EDITORIAL

Firstly, the CMJA would like to apologise for any inconvenience caused by the crashing of its website in February. We are now fully restored to the normal service. Please don’t hesitate to contact us by email if you require any information from us, especially in relation to the CMJA’s forthcoming Conference in Uganda.

The CMJA’s Steering Committee and Local Organising Committee have been working on preparations for the Conference in Munyonyo, Uganda from 10-15 September 2012.

REGISTER NOW FOR:

CMJA 16TH TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE
“JUSTICE FOR EVERYONE: MYTH OR REALITY?”

10-15 September 2012
Munyonyo, Uganda
Details available from:
www.cmja.org/cmja2012

Following the speech made by our former Executive Vice President at the CMJA’s Anniversary Dinner in Brighton in October 2010, we are delighted to inform you that the CMJA has now set up a separate Endowment Trust to try and raise funds for its activities.

2012 marks the Diamond Jubilee of our Patron, Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, Head of the Commonwealth. This year’s Commonwealth Day, the theme of which was “Connecting Cultures” took place on 12 March. We all wish her well. If you have any relevant anecdotes which illustrate the role of the Head of the Commonwealth and our Patron over the last 60 years please feel free to feed them in to the Secretary General.

It seems as if the new year has brought a number of judicial independence issues to the fore again. Developments in the Maldives, Malawi, Papua New Guinea, Swaziland and South Africa have been causing concern and the CMJA has been working with other organisations in the Commonwealth and beyond to try resolve emerging challenges.

As reported in the last issue, the Commonwealth Eminent Persons Group (EPG) submitted its report to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Perth in October 2011. There was some disappointment within the Commonwealth that Heads of Government did not endorse some of the recommendations which would have enhanced the Commonwealth as an organisation that actively pushes for compliance with the fundamental values, including the rule of law and good governance.

The EPG also recommended the expansion of the mandate of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG). CMAG itself presented a report on the expansion of its mandate and this report was adopted at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Perth in October 2011.

In December 2011, the British Parliament’s Foreign Affairs Committee called for submissions on the Future and Role of the Commonwealth. The CMJA, amongst others, made a submission on issues relating to the rule of law and good governance.

In addition the CMJA will be making a submission in relation to the idea of a Commonwealth Commissioner for Democracy, Rule of Law and Human Rights to the Commonwealth Secretary General and Chairperson of CMAG.

In November 2011, the Secretary General and Mark Guthrie from the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Division (LCAD) of the Commonwealth Secretariat undertook a needs assessment mission to Kiribati, in the Pacific. It is hoped that this will lead to further training there.

In November 2011, the CMJA held a training seminar in Montego Bay on Environmental Law. It is deeply grateful to former Director of Studies, HH Judge Keith Hollis who ran the programme and to the Jamaican Environmental Law Trust who were responsible for the organisation on site.

In February 2012, the Director of Programmes, Judge Qureshi, together with the Judicial Chancellor of Guyana, Justice Carl Singh, facilitated a training programme on Judicial Independence and Integrity in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea which was jointly organised with LCAD.

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CMJA was saddened to learn of the passing of two of the CMJA's long standing members and supporters recently. These were His Hon. Justice Gilbert Mensah Quaye (former Regional Vice President and Council Member) who passed away in December 2011 and Mrs. Jane Kellock (former editor and member of the CMJA Training Committee) passed away in March 2012.

MESSAGE FROM HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN, HEAD OF THE COMMONWEALTH

CONNECTING CULTURES
CELEBRATING OUR COMMONWEALTH

This message was delivered on Commonwealth Day on 12 March 2012

One of the great benefits of today's technology-based world is the range of opportunities it offers to understand and appreciate how others live: we can see, hear and enter into the experience of people in communities and circumstances far removed from our own.

A remarkable insight we gain from such windows on the world is that, however different outward appearances may be, we share a great deal in common.

Our circumstances and surroundings may vary enormously, for example in the food we eat and the clothes we wear, but we share one humanity, and this draws us all together. The joys of celebration and sympathy of sadness may be expressed differently but they are felt in the same way the world over.

How we express our identities reveals both a rich diversity and many common threads. Through the creative genius of artists – whether they be writers, actors, film-makers, dancers or musicians – we can see both the range of our cultures and the elements of our shared humanity.

“Connecting Cultures”, our Commonwealth theme this year, encourages us to consider the special opportunities we have, as members of this unique gathering of nations, to celebrate an extraordinary cultural tapestry that reflects our many individual and collective identities. The Commonwealth treasures and respects this wealth of diversity.

