such as Valentine's Day and Christmas;
- The monitoring, throughout the year, of the health and safety profile of the court by inspection teams, facilitated by an online fillable pdf maintenance/repair request form.

### **Court of Appeal/CAD-ICT Improvement Team (CCIIT)**

*(Related Objectives – Increase Technological Resources & Infrastructure; Improve (Internal) Stakeholder Satisfaction; Improve (External) Stakeholder Satisfaction; Improve Data Management)*

Several initiatives of the CCIIT have enhanced the efficiency of the operations of the court and the experience of court users, namely:

- Repair and upgrade of equipment in court rooms and offices (including printers, monitors, audio devices and electricity and data ports) which significantly enhanced the user experience in the conduct of remote/virtual and hybrid court hearings and training exercises.
- JCMS pilot project – the pilot project for the Judicial Case Management System commenced in April 2024. Training has been conducted for data entry officers,



court assistants, Judges and senior judicial counsel and stakeholder groups, including lawyers at the public and private bars and the Department of Corrections.

- Engagement of summer workers to assist with data entry for JCMS and the COA website.
- Installation of Office365 software for document processing and emails. Training was provided to staff on its multiple features to enhance collaboration and efficiency.
- A training needs survey was conducted to identify the technical training needs of staff. Training sessions, including on the Office365 software have been conducted. Other training sessions will be conducted to increase exploitation of the software's features.
- Digital Transformation Work Group with representatives from our court, CAD and the Bar (public/private) supported by experts, continued its work in providing recommendations for the implementation of the court's digital transformation mandate.

## **Budget Committee**

*(Related Objective – Improve Budget Utilisation)*

This committee managed the limited budget available, by prioritising the allocation of resources between and among the day-to-day operational needs of the court and support for various objectives and initiatives under the T2P. The budget committee, under the leadership of the new President, continued to prioritise sustainable budgeting and expenditure so that vital needs can be satisfactorily met. Requests have been made to increase funding for areas such as training, artificial intelligence procurement, staff welfare and several heads of goods and services.

## **Initiatives under other strategic plan objectives**

*Objective – Increase Trust in the Judiciary*

- General increased use of oral judgments, endorsements and memoranda of reasons to improve the disposal rate of cases where appropriate.

- Two visits by student groups from educational institutions were coordinated – St George’s College (4 March 2024) and AIM Educational Services (9 July 2024).
- Discussion session (3 April 2024) “Ask the President” – a session with pre-school, primary/preparatory and high school students, (children of staff members) with the President, Mr Justice Brooks.
- Visit by the Jamaica Association of Administrative Professionals (Kingston Chapter) to the President on 22 April 2024.

*Objective – Improve (External) Stakeholder Satisfaction*

- Ongoing implementation of Differentiated Case Management (‘DCM’) as part of the court’s backlog reduction strategy through:
  - Focus on simple/expedited criminal appeals with a target for disposal of such cases within 6-9 months after receipt of transcript. The judgment/decision in these matters is intended to be handed down immediately after the hearing, utilising oral judgments, endorsements or memoranda of reasons. If written reasons are required for simple/expedited matters, they should be delivered within 60 days.
  - Pilot programme for the use of a docket system by one panel during the Easter and Michaelmas term’s 2024.
  - Ongoing development of legal summaries/templates to enable faster disposal of cases (by endorsement, memorandum of reasons or oral judgment), especially where the relevant legal principles are settled and the only disputes are to matters of fact.
- General increased use of oral judgments, memoranda of reasons or endorsements where appropriate to increase speed in delivery of judgments

*Objectives – Improve Human Capabilities and Improve (Internal) Stakeholder Satisfaction*

- Issues raised and recommendations made arising from the staff satisfaction survey completed in the 2022-2023 reporting year were identified and addressed. Some areas for improvement on which action has been taken are: the improvement of

greater communication, increased training opportunities for judicial counsel and registry staff, the execution of the Rewards and Recognition programme, and the improvement of workspaces for judicial counsel and registry staff. Recommendations continue to be reviewed for further action.

- The Skills & Hobbies Database, which is a resource to assist the court, Judges of Appeal and staff members to identify persons as necessary, was updated. It was used to plan events highlighting the talents of staff, which increased camaraderie and morale. The major event for which the database was utilised was commemoration of the International Day of Happiness.

#### *Objectives - Improve Culture and Improve (Internal) Stakeholder Satisfaction*

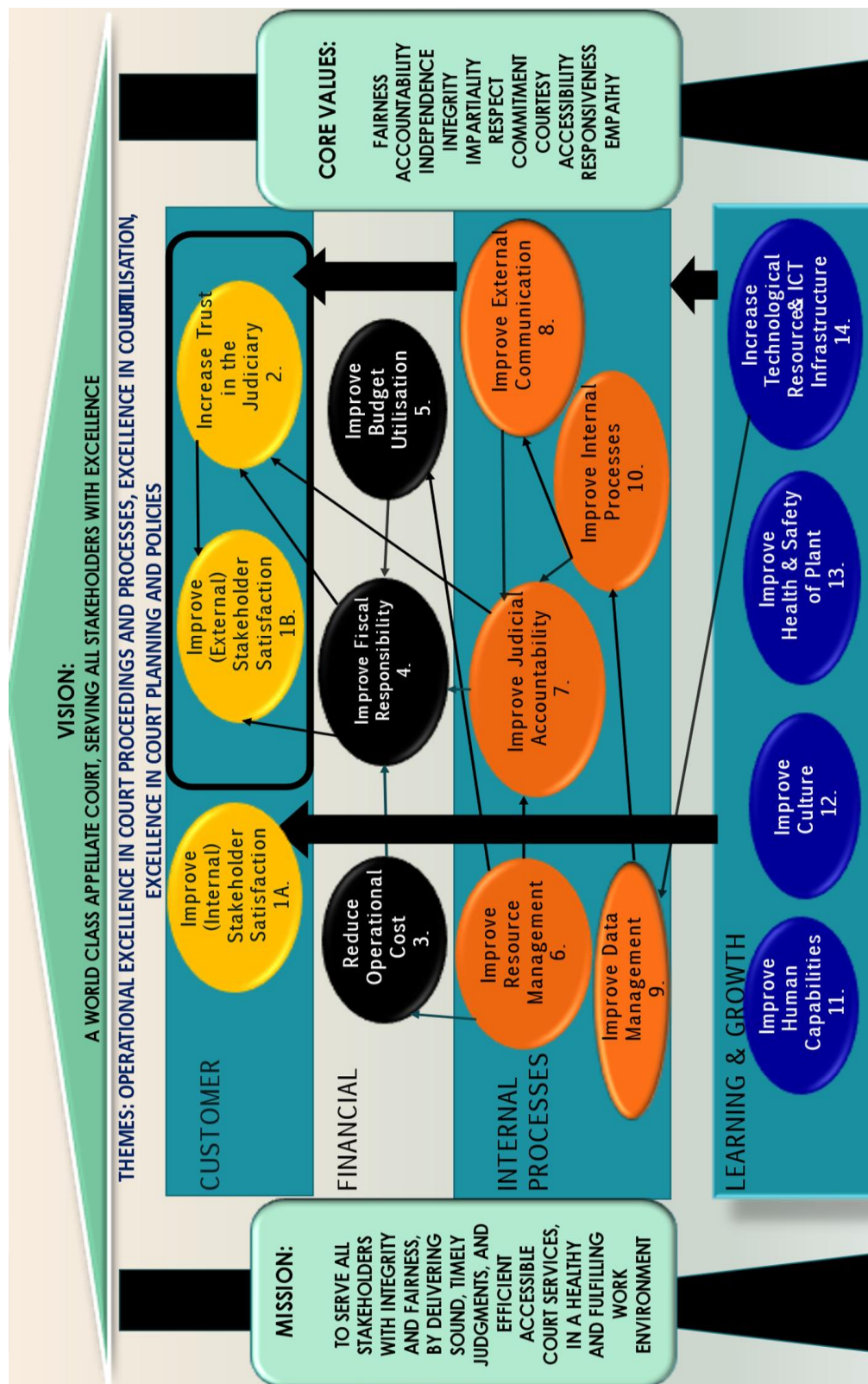
- The second Rewards and Recognition Programme Awards Ceremony was held on 20 December 2024. Several staff members were recognized for their varied contributions to a healthy work environment and the vibrant team spirit of the court. Special award categories were created to recognise members of the support and ancillary staff specifically.

The sub-title of the new Tier 1 plan, “Consolidating Excellence” acknowledges the significant steps towards and the achievement of excellence in some areas, engendered by the first Tier 1 plan. Our strategic path targets resilience through the new ERM programme. We remain committed to pursuing the rewarding cycle of continuous improvement, to better enable us to serve all who need justice.

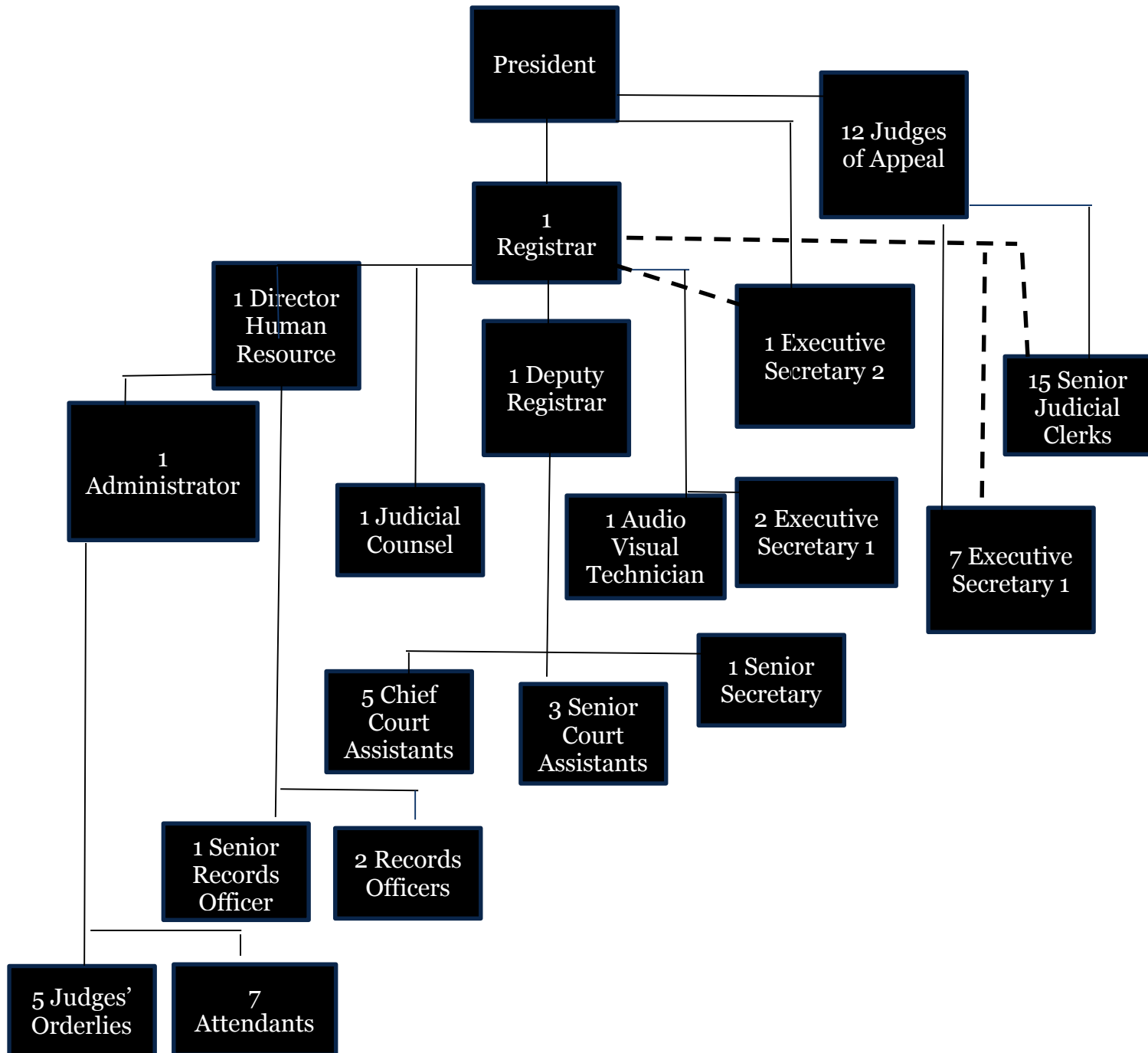
The Strategy Map for the court may be viewed on the following page.

