



EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT

ANNUAL REPORT 2006 - 2007

Anguilla - Antigua and Barbuda - The British Virgin Islands - The Commonwealth of Dominica - Grenada
Montserrat - St. Kitts and Nevis - Saint Lucia - St. Vincent and the Grenadines

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

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Picture on front cover: High Court of Justice, Grenada { before Hurricane Ivan }



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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF JUSTICE [Ag]



Sir Brian Alleyne, SC, KCN



The Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court recognizes its unique status as a regional superior court of record exercising unlimited civil, criminal and constitutional jurisdiction at the

and backlog which plague the administration of criminal justice in some States. We have made much progress in the past few months towards full implementation of the new Criminal Court Delay Reduction Rules in Saint Lucia, and I acknowledge the proactive stance of the office of the Attorney General in Saint Lucia in support of this programme. Our experience in Saint Lucia will greatly assist us in our efforts to roll out the project, with appropriate modifications, to Antigua, Dominica, St Vincent and the Grenadines, and Grenada, in each of which we have already initiated the process with the support of the individual governments. As a necessary strategic measure in the realization of the reform objectives in this area, we have taken substantial steps and have made much progress in fulfilling the mandate of the OECS Authority towards integrating the Magistracy structurally and operationally with the Supreme Court.

trial and appellate levels over six independent constitutional democracies and three British Overseas Territories. With this status goes tremendous responsibility, as well as the imperative of creative thinking to administer, develop and manage a multi-jurisdictional, multi-national institution with few, if any, similar institutions to which we can look for inspiration and guidance. This year marked the 40th anniversary of this unique institution, and a number of activities took place in the course of the year in recognition of the anniversary. Perhaps the most significant activity, in terms of its lasting impact, is the work towards the publication of a history of the Court written by Dr. Francis Alexis of Grenada and edited by Senator Professor Velma Newton of the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, Barbados.

Substantial progress has been made towards the establishment of a specialised Commercial Division of the Court to serve, in particular, the needs of the British Virgin Islands, but which will help to develop the ability of all Member States to participate in the growing economic opportunities offered by the international financial services and offshore business sector which has so radically transformed the economy of the British Virgin Islands and other small jurisdictions. We expect the establishment of that Division to inspire and assist the growth of specialised legal and judicial expertise to enable our jurisdictions to take advantage of the very significant advantages which result from this particular sector.

In the face of the unique status of the ECSC and the special problems and issues which inevitably result, we are acutely conscious of our responsibility to the governments and people of the OECS Member States to fulfill our mission and vision by providing access to a system of justice that is accountable and independent, administered by competent officers in a prompt, fair, efficient and effective manner, through the achievement of professionalism and excellence in providing timely, effective and efficient access to, and administration of a cohesive, independent and accountable system of justice for the benefit of the Member States. It is this mission and this vision that drive our activities, and in particular our reform and development programmes, which are designed to reform and modernize our institutions, procedures and practices to meet the ever-changing demands and expectations of our evolving populations. It is in pursuit of this mission and vision that we continue to focus our various development programmes.

We share the view expressed by some of our governments and many users of the justice system that the physical infrastructure for the administration of justice is to a very great extent characterised by severe deterioration and is otherwise wholly inadequate in terms of space, facilities, ability to adapt to modern demands and technology, and despite its inadequacy, places tremendous demands on national budgets in terms of cost of rental, maintenance and repair. Most buildings lack even basic amenities, such as washrooms for staff, attorneys, litigants and witnesses. In most cases there are no waiting areas and no consultation rooms where litigants and witnesses can be interviewed, or where complainants can be insulated from contact with the persons accused of committing crimes against their persons or property, including sexual offences. In the face of competing demands for scarce financial and economic resources in these countries, some have committed to projects for the provision of modern High Court buildings,

These programmes include reforming our criminal procedure and practice to deal with the unacceptable level of delays

Message from the Honourable Chief Justice (AG). Cont'd

while others have undertaken some maintenance and expansion works. However, the Court recognizes that if we await individual efforts at national level, it will be years before we can expect a uniformly satisfactory solution to this issue. In response to this realization, and with the tentative approval of the Authority, we have embarked on developing a regional approach to the design and financing of a court building project which will tackle not only the needs of the High Courts and central facilities, but also the magistrates and district courts. We are preparing proposals for presentation to the Authority which we hope will demonstrate that adequate facilities to meet the present and future judicial infrastructure needs of the Member States can be provided by way of a regional project at a cost which will be within the reach of the national budgets and will yield significant social and economic benefits to the States, and suitable amenities to the users of the services of the courts in the various capitals and districts.

Continuing judicial education remains an important ongoing concern of the ECSC, and I take this opportunity to express sincere gratitude to Justice of Appeal Hugh Rawlins who, despite having a full workload on the judicial side, nevertheless as Chairman of the Judicial Education Institute, was able, with the dedicated support of the Executive Officer of the JEI Miss Alana Simmons, to sustain a dynamism and sharp focus in the JEI for the three years he served as Chairman. At our most recent Annual Judicial Conference in August of this year, the baton of leadership of the JEI was passed to Justice Ianthea Leigertwood-Octave. I have full confidence that Justice Octave will maintain the high standards set by Justice Rawlins, who continues to offer his support and the benefit of his experience.

The Judicial and Legal Services Commission faces its triennial rotation of membership this year, with the retirement of the Chairpersons of the Public Service Commissions of Grenada and Saint Christopher and Nevis, and their replacement by the Chairpersons of the Commissions of Saint Lucia and St Vincent and the Grenadines. The Chief Justice's nominee from among the judges has retired as a judge and has been replaced, and the term of appointment of the former judge appointed by the Chief Justice with the concurrence of the Heads of Government of not less than four of the Member States has come to an end and steps have been taken to fill that position as well. This is a most important Commission, tasked with the appointment, promotion and discipline of judges other than the Chief Justice, and of Directors of Public Prosecutions and other judicial and legal officers in the independent Member States in accordance with the terms of the various Constitutions.

Chief Justice Sir Dennis Byron, who had been on leave from his duties at the Court since June 2004, resigned with effect from 31st December 2006, and has been elected by his colleagues as Chairman of the International Criminal Tribunal

for Rwanda, based in Arusha, Tanzania, where his record is a matter of continuing pride for us in the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court and in the Eastern Caribbean as a whole. I take this opportunity to once again recognize the visionary leadership provided to this Court by Sir Dennis, who initiated the reform programme with the introduction of the Civil Procedure Rules 2000, and who laid the foundation upon which all subsequent reform programmes have been based. In truth, Sir Dennis' vision and progressive and enlightened leadership of the Court has created the systems and modus operandi that have enabled us to respond effectively to the growing needs and demands of the jurisdiction.

I daresay that the Court has had a generally successful year, and I thank all the Judges, the Chief Registrar, Deputy Chief Registrar, Registrars and Deputy Registrars, the Court Executive Administrator and the professional, technical, administrative and support staff at the Court's headquarters for their dedicated commitment and hard work. I also thank the many collaborators who have made the work of the Court successful, in particular the Canadian International Development Agency and its officers who have worked so closely with us in support of our programmes and without whose support, financial and otherwise, many of the programmes of the Court would not have been possible. I also thank the Consultants who have assisted us in rationalizing and justifying our concepts, and enabling us to move forward with the resulting programmes and projects. I thank the OECS Authority of Heads of Government, and the Director General, for their unswerving support for the work of the Court and for their demonstrated respect for the rule of law and the principle of the independence of the judiciary. The work of the Court could not proceed with any level of satisfaction without the support, hard work and professionalism of the members of the Bar practicing within the jurisdiction, and I thank them and their professional organizations, in particular the OECS Bar Association. Finally, I express my deepest gratitude to my colleagues on the Bench of the Court of Appeal for the dedicated and loyal support which they have consistently given to me, without which it would have been impossible for me to carry out the responsibilities of the office of Acting Chief Justice.

I pray for God's continued blessings and guidance on the work of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court.

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR

Administrative Personnel

During the period under review several changes in personnel occurred in the Court of Appeal Registry. The Court said farewell to Ms. Heather Franklyn in October, 2006. Consequently, Mrs. Kimberly Cenac-Phulgence was appointed as Chief Registrar effective 18th December, 2006.

Ms. Agnes Actie joined the Court of Appeal in January, 2007 as Deputy Chief Registrar. The position of Registry Clerk although provided for in the structure of the Registry had never been filled. Given the need to better manage storage of records in the Registry, Ms. Nadine Felicien was appointed Registry Clerk in June 2007.

Former Judicial Clerk, Mrs. Michelle John-Theobalds was appointed to the post of Executive Legal Assistant to the Chief Justice in April 2007. The Court bade farewell to Mrs. Turkessa Benjamin-Antoine, Judicial Clerk in August 2007. Consequently, Ms. Sardia Cenac and Ms. Samantha George were appointed as Judicial Clerks to become effective from 1st September, 2007.

Full Court Sitings

The Chief Registrar issues a schedule of Court sittings for the Court of Appeal towards the end of every calendar year for the ensuing year. The first sitting to signal the opening of the 2006-2007 Law Year was convened in Anguilla on 18th September, 2006. Subsequently there were twenty two (22) scheduled sittings with the last one on 20th July, 2007 in Antigua and Barbuda.

The sitting in Grenada, scheduled for June 2007 was cancelled due to few appeals being ready for hearing and the lack of facilities to accommodate the Court of Appeal sitting and the High Court re-sentencing hearing in the "Grenada thirteen" matter [The Queen v Callistus Bernard et al] simultaneously.

Chamber Sitings

In addition to the schedule of Court of Appeal sittings, a schedule of Chamber sittings for the year is issued by the Chief Registrar. Chamber hearings are held at the Headquarters in Saint Lucia and are presided over by a single Judge of the Court of Appeal. At Chamber hearings, interlocutory applications are heard and disposed of and case management conferences conducted for some appeals.

During the period 1st January to 31st December, 2006, twenty (20) Chamber sittings and four (4) teleconferences were held. Between 1st January and 31st July, 2007, there were seven (7) Chamber hearings and approximately one hundred and nine (109) applications. There were two teleconferences during that period.

Case Load

A total of sixty three (63) judgments were delivered during the period September 2006 - July, 2007 - one hundred and nineteen (119) applications, ninety one (91) High Court Criminal Appeals, one hundred and twenty six (126) High Court Civil Appeals, eighty

seven (87) Magisterial Criminal Appeals, fourteen (14) Magisterial Civil Appeals. Two (2) status hearings were listed for hearing by the Full Court.

In 2006, there were nineteen (19) appeals to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council from decisions of the Court of Appeal. For the period January to July, 2007, there have been seven (7) so far.

See section on Court Performance (pages 22-45) for additional information on the Court's activities.

Setbacks

Outstanding appeals continue to be at levels which are cause for concern. In most of the cases, these appeals remain outstanding because no records of appeal have been filed. The production of these records of appeal remains a problem in some of the Member States, for example, Grenada, St. Kitts and Antigua. This is primarily due to a lack of adequate Court Reporters and equipment to aid in the preparation of transcripts. The Court will in the coming months explore solutions and strategies which may assist in this regard.

As at 31st July, 2007, the number of outstanding appeals was as follows: Anguilla-11, Antigua-75, British Virgin Islands-24, Dominica-22, Grenada-42, Montserrat-6, St. Kitts-79, Saint Lucia-53, and St. Vincent-28.

Magisterial Criminal Appeals in Saint Lucia continue to pose a challenge. There are hardly any magisterial criminal appeals filed. For the period January, 2006 to July, 2007, only one (1) magisterial criminal appeal was filed. One of the main contributing factors to this problem is the lack of staff at the District Court Office and the lack of proper mechanisms to facilitate preparation of records of appeal.

The Court of Appeal Registry under the direction of the Deputy Chief Registrar has embarked on a project to work with the District Court Office in Saint Lucia to identify strategies and solutions which may help alleviate the present backlog which exists in the Magistrates Court as it relates to appeal matters. One possible solution being explored is the conducting of status hearings to dispose of appeals where the parties are no longer interested in pursuing such appeal matter.

It is the aim of the Court to eliminate backlogs altogether or to bring backlogs to manageable levels. The consequence of backlogs is that while the Court seeks to make provision for the hearing of appeals by scheduling sittings for the various jurisdictions, some jurisdictions have not been able to prepare sufficient matters to fully utilize the time allocated and so the backlog continues.

Timely receipt of records and documents continued to pose challenges for the Court of Appeal Registry especially close to sittings and Chamber hearings. Reliance on the postal services for receipt of documents is always a risky business and strike action at the post office on a few occasions during the year affected receipt of documents by the Registry.

Legal Internship

Every year the Court makes provision for the temporary appointment of two legal interns. Advertisements for suitable applicants for this attachment are sent to the various law schools in the Caribbean, and interviews conducted with applicants by one of the Court of Appeal Judges, and selections made.

This year, the Court welcomed two legal interns in the persons of Ms. Sharmani Chase and Ms. Vanessa William who provided valuable assistance to the Court in relation to proof-reading of judgments and carrying out legal research, in the absence of judicial clerks. Vanessa William shares her experience [see below].

The Experience

"The journey began with a much feared interview at the Hugh Wooding Law School with Justice Hugh Rawlins. My predecessor, Ms. Julia Chase, had told me that there was no reason to be nervous or anxious- the interview would be as comfortable and relaxed as I could ever hope for it to be".

"Needless to say Ms. Chase proved herself quite the fortune teller and the ease of that interview set the tone for my ten week internship. The skill with which the court staff went about their duties was a marvel. Watching the Justices in particular proved a constant source of admiration and pleasure for me as a student of law. To see the process involved in writing a judgment was incredible. It is of course my duty as a student to familiarize myself with judgments and to read as many as I can. However it was a delight to actually see the academic world of my study come alive over the internship period. I was able to relate a lot of what I had already learnt to several tasks that I had to accomplish and to reconcile such with the different approaches that were now being suggested".



Left to Right: Legal Interns - Ms Vanessa William and Ms Sharmani Chase

"Admittedly, before deciding to apply for this particular internship I knew little of the appellate process. A lot of the procedure involved from the filing of an appeal to the delivery of that judgment was a grey area for me. However as the weeks progressed I became

exceedingly proud of all the new knowledge that was being added to my development as a law student. I am now proud to report that a lot of the fog has cleared and I have a much greater understanding of this particular aspect of the court process".

"For all of this I would like to extend, once again, sincerest thanks to the Learned Judges who took time to explain certain topics and in so doing, widen the scope of my thinking. I also thank the entire staff of the Office of the Registrar and the rest of the court staff".

"Overall, throughout the ten-week period I have been inspired. I have found within myself not only a renewed love for my area of study, but also an appreciation for the different dimensions of work that must be done for the achievement of a single goal- the pursuit of justice. I have been provided a different level of motivation for my future in the legal profession".

Insights into the Court Offices

Anguilla

- Judicial Enforcement Management System (JEMS) Software is finally working although there are some small issues.
- Case Management is functioning well with very few adjournments being given. The cases are moved through the system.
- Mediation is also doing well with about a 20% settlement rate.
- There is no Court Reporting Unit in place. There is only one Court Reporter at present which is undesirable since this affords insufficient rest periods and delays in preparation of transcripts.
- Security is a concern generally and in particular as relates to securing of exhibits.

