



THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF GUYANA

Annual General Meeting Report

2020-2021



Photo by Mr. Nikhil Ramkarran, Attorney-at-Law

www.guyanabarassociation.org

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	viii. Allied Health Professionals Council Guyana – Mr. Paul Braam
	ix. Pharmacy Council – Mr. Nigel Niles
	x. Guyana-Cuba Trade Facilitation Council of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce & Industry – Ms. Vidushi Persaud-McKinnon
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PRESIDENT'S REMARKS



MR. TENI HOUSTY, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW

It is an important when entrusted with the leadership of an Association such as the Bar Association of Guyana, the Association must be transferred to its successors stronger than it was received. The responsibility of succession. We the Bar Council 2020 - 2021 transfer to you our successors an Association stronger now, than it was when it was entrusted to our care.

In realisation of our duties, we highlight the continuing work of our several committees. There are several Committee Reports which form part of this Annual Report, the opportunity is therefore taken to formally express our appreciation and gratitude to our colleagues who serve on our Committees.

As an Association we recognise that is the welfare and interests of you our colleagues which enhances our impact, and this remains our primary focus. Nevertheless, we are part of the wider administration of justice, there is therefore of necessity the need to interact with both the Judiciary as well as the (Executive and Legislature). We therefore acknowledge the engagements with the Attorney-General and Minister of Legal Affairs. These interactions have proven meaningful, with the resulting increased workload for the Legislative Drafting Committee.

Our interactions with the judiciary have been primarily prompted as a result of the impact of the current pandemic on the administration of justice. For the future, it is hoped that the elements and the results of the engagements produce more long term and sustained impacts beyond those that have been prompted by the exigencies of the present circumstances. In implementing solutions for the administration of justice, we must recall the saying "it takes two hands to clap". The administration of justice is a collective responsibility.

It has been a privilege and honour to have served the Association for the period 2020 - 2021. As a closing note and by way of a gentle reminder, an independent Bar forms the backbone of a democracy. Do continue to stay safe, strong and healthy.

Teni Housty (Mr.)
President
Dated 17th May, 2021

BAR COUNCIL 2020-2021



MR. TENI HOUSTY
President



MR. ROBIN STOBY, SC
Vice-President



MS. JAMELA A. ALI, SC
Second Vice-President



MS. PAULINE CHASE
Secretary



MR. KEOMA GRIFFITH
Assistant Secretary



MR. NARESH POONAI
Treasurer



MR. K.A. JUMAN-YASSIN, SC
Council Member



MR. TIMOTHY JONAS, SC
Council Member



MR. HORATIO EDMONSON
Council Member



MR. KAMAL RAMKARRAN
Council Member



MR. DONAVON RANGIAH
Council Member



MS. ONASSIS GRANVILLE
Council Member



NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the 41st Annual General Meeting of The Bar Association of Guyana will take place on Friday the 28th day of May, 2021 at 3:30pm via Zoom Videoconference Link.

All members of the Association in good financial standing are hereby invited to submit resolutions and matters for the Agenda within seven (7) days of this Notice, at the Bar Office, Lot 39 Brickdam, Stabroek, Georgetown.

Dated 28th April, 2021

Pauline Chase (Ms.)

Secretary

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Reading of Notice of AGM
3. Excuses
4. Adoption of Agenda
5. Adoption of Minutes of the previous year's AGM
6. Matters arising from Minutes
7. Reports:
 - i. Secretary
 - ii. Treasurer
8. Committee Reports:
 - i. IT Committee
 - ii. Criminal Bar Committee
 - iii. Mediation Committee
 - iv. Legislative Committee
 - v. Corporate Counsel Committee
 - vi. Local Content Committee
 - vii. Committee to Review the Rules for Remuneration of Attorneys-at-Law for Non-Contentious Business
9. Board Representatives/Nominees Reports:
 - i. Council of Legal Education (Executive Council) – Mr. Robin Stoby, SC/alternate Mr. Teni Housty
 - ii. Council of Legal Education (General Council) – Mr. Kamal Ramkarran
 - iii. Guyana Legal Aid Clinic – Mr. Teni Housty
 - iv. Deeds & Commercial Registries Authority Governing Board – Ms. Jamela Ali, SC
 - v. Rules Committee – Ms. Jamela Ali, SC
 - vi. University of Guyana Council – Mr. Timothy Jonas, SC
 - vii. Juvenile Justice Committee – Mr. Keoma Griffith
 - viii. Allied Health Professionals Council Guyana – Mr. Paul Braam
 - ix. Pharmacy Council – Mr. Nigel Niles
 - x. Guyana-Cuba Trade Facilitation Council of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce & Industry – Ms. Vidushi Persaud-McKinnon
 - xi. Guyana-India Trade Facilitation Council of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce & Industry (GCCl) – Mr. Moenudin McDoom, Jnr.
 - xii. Guyana-Canada Trade Facilitation Council of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce & Industry – Mr. Sanjeev Datadin
 - xiii. Spotlight Initiative Gender Technical Working Group – Ms. Onassis Granville
10. Auditor's Report
11. Appointment of Auditors (2) for the fiscal year 2021-2022
12. Election of Members to the Bar Council
14. Adjournment



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 29th, 2020 VIA ZOOM ONLINE PLATFORM

MEMBERS PRESENT

Executive:

1. Teni Housty -President
2. Robin Stoby, SC – First Vice President
3. Kamal Ramkarran – Second Vice President
4. Pauline Chase – Secretary
5. Keoma D. Griffith – Asst. Secretary
6. Siand Dhurjon - Treasurer
7. Jamela Ali – Council Member
8. Sanjeev Datadin – Council Member
9. Alanna Lall – Council Member

Ordinary Members:

10. K Juman Yassin, SC
11. Jaya Singh-Backreedy
12. Everton Singh-Lammy
13. Janet Ali
14. Mohamed Ali
15. Shameka Tait
16. Donovan Rangiah
17. Naresh Poonai
18. Ron Motilall
19. Paul Braam
20. Sarika Gajraj
21. Onassis Granville
22. Abiola Wong-Innis
23. Nikkisha Logan
24. Danielle Anthony
25. Shivani Lalaram
26. Trevona Weekes
27. Horatio Edmondson
28. Kristal Abrams
29. Rocky Hanoman
30. Nirvana Singh
31. Samuel Glasgow
32. Leslyn Charles
33. Anita Mohan
34. Tamieka Clarke
35. Latchmie Rahamat
36. Anne Hussien
37. Yondessa Welcome
38. Javed Shadick
39. Suriyah Sabsook

EXCUSES

1. Ramona Rookum

CALL TO ORDER:

The Meeting was called to Order by the President, Teni Housty (TH) at 3:30 pm. He expressed appreciation to the members for attending the first virtual meeting. He also thanked all members for serving on the Council and others for supporting the work of the Council. He then asked the Secretary to read the Notice of the AGM

READING OF NOTICE OF AGM

The Secretary, Pauline Chase (PC) read the Notice.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The President (TH) then asked that the Motion be moved for the Agenda as published be accepted. Motion moved by Jamela Ali (JA) and seconded by Mohamed Ali (MA). Agenda adopted.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

Motion moved that the Minutes of the Last Annual General Meeting held on May 31, 2019 be adopted by Danielle Anthony (DA). Motion was seconded by Naresh Poonai (NP). Minutes adopted.

