

A large, faint image of a pair of scales of justice, symbolizing law and equity, is centered in the background.A close-up photograph of a wooden gavel resting on a wooden surface, positioned in the top right corner.A photograph of a modern, two-story court building with a stone facade and arched windows, located in the middle right section.

EASTERN CARIBBEAN
SUPREME COURT

2010 - 2011

ANNUAL REPORT

MISSION STATEMENT

“ To serve its Member States by providing access to a system of justice that is accountable and independent, and administered by officers in a prompt, fair, efficient and effective manner. ”

VISION STATEMENT

“ The achievement of professionalism and excellence in the timely, effective and efficient access to, and administration of a cohesive, independent and accountable system of justice for the benefit of its Member States. ”



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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF JUSTICE

The endeavours undertaken by the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court over the past year as well as our plans for the upcoming Law Year are all geared towards making justice accessible to the citizens of the OECS, regardless of religious affiliation, educational, financial or social status. Although a number of our reform initiatives are highlighted in detail throughout the pages of this report, there are a few which are deserving of a brief reference.

Since 2004, the Court has embarked on a number of reform initiatives aimed at strengthening judicial governance and administration, and increasing accountability. During the course of the year we continued to relentlessly pursue these specified goals and objectives.

The Halls of Justice project which seeks to improve the basic infrastructure of the legal system, by constructing new court facilities in all nine Member States/Territories, made significant progress and is now in the forefront of our reform initiative. The Regional Project Steering Committee (RPSC) convened its first meeting and examined a number of critical areas: the progress of the feasibility study; the examination of a draft budget prepared for the project; funding strategies and options; and site readiness for the proposed buildings. In spite of the instability of the world economy we anticipate that donors will continue to be receptive to our request for assistance in this initiative, thus enabling us to achieve our goal of state-of-the-art court buildings in each Member State/Territory.

The initiative towards the administrative integration of the Magistracy achieved a milestone when on May 20, 2011, the Heads of Authority of the OECS signed the agreement to integrate the Magistrates Court into the Supreme Court structure. This agreement was signed by eight of the nine Member States and Territories at the 53rd inter sessional meeting held in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The final signature was obtained, after the meeting, from the Head of the Member State who was not present at the meeting in May. The signing of this Agreement by all the Member States and Territories is a pre-cursor to ratification and enactment which are the next steps to be undertaken individually by the Member States and Territories. The Court will continue to work with the Attorneys General to ensure this is achieved.

Over the past year the Criminal Division in Saint Lucia continued to function successfully. Change is always accompanied by challenges, and the Division experienced its fair share, but these were

counteracted with measures that effectively addressed them; measures which we anticipate will serve in good stead as we continue rollouts in Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, the Commonwealth of Dominica and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

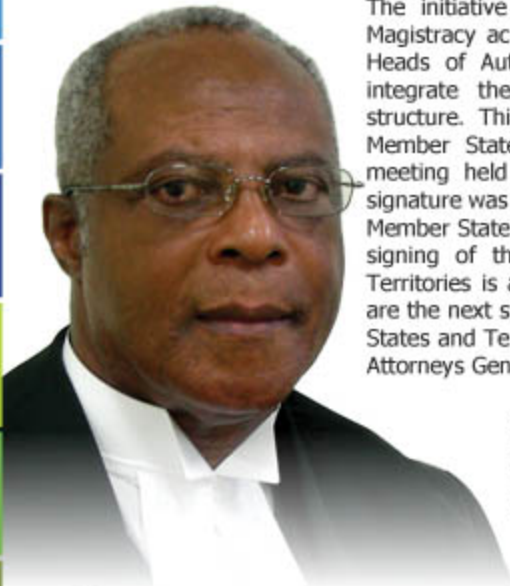
The revision of the Civil Procedure Rules 2000 has been completed and will come into effect on October 1, 2011. I hereby express thanks to the Rules Review Committee and the consultants who assisted in this initiative, and look forward to the use of the revised Rules and Practice Directions and Guides.

Information Communication and Technology (ICT) is one of the major thrusts of the Court's reform initiative as we strive to increase operational efficiency and effectiveness. The Court continues to keep abreast of technological advances that will work in tandem with other initiatives and thus help to facilitate speedier access to justice. To this end the Court's focus is on encouraging and facilitating the acquisition of Digital Court Recording hardware and software solutions to replace analog/cassette Court Recording Systems in all the Member States/Territories. The Judicial Enforcement Management System (JEMS) continues to play a significant role in the case management process, and much work has been done in maintaining and updating both hardware and software to facilitate its optimum use. In the continued bid to harness technology to its advantage, and support the delivery of justice in a timely manner, the Court continued the installation of Video Conferencing facilities in the High Courts of the Member States/Territories to complement the equipment at the Headquarters.

The Court's reform initiatives fall under its wider mission of "... access to a system of justice that is accountable and independent..." As we journey towards this goal we anticipate the continued support of all our stakeholders.

In closing I express appreciation to the Judges, Masters, Magistrates and Registrars, as well as the staff of all the court offices in the OECS for their dedicated service given throughout the past year. I also thank the many persons who served in the capacity of acting judicial officers during the course of the year. In this regard I thank retired Justices of Appeal Michael Gordon, QC, and Albert Redhead, as well as Retired Justices Lyle St. Paul, Ephraim Georges, Ian Donaldson Mitchell, Albert Matthew, Henry Moe, Suzie d'Auvergne, Monica Joseph and Ian Kawaley. I also thank legal practitioners Messers Tyrone Chong, QC, Jefferson Cumberbatch, Paul Webster, QC, Anthony Gonsalves, Jeffrey Nisbett, and Michael Fay.

Finally I thank you our readers for your continued interest in our Court



During the year under review the Court continued to face the pressures resulting from the economic crisis which have been affecting all the Member States and Territories of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court as was highlighted in the last Annual Report. The toll of this crisis on the operations of the Court was evidenced in a number of activities and initiatives planned over the last year which could not be undertaken due to unavailability of funds to execute them. The more extensively impacted areas included the court reforms and the judicial education activities.

Notwithstanding the financial challenge, the Court has made significant progress in its continued bid to facilitate access to a system of justice that promotes efficiency and equity for all.

One of the major initiatives which commenced during the latter part of the last year is a review and audit of the security measures impacting the judiciary in each Member State. In order to successfully conduct this exercise, the Court has been receiving assistance from the Regional Security System (RSS) which is based in Barbados. It is anticipated that once the review and audit is completed in the early part of the next Law Year, a comprehensive paper outlining the findings and recommendations will be prepared and submitted to the OECS Heads of Government in order to create and maintain consistency in security arrangements across the sub-region.

At a Statistics Workshop which was hosted by the Caribbean Court of Justice in November 2010, the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Courts' Statistician was exposed to training in the reporting of data in a court environment. As a result of this, the ECSC has designed a special project to develop a procedures manual for use in all Court Offices within the jurisdiction. The project, led by the Court Statistician, will include representatives from all Member States and Territories. All existing practices will be examined with a view to adopt the one which is most efficient for implementation.

Once data has been entered consistently throughout the jurisdiction it will facilitate a more accurate analysis of the information presented. This activity will work well with the JEMS Database Clean-up Exercise, initiated by the Managing Judge, Acting High Court Judge E. Anthony Ross during his time of service with the Court. At present efforts at cleaning up the High Court data in the JEMS databases have actively commenced in Anguilla, St. Kitts, Antigua, Montserrat, Grenada, and the Territory of the Virgin Islands. Both activities will continue in the new year.

The Court continues to use technology to artificially bridge the divide created by the Caribbean Sea between Member States and Territories and thereby reduce operational costs. Towards this objective, there have been significant developments in three main areas.

First, the introduction of the video conferencing equipment in most of the Member States now allows the Court to conduct meetings and facilitate the Court of Appeal operations in the areas of judgment delivery, hearing of applications, and hearing of Chamber Matters. These developments will reduce the cost associated with travel and we expect that over time this technology will be used even more to reduce operational costs.

A second area where there has been some progress is in the use of the JEMS application. We have started the JEMS software upgrades which places the IT Department closer to the realization of having a centralized server located at and managed from the Courts' Headquarters in Saint Lucia. Once these upgrades have been completed, we will realize further reductions in the costs associated with travel for the provision of support to Member States and Territories.

The third area where the use of technology will greatly assist in reducing costs is with the introduction of digital audio recording in the Courts. Maintenance of the equipment and the consumables required for the operation of this new technology is significantly lower than that required for the traditional analog cassette recorders presently being used in most of our courts. The initial experience with the few sites which presently utilize the digital technology has been very encouraging. Information recorded in the Courts can now be stored electronically anywhere in the world and can be moved from one location to another without even having to use physical media such as CDs or tapes. Member States and Territories presently using the older equipment will soon no longer need to purchase the audio cassette tapes nor will they need to find space to store the media. The Court is presently discussing various options to utilize this new technology to further develop efficiencies for the creation of the official transcript of the Court proceedings, thereby reducing the time between completing a trial and having the matter ready for hearing before the Court of Appeal.

At the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court we are at a very exciting stage where the benefits of the reforms are bearing fruit in the areas where they have been implemented despite the challenges associated with the limited available resources; and we look forward to an equally exciting 2011/2012 Law Year as we continue to contribute to the development of Commonwealth Caribbean jurisprudence.

02

ACCESS TO JUSTICE



Access to justice intersects with human rights in a number of ways. First, it is itself a fundamental human right as set out in Article 8 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: "Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law." Secondly, it is a means to protect and enjoy other rights. Thirdly, for the right to access to justice to be truly enjoyed, a number of other human rights must also be protected, such as the right to information, the right to physical safety, the right to confidentiality and the right to privacy.

A fair and efficient system for providing justice is crucial to the proper functioning of society. Not only does it hold individuals, including state officials, accountable for their actions, but it also sets norms of behaviour for other citizens. In short, access to justice forms the bedrock of most advanced societies and those aspiring to reach that stage of advancement would fall short if it is ignored.

The ECSC is currently working on finalizing its strategic plan for the period 2011/2021 with the vision; "Professionalism, excellence in providing justice for all." A copy of that document will be made available once finalized; however, it spells out the major goals for the organization as:

- (a) Creation of a unified Court that integrates the High Court and the Magistrates Court in specialized divisions dealing with criminal, civil, family and commercial matters.
- (b) Enhancement of management and operations of the judicial system at all levels including the full integration of the Magistracy.
- (c) Provision of modern and appropriate physical facilities, infrastructure and systems enabling the judicial system to operate effectively and efficiently.
- (d) Equipping the judicial system with modern and appropriate Information and Communication Technology (ICT), thereby enhancing efficiency at all levels to support the operational management and strategic systems.
- (e) Enhancement of public perception of the justice system.
- (f) Establishment of a Trust Fund to ensure the independent financing of ECSC into perpetuity.

These goals are further broken down into strategic actions which will inform the work plan of the organization for the next ten (10) years. The principal focus therefore is to provide "access to justice for all" by focusing on these work programs and structures.

The work over the past year has embraced the theme brought into sharper focus through these deliverables:

Criminal Division

Work on the Criminal Division implementation in the islands of Grenada, the Commonwealth of Dominica and St. Vincent and the Grenadines has progressed steadily. Antigua and Barbuda is the fourth island on the list for roll out. During the year under review, several meetings were conducted in all four Member States geared at the following: sensitizing of all key stakeholder groups within the justice sector on the new Rules, assessing their readiness for implementation and reviewing the applicability of the relative provisions of the Rules to existing legislation and practice. Early implementation issues for the Criminal Division were assessed and proposed solutions noted. Working Committees were established and appointment of key personnel to assist the Attorneys General (AG) Chambers and the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court with this implementation was proposed. The intention behind this approach is to relocate the court reform work within the AG's Chambers and provide the leadership and support to enable the program to flourish and develop from the ECSC Headquarters.

In all of these Member States (except Antigua and Barbuda) consultation and sensitization meetings on the Rules were conducted with officials of the prisons,

police (including all departments and levels of officers, as these Rules will affect and require a totally different approach to police investigations and procedures), the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) Office, Registrar (and High Court staff), Magistrates (and staff), Judges, the Attorney General's Chambers and the Bar Association. A Project Steering Committee (PSC) was established in each of these Member States with the principal function of advising the Court and the AG's Chambers on implementation issues. A presiding judge was appointed in each Member State to oversee the activities of implementation at the court level, while other sub-committees were formed to support the PSC in its function. The Criminal Procedure Rules are currently being revised by the Attorney General's Chambers in Grenada, and, upon completion, it is expected that these will be promulgated in the four Member States.

The AG's Chambers was assisted with the initial preparatory work leading to the establishment of a Crown/State Prosecution Service (CPS) in each Member State. The CPS proposes the merging of the Police Prosecuting Unit and the DPP's office into one Unit, preferably, in a single office space. That merger would inter alia: give the DPP's office more direct supervision of the preparation of indictable case files for trial and thus facilitate the level of expedition, details and accuracy required with the prosecution of cases under these new Rules. Though not within our remit, the ECSC has provided guidance and leadership in that area to all the Member States and will continue work with them in the upcoming year to ensure that this initiative is accomplished successfully. All four Member States have begun work in pursuit of the establishment of such an office, with the most advanced being the Commonwealth of Dominica, where a memorandum of understanding (MOU) (between the police and the DPP's Office) has already been approved by Cabinet to facilitate the CPS. Space has already been allocated for the operations of that office downstairs the DPP's current location in that Member State.

In Grenada, staff training began at the Magistrates Court and the High Court in Case Management Conference practices and procedures; included also, was training in the Judicial Enforcement Management System (JEMS), the software utilized by the Court to track and manage the progress of cases from filing to disposition. In preparation for the new Rules, there was also training and discussions on the creation of a new court agency for that Division.