Antigua and Barbuda

- The Antigua Registry has seen several staff changes in the last law year. Mr. Charlesworth Tabor is now acting Registrar of the High Court.
- The Chief Court Administrator is due to retire at the end of August, 2007 after 39 years of service at the High Court.
- Hon. Justice David Harris was assigned to Antigua to replace Justice Errol Thomas who proceeded on retirement.
- Security for Judges continues to be an issue amidst threats against the lives of Judges and Masters.
- The Antigua and Barbuda Registry is housed in the Government Complex and is equipped with both the resources and technology necessary for proper functioning.
- There continues to be a backlog of Appeal cases because of the difficulty of having notes of evidence completed. There are only three Court reporters at present and this number is inadequate to deal with the increase in civil and criminal litigation.

- Production of reports using the JEMS Software is still posing some problems.
- Computerization of the Civil Registry has had to be delayed due to funding difficulties.

British Virgin Islands

- Plans are well on the way for the establishment of the Commercial Division of the High Court in BVI.
- Mediation is continuing but suffers from a decreased number of mediators on the roster due to the need for mediators to pay for and obtain Trade Licenses, a feature peculiar to the BVI. Refresher courses were held for mediators in June 2007.
- Training for bailiffs and Notaries Public and Commissioners for Oaths was conducted by the High Court Registry and facilitated by the Justice Training Institute of Jamaica in August 2006 and July 2007 respectively.
- The Registry is now fully established in its new surroundings.
- The Case Management system is well established and successful. The problem of temporarily misplaced files continues. However some improvement has been noted in this area.
- An entirely new security system has been installed at the Court. Security systems at the Court House and Judges' residences have been upgraded.

Grenada

- The physical infrastructure of the justice system was severely impacted by Hurricanes Ivan and Emily. Work is yet to commence on the building which housed the High Court. The Court is still renting premises for use as a Courtroom.
- The Court Office building has since been rebuilt and it is expected that these premises would be occupied by the new law year.
- The number of resident Judges was also affected by the hurricanes and there are now only two resident Judges.
- There is an ongoing project to sever the deeds and land registry and the companies and intellectual property sections from the Supreme Court, thus allowing the Registrar to focus on the Court Office.
- A backlog of appeals exists in the Court Office due to the delay in producing the transcripts. Grenada does not have a properly functioning Court reporting Unit and only has one trained court reporter. It is the hope that a functioning Court reporting Unit will be established and the backlog reduced.
- Justice Francis Cumberbatch newly appointed High Court Judge will replace Justice Kenneth Benjamin who has been assigned to Saint Lucia.

Montserrat

- The building which houses the Registry of the Supreme Court is very small and is sub-divided into six smaller sections. The staff operates in extremely cramped conditions.
- The Registrar is responsible for a number of sections in addition to the High Court e.g. intellectual property, companies, etc.
- There is no deputy or assistant registrar.
- There is a Court Reporter who assists both in the High Court and Magistrates Court.
- Staffing is a challenge and is inadequate.
- Storage of records is an area of concern as the registry is not suitable for storage. There is little ventilation and some information has been lost due to deterioration of records.
- The Judge's Chambers is extremely small and unsuitable for conducting Chamber matters.

St. Kitts and Nevis

- The Registrar of the High Court is still responsible for a myriad of departments or sections e.g. Titles, Probate, Intellectual Property, Companies etc. and this places great burden on the Registrar.
- There is a lack of adequate space to house the present staff and little equipment. All sub-registries are housed within the same space which is much too small.
- The building which houses the Court house is in a state of disrepair and security is of concern.
- There is no security either at Judges' residences or in and around the Judicial Complex.
- There is no Court Reporting Unit or proper court reporting system. There are presently 4 stenographers two of whom are attached to the High Court, one in St. Kitts and one in Nevis. This has resulted in delays in the preparation of transcripts for Appeal matters.
- The JEMS system is still not fully functional. There is constant failure of Internet Service.
- There is inadequate staff and requests for additional staffing have not been very successful.
- Mediation is running smoothly except that alternative accommodation needs to be identified since there are plans to establish a law library.

Saint Lucia



- The Registry of the Supreme Court is housed in three different buildings which poses challenges for administration.
- Phases I and II of renovation works to the main building which houses the Registry have now been completed and this has led to a much more comfortable environment for the staff.
- The Registry of Civil Status is to be relocated because of fungal problem. The move has however been delayed but the new premises promise to be more spacious and should help to alleviate the long lines which are a current feature of the Civil Status Registry.
- The two Civil Judges were able to get rid of the backlog of trials. Earlier trial dates are now possible as a result.
- Master Brian Cottle was appointed as a High Court Judge and replaced Justice Ola Mae Edwards who was appointed to act as a Justice of Appeal.
- There is need for an Assistant Registrar at the Civil Status Registry to meet the increased demand for Birth Records. The number of applications for rectification of Birth certificates has increased tremendously.
- There is need for proper security to be provided for Judges both in office and at their residences.
- Security officers were provided for the Court house and Civil Status Registry but although this is a start, the security of the Judges still remains a concern.
- Despite the recent renovations, the vault is still too small to accommodate the increasing numbers of matters being filed. Off site storage has had to be resorted to but this is unsatisfactory as it is not fire-proof.

- The Civil Registry continues to be a major problem in light of the increased demand for birth certificates in order to apply for new passports. Lack of space, insufficient staff, lack of equipment and poor working conditions continue to plague the Civil Registry.



Registry Staff in Grenada

St. Vincent and The Grenadines



- There has been no professional Deputy Registrar since February, 2006.
- The lack of funds to pay jurors and lawyers for representation of accused in Capital Offences cases impacts on the Criminal Justice system.
- The need for a third Judge to deal with civil matters has been identified.
- Lack of equipment is a major issue, insufficient computers makes it difficult to make proper use of JEMS.
- JEMS is not available in the Court because of the absence of connectivity.
- The recording system was recently updated. This digital system should help alleviate the backlog of matters which are to be transcribed.
- Justice Albert Matthew continues to be assigned to the Possessory Title Unit and this is showing satisfactory progress.

JUDICIAL EDUCATION:

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT



Chairman, JEI, Justice Hugh Rawlins

The Judicial & Legal Reform (JLR) Project continues to support the Judicial Education Institute, the training arm of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court, in its training programmes. During the period under review, activities focused on the training for Police Prosecutors and Investigators on the Criminal Courts Delay Reduction Rules in preparation for the implementation of the Criminal Division in Antigua. Topics included: An Overview of the Crown Prosecution Service in Saint Lucia, Initiating Criminal Proceedings and Committal Hearings, Evidential Elements of Specific Crimes, Pitfalls to be avoided by the prosecutors and Examinations in chief and Cross Examination.

The JEI hopes to use that initiative to stimulate interest with the merging of the Police Prosecution Unit and Director of Public Prosecution's Office there. The Attorney General's office in Antigua is hoping to shepherd this initiative using lessons from the Saint Lucia experience. In anticipation of the work to begin with the Civil Division, the project also responded to a request from the Courts in Grenada for training of Bailiffs in process serving. Some fifteen Magistrates' and High Court bailiffs benefited from the exercise. The topics covered included; Service of Documents in Civil and Family Matters, Levying Execution, Seizure and Sale of Property, Conflict Resolution, Report Writing and Record Keeping, and Non Combatant Techniques, Legal Framework for Bailiff Duties, Bailiff in the Criminal Process.

Dominica is hoping to benefit from the roll out of similar training by year end. This exercise will culminate with the production of a procedures manual which will guide the operations of present and future bailiffs in the system.

The JLR Project also funded another JEI initiative and facilitated a meeting with the University of the West Indies (UWI) for the training of judicial personnel for short term summer programmes to respond to the needs of the Member States. These will include training for Magistrates, Registrars and Judges (those in practice and others wishing to join the profession), the training will include new areas of law including the environment, arbitration, the conflict of laws to which practitioners require exposure. The Court's representatives, Justice Hugh Rawlins and Mr. Francis Letang participated in the talks with the UWI in Barbados which were hosted and chaired by the Development Section of the Canadian High Commission. That meeting also considered plans for the hosting of a symposium

as a prelude to the training programmes contemplated, and a book launch as part of activities to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the ECSC.

Other programmes facilitated by the JEI include:

Audio Recording Programme

The JEI hosted Audio Recording Programmes for Judges and Judicial Support Staff of the High Courts and Magistrates Courts of Dominica and Saint Lucia from 27th August – 2nd September, 2006, and was facilitated by a team from the New Jersey State Courts.

3rd Annual JEMS User Training Workshop

The JEI in collaboration with the Court's Information Technology Department hosted the 3rd Annual JEMS Regional User Training Workshop from 30th October – 3rd November, 2006 at the Coyaba Hotel in Grenada. The training was comprised of technical and application components and participants were organized in two related groups.

The objectives of the training were:

1. To provide JEMS users in the High Courts, Magistrates Courts and Family Courts within the sub-region with a significant level of application training in JEMS version 5.0, utilizing hands-on and train the trainer approaches;
2. To expose JEMS support personnel within the sub-region with the necessary hands on skills set to effectively and efficiently administer technical support to JEMS Users within their respective Member States;
3. To familiarise JEMS support personnel within the sub-region to the new JEMS update/upgrade procedures.

The application component of the training was facilitated by Mr. David Stokes, Systems Administrator and Technical Design Consultant from Professional Computers Software Services (PCSS) in the USA. Mrs. Taylor Childress also from PCSS facilitated the technical component of the training.

Orientation Programme for Newly Appointed Officers

The Conference Room of the Court's Headquarters in Castries, Saint Lucia was the venue for various orientation programmes for newly appointed officers during the first half of 2007: January - Deputy Chief Registrar, Ms. Agnes Actie and Deputy Court Administrator, Mr. Francis Letang; April - Court of Appeal Judges: Justice Ola Mae Edwards and Justice Dancia Penn, and July - High Court Judges: Justice Brian Cottle, Justice David Harris, and Justice Francis Cumberbatch, and Master Pearletta Lanns.

The objective of the orientation was to provide the participants with the necessary information on the operations of the court. Topics included: Information Management, Mediation, Human Resource Management, Judgment Writing, Judicial Ethics and Protocol, Civil Procedure Rules, the Role of a Judge/Communication in the Courtroom, Role of Registrars and Court Offices, An Overview of the Reform Process, Court Office Statistics & Logistics, Case Management/Pre-Trial Review/Judicial Courtesies and Court Administration.

Customer Service Training

The programme was geared at enhancing the inter-personal skills and relationships among staff of the Magistrates Courts of Antigua and Grenada, and was held at the Rex Halcyon Co ve Beach Resort, Antigua, from 30th April - 2nd May, 2007; and at the Grenada Grand Beach Resort Conference and Convention Center from 15th - 18th May, 2007.

The Training sought to prepare participants to manage the changes which are unfolding as a result of the wide-ranging reforms being spearheaded by the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court Headquarters.



Antigua Participants – Group 2



Grenada Participants – Group 1



Grenada Participants – Group 2



Antigua Participants – Group 1, with trainer Ms. Denise Collymore (seated 2nd left)

The workshops, conducted by Human Resource trainer Ms Denise Collymore, included sessions on Customer Relations, Inter personal Relations, Stress and Time Management, Change Management, and Team Building.

Participants included administrative and support staff of the Magistrates Court, the Director of the Family Court, Clerks, Bailiffs and other workers in the court system.

CJEI Intensive Study Program for Judicial Officers

Mrs. Kimberly Cenac-Phulgence, Chief Registrar and Ms. Alana Simmons, Executive Officer, Judicial Education Institute, participated in the Commonwealth Judicial Education Institute Intensive Study Programme for Judicial Educators, in Canada, along with others from Ghana, Pakistan, India, Zambia, the Philippines and the Caribbean.



Mrs. Phulgence & Ms. Simmons in the Red Chamber, Province House, Nova Scotia

The programme was held over a three-week period (3rd – 23rd June 2007) and covered topics such as: Instruction to Adults, Commonwealth Experiences with Civil Justice Reform, Using Videos in Judicial Education Programmes, Programme Development, Judicial Communication, How to Conduct Needs Assessment, Judgment Writing, Long Range Plans/Designing Session Objectives, PowerPoint Training, Perspectives on Impartiality, Developing an Orientation Programme, Judicial Performance Feedback, Quicklaw Training.

Justice for Children Seminar

During the period 26th – 28th July, 2007 the ECSC, under the auspices of the JEI collaborated with UNICEF in funding a regional Juvenile Justice Seminar which brought to the fore issues of "Justice for Juveniles" – for example, (Status of Children Legislation, Adoption Bill and other outstanding legislation including programmes for diversion for youths) to better inform the work proposed for the Family Division. This seminar, which took place in Saint Lucia at the Sandals Grande Beach Resort and Spa, brought together almost one hundred participants from the Caribbean region from the Justice and Social Service sectors to chart the course for the Caribbean region in the area of Justice for Juveniles.



Participants of the Justice for Children Seminar

Annual Judicial Conference

The Annual Judicial Conference of 2007 was held in Vieux Fort, Saint Lucia at the Coconut Bay Beach Resort and Spa from Monday 30th July to Thursday 3rd August, 2007 and comprised two separate components: a Judges' and a Registrars' Conference.

Participants of the Conference

The theme of the Judges' Conference was "CPR 2000 – A Critical Review", and looked specifically at rules relating to:

- Initial Process
- Disposition of Cases other than by trial
- Practice Directions
- Evidence
- Enforcement of Judgments
- Appeals
- Cost

The theme of the Registrars' conference was The Registrar – A New Perspective. The objectives of the conference were:

- To examine the role of the Registrar with a view to better appreciating the potential judicial functions which they can exercise.
- To critically examine relevant rules of the CPR 2000 and
- To appreciate the Registrar's role in the administration of the CPR 2000.

Facilitators of the conference included Mr. David di Mambro and Mr. Murray Shanks. Mr. David di Mambro, a member of the United Kingdom Rules Review Commission presented on Practice Directions. Mr. Murray Shanks, who on several occasions acted as High Court Judge within the ECSC, made a presentation on the rules relating to default judgments.

Senator the Hon. Dr. Nicholas Frederick, Attorney General of Saint Lucia, presented the feature address at the Opening Ceremony, which facilitated both Judges and Registrars. He drew attention to the following issues:

- 1. Delay Reduction Rules:** Dr. Frederick supported the efforts of the Court in this regard and believed that this would only assist in expediting the process of criminal trials.
- 2. Small Claims Court:** The speaker noted that the implementation of the Small Claims Court would assist in timely disposal of matters.
- 3. Integration of the Magistrates Court into the Supreme Court:** He supported this initiative because it is believed that the integration would expedite the hearing of cases (especially criminal cases) that once a person has been charged and has made his first appearance before a Magistrate that the High Court would take on the trial of the individual and set certain deadlines for the trial of that individual.
- 4. CPR 2000:** Dr. Frederick pointed out the importance of the civil procedure rules as it enables cases to be dealt with justly: "This involves amongst other things ensuring so far as is practicable that the parties are on an equal footing, saving, expense, dealing with cases in ways which are proportionate to the amount of money involved, the importance of the case, the complexity of the issues and financial position of each party and also ensuring that the matters are dealt with expeditiously.

Judges' Conference

The Hon. Chief Justice Sir Brian Alleyne, SC in setting the stage for this year's Conference stated that: "While we can recognize the significant impact the introduction of the Rules has had on our jurisdiction, we are aware that there are many areas which need to be reviewed, strengthened or otherwise amended and updated. As matters of civil litigation continue to grow in volume so does our responsibility to ensure that justice is dispensed justly and expeditiously in accordance with the overriding objective."

