



JUDICIAL and LEGAL SERVICE COMMISSION

MEDIA RELEASE

The Judicial and Legal Service Commission (JLSC) wishes to address certain comments currently circulating in the public domain regarding the offices of Judge of the Court of Appeal and Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of Judicature of Trinidad and Tobago.

Regarding the selection of individuals for the aforementioned offices, the JLSC, at its meeting of 26th February, 2019, noted that:-

- i. the 2016 Order-of-Merit List for the office of Judge of the Court of Appeal had expired on 5th July, 2017;
- ii. the 2017 Order-of-Merit List for the office of Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court had been spent by the appointments of all candidates on that List; and
- iii. vacant offices in the complement of Judges of the Court of Appeal and Puisne Judges of the Supreme Court of Judicature of Trinidad and Tobago, existed and would arise within the year 2019.

In light of the above, the JLSC decided that advertisements should be issued inviting suitably qualified nationals and members of the Commonwealth to submit applications for the offices of Judge of the Court of Appeal and Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of Judicature of Trinidad and Tobago. The Director of Personnel Administration was accordingly directed that the advertisements be given the widest circulation locally, in the Caribbean and in the Commonwealth and on the websites of the High Courts; Courts of Appeal and the Bar/Law Associations in these jurisdictions.

Such advertisements were prepared and, on Wednesday 12th March, 2019, were posted on the websites of the Service Commissions Department and other key Ministries, Departments and Agencies in Trinidad and Tobago. Further, several relevant international agencies were requested to have the

advertisements posted on their websites on behalf of the Service Commissions Department.

The JLSC required that applicants submit their applications no later than 29th March, 2019 to enable the Commission to make recommendations for appointment as from 1st June, 2019.

Eligible candidates for the positions will be assessed by the JLSC in keeping with its recruitment and selection policies, prior to any selection pursuant to subsection (1) of Section 104 of the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

The Commission will await confirmation of its full complement of five members before any selection is made. In the meanwhile, the Service Commissions Department will continue the administrative and support functions it provides to the Commission by receiving applications in response to the advertisements.

The Commission also wishes to clarify that, Mr David Arthur Reynold Patrick, who served as a member of the Judicial and Legal Service Commission from 19th March 2012 to 18th March 2015, passed away in 2017.

March 27, 2019