

The Bar Association of Guyana

Annual General Meeting Report.

2021-2022

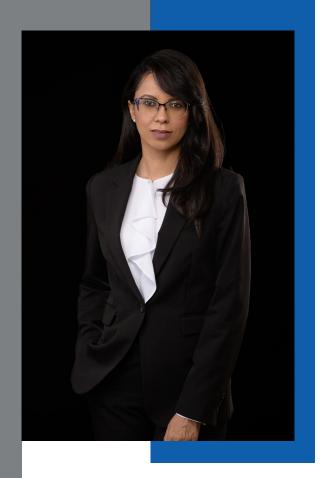
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Annual General Meeting Report. 2021/2022

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PRESIDENT'S REMARKS –

MS. PAULINE CHASE, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW

Resilience and Growth – Hallmarks for Success.

Over the past term, we entered the phase of emerging from the Covid–19 pandemic, coming to terms with the realities of life with Covid–19. This has given us the opportunity to reflect over that period and look forward to the future.

Much has changed in our lives since the onset of Covid-19 here in March 2020. We faced many unimaginable challenges as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, both in our personal and professional lives. As a profession, I couldn't be prouder of the Guyana Bar. We stood tall in the face of those challenges and overcame them. We rose to the occasion, quickly adapted and were resilient. We did not shirk our responsibilities and admirably fulfilled our integral role in keeping the wheels of justice turning thereby ensuring access to justice.

This resilience also enabled us to fulfill another important role; that of maintaining our livelihoods, that of our staff and extended dependents. While there were dismal reports from other countries on the state of Chambers, which suffered closures resulting in the laying off of staff and loss of livelihoods due to the pandemic, we had no such reports.

Above all however, we must give thanks for the wind of fortuity which spared us from the high number of deaths, in the profession, which came with the pandemic and as reported by Bars in other countries.

While there have been commendable strides, there is still work to do. The absence of a comprehensive e-filing management system at the Court and Registries is disappointing. Other countries within CARICOM, which did not have e-filing at the start of the pandemic, were able to quickly put it in place. Guyana lagging behind more than two years later, is an embarrassment. Technological advancements within the system, including e-filing, has been consistently raised by the Bar Council at every meeting with the Attorney General and the Bench since at least 2017. It is my hope, that the Bar will continue to advocate for technological advancements within the administration of justice until realized. The Bar Council has been informed of some initial steps taken recently towards a court management system to include e-filing and I look forward to its implementation soon.

And as with anything, good and bad go hand in hand. What is important however, is that moving forward, we take advantage of the positives which have come out of the pandemic period. For instance, virtual Courts for certain hearings have been proven to be of enormous benefit. Extended time lines are another feature for which consideration ought to be given to continuing. There seems

to be an imbalance, even when work load is factored in, with Attorneys-at-Law being given short time lines to prepare and file pleadings, and many times as little as ten (10) days to churn out Submissions of quality of research and depth, but the Court is permitted, statutorily, some six (6) months to consider those submissions and render a decision.

The emergence out of the pandemic phase saw the ease of restrictions by the health authorities, which permitted gatherings and in-person events once again. As a result, our annual Orientation for newly admitted members of the Bar and Christmas Social returned, in person.

Most notably however over the period, we held our first **Law Week** under the theme "**Advancing the Rule of Law in the New Normal**". In keeping with our new reality, eight events were held over a seven-day period, both in person and virtually, which permitted the participation of colleagues and Judges from the Caribbean Region and United Kingdom. It was an ambitious plan to host eight events over a seven-day period, but, I am happy to report, that by all accounts, we succeeded. I was indeed momentous and gave rise to yet another proud moment to be part of this Bar. I wish to thank every member of the Bar who so readily got on board, supported and participated in Law Week. It was a success because of you!

As my term comes to a close, I wish to encourage you to keep close the spirit fostered during **Law Week.** Get involved in the work of the Bar Association. This association is not external to you. It is what you make it and is a reflection of us all, as an individual and collective.

Please permit me to thank you for entrusting in me the responsibility of President of this association over the last term. It has been a privilege and pleasure in every sense of those words. I extend best wishes to the incoming Bar Council for a successful term. May you all stay well.

Pauline Chase (Ms.)

President Dated 20th May, 2022

Bar Council 2021–2022



Ms. Pauline Chase
President



Ms. Jamela Ali, SC Vice-President



Mr. Teni Housty
Vice-President



Mr. Keoma Griffith Secretary



Ms. Ashley King
Assistant Secretary



Mr. Naresh Poonai Treasurer

Bar Council 2021–2022



Mr. K.A. Juman-Yassin, SC Council Member



Mr. Horatio EdmonsonCouncil Member



Mr. Kamal Ramkarran Council Member



Mr. Robin Stoby, SC Council Member

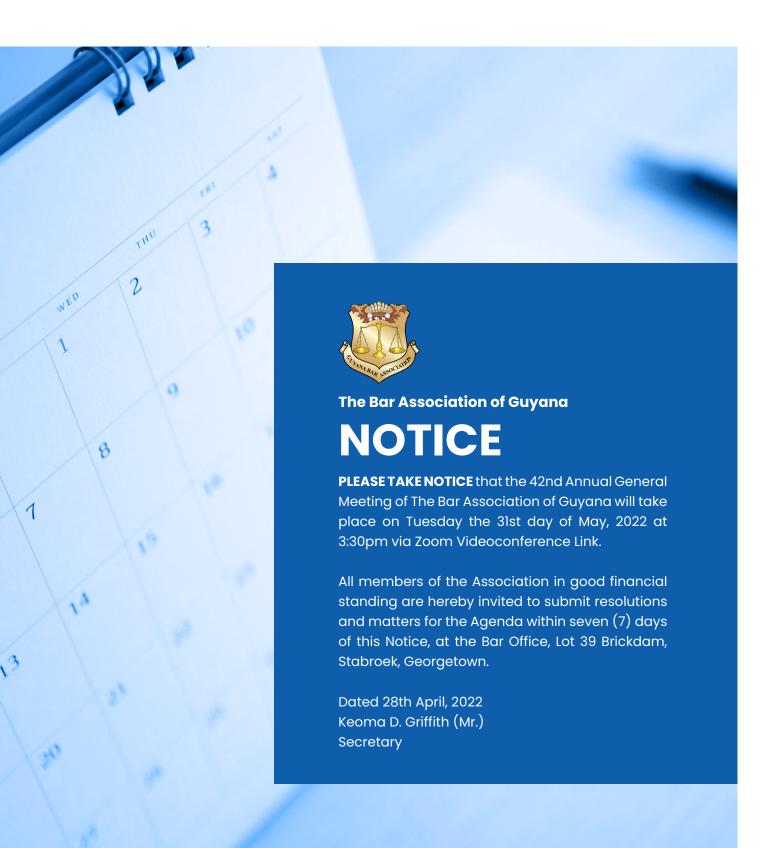


Mr. Donavon RangiahCouncil Member



Ms. Onassis Granville
Council Member

Notice



Agenda

- 1. Call to Order
- 2. Reading of Notice of AGM
- 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. 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, S.C./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 Mr. Donavon Rangiah
 - v. Rules Committee Ms. Jamela Ali, SC
 - vi. Supreme Court Case Management System Business Committee Mr. Keoma D. Griffith
 - vii. University of Guyana Council Mr. Timothy Jonas
 - viii. Juvenile Justice Committee Mr. Keoma Griffith
 - ix. Allied Health Professionals Council Guyana Ms. Ramona Rookhum
 - x. Pharmacy Council Mr. Nigel Niles
 - xi. Guyana-Cuba Trade Facilitation Council of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce & Industry Ms. Vidushi Persaud-McKinnon
 - xii. Guyana-India Trade Facilitation Council of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce & Industry (GCCI) Mr. Moenudin McDoom, Jnr.
 - xiii. Guyana-Canada Trade Facilitation Council of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce & Industry Mr. Sanjeev Datadin
 - xiv. Spotlight Initiative Gender Technical Working Group Ms. Onassis Granville
- 10. Auditor's Report
- 11. Appointment of Auditors (2) for the fiscal year 2022-2023
- 12. Election of Members to the Bar Council
- 13. Adjournment

THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF GUYANA (GBA) MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2020–2021 HELD ON 28TH MAY, 2021 VIA ZOOM PLATFORM

Members Present:

Executive:

- 1. Teni Housty -President
- 2. Robin Stoby, SC Vice President
- 3. Kamal Ramkarran Vice President
- 4. Pauline Chase Secretary
- 5. Keoma D. Griffith Asst. Secretary
- 6. Naresh Poonai Treasurer
- 7. Kamal Ramkarran Council Member
- 8. Donavon Rangiah Council Member
- 9. Onassis Granville Council Member
- 10. K.A. Juman Yassin, SC Council Member
- 11. Horatio Edmondson Council Member
- 12. Jamela Ali, SC Council Member

Ordinary Members:

- 13. Alanna Lall
- 14. Ashley King
- 15. Arudranauth Goosai
- 16. Donovan Rangiah
- 17. Dwayne Braithwaite
- 18. Ganesh Hira
- 19. Latchmie Rahamat
- 20. Priyanka Sookraj
- 21. Rafiq Khan, SC
- 22. Rajendra Jaigobin
- 23. Ramona Rookhum
- 24. Ryan Crawford
- 25. Sanjeev Datadin
- 26. Abiola Wong-Inniss
- 27. Yashmini Singh
- 28. Rocky Hanoman
- 29. Andrew Pollard, SC
- 30. Kristal Abrams
- 31. Kadeem Davis
- 32. D. Sookdeo

EXCUSES:

None

CALL TO ORDER:

The Meeting was called to Order by the President, Teni Housty (TH) at 3:30 pm. The President asked that we take a moment of silence to acknowledge all the colleagues who transitioned into the afterlife, the most recent being Kareen Stephenson.

The President expressed appreciation to the members for attending the virtual meeting. He also thanked all members for serving on the Council and others for supporting the work of the Council. He thanked the Secretary, Pauline Chase (PC) for her exceptional work over the term.

He further thanked the members in attendance and asked the Secretary to read the notice of the AGM. The notice of the AGM which was published was read by the Secretary.

The President then invited a Motion be moved for the Agenda as published to be accepted. A Motion was so moved by Sanjeev Datadin and seconded by Onassis Granville

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

A Motion was moved that the Minutes of the Last Annual General Meeting held on 29th September, 2020 be adopted by Alanna Lall. Motion was seconded by K.A. Juman Yassin, SC with the following correction-R. Rookum's name to be removed from the excuses section.

MATTERS ARISING:

None.

REPORTS:

Secretary

The Secretary noted that her Report was laid out and sent in the Annual General Report and invited questions thereon. There were no questions.

The Secretary expressed thanks and appreciation to Assistant Secretary. Keoma D. Griffith (KG) and Treasurer, Naresh Poonai (NP) for their support and hard work.

Kamal Ramkarran (KR) moved a Motion for all the Reports be taken as read as laid out in the Annual Report of 2020-2021. The motion was seconded by Sanjeev Datadin. All in favour. Motion carried.

Treasurer

NP gave brief comments on the details contained in the Report. He also referred to the St. Vincent Fund and the Sharon's Building Fire fund. He implored colleagues to extend benevolence and contribute to the fund. He expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve on the council in the past year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Per the aforesaid Motion, the following Committee Reports were taken as read -

- (i) IT Committee Nikhil Ramkarran (Chairperson), Danielle Anthony (Secretary)
- (ii) Criminal Bar Committee Glenn Hanoman (Chairperson), Donavon Rangiah (Secretary)
- (iii) Mediation Committee Teni Housty (Chairperson)
- (iv) Legislative Committee Alanna Lall (Chairperson), Danielle Anthony (Secretary)
- (v) Corporate Counsel Committee Moen Mc Doom (Chairperson), Stephen Roberts (Secretary)
- (vi) Local Content Committee Teni Housty (Chairperson)
- (vii) Rules Remuneration Review Committee Ronald Burch-Smith (Chairperson)

The Secretary thanked all the Attorneys-at-Law who sat on these Committees for their valuable work and commitment.

BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Per the aforesaid Motion, the following Committee Reports were taken as read -

- (i) Executive Council of Council of Legal Education Robin Stoby, S.C.
- (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 Timothy Jonas, SC
- (vi) Pharmacy Council Nigel Niles
- (vii) Rules Committee Jamela Ali, SC
- (viii) Allied Health Professionals Council Paul Braam
- (ix) Guyana-Cuba Trade Facilitation Council Vidushi Persaud-McKinnon
- (x) GCCI Trade Facilitation Council of Guyana M. Mc Doom Jr.
- (xi) Guyana-Canada Trade Facilitation Council of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry Sanjeev Datadin

No Reports received from:

- (i) Pharmacy Council Nigel Niles
- (ii) University of Guyana Council Timothy Jonas, SC
- (iii) Rules Committee Jamela Ali, SC

The President invited questions on the Reports.

R. Stoby, SC (RS) asked a question arising from the Report submitted on his behalf by TH who represented him at the Council of Legal Education meeting. He invited TH to comment on the reduction of the economic cost of the students.TH responded by noting that it is an issue that continues to get attention at meetings.

KR recommended that contact be made with the Students to get their feedback regarding the issue raised by RS and other issues affected them. The President noted that there was a Bar Orientation just a short while ago and this was helpful in obtaining the concerns from the students.

In respect of the Legal Aid Clinic, TH informed that the Ministry of Social Protection is seeking a collaboration with the Bar for the assistance of 500 litigants primarily of domestic violence cases. RS enquired of the areas that most needed attention. TH advised while it was primarily for domestic violence matters in the Magistrates Courts, it may also include the offer of advice etc. KR enquired whether it would be possible for the GBA to form a structured pro bono committee who could assist with these matters. The Secretary, Pauline Chase (PC) indicated that such an initiative may require some form of recognition. For example, as in the USA where persons are recognized having completed a certain amount of hours.

In respect of the Deeds and Commercial Registry Authority (DCRA), the Bar's Representative, Jamela Ali SC apologized for not submitting the report on time. She expressed that the Board meets regularly. The main focus has been to introduce digitized services. This she explained is being done on a small scale in the commercial registry. She expressed that the commercial registry intends to go fully digital but also informed that Deeds registry has had issues in commencing the offer of online services. She reminded that at the Commercial Registry there are vacancies for senior officers which is expected to be filled in short order.

With regards to the Rules Committee, Jamela Ali, SC apologized for the absence of a Report. She advised that for the year only two meetings have been held. One specifically for the lengthy submissions made by the GBA for recommendations for amendments including that for a comprehensive e-filing system. Rafiq Khan, SC expressed the view that the accounting system was the main block in implementing such a system. PC emphasized that the rest of the Caribbean is way ahead in respect of these services. KR also emphasized that it could not be so impossible and steps can be taken from the CCJ in its birthing stage.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

TH invited a Motion for the Auditor's Report for the period ending 30th April, 2021 be deferred to next meeting as it was not yet ready. Motion moved by PC and seconded by Sanjeev Datadin. All in favour. Motion carried.

The Secretary then read Resolutions that the conduct of the AGM by way of audio/visual link be deemed to be within the Rules of the association and that an Auditor be appointed for the following fiscal year.

Abiola Wong-Innis indicated that if there are no qualms with the work of the current Auditor, then the same should be used. PC responded that there are generally no issues with the Auditor used for 2019 and 2018 but for the audits are being submitted late. Abiola Wong-Innis stated that in the absence of any serious complaints, an undertaking can be extended from the current Auditor to improve their delivery.

There being no objections to any of the aforesaid Resolutions were carried. Vote carried. Maurice Solomon appointed as Auditor for the fiscal year 2021-2022.

The Returning Officer, Ron Motilall was invited to conduct the election for office bearers for the fiscal year 2021-2022.

RS moved a Motion to present the list of candidates in one single vote. Motion seconded by Sanjeev Datadin. No objections. Motion carried. The slate was read by the Returning Officer.

Sanjeev Datadin then moved the Motion that the persons as stated be nominated to office. The motion was seconded by Alanna Lall. Sanjeev Datadin moved the Motion for the nomination to close and same was seconded by Everton Singh-Lammy.

The Returning Officer then invited comments on opposition of the slate being duly elected. There being no opposition and all in favour, the slate was duly elected.