MATTERS ARISING

No matters arising from Minutes.

REPORTS:

i. Secretary noted that her Report was laid out and sent in the Annual General Report. The Secretary gave some thanks and appreciation to Keoma D. Griffith (KG). There being no questions from the Report, the Secretary moved a Motion that all the Reports to be taken and deemed read as laid out in the published Annual Report of 2019-2020. The Motion was seconded by Robin Stoby, SC (RS). Reports deemed read -

ii. Treasurer – Siand Dhurjon

No report submitted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- (i) IT Committee
- (ii) Criminal Bar Committee
- (iii) Mediation Committee
- (iv) Oil & Gas Local Content Committee

BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

- (i) Executive Council of Council of Legal Education – Robin Stoby, SC
- (ii) General Council of Council of Legal Education – Kamal Ramkarran
- (iii) Guyana Legal Aid Clinic – Teni Housty
- (iv) Juvenile Justice Committee – Keoma D. Griffith
- (v) University of Guyana Council – Tim Jonas
- (vi) Rules Committee – Jamela Ali
- (vii) Allied Health Professionals Council – Paul Braam
- (viii) Guyana-Cuba Trade Facilitation Council – Vidushi Persaud-McKinnon

No Reports received from:

(i) Pharmacy Council – Nigel Niles

(ii) University of Guyana Council – Timothy Jonas

(iii) GCCI Trade Facilitation Council of Guyana - Moenudin Mc Doom Jr.

(iv) Guyana-Canada Trade Facilitation Council of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry – Sanjeev Datadin

TH invited questions and or comments on the aforesaid Reports:

- TH assured that the voice of the Guyana Bar Association has been present and active at all Council of Legal Education Meetings from its inception.
- TH commended the consistent work of the Criminal Bar and Information Technology committees.
- PC further informed that there was a Special Meeting with the Bench and the Bar Association regarding the resumption of in person Jury Trials. RS expressed that it was clear that the judiciary was going to move ahead with their intended protocols despite the views of GBA expressed at the meeting. He expressed the need for the views especially of the junior bar on the issue.
 - Kamal Ramkarran (KR) expressed strong views on the issue of compelling witnesses to attend court and the ability of the Judiciary to guarantee their safety in court.
 - PC advised that there are still no provisions for testing witnesses and court staff. She also advised that the Registrar of the Supreme Court has confirmed that a police officer stationed at the Court of Appeal has been tested COVID-19 positive.
 - Donovan Rangiah (DR), Secretary of the Criminal Bar Committee (CBC) of the Bar Association advised that the CBC has condemned the resumption of jury trials.
 - Sanjeev Datadin echoed the sentiments of KR. He explained that a safer mechanism is required. He expressed disappointment at the mandatory summoning of witnesses when they pandemic is live.
 - PC advised that the Hon. Justice Reynolds updated that following the last Bench/Bar meeting on the resumption of jury trials, officials from the Ministry of Health have attended to the court room and have inspected, certified and approved the court room for use of trials.
- RS and TH encouraged members of the Bar to share their views at any times.
- Leslyn Charles in response to the request for views on the commencement of matters to be held on Saturdays in the Magistrates Court expressed that such a move will infringe on the fundamental rights for Saturday worshipers.
- Anne Hussein queried as to the Bar's position on the action involving the appointment of Silk. RS responded that GBA has given due consideration to the issue therein and has sought two independent opinions. He expressed that no firm position has yet been taken on whether GBA will join the litigation and what position will be taken on the legal issue before the court.
- Anne Hussein further expressed disagreement with how silk is appointed to persons especially since potentially invites a theory of favoritism. She expressed hope that the Bar would have access to the opinions provided to it. Rocky Hanoman and DR expressed similar views as Ms. Hussein.
- Samuel Glasgow raised the issue of the decision making process of the Bar Association's posture in excluding members from state agencies from being active members of the Bar Association. RS and Sanjeev Datadin duly explained the reason as to why this position was so.
- Onassis Granville raised concern about the absence of a sub-registry of the Land Registry in Essequibo. She explained the difficulty is that Counsel has to travel to Georgetown to file matters.

AUDITORS REPORT

Auditors Report for the fiscal year ending 30th April, 2019 accepted and adopted.

Motion moved by PC and seconded by Sanjeev Datadin that the Auditors Report for the fiscal year ending 30th April, 2020 be deferred to the next AGM. Motion passed.

MOTIONS & RESOLUTIONS

The following three Resolutions were passed:

- i. That the Annual General Meeting held on 29th September, 2020 by way of Zoom Video Conferencing shall be deemed to be properly held within the Rules of the Association and decisions thereat binding.
- ii. The election of members to the Bar Council by way of electronic voting system shall be deemed to be properly conducted within the Rules of the association.
- iii. Maurice Solomon & Co. be appointed as auditors of the association for the upcoming fiscal year.

ELECTION

RS moved a motion that the relevant Rules of the association be suspended to present the list of candidates in one single vote. Motion seconded by Sanjeev Datadin. Motion passed.

The slate was read by Sanjeev Datadin who then moved a motion that the persons as stated be nominated to office. The motion was seconded by Alanna Lall. Motion passed.

The Returning Officer, Ron Motilall, invited other nominations. No other nominations were made.

Sanjeev Datadin then moved a motion that nominations be closed and same was seconded by Everton Singh-Lammy. Motion to close nominations passed.

The Returning Officer declared the following persons duly elected to the corresponding positions-

1. Teni Housty - President
2. Robin Stoby, SC - First Vice President
3. Jamela Ali - Second Vice President
4. Pauline Chase - Secretary
5. Keoma D. Griffith - Asst. Secretary
6. Naresh Poonai - Treasurer
7. Juman Yassin, SC - Council Member
8. Timothy Jonas - Council Member
9. Donovan Rangiah - Council Member
10. Horation Edmondson - Council Member
11. Onassis Grandville - Council Member
12. Kamal Ramkarran - Council Member

- TH thanked everyone for their confidence in the Council and the Returning Officer for his work. He thanked members for the confidence shown and election of the Bar Council.
- The Returning Officer congratulated the Bar Council and wished them a successful year.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Rocky Hanoman (RH) congratulated the slate on their election. He queried the loss incurred by the association based on the last audit and what ideas the Bar Association had to raise funds.
 - Mr. Naresh Poonai, the newly elected Treasurer stated that there will be an aggressive effort to raise funds.
- Paul Braam queried the decrease in subscription in 2019 as opposed to 2018. He noted the position as is in other jurisdictions like Trinidad where members have to pay yearly subscription to practice.
- PC advised RH that there may be an issue as to record keeping as there was a change in Treasurer during the period, but se are now in a better financial position. She advised Paul Braam that GBA is voluntary whereas in Trinidad membership is mandatory. This would require legislation to see mandatory membership.
- Abiola Wong-Innis commended PC and KD for the prominence given to continuing legal education for the Bar. She also expressed a view that in relation to the Bar's position on the silk litigation, an acceptable long-term solution and legislative consideration may be necessary.

