CCJ ACADEMY FOR LAW



“Providing Informative and Innovative Perspectives on the Rules and the Roles of Law”



OUR MISSION

To create initiatives and programmes that showcase the place of law in economic and social development and to develop institutional linkages with national, regional and global partners that facilitate the maturing and sustainability of these initiatives and programmes in the interest of all Caribbean peoples.



OUR VISION

To become the premier Caribbean institution for providing and advancing catalytic support for the establishment, maintenance and improvement of legal regimes that facilitate sustainable regional development.



OUR VALUES

- Integrity
- Innovation
- Efficiency
- Justice
- Accountability
- Excellence

OVERVIEW OF THE CCJ ACADEMY FOR LAW

The CCJ Academy for Law is the educational arm of the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ).

Through its conferences, capacity building programmes, publications, and strategic collaborations, the Academy plays a catalytic role in promoting legal discourse, judicial and legal education, research, and regional law reform.

The key objectives of the CCJ Academy for Law are:

- To provide a forum for discussion of legal concepts and rules, particularly in the areas of general international law, international trade law, regional integration law, and comparative law.
- To promote a high level of awareness of, and advocacy and passion for, regional integration and Caribbean jurisprudence.
- To provide educational and training initiatives for judges and attorneys.
- To enhance practical learning in court administration and the understanding of the role of court administration in promoting judicial independence and accountability and access to justice.
- To provide thought leadership in the active pursuit of legal solutions to prevalent problems in the Caribbean.

ORGANISATIONAL DETAILS

Legal Status

The CCJ Academy for Law is a not-for-profit legal entity incorporated under the Laws of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, the seat of the Caribbean Court of Justice.

Administration

The President of the Caribbean Court of Justice is the patron of the Academy. A Judge of the Court serves as Chair of the Academy. The general direction of the Academy is approved by its Board of Directors.

Resources

The CCJ Academy for Law is supported by subventions from the Caribbean Court of Justice and with guidelines for resource mobilisation approved by its Board of Directors consistent with its Memorandum of Understanding with the Caribbean Court of Justice.

THE ACADEMY'S WORK

Judicial and Legal Education

The Referral Sensitization Series exemplifies the Academy's contribution to judicial and legal education. In collaboration with the CCJ and with financial support from the European Union's 11th European Development Fund, the Academy undertook a training series to promote greater understanding of the referral procedure under Article 214 of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas. The series was conducted across Belize, Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago between 2022 and 2025. The programme engaged judicial officers, legal practitioners, and the business sector.

The Academy collaborates with the Council for Legal Education, General Legal Council, and regional Bar Associations to encourage and support continuing legal education.

Promoting Legal Discourse

The flagship event of the Academy is its Biennial Conferences, convened in various Caribbean capitals to meaningfully discuss issues shaping law and justice in the Region. The Academy has hosted eight Biennial Conferences.

The 8th Biennial Conference was convened under the theme "The CCJ at 20: Reflections on Caribbean Jurisprudence" in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago from 26-28 November 2025. Participants adopted the Port of Spain Declaration on the Development of Caribbean Jurisprudence, which identifies 15 actions for the judiciary and other stakeholders.

The Academy also hosts and collaborates in hosting symposia, workshops, and seminars which flag important legal issues requiring urgent responses from State and non-State actors.

Research and Publications

Conceptualized in 2019, the Eminent Caribbean Jurists Project recognises and celebrates the contribution of outstanding Caribbean jurists from various fields to the development of Caribbean law and legal systems. The first three editions of the Eminent Caribbean Jurists Series celebrate Eminent Caribbean International Law Jurists, Pioneering Caribbean Jurists, and Legendary Caribbean Legal Practitioners.

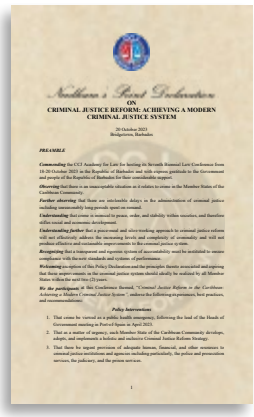
Catalyzing Regional Law Reform

The Academy contributes to regional law reform by facilitating dialogue and the development of recommendations to address shared challenges across the Caribbean.