The following members were elected to serve for the fiscal year 2021-2022:

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

The Returning Officer congratulated the Bar Council and wished them a successful year. Newly elected President, PC thanked everyone for their confidence in the Council and the Returning Officer for conducting a smooth election process.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Rocky Hanoman congratulated the slate on their election. He queried the loss incurred by the Bar based on the last audit and what ideas the Bar Association had to raise funds.

NP, the newly elected treasurer of GBA stated that there will be aggressive efforts 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 that there may be an issue as to record keeping but as the association is now in a better financial position. She further noted that GBA is voluntary whereas in Trinidad membership is mandatory by way of statute. This would require legislation here to see mandatory membership.

Abiola Wong-Innis singled out PC and KG 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.

President Pauline Chase and Vice-President, Teni Housty thanked everyone and wished them best health.

Ms. Pauline Chase, President	Mr. Keoma D. Griffith, Secretary
Dated Confirmed:	
Meeting adjourned by PC at 4:50 pm.	
ADJOURNMENT	



SECRETARY'S REPORT

MR. KEOMA D. GRIFFITH, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW

Access to Justice

When the period for the 2021-2022 term of the Council of the Bar Association of Guyana began, the world was still very much in the midst of a pandemic with very few parts of the inhabited planet being untouched. The spread of the highly contagious covid-19 coronavirus was still very much rapid and pervasive. Months later and with the increase of vaccination convenience, the spread of the virus took a worldwide plunge and allowed for a scaled resumption of in person interaction among citizens.

The Bar Council of the Bar Association throughout the last term continued its mission to advocate for improved services to improve the overall experience regarding access to justice for Attorneys-at-Law and court users. Priority matters on this agenda were an advanced e-filing system in the Supreme Court of Judicature and the introduction of an e-filing system at the Deeds and Commercial Registry Authority. Regrettably, there is little progress to report as much has not materialized since our last report regarding our repeated requests.

On a much more delightful note, following repeated requests by the Bar Council for the Registrar of the Supreme Court to upgrade the facilities of the Robing Room for Attorneys-at-Law at the Demerara Supreme Court of Judicature, improvements were done to the ceiling, washroom, pluming and general space thereof. While these advancements are still pale in comparison to the full overhaul and upgraded facilities received by our colleagues in other counties and districts, Attorneys-at-Law are able to enjoy the space provided at the Court building. It is hoped that further advancements to the facilities will remain an active item on the agenda of the next Council as there is still much to be done to bring the Robing Room to the standard expected in a modern administration.

With the continued plunge in covid-19 cases and seemingly what is the end of the worldwide pandemic, hearings at the Magistracy, High Court, inclusive of Jury Trials, and Court of Appeal are for the most part proceeding with a blend of in-person and or virtual style hearings. Commendably, there are very few complaints regarding hearing accommodations in the Courts. The hybrid system of hearing matters in person or virtual style should not only reflect our new normal but is a system which should be made permanent.

Statutory Meetings

Following the decision to suspend in person meetings in light of Covid-19, the Bar Council continued to meet virtually via the Zoom online platform. Attendance was as follows:

Pauline Chase	_	President	-	11/12
Jamela Ali, SC	_	Vice President	-	12/12
Teni Housty	_	Vice President	-	12/12
Keoma D. Griffith	_	Secretary	-	12/12
Naresh Poonai	-	Treasurer	-	12/12
Ashley King	-	Asst. Secretary	-	12/12
Robin Stoby, SC	-	Council Member	-	5/12
K.A. Juman-Yassin, SC	-	Council Member	-	10/12
Horatio Edmondson	-	Council Member	-	10/12
Kamal Ramkarran	-	Council Member	-	7/12
Onassis Granville	-	Council Member	-	4/12
Donavon Rangiah	-	Council Member	-	8/12

Committees

The work of the Bar Association is supported by members of the Bar through committees. The President and Secretary are ex officio members of all committees. The committees convened during the term are as follows-

Criminal Bar Committee

- Mr. Stanley Moore, SC - Chairperson - Ms. Chandrawattie Persaud

- Mr. Donavon Rangiah – Secretary - Mr. Dexter Todd

- Mr. Bernard DaSilva - Ms. Yondessa Welcome-Mercurius

Ms. Latchmie Rahamat
 Mr. Samuel Glasgow
 Mr. Samuel Glasgow

Brandon DeSantos

IT Committee

- Mr. Nikhil Ramkarran Chairperson
- Mr. Naresh Poonai
- Mr. Ron Motilall
- Mr. Kadeem Davis

Legislative Committee

- Ms. Alanna Lall Chairperson
- Mr. Michael Munroe Secretary
- Mr. Teni Housty
- Ms. Excellence Dazzell
- Mr. Bernard DaSilva
- Ms. Anansa Swain
- Ms. Chandrawattie Persaud

Corporate Counsel Committee

Mr. Moenudin McDoom – Chairperson – Ms. Nekeisha Persaud
 Mr. Stephen Roberts – Secretary – Mr. Rocky Hanoman
 Ms. Jamela Ali, SC – Ms. Anita Mohan

Ms. Vidushi Persaud-McKinnon
 Ms. Ayanna McCalman
 Mr. Dexter Todd
 Mr. Ron Motilall

- Mr. Kadeem Davis

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

- Mr. Ronald Burch-Smith Chairperson
- Mr. Stephen Fraser SC Advisor
- Mr. Naresh Poonai
- Mr. Stephen Roberts

Gratitude is extended to all members of the committees for their dedicated and stellar service.

Meetings

The Bar Council of the Bar Association continued its mandate to engage the Bench and the Hon. Attorney General regarding matters touching and concerning the improvement of the administration of and access to justice. At the invitation of various Government Ministries, meetings were attended and representations made on behalf of the Bar on such matters including, electoral laws, local content and economic growth.

Engagements were also had with International and Regional Bar and Law Associations, most notably the UK Bar Association, the National Bar Association and the Organization of Commonwealth Caribbean Bar Associations (OCCBA). In the case of the latter, representatives from the Bar Association of Guyana through OCCBA engaged members of the Grenada Bar to discuss and offer guidance regarding the rollout of virtual Magistrates' Courts hearings in Grenada.

Meetings were also held with other non-profit, non-governmental bodies and agencies with regard to support for the work of the Bar Association.

A Special General Meeting of the Association was held in January, 2022 to address the allocation for Attorneys-at-Law in the Local Content Act passed in the National Assembly in December 2021. Advertising of Legal Services was also addressed and a decision made to form a committee to present recommendations thereon.

Court Proceedings

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

The Bar Association in proceedings for Judicial Review challenged the decision of the Mayor and Councillors for the City of Georgetown through its officer, The Town Clerk, (M&CC) to charge the fee of 0.5% of the current market value of a subject property, together with the submission of certain documents for the issuance of Certificate of Compliance pursuant to S. 16A of the Deeds Registry Act, Cap. 5:01. On 8th February, 2022, the Hon. Justice Gino Persaud granted judgment in favour of the Bar Association and declared that aforesaid decision of the Respondent was unlawful being ultra vires the Municipal and District Councils Act, Cap. 28:01 and Section 16A of the Deeds Registry Act, Cap 5:01. The Court accordingly granted an Order of Certificating quashing the decision of the Respondent with effect from 1st July, 2019 and an Order of Prohibition prohibiting the Respondent from demanding the aforesaid fee for the issuance of a Certificate of Compliance. The Court ordered costs in favour of the Bar Association of Guyana in the sum of \$150,000.00 which to date remains unpaid by M&CC.

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

The matter currently awaits a date for continuation having been put down for settlement. The Bar Association continues to engage the parties in pursuance of a settlement to these proceedings.

Publications

There were no publications for the term. Submission of articles by members of the Bar remains a challenge.

Continuing Legal Education

Avenues for Continuing Legal Education and capacity building of members remains a critical objective of the Bar Association. For this reason, a three-part Discussion Forum Series was organized for members of the Bar, with an invitation extended to the local Bench and Regional Bar and Law Associations.

The first Discussion Forum held on 10th February, 2022, was a joint collaboration with the Law Association of Trinidad and Tobago (LATT) and focused on the issue of Bail. The Presenters were Ms. Sophia Chote, SC, President of the LATT, Mr. Nigel Hughes and Mr. Glenn Hanoman, Attorneys-at-Law of the Guyana Bar.

