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Sir Alan Moses Begins Service on Cayman Islands Court of Appeal

Sir Alan Moses, a retired judge of the Court of Appeal of England, began hearing cases in the Cayman Islands Court of Appeal last week (photograph below). This follows his swearing in by Governor of the Cayman Islands Helen Kilpatrick on Monday, 2 November, and his formal appointment in January, 2015.

Sir Alan was until 21 June, 2014, a Lord Justice of Appeal in the Court of Appeal of England, where he served for more than nine years. He was previously a High Court Judge of England, from 1996 to 2005, frequently sitting on judicial review and tax cases. He has had, however, wide experience in all fields of work, including criminal and civil cases, both as a judge and a barrister, and previously served as an Acting Grand Court Judge in the Cayman Islands.

As a barrister, in a practice that was centred mainly in England and other European countries, Sir Alan defended the first cases relating to the release of life-time prisoners under the rules of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR).

As a judge, he presided over a number of high profile cases. One was a murder trial involving two ten-year-old girls that resulted in the imprisonment of a caretaker at a local secondary school in Soham, a small town in the English county of Cambridgeshire. Another was the prosecution of renegade MI5 officer David Shayler for passing information to the press in contravention of the Official Secrets Act.

Notably, the new Cayman Islands Court of Appeal judge was recently appointed chair of the new Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO), empowered through contract with the press and with unprecedented powers to compel media corrections and impose fines. A responsibility of the new regulatory body is to publish annually a report on type and nature of all complaints against various media in England, an action that had never before been supported by English law.

Sir Alan commenced his role as IPSO chair in June 2014, heading the 20-member staff of the press regulatory body established following the November 2012 Leveson report on the general culture and ethics of the British media. The report made recommendations for an independent regulator, which evolved into the independent IPSO, replacing the then-existing Press Complaints Commission and, before that, the Press Council.

Sir Alan was educated at Bryanston School and University College, Oxford. He was called to the Bar by the Middle Temple in 1968, and was a Member of the Attorney-General's Panel of Junior Counsel to the

Crown, from 1981 to 1990. He was Junior Counsel to the Inland Revenue, from 1985 to 1990. He took silk in 1990.

In welcoming Sir Alan to the Court of Appeal, the President, Sir John Chadwick, said: “The court is fortunate, indeed, that judges of Sir Alan’s distinction are willing to sit in the Cayman Islands. He will bring wisdom and wide experience to our deliberations.”

As a judge of the Cayman Islands Court of Appeal, Sir Alan is a member of a panel of judges who may be called upon to sit on the three-member constitution hearing appeals from the Cayman Islands Grand Court. The Appeal Court sits for three sessions of approximately three weeks each year in the Cayman Islands. The final court of appeal for the Cayman Islands is the UK Privy Council.

Speaking about his appointment to the Cayman Islands Court of Appeal, Sir Alan said: “What is really interesting for a judge coming from elsewhere is seeing the impact of law in a comparatively smaller area than most cosmopolitan cities. In a small community, the effects of what you do as a judge is likely to be more keenly felt – people are much more aware – and judges have to be more sensitive to that.”

Overall, however, he said: “It is a wonderful island, and I am very happy to be here.”

Back at home in England, Sir Alan sings in a choir and until recently was the chair of a music charity that aims to provide music education for local British children.

Photograph below.



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