Sir Brian Alleyne mentioned that practice directions assist in the review and updating process. Chief Justice also posited the importance of Bar/Bench relations. He stated that for effective administration of justice there must be close working relationships between the members of the Bar and the Bench, without compromising the independence of the judiciary.

The Chief Justice concluded his speech by highlighting the issue of costs which present the most obstacles to civil litigation. He indicated that the issue of costs has been very inconsistently dealt with and he recognized the need to bring uniformity to this area of the rules.

Keeping in line with the theme, the sessions facilitated a critical review of the Rules relating to Initial Process and the disposition of Cases other than by trial, with possible amendments. These sessions took the form of panel discussions.

The Hon. Chief Justice, Brian Alleyne presented on the Overriding Objective of the CPR 2000. During the Conference the Registrars had the opportunity to report to the Judges the result of their deliberations, including recommendations from their two-day conference. The objectives of the session were to identify areas which will permit Registrars to exercise judicial functions and to identify the administrative and legal problems which affect the work of the Registrars.

An important feature of this year's conference was a presentation by the OECS Bar Association, signaling the importance of the Bench/Bar relationship. The presentation was made by the President of the OECS Bar Association, Ms. Nicole Sylvester.

Other sessions included presentations by Sir Dwight Venner, Governor, Eastern Caribbean Central Bank on Justice, Law and Order, A prerequisite for Social, Economic Development in the OECS. Mr. Dennis Darby also made an informative presentation on the Integration of the Magistracy.

Registrars' Conference

The Registrars critically examined the CPR 2000, in particular, Part 3, Court Documents; Parts 12 and 13, Default judgments; Part 44, Oral Examinations; Part 52, Judgment Summons; and Part 62, Appeals to the Court of Appeal.

Justice Anthony Ross presented on Database Management. He explained the reason for obtaining the data and highlighted the role of the Registrar in ensuring that the database is properly classified and maintained.

Other sessions included presentations by Justice Michael Gordon, QC, retired Court of Appeal Judge and Mr. Murray Shanks. There was a rap session with the Judges, led by Justice of Appeal, Hon. Hugh Rawlins and High Court Judge, Hon. Ianthea Leigertwood-Octave; presentations by Justice Ola Mae Edwards and Justice Charmaine Pemberton, former Judge of the ECSC on Possible Judicial Purview for Registrars; Code of Ethics of A Registrar by

Justice Ianthea Leigertwood-Octave; Preparation of Annual Reports discussion led by Ms. Claudette Valentine, Information Services Manager and Ms. Sonya Young, High Court Registrar; Enhancing the Rapport between the ECSC in particular the relationship between the Chief Registrar and the OECS High Court Registries, by Mrs. Kimberly Cenac-Phulgence and Ms. Agnes Actie; and The incidental Jurisdiction of the Deputy Master, Court of Appeal England by Mrs. Louise di Mambro, Master of the Court of Appeal in England.



Chief Justice addressing opening of AIC 2007.



Justice David Harris (far left front row) newly appointed Judge in attendance at the Conference .



Justice Francis Cumberbatch (right, front row) also newly appointed.



Justice Frederick Bruce Lyle receiving his copies of the Green Book from Mr. diMambro of LexisNexis Butterworths.

COURT ADMINISTRATION

The year under review witnessed the continuation of the efforts by the department to manage the several reforms of the court as it continues to strive for the attainment of its mission and vision. A number of initiatives which will be highlighted shortly were undertaken during the year. Following from the previous Annual Report, the Court took on-board Justice Anthony Ross to serve as the first Managing Judge since the creation of the position.

Justice Ross has embarked upon a number of activities to support his role, which includes an effort to determine the quantity of cases in the system and the status of these cases. [See Status of Cases, report from Managing Judge on page 16].

Though this effort has started at the High Court level where most of the cases are entered into the electronic Case Management System, the exercise will also have to be performed for the cases in the Magistrates Court.

Another major initiative which has been undertaken by the Managing Judge relates to the need for the improvement of the facilities from which the Court must operate. Though this is at an early stage of development, the Court has engaged the services of a consultant to prepare a formal justification paper which is to be presented to the Heads of Government for their consideration.

ECSC Judicial Reform Project Review

Some very important unambiguous lessons haunted the work experience on the court structures project during the past year; that any programme of reform requires a tacit change of attitude which takes time, that changes which appear simple and seemingly effortless may require greater persuasion and effort especially among skeptics, that regional governments public service machinery must afford some level of priority to these programmes and more carefully evaluate the resources required to give effect to some of these reform measures before commitments are given, are but a few of the teething problems which continue to impede the advancement of the project. Notwithstanding, the ECSC continued its efforts at initiating programmes aimed at modernizing the court structures of the OECS Member States in keeping with the planned design.

In January 2007, the ECSC recruited a new Deputy Court Administrator (DCA) after the departure of Mr. Delara McClure Taylor who has returned to private practice. Mr. Francis Letang, who was previously locally engaged by Gardner Pinfold on the original Judicial & Legal Reform (JLR) Project staff team is the new DCA and is assisting Mr. Girard, the Court Executive Administrator, in the management of the ECSC's effort to re-structure the Court, particularly as it relates to the JLR Project. Mr. Letang has now been oriented into the ECSC and the objectives of its reform.

The Court would like to thank Mr. Taylor for all his hard work during the two years that he performed the services of Deputy Court Administrator and wish him every success in his future endeavors.

The JLR Project entered its third year during this reporting period and recorded achievements in the following areas:

Establishment of the Commercial Division

Work in this Division has been fueled by the ardent interest of the BVI Government and legal practitioners in that territory. During the last six months the project financed several activities in the BVI for establishing that Division including assisting with; rules development and practice directions for the proposed court, site location (identification of suitable building to house the court), establishment of a Commercial Division Registry, and recruitment of Commercial Judge and staff for the Division. The rules for the Division are now complete, and the emphasis has shifted to the recruitment of the specialist Commercial Judge who will spearhead much of the training contemplated for its functionality. This new division of the Court is expected to open before year end 2007.

Criminal Division

This Division, though behind schedule in terms of the expected levels of achievements, is nonetheless, satisfactory. Three national consultations for the establishment of the Criminal Division were held in Antigua, Dominica and St. Vincent & the Grenadines. These consultations brought together key legal stakeholders to advise the ECSC on the way forward with the implementation of the Division and to address other key court reform issues from these Member States. The meetings appointed Steering Committees which will work with the ECSC Court Administration Department and/or Project Coordinators for implementation of the reform activities. Dominica has already responded favorably with a complete set of recommendations and revision of the 'Criminal Courts Delay Reduction Rules' and the other proposed amendments to existing legislation which will impact on the passage of these rules. These are now before the Attorney General's office in Dominica for action.

Meanwhile, work continued on what is expected to be the final set of amendments to the aforementioned rules for full implementation of the Criminal Division pilot in Saint Lucia; these are now before the Attorney General Chambers for onward submission to Cabinet of Ministers for approval. Notwithstanding the delay with the implementation of the rules, the Criminal Division in Saint Lucia continued to serve the public with Justice Albert Redhead as Presiding Judge assisting greatly with the reduction in the backlog of criminal cases in the Division. Unfortunately, Justice Redhead retired with effect from 31st July, 2007. The new Presiding Judge for the Division is Justice Kenneth Benjamin.



Members of Staff of the Criminal Division

Family Division

Work in this Division has entered a positive stage following the several discussions held with the OECS Secretariat and Family Court in Saint Lucia. The project facilitated the attendance of Justice of Appeal Denys Barrow and the Court Executive Administrator, Gregory Girard to a consultation in Barbados to chart the way forward for the Caribbean region with the implementation of Family Courts and alternative sentencing for juveniles. By the next reporting period, it is expected that work on a draft Family Court Bill initially produced by the OECS Secretariat and the proposed amendments to reflect the vision of the Family Division as postulated by the Lipscher Report and adopted into the JLR scope of work, will enter its final phase. One of the areas of improvement which was implemented during this period has been the establishment of arrangements with a local bank to facilitate the collection of maintenance payments ordered by the Family Court. This will be further expanded possibly, during the next reporting period, to include making the payments to those persons to the recipient of the funds.

Integration of the Magistracy

Pursuant to a mandate from the Heads of Government of its Member States at the 41st Meeting of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Authority, the ECSC secured a Technical Assistance Grant from the Canadian Cooperation Fund (CCF) established by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) to assist in financing consultancy services for the development of the appropriate legislative framework that would strengthen the judicial branch of government of the Eastern Caribbean.

The overall objective of the Consultancy is to formulate and prepare legislation that will: promote greater accountability of the magistracy within the judicial and administrative chain of command; restructure the Judiciary in the Eastern Caribbean with magistrates being integrated fully into the Judicial Branch; and, eventually achieve a strengthened Judicial Branch of government by promoting an efficient, fair, impartial and independent Justice system.

There are two distinct though inter-related phases in the consultancy involving firstly the development of a strategic policy approach for the restructuring of the judiciary. This policy report will serve as a guide and instructions for the next phase which is the drafting of model legislative documents that would lead to the implementation of the policies identified.

The draft report on both phases of the consultancy is now before the relevant stakeholders for comments and input before finalization.

Status of Cases

The office and role of Managing Judge for the ECSC is articulated in the Robert Lipscher reports of 23rd September, 2003 and 5th May, 2005. In theory, the ten Trial High Courts of the ECSC would each have a Managing Judge. The reality is that budgetary constraints do not now permit such a deployment of judicial manpower, and even if the cost barriers were removed, the overall court administration system has to be "fixed" before it will accommodate that level of intervention. The fixing process will be expanded upon below.

Effective implementation of the views and recommendations of Robert Lipscher is still, at the minimum 9 months in the future of today's date. The fix must be in place and proven effective. The ECSC is still struggling to realize unified Criminal, Civil, Family and Commercial Divisions. But while such struggles continue, the pieces of the litigation infrastructural jigsaw puzzle, the necessary elements of the fix, are being identified and fit together with the result that a realistic picture of the numbers and status of all matters constituting the ECSC database are emerging. Models are being created that will lend themselves to better case flow management, easier access and a higher level of accountability.

Prior to April 2007, for a myriad of reasons, the numbers of matters and attendance status(es) in the system could not have been determined. Today, not only is there a reliable snap shot of all information resident in the envelop of the ECSC litigation database, but as work continues, the images are not only becoming focused, but the makeup of the database by the contributions from the ten Court Houses are painting their own pictures. Categories of matters have been identified including those classified as active and disposed, as well as those with questionable status. The statements so far are based on the following realities:

- All ten Court Houses operated (and still operate) their own database. Some employ stand-alone servers while others share servers with other government systems.
- The ECSC headquarters, until recently, could not access databases of the ten contributing court houses. Some connectivity issues still remain but generally, there is access.
- The integrity of the information in the JEMS driven databases reveal case types, some with problematic status(es) – No Status Codes, Invalid Status Codes and No disposition Codes and the like must be rationalized.

Having identified the above as the "starting point" problems, information analysis solutions were employed, the result is that as

of 5th March 2007, Saint Lucia database information reported the total number of matters and the matter breakdown as follows:

Saint Lucia JEMS Database Information as of 5th March, 2007

Division	Total	Active	Disposed
Civil	19,331	9,227	10,104
Probate	2,149	655	1,494
Matrimonial	1,702	821	881
Admiralty	16	13	3
Criminal	487	152	335
Adoption	288	126	162
Total	23,973	10,944	12,979

Also encouraging, the numbers for Active and Disposed Matters for each of the categories of litigation had to be examined with a view of determining an appropriate status for each matter. Concurrent with such examinations, the model that worked for Saint Lucia was successfully employed with the analysis of information from the other databases. The following results are the information obtained for the databases of the ten Court Houses:

ECSC High Court Database Active and Disposed Totals

Country	Case Status	Total
DOMINICA	Active	11,545
	Disposed	1,536
ST. VINCENT	Active	16,377
	Disposed	580
SAINT LUCIA	Active	10,886
	Disposed	11,967
NEVIS	Active	1,326
	Disposed	50
GRENADA	Active	10,675
	Disposed	6,214
ANTIGUA	Active	15,117
	Disposed	1,405
ST. KITTS	Active	2,247
	Disposed	2,003
MONTSERRAT	Active	356
	Disposed	649
BVI	Active	1,970
	Disposed	765
ANGUILLA	Active	588
	Disposed	618

At the time of preparing this report, efforts are being made to correct the information in the databases so that for each court house, the classifications will be: Active and Disposed. When this state has been realized, appropriate Disposition Codes shall be applied to all disposed matters; and for the Active Matters, a series of Disposition Codes old/new shall be employed. The process has advanced to the extent that now only sixteen (16) Status Codes have been identified for application to Civil Matters. Flow diagrams and Disposition Codes are being developed for Criminal, Commercial and Family Matters.

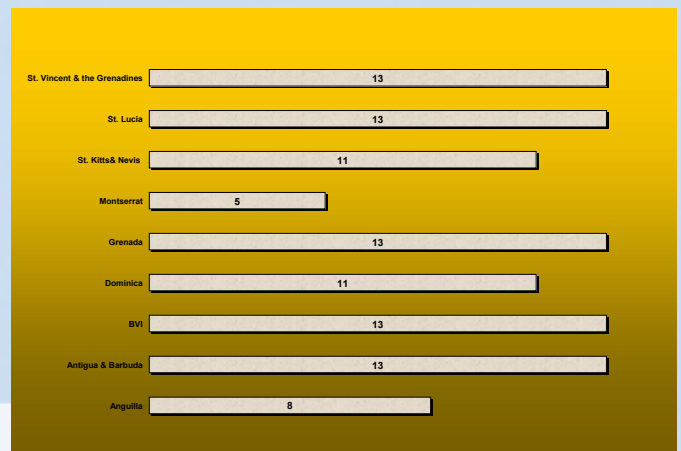
It is expected that within the nine (9) month window referred to above, all matters in the entire ECSC High Court database will be identified as Active or Disposed, each with its identifiable Status Code. Work is also being done on the matters in the jurisdictions of the various Magistracies and the District Court of St. Lucia. It is the expectation that with unified Criminal Divisions all matters shall be identified by the correct code in a unified Criminal Court database.

In the very near future public access to basic case information will be made available via the Court's Website. This system will further facilitate Judges, Masters and Registrars, by providing the requisite information (in addition to that made available to the public) to enhance the delivery of justice speedily.

It is expected that at the end of the upcoming Law Year all systems should be sufficiently fixed that the emphasis would shift from that of a "fixer" to managing a system which is continually updated to maintain the integrity of the information.

FINANCE

The nine Member States finance the Court's operations through individual contributions. An agreed percentage of the approved annual budget is set by the Judicial & Legal Services Commission in concurrence with the Authority, and takes into consideration the number of resident judges and number of Court sittings in each territory. The chart below reflects the Member States' contributions in percentage.



Budget Preparation

The Court's Financial Year runs from 1st July - 30th June. As part of its normal functions, the Accounts Department prepares the annual budget, which is approved by the Heads of Government of the OECS, "the Authority".

The budget is currently being prepared as a "line item budget." The move to fully introduce "Programme Budgeting" has not yet materialized. Assistance has however been offered from the Ministry of Finance in St. Kitts and their counterparts in Saint Lucia, and efforts are being made to have persons from those Ministries visit the Court to commence the process. As a last resort the possibility of external consultants will be pursued through the Governments of the Member States in order to institute the new Programme Budgeting system. This is expected to commence in the

first quarter of 2008. During this reporting period, the Accountant attended a two-week training at Georgia State University, Atlanta, in "Public Budgeting and Fiscal Management". It is anticipated that this training, combined with the assistance from St. Kitts and Saint Lucia, should ensure that the Programme Budgeting exercise starts prior to the 2008/09 budget.