The second discussion forum held on 17th March, 2022, was a collaboration with OCCBA and focused on the issue of Criminal Trials by Judge Alone. The Presenters were the Hon. Mr. Justice Courtney Williams of the Supreme Court of the Eastern Caribbean, Mr. Rajiv Persad, Vice-President of LATT and Mr. Ronald Burch-Smith from the local Bar.

The final in the three-part series was held on 7th April, 2022. It addressed the issue of Advertising of Legal Services. The Presenters were Ms. M. G. Gibson Henlin, QC, of the Jamaica Bar, Mr. Teni Housty and Mr. Kamal Ramkarran of The Bar Association of Guyana.

During the Inaugural Law Week, on 6th April, 2022, a Virtual Law Conference was held which saw presentations from members of the local Bench and Bar, CCJ and UK Bar Council.

Members of the association also had access to and thereby benefitted from Webinars held by the International Bar Association (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 and also through the Commonwealth Bar Association on a variety of topics.

Legal Pro Bono 500 Initiative

On December, 9, 2021, the Bar Association in collaboration with the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security (MHSS), under the leadership of the Hon. Minster Ms. Vindhya Persaud, launched the Legal Pro Bono 500 Initiative.

Through this programme, members of the Bar will provide free legal services, in 500 domestic and gender-based violence cases, to members of the public.

There has been much support from members of the Bar who so readily volunteered their services and for which they must be commended.

This programme is supported in funding by United Nations Spotlight Initiative. A referral and management office is expected to be soon set up. Vacancy Notices have already been published by MHSS.

Blood Drive

The Bar Association in collaboration with the Ministry of Health held a blood drive at the Bar Office on 17th February, 2022.

Members of the Bar, their staff and other members of the public donated much needed blood to the blood bank. Their generosity will inure to the most noble cause of saving lives.

Social Activities

With the ease of Covid-19 restrictions on in person gatherings, the Bar Association slowly returned to inperson social activities for members. This included the Law Office Decorating Challenge of which the 1966 Law Firm headed by Mr. Everton Singh-Lammy emerged victorious and the annual Christmas Social.

The Orientation for Newly Admitted Attorneys-at-Law also returned in-person on 30th November, 2021 at the Herdmanston Lodge, Georgetown. Dr. Kim Kyte-Thomas, Mr. Ronald Burch-Smith and Mr. Kamal Ramkarran shared their experiences and advice with the newly minted Attorneys-at-Law who all thereafter gathered for a Cocktail.

The most notable social activity for the term however was without a doubt the inaugural *Law Week* 2022 which was held during the period 3rd – 9th April, 2022 under the theme "*Advancing the Rule of Law in the New Normal*". The week of activities included eight events, a mix of both virtual and in-person; physical, social and educational; all aimed at advancing the Rule of Law, to wit –

Sunday 3rd April, 2022 - Walk-a-thon starting at 6am from the Square of the Revolution and ending at the Court of Appeal followed by a Continental Breakfast at the Pegasus Hotel.

Monday 4th April, 2022 - Pro Bono Monday held in collaboration with the Guyana Legal Aid Clinic. More than thirty persons benefited from legal services.

Tuesday 5th April, 2022 - Opening of the April Sessions. For the first time members of the Bar were invited by the Honourable Chancellor to take part in the Opening. A programme followed in the Court compound at which presentations were made by the President of the Bar Association, Ms. Pauline Chase; Director of Public Prosecutions, Ms. Shalimar Hack, SC; the Hon. Attorney General, Mr. M.A. Nandlall, SC; the Chief Justice (ag.) Hon. Justice Roxane George and the Chancellor, Justice Y. Cummings-Edwards. The proceedings were chaired by your dutiful Secretary and for the first time televised.

Wednesday 6th April, 2022 - Virtual Law Conference

Thursday 7th April, 2022- Career Guidance Programme at High Schools throughout the country and in the evening, the final installment in the three-part Discussion Forum Series.

Friday 8th April, 2022- Symposium at the University of Guyana on paths in a career in law.

Saturday 9th April, 2022 - Bar Dinner held at the Marriott Hotel at which the Hon. Justice Adrian Saunders, President of the CCJ delivered the Keynote Address.

Bar of Sorrow

The Bar suffered the loss of our dear colleagues Hubert Rodney on 8th June, 2021; Bishwaishawar "Cammie" Ramsaroop on 16th August, 2021 and Balram Singh Rai in January, 2022.

Members of the profession woke on 12th March, 2022 to the sad news of the passing of Former Chancellor, Justice Cecil Kennard. A Full Court was later convened to pay tribute to his memory. May their souls all rest in eternal perfect peace.

Gratitude is a Must!

My first term as your faithful servant has been nothing short of a sincere pleasure. Heartiest congratulations to the Council for a successful term and to all the members of the Bar who read every email under my hand and supported our activities. I extend best wishes to the new executive.

Keoma D. Griffith (Mr.) Secretary Dated 20th May, 2022



TREASURER'S REPORT
MR. NARESH POONAI, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW

This report covers the period of 1st May, 2021 to 20th May, 2022.

Membership

For 2021, the Association had 176 (one hundred and seventy-six) fully paid-up members. Based on previous records, it seems that this was the most fully paid-up members in Association's history for a single year.

For 2022, the Association currently has 142 (one hundred and forty-two) fully paid-up members which is an increase from 123 (one hundred and twenty-three) that the Association had at the same time last year for the 2021 membership year.

Should the rising trend continue, the Association will surpass last year's record and record its highest fully paid-up membership by the end of 2022.

Finances

Compared to the last Executive's term of 30th September, 2020 to 30th April, 2021, the Association's revenue for this past term quadrupled. For the same period compared to this term, expenditure quintupled. The Association received approximately \$8,250,000 (eight million two hundred thousand dollars) as revenue. In contrast, the Association expended approximately \$8,500,000 (eight million five hundred thousand dollars). This rise is attributed to the easing of the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions which led to the Association having several virtual and in-person events as well the upgrade of the Association's Bar Office for virtual hearings.

While these figures represent a small loss, the Association's finances remain strong heading into the new term. As of 20th May, 2022, the Association's balances are:

- 1. Citizens Bank Special Purpose Bank Account (Bar Journal): \$1,243,030 (one million two hundred and forty-three thousand and thirty dollars);
- 2. Guyana Bank for Trade and Industry Checking Account: \$481,526 (four hundred and eighty-one thousand five hundred and twenty-six dollars);
- 3. Uncashed Cheques: \$40,000 (forty thousand dollars);
- 4. GBA's MMG (643-7074): \$12,410 (twelve thousand four hundred and ten dollars); and
- 5. Cash on Hand: \$0.

Presently, the Association does not have any outstanding liabilities.

Accounts and Audits

As seen above, the Association's accounts are in order with adequate funds available to the incoming Council. The Association's alternative ways of payment were maintained and utilized by members of the Bar. Bank transfers, GTT+ MMG Biller payments and GTT+ MMG Subscriber payments are all currently utilized. However, as these payments are automated, tracking has been difficult hence some figures provided in this report are approximates. E-Banking is also utilized by the Association for its GBTI's account which has enabled detailed record keeping in relation to that account.

The audit for the period of 1st May, 2020 to 30th April, 2021 was completed and approved on 9th February, 2022. While some questions were raised given the absence of previous records, no major concerns or queries were made by the auditor and some recommendations were made going forward. While the audit for the period of 1st May, 2021 to 30th April, 2022 has not been completed, due to better record keeping, it is likely that this audit can be completed soon.

Finally, several systems and procedures were devised and implemented for the office of the Treasurer. These procedures will enable greater record keeping for future Treasurers and greater accountability and transparency in relation to Association funds.

Fundraising and Revenue Generation

Fundraising and revenue generation continues to be a problem for the Association. While membership payments have increased and Bar ID Cards continue to be strong earners, alternative revenue generation has not been explored. Wider members of the Bar support individual events and projects with the Bar Council members donating throughout the year to ensure events can take place. Improved revenue generation is needed in the coming years.

Operating Expenses

Throughout the term, the Association's operating expenses were routine. On average, operating expenses per month for the Association is approximately \$70,000 (seventy thousand dollars). This includes payment of utility bills, salary for the Administrative Assistant and assorted expenses ranging from transportation for the Administrative Assistant in relation to her duties and office expenses.

