

# The Legislator

“One must spend time in gathering knowledge to give it out richly”



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## *The Commonwealth Law Ministers Meeting*

The Commonwealth Law Ministers Meeting 2011 was held on the 13<sup>th</sup> of July in Sydney, Australia. The meeting had as its theme **“Fostering a Just and Secure Commonwealth.”** The Caribbean was represented by the Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago, Anand Ramlogan, Hubert Volney, Minister of Justice, Mr. Samraj Harripaul, Chairman of the Law Reform Commission and the Attorney General of the Bahamas, John Delaney, SC.

Attorney General Anand Ramlogan raised the issue of the rising HIV and AIDS rate among member states. The Attorney General also outlined the Caribbean’s position on the issue of the death penalty. He mentioned that the “the notion of human rights should not be reduced or judged by reference to its position on the death penalty...In any event, there was not any international consensus



**Attorney General Anand Ramlogan greets Attorney General of Australia Robert Mc Clelland.**

on the relationship or consequences of the implementation of the death penalty (which is reserved for the most heinous crimes) and its respect for human rights.” Some of the other important issues discussed at this Conference include:

- Strategies to combat corruption;
- Women as agents of change;
- International co-operation in criminal prosecutions;
- Climate changes and its impact on security and survival; and,
- International judicial assistance to member states.

**(article continues on page 2)**

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Also, at the aforementioned meeting the International Criminal Court (ICC) was endorsed and entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to facilitate co-operation and consultation, training and the promotion of principles and values in accordance with the Rome Statute of the ICC. The International Criminal Court was the brain child of Trinidad and Tobago's former Prime Minister and President, ANR Robinson, whose role in establishing the Court is internationally recognized and acknowledged. The Head of the Delegation from Trinidad and Tobago, Attorney General, Anand Ramlogan, used the forum to promote the Court and to lobby Member States that have not acceded to the jurisdiction of the Court to do so.

**Attorney General Anand Ramlogan, third from left, poses with legal colleagues from then African continent at the Commonwealth Law Ministers Meeting in Sydney, Australia.**



## Profile

*Security Inspector*

**Mr. Selwyn Lezama**



- 1) Can you tell us a little about your educational background?
  - San Fernando Secondary School
  - San Fernando Technical Institute
- 2) Who would you say has had the most influence on your career decisions?  
*My Father*
- 3) What aspects of this Office motivated you to accept this new appointment?  
*Being in charge of the security detail in the second highest office in the country and to manage same in a professional manner with simplicity and authority.*
- 4) What would you say has been your personal motto?  
*"The Sky is the Limit", "Knowledge is Power"*
- 5) In the fourth issue of the newsletter we introduced a new feature- **Be the Change!** In line with this new focus, would you mind discussing the cause or organization you feel most fervent about? And why?  
**National Security:** The advent of crime in the country and witnessing the age bracket by whom it is committed and the period of time taken to bring this dilemma under control.  
**Healthcare:** It was really a great idea by the MoAG to invite nurses from the Ministry of Health to host the Health Fair to encourage and advise employees to maintain a healthy lifestyle.
- 6) What would you consider your greatest accomplishment? And why?  
*To remain healthy in an age where sickness and disease is rampant.*

## Talk Yuh Mind!

*Do you think that the implementation of tracking devices for criminals will be an effective means of reducing criminal activity in Trinidad and Tobago?*



**Mr. Curtis Lewis-Facilities  
Mgt Operator**



**Ms. Melissa Seepaul-  
Chandrika - Clerk II(Ag)-  
Solicitor Gen**



**Ms. Nikisha Boodai-  
Clerk I -Office Mgt**

This method is deemed an avant garde (cutting edge) idea because criminals have been outwitting the authorities for far too long in Trinidad and Tobago. However, if this scheme is a means of neutralizing the criminals' sinister activities, I am in total favor of it.

Yes I do agree with this proposal to implement tracking devices for criminals. At this point the level of crime in Trinidad and Tobago is at a frustratingly high level so any means or method of reducing crime will be welcomed.

Yes I do agree because the police will be able to monitor the activities of criminals and to arrest or recapture these offenders will be a less tedious task for police officers as the criminals are easier to be traced. Thus, this initiative will assist in reducing the criminal elements in Trinidad and Tobago.



**Mr. Shiva Baran- Intern  
@ MoAG (Law Student)**



**Ms. Kezia Jones- Library  
Asst I-MoAG Library**



**Ms. Siobhan Bedeau-  
Communications Asst.**

Whereas some may argue that Trinidad and Tobago is too small to restrict movement; I think that it is necessary to actively monitor known criminal offenders. Also, the implementation of tracking devices will definitely be effective in the pursuit of criminals who attempt to flee the country.

