

The Legislator

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



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The Anti-Corruption Bureau!

Mission Statement: *To establish and maintain confidence in public and private institutions by conducting prompt, unbiased and professional investigations into all reports of corruption and related matters by applying all available modern technology, with a trained and competent staff, in partnership with the public.*

Vision Statement:

To be a catalyst in promoting the highest level of integrity in public life by being the provider of professional investigative services.

The Anti-Corruption Bureau was established because of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and Trinidad and Tobago being a signatory to that convention, the Bureau came into existence in January 2002 by Cabinet Minute No. 20 of January 11, 2002. Senior Superintendent Solomon Koon Koon is currently the head of the Bureau.

The formation of the unit was premised on the need to properly investigate allegations of corruption in the Public Sector and to coordinate and conduct investigations into infractions of established procurement procedures and corrupt practices. Also this Bureau executes Police Investigations into alleged corrupt activities by Police Officers and Serious Police misconduct.

The Bureau is staffed by police officers drawn from the Police Service. There is also civilian clerical staff provided by both the Attorney General's department and the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service. In addition, from time to time technical staff is drawn from the private sector to assist in special investigations such as Forensic Auditors and Project Managers.

Achievements of the Anti-Corruption Bureau:

- ▶ Piarco Enquiry – The successful completion of the Piarco Airport Enquiry led to the arrest of several persons inclusive of General Offenders who are presently before the Court.
- ▶ Forty-five (45) reports of General Fraud for the year 2011

(continued from page 1)



- ▶ Twenty-four (24) of the Forty-five (45) reports were allegations against police officers.
- ▶ Four (4) persons inclusive of police officers and Civilians were charged for corruption related offences.
- ▶ Seized the largest cache of arms and ammunition in the history of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service in 2010.
- ▶ Conducted lectures/awareness programs to Division, Branches, Sections, Government Agencies (URP)

The goals and aims of the Anti-Corruption Bureau of Trinidad and Tobago can be termed as follows; to reduce crime and protect citizens by conducting prompt, unbiased and professional investigations. To decrease corruption in Trinidad and Tobago by developing an awareness on the issue of Corruption by hosting seminars and lectures throughout various sections and branches of Trinidad and Tobago Police Service and the Country as a whole.

Furthermore, it aspires to develop efficient communication strategies with stakeholders thereby improving service delivery to the public. Also, this Bureau treats all information with the strictest confidence. It identifies and implements training needs for staff development by obtaining training in investigative techniques for all members of staff.

Moreover, it aims to develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for the Bureau by identifying a commonality in procedures of the Bureau's business in tandem with the TTPS. Finally, it seeks to encourage 'Camaraderie' among staff and various social events were conducted in promoting social interactions and relationship among staff.



Profile

*Advisor, the Honourable
Attorney General*
Mr. Hansen Stewart



(1) Can you tell us a little about your educational background?

I am in possession of an undergraduate degree in English and two graduate degrees. I also hold New York State Teacher Certification in eight disciplines.

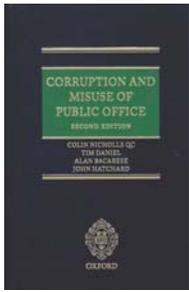
(2) Who would you say has had the most influence on your career decisions?

The person who has had the most influence on my career decisions would be my Secondary School Foreign Language Teacher, Mrs. Patricia Marcellin. Through her method of instructional delivery, she showed me how to be passionate, dedicated, innovative and spirited about your job. She made **her job enjoyable yet very instructive to her young charges.**

(3) What aspects of this Office motivated you to accept the appointment as Advisor to the Honourable Attorney General?

The factors that motivated me to accept the appointment as Advisor to the Attorney General are:--(A) the fact that the Honourable Attorney General had taken time to peruse not only my resume but also all my writing samples and decided that he could channel my expertise and writing prowess for the benefit of the Ministry; (B) The fact that when he enumerated many of my responsibilities, I felt as though I would have been challenged and that my intellectual muscles would be stretched in new and varied ways; (C) Finally, I thought that working for someone who has demonstrated through his professional/career feats that age is nothing but a number, I would be able to witness some of his "success secrets" that would further enable me to glean from him and use in my future professional and educational pursuits.

Book Talk



Corruption and Misuse of Public Office, 2nd ed.

**Author: C. Nicholls,
T. Daniel, A. Barcarese,
J. Hatchard**
ISBN:978-0-19-957727-9
Price: £156.75

Written by leading practitioners with extensive experience of handling corruption cases, this book provides a clear exposition of the current law. It examines the legal and practical issues relating to the investigation and prosecution of corruption cases and includes coverage of specialist areas such as recovering the proceeds of corruption, and whistle blowing.