Since the changes introduced through the new Rules and the creation of the Criminal Division resulted in a substantial reduction in the amount of work at the Magistrates Court, discussions began with the AGs Chambers on legislative changes to the jurisdiction of the courts in general. (The Preliminary Inquiry (PI) which initially formed a substantial part of the work of the Magistrates are now virtually removed from that Court and will leave the Magistrates Court with substantially less work; on the other hand at the High Court, there are a significant number of offences against person and property which are triable by a judge and jury, which can be tried by a Magistrates Court). Such changes would ensure a more equitable distribution of workload and afford the Magistrates

Court the opportunity to develop expertise in the handling of what was once termed, serious criminal offences.

Civil Division

Work has been completed on the review of the Civil Procedure Rules with the kind assistance of David and Louise Di Mambro from the UK. The new amendments are now ready for promulgation and are likely to impact future work on the development of rules for the Family Division and the Magistrates Court. These Rules were widely circulated among practitioners; comments received on the proposed amendments were factored into the revised drafts. These amended drafts are now ready for promulgation.

Family Division

Following on the work done by Justice Ola Mae Edwards and the committee named to coordinate the drafting of rules and procedures for the Family Division, (which has virtually been completed), a regional committee was established comprising persons from: Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), UN-Women and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) along with a representative from the Grenada Legal Aid Clinic, the OECS Secretariat and the ECSC to examine the possibility of establishing a Family Division piloted in two Member States (Grenada and Antigua), and modeled after the Trinidad and Tobago Family Court. It is largely expected that this Division will be funded by the three agencies mentioned above; however, there will be a component to be funded by the Member States governments. At the time of preparing this report, the proposal development stage of this project had already begun with a consultancy funded by UN-Women.

Integration of the Magistracy

Since the signing of the Agreement to administratively integrate the Magistracy by the Heads of Government, the AG's offices in the Member States/Territories have been engaged in discussions on the ratification and enactment process. It is expected that this process will run smoothly in all the Member States/Territories. Meanwhile, the implementation plan for the activities that would ensure their full integration is under review and discussions with the relevant stakeholders are in an advanced planning stage.

Halls of Justice (HOJ)

Work on the final stages of the feasibility report for this project is nearing completion. Thus far, a few major milestones have been achieved namely: the completion of the Inception Report following the consultants reconnaissance visit to the ten sites and their assessment of the work to be done; a Regional Project Steering Committee (RPSC) meeting was convened in September 2010 to review the findings of the Report and to consider other issues critical to the project management, including the budget.

The meeting, convened in Saint Lucia, brought together all the Chairpersons of the National Working Committees (NWC) from all the Member States/Territories.

It was agreed that this Committee would meet on a quarterly basis, and, in the interim, would serve as an Advisory Committee to the Chief Justice's office. The meeting called for a close re-examination of the Terms of Reference of the RPSC which brought it more in line with that advisory role. In December 2010, the consultants issued their inception report, a very detailed document which caused a review of the timelines initially agreed at the contract signing. The draft feasibility report was submitted four months later. Detailed comments were submitted to the consultants on that draft report and we now await the issuance of the final draft feasibility report which will complete phase one of that feasibility study. These documents have been placed on an FTP site and are available for viewing and comments from all stakeholders.

Advanced work on the site survey; production of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Social Impact Assessment (SIA) have also been completed and the draft feasibility report was submitted in April 2011.

During the initial stages of the HOJ project, the ECSC team had prepared a demand assessment document which formed the basis of the space requirements for the building, and advised the consulting architects on the programming required. Consultations and interactions during the feasibility phase, confirmed that this document was inadequate and therefore the services of a legal consultant from the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) was procured to assist the team of architects with the completion of a design brief which would, in essence, attempt to verify the demand assessment document that was provided, and examined in greater details the space programming needs of the Court. Therefore, having completed this design brief the architects could now turn their full attention to the development of conceptual solutions and costing that would be necessary to ensure that this phase of the project is satisfactorily completed. A full design brief is now completed for the project.

As the feasibility study nears completion, there is the need to address and pursue more vigorously the discussions with the donor community for assistance with the next stages i.e. the completion of detailed drawings and construction. Work on this has already begun through sessions with CDB and CIDA; plans are being discussed for the staging of a major donor's conference to discuss this issue.

The twenty-first century has seen access to justice as a pre-eminent issue of civil justice reform in nations all over. Mediation has been used by many as a partial solution to this issue. Opponents of this medium argue that mediation is “soft justice,” or just another “flavour of the month” and is “... nothing more than an additional layer of costs in the litigation stream and a process fundamentally at odds with the role of the court as decision maker”; but proponents will tell you that mediation has the potential to provide speedy resolutions for litigants and at the same time cutback on the financial costs that could be incurred in a lengthy court trial.

According to Justice Indra Hariprashad Charles “... Mediation is therefore the best course of action to allow relationships to be resumed or continued by offering each party an honorable way out of the dispute. Recourse to mediation may also be favored due to uncertainty regarding the legal outcome of a case, to the manifest unfairness of applying a rule of law or a clause in a contract to a particular case, the fear of too lengthy proceedings or to the overriding need to achieve a swift outcome of a dispute.” (Presentation on The Role and Responsibilities of the Judge/Master in the Mediation Process during a JEI-sponsored Seminar at the Bay Gardens Hotel in Saint Lucia, January 2004)

Mediation in the Eastern Caribbean

During the period under review the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court has successfully used mediation to place justice within the reach of persons who may have otherwise found this commodity elusive.

The Grenada Program, one of the most established ones, received a record 125 referrals, during the period. Of these, 87 were mediated, 56 were settled and 31 were not settled. 20 matters are pending.

In Antigua and Barbuda, the Territory of the Virgin Islands, and St. Kitts and Nevis, the Masters have confirmed that mediation is doing well.

There was disruption to the Saint Lucia Mediation Program, due to renovation and repairs being undertaken at the High Court. Therefore the Masters, who refer the majority of matters to mediation, were unable to sit for three sessions, resulting in a drastic reduction in the number of referrals. Nonetheless, 57 referrals were received; 44 matters were mediated, with 28 settled and 16 not settled. 13 matters are pending.

The Commonwealth of Dominica now boasts a dedicated mediation facility, situated about 15 minutes walking distance from the Court Registry. Easy parking access, adequate space to conduct mediations with a waiting/break out area, have resulted in a marked improvement in conduct of the program.

Inadequate facilities have been a major factor in retarding program growth in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Regional Mediation Coordinator

The Regional Mediation Coordinator has embarked upon a series of visits to the Member States, to meet with the Judges, Registrars and members of the Bar Association in order to review rules, guidelines and processes for the continued growth and development of the program.

He visited Grenada, the Commonwealth of Dominica and St. Vincent and the Grenadines during July/August. These visits will continue in the other Member States/Territories and are expected to be completed by the end of September 2011.

It is clear that where programs are flourishing, dedicated personnel and facilities have been made available to support the mediation activity; where mediation is added to the other responsibilities of court officials, the programs may be languishing as mediation may not be seen as a priority.

New opportunities for sensitisation and training are being explored with a view to address the above-mentioned issue and thus provide a level of service that will continue to make justice accessible to all, regardless of colour, creed or race.

Program Evaluation

A Program Evaluation allows one to determine its efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability. It shows whether or not that program is achieving its purpose and is in fact creating the desired positive change.

The following is an evaluation of the program during 2010 for the Member States of Saint Lucia, the Territory of the Virgin Islands (TVI) and Grenada. This analysis is based on the opinions of some of the litigants and attorneys who participated in Mediation sessions in the three named Member States; as evaluation forms were not returned by all persons, hence the figures and percentages quoted are not representative of the total number of participants for the stated period.

Questions about litigant and attorney perceptions of mediation were an important component of the evaluation instruments; and in general the data indicated that the parties positively perceived and responded to mediation.

Section A: Litigant Responses

A total of 280 evaluation forms were received from litigants. The distribution of these according to Member State was: 36 from the TVI, 171 from Grenada and 73 from Saint Lucia.

A total of 137 defendants and 124 claimants submitted evaluation forms. 10 individuals were categorized as "Other" and the remaining 9 did not specify their role in the mediation.

Some of the comments stated by litigants are:

- » "I would recommend the mediation process"
- » "The process was fair and was conducted in the spirit that favored either party (as it should be!!)"
- » "I think the mediator has done a great job. His timely intervention made it possible to reach a settlement "
- » "The mediator should ask more questions and stop speakers who introduce matters outside the issues"
- » "Although the mediator asked appropriate questions to determine the facts in the case, the facts were not used to make a fair settlement. This is the downside of the mediation process....."

272 (97%) individuals indicated that they were represented by an attorney. Only six did not have an attorney while two gave no response. Of the six persons who represented themselves three faced difficulty performing that duty.

Of great significance is that mediation realizes its primary objective which is to settle cases out of the official court setting. The data showed that about 67% of cases were settled. Roughly one quarter of litigants did not settle their cases. The following table gives the breakdown of the ratings for settlement of cases.

Table A1: Was your case settled?

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	188	67.1
No	71	25.4
Partially	4	1.4
No Response	17	6.1
TOTAL	280	100

Based on the submitted evaluation forms from litigants, the settlement rates specific to each Member State were 61%, 73% and 58% for TVI, Grenada and Saint Lucia respectively. The data are given in Table A2.

Table A2: Was your case settled? (Per Member State)

Member State	Was Case Settled				
	Yes	No	Partially	No Response	Total
TVI	22	8	3	3	36
Grenada	124	42	1	4	171
Saint Lucia	42	21	0	10	73
Total	188	71	4	17	280

The aspects of mediation referred to in this paragraph pertain to the 188 litigants whose cases were settled. Based on the ratings it can be deduced that the majority were satisfied with the settlement. More specifically, 178 of the 188 were satisfied with the terms of the agreement, 180 felt that mediation would settle the dispute and 170 were of the opinion that the other party would live up to the terms of the agreement.

A fair percentage of litigants felt that the mediator's fee was reasonable. This was true for 216 of the 280 persons or about 77%. 33 disagreed and felt that the fee was not reasonable while the remainder gave no or invalid responses.

The ratings indicate that the litigants thought the mediators did a good job. A high percentage of litigants (91%) or 256 persons felt that the mediators explained the process clearly. 80% to 90% gave the highest rating to other aspects of the mediators' performance including that: the mediators allowed full representation of their case, carefully listened to their side of the case, asked appropriate questions to determine the facts of the case, helped generate options for settling the case and treated all parties equally.

Also of particular note is that 245 litigants or approximately 88% of them were satisfied with the way the mediators handled the sessions. The breakdown is shown in Table A3.

Table A3: Overall, I was satisfied with the way the Mediator handled the session

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Disagree	11	3.9
Not Sure	9	3.2
Agree	245	87.5
No Response	15	5.4
TOTAL	280	100

The overall feelings of litigants towards the mediation were positive. 231 (approximately 83%) agreed that they were satisfied with the mediation session; 10 were not satisfied while the remainder were either not sure or gave no response.

The litigants' experience with mediation would impact their willingness to try it again. 215 (77%) agreed to try mediation again; 34 were not sure and 16 disagreed. The rest gave no response or had invalid responses.

Section B: Attorney Responses

A total of 256 attorneys submitted evaluation forms for their respective mediations. The number per territory was 32 from the TVI, 157 from Grenada and 67 from Saint Lucia.

The share of claimant's to defendant's attorney was close. Of the 256 attorneys, claimants and defendants amounted to 125 and 121 respectively. 1 attorney was categorized as "Other" while 9 did not respond.

Some of the positive comments from the attorneys, mostly praising the skill of the mediator, are listed below:

- » "Excellent job by mediator – explaining, listening...producing settlement..."
- » "This mediation experience was indeed refreshing and does not result in the stresses of a court trial. Mediation of complex issues seems to be the way forward for dispute resolution"
- » "I am extremely pleased with the manner in which the mediator appropriately dealt with the issues presented. ...I believe this matter was most appropriate for mediation because of the history of a good relationship between the parties. After the mediation all parties appeared completely satisfied with the outcome and were given the opportunity to vent their concerns and issues with the other party"
- » "The mediator handled the dispute exceptionally well...the parties were however at a stalemate for some time. Impressively, the mediator was able to find an opening and arrive at a settlement"

However there were one or two comments which brought attention to the drawbacks of mediation:

- » "Claimant's approach to mediation made resolution of matter impossible"
- » "Parties just would not settle. Mediator did her best"

The breakdown for the settlement of cases is illustrated in Table B1. Approximately 60% of cases were settled while about one quarter remained unsettled.

Table B1: Outcome of Mediation

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Not settled	66	25.8
Settled	155	60.5
Partially Settled	7	2.7
Continued	2	0.8
No Response	26	10.2
TOTAL	256	100

Based on the submitted evaluation forms from attorneys, the settlement rates specific to each Member State were 56%, 63% and 57% for TVI, Grenada and Saint Lucia respectively. The data are given in Table B2.

Table B2: Settlement of Cases by Member State from Attorney Evaluation Forms

Member State	Outcome of Mediation					
	Not Settled	Settled	Partially Settled	Continued	No Response	Total
TVI	7	18	2	2	3	32
Grenada	40	99	0	0	18	157
Saint Lucia	19	38	5	0	5	67
Total	66	155	7	2	26	256

The bulk of cases were Contract cases which accounted for approximately 39% of the total. This was followed by Tort cases. The percentage shares for the various case types based on submitted evaluation forms are given in Table B3.