ADJOURNMENT

- TH thanked everyone and wished them best health.
- The Meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm.

Date Confirmed: _____

Teni Housty, President

Pauline Chase, Secretary



SECRETARY'S REPORT

MS. PAULINE CHASE, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW

This Report covers the period September 30, 2021 to May 14, 2021; the term having been reduced to eight months instead of the usual twelve months, as a result of the delayed Annual General Meeting (AGM) during the previous term due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19

The Bar Association continued during this term, as it did during the last term, to grapple with and manage the effects of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Vaccines became available nationally in or about February (2021) and the association requested of the Ministry of Health in March, 2021 that arrangements be made for the vaccination of members of the Bar as had already been done by that time for members of the Judiciary and Court Staff. A vaccination exercise was finally carried out at the High Court in both Demerara and Berbice in May, 2021 for members of the Bar and their staff, together with their families.

Regrettably, despite engagement and request, not much advancement was made in the provision for members of the Bar or to upgrade the administration of justice to cope with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Members of the Bar continued to lament that the Bar table in the Courts were not outfitted with plexiglass shields as were the Bench, Registrar/Clerk of Court, Witness Box and Dock. Further, more than a year having elapsed since the pandemic hit Guyana's shores, e-filing still has not materialized. In-person visits to the Registries were and still are necessary in order to file documents and pay fees. A request by the Association for a moratorium on filing fees, as was facilitated in Trinidad & Tobago, coupled with online filing and email service (where necessary) on Counsel was not accommodated. As were other requests and suggestions, such as the electronic commission of affidavits, all geared towards the lessening of the movement of people and thereby reduction in the risk of the spread of the virus.

Hearings at the High Court, inclusive of jury trials, and Court of Appeal proceeded admirably through the use of technology and distance controls. However, crowd control continued to plague the Magistrates' Courts, much to the concern of the association.

While operations have been affected in different aspects, even resulting in the closure of Registries, Courts and departments for varying intervals, most importantly and above anything else, there has been no loss of life at the Bar nor in this sector in which we operate.

Statutory Meetings

The Bar Council having taken a position against in person meetings in light of COVID-19, meet virtually via the Zoom online platform, the second Wednesday of every month. Attendance was as follows:

Teni Housty	-	President	-	8/8
Robin Stoby, SC	-	Vice-President	-	3/8
Jamela Ali, SC	-	Vice-President	-	8/8
Pauline Chase	-	Secretary	-	8/8
Keoma Griffith	-	Asst. Secretary	-	8/8
Naresh Poonai	-	Treasurer	-	7/8
Timothy Jonas, SC	-	Council Member	-	0/8
K. Juman Yassin, SC	-	Council Member	-	4/8
Horatio Edmonson	-	Council Member	-	5/8
Onassis Granville	-	Council Member	-	5/8
Kamal Ramkarran	-	Council Member	-	7/8
Donavon Rangiah	-	Council Member	-	6/8

Communication and decision making were also facilitated through WhatsApp and email.

Committees

The work of the Bar Association was ably supported and executed by the hard work of many members of the Bar through the following Committees -

IT Committee

- Mr. Nikhil Ramkarran - Chairperson
- Ms. Danielle Anthony - Secretary
- Mr. Ron Motilall
- Mr. Naresh Poonai
- Mr. Siand Dhurjon
- Ms. Shellon Boyce
- Mr. Keoma Griffith

Criminal Bar Committee

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • Mr. Glenn Hanoman -Chairperson | • Mr. Samuel Glasgow |
| • Mr. Donavon Rangiah -Secretary | • Mr. Brandon DeSantos |
| • Mr. Lyndon Amsterdam | • Mr. Bernard DaSilva |
| • Mr. Sanjeev Datadin | • Ms. Mitra Devi Ali |
| • Ms. Latchmie Rahamat | • Mr. Siand Dhurjon |
| • Mr. Dexter Todd | • Ms. Yondessa Welcome-Mercurius |
| • Mr. Curtis R. Crawford | • Ms. Anita Mohan |
| • Mr. Keoma Griffith | • Ms. Collette Marks |
| • Mr. Everton Singh-Lammy | • Ms. Chandra Persaud |

Mediation Committee

- Mr. Teni Housty -Chairperson
- Ms. Jamela Ali
- Ms. Emily Dodson
- Ms. Chandra Persaud
- Ms. Yolander Persaud
- Mr. Keoma Griffith
- Mr. Siand Dhurjon
- Ms. Nekeisha Persaud
- Mr. Bernard DaSilva
- Ms. Tonza Sarrabo

Legislative Committee

- Ms. Alanna Lall -Chairperson
- Ms. Danielle Anthony -Secretary
- Ms. Excellence Dazzell
- Ms. Odessa James
- Ms. Anita Mohan-Hamilton
- Ms. Anuradha Deodasingh

Corporate Counsel

- Mr. Moenudin McDoom -Chairperson
- Mr. Stephen Roberts -Secretary
- Ms. Jamela Ali, SC
- Mr. Sanjeev Datadin
- Mr. Rocky Hanoman
- Mr. Everton Singh-Lammy
- Ms. Anita Mohan-Hamilton
- Mr. Ron Motilall
- Ms. Vidushi Persaud-McKinnon
- Ms. Ayana McCalman
- Mr. Devindra Kissoon
- Mr. Dexter Todd
- Ms. Nekeisha Persaud
- Mr. Kadeem Davis

Local Content Committee

- Ms. Jamela Ali, SC
- Mr. Christopher Ram
- Mr. Devindra Kissoon

Committee to Review the Rules for Remuneration of Attorneys-at-Law for Non-Contentious Business

- Mr. Ronald Burch-Smith - Chairperson
- Mr. Stephen Fraser, SC - Advisor
- Ms. C. Persaud
- Mr. Selwyn Pieters
- Ms. Anne Hussein

The President and Secretary are ex officio members of all Committees.

Meetings

During the term, there was continuous engagement with the Bench and the Hon. Attorney General on matters touching and concerning the Bar in the administration of justice.

Meetings were also attended, on the invitation of Ministries, at which representation was made for and on behalf of the Bar on matters such as Intellectual Property, Local Content and the Guyana/Venezuela border dispute.

Engagement was also had with civil society groups and fellow Bar Associations within the Commonwealth Caribbean and internationally through the Organization of Commonwealth Caribbean Bar Associations (OCCBA), the Commonwealth Lawyers Association (CLA) and the International Bar Association (IBA) of which The Bar Association of Guyana is a member.

Court Proceedings

- **The Bar Association of Guyana v The Town Clerk – Action No. 2019-HC-DEM-CIV-FDA-1975**

The Association challenged by way of judicial review the decision of the Town Clerk of Georgetown to demand certain documents and a fee of 0.5% of the current market value of a property in order to obtain a Certificate of Compliance therefor in accordance with Section 16A of the Deeds Registry Act. Hearing of this matter concluded on the September 4, 2020 before the Honourable Justice Gino Persaud. A decision has not yet been rendered.