Yes I am in total support of this initiative. I am hoping that this scheme does have some positive result because crime is such a crucial issue in Trinidad and Tobago which needs to be abated as soon as possible. This initiative will be effective in monitoring those offenders who have been convicted.

Yes I do agree with this proposal of tracking devices as it will assist police officers in recapturing repeat offenders as well as assisting the authorities in locating other unlawful activities associated with these criminal minds in our country of Trinidad and Tobago.

## Book Talk -



**'BE CIVIL: a guide to  
learning civil litigation  
and evidence'**

**Authors: Virginia Dunn  
ISBN: 978-1-903269-20-6  
Price: £23.75**

This book is a guide to the basic rules of civil practice and procedures and it is part overview, part revision guide for those learning how disputes are resolved in the civil courts of England and Wales.

The book makes reference to relevant primary source materials, gives advice on using practitioner texts, contains revision tips throughout and concludes with a guide to examination technique. It aims to support and enhance the learning process and to help students pass their exams and begin internship, with confidence. A glossary of terms is also included.

While the book is written primarily for students training to be barristers, it is also of considerable use to others who wish to improve their knowledge of the subject. These include trainee barristers and solicitors, especially students studying for the Bar Professional Training Course or Legal Practice Course, pupils and other newly qualified practitioners, those changing the emphasis of their legal practice or those whose civil litigation skills need to be reinvigorated such as Legal Executives.

<http://worthpublishing.com/proddetail.php?prod=9781903269206>

### Statistics of Materials Received by the Library for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter, 2011.

ITEMS	DPP	AG
Books		11
Legal Journals/ Periodicals	26	83
Judgments	70	109
Other Publications (Statutes/Law Reports)	60	52

# CELEBRATING WITH THE WORLD

## International day of Democracy - 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2011.

The UN General Assembly, in resolution [A/62/7](#) (2007) encouraged Governments to strengthen national programmes devoted to the promotion and consolidation of democracy, and also decided that 15 September of each year should be observed as the International Day of Democracy.

Source: <http://www.un.org/en/events/democracyday/index.shtml>

YOUR VOICE, YOUR CHOICE  
TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE DEMOCRACY WORK



## International Day of Peace – 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2011.



The International Day of Peace was established in 1981 by resolution 36/67 of the United Nations General Assembly to coincide with its opening session, which was held annually on the third Tuesday of September. The first Peace Day was observed in September 1982.

In 2001, the General Assembly by unanimous vote adopted resolution 55/282, which established 21 September as an annual day of non-violence and cease-fire.

Source: <http://www.un.org/en/events/peaceday/2010/>

## Law Libraries Worldwide: Cave Hill Campus Barbados

The Law Library which is centrally located within the Faculty of Law at UWI's Cave Hill campus in Barbados is considered to be the premier legal library in the Commonwealth Caribbean. With a rapidly developing collection of West Indian and other Commonwealth legal materials, The Law Library has also provided access to a number of international legal databases including the Lexis Nexis database. Among their achievements is the Carilaw electronic legal database which they had established in 2005. It consists of over 32,000 regional commonwealth cases with head notes and is updated consistently.

The Law Library aims at providing legal reference information and copying services for practitioners and researchers in general, in addition to supporting the teaching programmes at the Faculty of Law where close to 700 students, including postgraduate students, are registered.

Its collection, first volumes acquired by gift from the Attorney General of the West Indies Federation Library in the mid 1970s, now numbers in excess of 500,000 volumes. Significant benefactors include the British Overseas Development Administration, the Canadian Bar Association, the Caribbean Law Institute (CLI), Ford Foundation, University of Virginia Law Library, York University Law Library, and most of the Commonwealth Caribbean Governments.

The Reserve Collection is located behind the Public Services Desk. It consists of recommended books and materials particularly relevant to courses offered by the Faculty, photocopied articles and cases, LL.B and LL.M theses, past exam papers, indices to West Indian statutes (WILIP Indexes), and Constitutions... **Continues on page 6.**



## *My experience at the Attorney General's Library!*

When I first came to the Attorney General's Office it was definitely intimidating, especially for me, an in-service trainee. There was so much work to do and the research seemed endless. As an in-service trainee, most of my work revolved around doing a great deal of research and finding numerous cases. *It was obvious that my best friend had to be the law librarian!*

The library staff was beyond helpful and assisted me in finding laws, cases, journals, textbooks, etc. They have truly made my experience at the Attorney's General Office much easier as I felt that even though I may not know the answer to every legal problem, I certainly would be able to find them somewhere in the library.

This helped me to perform my work more efficiently and effectively as my research skills increased. I could now honestly say, after the end of my ten weeks of training, that I have thoroughly enjoyed working in the different departments of the Attorney General's Office. I am definitely putting in my job application next year!



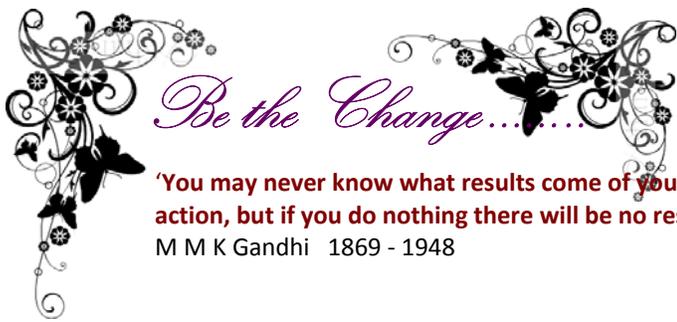
**By: Ms. Alana Jadoonanan**

During my short time at the MoAG I had the opportunity to use the library facilities and interact with the staff on a daily basis. It was indeed refreshing to re-connect with my high school librarian who is now the Librarian II at the MoAG. I have found that her pleasant and helpful disposition was not unique as all the other staff members discharged their duties in an efficient and professional manner while simultaneously being pleasant and accommodating.

Despite the obvious handicap of not having a fully computerized inventory and monitoring system, I was surprised to still see 'pockets' in use and the throwback to my childhood visits to our community library was welcomed. I think that if a fully computerized system is installed the use of the facilities will be made easier. The facility itself is in immaculate condition and contains all the relevant material that I had to peruse. I commend all those affiliated in maintaining this integral part of the MoAG.



**By: Mr. Shiva Baran**



*Be the Change...*

**'You may never know what results come of your action, but if you do nothing there will be no result'**  
M M K Gandhi 1869 - 1948

*Je*

The world is facing a hunger crisis unlike anything it has seen in more than 50 years.  
**925 million people are hungry.**

*Ed*

Almost **1 in 7** persons.

Every day, almost **16,000** children die from hunger-related causes. **THAT'S ONE CHILD EVERY FIVE SECONDS.**



*Cambio*

For further information check these sites

- <http://www.worldhunger.org>
- [www.wfp.org/hunger](http://www.wfp.org/hunger)
- [www.bread.org/hunger/global/](http://www.bread.org/hunger/global/)
- [www.stophungernow.org](http://www.stophungernow.org)

**WHAT CAN WE DO????????**

1. Just take the World Food Programme's short hunger quiz, **a child will be fed.** Test your hunger IQ and then spread the word!

<http://gifts.wfp.org/quiz/>

2. Give donations of funds, foodstuffs and time to the **Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society**

<http://www.tredcross.org/>

3. **Participate** in walks and fundraisers.



There is so much that can be done.

**Law Libraries Worldwide continued...**

The Caribbean Law Bulletin, Caribbean Law Review, West Indian Law Journal and current issues of other legal periodicals and law reports (e.g. All England Reports, Weekly Law Reports) also form part of this collection. There is a complete listing of open shelf material on the library website.

To the patrons which would include over 700 students both postgraduate and undergraduate, there are printing and photocopying services available as well as a range of modern facilities which include the EQUITRAC machine for printing and photocopying, the book drop for returning materials, computers and wireless and lockers. In addition to these facilities there is also the microfilm/fiche service. The Law Library now has several of its serials titles in microform format, and as such the library provides a microfilm/fiche reader/printer service for its clientele.



**For more information visit their website:**  
[www.cavehill.uwi.edu/lawlibrary](http://www.cavehill.uwi.edu/lawlibrary)

**Resource Tip - World Legal Information Institute - <http://www.worldlii.org/>**

The World Legal Information Institute (**WorldLII**) is a free, independent and non-profit global legal research facility developed collaboratively by the following Legal Information Institutes and other organizations.

- Australasian Legal Information Institute ([AustLII](#))
- British and Irish Legal Information Institute ([BAILII](#))
- Canadian Legal Information Institute ([CanLII](#))
- Hong Kong Legal Information Institute ([HKLII](#))
- Legal Information Institute (Cornell) ([LII \(Cornell\)](#))
- Pacific Islands Legal Information Institute ([PacLII](#))
- Wits University School of Law ([Wits Law School](#))

The WorldLII Catalog provides links to over 15,000 law-related web sites in every country in the world.

**Comments & Feedback**

We would like to thank all individuals for their contribution and continued support as well as IT, the participants of the Opinion Poll, also a special thank you to the Security Inspector

Let's hear from you, our valued readers. Share ideas and suggestions! Email our editorial team at:  
[jpierre@ag.gov.tt](mailto:jpierre@ag.gov.tt), [vimaharaj@ag.gov.tt](mailto:vimaharaj@ag.gov.tt) or [kjones@ag.gov.tt](mailto:kjones@ag.gov.tt)