

Personal data

Date of Birth: 4 February 1961
Marital Status: Married
Dependants: Son and two daughters

Qualifications

1989 Admitted to practice in the Supreme Court of Trinidad and Tobago
1989 Legal Education Certificate
Sir Hugh Wooding Law School, Trinidad
1987 Bachelor of Laws
University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, Barbados
1984 Bachelor of Arts (Sociology with minor in History) (Honours)
University of the West Indies, Saint Augustine, Trinidad

Professional experience

2009 - Present High Court Judge Supreme Court of Trinidad and Tobago
2002 - 2008 Director of Public Prosecutions
2001 (Aug-Sept) Ag. Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions
1998 - 2002 Assistant Director of Public Prosecutions
1996 - 1998 Senior State Counsel (Office of the DPP)
1995 - 1996 State Counsel III (Office of the DPP)
1994 - 1995 State Counsel II (Office of the DPP)
1992 - 1994 State Counsel I (Office of the DPP)
1990 - 1992 Temporary State Counsel I (Office of the DPP)
1989 - 1990 Trust Officer, N.C.B. Trust Co. (T&T) Ltd.

Professional representations and responsibilities

Jan. 2009 - Present Includes jurisdiction to preside over jury trials of serious offences.

- As High Court Judge, sits with a jury trying serious and complex criminal cases involving single and multiple accused persons of: murder, attempted murder, manslaughter, rape, and incest and other sexual offences, dangerous drugs, firearm and ammunition offences.
- As a High Court Judge, exercises jurisdiction over all indictable matters coming before the High Court. The High Court

forms one branch of the Supreme Court of Judicature of Trinidad and Tobago. It exercises criminal and civil jurisdiction. In its criminal jurisdiction treason and other serious criminal matters are heard and determined. The High Court considers the grant of interception of communication orders, restraint and confiscation orders and considers bail applications.

Jul. 2002 - Dec. 2008

As Director of Public Prosecutions was constitutionally responsible for instituting, continuing and discontinuing prosecutions of all criminal matters at the Magistrates' Court, the High Court, the Court of Appeal and the Privy Council. This involved:

- Advising the police on lines of investigation and formulating appropriate charges when necessary;
- As head of chambers, instructing and guiding attorneys on both litigation and non-litigation matters;
- Responsible for perusing all dockets and signed all indictments in matters triable before a judge and jury at the High Court;
- Responsible for appeals in all criminal matters at both the Court of Appeal and at the Privy Council;
- Argued appeals before the Court of Appeal;
- Exercised oversight over court prosecutors of the Court and Process Division, Trinidad and Tobago Police Service.

Sept. 2001- Jun. 2002

Officer-in-Charge, San Fernando Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions:

- Represented the State in criminal litigation in all Courts in Trinidad and Tobago;
- Prosecuting Attorney representing the Chief of Defence Staff at Court Martial Proceedings;
- Advised the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Police and some other Government Agencies on criminal matters;
- Assigned work to and supervised junior Attorneys in the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions;
- Provided trial advocacy training of junior Attorneys in the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions;
- Prepared workshops and delivered lectures to Police Officers in the law of evidence as well as criminal practice and procedure;
- Provided organizational and professional assistance in training workshops conducted by State and Foreign Agencies for Police Officers and others involved in narcotic interdiction;

- Advised the Legislation Review Committee of the Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs on draft legislation which impacted on the criminal justice system. Such legislation included The Justice Protection Act and its regulations (it provides a legislative basis for witness protection and the protection of justice officials).

Membership on boards / committees

Nov. 2011 – Present Chairman, Steering Committee for the Pilot Project of the Drug Treatment Court:

- Chairs a multi-disciplinary committee of stakeholder agencies that is responsible for the roll out and monitoring of Drug Treatment Courts;
- Worked as part of a team that developed a policy document, policies, procedures and protocols for Drug Treatment Courts;
- Together with the team, implemented the new problem-solving Drug Treatment Court Pilot Project in Trinidad and Tobago;
- Engaged in monitoring the Drug Pilot Court Pilot Project;
- Currently developing a policy document for the Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Pilot Project.