- **Guyana Bar Association v Revenue Authority – Action No. 601 of 2003**

The matter having been put down earlier for settlement, awaits a date for continuation.

- **Timothy Jonas v Attorney General et al – Action No. 2020-HC-DEM-CIV-FDA-627**

On application, the Bar Association of Guyana was joined as an interested party and with the leave of the Court, made submissions. The Application of Jonas which made certain challenges to the award of silk of four members of the Bar, was dismissed. No award of costs.

Senior Counsel

Six Senior Counsel were admitted to the Inner Bar earlier this year, namely, Mr. Murseline Bacchus, SC; Mr. Roysdale Forde, SC; Mr. Stanley Moore, SC; Ms. Jamela Ali, SC; Hon. M.A. Nandlall, SC and Mr. Timothy Jonas, SC.

Publications

There were no publications during the term. The submission of articles from the Bar for publication continues not to be forthcoming.

Continuing Legal Education

Two Webinars were held during the period. The first was held on November 12, 2021 which was facilitated by the Commissioner of Title, Madam Nicola Pierre on the topic, “INTENTIONal Intervention in the Evolution of Prescription in Guyana”. The second was held on December 21, 2020 in collaboration with the Attorney General’s Chambers and Ministry of Legal Affairs on the topic “GUYANA, The Next Arbitration Hub: The Journey Begins” which was facilitated by Justice Courtney Abel.

Members of the association also had access to and thereby benefitted from Webinars held by the IBA, the University of the West Indies (UWI) and sister Caribbean Bar Associations such as The Law Association of Trinidad and Tobago (LATT) through OCCBA.

Social Activities

With in person gathering restricted due to COVID-19 measures, social activities of the association were curtailed. The annual Bar Dinner was not held at the end of 2020 as per custom.

The Christmas Social was however held, virtually, on December 22, 2020. Games were played and the winners were awarded with prizes. Christmas Cheer Packages to accompany the social were sold to raise funds.

For the first time, a Law Office Christmas Decorating Challenge was held. Members of the association were invited to submit photos which were judged at the Christmas Social by poll. The hotly contested competition was won by Ms. Priyanka Sookraj who was awarded with a trophy and bragging rights.

Bar of Sorrow

The Bar suffered the profound loss of our dear colleagues Maxwell McKay on November 22, 2020; C.M.L. John, SC on January 16, 2021 and Leon Oswald "Gun" Rockliffe on February 12, 2021.

Fire

On April 28, 2021, fire ravaged and completely destroyed the Sharon's Building in Charlotte Street, which housed a number of Counsel Chambers. A benevolence fund has been set up to render assistance to our colleagues who have suffered much loss by the fire.

Here & There

In response to a Call to Action issued by OCCBA, donations were solicited from members of the Bar to assist St. Vincent which suffered the effects of the eruption in April, 2021 of the La Soufriere Volcano on the island. One hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) was raised which will be sent to OCCBA for onward transmission to St. Vincent through the Bar Association there.

It is of concern, the frequency with which the Association receives complaints against Attorneys-at-Law in their conduct with clients, members of the public and on one occasion, with each other; the latter of which led to the formal process under the Rules of the Association being activated. Should this trend continue, it could have damaging effects on the standing and status of the profession.

Thank you

While we continue to adapt to "the new normal", it is still a work in progress which brings challenges. However, with adversity comes strength. I am immensely proud of this association and its members who have unwaveringly withstood the challenges that have come. The association is strong and well supported. And that alone, has made this non-paying job an absolute pleasure. I extend every good wish to the new executive.



Pauline Chase (Ms.)

Secretary

Dated 16th May, 2021

TREASURER'S REPORT

MR. NARESH POONAI, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW



This report covers the shortened term of the Bar Council between 30th September, 2020 to 30th April, 2021 given the Bar Association's last Annual General Meeting being delayed due to the novel coronavirus, COVID-19.

Finances – “Dollars and Cents”

Despite challenges arising out of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Bar Association had a total income of \$2,141,760 (two million one hundred and forty-one thousand seven hundred and sixty dollars) for the term. This sum is inclusive of monies earned by the Bar Association, donations and monies collected on behalf of our regional sibling organizations, the Law Association of Trinidad and Tobago (“LATT”) and the Organization of Commonwealth Caribbean Bar Associations (“OCCBA”), for webinars held in 2020 and 2021. As per the norm, membership subscription was the chief earner with 123 (one hundred and twenty-three) Attorneys-at-Law paying subscription fees thus far for 2021.

The Bar Association expended the sum of \$1,596,186 (one million five hundred and ninety-six thousand one hundred and eighty-six dollars) (not including bank and miscellaneous transfer fees) over this period including monies remitted to our sibling organizations. Monthly expenses were also routine with no major unexpected expense occurring over the shortened term.

The Bar Association's finances are in a decent position with the incoming executive having funds at hand to start things off with a bang. For the year ended 30th April, 2021, the Bar Association's balances were as follows:

- Citizens Bank Account for Bar Journal: \$1,046,730.25 (one million forty-six thousand seven hundred and thirty dollars and twenty five cents);
- Guyana Bank for Trade and Industry Checking Account: \$843,882 (eight hundred and forty-three thousand eight hundred and eighty-two dollars);
- Cheques for checking account not yet deposited: \$172,000 (one hundred and seventy-two thousand dollars);
- Cash on Hand: \$21,630 (twenty-one thousand six hundred and thirty dollars); and
- GBA's Mobile Money Guyana subscriber account: \$1,452 (one thousand four hundred and fifty-two dollars).

Assets – “The Tings”

The Bar Association’s assets over the shortened period were maintained with only standard depreciation. The Bar office is fully stocked and continues to function as our administrative office. The library and meeting/conference area has also been maintained for use. To cope with “the new normal” the Bar Association invested in a Zoom licence to enable virtual meetings with the subscription paid up until the end of 2021. As well, the hosting for the Bar Association website, which has seen increased traffic, was renewed until the first quarter of 2022. Physical infrastructure to outfit the Bar office as a space for Attorneys-at-Law to utilize for virtual hearings was explored but was not proceeded with before the expiry of the term. Perhaps the incoming executive can consider this to further cope with “the new normal.”

Accounts and Audits – “The Paperwork”

The Bar Association has not had the best track record with financial record keeping and timely audits. Who would’ve guessed that Attorneys are not the best accountants? However, record keeping has significantly improved, the accounts are in good order and the audit for the year ended 30th April, 2020 was finalized and approved. Despite every effort, the audit for the year ended 30th April, 2021 is not yet completed but this should be done in the coming months and, if all goes well, the audit for the year ended 30th April, 2022 would be ready for the 2022 AGM.

