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## Chief Justice Smellie Delivers Trust Speech at Bermuda Forum

Chief Justice Anthony Smellie recently delivered a speech covering some of the latest developments in the offshore world at the foremost private client practitioners' conference in the area of trusts, held in Bermuda.

The Transcontinental Trusts Bermuda Forum 2015 enabled delegates to hear directly from global industry leaders. It covered complex legal, tax, and human issues that shape how personal wealth is protected and property passed on in trusts to future generations and the important role of international financial centres in the establishment and administration of trusts.

The conference was hosted by the Bermuda Business Development Agency (BDA) and the Bermuda Government. Chief Justice Smellie was among the more than 50 trust experts to share their knowledge at the conference, held 26-28 April. Organisers said that it was the first time in the 30 years the Transcontinental Trusts franchise had selected a venue outside of Europe.

The conference, opened by Bermuda's Premier Michael Dunkley, brought together some 240 attendees, including 150 overseas delegates and Bermuda-based, regional and international experts.

The Chief Justice addressed, amongst related complex trust issues, concerns such as the confidentiality of trust proceedings in court, as to whether they should be open or private proceedings.

Despite the challenges, the Chief Justice said, courts had accepted the obligation "to observe and apply the principle of open justice," but said that "the right of the public to witness the administration of justice is not absolute."

Ultimately, "...the courts will make appropriate and practical orders for the protection of privacy..., recognizing that the paramount obligation is to ensure that justice is administered properly in all cases," he said.

The full text of the Chief Justice Smellie's speech can be accessed at <https://www.judicial.ky/speeches>.

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