

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COURT OF APPEAL, JAMAICA (2020)**

**1.0 PURPOSE**

The Honourable House is asked to note the Court of Appeal Jamaica Annual Report for the Calendar Year 2020.

**2.0 BACKGROUND**

2.1 The Court of Appeal Jamaica (hereafter referred as the “Court of Appeal”) was established by the Constitution of Jamaica in 1962 and its jurisdiction is established under the Judicature (Appellate Jurisdiction) Act, the Judicature (Parish Courts) Act and the Justices of the Peace (Appeals) Act.

2.2 The judges of the Court of Appeal exercise great care in reviewing the decisions of the lower courts and tribunals. In doing so, the Court of Appeal hears and determines a variety of matters ranging from procedural applications and procedural appeals to substantive appeals. The Court of Appeal in pronouncing judgement comprehensively outlines the reasons for its decisions which are published on its website at [www.courtofappeal.gov.jm](http://www.courtofappeal.gov.jm) to ensure public access and accountability.

2.3 For the Calendar Year 2020, the Court of Appeal continued to pursue its mandate to hear appeals from the Supreme Court, the Parish Courts, Tribunals, Proceedings on Application for a Writ of Habeas Corpus/Order of Certiorari, Mandamus or Prohibition in a Criminal Cause, and Orders imposing imprisonment or fine for Contempt of Court.

**3.0 ANNUAL REPORT**

3.1 The Annual Report covered the performance of the Court of Appeal in the following major areas:

- Judges of the Court – Composition, Retirement, Appointments
- Court Staff – Staff Complement and Movement
- Sittings – Hilary Term, Easter Term and Michaelmas Term, Special Sittings
- Work of the Court – Procedural Applications, Procedural Appeals, Substantive Appeals and Judgements
- Practice Directions and Notes
- News.

Delroy Chuck, QC, MP  
Minister of Justice  
June 15, 2021



The Honourable House is asked to note the foregoing.

The court looks forward to achieving its full complement of judges by the end of 2021.

**3.4 Looking Ahead**

3.3.2 Cabinet should also note that pursuant to section 3 of the Judicature (Appellate Jurisdiction) Act, the Court of Appeal comprises the President of the Court and not more than twelve (12) Judges of appeal. The current complement of judges is eleven (11) including the President, whilst the current complement of court staff is forty-three (43) of the fifty-two (52) required under the Civil Service Establishment (General Order) 2019.

3.3.1 The Court of Appeal saw the retirement of the President, the Honourable Justice Morrison, OJ, CD in December 2020 and the appointment of a new President, Mr Justice Brooks, along with the appointment of two (2) additional permanent members.

**3.3 Human Resource Capacity**

The Strategic Plan for the Judiciary, which is the brainchild of the Chief Justice, the Honourable Mr Justice Sykes, was launched in January 2020. The unveiling of the Plan was hardly completed when COVID-19 entered the island. Notwithstanding, some progress was made with the Plan, and members of the Court trained in its implementation. The impact of COVID 19 was reflected in the mixed results for the operations of the court, which included among others, an increase in the number of pending cases, a 7.25% decline in the number of appeals disposed and the cancellation of the sitting of the court in the parish of Hanover.

**3.2 Impact of COVID 19**