Projects

The Association had one (1) project that impacted its finances this term. As noted in the Treasurer's report for AGM 2021, the idea was mooted to outfit the Association's office at 39 Brickdam, Stabroek, Georgetown with virtual hearing equipment for Attorneys-at-Law to utilize and to increase access to justice for litigants. This project cost just over the sum of \$500,000 (five hundred thousand dollars) but with donations in the sum of \$370,000 (three hundred and seventy thousand dollars), only a small amount of Association funds was used.

The project was completed in April, 2022 and launched on 7th April, 2022 during Law Week 2022. The Bar Office is now outfitted with a TCL 55-inch UHD television, 2021 Dell OptiPlex 3080 computer, camera, microphone and speaker, mobile TV stand/cart. As well, the Association partnered with GTT+ and the Bar Office's internet was upgraded to Biz Fibre free of cost with 6 (six) complimentary months (February, 2022 to July, 2022) of internet service.

The Bar Office can now be utilized by Attorneys-at-Law for virtual hearings or by litigants and is yet another avenue of improving access to justice.

Events

Over the term, the Association held a number of virtual and in-person hearings. As the Association renewed its Zoom License, there was no cost for most virtual events save and except for webinars where the Zoom webinar feature had to be purchased. The virtual events were an arbitration webinar held in association with the Attorney General's Chambers and discussion forums on bail, judge only trials and advertising.

The Association also held 2 (two) in person events that attracted financial cost, its annual orientation session for newly admitted Attorneys-at-Law on 30th November, 2021 and a Christmas Social on 21st December, 2021. These events were free of charge. As per tradition, Bar Council members donated to partially offset costs of these events. While both events were not revenue neutral, only small losses were recorded, \$39,622 (thirty-nine thousand six hundred and twenty-two dollars) for the orientation and \$118,487 (one hundred and eighteen thousand four hundred and eighty-seven dollars) for the Christmas social.

Law Week 2022

The Association held its inaugural Law Week from 3rd April, 2022 to 9th April, 2022. As detailed in the President's and Secretary's report, this historic event was widely lauded as a success. Law Week 2022 was also a financial success as a small profit was recorded. In total, the sum of \$5,377,000 (five million three hundred and seventy-seven thousand dollars) was earned from Law Week 2022. The cost of Law Week 2022 was \$5,229,755 (five million two hundred and twenty-nine thousand seven hundred and fifty-five dollars) which equates to a profit of \$147,245 (one hundred and forty-seven thousand two hundred and forty-five dollars). This is a great sign for future Law Week events as with some minor adjustments a greater profit can be made.

Closing

It has been a pleasure to service as Treasurer for the Association for the past term. While this term was challenging given the sheer scale due to increased events and increased activity of the Association, the experience was richly rewarding.

I thank the members of the Association for the privilege to serve and the faith placed in me. I must also express my appreciation to the Bar Council under whose guidance, belief and trust I was able to execute my duties. I will surely miss the office of the Treasurer but hope to serve sometime again in future.

I wish the incoming Bar Council well in carrying out its mandate.

Naresh Poonai Treasurer

Dated 20th May, 2022

Naresh Poonie

COMMITTEE REPORTS

i. Criminal Bar Committee

No report submitted.

ii. IT Committee

Due to the "new normal", the IT Committee ("the Committee") has now become a necessary part of the Guyana Bar Association ("the Association"). While no formal meetings of the Committee were held in the last year, the Committee communicates informally to execute its mandate in providing IT-support to the Association and the Bar Council and maintaining and expanding the IT infrastructure of the Association.

Zoom

The Association's Zoom License was renewed for the year 2022 as monthly Bar Council meetings are now done virtually. The Zoom Webinar feature was also utilized for the Law Conference of Law Week 2022. The Committee executed the technical side of 3 (three) virtual discussion forums that were streamed live on Facebook on Zoom without hiccups. The Law Conference was a seven (7) hour webinar that was also executed by the Committee without hiccups.

Website

The Association's website and hosting was also renewed and maintained by the Committee. Currently, there are over 100 (one hundred) registered users on the Association's website who have access to more than 250 (two hundred and fifty) local judgments, the Law Reports of British Guiana and a few volumes of the Bar Review. These have all been uploaded by the Committee and technical assistance to users of the website is provided by the Committee.

Bar Office

The major project of the Committee was the outfitting of the Association's Bar Office with virtual hearing equipment. This was fully accomplished in April, 2022. The Association now has a TCL 55 Inch UHD television, a camera and wireless microphone with speaker, 2021 Dell OptiPlex 3080 computer and mobile TV stand/cart. As well, through partnership with GTT+ the Association now has Biz Fibre internet and 6 (six) months of free service (Feb, 2022 to July, 2022). The entire set-up can also be moved off-site should it be required. The office can now be utilized by Attorneys-at-Law and litigants for virtual hearings and acts as another means of improving access to justice.

Beyond 2022

The Committee, if resuscitated and maintained in the new term, has one (1) major project that was started but requires tremendous support. This project is upgrading the Association's website or crafting a new website for the hosting and provision of judgments in a searchable and indexed manner as is done in other Caribbean jurisdictions by their Courts. If completed, this project would not only be extremely beneficial to the legal sector but increase access to justice by the public.

Dated 20th May, 2022 Report prepared by Mr. Naresh Poonai

iii. Legislative Committee

This report is prepared for presentation at the AGM of the Association to be held on the 31 May 2022. The Legislative Committee of the Association was convened on the 13 July 2021 for the fiscal year of 2021-2022.

The Committee considered the following:

- Adoption of Children (Amendment) Bill 2021
- Amendments to Criminal Law (Procedure) Act in light of ruling of CCJ in Marcus Bisram v Director of Public Prosecutions [2022] CCJ 7 AJ (GY)
- Arbitration Bill 2022
- Bail Bill 2021
- Condominium Bill 2021
- Deeds Registry (Amendment) Bill 2021
- Powers of Attorney (Amendment) Bill 2021
- Deeds Registry Act Cap 5:01 in the context of determining whether there is legislative means for providing for the inclusion of the particulars of the author of documents filed in the Deeds Registry (that is, the name, address, email and telephone number), as similarly done in the Supreme Court; and same can be made mandatory by the Registrar acting under the current provisions of the Deeds Registry Act or can only be effected by way of amendment thereto.
- Evidence (Amendment) Bill 2022
- Merger and Control Bill 2021
- Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill 2021
- Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill 2022

All the matters arising before the Committee have been addressed and presented to the Association, save and except for the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill 2022 which is still under review.

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

Dated 18th May, 2022

Report prepared by Mr. Michael Munroe, Committee Secretary

iv.Corporate Counsel Committee

For the fiscal year ending May 31, 2022, the Corporate Counsel Committee comprised thirteen Members of the Bar including Ms. Jamila Ali, S.C., Ms. Vidushi Persaud-McKinnon, Ms. Ayanna McAlman, 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. Mr. Moenudin McDoom continued to function as President of the Committe, and Mr. Stephen Roberts as its Secretary.

The Committee continued to focus 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 has also been concerned in the review of draft legislation affecting corporate practice in Guyana over the last calendar year.

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.

Dated 18th May, 2022

Report prepared by Mr. Stephen Roberts, Committee Secretary

v. Committee to Review the Rules for Remuneration of Attorneysat-Law for Non- Contentious Business

This Committee was continued from the last term to review the Rules for the Remuneration of Attorneys-at-Law for Non-Contentious Business ("the Rules"). The Rules have not been amended since publication in the Official Gazette of 5th July, 1985.

It was proposed that the Committee consider the existing Rules, other areas of attorney fees that may be appropriate for regulation (if any), sources of information to update the Rules and propose consultations with legal sector stakeholders.

While no formal meetings were held, scale fees and reports from other Caribbean jurisdictions were reviewed by members of the Committee to see what took place in those jurisdictions. A decision was made to update and modernise the Rules to reflect a modern position and make the Rules easy to understand for Attorneys-at-Law and litigants.

The review, update and modernization of the Rules is still to be completed. Once completed, submission for consideration by the Bar and legal sector stakeholders would be the next step before any further amendments.

It is recommended that the work of the Committee continue during the next term as a review and update of the Rules is needed.

Dated 20th May, 2022 Report prepared by Mr. Naresh Poonai

BOARD REPRESENTATIVES / NOMINEES REPORTS

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

During the reporting period the Executive Committee of the Council of Legal Education (EXCO) would have held three meetings virtually. The EXCO meetings address a number of financial matters affecting the three Law Schools and member countries of the Council of Legal Education (Council). EXCO also reports to the general Council. The representative of the Guyana Bar Association on EXCO also a representative on the General Council.

From a financial perspective Guyana is not indebted to the Council. The University of Guyana, the University of the West Indies and the Council of Legal Education concluded a collaborative agreement, giving the University of Guyana greater autonomy in the delivery of the Bachelor of Laws programme. As the representative of the Bar, it was an honour to support the Chairman of the Council at several subcommittee meetings. At a functional level there were several interim regulations supported by members of Council to facilitate the continued delivery of Legal Education during the present COVID-19 Pandemic. These amendments have enabled a number of Guyanese Students to be enrolled at the Eugene Dupuch Law School, this enrollment is in addition to the students attending Hugh Wooding Law School.

In March, 2022 the Chair of Council the Honourable Mr. Reginald Armour, SC resigned as Chairman of the Council to assume the duties of the Attorney-General of Trinidad and Tobago. In the interim Mrs. Jacqueline Samuels Brown, SC (past Chair) serves as Chair of the Council. Attorney-General Armour was thanked for his service to the Council, congratulations were further expressed to him on his appointment on behalf of the Guyana Bar.

There is likely to be a return to in-person meetings of the EXCO and the general Council in September, of 2022. Additionally, 2023 will mark fifty years since the formation of the Council Legal Education, the possible return to in-person gatherings will enhance the quality of the likely celebrations. The opportunity to represent the Guyana Bar on the EXCO and the General Council has been appreciated.

Dated 20th May, 2022

ii. Council of Legal Education (General Council) – Mr. Kamal Ramkarran, Attorney-at-Law

Dear Members of the Bar Association,

The Bar Association of Guyana has two representatives on the Council of Legal Education. One representative, Vice President Teni Housty, sits on the Executive Committee and I am the other representative sitting on the General Committee along with Mr. Housty who also sits on it.

The meeting of the General Committee of the Council was held virtually 18 September 2021, as in 2020, although a poll taken in February 2022 among members of the Council of Legal Education has seen a vote in favour of returning to face to face meetings.

Important matters which arose were:

- firstly, a proposal to revise the agreement establishing the Council of Legal Education;
- secondly, the General Committee noted the decision of the Executive Committee to approve the Collaborative Agreement between the University of Guyana, the University of the West Indies and the Council of Legal Education and,
- thirdly, the format of the examinations during the Covid period and its fairness to students was raised by the Guyana Bar representatives for discussion.

In relation to the first issue, the Council resolved that it should maintain its current structure with the consideration of implementing in future of one or more of the following options: (i) expansion of the existing law schools; (ii) establishing additional law schools; (iii) offering the Council's programming online.

The Council resolved that these options should be considered after analysing data on the type of needs and their assessment in respect of (a) access to law programmes by potential students, (b) lawyers in the public sector, and (c) professional services to private clients including the corporate and industry sector. It was also resolved that the needs assessment should be treated as an integral part of a feasibility study to be conducted.

In relation to the second issue, the new agreement between the University of Guyana, the University of the West Indies and the Council of Legal Education increases the number of students from the law programme of the University of Guyana who qualify for automatic entry to the Hugh Wooding Law School from 25 to 40 but the qualification that they all need to be Guyanese nationals was deleted. This agreement does not need to be revised annually as in the previous agreements.

Prior to the meeting of the Council of Legal Education, the Bar Council met virtually with Guyanese students at the Hugh Wooding Law School and discussed issues of importance to them. As a consequence, the format of the remote examination during the Covid period was raised with specific reference to its fairness to students.

The Principal assured the Guyana Bar representatives that many measures had been put in place to ensure fairness and she enumerated the efforts which the law school made to communicate with the students before examinations to ensure that they understood the format and were able to sit examinations in a manner which would ensure their success.

Thirty-five Year One Guyanese students sat examinations in May 2021 at Hugh Wooding Law school. Twenty-four of those students were successful in all of their examinations and eleven were required to sit supplementary examinations. All eleven students were successful in their August 2021 examinations. No Guyanese students either repeated Year One or were asked to withdraw.

The pass rate for Guyanese students in Year One was 69% as compared with 75% among Dominicans, 68% among Trinidadians, 67% among Vincentians, 55% among Barbadians, and 33% among Grenadians.

Thirty-four Guyanese Year Two students sat examinations in May 2021 at Hugh Wooding Law School. Thirty of those students were successful in all of their examinations and two were required to sit supplementary examinations, including one student required to sit one supplementary examination in May 2022. Two Guyanese students were required to repeat Year Two.

The pass rate for Guyanese students in Year Two was 88% as compared to an 83% pass rate among Grenadians, a 75% pass rate among Dominicans, a 73% pass rate among Trinidadians, a 62% pass rate among Barbadians, and a 33% pass rate among Vincentians.

Dated 24th May, 2022

iii. Guyana Legal Aid Clinic - Mr. Teni Housty

It continues to be an honour and privilege to represent the Guyana Bar Association on the Board of the Guyana Legal Aid Clinic (Clinic). The contribution of the Clinic to the provision of legal services to qualifying clients provides an important bridge in ensuring access to justice in Guyana. The Clinic meets monthly on the third Wednesday at 3:30 pm. The meetings continue to be held virtually on the Zoom platform.

The Clinic maintains good working engagements with the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security as well as the Chambers of the Attorney–General. These collaborations provide both financial as well as human resources which enable the Clinic to fulfil its mandate to the Guyanese society. The future of the Clinic will hopefully see the implementation of a strategic plan; a strengthened legal and intuitional framework in addition to a new physical structure for the delivery of services.

Dated 20th May, 2022

iv. Deeds & Commercial Registries Authority Governing Board – Mr. Donavon Rangiah

No report submitted.

v. Rules Committee – Ms. Jamela Ali, SC

On the 23rd November 2018, I was nominated as a representative of GBA on the Rules Committee and accepted by the Chancellor of the Judiciary who chairs the Committee. The other members are Madam Chief Justice Roxane George, SC, Justice of Appeal Mr. Rishi Persaud, Mr. Rafiq Khan, SC, the Registrar of Supreme Court and Mr Nigel Hawke, Solicitor General, from the Attorney General's Chambers and Ms Dhurjon, Attorney at Law.

For the above period, Zoom meetings were held on the 15th July 2021 and the 23rd September 2021 respectively. Some of the recommendations of the Bar Council of GBA to the Civil Procedure Rules as well as from members of the Committee were discussed. Discussions were being done in blocks starting from Part 1 of the CPR 2016.

For the above period, Zoom meetings were held on the 15th July 2021 and the 23rd September 2021 respectively. Some of the recommendations of the Bar Council of GBA to the Civil Procedure Rules as well as from members of the Committee were discussed. Discussions were being done in blocks starting from Part 1 of the CPR 2016.

A meeting was scheduled for 28th October 2021 but was not convened.

It is expected that meetings will be reconvened shortly to continue the process of amendments to the CPR 2016.

Dated 11th May, 2022

vi. Supreme Court Case Management System Business Committee – Mr. Keoma D. Griffith

At the extended programme for the Opening of Session for the Demerara Assizes held during the Bar Association of Guyana's Inaugural Law Week 2022 on 5th April, 2022, the Chief Justice(Ag.) exclaimed that the Supreme Court of Judicature of Guyana is on a transformational trajectory to provide technologically advanced services throughout the Court system. The Supreme Court Case Management Initiative is a critical element in that transformational trajectory as it seeks to reassess case management apparatuses in the Magistrates' Court and establish a fully digital system of filing and hearing matters.

The Business Committee which is chaired by Chief Justice (Ag.) is comprised of a Judge of the High Court, Registrar and Assistant of the Supreme Court, Chief Magistrate and other Senior members of the Magistracy, Staff of the Supreme Court including the Magistrates' Court, State Counsel from the Attorney General's Chambers and Chambers of the Director of Public Prosecutions and your faithful servant on behalf of the Bar Association of Guyana.

