



CONSTITUTION OF THE CARIBBEAN ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN JUDGES

1. NAME

The Association shall be known as the Caribbean Association of Women Judges (CAWJ).

2. HEADQUARTERS AND APPLICABLE LAW

The Headquarters of the Association shall be Trinidad and Tobago. The applicable laws for the purpose of the Association and its business shall be the laws of Trinidad and Tobago.

3. INTERPRETATION

"judicial office" - shall include judge, magistrate, master, court administrator, registrar, deputy or assistant registrar, and any other person appointed or serving in a judicial or adjudicatory capacity, including members of tribunals, boards, commissions or other similar judicial or adjudicatory bodies.

"meeting" - where any reference is made in this Constitution to a meeting, teleconferencing and video conferencing and meetings conducted by any other electronic means shall constitute a valid meeting.

"members" - where any reference is made in this Constitution to members it shall have the meaning ascribed in clause 5 and shall mean members in good financial standing.

"notice" - where any reference is made in this Constitution to a notice of a meeting, notice conveyed by electronic means shall be valid notice.

4. OBJECTIVES

4.1 The Association is organized for the purpose of promoting greater understanding and better resolution of legal issues facing all persons and issues concerning women judges, and in particular:



- (a) to ensure that the justice system promotes and protects the rights and interests of women and other persons and reflects equality before and under the law for women and other persons in our society;
- (b) to implement and encourage strategies to achieve gender equality and equity in the justice system;
- (c) to encourage co-operation and collaboration among women judges;
- (d) to contribute to the understanding and resolution of legal issues facing women;
- (e) to assist women to participate meaningfully in the justice system in the Caribbean;
- (f) to increase understanding of the broad range of social, economic, psychological and cultural factors that influence women involved in and interfacing with the court systems;
- (g) to seek to ensure diverse, merit-based and transparent judicial selection processes and that each judiciary reflects the population it serves and in particular is sensitive to the need for gender balance;
- (h) to increase understanding of human rights law and the role of the judiciary in implementing that law to promote and protect the rights of women on an equal basis;
- (i) to support programmes and activities which discourage violence in our society;
- (j) to provide a clearinghouse and resource centre to disseminate information affecting women judges;
- (k) to engage in research, education, international, regional or national conferences, judicial exchanges, and training programmes which



contribute to the understanding and the resolution of legal issues facing women;

- (l) to co-operate with the International Association of Women Judges in the furtherance of its objectives; and
- (m) to co-operate and work with other national and international associations, bodies, organizations, and governments on issues of interest to women judges and women in the Caribbean to achieve the above objectives.

4.2 In order to promote the above aims, the Association may:

- (a) hold, arrange or assist in meetings, judicial exchanges, conferences or seminars;
- (b) promote or arrange mentoring schemes for all persons holding judicial office;
- (c) promote, sponsor or engage in study and research;
- (d) publish or assist in the publication of educational materials for all persons holding judicial office, attorneys-at-law, policy makers and members of the public on these and related topics;
- (e) do all things necessary and/or proper to accomplish these and similar purposes.

5. MEMBERS

- 5.1 Any person who holds or has retired from a permanent or salaried judicial office is eligible to be a full voting member and hold office.
- 5.2 Any person who supports the objectives of the Association may be elected by the Executive Committee as a supporting member. Supporting members shall have no voting rights and may not hold office.



5.3 Upon nomination by the officers, any person may be elected to honorary membership in recognition of outstanding service fulfilling any of the Association's objectives. Honorary members shall have no voting rights and may not hold office.

6. **OFFICERS**

The Officers shall be a President, up to four Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, Assistant Secretary and a Treasurer, each of whom shall hold office for a period of up to three consecutive years, but shall be eligible for re-election.

7. **PATRONS**

The Association may invite persons of distinction, whether or not members of the Association, to be Patrons. Patrons shall hold office for five years and shall be eligible for re-appointment.

8. **MANAGEMENT**

8.1 The affairs of the Caribbean Association of Women Judges shall be directed by an Executive Committee, which shall consist of the Officers.

8.2 The Executive Committee shall be entitled to appoint four additional members with a view, among other things, to securing appropriate representation from all parts of the Caribbean.

8.3 A meeting of the Executive Committee shall be valid only when a quorum of 5 members is present. The business of the Executive Committee may also be transacted by correspondence, email or video link.

8.4 At all meetings of the Executive Committee the President shall have a casting vote.

8.5 The Executive Committee may appoint sub-committees, which may include persons who are not members of the Executive Committee.



9. GENERAL MEETINGS

9.1 A Biennial General Meeting shall be held. It shall be convened by the Secretary on the instructions of the Executive Committee. The Secretary shall give to all members at least three calendar months' notice in writing of the holding of such a meeting.

9.2 The quorum of a Biennial General Meeting shall be 11 members present.

9.3 The Biennial General Meeting shall conduct the following business:

Receive the Biennial Report of the Executive Committee;

Approve the Biennial Accounts of the Association;

Appoint an Auditor of the Accounts;

Discuss such other matters and motions as shall be necessary;

Discuss and vote on amendments to the Constitution.

9.4 An Extraordinary General Meeting may be held. It shall be convened by the Secretary on the instructions of the Executive Committee. The Secretary shall give to all members 7 days' notice in writing of such a meeting.

9.5 The quorum of an Extraordinary General Meeting shall be 7 members present.

10. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

10.1 The Secretary shall invite from all members nominations for such offices as are due to fall vacant or have become vacant. Nominations shall be made in writing by at least one member and shall be signed by the person nominated indicating his or her willingness to serve.



- 10.2 Whenever elections are required they shall take place at the Biennial General Meeting or an Extraordinary General Meeting or by ballot of the membership which may be conducted by email.
- 10.3 Those elected shall take office from the date of such election. Officers duly elected shall serve for the periods set out in this Constitution.

11. FINANCE

- 11.1 The subscription payable by members of the Association and mode of payment shall be determined by the Biennial General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting.
- 11.2 The financial resources of the CAWJ shall be applied by and at the direction of the Executive Committee solely towards the promotion of the objectives of the Association as set forth in this Constitution, and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise by way of profit to any member of the Association or Executive Committee, provided that nothing therein shall prevent the repayment of out-of-pocket expenses incurred as a direct result of the carrying out by any Officer, or Member of the Executive Committee or other authorized persons of duties in connection with the Association's business. Should the Association be wound up, any surplus funds shall be transferred to a registered charity as the Executive Committee may determine.
- 11.3 The Executive Committee shall by resolution determine upon whose signature or signatures cheques may, for the time being, be drawn upon the Association's accounts with their bankers.
- 11.4 The financial year shall run from the 1st day of April to the 31st day of March of the following year.



12. AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION

12.1 Amendments to this Constitution shall be by resolution passed by no fewer than two-thirds of those members present and voting at a General Meeting. Such a resolution shall not be considered unless

- (a) notice of intention to move the resolution has been submitted in writing to the Executive Committee;
- (b) such a resolution be proposed by at least three members in good financial standing;
- (c) notice of such a resolution be given to all members not less than twenty-one days before the General Meeting.