Table B3: Case Types Mediated as Specified by Attorneys

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Contract	99	38.7
Tort	49	19.1
Property	18	7.0
Land	15	5.9
Negligence	8	3.1
Damages	8	3.1
Trespassing	7	2.7
Divorce	7	2.7
Succession	6	2.3
Trust	5	2.0
Debt	4	1.6
Matrimonial	4	1.6
Family	1	0.4
Defamation	1	0.4
Employment	1	0.4
Other	1	0.4
No Response	22	8.6
TOTAL	256	100

The skill of the mediator will to a great extent determine the success or failure of the session. There were two areas where the mediator received the highest ratings from about 90% of the attorneys: how well the mediator explained the mediation process during the introduction and the impartiality of the mediator.

Whether the mediator asked appropriate questions to determine the facts of the case, clarified key issues and interests or helped generate realistic options, all received the highest rating of "very good" from between 85% to 88% of Attorneys. 212 of the 256 Attorneys selected the highest rating for the mediators' ability to facilitate the impasse. There were 33 persons who felt that they did so satisfactorily while 6 thought this was poorly done.

A sizable percentage (78%) of attorneys felt that the mediator's level of participation was high. However the percentage who gave this category the highest rating was lower relative to the other aspects of the evaluation hence this is an area which can be improved. See Table B4.

Table B4: Mediator's level of participation

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Medium	21	8.2
High	200	78.1
No Response	34	13.3
Invalid Response	1	0.4
TOTAL	256	100

Overall, 234 of the 256 attorneys (91%) were very satisfied with the mediators. 247 indicated that they were satisfied with the way the mediators 'worked the case' and the remaining 9 gave no response. There were no dis-satisfied participants.

About 203 (79%) attorneys were very satisfied with the mediation process. 19% were satisfied with the process while the rest equally felt it was poor or gave no response.

Reaction to mediation would greatly depend on the outcome of the case. 169 gave the highest rating of "very good" for being satisfied with the outcome while a notable 62 felt their experience was just satisfactory. 22 of them considered this was poor.

Although 155 attorneys categorised their case as being settled, a higher number (186) indicated that the mediation facilitated its early resolution. This would be attributed to the fact that persons who categorised the outcome of their case as partially settled, continued to resolution, and even some of the non-responses selected that the mediation facilitated early resolution of the case. Also notable is that a high percentage (93%) felt that mediation was appropriate in their case.

It is evident that mediation has been successful in the Eastern Caribbean. There are challenges, specifically in reference to physical facilities and human resource, but if properly addressed, this activity has the potential to make generous inroads in facilitating the delivery of justice in the sub-region.

02 | ACCESS TO JUSTICE – TRAINED PROFESSIONALS

Training and professional development is one of the most important components of an organization's strategic plan. With suitably trained personnel it is better able to achieve its mission and offer quality service to its customers. The Court is fully cognizant of the part played by a workforce made up of competent officers if it is to adequately provide access to justice in a fair, prompt and efficient manner; and through the Judicial Education Institute (JEI) facilitated the following training opportunities:

The Joint Symposium of the OECS Bar Association and the JEI was the feature event of the Annual Law Fair for Legal Practitioners and Judicial Officers of the Eastern Caribbean, hosted by the OECS Bar Association in St. Kitts at the St. Kitts Marriott Resort on September 11, 2010.

The theme of the Symposium was 'Expert Evidence'. Justices Ralston Nelson, of the Caribbean Court of Justice and Sidney Lederman, Judge of the Ontario Supreme Court in Canada, gave thought provoking presentations, which were well received by the participants. Justice Nelson has over twenty years of experience in teaching expert evidence, while Justice Lederman has co-authored a book on the Law of Evidence in Civil Cases.

The JEMS User Training Workshop is a biennial event hosted by the JEI, and was conducted in Saint Lucia, at the Coco Palm Resort and Spa during the period October 18 – 22, 2010. The IT Department of the ECSC Headquarters headed by Mr. Mark Ernest facilitated the training. Facilitators were comprised of "Power" JEMS users from courts in the Sub-region. A trainer and technical support personnel from PCSS made a presentation on the Management of Financial Information in JEMS, via web conference. A feature of the workshop was the Hon. Chief Justice Hugh A. Rawlins' address, where he spoke on the importance of technology in the court system. He identified future new initiatives, reiterated the importance of consistency in the use of JEMS, and encouraged the participants to train others from the knowledge gained, on their return to their respective Member State / Territory.



Workshop participants attentively following presentation



Section of participants at JEMS 2010 Workshop



Justice Kenneth Benjamin presenting Certificate of Participation to Ms. Marisa Rennix of High Court of Justice, St. Kitts and Nevis

Support Staff of the High Courts and Magistrates Courts of the islands of the Commonwealth of Dominica and Montserrat met in the Commonwealth of Dominica at the Garraway Hotel during the period March 14 – 18, 2011 for **Training in Customer Service**, which was facilitated by Ms. Denise Collymore, Human Resource Consultant.

The sessions were well received by the participants who welcomed the learning experience. Some of the very same issues that exist in other islands were identified during discussions - the need for the participation of supervisors in training exercises, insufficient office accommodation (e.g. four bailiffs having to share one desk and one computer), work conditions not conducive to productivity.

An **Orientation Program** was conducted for bailiffs of Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines at the Bay Gardens Inn in Saint Lucia from April 28 – 29, 2011. The purpose of the training was to sensitise the bailiffs on the different procedures involved in carrying out their duties and responsibilities. As a result of this training the need for a manual which will assist the bailiffs when carrying out their duties was highlighted.

A two-day (June 16 – 17, 2011) **Protocol Workshop** for Registrars of the ECSC and Court Staff of the Headquarters was conducted at the Coco Palm Resort in Saint Lucia. This workshop was the first of its kind hosted by the Institute, and covered the following areas: Introduction to Protocol, Forms of Address, Dining Etiquette, Introductions, Official Seating, Program Formalities and Farewells and Thank You's.



Participants listening attentively to Facilitator, Ms. Amanda Jardine



Chief Justice Hugh Anthony Rawlins addressing workshop Participants

The Judicial Education Institute partnered with the British High Commission to host the Annual Judicial Conference for Judges and Masters, which was held at the Sandals Halcyon Beach Resort and Spa in Saint Lucia from Tuesday August 2 to Friday August 5, 2011.

The training focused on matters of ethics and the independence of the judiciary. Topics dealt with included: appropriate and inappropriate behaviour by Judges both on and off the bench; best practices – from an international perspective, with specific reference to the Bangalore Principles and also the ECSC Code of Ethics; applications for recusal; extempore judgments; setting out reasons for decisions; the core principles and importance of judicial independence; circumstances in which judicial independence may be compromised in practice and strategies to deal with threats to judicial independence. This was the first time the Judges from the ECSC received training in this area since the adoption of the Code of Ethics in 2000.

There was a one-day training session on the Proceeds of Crime. This, follow-up to training held for Judges at the Judicial Conference held in December of 2009, reinforced the importance of the money laundering legislation while providing opportunity for the practical application.

Her Ladyship the Hon. Dame Linda Dobbs, QC, Director of International Training of the Judicial Studies Board of England and Wales and Mrs. Desiree Artesi barrister of England facilitated the training on Judicial Ethics and Independence while Mr. Brian Lett, QC conducted the training on Confiscation and Money Laundering.



Participants at the Annual Judicial Conference during one of the sessions



Facilitators: Her Ladyship The Hon. Dame Linda Dobbs, QC, Director of International Training of the Judicial Studies Board of England and Wales (left) and Mrs. Desiree Artesi barrister of England (right)



Participants at the Annual Judicial Conference during one of the sessions



Participants of the Conference take time out to pose for group picture; these included judges from Jamaica, Trinidad and Barbados

To ensure that the Court maintains a cadre of competent officers, in addition to JEI-sponsored activities, the organization facilitated the attendance of personnel at various external professional development and training programs.

Nine officers of the Court participated in **The International Society of Family Law Caribbean Regional Conference** held at the British Colonial Hilton Hotel in the Bahamas during March 17 – 19, 2011: Justice Jennifer Remy, Antigua & Barbuda; Chief Magistrate Tamara Gill, Grenada; Senior Magistrate Christine Phulchere, Saint Lucia; Chief Magistrate Evelina Baptiste, the Commonwealth of Dominica; Chief Magistrate Josephine Mallalieu-Webb, St. Kitts; Ms. Veronica Dorsette-Hector, Montserrat; Chief Magistrate Asquith Riviere, Antigua and Barbuda; Ms. Coleen McDonald, President, the Family Court of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Mr. Francis Letang, Director of Projects of the ECSC. Their attendance was partly funded by the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF).

The Conference was hosted by the Council of Legal Education, Eugene Dupuch Law School under the theme **The Legal and Social Consequences of the Disintegration and Reintegration of Families**. Matters discussed included marriage and divorce, cohabitation, property distribution, mediation, paternity and inheritance, transracial, inter-country and same-sex adoption, assisted reproduction and ethical issues, child development, international child abduction, juvenile delinquency, domestic violence, human rights and the family and same sex marriages. There was also a pre-conference Judges’ Forum on Judicial Dispute Resolution and a simultaneous Students’ Forum.

The Western Hemispheric Conference of the International Association for Court Administration (IACA), was convened in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, November 1 - 3, 2010 and was organised by the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ). A Court Statistics Workshop followed - November 4, 5, 2010. The theme was **Access to Justice in Criminal, Commercial and International Courts and Tribunals**; and was attended by Ms. Myrtene Cenac, Statistician; Mr. Gregory Girard, Court Administrator; Mr. Anderson Henry, Systems Administrator; Mrs. Michelle Theobalds, Executive Assistant to the Chief Justice; and Mr. Francis Letang, Director of Projects.

The Commonwealth Judicial Education Institute (CJEI) Intensive Study Program is one of the premier resources tapped for continued judicial education by the Court. During June 5 – 24, 2011 Master Cheryl Mathurin participated in the program, spending the first two weeks in Halifax, Nova Scotia and the last week between Ottawa and Toronto, Canada. In spite of the gruelling three weeks, Master Mathurin reported that she thoroughly enjoyed the various sessions and looked forward to using the experience and knowledge gained to assist the JEI in achieving its mandate.

During the period July 3 – 6, 2011, the Caribbean Association of Law Libraries staged its 26th Conference and Annual General Meeting in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago under the theme: **Law Librarians: Profiling Competencies; Proving our Worth**, and was attended by Ms. Claudette Valentine, Information Services Manager and Ms. Patricia Chastanet, Library Assistant.

In an effort to better optimize the training budget, more cost effective training alternatives were also explored e.g. webinars and eLearning courses.

Mrs. Reine James, Records and Archives Manager; Ms. Joan Joseph, Administrative Secretary; Ms. Stephine Narsisse, Case Manager; Mr. Chester Forde, Accounts Assistant; and Ms. Lenore St. Croix, Office Manager participated in The National Center for State Courts Effective Supervision online course.

The Court not only seeks to offer professional development and training opportunities for its judicial officers and administrative and support staff, but young and aspiring professionals in the field of law are also exposed to such opportunities. This is done through the Internship Program where during the summer of each year, two students who have successfully completed the first year of Law school are given the opportunity, over a ten-week period, to acquire experience in, and knowledge of, the practical workings of the Court process, and of the Court in its role as the primary organ for the administration of justice in the Eastern Caribbean.

A total of seventeen (17) applicants were interviewed this year; from which Mrs. Johanan Lafeuillee-Doughlin, a Grenadian national of Saint Lucian descent and Ms. Knijah Knowles, a Bahamian national, of the Hugh Wooding Law School and Eugene Dupuch Law School respectively, were selected. During their stint, they were engaged in head-noting of Court of Appeal judgments, vetting of draft judgments, legal research, preparation of bench memoranda and digests among other activities. Below they share their experience.



Johanan Lafeuillee-Doughlin



Knijah Knowles

RES ILLUMINATA; MY JOURNEY THROUGH THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Johan Lafeuille-Doughlin:

I sat through the one-hour interview with Justice of Appeal Hon. Davidson Baptiste at the edge of the realization that the probability of being accepted as one of two interns at the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court (ECSC) hung quite literally in the scales, no puns intended. During the interview, Justice of Appeal Baptiste informed me that there were seventeen applicants to the Program from the Hugh Wooding, Norman Manley and Eugene Dupuch Law Schools. I was elated when informed that I would be part of the program.

Arriving in Saint Lucia was a meaningful juncture as it afforded me a two-fold reward. First, I counted it a privilege to engage in the practical application of laws of nine Eastern Caribbean States. Second, Saint Lucia is the land of my birth and it was the first time that I returned for such a substantive period since migrating to Grenada as a toddler. Hence, interning in this island was momentous.

Being with the Court for the past nine weeks, I say with no fear of contradiction that this internship opportunity easily ranks among the best ones open to an apprentice-at-law. I was welcomed into a warm and supportive family at the ECSC. His Lordship, The Hon Hugh Rawlins, Chief Justice, and the other Justices of Appeal were all very willing to incorporate the interns into discussions about a variety of legal issues and aspects of the Court's functioning. The Chief Registrar, Deputy Registrar and support staff ensured that the internship was a challenging, seamless and rewarding one.

There has been indication of my intellectual maturation during the course of the internship. My skills of quickly identifying the legal issues within, and ratio decidendi of, a judgment, as well as distinguishing very similar legal principles within any given judgment were sharpened. This skill was nurtured by the multiple judgments that were assigned to me to head note as well as the bench memorandums (briefs of parties' submissions) that I prepared for the Justices of Appeal prior to the matters being heard. These assignments demanded the ability to ferret out the abstract legal principles in any given application. I know that these invaluable skills will be great assets to me as an attorney-at-law.

The program did not only enhance essential skills, but it also weaved a tapestry of knowledge. The wealth of matters and experiences I was exposed to at the ECSC helped illuminate my legal path and highlighted in my mind the kind of advocate I would like to become.