Fundraising and Revenue Collection – “More Ways to Pay”

While the Bar Association was unable to have multiple fundraising events due to the COVID-19 pandemic, two (2) events were added to the books, the Coastal Clean-up event (held in early September, 2020) and the Christmas Cheer Package initiative. Both activities were successes with funds ably assisting the Bar Association. Bar ID Cards and Merchandise sales led by our Secretary were also significant earners for the Bar Association. Unfortunately, no Bar Journal was published to assist with revenue generation. Despite present challenges, fundraising is the most opportune way to not only build our coffers but also to promote camaraderie between members of the Bar and to promote continuing legal education. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, paid webinars remain the most plausible fundraising initiative.

Significantly, the Bar Association expanded payment options which enabled greater revenue as well as a decrease in physical interaction to combat the pandemic. Payment offices were opened in Berbice and Essequibo at the offices of Ms. Suriyha P Sabsook and Ms. Onassis Granville respectively. Particularly, our colleagues in Berbice supported the Bar Association and utilized the payment office. A special thank you to Ms. Sabsook and Ms. Granville for their assistance.

Additionally, the Bar Association was listed on the Guyana Telephone & Telegraph’s Mobile Money Guyana (MMG) Application as a biller and has its own subscriber account with both allowing payment to be made via the MMG website or mobile app with transfer directly to the Bar Association’s bank account. The younger members of the Bar utilized this payment method and it is hoped that use increases. Finally, local Bank to Bank online transfers were put in place and utilized to decrease physical contact. In light of this, the Bar Association has started the process to utilize E-Banking to promote ease of use, transparency, and less physical contact.

An Appeal – “Our Friends at the Bar”

As you are all aware, 2020 was a trying year not only locally but worldwide. 2021 started off in a better fashion but two (2) tragedies I wish to highlight. Firstly, the eruption of La Soufriere in St. Vincent caused tremendous loss and damage and OCCBA has reached out to solicit donations to assist those in St. Vincent. A relief fund was set up by the Bar Association with reception being lukewarm. This fund has not yet been closed and monies are still to be sent.

Secondly, the destruction of the Sharon’s Mall on Charlotte and King Streets has not only caused significant loss to our colleagues but has left them all displaced. The Bar Association opened a benevolence fund to assist our colleagues with several donations already being received.

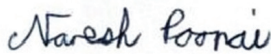
I am appealing to members of the Association to support these charitable initiatives to assist our colleagues and friends in the coming days. We are in this pandemic and each tragedy together.

Word of Gratitude – “Thank You”

It has been a pleasure to serve as Treasurer on the Bar Council for the past term. While the experience has alternated between challenging and slightly less challenging, it has been a rewarding experience that has improved my accounting knowledge and record keeping skills. However, I am still no expert pursuant to Part 32 of the CPR but, in time, perhaps this will happen.

I thank the Bar Association's members for the privilege of serving and I must express thanks to my colleagues on the Bar Council for their guidance throughout the term. It has been a memorable experience. As well, allow me to echo the President and Secretary, in repeating that an independent Bar is necessary and our association remains strong and well supported. It is hoped that this support continues and a proactive Bar Association leads the charge for justice.

Finally, I wish the incoming executive well and success in carrying out its mandate in the interest of the Bar Association.



Naresh Poonai

Treasurer

Dated 17th May, 2021

COMMITTEE REPORTS

i. IT Committee

During this fiscal year, the Council did not require much technical assistance from the Committee so no formal meetings were held. However, various members were able to assist the Council with specific technical requests.

Dated 13th May, 2021

Report prepared by Ms. Danielle Anthony, Committee Secretary

ii. Criminal Bar Committee

The Criminal Bar Committee's (hereinafter referred to as the 'CBC') activities were somehow curtailed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The activities were as follows:

1. Submissions on the Draft Guidelines for Jury Trials During Covid-19.

2. Submissions were made on the 12th May 2020 to the Guyana Bar Association on the following:

(a) At a Bench and Bar Meeting, it was suggested by the Bench that facilities be put in place for persons charged in breach of the COVID-19 Measures ('Army/Ormy Bus') to be dealt with at the Police Station. This would involve the Magistrate and Counsel, if retained, to appear remotely after curfew hours. Whether the criminal bar is supportive of the suggestion and if not, what alternative does the Committee propose;

(b) It is still the practice in the Georgetown Magistrates' Court to handcuff and detain individuals who are pursuing the payment of a fine post-conviction or the payment of bail after entering a plea of not guilty. The issues are:

i. the lawfulness of the practice complained of;

ii. whether the responsible party is the Chief Magistrate or Police and

iii. what steps should the Bar Association take.

(c) The Criminal Bar Committee has noted that a policy has developed in the Magistrate's Court for the filing of some police matters to be held in abeyance until and unless permission is granted by individual magistrates. This practice has often caused a constitutional breach of a detainee's right not to be detained beyond 72 hours without charge. In such an eventuality, the courts can be accused of aiding and abetting a constitutional breach. The Committee is unaware of a statutory provision that permits the current practice and would recommend that all matters presented for filing be accepted and called as soon as practicable before any magistrate sitting in the jurisdiction.

3. Written report on the draft Practice Direction in relation to the taking of a guilty plea and the indication of maximum sentence (MSI) dated the 12th October, 2020.

Dated 12th May, 2021

Report prepared by Mr. Donavon Rangiah, Committee Secretary

iii. Mediation Committee

During the last reporting period the Mediation Committee had supported the High Court with the adoption of the mediation protocol for the conduct of High Court Mediations. These protocols have been adopted by the High Court and are presently utilised for the conduct of mediations. There were no meetings of the Committee held during the intervening reporting period. Members of the Committee remain engaged through the WhatsApp Group. With linkages with the Supreme Court of India members have participated in several informative webinars. These international webinars provide invaluable opportunities for learning, interaction and refining of mediation skills. Several of the webinars have focused on mediations during the period of the pandemic.

For the future work of the Mediation Committee, it is noted that at last meeting of the Bar and the Judiciary has placed an item on the agenda of the Mediation Committee. The Committee will in the coming weeks explore the practicality of utilising online platforms in addition to Zoom, for the conduct of online mediations. There is an acknowledged need for the utilisation of alternative online platforms in addition to the current single licensed unlimited Zoom. The use of a single Zoom license, has reportedly created a backlog in dates and scheduling of online mediations. Some mediators utilise their own private Zoom licence, which has eased some of the backlog. There is nevertheless a need to explore the feasibility of existing options such as Skype, Google Meets and Microsoft Teams.

Dated 16th May, 2021

Report prepared by Mr. Teni Housty, Committee Chairperson & President of The Bar Association of Guyana

iv. Legislative Committee

The Legislative Committee of the Association was convened on the 4th November, 2020 for the fiscal year of 2020-2021. The Committee considered the following:

- Hire Purchase Bill No. 14 of 2020
- Amendment to the Deeds Registry Act Chapter 5:01 (DRA) and Regulations thereto
- Amendment to the Power of Attorney Act Chapter 5:08 (POAA)
- Amendment to the Public Notaries Act Chapter 4:02 (PNA)
- Wills Amendment Bill (2021)
- Restorative Justice Bill (2021)
- Anti-Dumping Duties Bill (2021)

All the matters arising before the Committee have been addressed and presented to the Association, save and except the Anti-Dumping Duties Bill (2021) which is still under review.

There is no other pending matter before the Committee or any other matter arising.

Dated 14th May, 2021

Report prepared by Ms. Danielle Anthony, Committee Secretary

v. Corporate Counsel Committee

At the behest of Ms. Pauline Chase, Secretary of the Guyana Bar Association, members of the Guyana Bar Association were invited to indicate their interest by volunteering to become members of the Corporate Counsel Committee of the Guyana Bar Association. This committee was formed in response to a suggestion by Mr. Rocky Hanoman, Attorney-at-Law, to Mr. Teni Housty, President of the Guyana Bar Association (the “Bar”).

The first meeting of the Committee was held on April 20, 2021, which meeting was attended by thirteen Members of the Bar including Ms. Jamela Ali, S.C., Ms. Vidushi Persaud-McKinnon, Ms. Ayanna McCalman, Mr. Ron Motilal, Ms. Dexter Todd, Mr. Kadeem Davis, Ms. Anita Mohan, Ms. Pauline Chase, Mr. Teni Housty, Mr. Moenudin McDoom, Mr. Stephen Roberts, Mr. Rocky Hanoman and Ms. Nekeisha Persaud. At its inaugural meeting the Committee elected Mr. Moenudin McDoom as its President, and Mr. Stephen Roberts as its Secretary.

The Committee has since convened two meetings on April 28, 2021 and May 11, 2021, focusing its preliminary efforts towards identifying issues which affect corporate practice in Guyana, and designing proposals for their resolution. The Committee has broadly focused its efforts on: 1) Identifying issues relating services of the Commercial Registry; 2) Analysing the extent to which practices of the Commercial Registry align with the Companies Act, Cap. 89:01; 3) identifying a strategy for the rectification of issues impacting services rendered by the Commercial Registry; and 4) analyzing legislation which impacts commercial practice in Guyana with a view to suggesting amendments and/or bills of Parliament and/or engagements with Regulatory Bodies, the Honourable Attorney-General and other government officials, which can be led by the Guyana Bar Association and supported by the Committee.

This committee continues to pursue its mandate which is to provide a forum for corporate/in house counsel and counsel in private practice to discuss, address and advise the Bar Council issues and such matters related to corporate practice. The Committee focuses on areas of corporate management and governance, corporate compliance, interactions with commercial government agencies by Attorneys-at-Law, commercial/business operations and the laws, rules and regulations that govern commercial operations and business in Guyana.

The mandate of the committee includes:

- a) to ensure the clear, uniform, and consistent adherence to and application of business-related laws by government agencies;
- b) to challenge infringements of business-related laws by government agencies, resulting from either their non-adherence to same, or the harmful or incorrect application of same;
- c) to advocate for modern business-related laws to be passed in Parliament to ensure the creation of a modern economy where there is strong investor confidence, and business can be conducted with a high degree of ease and expediency;
- d) to encourage and raise awareness about corporate and commercial law as a discrete specialty of legal practice to future generations of lawyers; and
- e) to represent and advise the Bar Council and the Guyana Bar Association membership on such issues related to corporate practice as may be required.

The Committee wishes to express its gratitude to the Bar Council for recognizing the need for these issues to be addressed, and for creating the framework in this Committee to advance the interest of Corporate Attorneys in Guyana, in spite of the challenges posed by the global pandemic and the adjustments we have all made to our practices to adapt to these ever changing times.

Dated 16th May, 2021

Report prepared by Mr. Stephen Roberts, Committee Secretary

vi. Local Content Committee

The Committee had an encouraging meeting with representatives of the Ministry of Natural Resources in March, 2021, at the latter's invitation. Representation was made for the legal profession to be including in the Local Content Policy. Submissions in writing were later made.

Dated 13th May, 2021

Report prepared by Ms. Pauline Chase, Committee Member & Secretary, The Bar Association of Guyana

vii. Committee to Review the Rules for Remuneration of Attorneys-at-Law for Non-Contentious Business

No report submitted.

BOARD REPRESENTATIVES/ NOMINEES REPORTS

i. Council of Legal Education (Executive Council) – Mr. Robin Stoby, SC/alternate Mr. Teni Housty, Attorney-at-Law

The meetings of both the Executive Committee (as well as the General Council) continue to be held virtually. Decisions are also reached by email round robin. These methods are of necessity, but nevertheless have saved the Council significantly in travel and accommodation associated expenses. The last in-person meeting of the Council was in the Bahamas in January of 2020.

The President represented the Bar at the Executive Council, held by Zoom on Friday 5th March, 2021. This meeting considers issues of finances as well as reports from various Committees of the Council. With Guyanese students paying the full economic costs of attending the Law Schools, there is no indebtedness on the part of Guyana to the Council.

The teaching of all courses has migrated to an online platform. At the time of preparing this report assessments are continuing at the Schools. A concern was raised on the part of the Guyana Bar regarding the continued costs of the services of the Law Schools, particularly whether there would be a reduction in the costs having regard to the online teaching. It was clarified that the transformation to online teaching required investments in digital hardware as well as software, investments which would not have reduced to costs of the delivery of the course contents. Additionally, there has been an increase in the staff complement at the Hugh Wooding Law School to support content delivery.

The issue of the Law School to be established in Guyana was not pursued at the 2021 meeting of the Executive Committee. The Collaborative Agreement between the University of Guyana, the University of the West Indies and the Council of Legal Education, was extended for another year. This decision was taken in March 2021. It is intended for the text of the revised Collaborative Agreement to be finalised, before the next meeting of Council scheduled for September, 2021.

Dated 16th May, 2021

ii. Council of Legal Education (General Council) – Mr. Kamal Ramkarran

No report submitted.

iii. Guyana Legal Aid Clinic – Mr. Teni Housty

The Guyana Legal Aid Clinic Inc. (the Clinic) meets consistently on the third Wednesday of every month. Save for the meeting of the 21st of April, 2021 which clashed with an ongoing mediation, the President has represented the Bar at all meetings of the Clinic during the past year. The meetings are efficiently held by Zoom, commencing from 3:30pm. During the year, the Clinic presented the Miles Greaves Fitzpatrick award to the best performing Guyanese student at the Legal Aid Clinic at the Hugh Wooding Law School.

The Clinic continues to be staffed by colleagues who serve the courts in Demerara, Berbice and Essequibo. The Clinic continues to receive a subvention from the State in support of its work. Clients of the Clinic are nevertheless required to meet a financial means test.

Thank you to our members who offer support in matters engaging the attention of hinterland courts. For the Association, we are urged to support the Clinic in offering time to assist in matters which we can support. The future is likely to see the increased expansion of legal aid in Guyana, a future which we as an Association should continue to endorse. We will seek to respond to the pro-bono 500 initiative when mobilised. This initiative will seek to have 50 colleagues do 10 pro-bono matters in each year. Some members have begun to express their commitment. The objectives of legal aid are symbiotically aligned with the commitment to the Association in promoting access to justice.