Connecting cultures is more, however, than observing others and the ways in which they express themselves. This year, our Commonwealth focus seeks to explore how we can share and strengthen the bond of Commonwealth citizenship we already enjoy by using our cultural connections to help bring us even closer together, as family and friends across the globe.

To support this theme, a special song has been composed for the Commonwealth, ‘Stronger as One’. There are any number of ways in which that single piece of music alone can be played or sung anywhere in the Commonwealth. And by sharing the same music with our own personal interpretations and contributions, the wonderful human attribute of imagination is nourished, and we gain insights of understanding and appreciation of others.

The Commonwealth offers a pathway for this greater understanding and the opportunity to expand upon our shared experiences in a wider world. A world in which paths to mutual respect and common cause may also be explored and which can draw us together, stronger and better than before.

ELIZABETH R
12 March 2012

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE ISSUES

The CMJA has been following developments in the following countries:

FIJI ISLANDS

Although the state of emergency was lifted by the President in Fiji at the beginning of January 2012 as a measure towards democracy, the situation on the ground has not changed substantially as the orders under the emergency rules are still in place as orders in Council. The Commonwealth sent a delegation to Fiji in March 2012 led by the Commonwealth Deputy Secretary-General Mrs. Mnasekgoa Masire-Mwamba. On her departure, she stated, “The Commonwealth has not yet had the opportunity to consider the statement in detail, or to hear the views of the range of stakeholders in Fiji about it. Nevertheless, at this early stage, I can say that we are encouraged by the launch of a constitutional process, which is an important step forward on Fiji’s path towards the restoration of democracy and the rule of law.” Mrs Masire-Mwamba will report to Secretary-General Kamalesh Sharma who will meet with CMAG to discuss the Prime Minister of Fiji’s proposed launch of a constitutional consultation process which will help Fiji move towards the restoration of democracy and the rule of law.

MALAWI

In early January, Malawi court staff went on strike bringing all 200 courts to a halt. In 2006, Parliament approved a 40% increase in pay as well as another 60% increase in 2009. However the Executive refuses to comply with these instructions and neither court staff nor the judiciary itself had received the increases in pay passed by Parliament.

In February, former Attorney General Ralph Kasambara was arrested and spent days in jail even though bail was granted. Magistrates and Judges joined the strike on the 2 March 2012. The government of Malawi has refused to obey any court orders. On 25 March 2012, the judiciary signed an agreement with the government over their terms and conditions though the issue relating to the enforcement of court orders still remains a problem.

MALDIVES

On 16 January 2012, Chief Judge Abdullah Mohamed was arrested at his home by the Maldivian National Defense Force. For over three days, the MNDF would not release any information regarding his whereabouts or condition. After repeated orders
from the Criminal Court, High Court, and Supreme Court, the MNDF still refused to release Justice Abdullah. The Maldivian Government disregarded the calls for immediate release of Judge Abdullah Mohamed by the Prosecutor General, Human Rights Commission, Law Society, and Judicial Service Commission. According to the Constitution, neither police nor government has the right to summon, arrest, or even detain judges.

Following calls by the CMJA and others for the Commonwealth to react, the Commonwealth Secretary General sent out a mission to investigate the issue.

After riots broke out in the Maldives in protest at the arrest of Judge Mohamed, President Mohamed Nasheed resigned (allegedly at gun point). Judge Abdullah Mohamed was released shortly after Mr. Nasheed stepped down. Allegations over the manner in which the former President persuaded to resign, including the alleged involvement of the new President (President Waheed Hassan) have led to an inquiry being set up.

The Commonwealth Secretary General called an emergency meeting of CMAG in February and a ministerial level mission was also sent to the Maldives following which CMAG met on 15 March 2012 and issued a statement urging the Maldives to hold early elections to resolve the political crisis. The Maldives Foreign Minister, who was appointed as a member of CMAG in October of 2011, was excused from the meetings discussing the Maldives.

Sir Don McKinnon, former Commonwealth Secretary General has been appointed as Special Envoy to the Maldives. Further details are available from the Commonwealth Secretariat’s website: www.thecommonwealth.org

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

In August 2011, Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare was removed from office whilst he was undertaking medical treatment outside Papua New Guinea and Peter O’Neill was then appointed as Prime Minister by Parliament. In November 2011, the Chief Justice Sir Salamo Injia was suspended but the decision was ruled unconstitutional. In December 2011, Supreme Court ruled that Parliament acted unconstitutionally by appointing Peter O’Neill and judged that Sir Michael was to be restored to office. Prior to issuing this ruling the Court rejected Prime Minister O’Neill’s application that Chief Justice Injia be disqualified from sitting on the case for alleged conflict of interest. The Chief Justice also reportedly indicated that he would file contempt charges against O’Neill.