Working on, among others, commercial, criminal and land-related matters, gave me an appreciation of a variety of applications and appeals made to the ECSC.

The metamorphosis of the procedural process before an order or judgment is delivered by the Court made legal practice come alive. A range of advocacy skills were showcased by counsel before the Supreme Court – from the assertive legal submissions of Lord Falconer of Thoroton QC, to the calculated advocacy of Dr. Francis Alexis QC. This provided a practical foundation from which to emulate good advocacy.

Additionally, observing the written and oral deliberations of some of the region's finest legal minds was one aspect of the internship I savoured most. It was enlightening to see the Hon. Justices of Appeal engage the practical application of a unique milieu of legal principles in matters spanning nine jurisdictions whilst guided, with gravest respect, by the distinct laws of each jurisdiction. Assisting the Court in vetting written judgments before they were delivered gave me a peek into the varying evolutionary stages of a judgment. The concise, logical, and timely oral judgments, delivered by the Judges, on a multiplicity of matters were also an opportunity to see justice delivered in a judicious manner.

As an ardent Caribbean Integrationist, my experience with this itinerant Court of Appeal has afforded me a refined appreciation for the sensible and other fortifying benefits of Caribbean sub-regional integration. My belief in the importance of Caribbean Integration has been further whetted; I am determined to play my part in the ongoing formation of a more robust wider Caribbean regional integration.

I gratefully acknowledge the support of all the parties involved in making this experience a reality.

Knijah Knowles:

No statement better describes my experience at the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court than that of Wendy Strgar in her article *Can Curiosity Cure Us?* There she noted that, "perhaps the single most overlooked attribute that has the potential to transform a life is curiosity". It was curiosity that brought me to the Court, and the changes I have observed in myself and in my thought processes, as a result of this experience, can only be described as transformative. There are four things I will never forget about this summer; they are the warmth of the people, the intimacy of the workplace, the beauty of the country and the pertinence of strong written advocacy skills.

I didn't expect to experience the combination of warmth, professionalism and respect that I met here at the Court or to establish the kind of friendships that I have made. I expected professionalism but with a measure of distance, a slight aloofness that is often found in the legal arena. The friendly smiles, effervescent greetings and the depth of care and concern exuded by all members of staff allowed me to feel at home almost immediately.

The sheer breath of experience afforded a legal intern at the Court is something one can only truly appreciate at the conclusion of the Internship. I remember fondly Justice Baptiste asking in my interview what I hoped to gain from my experience at the Court. My answer was, "A chance to understand judicial thought process and to take a peek at what goes on behind the bench". Little did I know that, it would be more than a peek; I would be granted the full show! From head-noting to discussing the Digest with the Chief Justice, to sitting in on Chamber matters, to listening to counsel argue unexpected points of law, to listening to discussions on how to amend Civil Procedure Forms for the use of the Court; and even through a bomb scare or two my experience can only be described as an intimate one. As a result of this experience I have developed a new found respect for judicial clerks around the world; clerks who tirelessly sit and sift through judgments searching amongst the discussion for the held and summarizing lengthy pages of facts in two to three paragraphs. I am positive that I will never be able to look at a law report the same again!

In law school much emphasis is placed on the strength and cogency of one's oral arguments but this summer I learnt the pertinence of strong written advocacy skills. Reading various skeleton arguments and submissions in order to prepare Bench Memorandums has taught me that the little things like page numbers, bundle tabs and index pages can make a world of difference between a cogent argument and an ineffective one. I realized that more often than not, that if the bench is with you on paper, they will more than likely be with you "in word".

All in all my experience at the Court was not only invaluable it was unforgettable.



Interns: Johanan Lafeuillee-Doughlin (2nd left) and Knijah Knowles (right) pose with Judicial Clerks: Armani Brice (left) and Samantha George (2nd right)

For the successful organization, training must be an irremovable component of its strategic plan. Bearing this in mind the Court will continue to integrate training initiatives into future plans. The ECSC will, in November 2011, be hosting the Caribbean Association of Court Technology Users (CACTUS) Conference in Grenada. This will be the eighth annual CACTUS conference and the second time the ECSC will be the host. The first CACTUS Conference was held in Antigua and Barbuda August 2004. The ECSC along with the Judiciary of Trinidad and Tobago was instrumental in the formation of that group that has since expanded to include the participants from countries such as Bahamas, Curacao and the Caymans. The objective of the group has been to "promote the use, relevance, sharing and implementation of ICT within Courts of the Caribbean."

02 | ACCESS TO JUSTICE – EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT CASE FLOW MANAGEMENT

As the core of the appellate process, the Registry of the Court of Appeal continued to ensure that all necessary preparations are made to facilitate the timely and efficient processing of appeals for all Member States/Territories of the Court.

Court Activities

(a) Full Court Sittings

In 2010, a total of twenty one (21) full court sittings were initially scheduled as follows: Anguilla, the Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, two (2) sittings each; Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Lucia and the Territory of the Virgin Islands, three (3) sittings each.

Additional sittings were scheduled for Antigua and Barbuda during September 2010 and December 2010 to specifically deal with the Attorney General's Reference, a civil appeal emanating from Saint Lucia and filed pursuant to the Attorney General's Reference (Constitutional Questions) Act Cap. 17:18, Revised Laws of Saint Lucia 2001 and to hear two appeal matters from the Territory of the Virgin Islands. An additional sitting was also scheduled in St. Vincent and the Grenadines in November 2010 to accommodate the hearing of several appeal matters. The total number of full court sittings stood at twenty four (24) at the end of December 2010.

(b) Chamber Hearings

Chamber hearings are conducted by a single judge and are in the main done on paper except where the judge requires the attendance of the parties for an oral hearing. A total of twelve (12) chamber hearings were initially scheduled for the year 2010 with one (1) additional sitting scheduled to deal with urgent matters. These chamber hearings are generally scheduled on a Tuesday in each month during a week when the full court is not sitting.

(c) Teleconference Hearings

The Court in its quest to embrace appropriate technology to advance efficiency in access to justice, conducts hearings via teleconference from the Court's Headquarters.

There has been a significant increase in the use of the technology which is evidenced by the number of teleconferences held. In 2009 there were only three (3) teleconference hearings. 2010 saw an increase to fifteen (15). It is recognized that this is a cost effective way to hear certain matters as it obviates the need for travel.

Delivery of Judgments

The number of judgments delivered by country is as follows:

Antigua and Barbuda-12
Territory of the Virgin Islands-11
St. Vincent and the Grenadines-8
Saint Lucia-8
Grenada-6
St. Kitts and Nevis-5
Anguilla-4
Commonwealth of Dominica-4
Montserrat-1

Of the fifty nine (59) judgments delivered, seven (7) of them were delivered by a single Judge.

The Court of Appeal delivered one opinion during 2010 arising out of the Attorney General's Reference filed by the Attorney General of Saint Lucia.

Judgment Delivery by Teleconference

The Court as part of its mission to provide access to justice in an efficient and effective manner delivered several of its judgments via teleconference. In 2010, the Court held four (4) teleconferences at which a total of seven (7) judgments were delivered. Four (4) of these judgments were delivered during the court vacation in August 2010.

Case Load

The case load in 2010 registered an increase. This is attributable in the main to a greater number of High Court Civil appeals and Magisterial Criminal and Civil appeals being filed.

The total number of appeals filed in 2010 was four hundred and eighty two (482) comprised as follows:

High Court Civil appeals- 251

High Court Criminal appeals- 84

Magisterial Civil appeals- 24

Magisterial Criminal appeals- 123

A detailed analysis of the case load data for 2010 can be found in the section on the *Court Performance*.

Challenges

Status Hearings

The Court continued to hold status hearings during 2010 with a view to dealing with matters which appeared to be languishing in the system for various reasons. The status hearings have proven very useful in assisting the Court meet its overriding objective in dealing with cases expeditiously. It also assists the Court in the proper case management of appeals and to have a true reflection of the number of outstanding appeals. It provides an opportunity for the Court to give directions to get the parties to take steps to either dispense with or move the matters forward.

The majority of matters on the status lists are either dismissed for want of prosecution, discontinued, withdrawn or abandoned.

Compliance with Practice Directions

There continues to be non-compliance with Practice Directions especially in relation to the interlocutory applications filed. The Practice Directions provide timelines within which certain things ought to be done to facilitate the hearing of the application and in some instances these are not complied with.

This results in delay in pursuing the appeal and the Court having to issue directions for compliance when the matter could have been dealt with and possibly disposed of at a chamber hearing.

Documents for hearings are sometimes received late or not at all due to the fact that they may have been filed only a few days prior to the hearing. This inevitably leads to situations where applications have been considered without the Court having the benefit of submissions filed by counsel. Compliance with the Practice Directions would avoid such occurrences.

Magisterial Appeals in Saint Lucia: An update

A backlog of outstanding Magisterial appeals still plagues the system. This is primarily due to lack of knowledge of the appeal procedures to follow by the Magistrates Court offices when appeals are filed. A training exercise and sensitization of the issue has encouraged the staff to collate and compile a list of all outstanding appeals in Saint Lucia. At present the staff of the Magistrates Court has discovered one hundred and eighty three (183) outstanding appeals in the system dating back to 2001. Since the training the number of appeals listed for hearing at the Court of Appeal sitting has increased from zero (0) to eight (8). It is anticipated that this initiative will be introduced in the other jurisdictions which is expected to expedite the hearing of Magisterial appeals.



03

SUPPORTING THE COURT



The work of the administrative arm of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court is guided by the organization's mission, vision and strategic goals. All programs and initiatives embarked on must have as its primary objective to support the Court in its bid to provide "... access to a system of justice that is accountable and independent, and administered by officers in a prompt, fair, efficient and effective manner." Each Department, Unit and by extension person must be strategically aligned with this objective, in order to make contributions that add value to the Court.

The activities of the Human Resource Department have been geared towards moving the work of Human Resources, towards a more strategic support role in the planning and decision-making processes of the Court.

Below is an account of departmental activities and achievements, in terms of its strategic commitments, during the period under review.

Improvement Initiative

The Department undertook a review of its structure, procedures and operations between August and December 2010; and in March 2011 reorganized the structure to realize greater efficiencies.

This action was driven by three imperatives:

First, the recognition that existing HR administrative systems must become more effective if they are to better respond to the needs of both managers and staff.

Second, to the extent that the strategy situates HR as a key element in supporting the goals and objectives of the Court, the Department needs to focus more on outcomes and results and move away from being concerned primarily with HR administration, to facilitate compliance with rules and regulations. This approach requires HR to change how it works internally as well as how it interacts with other departments of the Court.

Third, from a practical point of view, the need for the Department to generate efficiencies that would liberate time and resources that could be reinvested in more policy support and advisory services to meet the objectives of the Court's strategy.

Managing Employee Performance

The Human Resource Department embarked on a project to introduce a revised performance management system, by undertaking the following key assessments: the definition of the overall purpose of the new system; the types of appraisals envisaged; the adequacy of the existing competency framework; the alignment of the new system with other HR policy goals such as staff learning and development, mobility and career progression; and the scope of information technology (IT) requirements. This is being carried out against the backdrop of a review of the respective roles of employees of the Court.

The revised system will reflect best practice in performance management. The Department recognizes the challenges that it will face in introducing the new system, not least of which is the culture change required. On the one hand is the need to acknowledge and manage underperformance, while on the other is the need to identify and appropriately reward truly meritorious performance.

To this end, we are working towards reinforcing the role of managers through greater management participation and involvement in conducting reviews. These initiatives are intended to strengthen accountability, communication and fairness.

Resources will be made available to managers to improve their performance assessment skills in the form of a general guide to communicating and conducting performance management reviews, together with policies and procedures to clarify and support the performance management system.

It is hoped that the fully revised system will be rolled out in time for the July 2012 annual performance review period. In the interim a semi-automated version of the appraisal form has been introduced to facilitate ease of completion for the current review period and to pilot new components of the review system.

Initiatives to Enhance Productivity

The success of an organization depends very heavily on the productivity and work performance of its human resources. Three (3) major initiatives were embarked upon to better monitor and enhance the productivity of employees of the ECSC:

Time and Attendance

During the period under review, the Department sought to put a system in place to better capture and report on organizational absenteeism as a measure of productivity. In the past obtaining such information was quite difficult. The Court recently acquired, and has commenced the implementation of, an electronic time and attendance solution which will allow us to better monitor and manage this indicator of productivity.

Performance Measures

The Department undertook an exercise to review and streamline the performance management process to ensure that employee performance is directly linked to achieving organizational goals and objectives.

A major component of this was to develop performance standards and measures. These elements inform employees what is expected of them, how well they are expected to perform and how their performance will be measured. Developing measures and standards that are understandable, measurable, attainable, fair, and challenging is vital to the effectiveness of the performance appraisal process.

To date the Department has conducted a job description revision exercise to ensure that job elements are linked to Departmental and Organizational goals; and to introduce performance measures that will be incorporated into performance appraisals, and appropriately assessed.

Employee Wellness Program

The ability to function and perform at a high level consistently is greatly aided by Employee Wellness Programs. The ECSC Employee Wellness Program was successfully launched on September 11, 2010 to coincide with Caribbean Wellness Day; with the primary aim of promoting healthy habits to foster increased productivity.

To date the Department has hosted a number of wellness activities, in addition, a monthly newsletter is disseminated to employees, promoting various health topics.

Staff Retreat

On June 30, 2011, administrative and support staff at the Court's Headquarters congregated at the Mount of Prayer, Coubaril. The purpose was a staff retreat, under the theme "Fair and equitable justice: where we all fit in". The objective of this activity was to provide employees with an opportunity to explore how they fit into the organization, and to use the opportunity to reenergize the workforce in pursuit of success.