June 2009 – Present Board Member, Judicial Education Institute of Trinidad and Tobago:

The Judicial Education Institute provides training and educational programmes for judicial officers, court administrators and support staff. This assists the Judiciary to perform in a manner that upholds its independence and integrity and ensures public trust and confidence.

Sept. 2001- Jan. 2009 Member, National Drug Council of Trinidad and Tobago:

The national agency which provides the Government of Trinidad and Tobago with policy advice on all matters related to drug control. It also provides a forum for stakeholders at the highest level to exchange information and make decisions for demand reduction, supply control, security issues, enforcement and financial monitoring.

Member, Advisory Committee on the Power of Pardon:

The “Mercy Committee” is a constitutional body that considers applications for pardon made by convicted persons.

Apr. 2001 - 2009 A Representative of Trinidad and Tobago to the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission of the Organization of American States.

Oct. 2001 Alternate to Director of Public Prosecutions on the Steering Committee of the Judicial and Legal Service Job Evaluation Exercise.

May 1998 -1999 Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions’ representative on Working Group on the Regional Justice Protection Programme:

Member of the team that developed the regional witness protection programme, as well as the national witness protection programme.

Oct. 1992 - Dec. 1992 Member, Working Group on Alleged Corrupt Practices in the Public Service of Trinidad and Tobago.

Judicial education institute: judges' continuing education seminars

2013 Judgment Writing and Unconscious Bias

2012 The evolving role of the Judge

2011 Emerging Technologies: Implications for the Courts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

2010 The Emergence of Caribbean Jurisprudence through Judicial Reasoning

2009 Summing Up for Criminal Judges

Other related professional activities

1998 – 2001 Associate Tutor, Evidence, Hugh Wooding Law School.

2001 Associate Tutor, Criminal Practice and Procedure, Hugh Wooding, Law School.

1990 - 1995 Tutor, Banking Law, Institute of Business Studies.

Some conferences/workshops attended

Apr. 2013 Implementing a Drug Treatment Court as an alternative to incarceration for Drug Dependent offenders, Bridgetown, Barbados.

Feb. 2012 Canadian Association of Drug Treatment Court Professionals, Toronto, Canada.

Oct. 2011 Implementing Drug Treatment Courts as an alternative to incarceration, Port of Spain, Trinidad.

May 2010 Commonwealth Judicial Education Institute – Dalhousie Law School. Univ. of Nova Scotia – Fellow, Commonwealth Judicial Education Institute.

Apr. 2008 Regional Training Workshop for Prosecutors – Hamilton, Bermuda.

Mar. 2008 Capital Development Workshop, Securities Exchange Commission, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.

Feb. 2008 Conference of Directors of Public Prosecutions, Kingston, Jamaica.

Jun. 2007 Facilitator, Investigating Financial Crimes, St. Georges, Grenada.

Sept. 2006 International Association of Prosecutors Annual Conference, Paris, France