The Needham's Point Declaration on Criminal Justice Reform was adopted on 20 October 2023 at the Academy's 7th Biennial Conference. The Declaration contains 39 key recommendations providing a roadmap for policymakers, members of the bar, judicial officers, the legislature, and other justice stakeholders on how the criminal justice system of the Caribbean region could be further modernized.

The Declaration was formally endorsed by the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM in February 2025.

The Academy established a Monitoring, Evaluating, and Facilitating Committee, comprising criminal justice stakeholders from across the Region, which, up to the end of its mandate in October 2025, tracked implementation of the recommendations of the Declaration.



Needham's Point Declaration

ON

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM: ACHIEVING A MODERN CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

20 October 2023
Bridgetown, Barbados

The Needham's Point Declaration has catalyzed criminal justice reforms across the Caribbean. The Declaration has been cited in over 60 judicial decisions at different levels in the Caribbean.

Scan to view Needham's Point Declaration

STRATEGIC COLLABORATION

Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

Under the auspices of the IDB's One Safe Caribbean against Organized Crime programme, the IDB and Academy have collaborated on a pilot for data collection activities required for the development of a digital dashboard to track criminal justice reform across the Region. The initiative is in furtherance of the Needham's Point Declaration and seeks to enhance transparency, accountability, and evidenced-based decision-making within the Region's justice systems.

Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH)

A Working Group of Judges and Central Authorities is developing guidelines for judicial proceedings in the Caribbean under the HCCH 1980 Child Abduction Convention. The aim is to tackle frequent delays in handling child abduction cases under the Convention.

Collaboration has also facilitated regional dialogue on child abduction, intercountry adoption, child protection, and child support.

United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC)

A focus of collaboration has been environmental access rights. A notable outcome was the 2018 publication, "Ensuring Environmental Access Rights in the Caribbean", which examines Caribbean case law pertaining to environmental access rights. The Academy has also participated in meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Escazú Agreement.

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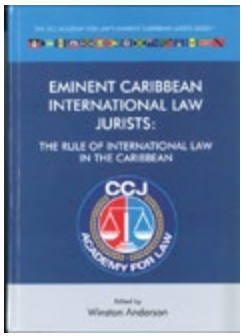
The Academy acts as a focal point of the European Union Regional Programme for the Strengthening of the Strategic Partnership on Justice and Security with Latin America and the Caribbean. The Academy has participated in Annual Meetings of the Programme and meetings of Strategic Caribbean Focal Points.

PLANS FOR 2027

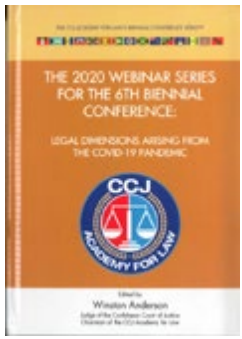
- The Academy's Ninth Biennial Conference
- Continuing Legal Education on the CCJ's Original Jurisdiction
- Fourth Instalment of the Eminent Caribbean Jurists Series recognizing the contribution of Judges
- Strategic Collaboration Initiatives

PUBLICATIONS

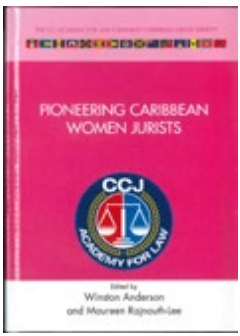
The following is a list of the Academy's publications which are available for purchase.



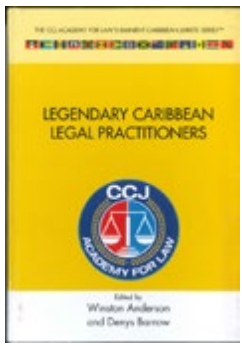
Eminent Caribbean International Law Jurists: The Rule of International Law in the Caribbean. 2019



Legal Dimensions Arising from the Covid-19 Pandemic. 2020



Pioneering Caribbean Women Jurists. 2021



Legendary Caribbean Legal Practitioners. 2024

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