

MR JUSTICE SAUNDERS DELIVERS TTJIEI 2012 DISTINGUISHED JURIST LECTURE

The Judicial Education Institute (TTJIEI) hosted its second Distinguished Jurist Lecture in the Convocation Hall at the Hall of Justice, Knox Street, Port of Spain, on July 12, with this year's presentation by the Honourable Mr Justice Adrian Dudley Saunders, Judge of the Caribbean Court of Justice. The TTJIEI launched the series in November last year with former Commonwealth Secretary General and distinguished Caribbean jurist, Sir Shridath Ramphal, as the inaugural speaker.

Justice Saunders' lecture was set against the theme, *Celebrating Fifty Years of the Court of Appeal of an Independent Trinidad and Tobago, the Role of the Court of Appeal in Developing and Preserving an Independent and Just Society*, and was attended by a wide cross section of the national community, but principally from the legal fraternity and other stakeholders in the country's justice sector.

The lecture and theme also formed the basis for a panel discussion the following day at the same venue in which Justice Saunders was joined by the Honourable the Chief Justice of Trinidad and Tobago, Mr Justice Ivor Archie, Mr Russell Martineau, Senior Counsel, and well-known Trinidad and Tobago Political Scientist, Professor Dr Selwyn Ryan. Justice of Appeal of the Trinidad and Tobago Supreme Court, Madame Justice Paula Mae Weekes, moderated the session.

The Honourable Mr. Justice Saunders holds a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of the West Indies (Cave Hill) in 1975, and the Legal Education Certificate of the Hugh Wooding Law School in Trinidad & Tobago in 1977. He was called to the Bar of St. Vincent & the Grenadines in that same year. Mr. Justice Saunders remained in private practice as a Barrister and Solicitor from 1977 until 1996 during which he was the Senior Partner in the firm of Saunders & Huggins. In 1996 he was appointed a Judge of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court (ECSC), becoming a Justice of Appeal of the in the same Court in 2003, and appointed to act as its Chief Justice one year later in 2004. In 2005 Mr. Justice Saunders was sworn in as a Judge of the Caribbean Court of Justice.

During his tenure as a Judge in the Eastern Caribbean, Mr. Justice Saunders was deeply involved in judicial education and judicial reform issues. He chaired the Committee established to introduce court connected mediation in the Eastern Caribbean. As Chairman of the Ethics Committee of the ECSC he presided over the production of a code of ethics for judges of the Eastern Caribbean. He also served as

Chairman of the Judicial Education Institute of the ECSC from 2001 to 2004. He regularly participates in judicial education programmes for Judges from throughout the Commonwealth as a faculty member of the Halifax-based Commonwealth Judicial Education Institute.

Mr. Justice Saunders is currently the Chairman of the Caribbean Association of Judicial Officers (CAJO). He also chairs the West Indies Cricket Board's Disciplinary Committee and is a member of the International Cricket Council's Code of Conduct Commission.

Mr. Justice Saunders has written and published several legal articles and he is a Consulting Editor of The Caribbean Civil Court Practice.

Following is the full text of the lecture delivered by the Honourable Mr Justice Saunders: