MEDIA RELEASE
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CHIEF JUSTICE TO ATTEND MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF CARIBBEAN CHIEF JUSTICES AND HEADS OF JUDICIARY IN BELIZE

The Honourable The Chief Justice, Mr. Justice Ivor Archie has left the jurisdiction to attend the Meeting of the Conference of Caribbean Chief Justices and Heads of Judiciary from June 11th to June 13th, 2015 at the Belize Ocean Club, Placencia, Belize. The conference, established by Agreement of the Conference of Heads of Government (the principal Organ of the CARICOM), serves as a forum at which Regional Heads of Judiciary discuss issues of mutual concern and interest which impact on the administration of justice in the region.

At the 2015 Meeting, the Conference will discuss, among other matters, the impact of climate change on the Law, Disaster Preparedness and the Judicial Reform and Institutional Strengthening (JURIST) Project.

The Honourable Chief Justice sits on the JURIST Project Steering Committee which is the strategic governing body for the Project. The JURIST Project is led by the Conference in collaboration with the Canadian Government and is aimed at judicial reform and institutional strengthening in the countries of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). The ultimate outcome of the Project is: a judicial system that is more responsive to the needs of women, men, youth, business and the poor. The Project hopes to achieve strengthened customer-focused and gender responsive court and judicial service delivery in the CARICOM Region and to improve the capacity of Judicial Officers and Court Administration personnel to deliver gender responsive court services through improved systems, court procedures and gender sensitive policies. It is also intended that the Project will result in the increased capacity of the courts to undertake public education and awareness programmes that are responsive to the needs of women, men, youth, business and the poor.

In the absence of the Honourable Mr. Justice Ivor Archie, Justice of Appeal, the Honourable Mr. Justice Allan Mendonça, will perform the duties of Chief Justice.

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