The work of the Business Committee is critical to transforming the current system which operates in the Magistracy into an effective and efficient tool with world class court technology. The committee meets regularly to discuss efforts to transform and improve the current system. At these meetings, Counsel from the drafting department of the Attorney General's Chambers provides guidance to ensure the system is being improved without offending current legislation while providing recommendations for amendments where necessary. Likewise, Counsel from the Director of Public Prosecutions and Bar Association thereby representing the State and accused person(s) provide critical knowledge and guidance to ensure the new system in no way affects the right to a fair trial for those affected and by crime and those on trial for an offence.

Dated 20th May, 2022

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

No communication received from Council since the outbreak of Covid-19.

Dated 12th May, 2022

viii. Juvenile Justice Committee – Mr. Keoma D. Griffith

The Juvenile Justice Committee is empowered by the Juvenile Justice Act of 2018 to hear and as far as is possible, address the issues of Juveniles in contact with the legal system. Having been severely reduced by the onslaught of covid-19, the Committee has been reconstituted with a view bringing immediate resolve to the issues affecting juveniles in contact with the law and criminal legal system.

In compliance with s. 83 of the Act, the Committee has sought to conduct regular visits at holding centers for juveniles and to assess the conditions therein with a view of making representations and recommendation for improvement. Recently, the Committee commended and supported the recent launch of the Judiciary's Juvenile Drug Treatment Court as this has the potential providing institutional long-term treatment for Juveniles in contact with the law as opposed to existent forms of punishment.

The Committee sees its work as more than supervising the implementation of the Act. Its focus continues to identify tools and measures which have the ability to positively impact all youths who come into contact with the law. Meetings are held regularly of out of the Ministry of Home Affairs conference space or virtually. It is hoped that in the near future, the Committee will be supplied with a budget and a full secretariat and administrative staff of its own.

Dated 20th May, 2022

ix. Allied Health Professionals Council Guyana – Ms. Ramona Rookhum

No communication received from Council since appointment.

Dated 12th May, 2022

x. Pharmacy Council – Mr. Nigel Niles

Meetings

Statutory meetings of the Council are held on the second Wednesday of each month. During the period April 2021 to April 2022, seven (7) meetings were held. I attended five (5) of the seven (7) meetings held. My absence at any meeting may have been as a result of work commitments.

Major Matters

(i) Internship Programme

The Internship Programme is fully functional. The Council embarked on a hospital inspection exercise in an effort to expand the programme to other locations other than the Georgetown Public Hospital. Inspections were done at the Linden Hospital Complex, Fort Wellington Hospital, New Amsterdam Hospital, West Demerara Regional Hospital and the Suddie Regional Hospital. All sites met the basic requirements to conduct the Internship Programme. It was agreed that the Education Committee of the Council will continue to monitor the programme with the aim of improving the practical experience for Pharmacy graduates of the University of Guyana and other Pharmacy programmes. The Council continues to experience resistance from Pharmacy graduates to join the programme despite the this being a requirement by law to register as a "Practicing Pharmacist".

(ii) 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 and/or innovative interventions in the field of medicine. CE sessions were held on April 23rd & 24th 2022 via Zoom.

(iii) Elections

A new Council was elected on June 9th 2021. The members are:

Mr. Lee Van DeSantos - Chairperson

Mrs. Akima Sandiford-Simmons - Vice Chairperson

Ms. Kalawattie Datt-Singh, Member

Ms. Carol Ann Lam, Member Mr. Kwame Waldron, Member Mr. LeAndre Charles, Member Ms. Yvonne Bullen, Registrar

Mr. Oneil Atkins, Ministry of Health Representative

Ms. Marilyn DeSouza, Secretary

Ms. Lerline Neblett - Consumers Association Representative

Mr. Nigel Niles, Guyana Bar Association Representative

(iv) Draft Regulations - Pharmacy Practitioners Act 2003

Draft Regulations have been prepared and are pending for several years. The Council on April 19th 2022 conducted a review of the Regulations led by yours truly. A deadline of a month was set for suggestions to amend the document and a further review will be done before submission to the Hon. Minister of Health.

Prepared and submitted to the Bar Association of Guyana.

Dated 18th May, 2022

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

I serve 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 GCCI's nominee, Mr. Gavin Ramsoondar, Vice-Chairman, also GCCI'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.

Regrettably no meetings were held during the reporting period. The GCCI's EMC (Executive Management Committee) and Council are slated to elect a new chairperson and this was recently confirmed as being an item up for discussion at the next EMC Meeting.

Thanks to the Bar's Executive Committee once again for the opportunity to serve as its representative on this Council.

Dated 12th May, 2022

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

No report submitted.

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

No report submitted.

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

No report submitted.

xv. National Task Force for Prevention of Sexual Violence – Mr. K. A. Juman-Yassin, SC

No report submitted.



AUDITOR'S REPORT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING 30th APRIL, 2021

GUYANA BAR ASSOCIATION			
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS AT 30 APRIL 2021			
TOGETHER WITH			
REPORT OF THE AUDITORS			
MAURICE SOLOMON & CO.			
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS			

30 APRIL 2021

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Maurice Solomon & Co.



Chartered Accountants/Management Consultants

Trainee Development - Gold

MSC-005/2022

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, 2021, its financial performance, its changes in equity 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, 2021, the statement of Income and expenditure, the statement of changes in equity and statement of cashflows, for the year then ended and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies as set out in page 8 to 10.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

The Association reported the amount One Million One Hundred Sixty Five Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty Dollars (\$1,165,780) in note 4 of the financial statement. Of this amount, we were unable to adequately verify the accuracy of Nine Hundred Seventy Six Thousand Dollars (\$976,000) from the previous year balance due to the absence of sufficient records.

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 rules of the bar association, 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 association 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 association'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

February 18, 2022

GUYANA BAR ASSOCIATION STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 30 APRIL 2021

ASSETS	Note	2021 G\$	2020 G\$
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			-
Machinery and Equipment	3	1,061,036	1,102,448
CURRENT ASSETS			
Receivables & Prepayments	4	1,165,780	992,000
Cash and Bank	5	2,122,915	1,101,615
		3,288,695	2,093,615
TOTAL ASSETS		4,349,731	3,196,063
	_		
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
ACCUMULATED FUND		3,259,508	2,117,171
		en e	
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Payables	8	621,223	664,892
Advance Income		469,000	414,000
	*	1,090,223	1,078,892
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		4,349,731	3,196,063
The Council approved these financial statements for issue on			

fauline Over

President

The notes on pages 8 to 10 form an integral part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2021

	Note	2021 G\$	2020 G\$
INCOME	6	3,343,898	8,140,448
EXPENSES			
Administrative Expenses	7	(2,201,561)	(7,593,163)
NET SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		1 142 337	547 285
NET SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		1,142,337	547,285

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2021

	Retained Earnings	Total
	G\$	G \$
Year ended 30 April 2021		
As beginning of year	2,117,171	2,117,171
Profit for the year	1,142,337	1,142,337
As at end of year	3,259,508	3,259,508
Year ended 30 April 2020		
As beginning of year	1,569,886	1,569,886
Profit for the year	547,285	547,285
As at end of year	2,117,171	2,117,171

The notes on pages 8 to 10 form an integral part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2021

	2021	2020
OPERATING ACTIVITIES	G\$	G\$
Profit before Taxation	1 140 227	£47.00£
Adjusted for:	1,142,337	547,285
Depreciation	41 412	64.240
Loss on Disposal	41,412	64,240 112,574
Operating (loss) / profit before Working Capital Changes	1,183,749	724,099
	, .	
(Increase) in Receivables	(173,780)	(924,000)
Increase / (Decrease) in Trade Payables	(43,669)	(144,854)
Increase / (Decrease) in Advance Income	55,000	(341,493)
Cash generated from Operations:	(162,449)	(1,410,347)
Net Cash Inflow - Operating Activities	1,021,300	(686,248)
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Acquisition of Non - Current Assets	: •	-
Net Cash (Outflow) - Investing Activities		•
FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Finance cost		_
Net Cash (Outflow) - Financing Activities		
That Cash (Outlier) Thanking Metricia		
NET MOVEMENT IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	1,021,300	(686,248)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	1,101,615	1,787,863
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AS AT END OF YEAR	2,122,915	1,101,615
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS COMPRISE OF:		
Cash at Bank	1,892,713	1,101,615
Cash in Hand	230,202	-
•	2,122,915	1,101,615
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	