Dr. Harvey Millar of Management Technologies, as the facilitator, designed a program of activities geared to:

- take stock of the organization vis a vis its mission, vision, and values;
- provide employees with an opportunity to value what is good about the Court;
- give employees an opportunity to discuss what needs to be improved; and to make recommendations for change;
- bring employees closer together and to recognize their mutual interdependence;
- have fun while preparing the organization to face its challenges.

The day's activities focused on the positive aspects of the organization and created a stronger sense of unity; and at the end of the day, participants felt energized to go back to work and apply the concepts discussed during the retreat.



Chief Justice Hugh Anthony Rawlins declaring the Retreat open



Members of staff participating in group activities



There were give-aways too!

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND DELIVERY

During the year the Library continued to ensure that it maintained a collection to facilitate research and support the Court's mission. Additions of recent publications of new works and updated versions of key works, as well as 'standing order' titles were made, to add depth to the collection. The Library's intranet pages (accessible to staff and Justices), a one-stop shop for access to the catalogue, information on electronic resources, links to useful websites, and other relevant information continued to aid in the provision of information to our users.

Users

Although the primary users are the Justices of the Court and staff at the Court's Headquarters, as usual we facilitated search requests from our local lawyers, students from the local academic institutions and we were able to satisfy local, regional and international telephone and email queries.

No one Library will have all the information resources required to satisfy the needs of its users, more-so within the present economic climate where organizations are hard-pressed to find funds to allocate to the various units and departments. The Library has actively developed contacts with law libraries and government libraries in the Caribbean, and to a limited extent the United States of America and the United Kingdom through the membership of the Caribbean Association of Law Libraries (CARALL), which has been a viable source of finding relevant information in a timely manner.

Law Reporting

As the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court continues to contribute to the development of regional jurisprudence by setting precedents through case law, their judgments continue to make their way in the pages of various legal publications.

The following judgments were reported in the West Indian Report Volume 77, published by LexisNexis Butterworths:

The Attorney General of St Christopher and Nevis v Shawn Richards and another [Gordon and Edwards] September 13, 2010: The Court will not punish a person for contempt for breach of terms of an injunction unless it is established beyond a reasonable doubt through credible evidence in court that: (a) the terms of the injunction are clear, unambiguous, specific and certain; (b) it must be shown that the alleged contemnor has had prior notice of such terms; and (c) there must be clear proof that the terms of the injunction have been broken by the alleged contemnor.

Damian Hodge v The Queen [Baptiste] November 10, 2010: Proof of continuity in the chain of custody of DNA evidence is not a legal requirement; and gaps in continuity are not fatal to the prosecution's case unless they raise a reasonable doubt about the exhibits integrity.

Ross v Bank of Commerce (St. Kitts and Nevis) Trust and savings Association Ltd [Privy Council Decision] November 23, 2010: The new Privy Council Judicial Committee (Appellate Jurisdiction) Rules Order 2009 issued on September 9, 2009 and Practice Direction did not disturb the existing practice for leave to appeal to the Privy Council to be obtained in respect of appeals as of right from the Court of Appeal or failing that ... from the Privy Council.

Statistics

The Statistics Unit functions with the knowledge that the foundation of informed decision-making is the acquisition of timely and relevant information – accurate and reliable. During the period under review the Statistician aggressively sought to collect and analyze data that assisted in making decisions that helped to propel the Court forward. The Project "Development of a Uniform, Reliable and Applicable Statistical Reporting System: with a focus on Standardized Procedures for Reporting" was born as a result of a Court statistics workshop, held in Trinidad and Tobago in November 2010 and where representatives from some of the OECS Courts were in attendance. Discussions which arose highlighted the fact that there are inconsistencies in some procedures within our Courts which could impact on the interpretation of the data which is submitted to the Headquarters. This initiative seeks to standardize procedures which impact data collection and input into the JEMS software.

Records Management Unit

Through the strategic management of the creation, maintenance, and disposition of all relevant court records, from initiation to eventual destruction, the Records Management Unit continued to support the ECSC's mission by providing the right records to the right person at the right time at the least possible cost.

Incoming and outgoing correspondence kept the Unit busy indicating that the 'Wheels of Justice' were busily spinning during the year. This increased by 5.3% over the previous year, with incoming faxes being the highest contributor.

During the passage of Hurricane Tomas in October 2010, the Records Centre (the off-site storage for inactive records) sustained some damages. Approximately 40 boxes containing duplicate appeal records, unsettled mediation records and notary public records were damaged beyond recovery which necessitated destruction.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

Using Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to Create a More Efficient Court

Information and Communication Technology is dramatically changing the landscape of organizations, more specifically in the areas of organization structures and organization culture. Through this technology the free flow of information is better accommodated and information is accessed in a timelier manner; providing opportunities for networking and virtual communication, thus bridging the great divide of geographic distances.

ICT in and of itself is not a panacea for ailing organizations. Thoughtless application does not necessarily spell success and advancement, but when used as an enabling tool to facilitate systems and processes the result can redound to the benefit of said organizations. The Court continues to use Information and Communication Technology to strategically position itself for competitive advantage and operational efficiency as it seeks to carry out its mandate of "... providing access to a system of justice that is accountable and independent ..."

Judicial Enforcement Management System (JEMS)

Court Offices in the sub-region continue to heavily utilize JEMS as an effective tool for case management. As a result, an even greater pressure is placed on the IT Department to reduce downtime of JEMS servers located in Member States / Territories to less than one percent. In order to meet this standard, the Department recently acquired new servers to complement the operations of existing servers and secure backups of the local JEMS databases. The Court is also at an advanced stage of implementing one central JEMS server at the Headquarters to serve users in all courts in the sub region. JEMS 6.0 is now installed at the Headquarters and it is anticipated that the rollout to the Member States and Territories will be completed by December 31, 2011. This decision was based on the need for more efficient and cost effective management of JEMS within the sub-region, but this will be contingent on the availability of adequate and uninterrupted internet access in the various court offices.

The IT Department facilitated JEMS to 'go live' in the Magistrates Courts of Anguilla and Antigua and Barbuda during the past year and with the acquisition of new computers provided by their respective governments, the total number of Magistrates Courts, in the Sub-region, actively using JEMS has been increased to seven. Efforts to upgrade JEMS from version 5.0 to 6.0 and eventually to Web-JEMS across the sub-region have experienced delays due to other commitments of the Professional Computer Software Services (PCSS) (developers of JEMS) Technical Support Team. To date JEMS 6.0 is only installed at both the ECSC Headquarters and on the JEMS Server located at the High Court in Saint Lucia.

As a result, discussions were held with PCSS to allow the ECSC IT Department to schedule and undertake the upgrade activities within the entire sub-region in an effort to speed up the upgrade process with a tentative conclusion date of December 31, 2011.

Video Conferencing Technology

As reported last year, the ECSC through a joint venture with the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ), funded by the European Union (EU), facilitated and assisted in the implementation of video conferencing technology in the Court. Successful installation has been completed at the ECSC Headquarters in Saint Lucia and all High Courts within the independent States. The Territory of the Virgin Islands, through its own initiatives has installed facilities at both the High Court and Commercial Court. Work will continue, as the Court seeks to make similar facilities available within the courts of the two remaining Member States – Anguilla and Montserrat.

The use of this technology will significantly impact the modus operandi of the Court, especially the Court of Appeal, as it seeks to facilitate the speedy scheduling and hearing of cases. There is the scope for reduced travel by the judges as the need for physically going to the various islands to hear matters may be obviated by the use of the available technology. The Court now has the ability to 'sit' via the video link in any Member State / Territory where the technology is available, with the judges located in Saint Lucia and the parties in one or more different locations. The facility at the High Court in Saint Lucia has been utilized in cases where prosecution witnesses located in the UK provided evidence to the Court. The ECSC will be piloting the installation of a video conferencing facility at the main prison in Saint Lucia to conduct bail hearings, arraignments and other related matters, making the need to transport prisoners to the Court house in the City, which is roughly 25 miles away, no longer necessary. It is also anticipated that the use of this technology will, as much as practicable, facilitate the hearing of matters with tourist victims and witnesses without these persons having to return to the islands to attend the court hearing; and the conduct of meetings with persons located in the different Member States and Territories without the need for actual travel.

It is expected that practice guidelines and policies will be developed to cover the use of this facility in furtherance of the objective to improve overall efficiency of the operations of the Court.

Court Recording Systems

Several Member States including Saint Lucia, the Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines have acquired Digital Court Recording Systems, in particular, the FTR2 product and most recently, the FTR Touch product. The ECSC has acquired a Digital Court Recording software solution that can be used with existing technology in most courts. These include a computer and sound system Mixer, as a lower cost solution. This software solution will be piloted in Antigua and Barbuda during the early part of the coming Law Year.

Electronic Filing Technology

The Court's effort at implementing electronic filing has taken a new twist. PCSS has integrated an e-Filing system into their JEMS version 6.0 and as such the Court will need to review the way forward in this area. Integration of the E-Filing system as a module in the JEMS software will address many of the issues that once plagued the implementation efforts associated with the use of a third party software. With this new development, e-Filing will once again be given full attention by the Court so that an assessment can be made on the best way forward. Efforts will continue towards completing the testing of the solution at the High Court in Saint Lucia which is presently on JEMS 6.0.

Developing an Online Presence

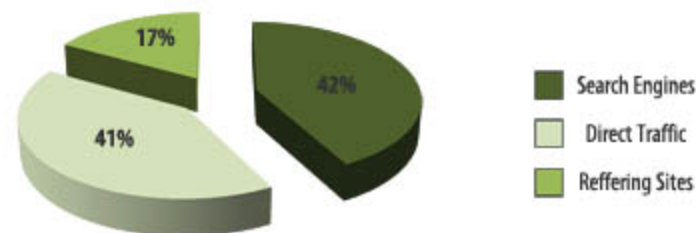
The Court's website www.eccourts.org continues to be the premium tool for the dissemination of information to its widely dispersed user groups, and contains a considerable amount of information for persons interested in the administration of the Court, its Justices, judgments, projects, etc. In a bid to provide timelier access to information, judgments are now placed on the web site as soon as they become available, instead of at the end of each month.

During the period January to December 2010 the site received a total of 86,881 distinct visits from a variety of countries. 18,724 of these were new visits, accounting for approximately 21% of total number. Visits were made via: Search Engines, Direct Traffic and Referring Sites. See Table 1 below. The bulk of visits were shared between Search Engines and Direct Traffic.

Table 1: Traffic Sources/ Sources of Visits to the website, 2010

Traffic Sources	Number of visits	% of total visits
Search Engines	36,705	42.25
Direct Traffic	35,493	40.85
Referring Sites	14,683	16.90
TOTAL	86,881	100

Figure 1: Percentage Share of visits to the ECSC website from the various Traffic Sources



A total of 464, 721 pages was viewed over the stated period. Following the home page, the judgments page was the most visited. An average of 5.35 pages was viewed per visit. Table 2 lists the sections of the website which were visited the most:

Table 2: Most Frequently Viewed Pages on the Website, 2010

Pages	No. of Page views	% Page views
Home Page/Index	70,050	15.07
Judgments	60,314	12.98
Sittings	23,276	5.01
Jobs	6,994	1.50

Table 3 showcases the countries which had over one thousand visitors to the ECSC website in the year 2010. Saint Lucia and the United States of America recorded over 10,000 visits each with the former having close to 20,000 visits. It is not surprising that the most visits were from Saint Lucia since this is where the headquarters is located. In addition to the remaining countries from the Caribbean region, Canada and the United Kingdom made good use of the Court's website.

The Court will continue with efforts to have the various Member States/Territories submit their lists for upcoming scheduled cases so that the website can be a reliable source for attorneys and litigants to access this information. It is anticipated that once this materializes there will be a significant increase in the number of visits to the website, particularly the page which provides the Court Sittings.

Table 3: Countries with over One Thousand Visitors to the ECSC Website, 2010

Country	No. Of Visits	Pages/Visit	Avg. Time on Site	% new visits
Saint Lucia	19,606	3.64	4 mins 38 sec	10.42
United States of America	10,296	6.12	7 mins 53 sec	38.85
Territory of the Virgin Islands	7,437	6.28	8 mins 19 sec	13.22
Antigua and Barbuda	7,264	6.42	9 mins 48 sec	13.97
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	5,632	5.45	7 mins 30 sec	14.15
Dominica	4,731	6.19	9 mins 23 sec	19.47
United Kingdom	4,299	5.18	4 mins 45 sec	41.68
St. Kitts and Nevis	4,162	6.11	9 mins 16 sec	12.47
Anguilla	3,498	6.61	9 mins 16 sec	12.47
Trinidad and Tobago	2,844	5.49	7 mins 29 sec	28.31
Barbados	2,717	5.33	6 mins 46 sec	24.37
Canada	2,357	5.43	5 mins 57 sec	31.74
Grenada	2,184	6.74	10 mins 18 sec	21.34
Montserrat	1,603	2.28	2 mins 25 sec	2.25
Jamaica	1,587	5.56	6 mins 47 sec	39.45

The average time spent on the website was 7 minutes and 9 seconds.

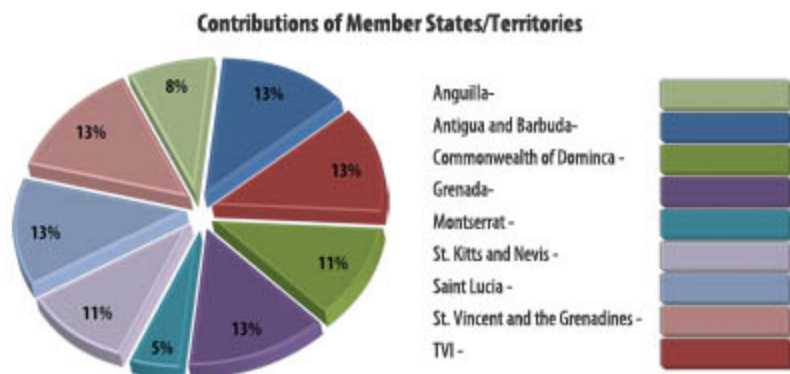
The power of the Internet cannot be denied; its advantages are undeniable; so the Court has taken steps to capture this potential to its advantage as it seeks to create a global presence.

The process has begun for the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court's decisions to reside on the Lexis Nexis Library along with that of other judiciaries in the Region. Decisions (Court of Appeal and High Court of Justice) dating back from the inception of the Court in 1967 will be hosted there. The service will include full text decisions; catchwords for all judgments; full text decisions that have been referred to the Privy Council (these will be held as a subset within the service rather than integrated into the main body of the cases). Users will be able to search by case name, search terms, judge, attorney, etc.

This is one more step towards total embrace of technology, with a view to increase the visibility of the Court, facilitate a platform for judges to showcase their jurisprudential work and ensure that ECSC's decisions are accessible to as many persons as possible in as many formats/media as possible.

Earlier on in the Law Year, Justis Publishing Ltd., an independent publisher of electronic legal information and provider of publishing software and services; launched the Territory of the Virgin Islands judgments, fully searchable and indexed, from their site. The judgments are from the High Court (inclusive of the Commercial Division) and the Court of Appeal. Although Justis Publishing's agreement is with the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court, the project was spearheaded by Mrs. Tana'ania Small Davis, then president of the local Bar Association.

To a large extent the success or failure of an organization is dependent on its financial status, since the availability of funds will determine the projects and programs that can be realized. The Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court is financed by agreed contributions from its Member States / Territories, as follows:



Approved Budget

The approved budgets for the financial year under review and the prior financial year are as follows:

Cost Centre	Approved Budget 2010/11	Approved Budget 2009/10	% Percentage Increase/(Decrease)
Personal Emoluments	9,468,353	9,298,312	1.83
Administrative Expenses	2,769,241	2,689,249	2.98
Capital Expenditure	238,878	319,150	-25.16
Judicial Education	453,177	893,190	-49.27
Judicial and Legal Services Commission	295,093	313,279	-5.81
Halls of Justice	125,000	130,125	-3.94
Court Reforms	40,000	267,155	-85.03
Integration of the Magistracy	25,000	247,000	-89.88
Total	13,414,742	14,157,460	-5.25

The budget of the ECSC decreased by 5.25% for the period 2009/10 to 2010/11, primarily as a result of:

- The reduction in provision for the position of JEI Program Director and the HR Manager from 12 to 6 months respectively.
- The increased use of technology in the operations of the Court.
- Reduction in the provision of relocation expenses of Judges of the ECSC.
- The implementation of cost saving measures and the reduction of wastage in an effort to reduce expenditure.

During the year there was very little funding available to the Court from donors. A small contribution was received from UNICEF to facilitate the participation of two judges' attendance at the Family Law Conference in the Bahamas in March 2011. Assistance was also received by way of grant funding from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) to fund the cost of a Project Director and feasibility stage of the Halls of Justice Project. This phase of the project is due to be completed in September 2011, and a final report will be prepared for the way forward.

04 COURT PERFORMANCE



INTRODUCTION

The following is an analysis of data from the Court of Appeal, High Courts, Magistrates Courts and Family Courts which serve the Member States/Territories of the OECS. Data represented are primarily from the year 2010; however 2009 is represented in some instances for comparative purposes.

There was an increase of 25% in the number of appeals, both Criminal and Civil, in the High Courts and Magistrates Courts from 2009 to 2010. The number of Written Judgments remained constant in the range of 50 to 60 judgments over the two years. Full Court Sittings continued to dominate the total activities of the Court of Appeal accounting for just under half of the total.

In the High Courts total filed cases increased slightly over the years 2009 to 2010 while the opposite occurred for disposed cases. Civil cases continued to dominate both total filed and disposed cases in 2010 whereas Admiralty cases contributed the least to these totals. Chamber Hearings made up the majority of events, representing roughly 41% of total events. The shortcomings faced with the analysis of the High Court data were that some Member States/Territories did not verify data and also two did not provide data on disposed cases.

A total of 43,613 cases were filed in the Magistrates Courts in 2010 while disposed cases amounted to 28,852. The Magistrates Courts in Montserrat as well as St. Vincent and the Grenadines recorded high disposition rates: between 97% and 100%. However the Grenada Magistracy had the highest numbers of filed as well as disposed cases. Criminal was one of the case types with very high numbers of both filed and disposed cases. Most remarkable however was the outstanding number of Traffic cases (approximately 18,000), most of which were Traffic Tickets, filed in the Magistrates Courts in 2010. This situation needs to be addressed especially since less than half of these Traffic Tickets were disposed of during the same period, contributing greatly to case backlog.

Total filed cases increased slightly in the Family Court of St. Vincent and the Grenadines from 2009 to 2010. Arrears cases made up almost 40% of total filed cases. The overall disposition rate improved slightly from 85.58% to 88.19% over the two years. Saint Lucia Family Court showed a high (94%) disposition rate of cases. Also noteworthy was that there were over 11,000 cases pending both at the start and end of the year 2010; with Warrants cases accounting for over half of these cases.

The major challenges faced with the production of this report was that some Member States/Territories do not update the data in the Judicial Enforcement Management Software (JEMS); and some fail to verify data obtained. Data on disposed cases in particular are not reflective of what they should be. The Court cannot measure whether any significant strides are made in terms of rate of clearance of cases.

For the data to provide a true reflection of the Court's output more focus must be placed on timely updating and verification of data in JEMS. The use of this data as being important for managing Court resources, measuring performance and administering justice on a whole is also something which must be clearly expressed to the responsible personnel in the Courts to serve as an impetus for its provision. It is important to note that throughout the analysis, data may be subject to slight round off error.

Section 1

Court of Appeal

This section compares data on the Court of Appeal for the years 2010 and 2009. A breakdown of data by Case Type and Court Type is given in Table 1(a); that is Civil and Criminal Cases, High Courts and Magistrates Courts.

Table 1(a) Comparison between Total Appeal Cases Filed in 2010 and 2009

Type of Appeal	2010			2009		
	High Court	Magistrates Court	Total	High Court	Magistrates Court	Total
Civil Appeals	251	24	275	189	18	207
Criminal Appeals	84	123	207	102	78	180
Total	335	147	482	291	96	387

Total appeals increased by close to 25% from 2009 to 2010. The numbers of appeals from both the Magistrates and High Courts increased over the two-year period. Of particular interest is the rise in Magisterial Appeals by a little over one and a half times its original number over the two years. Appeals filed in the High Courts dominated total appeals, representing roughly 70% and 75% of total appeals in 2010 and 2009 respectively.

Both Criminal and Civil Appeals increased over the two years. The total number of Civil Appeals was higher than Criminal Appeals in both years. Also notable was that the number of Civil Appeals in the High Courts were significantly higher than in the Magistrates Courts. Criminal Appeals were more numerous in the Magistrates Courts in 2010, a reverse of what occurred in 2009.

Figure 1

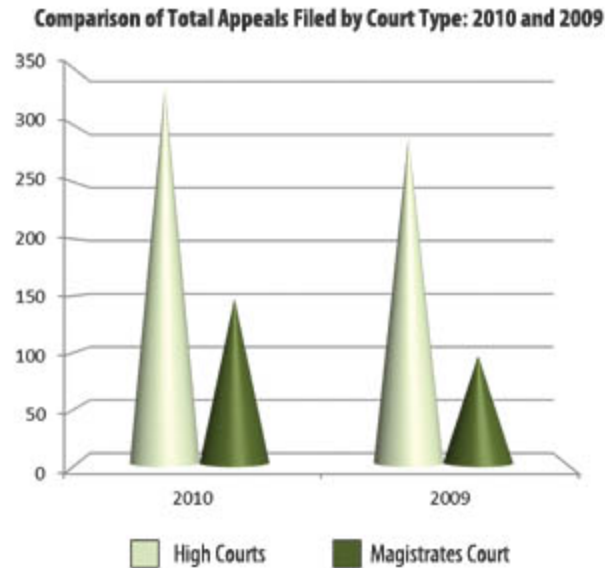


Figure 2

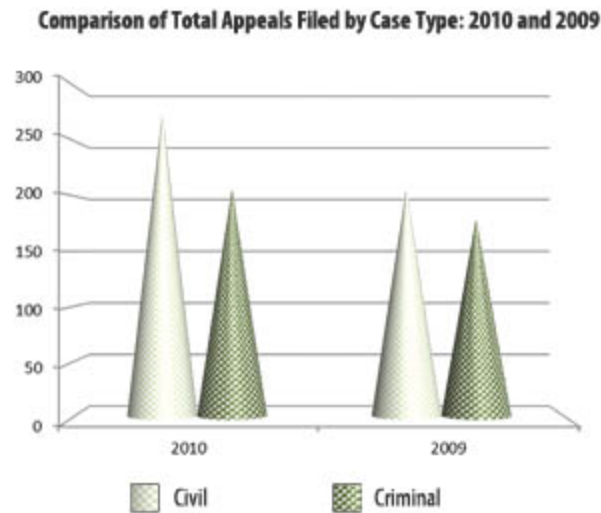


Table 1 (b) High Court Appeals Filed by Member State: 2010 and 2009

Member States	2010		2009	
	Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal
Anguilla	5	3	4	2
Antigua and Barbuda	53	6	35	21
Commonwealth of Dominica	29	7	16	8
Grenada	33	6	20	16
Montserrat	4	2	4	0
St. Kitts and Nevis	23	27	13	13
Saint Lucia	46	3	42	4
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	17	22	24	28
Territory of the Virgin Islands	41	8	31	10
Total	251	84	189	102

The following observations are made from table 1(b): over the two-year period, Saint Lucia and Antigua and Barbuda recorded on average the highest number of Civil Appeals filed in the High Courts (44 appeals). The number of Civil Appeals increased for all Member States with the exception of St. Vincent and the Grenadines where they decreased, and Montserrat where they remained constant. St. Vincent and the Grenadines had on average the highest number of Criminal Appeals (25 appeals) over the period under discussion. The number of Criminal Appeals decreased for all Member States with the exception of Anguilla, Montserrat and St. Kitts and Nevis.

Table 1 (c) Magisterial Court Appeals Filed by Member State: 2010 and 2009

Member States	2010		2009	
	Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal
Anguilla	0	0	0	4
Antigua and Barbuda	1	6	1	6
Commonwealth of Dominica	7	23	1	3
Grenada	3	5	1	16
Montserrat	0	3	0	0
St. Kitts and Nevis	8	11	7	7
Saint Lucia	1	6	1	1
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	2	59	1	40
Territory of the Virgin Islands	2	10	6	1
Total	24	123	18	78

The number of Civil Appeals filed in the various Magistrates Courts was very low for all Member States. There were no Civil Appeals filed in the Magistrates Courts of Anguilla and Montserrat during the two years. Criminal Appeals had higher totals, with St. Vincent and the Grenadines accounting for the bulk; 48% and 51% of the totals in 2010 and 2009 respectively.

Table 1(d) provides data on the number of Written Judgments delivered in 2010 and 2009. This total increased slightly from 51 to 59 over the period. The percentage share of Written Judgments was highest in Antigua and Barbuda which represented in the region of 20% of the totals for the two years. The Court continues to strive to compile data on Oral Judgments to better reflect the actual total number of judgments which have been delivered.

Member States	2010	%	2009	%
Anguilla	4	6.78	1	1.96
Antigua and Barbuda	12	20.34	12	23.53
Commonwealth of Dominica	4	6.78	1	1.96
Grenada	6	10.17	6	11.76
Montserrat	1	1.69	1	1.96
St. Kitts and Nevis	5	8.47	5	9.8
Saint Lucia	8	13.56	12	23.53
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	8	13.56	4	7.84
Territory of the Virgin Islands	11	18.64	9	17.65
Total	59	100	51	100

The *Activities of the Court of Appeal during the years 2010 and 2009* are displayed in Table 1(e). The data reveal that the majority of activities were Full Court Sittings which accounted for about 43% and 55% of the totals in 2010 and 2009 respectively. Chamber Hearings also referred to as Case Management Conferences, represented a relatively high share of total activities for both years (Hearing of Applications is no longer categorized separately but is included in Case Management Conferences or Chamber Hearings).

Figures 3 and 4 depict the data in Table 1(e). With reference to Figure 4, Judgment delivery by teleconference in 2009 does not appear, due to the total and therefore percentage share being 0.

Table 1(e) Activities of the Court of Appeal in 2010 and 2009

Member States	2010	%	2009	%
Full Court Sittings	24	42.86	23	54.76
Chamber Hearings/ Case Management Conferences	13	23.21	16	38.10
Teleconferences	15	26.79	3	7.14
Judgment Delivery by Teleconferences	4	7.14	0	—
Total	56	100	42	100

Figure 3

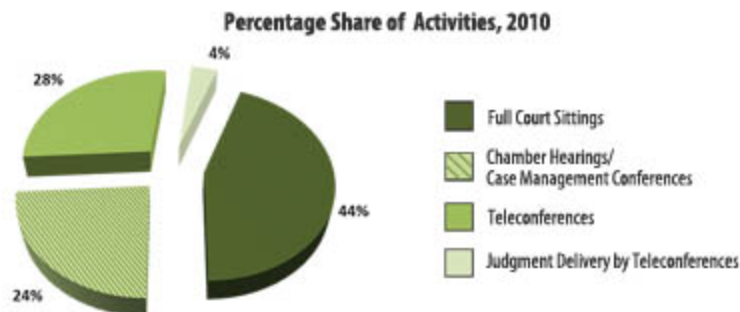
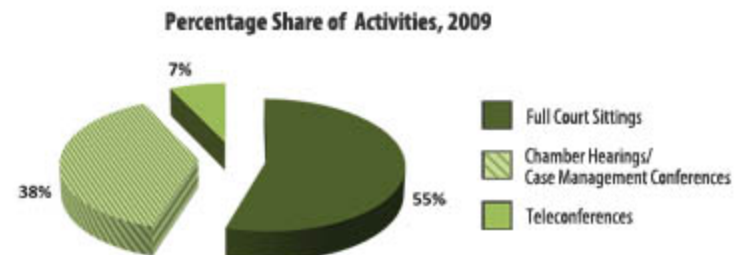


Figure 4



Section 2

High Court

Section 2 informs on the performance of the High Courts in the nine Member States / Territories. Data were obtained from JEMS, but despite repeated attempts, were not verified by Anguilla, Grenada, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis as well as St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Additionally, data on disposed cases were not available in JEMS and thereafter not provided by St. Kitts and Nevis and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

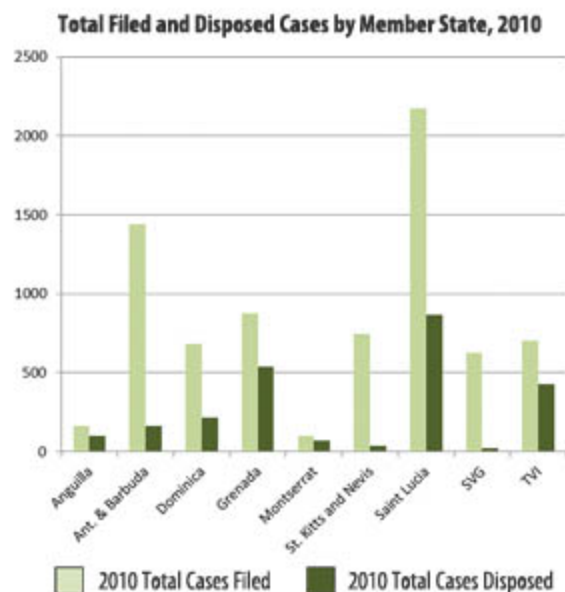
Table 2(a) offers a comparison of filed and disposed cases in the Registries for the years 2010 and 2009. Total filed cases increased from 7,067 to 7,499 over the two years. This reflected a small increase of roughly 6%. Of significance is the rise in the number of filed cases in Saint Lucia by 486 cases over the two years.

There was a slight decline in total disposed cases, by 15 cases from the year 2009 to 2010. Member States such as Antigua and Barbuda in addition to St. Kitts and Nevis recorded decreases of over two hundred cases in the stated period. Conversely, Saint Lucia had an increase of over two hundred disposed cases in a comparative period. Based on data submitted in both 2009 and 2010, total disposed cases amounted to less than half of total filed cases, indicative of disposition rates below 50%. Figure 5 portrays the volume of matters filed and disposed of by the High Courts in 2010. Also notable from Table 2(a) is that disposed cases for St. Kitts and Nevis in 2010 only represent those from Nevis.

Table 2(a) Cases Filed and Disposed by Member State in the High Courts: 2010 and 2009

Country	2010		2009	
	Total Cases Filed	Total Cases Disposed	Total Cases Filed	Total Cases Disposed
Anguilla	160	100	204	138
Antigua and Barbuda	1,439	163	1,409	441
Commonwealth of Dominica	682	212	785	62
Grenada	877	537	864	406
Montserrat	96	70	90	45
St. Kitts and Nevis	745	36	722	243
Saint Lucia	2,172	865	1,686	648
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	625	21	628	110
Territory of the Virgin Islands	703	424	679	350
Total	7,499	2,428	7,067	2,443

Figure 5



The majority of total filed and disposed cases were Civil matters for both years under review. Civil cases represented 58% and 61% of total filed cases in 2010 and 2009 respectively as well as 60% and 67% of total disposed cases for the same period. The number of Civil cases filed increased slightly over the two years, while disposed Civil cases decreased moderately. Worth mentioning were the over one thousand Probate cases filed in 2010. Case Types encompassed in the "Other" category under filed cases in 2010 were 85 Mediation, 3 Caveat and 178 Commercial Cases filed in the Commercial Division in the Territory of the Virgin Islands.

Table 2(b) Cases Filed and Disposed by Case Type in the High Courts: 2010 and 2009

Case Type	2010		2009	
	Total Cases Filed	Total Cases Disposed	Total Cases Filed	Total Cases Disposed
Civil	4,332	1,467	4,311	1,649
Criminal	816	292	456	205
Matrimonial	884	207	948	164
Adoption	124	53	144	55
Probate	1,052	288	979	364
Admiralty	25	6	43	6
Other	266	115	186	0
Total	7,499	2,428	7,067	2,443

Tables 2(c) and 2(d) portray more specific information on filed and disposed cases by Case Type in the High Courts. Saint Lucia had the highest percentage share of both filed and disposed cases. Antigua and Barbuda as well as Grenada also had relatively high percentage shares of total filed cases (between 10% and 20%). Comparatively for disposed cases, besides Saint Lucia, Grenada and the Territory of the Virgin Islands recorded the highest percentages.

As previously mentioned, Civil cases dominated both filed and disposed cases rounding off to roughly 60% of these totals. Admiralty cases on the other hand contributed the least to both the total filed and disposed cases, less than 0.5% in both instances.

Table 2(c) Number of Cases Filed in the High Courts by Case Type and by Member State, 2010

Member State	2010								Member State Total as a % of Total
	Civil	Criminal	Matrimonial	Adoption	Probate	Admiralty	Other	Total	
Anguilla	94	17	31	5	13	0	0	160	2.13
Antigua and Barbuda	815	78	155	11	299	4	77	1,439	19.19
Commonwealth of Dominica	396	45	74	25	134	0	8	682	9.09
Grenada	551	108	165	13	39	1	0	877	11.69
Montserrat	45	21	10	1	19	0	0	96	1.28
St. Kitts and Nevis	515	32	95	14	88	1	0	745	9.93
Saint Lucia	1,143	467	190	18	345	6	3	2,172	28.96
St Vincent and the Grenadines	449	28	107	34	1	6	0	625	8.33
Territory of the Virgin Islands	324	20	57	3	114	7	178	703	9.37
TOTAL	4,332	816	884	124	1,052	25	226	7,499	100.00
Case Type as a % of Total	57.77	10.88	11.79	1.65	14.03	0.33	3.55	100.00	

Table 2(d) Number of Cases Disposed in the High Courts by Case Type and by Member State: 2010

Member State	2010								Member State Total as a % of Total
	Civil	Criminal	Matrimonial	Adoption	Probate	Admiralty	Other	Total	
Anguilla	57	8	32	3	0	0	0	100	4.12
Antigua and Barbuda	119	42	2	0	0	0	0	163	6.71
Commonwealth of Dominica	121	43	17	31	0	0	0	212	8.73
Grenada	500	34	0	3	0	0	0	537	22.12
Montserrat	41	8	3	1	17	0	0	70	2.88
St. Kitts and Nevis	12	3	9	0	12	0	0	36	1.48
Saint Lucia	416	174	122	13	138	2	0	865	35.63
St Vincent and the Grenadines	11	10	0	0	0	0	0	21	0.86
Territory of the Virgin Islands	190	4	22	2	87	4	115	424	17.46
TOTAL	1,467	326	207	53	254	6	115	2,428	100.00
Case Type as a % of Total	60.42	13.43	8.53	2.18	10.46	0.25		100.00	

Table 2(e) draws attention to the total events which occurred in High Courts in 2010. Events are listed in descending order and it is clearly seen that Chamber Hearings were in the majority, representing about 41% of total events. These were followed by Case Management Conferences which made up in the region of 20% of total events. Some events included in the "Other" category were Judicial Sale, Judgment Delivery, and Sentencing, among others.

Table 2(e) Events Count by Member State: 2010

Types of Events	2010	
	Total for Case Type	Case Type as a % of Total Events
Chamber Hearing	6,880	40.54
Case Management Conference	3,718	21.91
Civil Trial	795	4.68
Open Court Hearing	620	3.65
Sufficiency Hearing	604	3.56
First Hearing	600	3.54
Uncontested Divorce	475	2.80
Application Without Hearing	453	2.67
Masters Hearing	422	2.49
Fixed Date Claim Form Hearing	327	1.93
Arraignment	298	1.76
Application for Committal Orders	296	1.74
Criminal Trial	251	1.48
Mediation	219	1.29
Committal Proceedings	208	1.23
Pre - Trial Review	191	1.13
Status Hearing	182	1.07
Other	431	2.54
Total	16,970	100.00

Section 3

Magistrates Courts

This section focuses on data from the various Magistrates Courts. Up to the time of this report, Antigua and Barbuda did not submit any data; the same obtained for Anguilla with reference to disposed cases. Data from the Commonwealth of Dominica were obtained in JEMS but not verified by the relevant personnel.

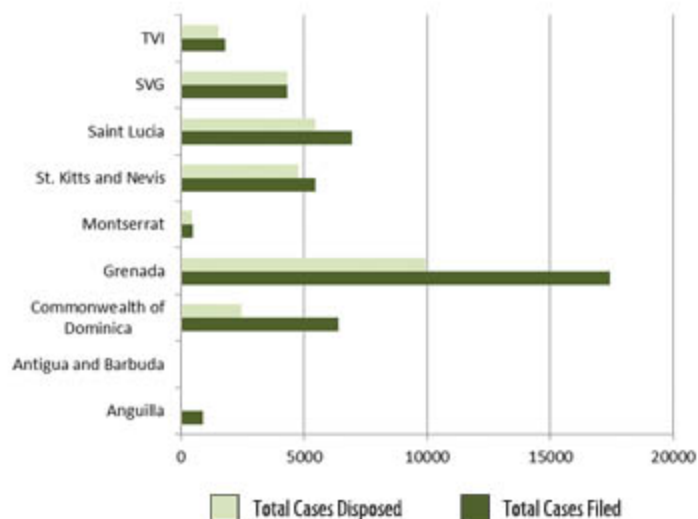
The following, with reference to the year 2010, can be inferred from Table 3(a): the overall disposition rate was 67.52%. This rate was calculated excluding data on Anguilla as well as Antigua and Barbuda. Based on the reported data, the total number of filed cases was 43,613 while disposed cases amounted to 28,852. Montserrat and St. Vincent and the Grenadines recorded exceptional disposition rates between 97% and 100%. The Commonwealth of Dominica had a very low disposition rate, below 50%. Of particular interest is the high number of filed cases in Grenada (17,424).

Table 3(a) Disposition Rates by Member State in the Magistracy: 2010

Member States	2010		
	Total Cases Filed	Total Cases Disposed	Disposition Rates
Anguilla	883	-	-
Antigua and Barbuda	-	-	-
Commonwealth of Dominica	6,402	2,434	38.02
Grenada	17,424	9,937	57.03
Montserrat	451	438	97.12
St. Kitts and Nevis	5,451	4,760	87.32
Saint Lucia	6,933	5,467	78.85
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	4,302	4,294	99.81
Territory of the Virgin Islands	1,767	1,522	86.13
Total	43,613	28,852	67.52

Figure 6

Number of Filed and Disposed Cases by Member State in the Magistracy: 2010



Data from Tables 3(a) and 3(b) indicate that between 2010 and 2009 the Commonwealth of Dominica had disposition rates below 50% for both years; Antigua and Barbuda recorded a very low disposition rate of 39.74% in 2009; Montserrat and the Territory of the Virgin Islands showed significant increases in disposition rates while the reverse was noted for Grenada and Saint Lucia; the disposition rate for Grenada dropped by approximately 34%, from 91% to 57%; and the disposition rate decreased moderately for St. Kitts and Nevis.

Table 3(b) Disposition Rates by Member State in the Magistracy: 2009

Member States	2010		
	Total Cases Filed	Total Cases Disposed	Disposition Rates
Anguilla	1,360	973	71.54
Antigua and Barbuda	3,276	1,302	39.74
Commonwealth of Dominica	6,114	2,937	48.04
Grenada	10,150	9,225	91.18
Montserrat	388	304	78.35
St. Kitts and Nevis	5,651	5,291	93.63
Saint Lucia	5,163	4,933	95.55
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	4,671	4,310	92.27
Territory of the Virgin Islands	2,183	1,458	66.79
Total	38,956	30,763	78.97

Table 3(c) shows that Inquests had the highest disposition rates, followed by Criminal cases. However, it should be noted that the disposition rate for Inquest cases was distorted because of the minimal number of these cases. Also more Inquest cases were disposed than filed because some were carried over from the previous year; this resulted in a disposition rate of over one hundred percent. All case types had disposition rates above 50% excluding Traffic cases and Preliminary Inquiries. The number of Traffic cases filed was exceptional (18,498). 10,312 of these were cases pertaining to Traffic Tickets. Less than half of Traffic cases were disposed of during the period. Traffic cases had a disposition rate of roughly 44%. The number of filed and disposed Criminal cases was also very high. Encompassed in Criminal cases, 763 cases were filed by the Criminal Division in Saint Lucia and 81 disposed. Case types included in the "Other" category were: Liquor Licenses, Drugs as well as Coroner cases.