Corruption cases often span jurisdictions. This book enables practitioners to handle any aspect of a corruption case by providing them with detailed analysis of the international efforts to combat corruption, and the legal developments taking place in key jurisdictions and regions covered by UN, EU, OECD, the Commonwealth, and important regional initiatives.

This new edition covers all major developments since the publication of the first edition, including:-

- the Bribery Act 2010;
- the US Foreign Corrupt Practices Act;
- the United Nations Convention Against Corruption;
- current revision and implementation of anti-corruption legislation in a number of important jurisdictions;
- and changes to the area of mutual legal assistance and civil recovery.

<http://www.wildy.com/isbn/9780199577279/corruption-and-misuse-of-public-office->

(4) What would you say has been your personal motto and your method of maintaining equilibrium in your life?

My personal motto has been that life is full of challenges and the measure of success is not by the number of challenges that come your way but the way you deal with the challenges that come your way. One has to realize that once you climb to the top of a mountain, you have been victorious in that journey but one must also be cognizant of there is another mountain waiting not too far off to be climbed. To bring equilibrium to my life, I rely on Almighty God through the mediums of prayer, community worship and daily reflection.

(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?

I feel very fervent about integrity and compassion. I think that integrity encompasses a wide range of things and not just being truthful when asked a question. It entails being honest about things like (A) Have I done an honest day's work?; (B) Am I honest in all my relationships with others—professional, platonic, romantic; (C) Am I really putting my best foot forward in all my endeavours—academic, professional, personal; (D) Once I introspect, Am I honest enough to change the things that need to be changed and am I willing to accept constructive feedback?

Compassion is also important because many times we need to shed our own clothes and place ourselves in someone else's shoes to feel and empathize with their plight.

(6) What would you consider your greatest accomplishment? And Why?

My greatest accomplishment would have to be being selected to become the Advisor to the Honourable Attorney General. This is the greatest accomplishment as I get to serve my country as a patriot through the second highest office holder in the Executive Arm. It is also an honour to work for someone as young, conscientious, brilliant and accomplished in the legal sphere as Attorney General, Anand Ramlogan is.

CELEBRATING WITH THE WORLD

International Anti-Corruption Day – 9th

On 31 October 2003, the General Assembly adopted the United Nations Convention against Corruption and requested that the Secretary-General designate the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) as secretariat for the Convention's Conference of States Parties ([resolution 58/4](#)).

The Assembly also designated 9 December as International Anti-Corruption Day, to raise awareness of corruption and of the role of the Convention in combating and preventing it. The Convention entered into force in December 2005.



Law Libraries Worldwide:

Ghana

The Supreme Court Library in Ghana is one of the oldest Libraries in that country. It was established in 1876 and is situated at the Ministries in the building now occupied by the Ministry of Interior. The Library provides service to Judicial Officers, members of the bar and final year law students and used by other readers who are researching and referencing information that may not be accessible to them in other libraries. Admission is therefore either granted by the Judicial Secretary or the Librarian.

The library operates on a closed access system where by there is no self service for patrons due to mutilation and other abuses. Therefore books must be requested. Apart from the legal material in the Ghana section in the Library, there are sections on International Law, Forensic Chemist and Ancient Law; Muhammadan Law, Roman law. The text books cover almost all fields of law. The law reports would include English, Irish and Scottish, Commonwealth (Australia), New Law Reports (Sri Lanka) and United States reports. This is in addition to the other African Countries. Also available are Divisional and Full Court Judgments from the West African Court of Appeal (WACA) and Privy Council. Library Users also have access to Gazettes, Instruments and Acts from African Nations and Reports of Commission of Enquiry. Also available are Divisional and Full Court Judgments from the West African Court of Appeal (WACA) and Privy Council. Library Users also have access to Gazettes, Instruments and Acts from African Nations and Reports of Commission of Enquiry.

http://www.judicial.gov.gh/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=19&Ite\]]



Talk Yuh Mind!



"What is your opinion on the importance of the library as a legal service provider in the Ministry of the Attorney General?"



Mr. Rene Singh
State Counsel I



Ms. Hamattee Guptar
Paralegal Officer

The importance of the Library as a legal research tool cannot be overstated. The concepts of law and legal research are indivisible, and as such a well equipped and comprehensive legal library is an indispensable conduit for conducting legal research. The products of legal thought and research such as pleadings, opinions, submissions and the drafting of legislation is based on the understanding of law generally and how it is applied to a particular society. This understanding can only come about through extensive research made possible by the law library.

The librarians and other library staff are themselves critical to the proper functioning of any library more so a law library whose sole function is research. The staff of the law library must be well informed about the library's content and be skilled researchers in order to effectively aide attorneys utilizing the library. The personality of library staff must also complement their function. They must be courteous, respectful and accommodating and likewise the attorneys must extend to them the same courtesy and respect.

