THE DISTINGUISHED JURIST LECTURE 2019

IT'S A JUNGLE OUT THERE

GET IT WRITE

A VISIT FROM SIERRA LEONE

THE CONTINUING EDUCATION SEMINAR 2019
On Tuesday 16 April 2019, Dr Wayne Al Frederick (President, Howard University) delivered the Judicial Education Institute of Trinidad and Tobago’s eighth Distinguished Jurist Lecture to a packed Convocation Hall in the Hall of Justice, Port of Spain.

Dr Frederick is the second non-lawyer to deliver a Distinguished Jurist Lecture, and the first Trinbagonian! Dr Frederick is an alumnus of St Mary’s College and is a true son of the soil. He was born in Port of Spain, completed High School at 14, and earned his first degrees by the age of 22—having enrolled at Howard University at the age of 16. (For more on Dr Frederick, see his biography on the next page).

Dr Frederick remains thoroughly connected to his roots through his continued commitment to Trinbagonian life. This is proven by his numerous returns to the island for public service. It was because of this commitment to servant leadership and an active social consciousness that Dr Frederick was invited to deliver this year’s Lecture.

Judicial education focuses mainly on judicial officers, but there is also a component relating to staff—as the vital support system to judicial officers. It is also concerned with outreach and education of the public about the court systems and processes of the Judiciary of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (JRTT). As such, the Judicial Education Institute of Trinidad and Tobago (JEITT) has always been holistic in its approach to teaching and learning, and has sought to interweave all relevant dialogues into the context of a diverse social, cultural and political Caribbean space.

With an intellect rooted in diasporic experiences, Dr Frederick presented an engaging lecture that served to traverse the journey of Howard University. Dr Frederick also spoke of his personal journey, including his influences along the way. He also discussed his leadership methods and what drives him in his role as Principal of Howard.

And, in discussing these beliefs and practices within the context of Howard’s history, the history of the United States and pressing contemporary issues, Dr Frederick also spoke about topics related to the multifaceted nature of judicial education, and the role of the JEITT and the JRTT in the local context.

Following his lecture, Dr Frederick was gracious enough to answer some of the audience’s questions. These answers provided more insight into Dr Frederick’s journey, and answered questions directly relating to leadership, contemporary issues and how we can all be leaders to help Trinidad and Tobago and the world to become a better place.

A few takeaways that stood out from Dr Frederick’s Lecture are:

- the significance of family and mentoring in the curating of personal success;
- the importance of understanding cultural realities if one is to contribute to societal change;
- the fact that justice must be for all persons; and
- that while young and inexperienced, our children can be our greatest teachers.

The text of the proceedings, including Dr Frederick’s full Lecture, and contributions from some of the distinguished attendees will be compiled and published later this year as a part of the JEITT’s Distinguished Jurist Lecture Series.

To view this latest addition to the Series (and to view all of the other e-books free of charge) please visit the JEITT E-book Platform: http://www.ttlawcourts.org/jeibooks/.
Dr Wayne Al Frederick was admitted to Howard University's BS/MD dual degree program and earned his Bachelor of Science degree and his medical degree by the age of 22. He also earned a Master of Business Administration from Howard University's School of Business in 2011.

A distinguished scholar and administrator, Dr Frederick was appointed the 17th president of Howard University in 2014. He previously served as Provost and Chief Academic Officer. Dr Frederick has advanced Howard University's commitment to student opportunity, academic innovation, public service and fiscal stability and under his leadership, Howard University is now ranked as a Tier 1 national university by US News & World Report. Early in his tenure as president, Dr Frederick pursued initiatives to streamline and strengthen university operations. He has overseen a series of reform efforts including the expansion of academic offerings, establishing innovative programs to support student success, and the modernisation of university facilities.

Dr Frederick is the author of numerous peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, abstracts, and editorials and is a widely recognized expert on disparities in healthcare and medical education. He continues to operate and also gives lectures to second-year medical students and surgical residents of Howard University's College of Medicine. His medical research focuses on narrowing racial, ethnic and gender disparities in cancer-care outcomes, especially pertaining to gastrointestinal cancers. Dr Frederick also devotes his time writing and speaking on salient topics in higher education— the impact of Historically Black Colleges and Universities, campus intellectual diversity, the underrepresentation of African American men in medical schools, and gender equality on campus.

Dr Frederick has received various awards honoring his scholarship and service and has also been featured as one of "America's Best Physicians" by Black Enterprise magazine. He was named one of EBONY magazine's "Power 100," and recognized as a “Super Doctor” in The Washington Post Magazine. In 2017, he was named "Washingtonian of the Year" by Washingtonian magazine and in 2015 was named "Male President of the Year" by HBCU Digest and was inducted into the St. Mary's College, Port of Spain, Trinidad Hall of Fame.

Dr Frederick resides in Washington D.C. with his wife, Simone, and their two children, Kirie and Wayne II. He is a true son of Howard University—a proud and loyal exemplar of its motto: Truth and Service.
On Saturday 4 May 2019, the JEITT hosted a session for judicial officers and court staff on three topics: The Proliferation and Impact of Gang Activity in Trinidad and Tobago (presented by Gary Nicholas, Police Constable and Instructor in the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service), Combating Terrorism: Legislative Interventions (presented by Vyana Sharma, Senior Legal Counsel and Solicitor at the Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs) and Youth Radicalisation and Extremism (presented by Lieutenant Commander Michael Maharaj, Staff Officer 2 Operations/Fusion Centre in the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force).

From L to R: Justice Gillian Lucky (Chairman JEITT), Registrar Nirla Bansee-Sookhai (Registrar and Marshal of the Supreme Court), Chief Justice Ivor Archie ORTT, Vyana Sharma, Lieutenant Commander Michael Maharaj and Gary Nicholas.

three editing tips >>>

- We are always the worst editors of our own work. Find a good writer to serve as your proofreading partner, and offer to proofread for that person in return.

- If you cannot find a proofreading partner, have someone read your writing aloud to you, or read it aloud to yourself. You will hear awkward phrases that you cannot see when reading silently.

- Remember that good writing requires rewriting. Revise first (add, delete, re-arrange, and rephrase information) and edit last (consider grammar mechanics, and usage).

To download a free copy of the punctuation chapter from the brand new edition of Get It Write: The First Fifty Tips (including answers to questions on commas, quotation marks, parentheses, semicolons and colons), click here: [https://getitwriteonline.com/free-punctuation-guide/](https://getitwriteonline.com/free-punctuation-guide/)

Get It Write

For four days in late May, I was privileged to share knowledge about English grammar, mechanics, and usage with both the JEITT and the Office of the President. I have conducted seminars for nearly thirty years, but never have I had an audience that was more engaged or that asked better questions than the participants in the seminars conducted in Port of Spain.

A one-day seminar is just the first step on the road to better editing skills; by now I hope that all persons will explore my website which will provide links to very useful resources. I welcome your review of the website here: [www.getitwriteonline.com](http://www.getitwriteonline.com)

On a personal note I must say that this was my third trip to Trinidad but my first chance to see the mountains and the northern coast. Your country is one of tremendous beauty and unparalleled hospitality. I hope to return soon and often!

Dr Nancy Lewis Tuten
A Visit from Sierra Leone

On Friday 21 June 2019, a delegation from Sierra Leone visited the offices of the Judicial Education Institute of Trinidad and Tobago (JEITT)—as a part of the UN Women MCO-Caribbean South-South Learning Exchange.

The high-level delegation consisted of Justice Desmond Babatunde Edwards (Chief Justice of Sierra Leone), Honourable Baindu Dassama (Minister of Social Welfare, Gender and Children’s Affairs, Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone), Easmon N B Ngakui (Director of Public Prosecution), and Mustapha Kamara (Assistant Inspector General of Police with the Sierra Leone Police). They were accompanied on the visit by Jennifer Rust, Cerlene Rouse, and Dr Mary Okumu, Representative Sierra Leone (UN Women Multi Country Office - Caribbean).

Prior to their visit to the JEITT, the delegation paid a courtesy call the Honourable the Chief Justice Mr Justice Ivor Archie ORTT. At the JEITT, the delegation toured our training centre and offices; viewed a presentation on our E-book Platform (given by Kamla Jo Braithwaite, Judicial Research Counsel II); and engaged in a discussion on judicial education in general, and the role and function of the JEITT and its approach to continuous legal education and capacity-building. This discussion was chaired by Chief Justice Ivor Archie ORTT and Dr Charisa-Marie François (Judicial Educator, JEITT) and involved brief presentations by JEITT Board Members: the Hon Mme Justice Lisa Ramsumair-Hinds (High Court Judge) and Registrar Niral Balsee-Sookhai (Registrar and Marshal of the Supreme Court).