On 2 February 2012, the National Executive Council suspended the Chief Justice again and appointed a tribunal to inquire into serious allegations levelled at Sir Salamo Injia. Mr. O’Neill announced appointment of Deputy Chief Justice Sir Gibbs Salika as Acting Chief Justice. Sir Salamo Injia was charged with obstructing a police investigation into his management of the court. The Supreme Court stayed the suspension of the Chief Justice.

The CMJA and LCAD held a seminar for judges in Port Moresby from 23-24 February 2012 on judicial independence and judicial ethics. At the time of the seminar, all felt that the situation would resolve itself once the Supreme Court heard two outstanding references relating to the legitimate government of Papua New Guinea. However, on 6 March 2012, the Chief Justice was arrested and the government asked three judges to resign allegedly for corruption. On 21 March 2012 the Papua New Guinea Parliament passed a controversial bill

REGIONAL MEETINGS

The Regional Meetings for the Election of Regional Council Members will take place at the Commonwealth Speke Resort and Conference Centre in Kampala, Uganda on

**Tuesday 11 September 2012 at 15:45hrs**

Under the revised Constitution, Individual Members and Member Associations will be able to nominate for positions of Regional Vice President and first and second Council Member in your region.

**Please Note that only paid-up Individual Members and Member Associations will be able to nominate or vote.**

A copy of the Guidelines will be posted on the CMJA website by 20 April 2012.

Nominations must be received at least 14 days prior to the General Assembly according to the Constitution.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly will take place on

**Friday 14 September 2012 at 14:00hrs.**

Only Paid-up Member Associations will have the right to vote at the General Assembly.
allowing Parliament to remove a judge if he was deemed to be biased. This act has caused controversy as it is seen as an attempt to erode the independence of the judiciary and is a breach of the Commonwealth Principles. Tensions continue between the judiciary, government, and parliament and the CMJA continues to monitor developments.

The Commonwealth Eminent Persons Group (EPG) was established in 2009 to develop options for reform to reinvigorate the Commonwealth. As reported in the last newsletter, the EPG submitted its report, including 106 recommendations to the 2011 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. Of those, 38 recommendations were adopted without reservation; 12 were adopted subject to consideration of financial implications; 43 were referred to a Task Force of Ministers to provide more detailed advice to Foreign Ministers for their meeting in September 2012; and 11 were deemed inappropriate for adoption.

Concern has been expressed amongst civil society and others that momentum for reform had been lost and that some of the recommendations may be ‘kicked into the long grass.’

There was disappointment amongst Commonwealth Associations and some governments that the idea of a Commissioner on the Rule of Law, Democracy and Human Rights was not adopted. The idea of a Commissioner has been referred to the Commonwealth Secretary General and the Chairman of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) for further examination.

In early February 2012, the CMJA Secretary General was invited to speak at a one day conference organised by the Commonwealth Advisory Bureau (formerly the Commonwealth Policy Studies Unit) at Senate House in London on behalf of the Latimer House Working Group, on the proposal for the Commissioner. She also spoke on the difficulties the Working Group has faced in ensuring that the Commonwealth fundamental values are implemented, the need for a system to evaluate compliance with the fundamental values and the importance of involving existing Commonwealth networks as early warning systems. Karen Brewer, in her speech at Senate House, pointed out that if the Commonwealth was to have a Commissioner for Democracy, Rule of Law and Human Rights there has to be:

- a transparent and independent process of appointment;
- a system that allows the Commissioner to be and be perceived to be independent;
- the financial resources required for the setting up of an office for the Commissioner including highly qualified personnel to assist the Commissioner in his/her work.

Also speaking at this event was Sir Ronald Sanders of Guyana, a member of the EPG. In his introduction he pointed out that the Perth CHOGM had failed to embrace the mood for reform that had energized the Commonwealth association as a whole. Sir Ronald Sanders, whilst welcoming the changes agreed to the processes adopted by CMAG to deal with “serious and persistent violations of the Commonwealth fundamental values”, stressed the importance of increasing the capacity of the Commonwealth to combat such violations. The appointment of an independent, Commissioner on the Rule of Law, Democracy and Human Rights (or any other similar mechanism that may be agreed) was vital to increasing the capacity of CMAG and the Commonwealth Secretary General to evaluate conditions in a country in an objective way and to take remedial action.

