

**Welcome Address by
Attorney General, Denys H. Merchant
St. Kitts & Nevis,
Bailiff Workshop
30th - 31st October 2008**

It is indeed a pleasure to be given an opportunity to say a few welcoming words.

The job and function of a Bailiff goes back since the 13th Century when the Bailiff was seen as an officer of the Sheriff or Manager of the Shire or Country (as it then was in England).

Over the years, there has been developmental changes in the manner in which their job is carried out but they continue and has always played a fundamental part in the Administration of Justice whether by saving documents and executing warrants, Judgment etc.

In some Jurisdictions, Bailiffs are known as either Private Bailiffs or Public Bailiffs. Private Bailiffs operate as free agents rendering services for hire to private citizens and are governed by a particular piece of Legislation.

Public Bailiffs are appointed by the Crown and are functionaires of the court and very often governed too by Legislature.

Like any other job or profession, there are indeed challenges

1. Monitoring job performances
2. Defining job descriptions
3. Developing Codes of Ethics
4. Ensuring job security, particularly in hostile situations
5. Improving quality of services
6. Maximizing productivity and effectiveness in saving documents in the court process or seizure and sale of property

It is in exercises of this nature and workshops like these that can improve the efficiency and skills of Bailiffs.

So it is therefore necessary:

1. To train Bailiffs in the Law related to them and the Courts
2. Train in the efficiency of saving documents

3. Possibly create a manual which can provide consistency and infirmity in performing you functions
4. Explore new areas of improvement for the enhanced delivery of your work
5. Generally create a sensual motivation for the job

Because you work as a Bailiff can have dire effects on the Administration of Justice if it is not done properly. It is important that you take this course seriously and develop a source of and professionalism in the conduct of your duty. This workshop is long over due and most timely.

I would therefore like to take this opportunity in welcoming you to the Federation of St. Kitts & Nevis, this part of the Federation formally know as Sugar City no longer is producing sugar but still managing to maintain its sweetness, friendliness and an abundance of to keep you busy over the next two days.

Please make a visit to Nevis and enjoy our wonderful food.

Welcome to the Federation.