Before the annual budget of the ECSC is approved by the Authority, it goes through three stages of analysis and review, namely:

- ❖ Under the direction of the Chief Justice or his designate, the budget is prepared by the Accounts Department utilizing information provided by department heads and discussed at the ECSC level.
- ❖ The budget is critically reviewed by the Budget Committee (which comprises a budget officer from each Member State), where recommendations and changes may be made before being presented to the Authority in its final stage.
- ❖ The budget is presented to the Authority by the Chief Justice. The budget is again reviewed and discussed before its final approval. The decision to approve the budget must be unanimous.

Once the Budget is approved by the Authority, it becomes a treaty obligation of each Member State to pay the contributions in accordance with the preset percentages highlighted earlier. These contributions are due on 1st July, and the option has been made available for Member States to pay monthly or quarterly.

The budget of the ECSC increased by 7.18% from the period 2005/06 to 2006/07. This was primarily the result for the provision for the increase in judges from 16 to 17 with the provision of the Managing Judge. The Court continued to receive assistance from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) in the form of grant funding. Funding from CIDA included computer hardware, Judicial Education training, audio recording, customer service, bailiff training, Rules Revision and technical assistance with the implementation of the Judicial Enforcement Management System (JEMS) throughout member states.

The recent increase in the number of Judges assigned to Member States has brought the percentage contributions into focus. With this in mind, the Court has proposed a revised allocation of percentage contributions and this is currently before the Heads of Government for their review and approval.

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

Cost Centre	Approved Budget 2006/07	Approved Budget 2005/06	Percentage Increase/Decrease
Personal Emoluments	6,872,720	6,592,036	4.26
Administrative Expenses	1,940,348	1,676,944	15.71
Capital Expenditure	70,931	80,885	-12.31
Judicial Education	340,609	279,994	21.65
Rules Revision Reform	129,000	105,000	22.86
Judicial and Legal Services Commission	164,516	142,851	15.17
Judicial Council	49,396	49,396	0.0
Total	9,567,520	8,927,106	7.18

HUMAN RESOURCE

Background

From May 2005, the Human Resources Department functioned on a small scale with a staff of two persons headed by Ms Angus Smith, the Human Resource Officer who also performed the role of Secretary to the Judicial and Legal Services Commission. In the advent of Judicial Reform and in order to meet the challenges of the expansion of staff resulting from the restructuring of the Court procedures and systems, it was necessary to strengthen the Department. The Department presently consists of three members of staff namely a Human Resource Manager, a Human Resource Officer and an Administrative Assistant. Its main purpose is recruitment of persons with the knowledge, skills and ability to achieve the organizational goals. The Department is also responsible for the implementation and monitoring of Human Resource policies, programmes and systems in order to ensure continuity and efficiency in the operations of the organization.

Institutional Strengthening

As part of the development of its judicial branch human resource plan, the ECSC procured the services of consultant Dr. Trevor Hamilton for its job evaluation exercise. The purpose of the consultancy was to review the job description and commensurable levels of remuneration of staff through the use of a comparative market survey. The recommendation from this study will form the basis of submissions to the Authority, the Heads of Government of the OECS Member States, for revision of the salary structure of the ECSC which has not been reviewed since 1999. Dr Hamilton's report will be finalized by the next reporting period. It is expected that quite apart from the provision of recommendations for the review of salaries, the report will provide insights which could lead to a review of the institutional framework and corporate structure, provide new job descriptions and methods of evaluating and rating jobs within the institution and thereby position the HR Department to respond to these and other job evaluation challenges in the Member States when the full integration of the Magistracy is realized.

The Attendance and Punctuality Policy and Training Policy have been designed and implemented; and a training needs assessment was conducted from which the Training Plan for 2007/ 2008 will evolve.

Disaster Management Plan

The Disaster Management Plan is almost complete. The next phase will be testing to ensure that it is workable.

Upgrading the Human Resource Information System.

The Human Resource and the Information Technology Departments are presently working on creating a data base to improve accessibility to information on staff. This will involve the identification of a suitable software package to meet the needs of the Department.

INFORMATION SERVICES

As the Court seeks to satisfactorily carry out its mandate of providing access to an accountable and independent system of justice in a fair, prompt and efficient manner, the availability of timely and relevant information is integral. The Information Services Department seeks to facilitate the Court with information via three units: The Library, the Records Management Unit and the Statistics Unit.

Library

Functions

The functions of the Library are to:

- Acquire, organize and maintain information resources to assist the Court in its work;
- provide a reference and research service of a high standard to the Justices of the Court;
- provide library facilities to legal practitioners appearing before the Court;
- keep itself informed and to maintain contact with other libraries and information sources which can supplement the reference and research material in the Library's own collection; and
- devise and implement retrieval systems which will improve the reference and research service.

Corporate Goals

The corporate goals of the Library are to:

- acquire and organize efficiently the library material in accordance with the requirements of the Court; and
- provide high quality and timely reference and research services to the Justices.

Reference and Research

In its effort to provide high quality and timely reference and research services and as part of the drive to forge links with all the Law Libraries in the OECS, the ECSC Library, in conjunction with Libraries in the Attorney General's Chambers and the High Courts of the Member States, recently acquired subscription to the WestLaw Online services by Thomson Legal and Regulatory. Not all Member States have completed the process, but we anticipate that the need for the availability of timely and relevant information to the purveyors of justice will act as the necessary catalyst. We are also exploring the possibility of gaining access to services of LexisNexis Butterworths.

The Library has commenced a project in tandem with the IT Department to have all the judgments of the Court against which appeals have been made to the Privy Council added to the Court's website. This is expected to cover the period 1996 to the present.

Professional Development/Training

The Librarian/Information Services Manager and the Library Assistant attended the annual Caribbean Association of Libraries (CARALL) Conference convened in Saint Lucia in June 2007. At the end of the session the Library was presented with over £ 2000 worth

of books by LexisNexis Butterworths and Wildy & Sons Ltd. This will greatly add to the Library's collection development programme.

Records Management Unit

The main goal of the Records Management Unit is to support the Court's mission by ensuring that the right records are provided to the right person at the right time at the lowest possible cost. To this end work continues towards the implementation of a comprehensive records management program.

Records Centre

Last year it was reported that an off-site storage facility was procured to be used for the storage of items which cannot yet be disposed, and as the Court's Records Center. Due to the volume of records this facility quickly became too small to accommodate the records, so a new location was procured. This has added 2,800 square feet to the Records Center's storage capacity.

At the writing of this report the Records Center is about 50% operational. Work is continuing to get the Center fully operational.

Court of Appeal Records

One of the major exercises undertaken by the RMU during the year under review was the organization of Court of Appeal inactive/dormant records. Records for the nine Member States were verified in the case management software – Judicial Enforcement Management System (JEMS), sorted, listed, shelved and boxed for transfer to the Records Centre or for destruction as necessary.

Electronic Records/Correspondence Management

Currently approximately 70% of incoming correspondence and a large percentage of outgoing correspondence are in electronic format. Being mindful of the need to manage efficiently both physical and electronic records to facilitate an effective Records Management Programme, the RMU anticipates the establishment of an electronic records management programme in order to ensure that the Court's electronic records are appropriately managed and compliant with all retention requirements. To this end the Information Services Manager and the Records and Archives Manager will shortly be participating in an electronic records management certification programme.

Policy Documents

The Records Retention and Disposal Policy document and Schedule for the Court of Appeal Records has been put in place, while work continues towards the formalisation of the following: Records Management document, which includes File Classification; Disaster Prevention and Recovery; and Vital Records Management programme.

Statistics Unit

The Statistics Unit continued with statistical research, statistical support and assistance to other departments of the Organization. The Unit also continued with the compilation and update of databases for Member States which provided information during the review period. Statistical information was also compiled on a continuous basis for the Criminal Division Pilot project of Saint Lucia

In November 2006, the statistics Unit commenced initial work with the Managing Judge on the Status of Cases initiative reported earlier in this report, using the Saint Lucia High Court as the pilot site. The Statistics Unit presented information on Court Statistics at the Orientation exercise for new judges in July 2007.

The Unit produced three statistical reports in March, April and May 2007 for dissemination in the monthly Newsletter. The Annual statistical report 2005-2006 was also finalized and completed in the beginning of this review period.

Other agencies outside the ECSC also benefited from the assistance of the Statistics Unit. In December 2006, research support was provided for a consultant from the World Bank who conducted a comparative Case Study of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court (ECSC). The Unit also assisted in the compilation of statistical data for the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ). In July 2007 statistical support was also provided for the Halls of Justice Project which is presently being contemplated by the Court.

Challenges

The Statistic Unit continues to encounter challenges with the frequency and format of statistical information provided by some Member States despite the adoption of the Information Policy Document at the Annual Judicial Conference in August 2006.

Outlook

A project proposal geared towards improving and maintaining an efficient judicial statistical information system has been developed. As part of this proposal, the Statistics Unit will be participating in a study tour of the New Jersey State Court which, it is anticipated, will facilitate a more thorough understanding of the processes involved in statistical information management - from data collection to analysis, based on the New Jersey court system with the aim of applying the relevant processes to the ECSC. Another important component of this proposal is, the conduct of a diagnostic study of the current statistical reporting system of the High and Magistrates Courts especially those who have been delinquent in submitting regular reports.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

Status of Judicial Enforcement Management System (JEMS)

The end of the 2006 – 2007 Judicial year witnessed all JEMS Servers upgraded to JEMS version 5.0, March 2007-update-edition.

JEMS continues to contribute immensely to the effective operations of High Courts in the Sub-region. Most Magistrates Courts have been connected to the JEMS Server; however, only The Magistrates Court in Dominica continue to demonstrate the most advanced use of the software. Efforts by the ECSC to share Dominica's Magistrates Court success story with other Courts is being pursued. Nonetheless, it is worth reporting that several other Magistrates Courts, including Saint Lucia, the British Virgin Islands, St. Vincent, and others are awaiting further training sessions by the IT Department to fully implement the technology for Case Management in their Courts.

The Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court conducted what could now be considered as its "Annual JEMS-Users Workshop" in Grenada, from 30th October to 3rd November 2006. (See JEI section for report)

ECSC Web Site/Server – www.eccourts.org

The Court continues to place much effort in using its website as its main communication tool. During the latter part of the 2006-2007 judicial year, the Court began experiencing problems with the search facility. The decision was taken to move the Web Server to a dedicated computer on the web hosting site and to experiment with another search engine. Efforts at enhancing the search facility for judgments will soon bear fruits when the Court implements a fully database driven search engine later in the 2007 – 2008 judicial year.

Status of Other Court-related Technology

By the end of the judicial year 2006-2007 the E-Filing Project was at a point where the following activities were completed: (1) Server installed and configured at the ECSC Headquarters; (2) IT Staff obtained training in the Administration of Server, Filings and Filers (3) Meeting held with Clerks at High Court in Saint Lucia where the E-Filing Software Interface was demonstrated and comments on enhancements made.

Start date for the pilot had to be further postponed due to firewall issues at the ECSC Headquarters. All efforts are being made to commence the Pilot with a selected group of Attorneys by October 2007.

Work on initiating the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) and Web Inquiry technologies moved up several notches this year as well. The Server for hosting both technologies is presently being configured by the Software Vendor PCSS. Pilots are now scheduled to be conducted in Dominica and Saint Lucia later in the 2007-2008 law year.

COURT PERFORMANCE

OVERVIEW

This statistical review presents information on the Court of Appeal, the High Courts, the Magistrates Courts and the Family Court of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS). Statistical information is provided for calendar years January- December 2006 and 2005, January- July 2007 and January- July 2006, and in some instances for calendar years 2004 - 2006. The continued unavailability of statistical data from the Member States impacts on the data presented in this report.

A total of 395 cases were filed at the Court of Appeal Registry for 2006. This figure represents a decline of 11% below the volume of appeals filed in 2005. However the number of appeals filed for January – July 2007 shows an increasing trend. The number of appeals filed for the aforementioned period increased by 50% compared to the corresponding period for 2006. The number of appeals filed in the High Courts continues to dominate the volume of appeal filings. Civil appeals accounted for 68% of total appeals filed for 2006. Information on the number of cases determined by the Court of Appeal was not available for this report. However, the event report shows an increasing trend in the volume of work undertaken by the Court of Appeal, in particular the number of appeal hearings held and the number of judgments delivered.

The total number of cases filed in the High Court for 2006, increased by 6% over the volume filed in 2005. However the number of cases disposed for 2006 declined by 20.5% in comparison to 2005. This seeming decrease in dispositions may however be attributed to incomplete, or in some cases no information from Member States. The number of cases filed in the High Court for the period January-July 2007 recorded an increase of 1% while matters disposed for the corresponding period in 2006 recorded a decline of 40.8%.

The total number of events undertaken by the jurisdiction in 2006, decreased slightly (0.3%), in comparison to 2005. Chamber hearings continue to dominate events handled.

The number of cases filed and disposed in the Magistrates Courts for 2006 recorded declines of 49% and 36.5% respectively. The data for the Magistrates Courts is also distorted by the unavailability of data. However the number of cases filed and disposed in the Magistrates Courts for January- July 2007 shows an increase. The number of cases filed and disposed for the aforementioned period increased by 58.5% and 62% in comparison to the corresponding period for 2006.

The Family Court of St Vincent and the Grenadines continues to record sterling performance in disposing matters. A disposition rate of 128% was recorded for 2006. However the total number of cases filed and disposed for 2006, declined by 40.7% and 16% respectively in comparison to 2005.

January- December 2006 saw a total of 1,806 matters filed at the Criminal Division in Saint Lucia. A total of 1,413 cases were disposed for the same period. A total of 1,355 and 605 cases were filed and disposed respectively within the division for January- July 2007. The disposition rates for the Criminal Division for the review periods were 78% and 45% respectively.

COURT OF APPEAL

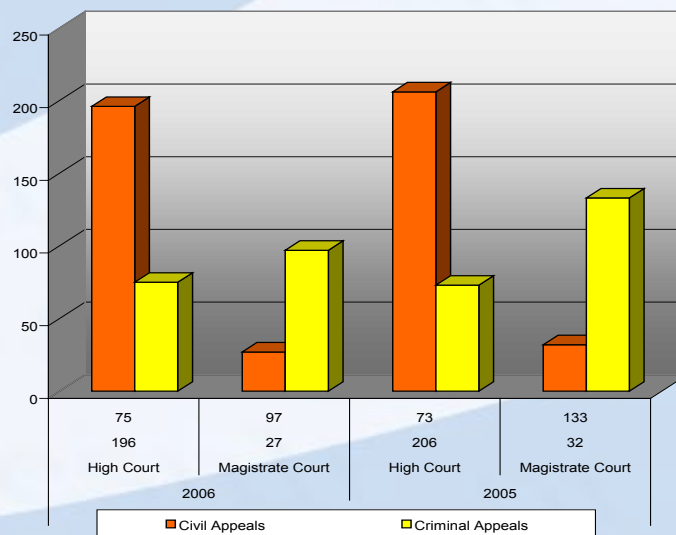
Table 1(a) provides information on the total number of appeal cases filed in the High and Magistrates Courts for the period January to July 2007 and for the periods 2006 and 2005. The total number of appeal cases filed for 2006 declined by 11% compared to the corresponding period for 2005. The number of civil appeals filed for 2006, represents 56% of total appeals filed. The number of appeal cases filed for the period January to July 2007 has shown an increase to date on the volume of appeal cases filed. The number of appeal cases filed for the aforementioned period increased by 50% over the number filed for the corresponding period for 2006. High Court appeals continue to dominate the volume of total appeal cases filed. The number of appeal cases filed in the High Court accounted for 68% and 63% of total appeals filed in 2006 and 2005 respectively.