In addition the EPG also recommended that there should be a Charter for the Commonwealth. This would encourage, in the views of the EPG, better understanding of the Commonwealth by civil society and create a “spirit of the Commonwealth”. National governments have been requested to consult widely on the issue and respond on by the 30 March 2012. The CMJA together with the Commonwealth Lawyers’ Association and Commonwealth Legal Education Association will be feeding into the consultation process.

A copy of the EPG report is available from http://www.thecommonwealth.org/document/241620/eminent_persons_group_report.htm

Also considered at CHOGM was the report of the review of the CMAG. As readers will recall the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group was set up in 1995 by Heads of Government following the execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa and others in Nigeria on the eve of the Heads of Government Meeting.

CMAG was established by CHOGM in November 1995 to ‘deal with serious or persistent violations of the principles contained in [the Harare] Declaration’ as part of the Millbrook Commonwealth Action Programme on the Harare Declaration. The group is meant to ‘assess the nature of the infringement and recommend measures for collective Commonwealth action aimed at the speedy restoration of democracy and constitutional rule.’

The group is composed of Foreign Ministers from nine countries (supplemented as appropriate by one or two additional ministerial representatives from the region concerned). When the group was established, leaders agreed to review CMAG’s composition, terms of reference and operation every two years. Ministers generally serve two terms.

In the last 10 years, CMAG has been increasingly criticized for the restrictive interpretation of its mandate. Until 2011, Foreign Ministers only intervened in extreme cases more often than not involving a military overthrow of government. In 2009, the Trinidad and Tobago Heads of Government Meeting agreed to a review of the mandate and operation of CMAG and a number of organisations (including the Latimer House Working Group) submitted
suggestions for strengthening its role. In October 2011, Heads of Government agreed to the recommendations by the CMAG on the way they could strengthen their role in dealing with “serious and persistent violations of the Commonwealth fundamental principles.” Recognising that it had been too reactive to situations, it agreed that it should have a more proactive role: Heads of Government also agreed that the Commonwealth Secretary-General should be given a wider mandate to speak out publicly when there was evidence of serious or persistent violations. The CMAG report which was adopted in full included the following:

CMAG will continue to respond as before to instances where there is an unconstitutional overthrow of an elected government. In these instances CMAG has done well and has drawn upon the measures adopted at Millbrook.

CMAG has concentrated on identifying how it might be more proactive and constructive, with clearer guidelines and timeframes for engagement when the situation in a country is causing concern.

The core changes in CMAG’s mandate now accepted by Commonwealth leaders include using the following as among the types of situations that might be regarded as constituting a serious or persistent violation of Commonwealth values:

- The unilateral abrogation of a democratic constitution or serious threats to constitutional rule;
- The suspension or prevention of the lawful functioning of parliament or other key democratic institutions;
- The postponement of national elections without constitutional or other reasonable justification;
- The systematic denial of political space, such as through detention of political leaders or restriction of freedom of association, assembly or expression;
- The systematic violation of human rights of the population, or of any communities or groups, by the member government concerned;
- Significant restrictions on the media or civil society that prevent them from playing their legitimate role.

The first call is, as always, on the Secretary-General’s Good Offices, which include the ability to offer Commonwealth technical assistance to help deal with the perceived deficiencies. However, in the more serious cases, if an offer of engagement and assistance by the Secretary-General is not accepted within a specified timeframe and the government in question fails to respond appropriately and serious or persistent violations of fundamental political values continue, the Secretary-General may consult with the Chair of CMAG on the way forward. The Secretary-General may permit a longer response period in cases where structural or other considerations in the relevant country in question would so warrant.

The timeframes for engagement by CMAG itself has also been clarified so that if, following consultation and further attempts at engagement with a member government by the Secretary-General, the response and progress remain inadequate, the Secretary-General will brief CMAG. If, after a further two months from CMAG being briefed on the situation the judgement of the Secretary-General and the Chair of CMAG is that all efforts at engagement have been exhausted without progress, the situation will be brought to the agenda of CMAG, first informally and thereafter formally.

In line with the above, CMAG was convened by teleconference for the first time early February 2012, when the President of the Maldives was allegedly forced to resign (see report under Judicial Independence issues above).