Dated 16th May, 2021

iv. Deeds & Commercial Registries Authority Governing Board – Ms. Jamela Ali, SC

No report submitted.

v. Rules Committee – Ms. Jamela Ali, SC

No report submitted.

vi. University of Guyana Council – Mr. Timothy Jonas, SC

Probably as a result of Covid, no invitation was received from the University of Guyana Board to meet during the past year. Similarly, no other correspondence was received from that Board. Nonetheless, as far as I am aware, classes are being conducted virtually, the campus not having opened for students except in cases where personal attendance was necessary.

Dated 13th May, 2021

vii. Juvenile Justice Committee – Mr. Keoma Griffith

Despite the effects of the covid-19 pandemic and the many restrictions which have followed, the Juvenile Justice Committee has made every effort to continue its mandate and ensure an improved justice system to juveniles. In this regard, the Department has undertaken to assist University of Guyana and other Students by providing pertinent information for their dissertation as it relates to Juvenile Justice and child rights.

The Department continues to engage with members of the Guyana Police Force in matters involving juveniles who come into contact with the law and justice system. Consequently, during the period 2020-2021, interviews were held with the children and reports conducted to be presented before to the Courts across Guyana to ensure a fair and just system of justice is dispensed to juveniles.

The Early Childhood Development project is another initiative which the Department has undertaken. This sees the Staff of the Department conducting interviews with juveniles at the Juvenile Holding Center at Sophia. It is aimed at acquiring information in order to improve the living situations of juveniles who are in the justice system.

Because funding is a critical element in realizing the goals of the department, the Department has sought to partner with UNICEF and is thus expected to receive same to assist in hygiene of juveniles at the Holding Centre, initiatives to cope with the COVID 19 Pandemic, legal aid and legal representation, and psycho-social care. The department has also sought to build new beds for the juveniles at the Juvenile Holding Center.

The Department sees as one of its core responsibilities, the collaboration and joint activity with the Crime Observatory unit. This allows for data collection and tracing of Juveniles who have been in contact/conflict with the law. This activity is necessary as part of the verification of information and accuracy of reports.

Finally, the department has been able to formulate a Comprehensive Needs Assessment Questionnaire for Juveniles. At the same time, work is ongoing to see to fruition the development of a Juvenile Justice platform with an efficient and compatible in the Management Information System.

Dated 16th May, 2021

viii. Allied Health Professionals Council Guyana – Mr. Paul Braam

No report submitted.

ix. Pharmacy Council – Mr. Nigel Niles

Statutory meetings of the Council are held on the second Wednesday of each month. During the period September 2020 to March 2021, six (6) meetings were held. I attended four (4) of the six (6) meetings held. My absence at any meeting may have been as a result of work commitments.

The major matters addressed over the period were –

a. Internship Programme

The Council continues to tackle issues with respect to this programme including training and roles of preceptors and it was agreed that the Education Committee of the Council should play a more active role in overseeing the internship programme.

b. Continuing Education

The Council conducts continuing education seminars twice per year where members of the profession are refreshed on the certain areas of their training and presentations are made on new or innovative inventions in the field of medicine. CE sessions were held on October 26th & 27th 2020 via Zoom.

c. Elections

Elections for a new Executive are scheduled for June 9th 2021.

d. Challenges

Effects of the global pandemic continue to present challenges for the Council and all meetings are currently had via Zoom. It has also presented a challenge with respect to the conduct of the upcoming elections. The Council has engaged the services of an IT services consultant, incurring a cost, to conduct its elections via an online platform.

Dated 20th May, 2021

x. Guyana-Cuba Trade Facilitation Council of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce & Industry – Ms. Vidushi Persaud-McKinnon

Pursuant to the kind recommendation of the Bar Association, I was duly appointed by the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce & Industry (GCCCI) as the Bar Association's representative on the Guyana-Cuba Trade Facilitation Council (Council) which was established in 2018 to foster trade and relations between Guyana and Cuba.

This Council comprises the Chair, who is a nominee of GCCCI, Mr. Gavin Ramsoondar, Vice-Chairman, also GCCCI's representative Mr. Richard Rambarran. Other entities such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Guyana Tourism Authority, Ministry of Business and GO-Invest all have nominees who sit on the Council. The Meetings of the Council I have attended prior to the restrictions in response to the Covid-19 Pandemic were relatively well attended, with the last Meeting being held virtually at the beginning of this year.

Areas addressed thus far primarily deal with trade and travel between the two countries. There were previous plans to participate in the FIHAV Trade Fair in Cuba. However, the Go-Invest representative who was spearheading this Trade Fair, indicated that all events continue, until further notice, to be virtual.

The Cultural Exchange Programme Students at the University of Guyana also would have attended and participated in cultural studies in Cuba but this also continued to be deferred. It was suggested that a virtual classroom setting can be used as well and this option will be explored.

Another area of discussion is the proposed establishment of a Cambio at the Cheddie Jagan International Airport. A few cambios were shortlisted but the Chairman met with representatives of the Bank of Guyana who indicated that the establishment of a Cambio is dependent on the approval by the Ministry of Finance and at the time it was put on hold and still is.

An issue that was raised and will no doubt engage attention in the future will concern the Ministry of Citizenship and their policy with respect to the granting of licences to Cuban nationals. There appears to be some difficulties experienced with Cuban professionals having to physically return to their country for a period of time. A Meeting will have to be scheduled to discuss this further but it was noted that tremendous assistance was received thus far from the Cuban Medical professionals during this surreal time with Covid-19 should be taken into account in making it less onerous especially for persons who have families here.

The Cuban government has thus far been assisting Guyana in the form of sending officials and PPEs to Guyana in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. In return they had requested that the GCCI organize a flight to assist stranded Cubans to return to Cuba and distribute hampers to the stranded Cubans in Guyana which was duly done.

Thanks to the Executive Committee once again for the opportunity to serve as a representative of the Bar on this Council.
Dated 10th May, 2021

xi. Guyana-India Trade Facilitation Council of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce & Industry (GCCCI) – Mr. Moenudin McDoom, Jnr.

No report submitted.

xii. Guyana-Canada Trade Facilitation Council of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce & Industry – Mr. Sanjeev Datadin

No report submitted.

xiii. Spotlight Initiative Gender Technical Working Group – Ms. Onassis Granville

No report submitted.



AUDITOR'S REPORT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING 30th APRIL, 2020

GUYANA BAR ASSOCIATION

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS AT 30 APRIL 2020

TOGETHER WITH

REPORT OF THE AUDITORS

**MAURICE SOLOMON & CO.
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS**

GUYANA BAR ASSOCIATION

30 APRIL 2020

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF GUYANA BAR ASSOCIATION

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Qualified Opinion

In our opinion, except for the effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion section of our report, the accompanying the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Guyana Bar Association as at April 30, 2020 and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) for Small and Medium Sized Entities (SMEs).

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Guyana Bar Association which comprise the statement of financial position as at April 30, 2020, the statement of income and expenditure for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies as set out in pages 6 to 8.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

The Association reported the sum of one million nine hundred and ninety seven thousand and sixty five dollars (\$1,997,065) as donations received for the year as shown in note six (6) of the financial statement. Included in this amount, was the sum of one million two hundred and seventy-three thousand seven hundred and ninety four dollars (\$1,273,794) being excess deposits made in the bank account and sufficient records to verify the sources of such deposits were not available.