**The Hon Mr Justice David Fraser, CD, JA**

Chair, Court of Appeal Tier 2 Plan Implementation Oversight Committee



# Organisational Chart



# Judges of the Court

The composition of the Court of Appeal is governed by section 3 of the Judicature (Appellate Jurisdiction) Act, which provides that the court shall be comprised of a President and not more than 12 Judges of Appeal.

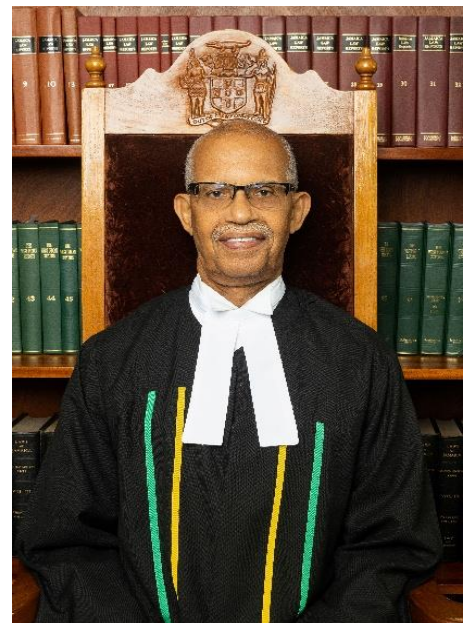
Section 3 further provides that, as head of the judiciary, the Chief Justice is also a member of the court. However, although a member of the court, the Chief Justice can only sit in the court on the invitation of the President and if there are at least four other Judges of Appeal sitting.

## Retirement

On 17 July 2024, the Court of Appeal faced the difficult task of bidding farewell to its President. The Hon Mr Justice Patrick Brooks, OJ, CD, proceeded on retirement after having served the court with great distinction for 12 years, first as Judge of Appeal and then as President of the court.

Mr Justice Brooks is well-known and respected for his eminent career and erudite judgments. His legacy at the court, however, extends well beyond this. He is also greatly appreciated for championing the implementation of the Judiciary's strategic plan in the Court of Appeal, having given his full support to the establishment of an implementation oversight committee and the sub-committees formed thereunder.

Additionally, Mr Justice Brooks embraced judiciary-wide initiatives, such as differentiated case management and the pilot of the Judicial Case Management System, aimed at making improvements within the courts.



The Hon Mr Justice Patrick Brooks OJ, CD





**The Hon Mr Justice Brooks P and Judges of Appeal**



**The Hon Mr Justice Brooks P**



**The President, staff and close protection officers**

The court and, indeed, the nation are indebted to Mr Justice Brooks for his tremendous and invaluable service to the Judiciary, the legal profession and the people of Jamaica. The court records its immense gratitude to Mr Justice Brooks and, as he navigates this new chapter of life, wishes him and his family every happiness.

## Appointments

### a) President

Following the retirement of the Hon Mr Justice Patrick Brooks OJ, CD, the Court of Appeal was extremely pleased to welcome the appointment of the Hon Mrs Justice Marva McDonald-Bishop CD, Judge of Appeal, as its next President. On 18 July 2024, she was sworn in as President by His Excellency, the Governor-General and conferred with the national honour of the Order of Jamaica.



**The Hon Mrs Justice McDonald-Bishop receiving her instrument of appointment from His Excellency, the Governor-General**

Prior to her appointment as President, Mrs Justice McDonald-Bishop served the court with immense distinction as a Judge of Appeal, having been so appointed on 21 September 2015 following her stellar career as a Puisne Judge. On her appointment as President, Mrs Justice McDonald-Bishop made history as she is the first woman to have been appointed to the post. Following her exceptional legal and judicial career, her appointment to the presidency is one which is well-deserved. The court extends to Mrs Justice McDonald-Bishop heartfelt congratulations and best wishes on her tenure as President.

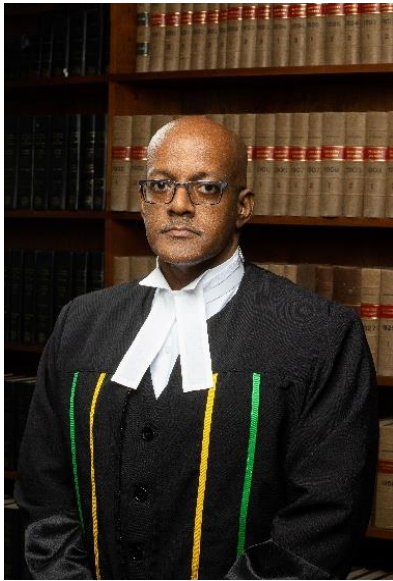




**The new President on the day of her swearing in**

## b) Acting appointments

The Hon Mr Justice Kissock Laing, Puisne Judge, and the Hon Mrs Justice Georgianna Fraser, Puisne Judge, were called upon to continue acting as Judges of Appeal in 2024. The court was once again pleased to welcome their acting appointments as they continue to distinguish themselves through their work and general contributions to the life of the Court of Appeal.



**The Hon Mr Justice Kissock Laing**



**The Hon Mrs Justice  
Georgianna Fraser**

## Judges of the court

With the Hon Mr Justice Patrick Brooks OJ, CD retiring, and the Hon Mrs Justice Marva McDonald-Bishop OJ, CD being appointed to the presidency, the Court of Appeal ended 2024 with a complement of 12 permanent judges<sup>1</sup>, namely: the Hon Mrs Justice Marva McDonald-Bishop OJ, CD, P; the Hon Mrs Justice Almarie Sinclair-Haynes CD, JA; the Hon Mr Justice Frank Williams CD, JA; the Hon Miss Justice Paulette Williams CD, JA; the Hon Miss Justice Jennifer Straw CD, JA; the Hon Miss Justice Carol Edwards CD, JA; the Hon Mrs Justice Nicole Foster-Pusey CD, JA; the Hon Mr Justice David Fraser, CD, JA; the Hon Miss Justice Nicole Simmons, CD, JA; the Hon Mrs Justice Vivene Harris, CD JA; the Hon Mrs Justice Marcia Dunbar-Green, CD, JA; and the Hon Mr Justice Evan Brown, CD, JA.

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<sup>1</sup> One less judge than the full complement of 13 judges.

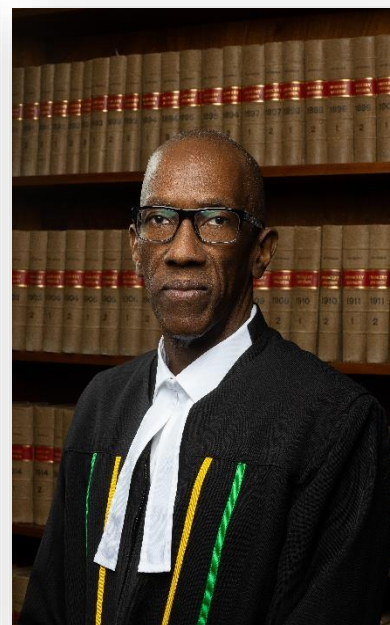




The Hon Mrs Justice Marva  
McDonald-Bishop OJ, CD, P



The Hon Mrs Justice Almarie  
Sinclair-Haynes CD, JA



The Hon Mr Justice Frank  
Williams CD, JA



The Hon Miss Justice Paulette  
Williams CD, JA



The Hon Miss Justice Jennifer  
Straw CD, JA

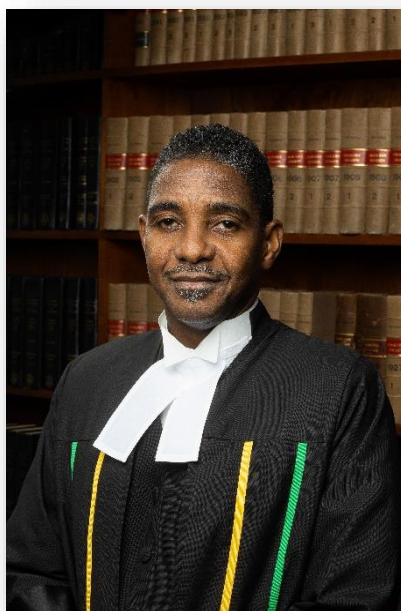


The Hon Miss Justice Carol Edwards  
CD, JA





The Hon Mrs Justice Nicole Foster-Pusey CD, JA



The Hon Mr Justice David Fraser CD, JA



The Hon Miss Justice Nicole Simmons CD, JA



The Hon Mrs Justice Vivene Harris CD, JA



The Hon Mrs Justice Marcia Dunbar-Green CD, JA



The Hon Mr Justice Evan Brown CD, JA

# Court Staff

## Staff complement

The total number of established posts at the Court of Appeal for 2024, as reflected in the Civil Service Establishment Act, was 55. At the end of that year, the court comprised the following staff complement:

1 Registrar  
1 Deputy Registrar  
1 Director, Human Resource and Administration  
15 Senior Judicial Counsel<sup>2</sup>  
1 Judicial Counsel  
1 Administrator  
6 Executive Secretaries  
1 Audio Visual Technician  
1 Senior Secretary  
4 Chief Court Assistants  
2 Senior Court Assistants  
1 Senior Records Officer  
2 Records Officers  
3 Orderlies  
7 Attendants  
2 Part-time Cleaners

## Staff movement

### a) Farewell

The Court of Appeal bade farewell to the following persons during the course of the year:

- Mrs Rochelle McCallum, Senior Judicial Counsel, who was appointed to act as Legal Officer at the Court Administration Division (CAD);

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<sup>2</sup> The posts of “Senior Judicial Clerk” and “Judicial Clerk” were re-titled by the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service, in 2024, to “Senior Judicial Counsel” and “Judicial Counsel”.