The fact that a meeting was convened in record time and by teleconference is a great step forward. CMAG met again to discuss the situation on 22 February 2012. However, it is unfortunate that, despite the Commonwealth Secretary General’s persistent calls to the President of the Maldives, CMAG was only called when it was alleged that the President (now former President) was forced to resign at gunpoint and not when Judge Mohamed was first arrested.

**JUDICIAL TRAINING SEMINAR IN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW**

In November 2011, the CMJA together with the Jamaica Environment Trust conducted a workshop for Resident Magistrates and other judicial officers on Environmental Law. We are deeply grateful to the National Environment and Planning Agency of Jamaica, the Court Management Services of Jamaica, the Norman Manley Law School and the Environment Law Institute who supported the workshop. We are also deeply grateful to the Jamaica Environment Commission and their Legal Director, Ms Daniele Andrade, without whom the organisation of the Workshop could not have taken place. Former Director of Studies, H.H. Judge Keith Hollis drafted the programme in consultation with the Jamaican Organising Committee and spoke at the Seminar and the CMJA was grateful to him for all his assistance with this seminar.

The Seminar attracted over 78 participants from Jamaica, Bermuda, Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana. The objective of the course was to increase awareness of the role of environmental and natural resource law and the judiciary in protecting and conserving biodiversity, and provide tools for training and reference on the topic as well as institutionalising training within the judicial system.

Fifteen technical and legal professionals, both local and overseas, presented at the seminar.
on a wide range of topics including the significance of Environmental protection and the law, biodiversity conservation, international environmental agreements and their impact on national law as well as environmental jurisprudence, and the interpretation of environmental legislation in case law and compared the practice of environmental law in Jamaica with other jurisdictions.

RAISING £5 MILLION PLUS FOR FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Delegates at the CMJA’s Brighton Conference will recall that Sir Philip Bailhache announced the Council’s intention to set up an Endowment Trust to ensure the future funding of projects and activities of the CMJA.

“Although the Association functions at the high standards thanks to its staff, trustees and volunteers, the CMJA’s current influence is constrained by the lack of resources available to fund its activities, which historically have come from membership subscriptions and occasional minor grant-aid.

The CMJA Endowment Trust will assist in the following areas:

- Strengthening the adoption of international principles – by providing additional resources for the CMJA to assist Commonwealth, international and regional organizations in the development of policies and guidelines affecting the judiciary,
- Mentoring and Support for Judges – by providing invaluable moral and emotional support to judicial officers facing challenges.
- Programme Delivery – so that jurisdictions across the Commonwealth can improve their standards and the quality of the administration of justice within their own jurisdictions.
- Consolidation, stability, sustainability – the Endowment fund will provide a degree of financial security which will enable the association to consolidate its position and better plan for its future as well as provide sustainable programmes.

The CMJA Endowment Trust has now been set up and thanks to the generosity of the Judiciary in Jersey, the CMJA has managed to raise £20,300 so far towards the £5 Million Plus target. If you want to donate to the CMJA Endowment Trust, please send your cheques c/o the CMJA at the address below. Bank details can be supplied on request by emailing the CMJA Secretary General at kbrewer@cmja.org

BOOK REVIEW

WHO CARES?

The Economics of Dignity

Marilyn Waring, Robert Carr, Anit Mukherjee, and Meena Shivadas

Published by the Commonwealth Secretariat – October 2011


Price £15.00

Without a doubt one of the most daunting issues facing the world today is the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Over 34 million people are living with HIV and of those 12 million are in need of urgent care as their disease has progressed to AIDS. Traditionally the view has been to fight the problem from a macro level, with funding going to areas where the most progress has been made. Now this approach has a few flaws. First, in poor areas accessibility to resources such as care, prevention education, treatment, and support is sporadic resulting in less progress made. Second, States fail to recognise that the impact of HIV/AIDS is far worse at the macro (household) level than at a macro level. The bulk of the research done in this study shows the extent of the burden falling on carers and the shortcomings of Governments to aid them. The authors use the ‘capability approach’ in their study taking into account violations of fundamental human rights such as poverty, starvation, conditions of servitude, etc. They also examined the aforementioned conditions in relation to women carers considering all prior studies ignored the predominant role of women in HIV/AIDS care.