The modern approach to legal research has seen a shift from print to online research tools such as Lexis Library and West Law. These online providers of legal research material promise a broad spectrum of learning coupled with powerful searching software, but ultimately they all suffer from the same flaw- information overload. This buttresses the fact that in the realm of legal research the printed text cannot be replaced. There should be a marriage between the printed text and online resources by both administrators and users of the library. Library staff should receive training and be well versed in using online legal research resources to aide the attorneys who use the library.

During my time at the MoAG I have found the service and assistance of the AG's Library to be unparalleled. Furnishing us not only from the Library's in-house sources but from external sources as well. They have always managed to adapt and respond in meeting the hefty demands and expectations placed before them.

This unit has manifested itself as a necessity to the AG's office; without which our daily challenges would undoubtedly prove more strenuous. Most importantly, it is the supportive and loyal disposition of the members of staff at AG library which renders every encumbrance a surmountable one.



Talk Yuh Mind!



"What is your opinion on the importance of the library as a legal service provider in the Ministry of the Attorney General?"



Mr. Duane Murray
State Counsel I



Ms. Angelica Teelucksingh

The library certainly is a key feature of the provision of legal service within the Ministry. Whether an attorney is engaged in drafting an opinion, preparing a submission for court, or simply refreshing his or her mind on a legal point, research is key. As such, the library serves as an invaluable resource in this regard.

One recognizes however, that with the relentless advancement of the computer information age, the technologically savvy attorney has the capability of accessing much of the information that is available in the library from, his or her own desk top computer. There is therefore no doubt that in today's world, while the library remains an invaluable resource, its pre-eminence as the source of information is somewhat diminished.

To remain relevant, the focus of the library has to constantly be reassessed and adapted. In this way the library would remain more than just a conservatory of books and documents, but evolve into a useful archival resource filled with cutting edge technology and engaged in the contemporaneous chronicling of changes and advances in the law.

I would have to say that the Library in the Ministry of the Attorney General is invaluable to the attorneys at the Ministry.

I have found that on several occasions in the past after working hours I have sought the assistance of the Head Librarian and her staff to access cases that I needed urgently for Court the next day. Ms Isaac and her team have always either e mailed me the cases or faxed same to my office.

I depend on their assistance especially since the DPP South Office does not at present have a Librarian and this has been the case for years. At the end of a long day at Court, the last thing I need is a frustrating situation where I cannot find the necessary legal material for court. The efficient Law Library team at the AG's office has always come to my rescue.

The legal service Library is vital to the Ministry because law is what we attorneys deal with at the Ministry. My view is that the law library at the Ministry is perhaps one of best in our country and more finances should be channeled to ensure that it is always equipped with the latest law books and legal journals. While I am impressed with the Law library at the Cave Hill Campus, it is my hope that the authorities appreciate the importance of our library at the Ministry and that efforts be made to improve it so that it will be on par with the Law library at the Cave Hill Campus.



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

Statistics of Materials Received by the Library for the 4th Quarter, 2011.

ITEMS	DPP	AG
Books	21	22
Legal Journals/ Periodicals	12	64
Judgments	30	144
Other Publications (Statutes/Law Reports)	19	20



Celebrating Christmas

- 1) Give God one very special gift just from you to him
- 2) Set aside a special time to read the Christmas story
- 3) Set up a Nativity scene in your home
- 4) Plan a project of good will this Christmas
- 5) Take a group Christmas caroling in a nursing home or a children's hospital
- 6) Give a surprise gift of service to each member of your family
- 7) Set aside a time of family devotions on Christmas Eve or Christmas morning
- 8) Attend a Christmas church service together with your family
- 9) Send Christmas cards that convey a spiritual message
- 10) Write a Christmas letter to a missionary

J

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Resource Tip - **Cardiff Index to Legal Abbreviations**

<http://www.legalabbrevs.cardiff.ac.uk/about.jsp>

This web-based service allows you to search for the meaning of abbreviations for English language legal publications, from the British Isles, the Commonwealth and the United States, (**either from abbreviation to title or from title to abbreviation**) including **those covering international and comparative law**.

A wide selection of major foreign language law publications is also included and publications from over **295 jurisdictions** are featured in the Index.

The database mainly covers law reports and law periodicals, but **some legislative publications and major textbooks** are also included.

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 Advisor, the Honourable Attorney General.

Let's hear from you, our valued readers. Share ideas and suggestions! Email our editorial team at:

jpierre@ag.gov.tt, vimaharaj@ag.gov.tt or kjones@ag.gov.tt