



Port of Spain Declaration

ON

THE DEVELOPMENT OF CARIBBEAN JURISPRUDENCE

28 November 2025
Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago

Commending the CCJ Academy for Law on the hosting of its 8th Biennial Conference under the theme '*The CCJ at 20: Reflections on Caribbean Jurisprudence*' in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago on 26-28 November 2025

Recognising the service of the Caribbean Court of Justice to the Region over the past 20 years

Reaffirming the determinative role of the Caribbean Court of Justice in the further development of Caribbean jurisprudence through the judicial process and its significance to the deepening of regional integration

Acknowledging the role that the judiciary and other stakeholders play in the development of Caribbean jurisprudence

WE, THE PARTICIPANTS at the 8th Biennial Conference of the CCJ Academy for Law, with respect to the appropriate stakeholders:

1. **Urge** consideration of the establishment of an independent Regional Law Reform Commission to guide legal reform, particularly in areas targeted for harmonisation.
2. **Call for** harmonisation or targeted convergence of legislation in appropriate areas while maintaining respect for the diversity of legal systems in the Caribbean.
3. **Encourage** review of the continued relevance and value of savings law clauses in Commonwealth Caribbean Constitutions.
4. **Urge** greater civic education and outreach on constitutional matters.
5. **Advocate** for continued respect for and protection of the fundamental rights and freedoms contained in our Constitutions by the courts and the legislatures of the region.
6. **Reaffirm** continued commitment to implementation of the recommendations in the *Needham's Point Declaration on Criminal Justice Reform: Achieving a Modern Criminal Justice System* adopted at the CCJ Academy for Law's 7th Biennial Conference in November 2023.

7. **Welcome** the initiative to develop a Digital Dashboard to track progress in the implementation of the *Needham's Point Declaration on Criminal Justice Reform*.
8. **Recognise** the relevance of treaty obligations and customary international law to the interpretation and application of domestic law.
9. **Acknowledge** the importance of sensitivity to the evolving needs and realities of families in Caribbean societies.
10. **Encourage** modernisation of substantive and procedural law relating to Estates and Probate practice in the Caribbean.
11. **Advocate** for greater awareness and use of avenues for the enforcement of Community rights, including the referral procedure under Article 214 of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas.
12. **Appreciate** the importance of appropriate recognition and protection of intellectual property rights and environmental justice to the achievement of sustainable development of the Caribbean region.
13. **Endorse** ethical use of technology, including through the appropriate Practice Directions and policy documents issued by judicial and other relevant bodies.
14. **Encourage** the development of indigenous solutions in order to secure our digital justice legacy and continue to enhance access to justice across the region.
15. **Acknowledge** that stakeholders other than the Judiciary play an important role in the development of Caribbean jurisprudence and therefore:
 - (i) **Urge** legislatures to actively consider calls for legal reform made by the judiciary in their judgments,
 - (ii) **Encourage** members of academia to undertake critical assessments of jurisprudential developments,
 - (iii) **Call on** CARICOM to ensure that decisions of Community Organs are readily accessible to the public and continue the revision and consolidation of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas,
 - (iv) **Encourage** the media to raise public awareness, through responsible journalism, of the work of the courts and the need for law reform.

ADOPTION

Adopted by acclamation on 28 November 2025, at the Hyatt Regency in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, by the participants at the 8th Biennial Conference of the CCJ Academy for Law.