Under the ‘capability approach’ is the concept of ‘capability servitude’ which examines the well – being of the unpaid carers and how the health care system takes advantage of them with little or no recognition. A wide variety of unpaid carers were interviewed from locations throughout the world. They were asked a series of questions (i.e. Do you choose to be the Carer?) then asked to give a first hand account of their specific circumstances. For the most part, carers felt they had no choice but to become carers simply because the person(s) who contracted the disease were family members. On top of that they received very little help, almost no training, were responsible for providing for the family after in many cases they were pulled out of school or work, and never got a break or holiday. Coinciding with these miserable conditions was emotional distress that stretches far beyond anything conceivable to someone who has not gone through this. “The most emotional moment that I never forget is when my aunt emotionally begged me to stop giving her the medication ARV (anti-retroviral), saying that if I can stop she will be dead within two days and our suffering would come to an end. – Lillian, Botswana.” Another prominent issue is the stigma and discrimination facing individuals with the disease especially in cases of homosexuality. Across the Commonwealth this problem ranges from community neglect and instances of abuse to healthcare personnel refusing to treat people infected with HIV/AIDS.

Moving forward the international approach to combating the HIV/AIDS pandemic should focus on women’s rights and supporting unpaid caregivers. Governments must do a better job at implementing international agreements and erasing gender or sexuality based discrimination. Economic shock is certainly felt at a macro level but is far more devastating at the micro level. Therefore, governments must push for greater accessibility to institutions of care and support to lessen the burden on individual households dealing with HIV/AIDS. In conclusion, I would like to emphasise that this book was not an easy read. The first hand accounts given really put into perspective the dire conditions facing not only the infected individuals, but the carer’s as well. The international community should take note and try to take the necessary steps to at the very least ease the burden on carer’s facing this crisis.

Brent Harrison, Intern at CMJA

NEW MEMBERS

AUSTRALIA
- Magistrate Gerald Bryant
- Judge Clive Jeffreys

CANADA
- Judge Richard Floyd

FALKLAND ISLAND
- Senior Magistrate Carl Gumsley

NETHERLANDS
- Her Excellency Judge Joyce Aluoch

AUST RALIA
- Brent Harrison, Intern at CMJA

NEW MEMBERS

NEW MEMBERS
CLA REGIONAL CONFERENCE:
19-22 April 2012 – Sydney Australia:
“The Changing Role of the Legal Profession: Emerging Democracies & Globalisation.”
Website: www.commonwealthlaw2012.org

IAWJ 11TH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE
2-5 May 2012 – London, United Kingdom
“Keeping Safe, Keeping Well”.
Website: www.iawj2012london.com
Email: iawj@meeting-point.co.uk

CMJA 16TH TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE
10-15th September 2012 – Kampala, Uganda
“Justice for Everyone: Myth or Reality?”
Website: www.cmja.org/cmja2012
Email: info@cmja.org

DOROTHY WINTON TRAVEL BURSARIES
This CMJA is offering EIGHT (8) Bursaries of £500 each towards travel for participation in the CMJA’s 16th Triennial Conference from 10-15 September 2012 being held in Munyonyo Uganda.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: 15 June 2012 at 17.00 HRS (GMT)

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION
1. The travel bursary will only cover partial assistance towards travel costs to the venue of the Triennial Conference;
2. Applicants should have attempted to obtain funding from internal and external funding sources before applying for the Bursary. They will need to provide a statement of whom they have already approached within their jurisdiction and externally for funding to attend the Triennial Conference and the reasons why funding (or sufficient funding) was not forthcoming from these sources;
3. Applicants are required to provide a full curriculum vitae including full contact details;
4. Applicants should send their candidatures to the Secretary General for consideration and should have the support of the Regional Vice President of the Association from their region – for a list of these please contact the CMJA;
5. Applicants should provide a brief statement on
   a. How the bursary will benefit the work of the applicant;
   b. How the bursary will benefit others within their jurisdiction;
   c. What measures will the applicant take to promote the aims and objectives of the CMJA and the Conference in their jurisdiction;
6. The travel bursary can only be applied for ONCE by the same person;
7. Serving or former Council members and nominees to Council cannot apply for the bursary;
8. Applicants must be citizens of, and domiciled in, a developing Commonwealth country;
9. Applicants will be practising judicial officers of a court with limited jurisdiction;
10. Applications should be sent to the Secretary General of the CMJA and a short list from each region will be sent to the Steering Committee for consideration;
11. The decision will be made by the Steering Committee of the Triennial Conferences who will take into account the regional diversity of applicants;
12. Travel bursaries will only be disbursed in arrears ie: on the applicant’s arrival at the Triennial Conference;
13. Successful applicants will be expected to contribute to the Conference programme, as a syndicate leader

1 The CMJA bases its definition of “Developing Commonwealth country” on the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Assistance’s index.