



# COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION

## SECRETARIAT

Gordon Street, St. Augustine, Trinidad. WI

Mr. Keith Sobion  
Executive Director

Postal Address: P.O.Bag323  
Tunapuna, Trinidad, WI  
Tel: 1-868-662-5860/5835/1994  
Fax: 1-868-662-0927  
E-mail: [aregistrar@hwls.edu.tt](mailto:aregistrar@hwls.edu.tt)

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Development in Legal Education

The Council of Legal Education's three Law Schools graduated a total of 258 attorneys-at-law in October 2006. This year's graduation speakers included Acting OECS Chief Justice the Hon. Mr. Justice Brian Alleyne SC (at the Eugene Dupuch Law School in the Bahamas), Mr. Justice Anthony Carmona, a High Court Judge from Trinidad and Tobago and a former lawyer at the UN's International Criminal Tribunals for Yugoslavia and for Rwanda (at the Norman Manley Law School), and retired Judge of The Bahamas High Court, Mr. Justice Hugh Small, QC (at the Hugh Wooding Law School).

The Council which is the governing regional body for legal education in the Caribbean and which now operates law schools in Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica and The Bahamas, has been developing a new strategic plan for the enhancement of the delivery of legal education in an ever changing environment. The Council of Legal Education at its annual meeting held in St. Kitts and Nevis in September 2006, confirmed the establishment of its Regional Secretariat and the appointment of its officers. The Secretariat will serve as the coordinating centre for the implementation of the Strategic Plan.

The Chairman of Council, Mr. Emile Ferdinand of St. Kitts and Nevis, noted that the Council was a unique Caribbean organization in that its membership included all the Chief Justices as well as all the Attorneys General of the ten participating territories, representatives of the Bar Associations and the Heads of the Law Teaching Institutions. This composition permits Heads of Judiciary and Heads of the legal arm of the Executive to meet and discuss issues relating to the training of legal practitioners in the context of matters such as standards and quality of training and the constraints of financing via national budgets. The Bar Associations and the Heads of Law Teaching Institutions, in addition, bring their own perspectives to the qualities expected

of a new attorney at law and what is requisite for their training. In this regard, the Council of Legal Education has served the region well in its thirty-five years of existence.

The Regional Secretariat is intended to be a major enhancement to the operations of the Council as it seeks to provide a more focused approach to research and development as well as to ensure the timely implementation of decisions.

Mr. Ferdinand confirmed that Mr. Keith Sobion was appointed as the Executive Director of the Secretariat, on secondment from his position as Principal of the Norman Manley Law School. Other officers of the Secretariat are Mrs. Margaret Adams-Stowe, Registrar/Archivist and Mr. Michael Theodore, Researcher/Analyst, both on secondment from their positions as Assistant Registrar and Tutor respectively from the Hugh Wooding Law School.

**Council of Legal Education**

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