The notes on pages 8 to 10 form an integral part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

30 APRIL 2021

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 Computer

10- 15% per annum 50% per annum

(c) Income

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

(d)Deferred Income

Deferred income is recognised when payment is received in advance for services that has not been fulfilled.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

30 APRIL 2021

3. MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT

	OFFICE FURNITURE &	TOTAL
COST	G\$	G\$
COST As at beginning/end of the year	1,401,823	1,401,823
DEPRECIATION As at beginning of the year	299,375	299,375
Charges for the year	41,412	41,412
Wriiten Back on Disposals	<u>-</u>	-
As at end of the year	340,787	340,787
NET BOOK VALUE As at end of the year	1,061,036	1,061,036
As at beginning of the year	1,102,448	1,102,448
	2021 G\$	2020 G\$
4. RECEIVABLES	1,165,780	992,000
Accounts Receivables		
5. CASH & BANK	1 040 020	1 040 020
Special Purpose A/C/ CBGL	1,048,830	1,048,830
Guyana Bank for Trade & Industry	843,883	52,785
MMG	38,120	-
Cash in Hand	192,082 2,122,915	1,101,615
	2,122,913	

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

30 APRIL 2021

_	W.GG.47		2021 G\$	2020 G\$
6.	INCOME Subscription			
	Subscription		826,000	1,567,783
	Subscriptions prior year Tickets		90,000	-
	Income Bar Journal		349,880	1,578,000
	Other		6,000	715,000
	-Donations			
			343,800	1,997,065
	-Events/Seminars		836,820	2,181,000
	-Sale of Shirts/Caps/ID Cards		891,397	101,600
			3,343,898	8,140,448
7.	ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES			
	Wages and Salaries		500,000	451,644
	Advertising		21,944	-
	Cleaning		8,000	-
	Legal & Professional Fees		104,229	76,760
	Electricity		50,677	67,080
	International Bar Association		44,250	•
	Interest and Bank Charges		-	10,800
	Office Expenses		267,527	1,042,544
	Telephone and Internet		126,800	171,602
	Repairs and Maintenance		56,380	1,700
	Stationery & Postage		7,740	169,189
	Depreciation		41,412	64,240
	Travelling		33,900	305,381
	OCCBA Dues		567,059	-
	MMG Service cost		3,720	-
	Printing		19,600	18,400
	Special Events		254,924	1,162,459
	Other Expense		82,200	246,283
	Entertainment & Meals		***	3,677,695
	Insurance Expense		-	330
	Freight Expense		-	14,482
	Loss on disposals		-	112,574
	Bank Charges		11,200	- -
			2,201,561	7,593,163
8.	PAYABLES			
	Trade Payables		286,975	286,975
	Stale Dated Cheque		334,248	334,248
	Accruals		•	43,669
			621,223	664,892
		10	=======================================	

PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS



Mr. Keoma Griffith, Secretary of the Bar Association receives a copy of the 2nd edition of the "Code of Ethics for Judicial Officers" at the Launch held on 5th October, 2022 at the Pegasus Hotel.



Attorney-at-Law, Mr. Ronald Burch-Smith makes a presentation at the Bar Association's 'Practice at the Bar - An Orientation For Newly Admitted Attorneys-at-Law" held on 1st December, 2021 at the Herdmanston Lodge, Georgetown.



Ms. Pauline Chase, President of The Bar Association of Guyana and Ms. Shannielle E. Hoosein-Outar, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Human Services & Social Security sign the Memorandum of Understanding for the Legal Pro Bono 500 Initiative on 9th December, 2021 at the Arthur Chung Convention Center. Photo Credit: Ministry of Human Services & Social Security



Members of the Bar at the Bar Association's Christmas Social held on 22nd December, 2022 at the Cara Lodge Hotel.

PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS



Members of the public donate blood at the Blood Drive held in collaboration with the Ministry of Health on 17th February, 2022 at the Bar Office.



Vice-President of the Bar Association, Mr. Teni Housty (right) and Solicitor General, Mr. Nigel Hawke (left) led the way as members of the Bar, Bench, Magistracy, Court Registries and Diplomatic Corps in Guyana took to the streets of Georgetown for the Bar Association's Walk-a-Thon on 3rd April, 2022 to signal the opening of the association's inaugural Law Week.



Members of the Police Force Band at the Opening of the April Sessions for the Demerara Criminal Assizes on 5th April, 2022.

Photo Credit: Department of Public Information



The Head Table at the extended programme held post Opening of April Sessions for the Demerara Criminal Assizes.

Photo Credit: Department of Public Information

PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS



Attorneys-at-Law, Mr. Sanjeev Datadin and Ms. Excellence Dazzell returned to their alma mater, Queen's College to give guidance in a career in Law as part of the activities organized by the Bar Association for Law Week 2022.



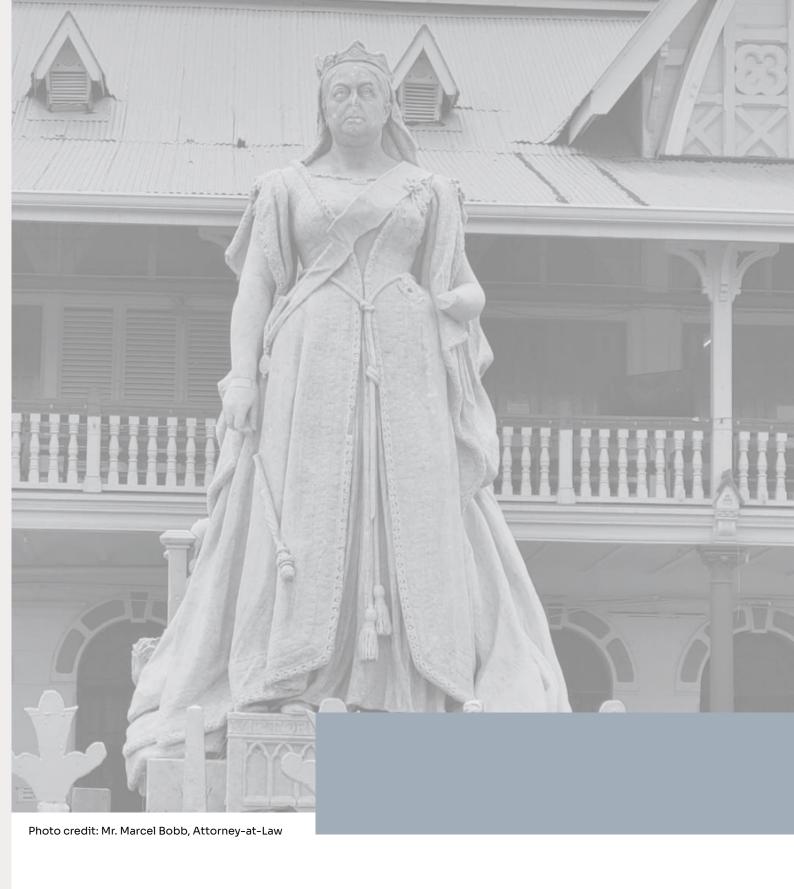
Attorneys-at-Law at an engagement with the Law Department of the University of Guyana titled "Paths in the Legal Profession." The event was organized by the Bar Association to mark Day 6 of Law Week 2022.



President of the Caribbean Court of Justice, the Hon. Justice Adrian Saunders at the podium to deliver the Keynote Address at the Bar Dinner held at the Marriott Hotel on 9th April, 2022 to bring the curtains down on the association's inaugural Law Week.



President, Ms. Pauline Chase represented the Bar Association at the State Dinner held at State House on May 21, 2022 in honour of the visiting Caribbean Heads of Government and their delegations for the inaugural Agriculture Investment Forum and Expo.
Pictured sharing a light moment with the Hon. Kamina Johnson-Smith, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica.
Photo Credit: Office of the President.



Contact Us



39 Brickdam, Stabroek, Georgetown, Guyana, South America

Contact

Phone: +(592) 231 4464

Website

www.guyanabarassociation.org