
**ADDRESS OF RICHARD BARTON
PRESIDENT OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS
LEGAL PRACTITIONERS ASSOCIATION
AT THE GRAND COURT OPENING ON
8 JANUARY 2025**

My Lady, you will be relieved to know that the phrase, *“protocol having been established”* is foremost in my speech this year. It has been said, that a successful speech is not made of what’s in it, but what’s left out of it, so I hope my brevity is met with your approval.

I am once again honoured to offer my support for the motion to open the Grand Court in 2025. I am also grateful for the opportunity to highlight CILPA’s achievements for the past year and to share our plans.

CILPA marks its seventh year with the successful transition of the Cayman Attorneys Regulatory Authority to the Legal Services Supervisory Authority. We owe a great debt of gratitude to you, the Hon Attorney General and fellow members.

Other significant milestone achievements include a successful collaboration with LexisNexis to provide free access to legal research material for members that are sole practitioners and to firms with five or less attorneys.

We continue to lend our full support to various initiatives such as the implementation of a formal code of conduct and an appropriate disciplinary regime for attorneys.

Our relationship with the Truman Bodden Law School continues to grow from strength to strength. Last year I had the distinct pleasure to speak with students that recently enrolled in the LLB and PPC programs. The Law School continues to receive our very full support.

In similar vein, CILPA's participation in the guest lecture series, ably led by Your Ladyship, helped to produce a very well-received lecture by the RT. Hon. Sir Geoffrey Vos, Master of the Rolls, titled *"how Artificial Intelligence is transforming the work of judges and lawyers."*

Another noteworthy highlight is our participation in mock trials arranged by the Hon Chief Magistrate to assist with providing suitable training for the Justices of the Peace in preparation for their function in the Traffic Division of the Summary Court.

CILPA continues to work with other stakeholders which saw initiatives such as a Memorandum of Understanding with Cayman Finance in our mutual desire to promote and advance the Cayman Islands Financial Services Industry.

At this juncture, I would like to publicly acknowledge Mr Colin McKie KC for his invaluable contribution to the Insolvency Rules Committee where he faithfully served from 2009 until stepping down from that role in 2024.

We also extend our sincere thanks to Ms Colette Wilkins KC for her contribution to the Grand Court Rules Committee and the Insolvency Rules Committee for her service from 2020 to 2024.

CILPA is pleased to have assisted with the appointment of other very able and outstanding attorneys from our membership to continue the hard work and dedication already invested by Mr McKie KC and Ms Wilkins KC in this regard.

I now turn to the part of my address that gives me no joy and that is to pay my respects to our fellow colleagues that we lost in 2024. We acknowledge with deep regret, first and foremost the passing of Mr Ramon Alberga KC, known to us as the Father of the Bar.

We also mourn the loss of Mr Darryl Myers, one of the founders of the original Firm, Travers Thorp Alberga, Justice Dennis Morrison and Dr Abdulahi Conteh, former judges of the Cayman Islands Court of Appeal. May they rest in peace.

It only remains for me to formally second the Honourable Attorney General's motion to open the Grand Court for the year 2025, and to take this opportunity to wish Your Ladyship, Judges, court staff and fellow members of the legal profession a very happy prosperous New Year.

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