Table 1(a) Total Appeal Cases Filed 2005- 2006 and January – July 2007

	January- July 2007		2006		2005	
	High Court	Magistrates Court	High Court	Magistrates Court	High Court	Magistrates Court
Civil Appeals	141	19	196	27	206	32
Criminal Appeals	49	94	75	97	73	133
Total	190	113	271	124	279	165

Figure 1(a) Total appeal Cases Filed by Jurisdiction by Case Type

Total Appeal cases Filed January- December 2006 and 2005



Tables 1(b) and 1(c) provide statistical information on the number of cases filed in the High and Magistrates Courts for the periods January to July 2007 and the calendar years 2006 and 2005. The total number of appeal cases filed in the High Courts declined by 3% in comparison to the number filed in 2005. However, the number of appeal cases filed for the period January – July 2007 increased by 27% in comparison to the corresponding period for 2006. Grenada accounted for the largest volume of appeal cases filed in the High Court for 2006 as well as for the period January- July 2007. Appeal cases filed from Grenada’s High Court accounted for 16% and 22% for January- December 2006 and January- July 2007 respectively.

The total number of appeal cases filed in the Magistrates Courts for 2006 declined by 25% in comparison to the number filed in 2005. St Vincent and the Grenadines accounted for the largest volume of magisterial appeals filed for January – July 2007 and January- December 2006. This island accounted for 55% and 71% of magisterial appeal cases filed for 2006 and January- July 2007 respectively. The number of magisterial appeals filed for January- July 2007 increased by 38% over the volume filed for the corresponding period of 2006.

Table 1(b) High Court- Appeal Cases Filed By Member States January- July 2007 and 2005- 2006

January 2007 - July						
Member States	2006		2005			
	Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal
Anguilla	4	0	9	1	12	0
Antigua and Barbuda	19	1	28	8	30	6
British Virgin Islands	21	6	35	5	27	3
Commonwealth of Dominica	8	4	23	6	20	2
Grenada	22	19	34	11	22	14
Montserrat	2	0	1	0	2	0
St Kitts and Nevis	14	9	16	28	22	18
Saint Lucia	32	3	34	10	50	6
St Vincent and the Grenadines	19	7	16	6	21	24
Total	141	49	196	75	206	73

Figure 1(b) High Court Appeal Cases Filed by Member States 2005- 2006

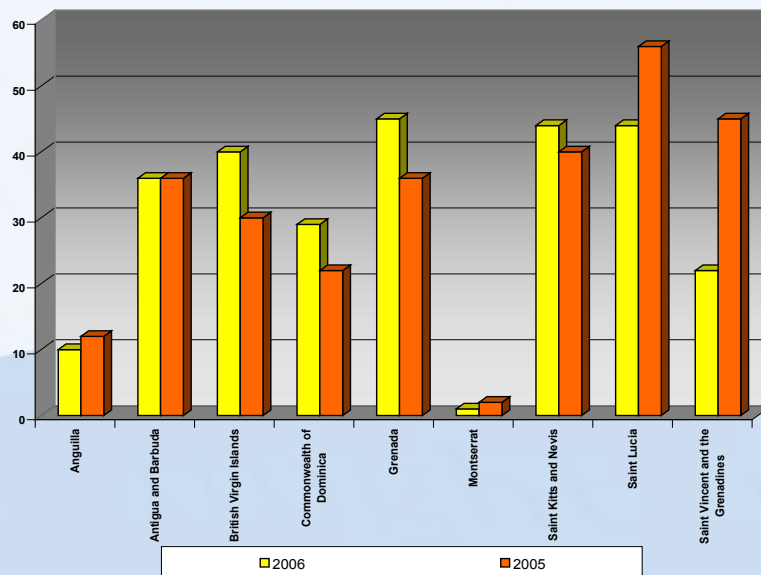
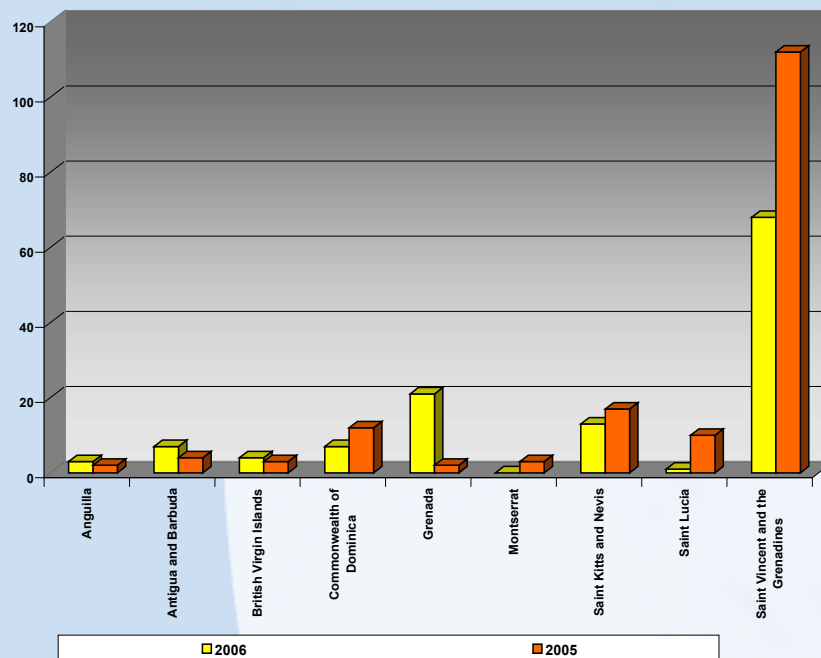


Table (1c) Magisterial Appeal Cases Filed By Member States January- July 2007, 2006 and 2005

Member States	January -July 2007		2006		2005	
	Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal
Anguilla	0	0	2	1	2	0
Antigua and Barbuda	0	3	1	6	1	3
British Virgin Islands	0	6	2	2	2	1
Commonwealth of Dominica	0	6	3	4	6	6
Grenada	3	10	3	18	0	2
Montserrat	0	0	0	0	1	2
St Kitts and Nevis	3	1	8	5	12	5
Saint Lucia	0	1	0	1	1	9
St Vincent and the Grenadines	13	67	8	60	7	105
Total	19	94	27	97	32	133

Figure 1(c) Magisterial Appeal Cases Filed by Member States 2005-2006



Tables 2(a) and 2(b) indicate the activities of the Court of Appeal for the periods January- December 2006 and 2005 and January- July 2007 and 2006.

The number of appeal hearings held in 2006 increased by 13% over 2005 and teleconferences increased by over 300%; however, applications and the number of case management conferences held declined by approximately 0.5% and 5% respectively.

In January- July 2007 the number of appeal hearings held declined by 12.2% in comparison to the corresponding period for 2006. The number of application hearings and teleconferences held declined by 18% and 50% respectively, the number of case management conferences held increased significantly by approximately 313%.

Table 2(a) Activities of the Court of Appeal for 2006 and 2005

	2006	2005
Appeal Hearings	367	325
Hearing of Applications	204	205
Case Management Conferences	40	42
Teleconferences	14	3

**Table 2(b) Activities of the Court of Appeal
1st Jan- 31st July 2007 and 1st Jan- 31st July 2006**

	2007 1st JANUARY 31st JULY	2006 1st JANUARY 31st JULY
Appeal Hearings	230	262
Hearing of Applications	110	134
Case Management Conferences	66	16
Teleconferences	5	10

Tables 3(a) and 3(b) show data on the number of judgments delivered by the Court of Appeal for the calendar years 2004-2006 and January-July 2007 & 2006. The number of judgments delivered in 2006 increased by 6.9% in comparison to 2005, while in 2004 there was a decline of 34%. The highest percentage (23%) of total judgments delivered in 2006 emanated from Grenada; while for the period January- July 2007 Saint Lucia had the highest percentage (31%). The period January – July 2007 recorded an increase of 9% in comparison to the corresponding period for 2006.

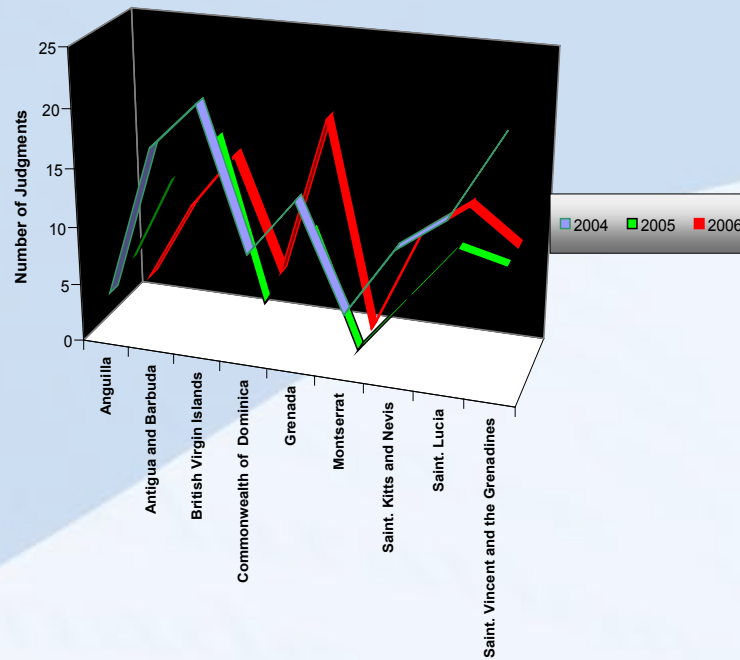
Table 3(a) Judgments Delivered by the Court of Appeal 2004-2006

Member States	2004	2005	2006
Anguilla	4	5	2
Antigua and Barbuda	17	13	9
British Virgin Islands	21	17	14
Commonwealth of Dominica	9	3	4
Grenada	14	10	18
Montserrat	5	0	0
St Kitts and Nevis	11	5	9
Saint Lucia	14	10	12
St Vincent and the Grenadines	21	9	9
TOTAL	116	72	77

Table 3 (b) Judgments Delivered by the Court of Appeal January – July 2007 & 2006

Member States	2007 January to 31 st July	2006 January to 31 st July
Anguilla	2	2
Antigua and Barbuda	9	3
British Virgin Islands	7	8
Commwealth of Dominica	4	3
Grenada	7	11
Montserrat	0	0
St Kitts and Nevis	3	5
Saint Lucia	15	8
St Vincent and the Grenadines	2	5
TOTAL	49	45

Figure 2: Judgments Delivered by the Court of Appeal 2004-2006



HIGH COURTS

Tables 4(a) and 4(b) indicate the number of cases filed in the High Courts for 2006 and 2005.

The number of cases filed for 2006 recorded an increase of 6% over 2005. Civil matters continue to dominate. In 2006, civil matters accounted for 61.2% of total matters filed, while probate matters recorded the second highest at 18.7%. Saint Lucia accounted for 27.7 % of total filings, making it the Member State with the highest volume of total cases filed for the year.

Table 4(a). High Court- Number of Cases Filed by Major Type by Country 2006

2006							
Member States	Civil	Criminal	Matrimonial	Adoption	Probate	Admiralty	Total
Anguilla	93	1	37	3	0	0	134
Antigua and Barbuda	670	54	217	20	299	1	1261
British Virgin Islands*	325	28	76	9	3	6	447
Commonwealth of Dominica	416	34	87	46	-	-	583
Grenada	626	0	92	0	4	3	725
Montserrat	39	14	9	0	34	0	96
St Kitts and Nevis	268	36	63	0	163	0	530
Saint Lucia	1001	58	192	31	526	5	1813
St Vincent and the Grenadines	564	31	158	-	193	1	947
Total	4002	256	931	109	1222	16	6536

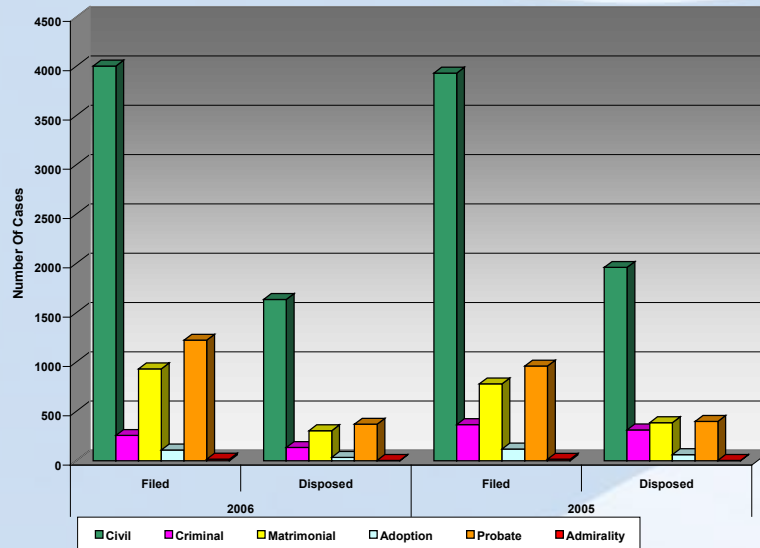
- No data * Incomplete data

Table 4(b). High Court- Number of Cases Filed by Major Type by Country 2005

2005							
Countries	Civil	Criminal	Matrimonial	Adoption	Probate	Admiralty	Total
Anguilla*	42	5	4	1	0	0	52
Antigua and Barbuda	643	60	113	18	267	2	1103
British Virgin Islands	317	22	67	6	55	7	474
Commonwealth of Dominica	458	34	71	30	1	0	594
Grenada	550	85	152	14	0	0	801
Montserrat	42	5	6	1	27	0	81
St Kitts and Nevis	475	9	74	4	68	0	630
Saint Lucia	973	146	187	38	539	4	1887
St Vincent and the Grenadines	430	-	105	6	3	2	546
Total	3930	366	779	118	960	15	6168

- No data * Incomplete data

Figure 3: High Court Cases Filed and Disposed by Major Case Type 2006 and 2005



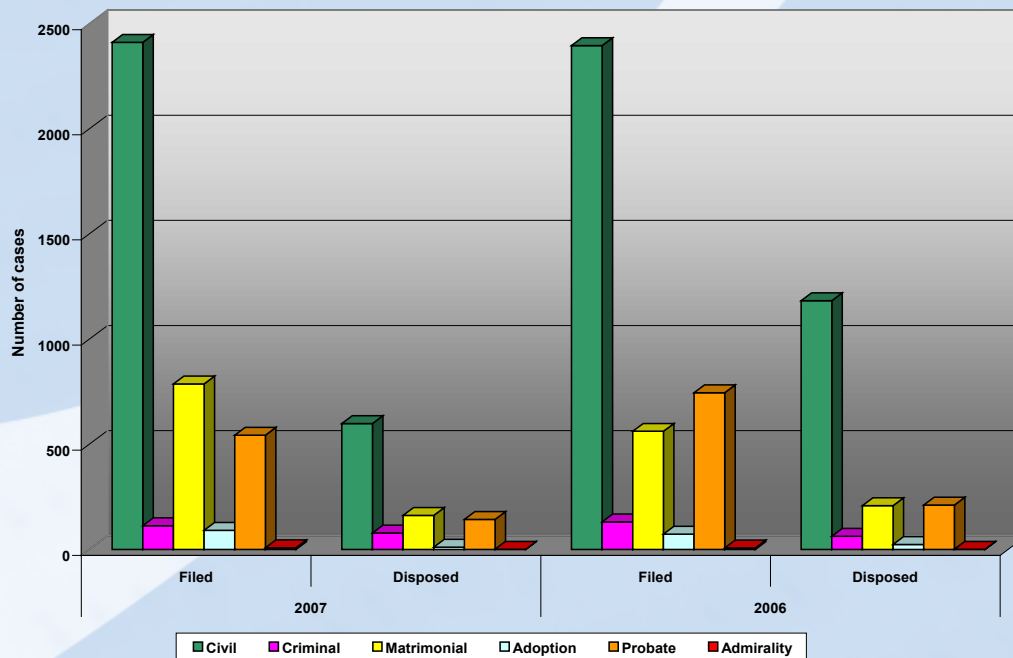
Tables 4(c) and 4(d) provide information on the number of cases filed in the High Court for the periods January- July 2007 and 2006. The total number of cases filed for January- July 2007 increased by 1% in comparison to the corresponding period for 2006. The number of civil cases filed for the review period of 2007 increased by 0.7% over the volume filed for the corresponding period in 2006. Saint Lucia accounted for the highest volume of cases filed for January- July 2007 and January – December 2006 respectively. Saint Lucia's filings for January- July 2007 represents 26% and January- December 2006 represents 29% of total cases filed.

Table 4(c). High Court- Number of Cases Filed by Major Type by Country January- July 2007

Jan- July 2007							
Member States	Civil	Criminal	Matrimonial	Adoption	Probate	Admiralty	Total
Anguilla	40	1	31	2	1		75
Antigua and Barbuda	428	3	310	19	161	4	925
British Virgin Islands	131	1	48	0	2	0	182
Commonwealth of Dominica	256	30	57	22	-	-	365
Grenada	334		76	16		2	428
Montserrat	21	1	3		11		36
St Kitts and Nevis	244	61	59		140		504
Saint Lucia	659	16	118	13	219	0	1025
St Vincent and the Grenadines	299	-	85	19	9	2	414
Total	2412	113	787	91	543	8	3954

- No data

Figure: 4 High Court Cases Filed and Disposed by Major Case Type January- July 2007 and 2006



Tables 5(a) and 5(b) show the volume of cases disposed in the High Courts for 2006 and 2005. Table 5(b) reveals that the number of cases disposed for 2006 declined by 20.5% below the volume disposed for 2005. Declines were recorded for all categories of cases with the exception of admiralty – 3 cases in 2006 and 2005. Corresponding to filings for 2006, civil cases accounted for the highest volume of cases disposed, which is approximately 66% of total cases. Probate matters accounted for the second highest volume of 14.9% of total disposition for 2006. Corresponding to the filings for 2006, Saint Lucia also recorded the largest volume of cases disposed, approximately 67% of total disposition.

Table 5(a).High Court- Number of Cases Disposed by Major Type by Country 2006

2006							
Member States	Civil	Criminal	Matrimonial	Adoption	Probate	Admiralty	Total
Anguilla	16	1	4	–	–	–	21
Antigua and Barbuda*	52	5	1	–	–	–	58
British Virgin Islands*	92	2	28	5	12	1	140
Commonwealth of Dominica*	16	15	8	8	–	–	47
Grenada*	43	–	7	–	1	–	51
Montserrat	15	13	7	–	27	–	62
St Kitts and Nevis*	162	39	53	–	36	0	290
Saint Lucia	1138	59	151	21	294	1	1664
St Vincent and the Grenadines*	101	–	45	–	–	1	147
Total	1635	134	304	34	370	3	2480

- No data * Incomplete data

Table 5 (b).High Court- Number of Cases Disposed by Major Type by Country 2005

2005							
Countries	Civil	Criminal	Matrimonial	Adoption	Probate	Admiralty	Total
Anguilla	–	–	40	–	–	–	40
Antigua and Barbuda*	38	21	4	–	–	–	63
British Virgin Islands	159	96	40	4	21	1	321
Commonwealth of Dominica*	23	23	–	–	–	–	46
Grenada	111	86	43	30	0	0	270
Montserrat	23	5	2	1	27	–	58
St Kitts and Nevis	280	–	119	0	51	0	450
Saint Lucia	1255	81	132	24	300	1	1793
St Vincent and the Grenadines*	71	–	6	2	–	1	80
Total	1960	312	386	61	399	3	3121

- No data * Incomplete data

Tables 5(c) and 5(d) provide information on the number of cases disposed for January- July 2007 and 2006. The number of cases disposed for January- July 2006, declined by 45%. In 2006, declines were recorded in disposition for civil, matrimonial, adoption and probate cases. These cases recorded declines of 49.4%, 22%, 54.2% and 32.2% respectively. Saint Lucia recorded the highest percentage of cases disposed for 2006. Saint Lucia accounted for 70% and 69% of total cases disposed for January- July 2007 and 2006 respectively.

Table 5(c) High Court- Number of Cases Disposed by Major Type by Country January- July 2007

Jan- July 2007							
Member States	Civil	Criminal	Matrimonial	Adoption	Probate	Admiralty	Total
Anguilla*	1	1	1	-	-	-	3
Antigua and Barbuda*	9	–	1	2	–	1	13
British Virgin Islands*	11	–	4	–	2	–	17
Commonwealth of Dominica*	5	11	3	5	–	–	24
Grenada*	13	–	1	–	–	–	14
Montserrat*	9	–	–	–	–	–	9
St Kitts and Nevis*	1	49	26	–	52	–	128
Saint Lucia	480	17	102	4	89	0	692
St Vincent and the Grenadines*	70	–	24	–	–	–	94
Total	599	78	162	11	143	1	994

- No data * Incomplete data

Table 5(d) High Court- Number of Cases Disposed by Major Type by Country January- July 2006

Jan- July 2006							
Countries	Civil	Criminal	Matrimonial	Adoption	Probate	Admiralty	Total
	9		1	-	-	-	10
Anquilla*							
Antigua and* Barbuda	42	5	1	-	-	-	48
British Virgin Islands*	71	2	22	4	12	-	111
Commonwealth of Dominica	8	8	1	5	-	-	22
	17		7				24
Grenada*							
Montserrat	7	2	6		20	-	35
St Kitts and Nevis	162		51	-	-	-	213
Saint Lucia	818	46	97	15	179	0	1155
St Vincent and the Grenadines	49	-	22	-	-	1	72
Total	1183	63	208	24	211	1	1680

- No data * Incomplete data

Tables 6(a) and 6(b) indicate the number of events undertaken for 2006, with comparative data for 2005. The total number of events held for 2006 declined by 0.3% in comparison to events held in 2005. Chamber hearings and Case Management Conferences accounted for the bulk of events held in 2006 - 37.6% and 18.6% respectively. The largest volume of events is attributable to Saint Lucia, which accounted for 51% of the total.

Table 6 (a). Events Count Report by Member States 2006

2006										
Type of Events	Anguilla	Antigua and Barbuda	British Virgin Islands	Commonwealth of Dominica*	Grenada	Montserrat*	St Kitts and Nevis	Saint Lucia	St Vincent and the Grenadines	Total
Status	0	1	726	49	-	-	0	578	-	1354
Hearing Chamber	22	738	80	163	-	-	287	2827	-	4117
First Hearing	4	77		249	-	-	11	251	-	592
Case Management	5	939	8	401	-	-	58	631	-	2042
Conference Criminal Trial	0	0			-	-		261	-	261
Master Hearing Pre-Trial Review			175		-	-			-	175
Other events	6	479	305	87	-	-	152	807	-	1836
Total	40	2374	1294	1065	-	-	588	5596	-	10957

- No data

Table 6 (b). Events Count Report by Member States- 2005

2005										
Type of Events	Anguilla	Antigua and Barbuda	British Virgin Islands	Commonwealth of Dominica*	Grenada	Montserrat*	St Kitts and Nevis	Saint Lucia	St Vincent and the Grenadines*	Total
Status	0	0	-	2	-	-	2	578	0	582
Hearing Chamber	159	1166	311	228	-	-	343	2616	596	5419
First Hearing	-	-	3		-	-	42	187	1	233
Case Management	13	627	60	239	-	13	314	632	-	549
Conference Criminal Trial	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	549	-	549
Masters Hearing	-	-	119	-	-	-	-	-	-	119
Pre-Trial Hearing	2		14	1	-	-	55	84	5	161
Trial	14	36	86	97	-	-	78	161	18	490
Other events	41	400	1	24	-	2	206	862	1	1537
Total	229	2229	594	591	-	15	1040	5669	621	10988

- No data * Incomplete data

MAGISTRATES COURTS

Tables 7(a) and 7(b) show the number of cases filed and disposed in the Magistrates Courts for January- December 2006 and 2005.

Cases filed in 2006 recorded a decline of 49% in comparison to the corresponding period in 2005. This data is affected by the number of Member States who submitted statistical data for the report. Criminal matters accounted for 39% of the total filings for 2006. Traffic matters filed for 2006, recorded a significant decline of 71% in comparison to the corresponding period in 2005. The Commonwealth of Dominica accounted for 34% of total filings, which represents the largest volume of cases filed in the Magistrates Courts, while St Vincent and the Grenadines accounted for the second largest amount, which is 23.2%.

The total number of cases disposed for 2006 showed a decline of 36.5% in comparison to the corresponding period in 2005. Criminal cases recorded the largest volume of disposition and accounted for 37% of total disposition, while traffic matters accounted for the second highest disposition which is 17% of the total. The Commonwealth of Dominica recorded the largest volume of total matters disposed in keeping with filings which was 33% of total matters disposed. St Kitts and Nevis accounted for the second highest, which is 22% of the total cases disposed.

Table 7 (a). Magistrates Courts- Cases Filed by Major Type by Member States- 2006 and 2005

2006	2005	Anguilla	Antigua and Barbuda	British Virgin Islands	Commonwealth of Dominica	Grenada	Montserrat	St Kitts and Nevis	Saint Lucia*	St Vincent and the Grenadines	Total
Cases Filed											
Criminal	295				2500	1422		1498		1833	7548
Civil	90				1119	207		1444		441	3301
Traffic	410				1715	222		430		520	3297
Domestic /Family	69				71	14		24			109
Juvenile	67				288	16		104			475
Maintenance/Affiliation					376	125		1028			1529
Inquests					69						69
Pre. Inquiries					289			2			291
Other					159					1	160
Total 2005	931				6586	2006		4530	2701	2795	19480
2005											
Cases Filed		Anguilla	Antigua and Barbuda*	British Virgin Islands	Commonwealth of Dominica	Grenada	Montserrat	St Kitts and Nevis	Saint Lucia*	St Vincent and the Grenadines	Total
Criminal	452			2150	2734	3732	121	1645	3896	3099	17829
Civil	101			262	1669	415	46	1875	279	938	5585
Traffic	438			1309	2034	1624	44	526	1860	3539	11374
Domestic Violence				26	101				26		153
Juvenile	45			50	262		1	74	4		436
Affiliation / Maintenance	58				283	289	24	1299	47		2000
Inquests					98						160
Pre. Inquiries					223			9	55		287
Other					147				27	11	185
Total	1094				7551	6060	236	5428	6194	7587	38009

- No data * Incomplete data

Table 7 (b). Magistrates Courts- Cases Disposed by Major Type by Member States- 2006 and 2005

2006	Anguilla	Antigua and Barbuda	British Virgin Islands	Commonwealth of Dominica	Grenada	Montserrat	St Kitts and Nevis	Saint Lucia*	St Vincent and the Grenadines	Total
Cases Disposed	Anguilla	Antigua and Barbuda	British Virgin Islands	Commonwealth of Dominica	Grenada	Montserrat	St Kitts and Nevis	Saint Lucia*	St Vincent and the Grenadines	Total
Criminal	282	-	-	2100	1021	-	1269	-	2097	6769
Civil	78	-	-	1123	111	-	1226	-	404	2942
Traffic	211	-	-	1626	246	-	360	-	644	3087
Domestic /Family	69	-	-	44	12	-	0	-	0	125
Juvenile	67	-	-	210	3	-	67	-	0	347
Maintenance/Affiliation	0	-	-	393	95	-	948	-	0	1436
Inquests	0	-	-	134	0	-	0	-	0	134
Pre. Inquiries	0	-	-	176	0	-	135	-	0	311
Other	0	-	-	166	0	-	0	-	1	167
Total 2005	707	-	-	5972	1488	-	4005	2825	3146	18143
Cases Disposed	Anguilla	Antigua and Barbuda*	British Virgin Islands	Commonwealth of Dominica	Grenada	Montserrat	St Kitts and Nevis	Saint Lucia*	St Vincent and the Grenadines	Total
Criminal	214	-	-	2727	2030	-	1264	1458	2972	10665
Civil	64	-	-	1746	173	-	1780	116	866	4745
Traffic	277	-	-	1952	495	-	478	322	6756	10280
Domestic/Family	-	-	-	56	14	-	-	8	-	78
Juvenile	22	-	-	169	0	-	131	19	-	341
Maintenance/Affiliation	64	-	-	313	141	-	1297	59	-	1874
Inquests	-	-	-	74	0	-	-	3	-	77
Pre. Inquiries	-	-	-	199	0	-	48	72	9	328
Other	-	-	-	186	0	-	-	23	-	209
Total	641	-	-	7422	2853	-	4998	2080	10603	28597