- Mrs Clowenese Brown-McIntosh, Senior Judicial Counsel, who was appointed to act as Deputy Registrar in the Supreme Court;  
and
- Mr Devern Henry, retired Attendant, who had returned to the court as a Casual Daily Paid Worker.

The court records its immense gratitude to these officers for their years of dedicated service to the public service, in particular to the Court of Appeal, and extends its best wishes to them in their new endeavours.

b) Acting appointments

In the year under review, the court welcomed appointments of the following persons in various capacities:

- Mr Jordan Jarrett – Senior Judicial Counsel;
- Ms Sherika Paul – Senior Judicial Counsel;
- Ms Sanique Richards – Acting Senior Judicial Counsel;
- Ms Sashalee Hanson – Acting Senior Judicial Counsel;
- Ms Ariana Mills – Acting Judicial Counsel
- Mr Chadwick Chance –Audio Visual Technician;
- Miss Shadae Thompson – Senior Records Officer
- Mr Chevaughn Thomas – Senior Court Assistant
- Ms Kaydian Rose –Records Officer
- Miss Paulette Russell - Attendant
- Miss Geneva Garvey – Attendant; and
- Miss Carlene Richards – Attendant

The court congratulates these officers on their respective appointments and wishes them every success for their tenure.

# Sittings

The Court of Appeal sat for a total of 40 weeks in 2024. This comprised 10 weeks in the Hilary Term, 17 weeks in the Easter Term and 13 weeks in the Michaelmas Term. The judges of the court sat primarily in two divisions in panels of three. Notably, in the Michaelmas Term 2024, as part of the court's efforts to tackle the backlog of outstanding judgments, the court sat primarily in one division to afford the judges more time out of court to focus on the delivery of judgments.

The judges of the court were assigned weekly duties in chambers to consider applications on paper and/or to conduct oral hearings of applications and case management conferences. Additionally, the judges were assigned duties during the court's vacation periods to consider procedural applications filed during that period. The full list of sittings for 2024 is available on the court's website at [www.courtsofappeal.gov.jm](http://www.courtsofappeal.gov.jm).

## Special Sitting in tribute to the late Hon Mr Justice C. Dennis Morrison OJ, CD

On 9 February 2024, the Court of Appeal held a special en banc sitting to pay tribute to its former President, the Hon Mr Justice C Dennis Morrison OJ, CD, who passed away on 3 February 2024. The President and judges of the court were joined by the Hon Mr Justice Bryan Sykes OJ, CD, Chief Justice of Jamaica, for the occasion, which saw judges sitting in three courtrooms.



**The Chief Justice and the President leading the judges in Division One**

The sitting, which was conducted both physically and virtually, was attended by members of the Morrison family, led by his widow, attorney-at-law, Mrs Janet Morrison. Tributes were offered by the Chief Justice and the President as well as the Hon Mr Justice Seymour Panton OJ, CD, retired President of the court; the Hon Miss Justice Hilary Phillips CD, retired Judge of Appeal; the Hon Mr Justice B St Michael Hylton OJ, KC; Mr Derrick McKoy CD, KC, Attorney-General of Jamaica; Miss Paula Llewellyn CD, KC, Director of Public Prosecutions; Mrs Denise Kitson KC, Chairman of the General Legal Council; Mr John Vassell KC, Senior Partner at DunnCox; Mr Donovan Walker, President of the Organisation of Commonwealth Bar Association; Mr Kevin Powell, President of the Jamaican Bar Association; Mr Leonard Green, President of the Advocates Association; and Mr Michael Jordan, on behalf of the Northern Jamaica Law Society.

The Hon Mrs Marlene Malahoo Forte KC, MP, Minister of Legal and Constitutional Affairs; the Hon Mr Justice Adrian Saunders, President of the Caribbean Court of Justice; the Hon Madam Justice Louise Blenman, Chief Justice of Belize; the Hon Mr Justice Algernon Smith CD, retired Judge of Appeal; and Her Honour Mrs Mitsy Beaumont-Daley, acting Director of the CAD, were among those who attended the sitting virtually.



**The Hon Mrs Justice McDonald-Bishop JA (as she then was) making a presentation on behalf of the court to the Morrison family after the sitting**



### Special sitting to mark the retirement of the Hon Mr Justice Patrick Brooks OJ, CD

On 17 July 2024, the Court of Appeal held its second en banc sitting for the year. On this occasion, the special sitting was to bid farewell to the President, Hon Mr Justice Patrick Brooks OJ, CD, on his retirement. This marked the first occasion since the Covid-19 pandemic that a special sitting was conducted with all the judges sitting together in the same courtroom. The Hon Mr Justice Bryan Sykes OJ, CD, Chief Justice of Jamaica, joined the judges of the court for the sitting, which was attended by members of Mr Justice Brooks' family, led by his wife, Mrs Winsome Brooks.



**Special Sitting to mark the retirement of the Hon Mr Justice Patrick Brooks OJ, CD, P**

The Hon Mrs Justice Marva McDonald-Bishop JA (as she then was) expertly moderated the proceedings, which included the presentation of a citation to Mr Justice Brooks (as captured in Appendix A of this report). Tributes were made by the Hon Chief Justice; the Hon Mr Justice Adrian Saunders, President of the Caribbean Court of Justice; the Hon Mr Justice Seymour Panton OJ, CD, retired President of the Court of Appeal; the Hon Miss Justice Hilary Phillips CD, retired Judge of Appeal; the Hon Mr Justice Ian Forte OJ, CD, retired President of the Court of Appeal (delivered on his behalf by the Hon Marlene Malahoo Forte KC, MP, Minister of Legal and Constitutional Affairs); Mr



Derrick McKoy CD, KC, Attorney-General of Jamaica; Mr Patrick Foster KC; Mr Maurice Manning KC; Ms Claudette Thompson, acting Director of Public Prosecutions; Ms Lisa Whyte, Deputy Solicitor General; Mr Gordon Robinson; Mr Leonard Green, President of the Advocates Association; Mr Malik Kellier, Vice President of the Jamaican Bar Association; Mr Michael Hemmings, President of the Cornwall Bar Association; Mr Michael Jordan, on behalf of the Northern Jamaica Law Society; and Mr Nicholas Brooks, son of Mr Justice Brooks.

### Opening of the Michaelmas Term

The court's customary sitting to mark the start of the Michaelmas Term was held on 23 September 2024. This special sitting was presided over by a panel comprising the Hon Mrs Justice McDonald-Bishop P, the Hon Mr Justice Frank Williams, the Hon Miss Justice Jennifer Straw and the Hon Mr Justice Evan Brown JA. The sitting, which was live-streamed, was attended by representatives of both the public and private Bars as well as the media.

The court records its gratitude to Mr Evrol Bell and the ICT Department of the CAD, as well as Mr Chadwick Chance, the court's audiovisual technician, for the technical expertise in livestreaming each of the special sittings. The court also extends appreciation to the Client Services, Communication and Information Department of the CAD, led by Mrs Nordia Francis-Williams, for making the necessary arrangements and ensuring media coverage for the sitting.

## Work of the Court

In 2024, the Court of Appeal heard and determined applications (both in court and chambers) and appeals laid before it. Additionally, single judges of the court considered, on paper, applications for permission to appeal from criminal convictions and/or sentences passed in the Supreme Court<sup>3</sup>; procedural applications<sup>4</sup>; records of appeal<sup>5</sup> for the purposes of making case management directions in appeals from the Supreme Court; and motions/applications for leave to appeal to His Majesty in Council (by virtue of Practice Direction No 1/2016).

Throughout the period, individual judges were also called upon by the President to assist with administrative matters such as attending meetings and participating in job interviews.

It is to be noted that during the course of 2024, the Court of Appeal was called upon to interject a few matters of particular urgency into its previously set schedule. Therefore, the court had to reschedule some matters to accommodate, hear and determine these urgent ones. As a result, some matters, which would have been heard, had to be set for later dates, and some judgments, which would have been delivered, were delayed as the judges involved in these urgent matters had to redirect their focus to ensure that the urgent ones were delivered as timeously as possible.

The court's work will be reflected herein as follows:

- i. transcripts of criminal cases referred for consideration on paper of applications for leave to appeal (Table A and Chart 1);
- ii. procedural applications in civil cases and motions for leave to appeal to His Majesty in Council referred for consideration on paper (Table B and Chart 2);

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<sup>3</sup> Most criminal matters emanating from the Supreme Court commence as applications for leave to appeal against convictions and/or sentences. When the transcripts are received from the Supreme Court, they are, referred to single judges for consideration and determination of the application for leave to appeal.

<sup>4</sup> Under the Court of Appeal Rules, procedural applications (such as applications for stay of execution, injunctions, security for costs etc) are first to be referred to single judges for consideration on paper. The judges may either make orders without an oral hearing or issue directions for an oral hearing to take place.

<sup>5</sup>Single judges may give case management directions without an oral hearing or may direct the holding of case management conferences.

- iii. civil records of appeal referred for case management (Table C and Chart 3);
- iv. oral hearings conducted in chambers (Table D);
- v. disposal of applications by single judges (Table E)
- vi. disposal of applications and motions by the court (Tables F and Chart 4) and appeals (Tables G-I, K and L) and the court's clearance rate (Chart 6);
- vii. new appeals filed in the year under review and pending appeals at the end of the period (Tables G – J and Chart 5)
- viii. number of matters disposed of by the court (Table L);
- ix. total matters disposed (Table M)
- x. judgments delivered within six months of completion of hearings (Table N);
- xi. judgment delivery rate (Table O)
- xii. hearing date certainty (Table P)
- xiii. judgments reduced to writing (Tables Q and R);
- xiv. outstanding reserved judgments (Table S);
- xv. outstanding reasons for judgment (Table T);
- xvi. outstanding transcripts in criminal cases pending appeal (Table U and Chart 7);
- xvii. outstanding records of proceedings in civil matters pending appeal (Table V and Chart 8); and
- xviii. appeals pending (Table W).

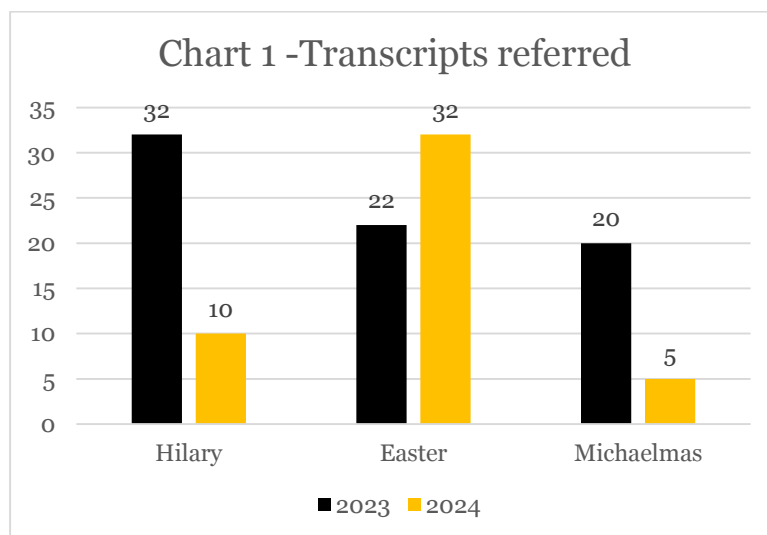
## Criminal Transcripts referred to single Judges of Appeal

In criminal matters from the Supreme Court, applications for leave to appeal in criminal matters are determined by single judges. For this to be done, the transcripts must first be obtained from the Supreme Court. Upon receipt, the transcripts are referred to single judges for consideration and determination.

Table A – Transcripts referred

Period	2023	2024
Hilary Term	32	10
Easter Term	22	32
Michaelmas <sup>6</sup>	20	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>47</b>

Table A and Chart 1 reflect a 36.48% decrease in the number of transcripts referred in 2024 when compared to 2023.



<sup>6</sup> Includes Summer vacation

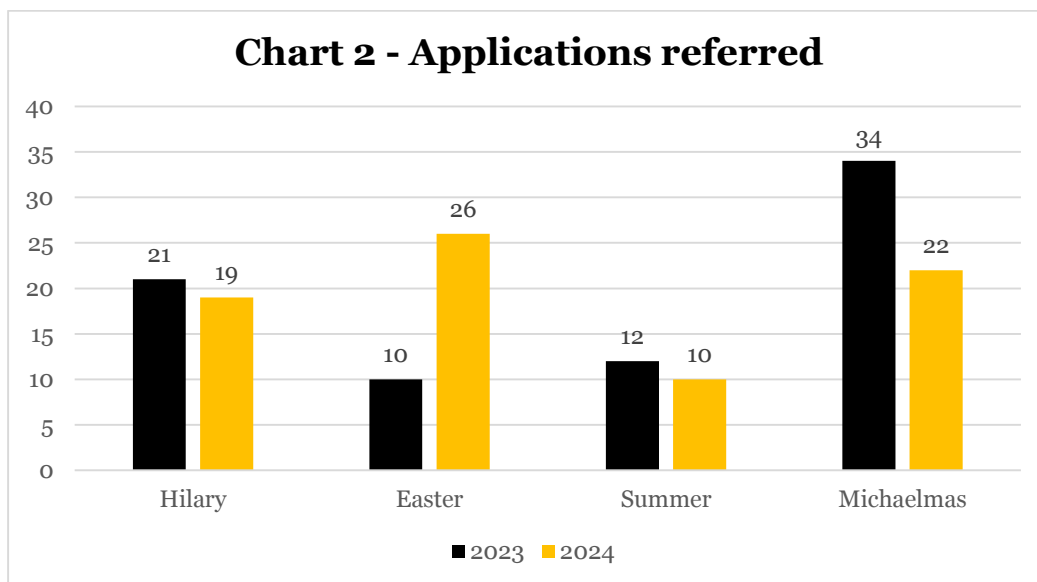
## Applications/motions referred to single Judges of Appeal For consideration on paper

Single judges of the court are, pursuant to the Court of Appeal Rules (the Rules) and Practice Direction No 1/2016, empowered to consider certain types of procedural applications and motions on paper. Table B and Chart 2 reflect the number of applications/motions referred to single judges during 2024.

Table B – Number of applications/motions referred

Period	2023	2024
Hilary Term	21	19
Easter Term	10	26
Summer Vacation	12	10
Michaelmas Term	34	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>77</b>

Table B and Chart 2 reflect that the total number of applications/motions referred to single judges remained constant in 2024 when compared to 2023.



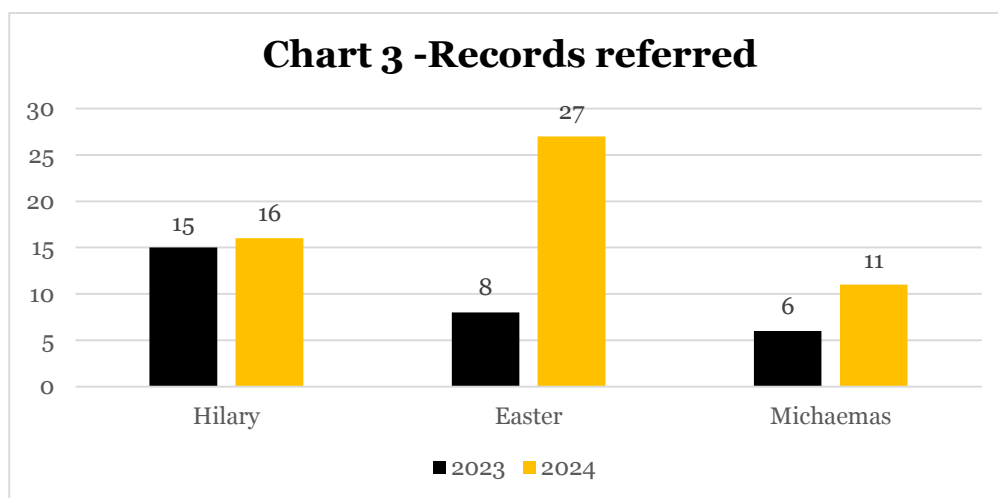
### Records of appeal referred to single Judges of Appeal

In civil appeals from judgments delivered in the Supreme Court, appellants are required by the Rules to file records of appeal within the specified timelines. After these records of appeal are filed, the files are referred to single judges of the court for case management directions. Table C and Chart 3 reflect the comparative period of 2023 and 2024.

Table C – Records of appeal referred

Period	2023	2024
Hilary Term	15	16
Easter Term <sup>7</sup>	8	27
Michaelmas	6	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>54</b>

Table C and Chart 3 depict an increase of 86.2% in the number of records of appeal referred in 2024 when compared to 2023.



<sup>7</sup> Figure includes those referred in the summer vacation.

### Hearings in chambers by single Judges of Appeal

The number of hearings conducted in chambers by single judges of the court in 2024, over the previous year, is reflected in Table D below.

Table D – Hearings in Chambers

Term	2023	2024
<i>Applications</i>		
Hilary	10	11
Easter	9	13
Michaelmas	12	11
<i>CMCs</i>		
Hilary	17	34
Easter	61	95
Michaelmas	18	62
<b>Total</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>226</b>

*\*CMCs – Case Management Conferences*

Table D depicts a 78% increase in the number of oral hearings conducted by single judges of appeal in chambers in 2024, over the previous year. This is primarily accounted for by the court's initiative of listing, for case management conferences, older civil appeals for which records of proceedings have not been received from the Supreme Court. The purpose of these case management conferences is to determine the way forward for those appeals, which have been inactive for years as a result of the records of proceedings not being provided.

### Disposal of applications/motions by single Judges of Appeal

Table E depicts the number of applications/motions determined by single judges of appeal on paper and by oral hearings in 2024, when compared to 2023.

Table E – Applications determined by Single Judges of Appeal

Term	2023	2024
<i>On paper</i>		
Hilary	11	9
Easter <sup>8</sup>	12	12
Michaelmas	14	7
<i>Oral hearing</i>		
Hilary	13	10
Easter	9	15
Michaelmas	12	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>64</b>

There was a decrease of 9.8% in the number of applications determined by single judges in 2024, over the previous year. Additionally, the table reflects that 43.75% of the applications determined by single judges were determined without oral hearings. This is a reduction of 8.36 percentage points when compared to 2023, when 52.11% of the applications determined by single judges were determined without oral hearings.

<sup>8</sup> Figure includes the Summer vacation.



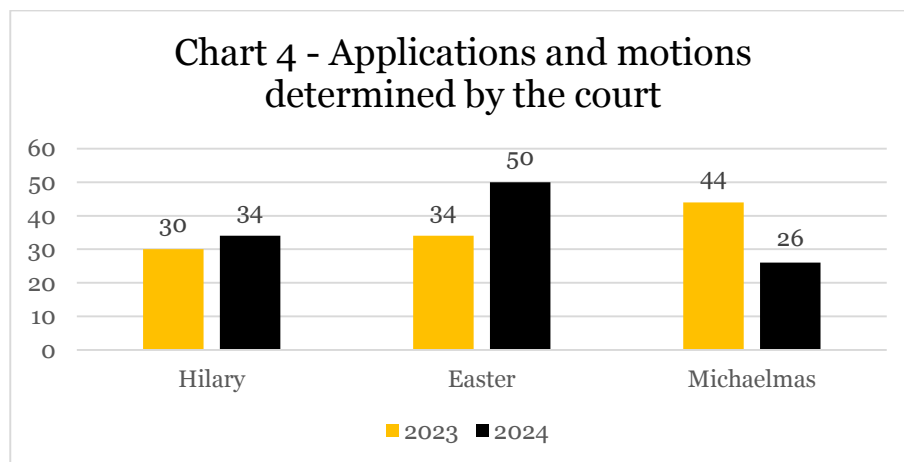
### Disposal of applications and motions by the court

Applications which do not fall within the jurisdiction of a single judge of the court,<sup>9</sup> along with motions for leave to appeal to His Majesty in Council, in matters where the appeal is not as of right, are heard and determined by the court. Table F and Chart 4 show the number of applications and motions determined by the court in 2024 compared to 2023.

Table F – Applications and motions determined by the court<sup>10</sup>

Term	2023	2024
Hilary Term	30	34
Easter Term	34	50
Michaelmas Term	44	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>110</b>

Table F and Chart 4 reflect a slight increase of 1.85% in the number of applications and motions heard and determined by the court in 2024 over 2023.



<sup>9</sup> Such as civil applications for permission to appeal; applications for extension of time to file an appeal; applications to vary/discharge the order of a single judge; applications to adduce fresh evidence.

<sup>10</sup> This does not include applications for permission to appeal in criminal matters, which are dealt with in Tables G, H, I, K and L.

### New and determined appeals

Tables G to I reflect the number of new and determined appeals as well as the number of pending appeals by category for the Hilary, Easter and Michaelmas Terms, respectively.

Table G

#### New and determined appeals – Hilary Term 2024

Appeals	Pending appeals at the start of the term	New cases filed	Determined cases	Pending appeals at the end of the term
Supreme Court				
Civil Appeals	1081	41	44	1078
Criminal Appeals	566	21	26	561
Miscellaneous Appeals	46	1	1	46
Prosecution Appeals	4	1	1	4
Parish Court				
Civil Appeals	84	4	7	81
Criminal Appeals	25		1	24
Miscellaneous Appeals	4			4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1810</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>1798</b>

Table H

#### New and determined appeals – Easter Term 2024

Appeals	Pending appeals at the start of the term	New cases filed	Determined cases	Pending appeals at the end of the term
Supreme Court				
Civil Appeals	1078	53	47	1084
Criminal Appeals	561	31	30	562
Miscellaneous Appeals	46	2	3	45
Prosecution Appeals	4		1	3
Parish Court				
Civil Appeals	81	2	11	72
Criminal Appeals	24	2	2	24
Miscellaneous Appeals	4			4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1798</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>1794</b>

Table I  
New and determined appeals – Michaelmas Term 2024

Appeals	Pending appeals at the start of the term	New cases filed	Determined cases	Pending appeals at the end of the term
Supreme Court				
Civil Appeals	1084	40	43	1081
Criminal Appeals	562	43	29	576
Miscellaneous Appeals	45	2	4	43
Prosecution Appeals	3			3
Parish Court				
Civil Appeals	72	5	4	73
Criminal Appeals	24	2	2	24
Miscellaneous Appeals	4	1		5
<b>Total</b>	<b>1794</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>1805</b>

Tables G to I show that there was a decrease of 0.27% in the total number of pending appeals at the close of 2024 when compared to 2023. The tables also show that of the total number of new appeals recorded in 2024, 91.63% were from the Supreme Court, 5.97% were from Parish Courts, and 2.39% were miscellaneous appeals.

Table J – New appeals

Type	2023	2024
Civil	130	147
Criminal	89	100
Miscellaneous	15	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>251</b>

As seen in Table J and Chart 5, there was an increase of 7.26% in the number of new appeals filed in 2024 when compared to 2023.

Table K – Determined appeals

Type	2023	2024
Civil	116	156
Criminal	152	90
Miscellaneous	8	8
Prosecution Appeal	-	2
<b>Total<sup>11</sup></b>	<b>276</b>	<b>256</b>

The number of determined appeals decreased by 7.24% in 2024 compared to 2023.

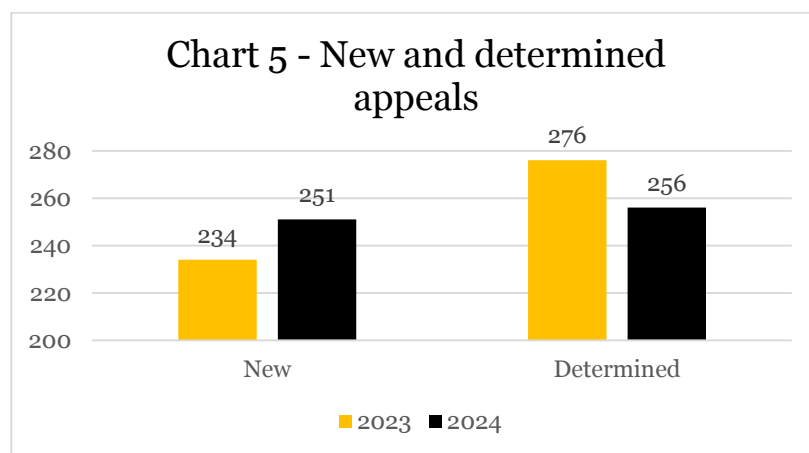


Chart 5 shows the new and determined appeals in 2024 compared to 2023.

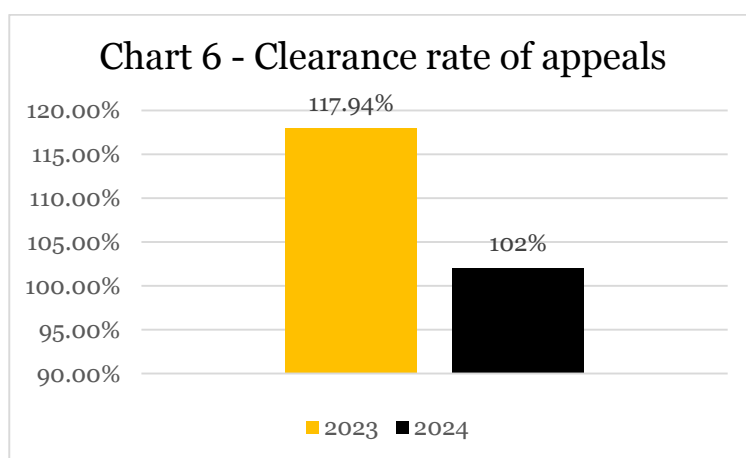


Chart 6 shows the clearance rate of appeals in 2024 compared to 2023. In 2024, the clearance rate of appeals was 102%, while in the previous year the clearance rate of appeals was 117.94%. This represents a decrease of 15.94 percentage points.

<sup>11</sup> Figure includes matters which have been dismissed for want of prosecution.

Table L - Number of matters determined by the court

<b>Type</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Applications/motions	108	110
Criminal appeals/ applications for permission to appeal	152	90
Civil appeals	116	156
Miscellaneous	8	8
Prosecution Appeal	-	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>366</b>

Table L depicts a 4.93% decrease of the total matters determined by the court in 2024 when compared to the previous year.

Table M – Total matters determined by the court and by single judges

<b>Type</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Applications/motions	185	181
Appeals	276	256
<b>Total</b>	<b>461</b>	<b>437</b>

Table M shows a decrease of 5.2% in the total number of matters determined by the court and single judges of appeal in 2024 over the previous year.

Table N – Judgment delivery timeline 2024

<b>Term</b>	<b>Judgments delivered on hearing day</b>	<b>Judgments delivered within a week</b>	<b>Judgments delivered within 3 months</b>	<b>Judgments delivered within 6 months</b>
Hilary	41	19	8	2
Easter	53	34	17	7
Michaelmas	36	16	4	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>16</b>

As seen in Table N, of the number of matters determined in 2024, 55.83% were determined within six months of the hearing. Of the number determined in six months, 53.27% were determined on the same day of hearing, 81.55% were determined within a week of hearing and 93.44% were determined within three months of hearing.

### Judgment delivery rate

Table O

Term	Number reserved	Number determined	Judgment delivery rate %
Hilary	20	138	690%
Easter	39	165	423.07%
Michaelmas	19	134	705.26%
<b>Total</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>560.25%</b>

For the year 2024 the court registered an overall judgment delivery rate of 560.25%. This suggests that for every 10 newly reserved judgments in 2024 roughly 56 judgments were delivered. The Michaelmas Term registered the highest judgment delivery rate with 705.26%, while the Easter Term registered the lowest with 423.07%. The international standard for judgment delivery is 100% and so the Court of Appeal continued to perform exceptionally well.

### Hearing date certainty

Table P

Term	No. of matters listed on hearing lists	No. of matters which commenced as scheduled	Hearing date certainty rate %
Hilary	104	86	82.69%
Easter	151	131	86.75%
Michaelmas	76	68	89.47%
<b>Total</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>86.1%</b>

In 2024, a hearing date certainty rate of 86.1% was recorded for matters listed before the court. This suggests that for every 100 hearing dates set during the year, roughly 86 proceeded without postponement. For 2023, the hearing date certainty rate progressively increased from term to term, with the Hilary Term recording a rate of 82.69%, the Easter Term recording a rate of 86.75% and the Michaelmas Term closing the year with a rate of 89.47%. The international standard for hearing date certainty is a minimum of 95%. Table P shows that the court is trending in the right direction.

### Judgments in writing

The court's judgments in writing may take the form of written judgments, oral judgments (reduced to writing), memoranda of reasons or endorsements.

Table Q

Term	No. of written judgments	No. of oral judgments in writing	No. of memoranda of reasons	No of endorsements
Hilary	34	8	10	6
Easter	46	8	16	11
Michaelmas	27	3	7	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>29</b>

Table Q shows that of the total judgments delivered in writing, 56.91% were written judgments, 10.10% were oral judgments, 17.55% were memoranda of reasons and 15.42% were endorsements. Notably, there was an increase of 6.42 percentage points in the number of endorsements issued in 2024 over the previous year.

Table R

Term	2023	2024
<i>Civil appeals</i>		
Hilary	25	23
Easter	24	24
Michaelmas	16	15
<i>Criminal appeals/Applications for permission</i>		
Hilary	22	21
Easter	35	24
Michaelmas	33	20
<i>Applications</i>		
Hilary	9	15
Easter	24	32
Michaelmas	28	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>188</b>

Table R shows 14.9% reduction in the number of judgments in writing in 2024 over 2023.

### Outstanding reserved judgments at year end

Table S

<b>Year reserved</b>	<b>No. outstanding 2023</b>	<b>No. outstanding 2024</b>
2021	8	3
2022	17	8
2023	60	36
2024		33
<b>Total</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>80</b>

Table S shows a 5.88% decrease in the number of judgments outstanding at the end of 2024 when compared to 2023. The number of judgments that were outstanding for 2021 decreased by 62.5% and the number outstanding for 2022 decreased by 52.94%.

### Outstanding reasons for judgment at year end

Table T

<b>Year reserved</b>	<b>No. outstanding 2023</b>	<b>No. outstanding 2024</b>
2021	1	1
2022	5	2
2023	15	4
2024		6
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>13</b>

Table T shows that the number of reasons for judgment outstanding for the years 2021 to 2023, decreased by 66.66%.



## Outstanding criminal transcripts

Table U

Year Matter filed	Number Outstanding 2023	Number Outstanding 2024
2006	2	0
2007	1	0
2011	1	0
2013	1	1
2016	3	1
2017	1	0
2018	1	1
2019	8	7
2020	10	6
2021	35	21
2022	45	32
2023	85	75
2024		90
<b>Total</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>234</b>

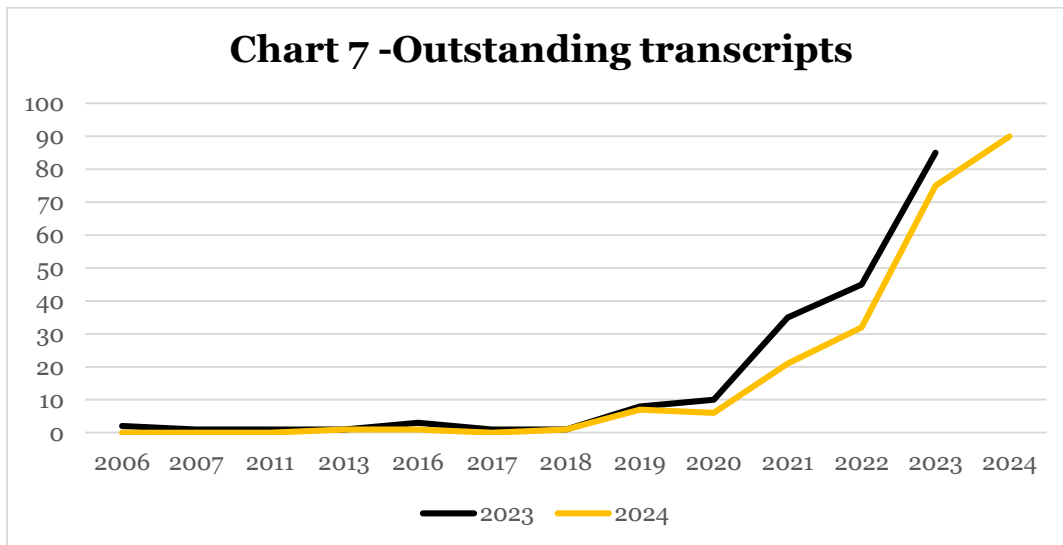


Table U and Chart 7 reveal an increase of 21.24% in the number of outstanding transcripts.

## Outstanding civil records of proceedings

Table V

Year Matter filed	Number Outstanding 2023	Number Outstanding 2024
2005	2	0
2006	6	6
2007	2	2
2008	18	13
2009	11	8
2010	15	13
2011	24	15
2012	27	22
2013	18	16
2014	17	14
2015	23	17
2016	31	25
2017	25	19
2018	29	24
2019	35	30
2020	24	15
2021	21	15
2022	32	20
2023	55	42
2024		20
<b>Total<sup>12</sup></b>	<b>415</b>	<b>336</b>

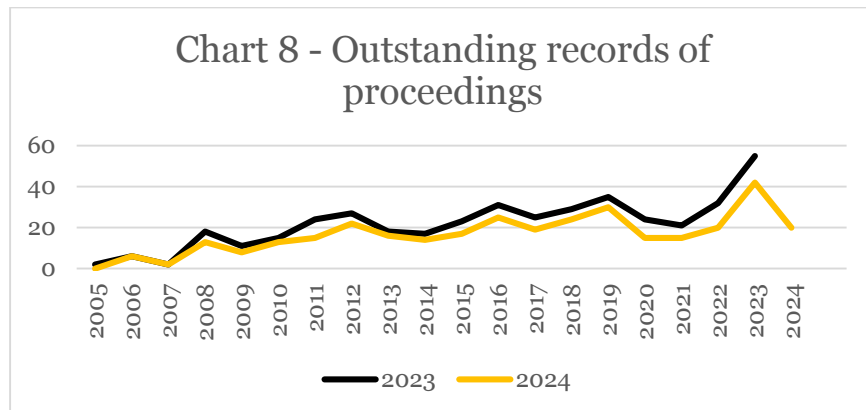


Table V and Chart 8 show that the number of civil records of proceedings decreased by 19%

<sup>12</sup> The figure for 2024 excludes those appeals for which the type of appeal and attendant requirements under the rules are to be determined.

## Pending appeals

Table W

	2023	2024
Number brought forward from previous year	1852	1810
New appeals filed	234	251
Appeals determined	276	256
<b>Balance pending at year end</b>	<b>1810</b>	<b>1805</b>

Table W depicts a 0.27% decrease in the number of appeals which were pending at the end of 2024 over the previous year. While this is a marginal decrease, it shows that the pending figure continues to trend in the right direction.

At the end of 2024, there were 1805 appeals pending. After taking into account the 237 criminal matters awaiting transcripts, and the 336 civil matters awaiting certified copies of the records of proceedings, the 'true' pending figure at the end of 2024 was 1232.

By comparison, the 'true' pending figure for 2023 was 1202, taking into account the 193 outstanding criminal transcripts and 415 outstanding certified records of proceedings.

# **Practice Directions and Notes**

In 2024, the Court of Appeal issued one Practice Direction which dealt with the form of judgments of the court.

Practice Direction No 1/2024, which took effect immediately, was issued by the court to supplement Practice Direction No 1/2010 by formalising the inclusion of catchwords and the application of 1.5 line spacing in the judgments of the court.

Practice Directions and Practice Notes issued by the Court of Appeal are available on the court's website ([www.courtsofappeal.gov.jm](http://www.courtsofappeal.gov.jm))

# News

## **Orientation for new staff**

Throughout 2024, the CAD continued to educate new members of staff about the Judiciary by conducting several orientation exercises. As is customary, the CAD extended invitations to the Court of Appeal to participate in these exercises. Registrar Mrs Stacie-Anne Brown and Deputy Registrar (Ag) Mr Adriel Williams represented the court and made presentations at these orientation sessions.

## **Annual Assize Services**

The Judiciary's annual assize services to mark the start of the Michaelmas Term were held at the William Knibb Memorial Baptist Church on 6 October 2024, and the Church of the Open Bible on 13 October 2024, under the theme "Diligently and Creatively Pursuing Justice and Peace".

## **National Honour**

The Hon Mr Justice Evan Brown JA was conferred with the Order of Distinction in the Rank of Commander in recognition of his distinguished contribution to the judiciary. The court extends to him its heartfelt congratulations on his well-deserved national honour.



**The Hon Mr Justice Evan Brown JA receiving his award**



## **Mastering the law**

Ms Shaniel Hunter, Senior Judicial Counsel, attained her Master of Laws Degree in Corporate and Commercial Law in 2024. The court is pleased to extend congratulations to Ms Hunter on this accomplishment.

## **Appointment**

Corporal Jeffrey Wilson, Close Protection Officer assigned to the Court of Appeal, was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. The court congratulates Sergeant Wilson on his elevation.

## **Stork**

The stork visited the court twice in 2024. The court was pleased to congratulate Ms Sanique Richards, Senior Judicial Counsel, on the birth of her daughter, Zurie, and Constable Kenroy Martin, Close Protection Officer assigned to the court, on the birth of his daughter, Keniesia. The court is overjoyed at these beautiful additions to its family.

## **Court Users Committee**

2024 saw continued meetings of the Court Users Committee. The committee maintained its efforts in addressing areas of concern by both the court and its stakeholders as they relate to the hearing of appeals, delivery of judgments and improving the general surroundings of the court.

At its meeting on 10 July 2024, the committee acknowledged that it was the last meeting at which the chairman, the Hon Mr Justice Patrick Brooks P, would be attending before his retirement on 17 July 2024. The committee thanked Mr Justice Brooks for his excellent stewardship of the committee during his tenure as President, for his sterling leadership of the Court of Appeal, and for his tremendous contribution to the legal profession and the Judiciary.

## **Retreats**

### **a) Judges**

The Court of Appeal held a judicial retreat for the judges of the court from 17 – 19 September 2025. At the retreat, the President outlined the proposed plans for the

Michaelmas Term 2024. Thereafter, the retreat benefitted from presentations on the various topics such as "Civil case management – the classification of civil appeals"; "Sentencing issues – the case law revisited"; and "Aspects of the Firearm (Prohibition, Restriction, Regulation) Act". The retreat concluded with sessions on stress management with Psychologist, Dr Alcon Barnett, and on physical fitness and wellness with Mr Travane Morrison of the Ministry of Health and Wellness.



**Scenes from the retreat**

The court records its appreciation to presenters at the retreat - the Hon Mrs Justice McDonald-Bishop P, the Hon Miss Justice Paulette Williams JA, the Hon Miss Justice Jennifer Straw JA, the Hon Mrs Justice Nicole Foster-Pusey JA, the Hon Mr Justice David Fraser JA, the Hon Mr Justice Evan Brown JA, Mrs Jaunya Alleyne Anderson, Director Organisational Development at the CAD, Dr Alcon Barnett, and Mr Travane Morrison. The presentations were all timely, informative and invaluable.

### **b) Senior Judicial Counsel**

The court held a training and teambuilding retreat for Senior Judicial Counsel from 16 - 19 September 2025. This retreat covered several areas, including personal and professional goal setting and strategic planning, time management and communication, judgment editing, orders in the Court of Appeal and applications to His Majesty in Council. The Senior Judicial Counsel also benefitted from a session in which they interfaced with some of their predecessors about their experiences in the role. Additionally, they joined the President and Judges of Appeal for the mental and physical health and wellness sessions mentioned above.

The court extends its gratitude to the Hon Mr Justice Patrick Brooks, retired President; the Hon Miss Justice Hilary Phillips, retired Judge of Appeal; Hon Mrs Justice Nicole Foster-Pusey JA; Master (Ag) Christine McNeil; Her Hon Mrs Patichia Lopez; Her Hon Mrs Janelle Nelson-Gayle; Registrar Stacie-Anne Brown; and Miss Rachel Davis, Director of Corporate Planning at the CAD, whose presentations at this retreat made it a resounding success.



**A token being presented to Her Hon Mrs Patichia Lopez  
by Mrs Danique Cornwall Allen**

### **c) Registry**

A retreat for the staff of the registry of the court was conducted on Friday, 20 September 2024. Dubbed "Registry Refresher", the retreat was conducted by Mrs Stacie-Anne Brown, Registrar, Mr Adriel Williams, Deputy Registrar (Ag) and Miss Ariana Mills, Judicial Counsel. Presentations focussed on the court's rules, processes and procedures in an effort to enable the staff to better perform their duties and assist external stakeholders. The court wishes to thank the presenters for their timely and informative presentations and Mrs Judith Whyte Green for assisting in organising the event.



**The Registry Refresher**



## Visits

During the year in review, the Court of Appeal was happy to open its doors to a number of visitors.

### a) The children and the President

The Hon Mr Justice Brooks P enjoyed a special visit by children of members of staff of the court. In their meeting with the President, the students were able to learn about the Court of Appeal in general and about the President in particular.



**The Hon Mr Justice Brooks P with the children of the court**

b) Courtesy call on the President

Members of the Jamaican Association of Administrative Professionals paid a courtesy call on the Hon Mr Justice Brooks P on Administrative Professionals' Day 2024. The President shared information about the Court of Appeal with the members of the association and answered their questions about the judicial system.



**The President and the Administrative Professionals**



c) Schools visit the Court

As part of its outreach to its external stakeholders, the court was pleased to host students from St George's College and AIM Online Academy.



**The President posing with students from his alma mater St George's College**



**The Hon Mrs Justice Vivene Harris CD, JA  
posing with students from AIM Online Academy**

## **Criminal Appeals Sensitisation – Department of Correctional Services**

On 6 December 2023, the Court of Appeal happily accepted the invitation of the Commissioner of Corrections to make a presentation to officers of the Department of Corrections on the criminal appeal process from the Supreme Court and the Parish Courts. The court was represented at this session by the Hon Mrs Justice Marva McDonald-Bishop P, Mrs Stacie-Anne Brown, Registrar, Mr Adriel Williams, Deputy Registrar (Ag) and Mr Jordan Jarrett, Senior Judicial Counsel, all of whom made presentations.



**Presentation to the Department of Corrections**



## Condolences

The year 2024 was one in which the court experienced great loss. On 3 February 2024, the court mourned the passing of its beloved former President, the Hon Mr Justice C Dennis Morrison OJ, CD.



**The Hon Mr Justice Bryan Sykes OJ, CD, Chief Justice of Jamaica, signing the condolence book for the Hon Mr Justice C Dennis Morrison OJ, CD**

Mr Justice Morrison's contribution to the court and the judiciary was seminal, not only because of his erudite judgments but also through the many initiatives he implemented to advance and improve the court. His loss was and remains colossal to his family, the Court of Appeal, the Jamaican and Caribbean judiciaries and the legal profession, locally, regionally and internationally.

The court was also called upon to offer deepest sympathy to the Hon Mrs Justice Georgianna Fraser JA (Ag) on the passing of her father. Additionally, the court mourned the passing of the Hon Mr Justice Kenneth Henry, retired Judge of Appeal, whose judicial service was not limited to Jamaica but extended to several Caribbean judiciaries.

On 15 November 2024, the court lost another member of its family, Mrs Jean Wilson Gordon, Executive Secretary. Having been such an integral part of the life of the Court of Appeal, not only through her substantive post but also through her active membership of

the Social Affairs Committee and her directorship of the court's choir, Mrs Wilson Gordon has left a great void and she is greatly missed.

The court extends its love and support to the respective families of the dearly departed.

### **Other activities/outreach**

In addition to the regular duties of the court, the President and Judges of Appeal were engaged as follows:

- Up until his retirement, the Hon Mr Justice Patrick Brooks P sat on the National Council on Justice; the Judicial Service Commission; the Rules Committee of the Supreme Court; King's Counsel Committee; Civil Service interview panels and chaired the Court User's Committee and the Advisory Board of the Court Administration Division.
- The Hon Mrs Justice Marva McDonald-Bishop P assumed roles on the foregoing committees in place of the Honourable Mr Justice (retd) Patrick Brooks P upon her appointment as President.
- The Hon Mrs Justice McDonald-Bishop P, the Hon Mr Justice David Fraser JA and the Hon Mrs Justice Vivene Harris JA served as Associate Tutors at the Norman Manley Law School.
- The Hon Mrs Justice McDonald-Bishop P continued to sit on the Commonwealth Secretariat's Arbitral Tribunal (CSAT) and remained a member of the International Unique Mentoring Peer to Peer Programme (I-JUMP).
- The Hon Mrs Justice McDonald-Bishop P is a member of the Advisory Committee to the Senior Courts of Belize Sentencing Guidelines Committee.
- The Hon Mrs Justice McDonald-Bishop P presented at the Judicial Education Institute of Belize Conference of Criminal Justice Reform held 2 – 4 September 2024. She presented on Judicial Ethics, Expert Evidence and Plea Negotiations.

- The Hon Mrs Justice McDonald-Bishop P was a presenter to judges of the Supreme Court on the topic Sentencing – the Jamaican Experience. This presentation was made on 21 September 2024.
- The Hon Miss Justice Jennifer Straw JA continued to chair the Criminal Case Management Steering Committee. The Hon Mr Justice D Fraser JA continued to sit on that committee.
- The Hon Mrs Justice Nicole Foster-Pusey JA sat on the General Legal Council as the Chief Justice's representative.
- The Hon Mrs Justice Foster-Pusey JA was appointed a member of the Disciplinary Tribunal established by the Judicial Service Commission of the Turks and Caicos Islands with effect from 20 November 2024 for a three-year period.
- The Hon Mr Justice D Fraser JA continued to chair the Annual Assize Services Planning Committee. The Hon Miss Justice Straw JA and Mrs Justice Foster-Pusey JA continued to sit on that committee.
- The Hon Mr Justice D Fraser JA continued to co-chair the Court Infrastructure Steering Committee. The Hon Mrs Justice Marcia Dunbar-Green JA continued to serve on that committee.
- The Hon Mr Justice D Fraser JA chaired the Digital Transformation Workgroup and the Hon Mr Justice Laing JA served on that committee.
- The Hon Miss Justice Nicole Simmons JA chaired the Supreme Court Library Committee as the representative of the President of the Court of Appeal.
- The Hon Mrs Justice McDonald-Bishop P, the Hon Miss Justice Paulette Williams JA, the Hon Miss Justice Carol Edwards JA, the Hon Mr Justice David Fraser JA, the Hon Mr Justice Kissock Laing JA (Ag) and Registrar Stacie-Anne Brown attended the 8<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference of the Caribbean Association of Judicial Officers (CAJO).

Under the theme "Justice 360 – Holistic Approaches to the Administration of Justice", this conference was held 21 – 23 November 2024 in Hamilton, Bermuda. At the conference, the Hon Miss Justice Edwards JA was re-appointed to the Executive of the CAJO.



**Snapshots from the CAJO Conference**



## Other events

The Court of Appeal continued to be enriched by the calendar of events organised by its several committees. The following represents a summary of the activities embarked upon.

The court hosted a farewell luncheon for the Hon Mr Justice Patrick Brooks on his retirement at which presentations were made to him on behalf of the court and the wider judiciary by the Hon Mrs Justice Marva McDonald-Bishop P, the Hon Mr Justice Frank Williams JA, the Hon Mrs Justice Georgianna Fraser JA (Ag) and Mrs Tricia Cameron-Anglin, Director/CEO of the CAD.



**Snapshots from the luncheon for the Hon Mr Justice Brooks P (Ret'd)**

The Occupational Safety and Health Committee maintained its focus on the health and well-being of the judges and staff of the court. Among its various activities in 2024, the committee saw to the establishment of two quiet contemplation areas and the placement of plants at various areas in the building.



**One of the court's quiet contemplation spaces**

The committee's annual Labour Day project facilitated planting plants and facelifts for the sick bay and the female bathrooms on two floors.





The committee's Annual Pink Friday recognised Breast Cancer Awareness, and a presentation was made to the staff on 28 October 2024 by Mrs Kaydia Levien-McKoy of the Reach to Recovery Society. The court also participated with the Judiciary in the annual Sigma Run.



**Sigma Run 2024**



The Social Affairs Committee, for its part, catered to the social welfare of the general staff and assisted in improving the work culture through its activities, which included birthday celebrations, Valentine's Day celebrations, a games evening, and observing International Day of Happiness.



**Scenes from Happiness Day**

The annual staff appreciation week was held under the theme: "Celebrating a Generous, Resourceful, Empowered, Accomplished and Talented (GREAT) Team" and saw a host of activities such as a motivation talk by Mrs Carolyn Reid-Cameron KC, Public Defender; Smoothie and exercise day; a breakfast and lunch treat; karaoke; and a Paint & Sip activity.



**The staff at the paint and sip event**



The committee also observed World Kindness Day, during which seven members from the court, led by the Hon Mrs Justice McDonald-Bishop P, visited the Wortley Home for Girls.



**The President and team from the court making a presentation to the Wortley Home for Girls**

The committee also arranged a send-off for Mrs Clowenese Brown-McIntosh.





**Snapshots of other events**



# Looking Ahead

The year 2024 proved to be an interesting one for the court. It was a year marked by the loss of beloved court family members; transition, with the passing of the baton from one presidency to the next; and adjustment, as the court was called upon to re-direct its focus to the hearing a few urgent matters, which had to be interjected into the court's already established schedule.

Looking ahead, the court, ever cognisant of its vision of being a world-class appellate court serving all stakeholders with excellence, will endeavor to implement initiatives that target its backlog, enable the timely delivery of judgments, foster and maintain a high standard of service to all its stakeholders, engender a healthy work environment, and ultimately enable the court to attain ISO 9001 certification as a court of excellence.

## **Appendix**

### **CITATION FOR THE HONOURABLE MR JUSTICE PATRICK ANTHONY BROOKS OJ, CD, PRESIDENT OF THE COURT OF APPEAL**

1. Slim, steady, studious, sharp, stellar. These descriptive characteristics provide a window into the life and career of The Honourable Mr Justice Patrick Anthony Brooks, OJ, CD, President of the Court of Appeal. We honour and celebrate him today. The scion of Oswald Brooks, who owned Continental Auto Parts and Carmen Books, who, for many years, was Matron at the National Chest Hospital, Mr Justice Brooks grew up in a close-knit, supportive family with his parents and brothers Howard and Peter. His parents instilled in him the qualities of discipline, a healthy work ethic, living a principled life, and the willingness to go the extra mile to help others.
2. At the primary school level, he attended St Theresa's Preparatory School and then St Aloysius Boys School on Duke Street. He remained in Kingston for his secondary level education. A proud alumnus of Saint George's College, whose light blue school colour he adores to this day; President Brooks remembers being quiet in high school.
3. He always wanted to read law. However, being unable to immediately matriculate into the Faculty of Law upon leaving high school, he contemplated pursuing mechanical engineering given his love for cars. That avenue also did not materialise. Instead, through his mother's instrumentality, he was posted to the Sutton Street Resident Magistrate's Court (now Parish Court), as an Assistant Clerk of the Courts. There he wrote summonses and occasionally prosecuted in the Petty Sessions Court. Finding that he liked the practice of law fuelled the desire to pursue his legal qualifications. During the year at Sutton Street, he attended University Extension and obtained the necessary qualifications to enter the University of the West Indies. He first did a year in the Faculty of Arts and General Studies and then applied to the Faculty of Law. He was admitted late and had to go directly to Barbados, where he did all three years of the Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree.

