



Bahamas Bar Newsletter

Bulletin of the Bahamas Bar Council
Volume 14, Issue 2

April - June, 2011
Tel.:242-326-3276

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The work of the Association continues.



Mrs. Ruth Bove-Darville

The much anticipated purchase of a building to house the Bar Offices is on stream and hopefully will be completed before the end of summer. The amendments to the Legal Profession Act have been returned to the Office of the Attorney General for onward transmission to Cabinet. The amendments include provisions for two additional posts on the Bar Council for an assistant secretary and an assistant treasurer, special admissions, qualifications for call to the bar, use of proxies, expansion of the Ethics Committee, and new Pupillage Regulations. This summer CI Arb will host introductory courses in Arbitration & Mediation to be held on 27 & 28 June in Nassau, and 30 June, & 1 July in Freeport. A follow up Probate seminar is also planned for mid-summer.

The annual General Meeting of the Association will be held at the Supreme Court Building at 3pm. All members are urged to attend. The notice to members has already gone out in respect nominations and the use of proxies.

I wish at this time to take the opportunity to advise that Mrs. Thelma Deal, the Bar Office Administrator, will be retiring at the end of the summer. The Council has appointed a new Administrator, Ms. Paulette Delaney, who assumed office on 14th June, 2011.

I wish to thank the members of the Council for their support and commitment to the Association in the past two years. None of the accomplishments of the past two years could have been achieved without the support of the general membership of the Bar. The Bar Office Staff is to be commended for maintaining the "backbone" of the Association. A special debt of gratitude is due them.

The Annual Bar Dinner is set for Friday, 1st July, 2011 at the Breezes Resort Hotel. The social Committee has planned a gala night and all Bar members and significant others are invited to attend. Bar Dinner is a traditional professional event and should be an opportunity for members to meet and mingle socially, enjoy good food, drink and be merry. I look forward to seeing you there!

UPDATES TO NATIONAL INVESTMENT POLICY INCLUDES PERMANENT RESIDENCE CHANGES

The Rt. Hon. H.A. Ingraham tabled the new National Investment Policy of The Bahamas in Parliament on the 19th April, 2011.

Changes include the increase from \$500,000 to \$1.5 million for accelerated consideration of economic permanent residency, and the increase from \$250,000 to \$500,000 for minimum capital investment on foreign-owned investment projects.

Specifically, on the permanent residency issue, the change is as follows:

Permanent Residence:

Accelerated consideration of applications for permanent residence will be given to:

- *major international investors; and*
- *fit and proper owners of a residence valued at \$1,500,000 or more.*

BFSB has over the past 3 years engaged with the Government on the Economic Permanent Residence policy and we are pleased to learn of a commitment to conclude the review of economic permanent residence applications within 21 days where accelerated consideration is afforded.

PUPILLAGE

All recently called lawyers are reminded of s.19 of the Legal Profession Act 1992 and its requirements.

IT IS MANDATORY to complete the specified term of pupillage before being entitled to practise as counsel and attorney. A Certificate of Completion of Pupillage **MUST** be deposited with the Registrar of the Supreme Court and deliver a copy to the Bar Office.

Any lawyer found in breach of this provision will be subject to disciplinary action. Lawyers are urged to register pupillage information with the

Bahamas Bar Association office as soon as possible.

APPOINTMENT

NEW PRESIDENT OF THE CARIBBEAN COURT OF JUSTICE - The President of the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ), the Right Honourable Mr. Justice Michael de la Bastide T.C, will retire on August 18, 2011. The Regional Judicial and Legal Services Commission (RJLSC) has appointed the Right Honourable Sir Charles Michael Dennis Byron as the new President-Designate of the Caribbean Court of Justice. Sir Dennis will be inducted on 1st September, 2011 in St. Kitts.

PROBATE AND ADMINISTRATION OF ESTATE RULES 2011

A sample of the Affidavit of Search for a prior grant and the new cover sheet for applications were circulated to our membership.

Also, please note that the requirement to give notice in Form 1(i.e. advertise) has been removed and is no longer required for any of the grants of representation.

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING

An Extraordinary Meeting of the Bahamas Bar Association was held on 12th April, 2011, it was unanimously agreed to purchase the building and its adjoining properties located on Mackey street (formerly Mr. T's Sporting Lounge) .

After the necessary preparation, the Bar Administrative Office will be relocated to these premises.

CONGRATULATIONS:

Congratulations to Mr. Milton Evans on his appointment as Acting Justice of the Supreme Court on 1st February, 2011.

Congratulations to Mrs. G. Diane Stewart on her appointment as Acting Justice of the Supreme Court on 8th May, 2011.

\$\$ BAR DUES REMINDER \$\$

Bar Dues are now payable for the fiscal year 1st July, 2010 - 30th June, 2011. Cheques are to be made payable to the Bahamas Bar Association.

1 st to 5 th year	\$250.00
6 th to 9 th year	\$350.00
10 th year onward	\$500.00

Members are asked to take note that Bar Dues are payable on the 1st July each year. A grace period of three (3) months will be allowed before disciplinary action is taken.

Address all queries to the Bar Office at 326-3276.

BACKYARD BARBEQUE

Coming soon!
Watch for the date! Promises to be lots of fun!!!

NOTICE OF CHANGE OF NAME AND/OR ADDRESS

All practicing Attorneys are reminded to notify Bar Council of any change of name e.g. after marriage, or current address immediately. Please also ensure that Bar Office has your telephone and email addresses.

DRESS CODE REMINDER

Attorneys are reminded of the dress code for all practitioners. In particular,

attorneys appearing before the Courts are reminded that the dress code is black & white, or exceptionally, very dark blue, brown or gray. The bench complains about the men not wearing proper jackets and the showy of shirts and being unkempt in their appearance.

There should be no need for any judge, registrar or magistrate to comment on any attorney wearing inappropriate colours or blouses.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT:

On 16th March, 2011 at the Roman Catholic Clergy on Legal Aid

On 22nd March, 2011 at BFM on Law and Legal Profession Day at Bahamas Faith Ministries

On 26th May, 2011 at the Rotary Club

On 21st April, 2011 Round Table with Tanya McCartney along with the Vice President, Mrs. Cathleen Hassan at Cable Bahamas

Bahamas Bar Association

Cordially Invites You To Its

Annual Bar Dinner

(Open to Spouses and Significant Others)

Super Club Breezes
Cable Beach
Nassau, Bahamas

Friday, 8th July, 2011

Cocktails: 7:30 p.m.
(Cash Bar)

Dinner: 8:30 p.m.

Cost: \$85.00

(Tickets available at the Bar Office)

Lots of Music and Dancing

Dress: Smart Casual

Valet parking will be available

Please confirm attendance on or before Wednesday, 29th June, 2011 at
Tel. 328-461

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Take Notice that pursuant to section 6 of the Legal Profession Act, the Annual General Meeting will be held at the Supreme Court, Bank Lane on Friday, 24th June, 2011 at 3 p.m.

The term of office for the following members of the Council will expire in accordance with section 4 of the Act.

Officers:

- Ruth Bowe-Darville - President
- Cathleen Hassan - Vice President
- Rachel Culmer - Secretary
- Sidney Cambridge - Treasurer

Council Members One Year:

- Dwayne Gibson
- Nicholas Mosko
- Elsworth Johnson

Please forward your nominations for Officers and Council Members to the Bar Office on or before the 22nd June, 2011. Kindly ensure that any person nominated has given their consent. Members are reminded that only financial members are eligible to vote.

You will find attached to this Notice a form of Proxy. Proxies should be hand delivered or posted by registered mail to the Secretary of the Association at P. O. Box N-4632, Nassau, The Bahamas. For processing purposes, proxies should be received no later than 5 p.m. Wednesday, 22nd June, 2011.

Rachel L. Culmer (Mrs.)
Honorary Secretary

SEMINAR REPORTS

The Compliance Commission hosted a Seminar on the topic "Anti-Money Laundering Counter Financing of Terrorist (AMC/CFT) for the Legal profession" on Wednesday, 23rd March, 2011, at the British Colonial, Hilton Hotel.

On Friday, 25th March, 2011, a Seminar on "The Probate and Administration of Estates Act and Rules 2011" was held at the British Colonial Hilton Hotel. Presenters were Dr. Earl Cash, Mrs. B. Andrea Williams and Ms. Fern Bowleg.

On Thursday, 14th April, 2011, a Seminar on "The Probate and Administration of Estate Act and Rules 2011, was held in Freeport. Presenters were Dr. Earl Cash, Mrs. B. Andrea Williams and Ms. Fern Bowleg.