- No data * Incomplete data

Figure 5 Magistrates Courts- Cases Filed and Disposed for 2006

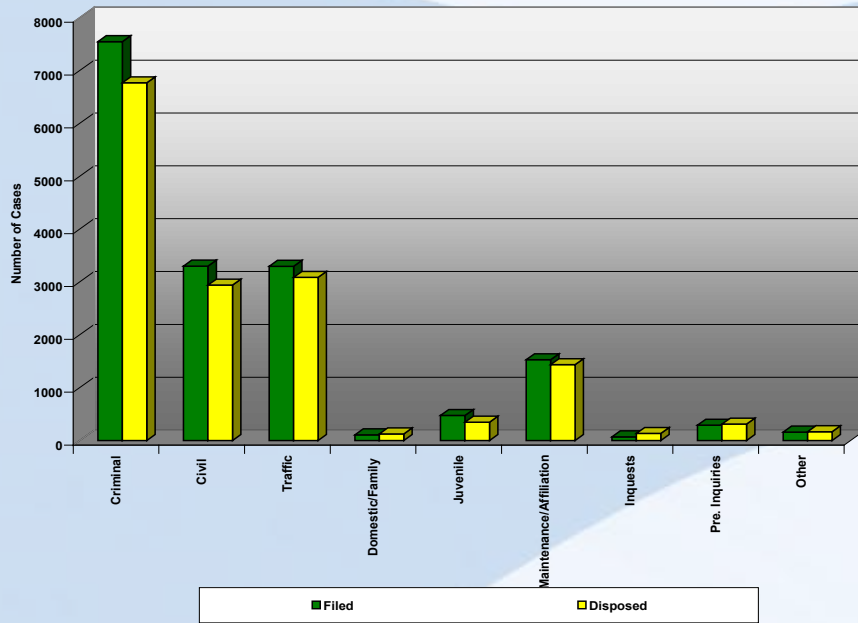
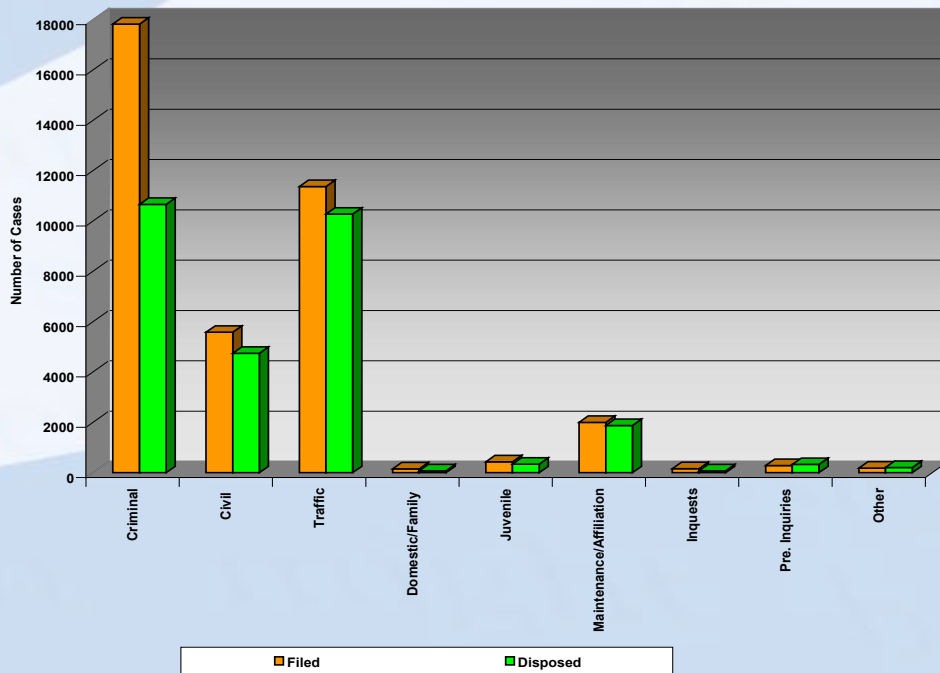


Figure 6 Magistrates Courts- Cases Filed and Disposed for 2006



Tables 7(c) and 7(d) provide data on the number of cases filed and disposed in the Magistrates Courts of the ECSC for the period January-July 2007 with comparative data for 2006. The number of cases filed in the Magistrates Courts of the ECSC for the period January- July 2007, increased by 58.5% in comparison to the similar period for 2006. Increases were recorded for all the major categories of cases. The number of criminal matters filed for January- July 2007 increased significantly by approximately 111%. Criminal matters also accounted for the highest volume of cases filed in the magistracies. For January- July 2007, criminal matters accounted for 40.6% of total filings and traffic matters accounted for 7% of total filings, the second highest.

Table 7(d) reveals that the number of cases disposed of in the magistracies for January- July 2007, increased by 62%. Corresponding to the filings, the number of matters disposed increased for almost all categories of cases for January- July 2007. The number of criminal cases disposed in January- July 2007 increased by 101%, traffic matters increased by 25.6% over the amounts for 2006.

Jan- July 2007										
Cases Filed	Anguilla	Antigua and Barbuda	British Virgin Islands	Commonwealth of Dominica	Grenada	Montserrat	St Kitts and Nevis	Saint Lucia	Sf Vincent and the Grenadines	Total
Criminal	133	-	-	1481	1628	-	996	-	1399	5637
Civil	45	-	-	555	152	-	982	-	294	2028
Traffic	137	-	-	1195	206	-	337	-	512	2387
Domestic/Family	28	-	-	98	6	-	2	-	0	134
Juvenile	21	-	-	262	0	-	64	-	0	347
Maintenance/Affiliation	-	-	-	274	126	-	807	-	0	1207
Inquests	-	-	-	52	0	-	-	-	0	52
Pre. Inquiries	-	-	-	159	0	-	25	-	0	184
Other	-	-	-	77	0	-	-	-	3	80
Total	364	-	-	4153	2118	-	3213	1820	2208	13876

Jan- July 2006										
Cases Filed	Anguilla	Antigua and Barbuda*	British Virgin Islands	Commonwealth of Dominica	Grenada	Montserrat	St Kitts and Nevis	Saint Lucia*	St Vincent and the Grenadines	Total
Criminal	-	-	-	1035	-	-	628	-	1009	2672
Civil	-	-	-	660	-	-	670	-	374	1704
Traffic	-	-	-	1028	-	-	273	-	435	1736
Domestic/Family	-	-	-	35	-	-	0	-	0	35
Juvenile	-	-	-	169	-	-	55	-	0	224
Maintenance/Affiliation	-	-	-	169	-	-	473	-	0	642
Inquests	-	-	-	41	-	-	-	-	0	41
Pre. Inquiries	-	-	-	134	-	-	2	-	0	136
Other	-	-	-	67	-	-	-	-	1	68
Total	-	-	-	3338	-	-	2101	1505	1819	8763

- No data

Table 7 (d). Magistrates Courts- Cases Disposed by Major Type by Member States- 2007 and 2006

Jan - July 2007										
Cases Disposed	Anguilla	Antigua and Barbuda	British Virgin Islands	Commonwealth of Dominica	Grenada	Montserrat	St Kitts and Nevis	Saint Lucia	St Vincent and the Grenadines	Total
Criminal	239	-	-	1494	1426	-	867	-	1460	5486
Civil	35	-	-	736	216	-	774	-	274	2035
Traffic	160	-	-	850	213	-	290	-	556	2069
Domestic/Family	48	-	-	85	3	-	0	-	0	136
Juvenile	31	-	-	132	9	-	50	-	0	222
Maintenance/Affiliation	0	-	-	189	105	-	950	-	0	1244
Inquests	0	-	-	51	-	-	-	-	0	51
Pre. Inquiries	0	-	-	132	-	-	46	-	0	178
Other	0	-	-	68	-	-	-	-	1	69
Total	513	-	-	3737	1972	-	2977	1679	2291	13169
Jan - July 2006										
Cases Disposed	Anguilla	Antigua and Barbuda*	British Virgin Islands	Commonwealth of Dominica	Grenada	Montserrat	St Kitts and Nevis	Saint Lucia*	St Vincent and the Grenadines	Total
Criminal	132	-	-	861	-	-	481	-	1256	2730
Civil	25	-	-	500	-	-	413	-	329	1267
Traffic	98	-	-	899	-	-	171	-	479	1647
Domestic /Family	31	-	-	23	-	-	-	-	0	54
Juvenile	11	-	-	102	-	-	31	-	0	144
Affiliation / Maintenance	0	-	-	209	-	-	273	-	0	482
Inquests	0	-	-	0	-	-	18	-	0	18
Pre. Inquiries	0	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	0	0
Other	0	-	-	76	-	-	-	-	0	76
Total	297	-	-	2670	-	-	1387	1724	2064	8142

Figure 7: Magistrates Courts- Cases Filed and Disposed for January- July 2007

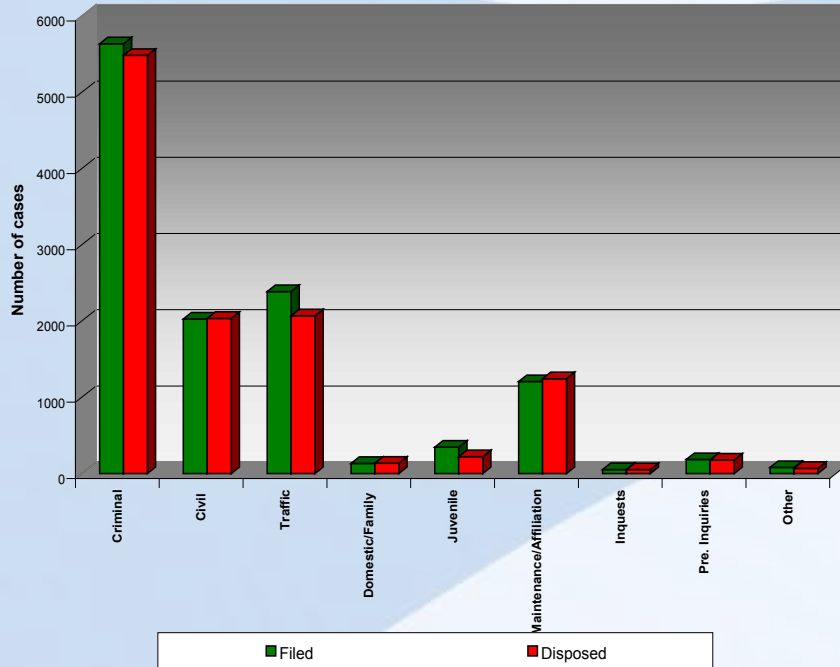
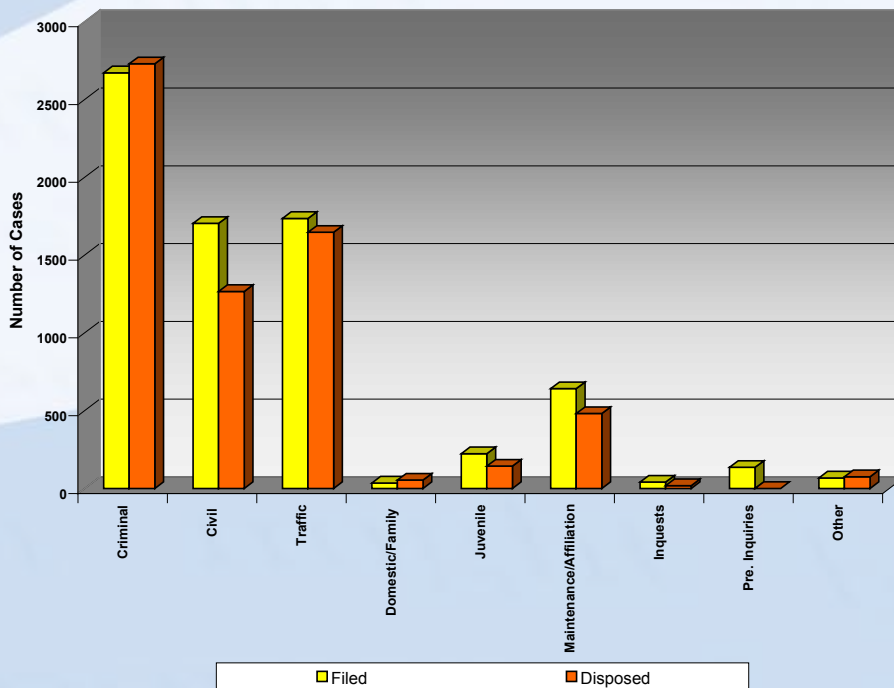


Figure 8: Magistrates Courts- Cases Filed and Disposed for January- July 2006



FAMILY COURT

Tables 10(a) and table 10(b) show information on the number of cases filed and disposed in the Family Court of St Vincent and the Grenadines for 2006 and 2005.

The number of cases filed in the Family Court of St Vincent and the Grenadines for 2006 declined by 40.7% in comparison to 2005. Noticeable declines were recorded for maintenance matters which recorded a decline of 36.9%. Corresponding to filings, the number of cases disposed in the Family Court of St Vincent and the Grenadines declined by 16% as compared to 2005. The number of maintenance matters disposed of also recorded a decline, reflecting a similar situation with the number of filings. The number of disposals for maintenance matters declined by 41.2%.

The Family Court of St Vincent and the Grenadines recorded a disposition rate of 128% for 2006 as compared to 90% for 2005.

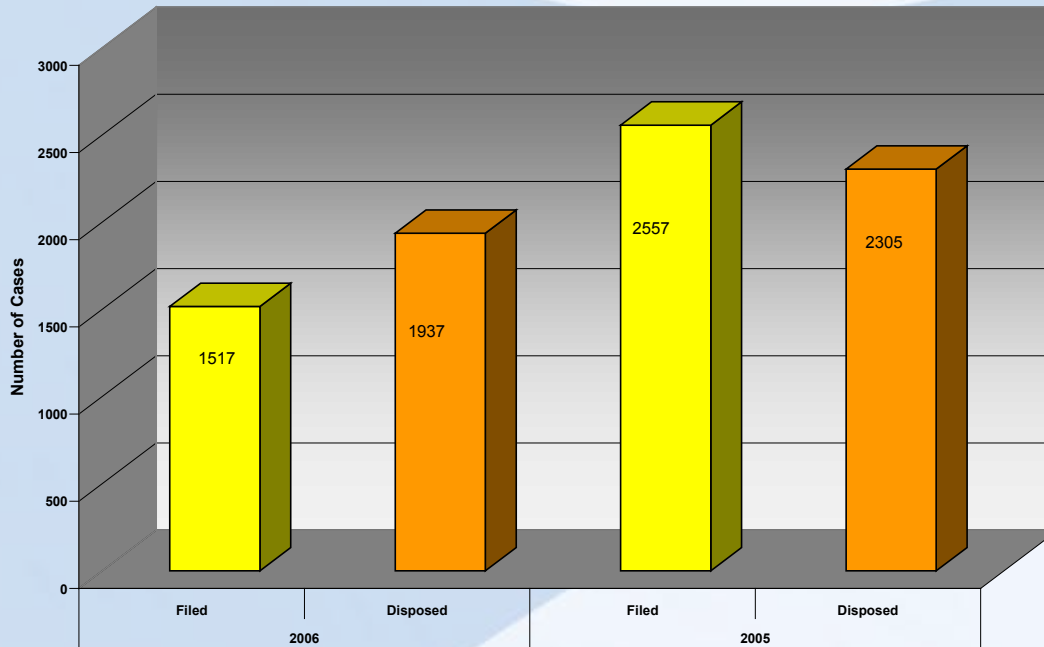
Table 10 (a). Family Court- St Vincent and the Grenadines- Cases Filed 2006 and 2005

Case Type	2006	2005
Maintenance	560	1454
Custody/Access	129	215
Protection Order	128	255
Arrears	406	215
Occupation Order	43	106
Sexual Intercourse	40	54
Indecent Assault	32	33
Rape	0	7
Other Offences	179	175
Total	1517	2557

Table10 (b) . Family Court- St Vincent and the Grenadines- Cases Disposed 2006 and 2005

Case Type	2006	2005
Maintenance	780	1327
Custody/Access	121	201
Protection Order	162	220
Arrears	589	232
Occupation Order	56	91
Sexual Intercourse	25	33
Indecent Assault	28	44
Rape	0	9
Other Offences	176	148
Total	1937	2305

Figure 9: St Vincent and the Grenadines Family Court- Cases Filed and Disposed 2006 and 2005



Tables 10(c) and 10(d) provide information on the number of cases filed and disposed in the Family Court of St Vincent and the Grenadines for January-July 2007 with comparative data for 2006. The number of matters filed in the Family Court of St Vincent and the Grenadines increased by 10.4% for the period January-July 2007 over the corresponding period for 2006. The number of filings for maintenance for January- July 2007 also shows a declining trend in comparison to the corresponding period for 2006. The number of maintenance matters filed for January- July 2007 declined by 69% in comparison to January- July 2006. The number for arrears matters shows an increasing trend. The number of arrears filed for January- July 2007 increased significantly, by approximately 297% in comparison to the corresponding period for 2006.