Our visitors were presented with tokens from the JEITT, including past editions of our Distinguished Jurist Lecture Series and our publications catalogue. They also enjoyed a taste of T&T in the form of local sweets and delicacies.

This visit was a part of an Exchange to enable knowledge-sharing between the delegation and Caribbean counterparts and focused on how to manage and co-ordinate multi-sectoral responses to gender-based violence.

From L to R: Easmon N B Ngakui, Chief Justice Desmond Babatunde Edwards, Chief Justice Ivor Archie ORTT, Minister Baindu Dassama, Mustapha Kamara, Dr Mary Okumu

The Delegation engaging with members of the Board of the JEITT and Justice Vashiest Kokaram
The Continuing Education Seminar 2019
The Hypo-Ethicals of Social Media: The Impact on Judicial Officers

Recognising the global influence of social media, the Judicial Education Institute of Trinidad and Tobago (JEITT) decided to create an opportunity for learning and discussion on the topic for this year’s Continuing Education Seminar (CES). The JEITT recognises the need for judicial officers to be au courant with the use of social media and its potential impacts in matters coming before the courts, as well as outside of the courtroom, particularly current trends and ethical guidelines relating to engagement with social media.

In collaboration with the National Center for State Courts and the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, the CES focused on the theme: "The Hypo-Ethicals of Social Media: The Impact on Judicial Officers".

The main sessions were presented by a mix of local and foreign judicial officers and experts on social media. The presenters and their sessions were as follows:


2. **The Hon the Chief Justice Mr Justice Ivor Archie ORTT**, Chief Justice of the Judiciary of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago: Social Media and Artificial Intelligence: Conversations about Current Trends and Resolving Challenges;

3. **Keith R Fisher**, Principal, Court Consultant and Senior Counsel, Domestic and International Court Initiatives of the National Center for State Courts: Internet, Social Media and Judicial Ethics and Charting the Social Media Course Ahead;

4. **The Honourable Cristi Danilet**, Judge, Cluj-Napoca County Court, Romania: Engagement with Social Media;

5. **The Honourable Justice Gillian Lucky**, Chair of the JEITT: “To Answer or Not to Answer” That is the Question;

6. **Kerry-Anne Roberts**, Communications and Information Manager, Family and Children Division of the Judiciary of Trinidad and Tobago: Overview & Icebreaker: What is Social Media?

Chief Justices Archie and O’Connor and Mr Fisher also co-presented: Internet Use by Judges: Key Rules From US Codes of Judicial Conduct and Trinidad & Tobago’s Statements of Principle Guidelines.

The day started with the Overview of Social Media, which gave participants a primer on the different types of social media and terms associated with social media, such as “influencers” and “going viral”. This session also tested the participants’ knowledge of the various platforms, and was highly interactive and thoroughly enjoyed by the participants. #Sweet!

**What is Social Media?**

There is no fixed meaning of “social media”. However, lexico.com provides this helpful definition:

**NOUN**

Websites and applications that enable users to create and share content or to participate in social networking.

(lexico.com is a collaboration between Oxford University Press and Dictionary.com)

Globally, social media use is expanding rapidly, and Trinidad and Tobago is no exception to this. Further, social media use within the judiciary is also following this trend, across many different platforms.

As this use increases, we must be mindful of the line between our personal/private lives and public personas and how social media is blurring this line. Will this separation disappear completely? If so, how long will this take and what will be the effects of this lack of separation?
Chief Justice O’Connor then made her presentation that spoke to the reality for US judges of ethical guidelines and sanctions where there are breaches. Chief Justice O’Connor was very open about the number of complaints that are made against judges, and stated that although many of them (>97%) are dismissed, there are instances of misconduct and therefore judges have to be mindful of their guidelines and know what the processes and sanctions are. #BeGuided

Chief Justice Archie’s presentation followed the break and was also highly interactive, as it involved audience voting on correct actions in a number of scenarios regarding social media use by judicial officers. This session engaged participants with the voting and subsequent discussion and allowed for the airing of different perspectives on what judicial officers should, and should not do.