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Guyana Bar Association in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) for Small and Medium Sized Entities (SMEs), The Companies Act 1991, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Association's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

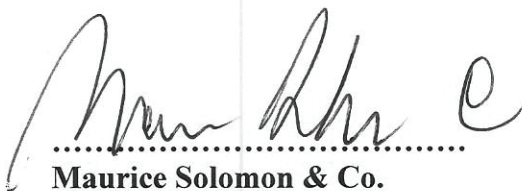
Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.

- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the association to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.



.....
Maurice Solomon & Co.
Chartered Accountants
May 6, 2021

GUYANA BAR ASSOCIATION
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 30 APRIL 2020

	Note	2020 G\$	2019 G\$
ASSETS			
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Machinery and Equipment	3	<u>1,102,448</u>	<u>1,279,262</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Receivables & Prepayments	4	992,000	68,000
Cash and Bank	5	<u>1,101,615</u>	<u>1,787,863</u>
		<u>2,093,615</u>	<u>1,855,863</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u><u>3,196,063</u></u>	<u><u>3,135,125</u></u>

EQUITY AND LIABILITIES

ACCUMULATED FUND	8	2,117,171	1,569,886
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Payables	9	664,892	809,746
Advance Income		<u>414,000</u>	<u>755,493</u>
		<u>1,078,892</u>	<u>1,565,239</u>
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		<u><u>3,196,063</u></u>	<u><u>3,135,125</u></u>

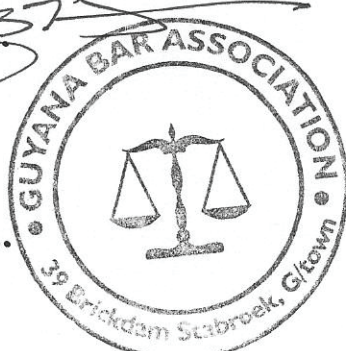
The Council approved these financial statements for issue on 10th March, 2021.

Terri Haist

 President

Pauline Chase

 Secretary



The notes on pages 6 to 8 form an integral part of these financial statements.

GUYANA BAR ASSOCIATION
STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2020

	Note	2020 G\$	2019 G\$
INCOME	6	8,140,448	4,269,516
EXPENSES			
Administrative Expenses	7	(7,593,163)	(6,548,938)
NET SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		<u>547,285</u>	<u>(2,279,422)</u>

The notes on pages 6 to 8 form an integral part of these financial statements.

GUYANA BAR ASSOCIATION
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

30 APRIL 2020

1. PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The Association represents the interest of Attorneys at Law engaged in private practice and provides Civil Society Support on Rule of Law and related issues.

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The significant accounting policies are:

(a) Basis of Preparation

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards for Small and Medium- sized entities (IFRS for SME), and have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

(b) Office Furniture and Equipment

Office Furniture and equipment are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is provided on a reducing balance basis at rates calculated to reduce the assets to their residual values at the end of their estimated useful lives.

Current rates of depreciation are:

Office Furniture and Equipment	10- 15% per annum
Computer	50% per annum

(c) Income

Revenue from rendering of services is based on when the performance obligation is met.

GUYANA BAR ASSOCIATION
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

30 APRIL 2020

3. MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT

	OFFICE FURNITURE & G\$	TOTAL G\$
COST		
As at beginning of the year	1,589,984	1,589,984
Additions	-	-
Disposals	(188,161)	(188,161)
As at end of the year	<u>1,401,823</u>	<u>1,401,823</u>
DEPRECIATION		
As at beginning of the year	310,722	310,722
Charges for the year	64,240	64,240
Written Back on Disposals	(75,587)	(75,587)
As at end of the year	<u>299,375</u>	<u>299,375</u>
NET BOOK VALUE		
As at end of the year	<u><u>1,102,448</u></u>	<u><u>1,102,448</u></u>
As at beginning of the year	<u><u>1,279,262</u></u>	<u><u>1,279,262</u></u>
	2020 G\$	2019 G\$

4. RECEIVABLES & PREPAYMENTS

Accounts Receivables	<u>992,000</u>	<u>68,000</u>
	<u>992,000</u>	<u>68,000</u>

5. CASH & BANK

Special Purpose A/C/ CBGL	1,048,830	1,653,392
Guyana Bank for Trade & Industry	52,785	134,471
	<u>1,101,615</u>	<u>1,787,863</u>

GUYANA BAR ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

30 APRIL 2020

	2020	2019
	G\$	G\$
6. INCOME		
Subscription	1,567,783	631,427
Tickets	1,578,000	-
Income Bar Journal	715,000	-
<i>Other</i>		
-Donations	1,997,065	
-Events/Seminars	2,181,000	3,638,089
-Sale of Shirts/Caps/ID Cards	101,600	
	8,140,448	4,269,516
7. ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES		
Wages and Salaries	451,644	434,250
Advertising	-	10,944
Cleaning	-	2,000
Legal & Professional Fees	76,760	120,320
Electricity	67,080	71,000
Rental	-	103,500
Interest and Bank Charges	10,800	17,552
Office Expenses	1,042,544	328,897
Telephone and Internet	171,602	201,000
Repairs and Maintenance	1,700	424,098
Stationery & Postage	169,189	73,823
Depreciation	64,240	68,377
Travelling	305,381	38,900
Conference/ Workshop	-	3,036,321
Donation	-	-
Printing	18,400	1,111,250
Special Events	1,162,459	271,060
Other Expense	246,283	235,646
Entertainment & Meals	3,677,695	-
Insurance Expense	330	
Freight Expense	14,482	-
Loss on disposals	112,574	-
	7,593,163	6,548,938
8. ACCUMULATED FUND		
Beginnning of the year	1,569,886	3,755,298
Prior Year Adjustment	-	94,010
Less: Surplus for the year	547,285	(2,279,422)
Balance at year end	2,117,171	1,569,886
9. PAYABLES		
Trade Payables	286,975	286,975
Uncleared deposits	-	522,771
Stale Dated Cheque	334,248	-
Accruals	43,669	-
	664,892	809,746

PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS



The first ever Special Sitting of the Full Court of the Supreme Court of Judicature at the High Court, Suddie, Essequibo on 29th January, 2021. The sitting paid tribute to the memory of the late Mr. Dyal Singh, Attorney-at-Law



Special Sitting of the Full Court of the Supreme Court of Judicature at the Victoria Law Courts, Demerara on 5th February, 2021 to pay tribute to the late Messrs. Brynmor Pollard, OR, CCH, SC and Sase Narain, CMG, OR, SC



Virtual Christmas Social on 22nd December, 2020



Christmas Cheer Package



Winner of the Christmas Law Office
Decorating Challenge
– Ms. Priyanka Sookraj



Ministry of Health COVID-19 Vaccination Exercise on 7th May, 2021 at the High Court to cater to Attorneys-at-Law, their staff and family members along with other Court users, staff and members of the public.