4. President Brooks blossomed as a university student. He made various lifelong friends and travelled to a number of other Caribbean Islands. He participated in student government by becoming Hall Treasurer. Being a St George's College alumnus, he displayed the footballing pedigree for which that school is renowned. He played as a resolute defender, representing the Cave Hill Campus in football at the inter-campus games held at the St Augustine Campus in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.
5. After completing his law degree, it was on to the Norman Manley Law School in pursuit of his Legal Education Certificate (LEC). President Brooks' penchant for hard work, for which he has been known throughout his life, was on full display during his law school years. Even though he was a full-time school student, on weekends, school and public holidays, he worked at his father's establishment. A study group at law school yielded the mutual benefits of collaboration, which he modelled at various stages in his professional life. He was a part of the fifth batch of Norman Manley Law School graduates, graduating in 1979. His ascension to the post of President of the Court of Appeal shows that from its very earliest days, the Norman Manley Law School has been producing graduates of the highest calibre! Indeed, the late Hon Mr Justice Dennis Morrison OJ, CD, whom he succeeded as President, was a part of the first batch of graduates.
6. On his graduation from the law school, he returned to the Sutton Street Resident Magistrate's Court where he was assigned as a Deputy Clerk of the Courts. One of the Clerks of the Courts was Mrs Pamela Benka Coker, later to become Queen's, now King's Counsel. The Magistrate in Court 3 was His Honour Mr Neville Clarke, who subsequently rose to become a Supreme Court Judge and an acting Judge of Appeal.
7. The hand of providence continued to guide his professional life. While working at the Manchester Resident Magistrate's Court, unbeknownst to him, his Resident Magistrate recommended him for promotion to the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP). Later, he interviewed for the post of legal assistant to the then Minister of Justice/Attorney General, the Hon. Carl Rattray, QC. Although

unsuccessful in that interview, he was subsequently invited to report to the ODPP, where he commenced working sometime in mid-1980.

8. The then Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) was Ian Forte, QC, who later became President of the Court of Appeal. There were 28 attorneys-at-law in the ODPP at the time, including Glen Andrade, later to become Queen's Counsel and DPP, Zaila McCalla (then Holness), who made history as our first female Chief Justice, and Kent Pantry, later to become Queen's Counsel and the successor to Mr Andrade as DPP. Among his mentors at the ODPP was Howard Cooke, later Supreme Court Judge and Judge of Appeal. From him, President Brooks, now Crown Counsel, learned case preparation and adopted aspects of the way he gave his opening address to the jury. President Brooks enjoyed going on circuits and remembers learning a lot from court reporters with whom he had a good working relationship. Amidst the hard work, there was some time for fun. Regular Friday evening relaxation included a domino session and, on occasion, happy hour at the then Oceana Hotel at the bottom of King Street.
9. After spending about three years at the ODPP, a surge of energy and the bright light of new opportunities led him to become a legal officer at the Jamaica Public Service company. There, for another three years, he was "charged" with useful commercial law experience.
10. President Brooks' transition to private practice was almost serendipitous. A seemingly chance meeting with his law school classmate, Jeffrey Mordecai, led to an interview with Nunes, Scholefield, DeLeon & Co., and he was invited to join the firm. At the time, the partners were Jeffrey Mordecai and Gordon Robinson, renowned senior counsel and Gleaner columnist. President Brooks was the only associate. His start date was particularly auspicious, being 17 March 1986 – St. Patrick's Day. That propitious start quickly delivered great things, which led to his being accepted into partnership 9 months later.
11. Having started out in litigation, he later engaged in different specialisations. He took over the Succession portfolio, which involved conveyancing, when Arthur Scholefield left the firm. Conveyancing, he found to be enjoyable and a good fit

for him, given its requirement for attention to detail; a defining trait that has contributed significantly to his professional success over the years. He enjoyed the camaraderie at Nunes, commenting that it was "a great place to work". He however, over time, decided to make a transition from the pressuring environment of meeting targets to one of timely production of judgments and so commenced his career in the judiciary, a long-held aspiration.

12. Before recounting President Brooks' storied judicial career, the apotheosis of his professional life, two experiences which stand out in his mind from his days as counsel, are worthy of note. Though not considering himself an outstanding litigator, these were two examples of occasions on which his advocacy was luminescent. One each at the public and private bars.
13. A high point of his prosecuting career was the case of **R v Willard Collins** for Murder. In cross-examining the accused, his parting shot was "you know this nursery rhyme, speak the truth and speak it ever, cost it what it will? Finish it". Later, during his closing address, so enraptured, so spellbound was the jury, that when he said ***"...there was blood there, there was blood there and there was..."*** a member of the jury chimed in ***"blood there!"*** When the matter went on appeal, then President of the Court of Appeal, the Hon. Mr Justice Ira Rowe, OJ, commended him on the way the case was marshalled.
14. On the civil side, he recalls appearing for an insurance company that was defending a suit brought on behalf of the insured. Mr Steven Shelton, now King's Counsel, was on the other side. Through studious research, President Brooks found the answer to the matter in Halsbury's Laws. When the case came up before the Master and the authority was produced, the shock on Mr Shelton's face was evident. It appears he thought a win was sure. That memory still brings with it a glow of satisfaction.
15. President Brooks remembers that when he first joined the bench of the Supreme Court, he was amazed at how little information was available to guide new appointees. That led to him writing a small booklet entitled, "On Becoming a Judge" to assist new judges with practical information, essential for a smooth

transition into judicial office. When he was promoted, he penned the booklet "I'm Appealing" to address a similar void in information at the Court of Appeal. Since becoming available, these booklets have demystified and eased the transition to the bench of new judicial officers. They now form a vital part of the judicial orientation package.

16. President Brooks' contribution to the development of the Jamaican judiciary does not stop there. He presented several papers to members of the upper judiciary at numerous training seminars and workshops. Chief among the papers presented were, The Theory and Practice of Bail Applications; Awarding Costs in the Court of Appeal – A view from the Bench; Summations – Observations from the Court of Appeal; Summation and the Gun Court; and Good Character Directions – When should they be given and what should be said. It is no surprise that President Brooks' deep desire to enrich the judicial education of the Jamaican judiciary found further expression in his substantial contribution to the creation of the historic Supreme Court of Judicature of Jamaica Criminal Bench Book in 2017, as Chairman of the Bench Book Committee.
17. This enduring commitment to the refinement and reinforcement of judicial education, all geared towards the enhancement of the professional judge, arguably led then Chief Justice of Jamaica, Hon Mrs Justice Zaila McCalla, to name President Brooks her nominee to sit on the General Legal Council between 2016 and 2021. He also sits on the Judicial Services Commission, the Rules Committee of the Supreme Court, the Court Administration Advisory Board and the Board of the Judicial Education Institute of Jamaica. It is fitting that this Judges' Judge was a member of the Judicial Conduct Guidelines Committee that had responsibility for the drafting and promulgation of the Judicial Code of Conduct.
18. President Brooks has epitomised and demonstrated the attributes of a sound judge. While supremely effective at the Supreme Court, his impact at the Court of Appeal, inspired by his mentor, the late President, the Hon Mr Justice (Ret'd) Dennis Morrison OJ, CD, is nothing short of monumental. His seminal contribution as an appellate judge will always gild the legacy of our court. Always well prepared,

firm but courteous, practical and results-oriented, possessed of an attractive yet economical writing style, timely and prodigious in his delivery of decisions.

19. These characteristics earned President Brooks encomiums from the Cayman Islands Court of Appeal, which described his judgment in **Cavenna Ellis v The Queen** as "detailed and comprehensive", "clear and impressive", and found his reasoning to be faultless. Those words of praise were articulated when President Brooks served as a Temporary Judge of the Grand Court of the Cayman Islands from 2014 to 2019, mainly in the Criminal Division. President Brooks also received high commendation from Jamaica's apex court when, in the 2017 case of **University of Technology, Jamaica v Industrial Disputes Tribunal and others**, the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council described his judgment in this court as "impressive".
20. President Brooks agrees with the late Chief Justice, the Hon. Mr Justice Lensley Wolfe OJ, that being a judge is a vocation. A good judge, President Brooks believes, should be fair, willing to listen, patient, hardworking, and dedicated to duty. All these traits deployed over an outstanding judicial career, a few months short of 22 years, have endeared him to litigants and litigators alike.
21. As President, he has led from the front. Both in terms of core work output as well as in advancing the administrative and social well-being of the court's life. He is the driving force behind the Court Users' Committee, which he chairs. The Court Users' Committee was the brainchild of President Brooks' immediate predecessor in office. The aim of this committee is to fortify the links between the Court of Appeal and its main stakeholders, as well as other courts, by providing a forum for the sharing of information and feedback concerning the work, needs and progress of the court.
22. President Brooks is focused on the empowering of Judges and all levels of staff; a champion of Strategic Planning along with the Honourable Chief Justice and Chief Judge of the Parish Courts, which has led to record-increasing levels of case disposals, over the past few years. Such is his concern for the welfare of the Court of Appeal family, that he identifies the growth and work of the Social Affairs



Committee as his most rewarding experience as President. It is not surprising, therefore, that while he has enjoyed all his places of work along his professional journey, President Brooks considers that his favourite working environment has coincided with the apex of his career. In his words, "what we have at the court of appeal is special".

23. While his work family is special, his personal family is the joy of his existence. President Brooks enjoys a close bond with his sibling, Howard. Beyond this sibling bond, President Brooks has been partnered for the last almost 35 years by a Winsome, beautiful, supportive, and accomplished wife. They share children, Natalie and Nicholas, and now a delightful grandson, Benjamin, the progeny of Natalie and son-in-law Kevin Green. Benjamin has made President Brooks every bit the doting grandfather. We are thankful to his family, especially his wife, Winsome, for her unstinting support, understanding and acceptance of the required sacrifices visited upon her and the family. That support enabled President Brooks to fashion the exemplary legal and judicial career we now honour.
24. While now a grandfather, President Brooks is the epitome of fitness. A frequent walker in the mornings for exercise and relaxation. His cruising walking speed has been known to have Close Protection Officers, colleagues and others who try to keep up with him, in a word, struggling. His fitness and all-round athleticism have seen him being a consistent top 3 finisher in his age group in the walking category, at the annual Sigma run; winning on at least one occasion.
25. A multi-faceted man — dedicated usher at Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church; poet; fabulous dancer; someone with service in his blood...literally, as he continues to be one of Jamaica's top blood donors. Our evergreen President has a lot we know he will continue to offer to Jamaica, the region and the world in many spheres of life.
26. The legal profession, the courts and countless litigants have benefitted from his committed stellar service as a servant of the rule of law. President Brooks' call to service led him to give unwavering and admirable support to the Jamaica Association of Women Judges, moving the Association to publicly acknowledge

him as the first male honorary member. President, we will continue to seek your counsel, rely on your knowledge, and draw on your wisdom enhanced through experience, whenever we have need and you are available. We wish you a satisfying retirement; many more years of good health; and the realisation of your plans and dreams.

27. When asked how he wished to be remembered, his response came in two words, "as fair". President Brooks, you have been fair. You have been excellent! You will be sorely missed. We wish for you the ongoing fullness of God's choicest blessings!!

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