The Chief Justice also discussed current trends and highlighted some areas for future consideration with regard to the future of social media and artificial intelligence in the deciding of and reporting on legal matters. #PostIt

Keith Fisher then discussed some of the different guidelines that apply to Federal and State judges in the US and compared these to the Bangalore Principles and the local Statements of Principle and Guidelines for Judicial Conduct, and touched on the social media implications for ethics guidelines. (The local ethics guide on Statements of Principle can be found free of charge here: http://www.ttlawcourts.org/jeibooks/bookdetails.php?13).

This session was followed by a short video of the Hon Cristi Danilet’s account of his views on social media, his use of social media and the consequences of his social media presence. Judge Danilet believes that judge have an obligation to educate the public about laws and the Judiciary.

Therefore, he is a prolific user of social media and has many followers. However, he highlighted that although there are many positive consequences of his use—and that he will continue to be present on social media, there are those that would try to tarnish his image and message by using his social media posts, and prying into his personal life.

Justice Lucky followed this session with two videos of the public’s views on the local Judiciary, and led a discussion on whether judges and/or the Judiciary should have a social media presence. The discussion also delved into how this presence should be utilised, including whether to respond to statements made by members of the public.

The day ended with a plenary discussion on the ethical guidelines that should guide judicial officers on social media and the way forward for the Judiciary. Key takeaways were that solutions should come from within the Judiciary and that good things take time and commitment. Therefore, it would be a process of evolution to formulate ethical guidelines specific to judicial officers’ use of social media. #Teamwork

The CES Programme also featured two special additional sessions by two of the Judiciary's High Court Judges.

The Hon Mme Justice Dean-Armorer started off the day with a rendition of The Mighty Sniper’s Portrait of Trinidad on the violin. Justice Dean-Armorer dedicated the piece to the people of Trinidad and Tobago, indicating that she felt privileged to serve them (us) as a judicial officer. Accompanied by Brenda Noel on the keyboard, this beautiful rendition was well-received by the audience and served to set the tone for the rest of the day. #RatedAmongTheBest

The Hon Mme Justice Nadia Kangaloo, accompanied by Kristel Lake of Bodydynamixtt, led our Health and Wellness session, demonstrating some helpful stretches to help keep us loose and limber at our desks or in our cars, so that we can fully enjoy our days. This session came after lunch and served to revitalise the crowd and get them up and moving, and ready for the afternoon sessions! #Hydration #Stretching

Social media proved to be a timely topic, and participants reported that the sessions were interesting, engaging and illuminating. In particular, the scenarios and discussion generated were very helpful. #LaHoraSonó
From L to R: JoAnne Richardson (Senior Program Manager/Project Director, National Center for State Courts), Keith Fisher, Chief Justice Maureen O’Connor, Adini Bernard (Business Operations Assistant I, JEITT) and Justice Gillian Lucky.

Chief Justice Maureen O’Connor and Keith Fisher during our visitors’ courtesy call to Chief Justice Ivor Archie ORTT

Chief Magistrate Her Worship Maria Busby Earle-Caddle engages with our visitors at the Port of Spain Magistrates’ Court
STAFF, READY FOR ACTION!

OUR FACILITATORS
THE PARTICIPANTS
JEITT Board Members

The Hon the Chief Justice, Mr Justice Ivor Archie, ORTT – President
The Hon Justice Gillian Lucky – Chairman
The Hon Mme Justice Alice Yorke-Soo Hon, JA
The Hon Mme Justice Charmaine Pemberton, JA
The Hon Mr Justice Andre des Vignes, JA
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Chief Magistrate Her Worship Maria Busby Earle-Caddle
Deputy Chief Magistrate Her Worship Magistrate Cherril-Anne Antoine (Ag)
Master Christie-Anne Morris-Alleyne

Credits

Editors: Dr Charisa-Marie François (Judicial Educator, JEITT), Kamla Jo Braithwaite (Judicial Research Counsel II, JEITT) and Sheia Leslie-Edwards (Business Operations Assistant I, JEITT).
Contributors: Kamla Jo Braithwaite, Nancy Tuten, Dr Charisa-Marie François.
Design and Layout: Kamla Jo Braithwaite.

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