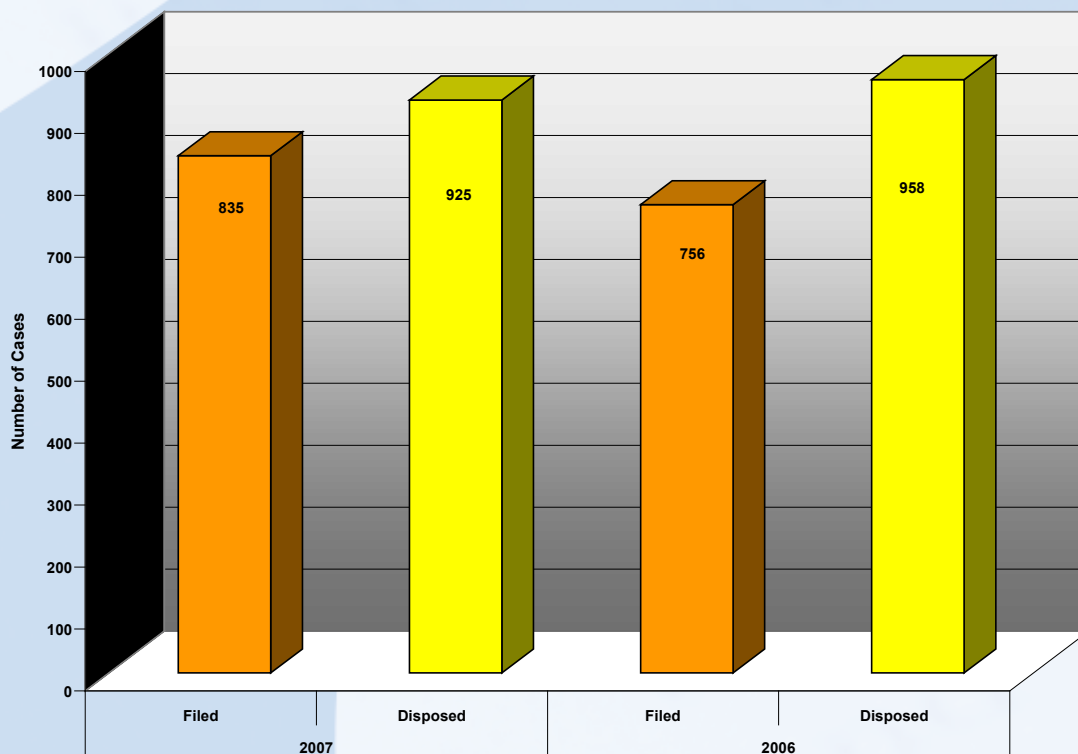
Table 10 (c) Family Court- St Vincent and the Grenadines- Cases Filed Jan- July 2007 and 2006

Case Type	2007	2006
Maintenance	132	428
Custody/Access	55	71
Protection Order	91	66
Arrears	330	83
Occupation Order	24	12
Sexual Intercourse	18	24
Indecent Assault	12	9
Rape	1	0
Other Offences	172	63
Total	835	756

Table 10(d). Family Court- St Vincent and the Grenadines- Cases Disposed Jan- July 2007 and 2006

Case Type	2007	2006
Maintenance	151	530
Custody/Access	57	70
Protection Order	91	87
Arrears	410	169
Occupation Order	29	23
Sexual Intercourse	9	12
Indecent Assault	21	15
Rape	2	0
Other Offences	155	52
Total	925	958

Figure 10: St Vincent and the Grenadines Family Court- Cases Filed and Disposed January -July 2007 and 2006



FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY



The Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court celebrated forty years of existence on 27th February 2007. Leading up to and following the date, the nine Member States and Territories of the OECS staged various activities to celebrate this milestone. The youth throughout the region of the OECS were targeted with moot trials/debates, essay competitions and public speaking events among secondary school students. For example, Members of the legal community delivered talks to senior High School students across the BVI. The topics included (a) how to become a lawyer; (b) the law of sexual offences; (c) the law of drug offences; and (d) the law of contracts. Exhibitions, special sittings of the Court, speeches and articles in the media were also used to highlight the Court's history and make members of the public aware of the work of the Court in the individual Member States.



Students of the Anegada High School in Tortola, BVI, listening to local practitioners

The Right Honourable Sir Dennis Byron, whose own career in the legal and judicial environment has spanned the four decades

of the Court's existence, was in Saint Lucia during February and took time off to be interviewed by Mr. Guy Ellis, the Court's Press Consultant.

He spoke positively of the developmental changes experienced and lauded the achievements of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court over the last 40 years, saying it had succeeded in providing an independent and impartial forum for resolving disputes in the sub region.

To this extent, he said, the nine Eastern Caribbean territories served by the Court had been "largely law abiding and peaceful" and disputes of all natures—even of the most extreme political times—had been resolved through the judicial system.

He commented on the substantial development in the judicial system under the colonial administration and what we have today under the regime of Independence and Statehood. He noted that the development of the judiciary under the regime of independence has improved the quality of justice for our people dramatically. "When in 1966, I don't remember how many judges there were, but I do know that the resident Judge in St Kitts was also responsible for Nevis, Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands and Montserrat. He also sat on the Divisional court of the High Court to hear appeals from the Magistrates Court, and the resident Judge in Antigua who was also the resident judge in Dominica, was the other member of the Divisional Court." Presently there are over 20 Judges and 2 Masters serving the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court

On the matter of separation of powers, governance and judicial management, he had this to say, "There is no doubt that at that time the Court was part of the administrative set up, there was no concept of separation of the Court, and that's part of one of the legacies that we are still trying to completely remove, although I think we have gone a long way to establish concepts of separation of powers in our region. So the organization and staffing of the Court was completely different to what it is today.

"Then the issue of concepts of good governance and judicial management and administration, the issue of transparency was not as it is now. The Court had absolutely no administrative structure.....the Court was administered by a Chief Justice and a Registrar without any support systems. The Court did not have its own financial services or human resource service to the extent that it was applicable.....there was a Judicial and Legal Services Commission which did not have a support Secretariat.

"Court cases used to take forever in the old days and part of the reason is that there were not enough judges. The Court establishment was incapable of keeping up to date with the volume of litigation. Also the volume of litigation was much less because

the Court system was not functioning efficiently. When people had disputes which needed a quick resolution they asked: what's the point in going to Court when hearing their case would take five, six or seven years. Today people who have a dispute feel that they have a reasonable chance of coming before the Court within a predictable time and you find that by itself alone has increased the extent to which the Court system is being utilized. But I think that the issue of the timeliness of the completion of litigation is much better than it was before. I know there is still a problem in Saint Lucia, in dealing with the Magistrates Courts where there is a substantial backlog of cases. However, I must say that I think that one factor in the slowness in dealing with this problem has been rectified. We must also note the fact that the Magistrates are not fully a part of the judiciary up to now. We inherited a Magistrates court system which was firmly a part of the administration, the executive administration. They came under the administrative control of government ministries and so they were subject to the same rules as civil servants.

"I also think the ECSC has established and earned a reputation for high standards of impartiality, integrity and good governance and I believe that if the Magistrates were fully integrated into the system it would improve the quality of service that we get from the Magistracy. I think this is one important development that is still to be completed, but the process has commenced and the Supreme Court is playing a greater role in the management of the magistracy."

The High Court of Justice in Saint Lucia was the venue for the Special Sitting to mark the anniversary of the ECSC's 40th year, on Tuesday, 27th February. The Acting Chief Justice the Honourable Sir Brian Alleyne, SC delivered a message which was transmitted via simulcast to the other Member States and Territories. This was followed by responses from the Bar and other distinguished persons in the Member States and Territories.



Acting Chief Justice the Hon. Brian Alleyne, SC delivering his address at the opening of the exhibition in Castries, Saint Lucia



Special sitting in Saint Lucia to mark the Fortieth Anniversary of the Court's existence



Students of the Castries Comprehensive Secondary School in Saint Lucia, who attended the special sitting, pose with Justice of Appeal, the Hon. Michael Gordon, QC

"Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court: Celebrating 40 Years of Excellence" was the theme of the exhibition mounted by the Court's Headquarters at the Castries Town Hall, which ran from Monday, 26th February to Friday, 2nd March, 2007. The media was on hand to witness the Acting Chief Justice as he gave brief opening remarks prior to declaring the exhibition open. The exhibition depicted developmental changes that have been experienced by the Court, with features including photos of the past Chief Justices, court buildings and publications of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court.



The national flags of the nine Member States formed a backdrop for the exhibition



Persons viewing exhibits



Students and teachers of the Marchand Combined School, Castries, Saint Lucia (1)



Students and teachers of the Marchand Combined School, Castries, Saint Lucia (2)

The Upton Garden Girls Center was the recipient of a filing cabinet valued at \$1,050 from the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court.

This was presented to the Center by Members of Staff of the Court's Headquarters during the celebration of the Court's 40th Anniversary. As a result of donations from judges and administrative and support staff, the twenty young ladies at the Center were also able to receive items of clothing and individual gift packages containing toiletries.

In appreciation of this gesture, a certificate of appreciation was presented to the Court by the Center.



Gift Packages for the girls

Fortieth Anniversary, Cont'd



ECSC members of Staff and some of the girls from the Center who attended the presentation

The growth and development of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court over these 40 years will go down in the annals of history by way of the publication of a history of the Court, "The Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court 1967–2007: Forty Years of a Distinguished Regional Judicature", being undertaken by Dr. Francis Alexis of the Grenada Bar, with collaboration by Senator the Hon. Prof. Velma Newton of the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, Barbados. Work is advanced on this project and the launching of the book is slated for October 2007. An anniversary commemorative magazine with contributions from former judges and others, and a television documentary highlighting various aspects of the Court's history will also be released by early December 2007.



Mr. Mark Ernest, IT Manager presenting a motivational talk to the girls



Mr. Francis Letang, Deputy Court Administrator receiving certificate on behalf of the Court from Ms. Prisca St. Paul, Director of the Center

MEMBERS OF THE JUDICIARY

Court of Appeal Judges

The Court of Appeal during the period under review comprised an Acting Chief Justice, Sir Brian Alleyne, SC, and three (3) Justices of Appeal, namely, Justice Michael Gordon, QC, Justice Denys Barrow, SC and Justice Hugh Rawlins until April, 2007. In April, 2007, Justice Michael Gordon QC retired as a Court of Appeal Judge having served from 1st December, 2003. At that time, Justices Ola Mae Edwards and Dancia Penn QC were appointed to act as Justices of Appeal. Justice Ola Mae Edwards' acting appointment was extended to December 31st, 2007 while Justice Dancia Penn's appointment ended effective 20th July, 2007 consequent upon her resignation.

High Court Judges

At the High Court level, judges were assigned as follows: Justice Albert Redhead, Justice Sandra Mason, QC and Justice Ola Mae Edwards – Saint Lucia (with Justice Ola Mae Edwards' elevation to the Court of Appeal Master Brian Cottle was sworn in as a High Court Judge on 5th April 2007); Justice Kenneth Benjamin and Justice Davidson Baptiste – Grenada (Justice Davidson Baptiste was transferred to the Commonwealth of Dominica on 16th October 2006. Justice Francis Cumberbatch was sworn in as a new High Court Judge on 1st August 2007 and assigned to Grenada); Justice Indra Hariprashad-Charles and Justice Rita Joseph-Olivetti – British Virgin Islands; Justice Janice George-Creque – Anguilla; Justice Errol Thomas and Justice Louise Blenman – Antigua and Barbuda (Justice Errol Thomas retired and Justice David Harris was sworn in as a new judge on 19th June 2007); Justice Clare Henry – the Commonwealth of Dominica (transferred to Grenada on 16th October 2006); Justice Francis Belle – St Kitts; Justice Albert Mathew [Ag], Justice Frederick Bruce-Lyle and Justice Gertel Thom – St Vincent and the Grenadines; Justice Ianthea Leigertwood-Octave – Nevis/Commonwealth of Dominica/Montserrat. Justice Anthony Ross, QC [Ag] performs the function of Managing judge and is based in Saint Lucia.

Masters

The 2006/2007 Law year began with two Masters, in the persons of Master Brian Cottle and Master Cheryl Mathurin. Master Cottle was elevated to a High Court Judge and Master Pearletta Lanns became the second Master, based in St Kitts & Nevis.

JUSTICES OF APPEAL



Acting Chief Justice
Sir Brian Alleyne, SC,
KCN



Justice Michael
Gordon, QC



Justice Denys
Barrow, SC



Justice Hugh
Rawlins



Justice Ola Mae
Edwards [Ag]



Justice Dancia Penn,
QC [Ag]

HIGH COURT JUDGES



Justice Albert Redhead
[Ag]



Justice Albert
Mathew [Ag]



Justice Kenneth
Benjamin



Justice Indra
Hariprashad-Charles



Justice Frederick
Bruce-Lyle



Justice Davidson
Baptiste



Justice Rita Joseph-
Olivetti



Justice Errol
Thomas



Justice Janice
George-Creque



Justice Louise
Blenman



Justice Clare
Henry

HIGH COURT JUDGES cont'd



Justice Francis
Belle



Justice Gertel
Thom



Justice Sandra
Mason, QC



Justice Ianthea
Leigertwood-Octave



Justice Brian
Cottle



Justice David C
Harris



Justice Francis
Cumberbatch



Justice Anthony
Ross, QC [Ag]

MASTERS



Master Cheryl
Mathurin



Master Pearletta
Lanns

ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT STAFF AT THE COURT'S HEADQUARTERS



Mr. Gregory Girard
**Court
Administrator**



Mrs. Kimberly Cenac-
Phulgence
Chief Registrar



Mr. Francis Letang
**Deputy Court
Administrator**



Ms. Agnes Actie
**Deputy Chief
Registrar**



Mr. Mark Ernest
IT Manager



Ms. Aloysia Gabriel
HR Manager



Mr. Irvin Ferdinand
Accountant



Ms. Sheran Emmanuel
**Head, Secretarial
Dept.**



Ms. Claudette M.
Valentine
**Librarian/IS
Manager**



Ms. Lenore St. Croix
Office Manager

Administrative and support staff, Cont'd



Ms Choyce Walcott
Case Manager



Mrs Stephine Alphonse
Case Manager



Ms Sheron Baptiste
Case Manager



Ms Nadine Felicien
Registry Clerk



Mrs Michelle John-Theobalds
Judicial Clerk



Mrs Turkessa Benjamin-Antoine
Judicial Clerk



Mr Derrick Agdomar
System Administrator



Mr Garvin W Lawrence
Website Administrator



Mr Augustus Marcellin
Network Administrator



Mrs Francisca Polius
Records & Archives Clerk



Ms Geraldine St Croix
Statistician



Ms Patricia Chastanet
Library Assistant



Mrs Clarita McDonald
Records & Archives Officer

Administrative and support staff, Cont'd



Mrs Reine James
**Records &
Archives Manager**



Ms Alana Simmons
**Programme
Coordinator, JEI**



Mrs Avis Burch-
Smith
**Mediation
Clerk**



Mr Francis Compton
**Reginal Mediation
Coordinator**



Ms Anna Joseph
Secretary



Mrs Sandra Augier
Receptionist



Ms Donalyn Vittet
Secretary



Ms Joan Joseph
Secretary



Ms Natasha James
**Secretary to the
Chief Justice**



Mr Stephen Rameau
**Accounts
Assistant**



Mrs Monica
Chandler
HR Officer



Mrs Dorcia James-
Callendar
Admin Assistant



Ms Lynda Cyril
**Office
Attendant**

Notes







**Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court
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