- Sept. 2005 Commonwealth Law Conference, London.
- Feb. 2005 Inaugural Conference of CARICOM Directors of Public Prosecutions, Barbados.
- Oct. 2004 Facilitator, Regional Conference on Corruption – Montego Bay, Jamaica.
- Feb. 2004 World Summit of Prosecutors for Attorneys General and Heads of Prosecutions, La Antigua, Guatemala.
- Aug. 2003 International Association of Prosecutors Annual Conference, Washington D. C.
- May 2003 Facilitator, Barbados Regional Conference on Combating Trans-national and Complex Crimes in the 21st Century.
- Sept. 2002 International Association of Prosecutors, London.
- Nov. 2002 Assist and Advise Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago on Model Draft Legislation on the Modernisation of the Law of Evidence at 6th Ordinary Meeting of the Legal Affairs Committee Commonwealth Law Minister Meeting in Kingstown, St. Vincent and The Grenadines.
- Aug. 2001 Co-organizer and Facilitator, Workshop on “Dismantling Drug Trafficking Organizations” a three-day Workshop in Trinidad and Tobago by the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and United States Department of Justice.
- Apr. 2001 ‘Trainer’ trainee, Advocacy Training Workshop conducted by the Law Association of Trinidad and Tobago and Gray’s Inn, Trinidad and Tobago.
- Jun. 2000 Observer, Caribbean - US - European - Canada Ministerial Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement Conference, Trinidad and Tobago.
- Apr. 2000 Third Session of Trinidad and Tobago-Venezuela Mixed Commission on the Suppression, Control and Prevention of Illicit trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.
- Apr. 1997 Commonwealth Secretariat Expert Group Meeting for the Caribbean Region on Forensic Evidence in Drug Cases, St. Lucia.
- Apr. 1995 United States Information Agency International Visitor Programme, USA.

Workshops and seminar papers presented

- Sept. 2013 “Prosecutorial Discretion and Caribbean Constitutionalism”,
Caribbean Association of Judicial Officers (CAJO), 3rd Biennial Conference, Bridgetown, Barbados.
- Apr. 2013 “Planning a Drug Treatment Court,” paper, co-presented at Bridgetown Barbados.
- Feb. 2012 Paper presented on the “Drug Treatment Court Pilot Project in Trinidad and Tobago”.
- Dec. 2010 Part of a team that developed and published a sentencing handbook for Judges and Magistrates.

Apr. 2008	Regional Training Workshop for Prosecutors, Hamilton, Bermuda. Paper presented on the “Independence of the Prosecutor”.
Mar. 2008	Capital Development Workshop, Securities Exchange Commission, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. Paper presented on “Insider Trading”.
Feb. 2008	Conference of Directors of Public Prosecutions, Kingston, Jamaica. Paper presented on “The Independence of the Director of Public Prosecutions”.
Oct. 2004	Prosecution of Complex Corruption Offences - Jamaica Regional Conference on Corruption.
May 2003	<p>“Dismantling a Drug Trafficking Organisation: Dole Chadee Case Study”</p> <p>“The Evidential Value of Material obtained by Electronic Surveillance – The Common Law Position”. Barbados Regional Conference on Combating Trans-national and Complex Crimes in the 21st Century.</p> <p>“Use of Charts at Trials – The Legal Issues” Barbados Regional Conference on Combating Trans-national and Complex Crimes in the 21st Century.</p>
Aug. 2001	“Common Law Offence of Conspiracy as a tool to dismantle Drug Trafficking Organisations”, presented at Dismantling Drug Trafficking Organization’s Workshop.
Jul. 2001	“Judges Rules and the Taking of Caution Statements”, Police Training Seminars.
Apr. 1999	“The Giving of Evidence in Criminal Trials”, Police Training Seminars.

Notable cases:

The State vs. Leroy Andrews (2006)	Successfully argued for the introduction of victim impact statements at the sentencing stage in a criminal trial. This is now routinely done.
(Unreported)	
Bhola vs. The State (2006) 68 WIR 449	A successful prosecution of police officers who extorted money from civilians.
Brown and Isaac vs. The State (2003) 62 WIR 440	A gang killing.
The State vs. Philbert Foster and Brown Campbell (2002)	First successful prosecution for murder where the victim was an unidentified homeless man.
(Unreported)	
The State vs. Garfield Joseph and The State vs. Anthony Centeno	Advanced the rights of two homicide victims (deceased), whose offenders were given non-custodial sentences. Both cases were appealed and the offenders sentenced to terms of imprisonment. These represent the first successful appeals against lenient sentences in Trinidad and Tobago for serious crimes.
(Unreported)	