CARIBBEAN INSTITUTE OF ARBITRATORS (BAHAMAS) CHAPTER

The Caribbean Institute of Arbitrators is the most prestigious institution for the training and education of Arbitrators, Mediators and Adjudicators worldwide. Its Board of Trustees comprises of members from the world's five continents. The Bahamas Chapter of CI Arb was launched on 7th June, 2010. In only ten short months, the Chapter has been credited with achieving the fourth largest membership of the Institute within the Americas, after The United States, Canada and Bermuda.

Mrs. Bertha Cooper-Rousseau is the chairperson of the Bahamas Chapter, Caribbean Institute of Arbitrators (Bahamas) Chapter.

IDENTIFICATION CARDS

Members are reminded that identification cards are available at the Bar office once bar dues have been paid. The Bahamas Bar Association Identification cards are an acceptable form of identification throughout The Bahamas and elsewhere.

BAHAMAS BAR JOURNAL

Persons wishing to contribute to the Journal are asked to contact

Marion Bethel at tel.: 326-3481 or email: seabet@batelnet.bs

Gina Morley at tel.: 356-5950 or email: ginapmorley@yahoo.com

at your earliest.

DEATH NOTICES / SYMPATHY

Jethlyn Burrows on the passing of her sister

Rengin and Osman on the passing of Lloyd Johnson

Sandra A. Carmona on the passing of her mother

****LEGAL JOKES****

The following is a courtroom exchange between a defense attorney and a farmer with a bodily injury claim. It came from a Houston, Texas insurance agent.

Attorney: "At the scene of the accident, did you tell the constable you had never felt better in your life?"

Farmer: "That's right."

Attorney: "Well, then, how is it that you are now claiming you were seriously injured when my client's auto hit your wagon?"

Farmer: "When the constable arrived, he went over to my horse, who had a broken leg, and shot him. Then he went over to Rover, my dog, who was all banged up, and shot him. When he asked me how I felt,

I just thought under the circumstances, it was a wise choice of words to say I've never felt better in my life.

A lawyer named Strange died, and his friend asked the tombstone maker to inscribe on his tombstone, "Here lies Strange, an honest man, and a lawyer." The inscriber insisted that such an inscription would be confusing, for passersby would tend to think that three men were buried under the stone. However he suggested an alternative: He would inscribe, "Here lies a man who was both honest and a lawyer. That way, whenever anyone walked by the tombstone and read it, they would be certain to remark: "That's Strange!"

NOMINATIONS FOR BAR COUNCIL ELECTION

Reminder that nominations should be made to the Bar Office addressed to the Honorary Secretary.

Please be advised that to date the following persons have been nominated:

President: Mrs. Ruth Bowe-Darville
Mrs. Cathleen Johnson-Hassan

Vice President: Mr. Elsworth Johnson

Secretary: Mrs. Rachel Culmer
Mrs. Romona Farquharson-Seymour

Treasurer: Mr. Craig Butler
Mr. Bernard Ferguson

Council Members One Year Term

Mr. Dwayne Gibson
Mr. Nicholas Mosko
Ms. Tara Archer
Mrs. Bertha Cooper-Rousseau

Please also be reminded that proxies are to be submitted to the Bar Office by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, 22nd June, 2011 for processing and delivery to the Presiding Officer.



Chartered Institute of Arbitrators
CIArb

THE BAHAMAS CHAPTER

THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF ARBITRATORS, LONDON
WILL CONDUCT THE FOLLOWING CERTIFICATION COURSES:

Introduction to Arbitration

Nassau: Monday 27 June, 2011 9am - 5pm

Freeport: Thursday 30 June, 2011 9am - 5pm

Introduction to Mediation

Nassau: Tuesday 28 June, 2011 9am - 5pm

Freeport: Friday 1 July, 2011 9am - 5pm

SPACE IS VERY LIMITED!
REGISTRATION DEADLINE
22 JUNE, 2011

Instructors: Certified Tutors of CIArb, London

Venue: Nassau: Goodman's Bay Corporate Center (BFSB) First Floor
Freeport: Pelican Bay, at Lucaya, Grand Bahama

Cost: \$800 per person per course (includes course material and lunch)

For Further Information, contact the Chairman, Bertha Cooper-Rousseau

Email: bcr@rousseauilaw.com

Tel: (242) 325-3693 Fax: (242) 325-3688