Table 3(c) Disposition Rates by Case Type in the Magistracy: 2010

Case Type	2010		
	Total Cases Filed	Total Cases Disposed	Disposition Rates
Criminal	16,434	14,127	85.96
Civil	4,619	3,687	79.82
Traffic	18,498	8,142	44.02
Domestic/Family	338	184	54.44
Juvenile	405	277	68.40
Maintenance/ Affiliation	2,544	2,020	79.40
Inquests	1	6	600.00
Pre. Inquiries	414	157	37.92
Other	360	252	70.00
Total	43,613	28,852	66.15

Tables 3(d) and 3(e) give more detailed information on the Cases Filed and Disposed in 2010. Each Member State is listed with the number of filed and disposed cases broken down by the main Case Types. Similar to 2009, Grenada cases made up the more significant share of the total; about 40%. Montserrat contributed to just over one percent of total filed cases. Traffic cases accounted for almost half of total filed cases (42.41%) in 2010. These were followed by Criminal cases which amounted to approximately 38% of filed cases. The number of cases on Inquests was minimal and rounded off to zero in Table 3 (d).

Table 3(d) Cases Filed by Member State and Case Type in the Magistracy: 2010

Member State	2010										Member State Total as a % of Total
	Criminal	Civil	Traffic	Domestic /Family	Juvenile	Maintenance /Affiliation	Inquests	Pre. Inquiries	Other	Total	
Anguilla	480	0	311	0	0	0	0	0	92	883	2.02
Antigua and Barbuda	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Commonwealth of Dominica	3,233	1,000	1,335	156	220	458	0	0	0	6,402	14.68
Grenada	5,086	309	11,300	75	0	429	0	225	0	17,424	39.95
Montserrat	0	57	92	22	8	24	0	54	194	451	1.03
St. Kitts and Nevis	1,346	2,049	584	0	62	1,410	0	0	0	5,451	12.50
Saint Lucia	3,230	330	3,099	73	33	99	0	54	15	6,933	15.90
St Vincent and the Grenadines	2,389	715	1,198	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,302	9.86
Territory of the Virgin Islands	670	159	579	12	82	124	1	81	59	1,767	4.05
TOTAL	16,434	4,619	18,498	338	405	2,544	1	414	360	43,613	100.00
Case Type as a % of Total	37.68	10.59	42.41	0.77	0.93	5.83	0.00	0.95	0.83	100.00	

As previously stated, Table 3(e) gives more specific information on disposed cases by Member State and Case Type. These cases were primarily from Grenada. Although Traffic cases were the most filed cases, they did not have the best clearance record. Criminal cases were the most disposed cases followed by Traffic cases. These accounted for roughly 49% and 28% of total disposed cases respectively.

Table 3(e) Cases Disposed by Member State and Case Type in the Magistracy: 2010

Member State	2010										Member State Total as a % of Total	
	Criminal	Civil	Traffic	Domestic /Family	Juvenile	Maintenance /Affiliation	Inquests	Pre. Inquiries	Other	Total		
Anguilla	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Antigua and Barbuda	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Commonwealth of Dominica	1,235	520	331	43	131	174	0	0	0	2,434	8.44	
Grenada	6,054	208	3,225	50	0	347	0	53	0	9,937	34.44	
Montserrat	0	63	98	15	8	29	0	45	180	438	1.52	
St. Kitts and Nevis	1,242	1,752	489	0	35	1,242	0	0	0	4,760	16.50	
Saint Lucia	2,505	232	2,485	65	27	102	0	39	12	5,467	18.95	
St Vincent and the Grenadines	2,479	662	1,153	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,294	14.88	
Territory of the Virgin Islands	612	250	361	11	76	126	6	20	60	1,522	5.28	
TOTAL	14,127	3,687	8,142	184	277	2,020	6	157	252	28,852	100.00	
Case Type as a % of Total	48.96	12.78	28.22	0.64	0.96	7.00	0.02	0.54	0.87	100.00		

Section 4

Family Courts

This section highlights data on the Family Courts within the OECS. There are two official Family Courts: The St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) Family Court and the Saint Lucia Family Court. In the other Member States family matters are dealt with during Magisterial proceedings. The ECSC continues to commend the SVG Family Court for their regular and timely submission of data.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines Family Court

Table 4(a) compares the number of cases filed by case type in the SVG Family Court for the years 2010 and 2009. The total number of filed cases increased slightly by 39 over the two years. For both years, Arrears cases accounted for almost 40% of total filed cases. These were the bulk of filed cases followed by Maintenance cases which represented about 27% of total cases. Table 4(a) shows that although the total number of filed cases increased overall, they decreased for cases pertaining to Maintenance, Arrears, Unlawful Sexual Intercourse and Indecent Assault. "Other offences" also decreased over the timeframe.

Table 4(a) Comparison between Cases Filed in the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Family Court: 2010 and 2009

Case Type	2010		2009	
	No. of cases	% of total	No. of cases	% of total
Maintenance	777	26.83	778	27.23
Custody/ Access	227	7.84	166	5.81
Protection Order	316	10.91	289	10.12
Arrears	1,121	38.71	1,140	39.90
Occupation Order	154	5.32	121	4.24
Unlawful Sexual Intercourse	40	1.38	72	2.52
Indecent Assault	36	1.24	56	1.96
Rape	23	0.79	16	0.56
Other Offences	202	6.98	219	7.67
Total	2,896	100.00	2,857	100.00

Similar to filed cases, the number of disposed cases increased over the two years as seen in Table 4(b). The total number of disposed cases increased, by approximately 4.5% from 2009 to 2010. Total disposed cases comprised largely of Arrears followed by Maintenance cases. All case types registered increases in number disposed with the exception of Arrears, Unlawful Sexual Intercourse, Indecent Assault and Rape.

Table 4(b) Comparison between Cases Disposed in the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Family Court: 2010 and 2009

Case Type	2010		2009	
	No. of cases	% of total	No. of cases	% of total
Maintenance	722	28.27	702	28.71
Custody/ Access	215	8.42	146	5.97
Protection Order	284	11.12	257	10.51
Arrears	962	37.67	1,011	41.35
Occupation Order	123	4.82	116	4.74
Unlawful Sexual Intercourse	31	1.21	53	2.17
Indecent Assault	31	1.21	39	1.60
Rape	15	0.59	16	0.65
Other Offences	171	6.70	105	4.29
Total	2,554	100.00	2,445	100.00

Figure 7

Comparison Between Cases Filed and Disposed: 2010 and 2009

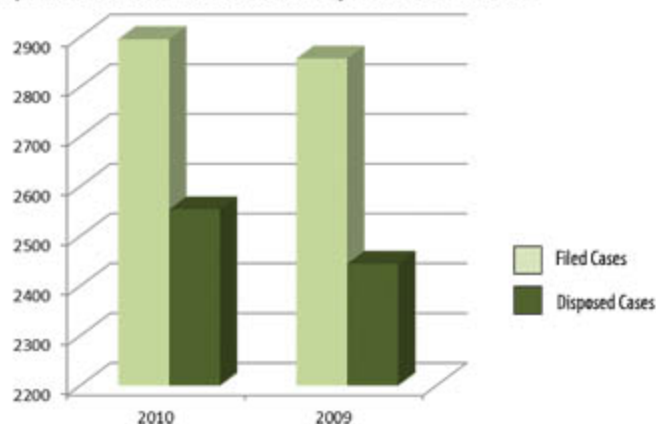


Table 4(c) indicates that disposition rates increased from 85.58% to 88.19% over the two years. Maintenance cases were the only ones which recorded disposition rates above 90% in both 2009 and 2010; Custody/Access, Protection Order and Arrears had relatively high disposition rates (above 80% in both years); Occupation Order and Rape had high disposition rates of 96% and 100% respectively in 2009.

Table 4 (c) Case Disposition Rates in the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Family Court: 2010 and 2009

Case Type	2010			2009		
	Cases Filed	Cases Disposed	Disposition rate	Cases Filed	Cases Disposed	Disposition rate
Maintenance	777	722	92.92	778	702	90.23
Custody/ Access	227	215	94.71	166	146	87.95
Protection Order	316	284	89.87	289	257	88.93
Arrears	1,121	962	85.82	1,140	1,011	88.68
Occupation Order	154	123	79.87	121	116	95.87
Unlawful Sexual Intercourse	40	31	77.50	72	53	73.61
Indecent Assault	36	31	86.11	56	39	69.64
Rape	23	15	65.22	16	16	100.00
Other Offences	202	171	84.65	219	105	47.95
Total	2,896	2,554	88.19	2,857	2,445	85.58

Information on cases filed and disposed by month is given in Table 4(d). The highest number of cases was filed in the months of September and July: 296 and 291 respectively. On the other hand, the lowest number of filed cases was recorded in August and December: 194 in the former and 177 in the latter. Over 300 cases were disposed of during the months of November and January. August and December recorded the lowest number of disposed cases with a minimal 8 cases disposed in August. This can be attributed to the fact that the President of the Court was on vacation during the month of August.

Table 4 (d) Case Information by Month: St. Vincent and the Grenadines Family Court, 2010

Month	Total Cases Filed	Total Cases Disposed
Jan	265	307
Feb	250	280
March	241	152
April	219	198
May	220	197
June	249	271
July	291	134
Aug	194	8
Sep	296	294
Oct	261	263
Nov	233	336
Dec	177	114
TOTAL	2,896	2,554

Saint Lucia Family Court

The following draws reference to data from the Saint Lucia Family Court for the year 2010. Table 4(e) highlights data on the total cases which were lodged and disposed in the Saint Lucia Family Court for the stated period. Total disposed cases were found by adding the data from the categories: *Cases Heard and Final Orders Given, Cases Discharged and Cases Withdrawn by Applicant*. 1,642 cases were lodged in 2010 while 1,537 were disposed in the same year. Thus the disposition rate was approximately 94%, which is commendable. Warrants, Domestic Violence, Affiliation, Maintenance and Separation matters represented the majority of lodged and disposed cases.

Table 4(e) Cases Lodged and Disposed in the Saint Lucia Family Court, 2010

Category	Juvenile		Adult Criminal	Affiliation, Separation and Maintenance	Warrants	Custody	Domestic Violence	Total
	Criminal	Care and Protection						
New Cases Lodged	39	62	26	434	587	25	469	1,642
Cases Heard and Final Orders Given	31	55	15	322	411	8	424	1,266
Cases Discharged	6	3	3	24	43	0	57	136
Cases withdrawn by applicant	0	0	8	49	7	3	68	135
Total Disposed Cases	37	58	26	395	461	11	549	1,537

Some additional information on case-flow in the Saint Lucia Family Court during the year 2010 is given in the following table. Of particular note is that there were over 11, 000 cases pending at the beginning of the year as well as at the end of the year, of which more than half were Warrants cases. Thirty three cases were transferred to another court while Interim Orders were given on approximately 2,000 cases.

Table 4(f) Case Information: Saint Lucia Family Court, 2010

Category	Juvenile		Adult Criminal	Affiliation, Separation and Maintenance	Warrants	Custody	Domestic Violence	Total
	Criminal	Care and Protection						
Cases Pending at the beginning of the period	84	141	140	2,526	6,093	55	2,156	11,195
Cases Pending at the end of the period	82	145	137	2,559	6,210	63	2,070	11,266
Cases Heard and Interim Orders Given	102	98	21	1,055	308	12	856	2,414
Cases Transferred to another court	4	2	3	16	10	0	0	35



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Chief Justice Hugh Rawlins



Justice Ola Mae Edwards



Justice Janice Pereira



Justice Davidson Baptiste



Justice Kenneth Benjamin



Justice Indra Hariprashad-Charles



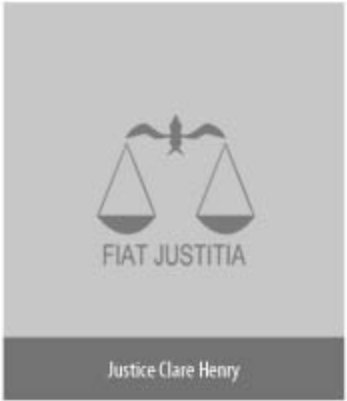
Justice Rita Joseph-Olivetti



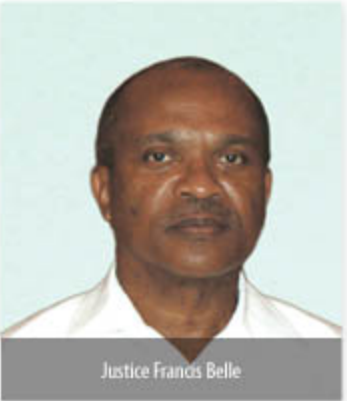
Justice Frederick Bruce-Lyle



Justice Louise Blenman



Justice Clare Henry



Justice Francis Belle



Justice Gertel Thom



Justice Ianthea Leigertwood-Octave



Justice Brian Cottle



Justice Francis Cumberbatch



Justice Mario Michel

Judicial Officers --> High Court Judges

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Justice Jennifer Remy



Justice Margaret Price Findlay



Justice Rosalyn Wilkinson



Justice Birnie Stephenson Brooks



Justice Edward Bannister, QC



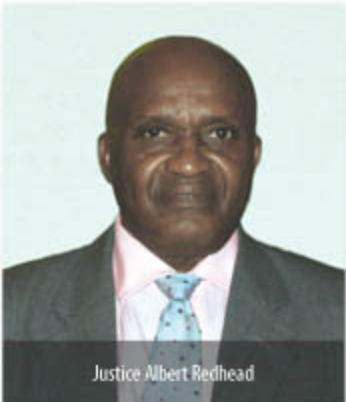
Justice Richard Floyd



Justice Errol Thomas



Justice Monica Joseph



Justice Albert Redhead



Justice Ephraim Georges



Master Cheryl Mathurin



Master Peardletta Lanns



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