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Most Senior UK Judge Delivers Judicial Distinguished Guest Lecture

Cayman's judiciary and its legal fraternities last week hosted the highest ranking member of the British judiciary ever to visit Cayman in that capacity. A Justice of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom, The Right Hon. Lord Mance was here as keynote speaker for Tuesday's (31 March) Fifth Annual Judicial Distinguished Guest Lecture.

Lord Mance is one of the 12 most senior UK judges, all of whom rotate in sitting on the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, the court of final appeal for the UK overseas territories and Crown dependencies and for many other Commonwealth countries. These same 12 judges constitute the UK Supreme Court as well, the final appellate court for the UK itself.

While here, Lord Mance was hosted jointly by the Judicial Administration, the Caymanian Bar Association and the Cayman Islands Law Society.

A reception in his honour hosted by the two legal professional associations was held at the Westin Grand Cayman. In his brief remarks at that event, Lord Mance said he hoped that he had presented the "human face" of the Privy Council. He added that he valued the opportunity that the visit offered to meet the lawyers who appear before him and his colleagues, and to develop relationships with members of the judiciary on whose judgments they must decide. He also remarked on the value of visiting the Truman Bodden Law School and discussing matters of interest to budding lawyers there.

These meetings offered opportunities, he said, of learning how local practitioners and courts and the Privy Council can best work together. Lord Mance said that he would take back to London suggestions that had been made about some possible procedural changes that might further that goal as well as perhaps reduce local costs of appeals to the Privy Council. He indicated that consideration would also be given to preparing a summary of key cases on Privy Council practice, to supplement the information in Cayman's Grand Court Rules and Practice Directions.

Commenting separately, he said that his visit had been "a very enriching experience," and that he considered it "a good idea" to maintain relationships with judges in local jurisdictions from which cases come to the Privy Council. He said that this visit helped to inform and consolidate understanding of the local legal scene and its nuances.

The lecture, held in Grand Court 1, was attended by some 80 attorneys and other legal professionals. Speaking on the topic of "Jurisdiction and Justiciability," Lord Mance sought to

explain the issues which lawyers and courts have to consider when determining where cases can and should be heard and decided.

Chief Justice Anthony Smellie, who initiated the lecture series held annually at the Courts, commented that he was particularly pleased with how the visit had gone. He noted that Lord Mance, who returned to the UK on Wednesday (1 April), had been very keen to meet the judges and, in the time available, to get as clear an understanding as he could of the local circumstances and the business coming before the Courts.

The Chief Justice said that Lord Mance had visited Grand Cayman many years ago as counsel. Lord Mance had commented, the Chief Justice said, on the remarkable changes that have taken place since then, including the complexity of the cases going to the Privy Council from Cayman.

The Chief Justice thanked the legal professional associations for their help in making the arrangements for Lord Mance's visit.

In his vote of thanks at the end of the lecture, Justice Quin thanked Lord Mance and paid tribute to Ms Tabitha Philander, Clerk of the Court, for organising the lecture, and to the two legal associations for hosting the reception and arranging some other aspects of the visit.

Mr. Nick Rogers, Vice President of the Caymanian Bar Association, in his remarks at the Westin reception thanked Lord Mance on behalf of the two associations for his erudite presentation.

The Judicial Administration anticipates shortly placing a copy of Lord Mance's speech on the judicial website.



0660: Lord Mance, right, shares with a part of group of young Caymanian lawyers and articulated clerks attending the Westin reception, from left, Paul Ebanks (Ogier), Lisa Donalds (Sinclairs), Joni Ebanks (Maples and Calder), Ridhiima Kapoor (Ogier), and Alison Maxwell (Kobre & Kim).



0634: The platform party at Lord Mance's lecture. Flanking Chief Justice Smellie and Lord Mance are from left: Justices Richard Williams and Andrew Jones, and, right, Justices Ingrid Mangatal and Charles Quin.



0639: Lord Mance, centre, with Aladair Robertson, President of the Cayman Islands Law Society, and, right, Nick Rogers, Vice President of the Caymanian Bar Association.



0664: Lord Mance, far right, with a group of young Caymanian attorneys and articled clerks attending the Westin reception in his honour.



0630: Lord Mance reviews appreciatively a book presented by Justice Mangatal. Justice Quin is far left.



0632: Part of the audience of attorneys and other members of the legal fraternity attending Lord Mance's address at the Judicial Administration's Fifth Annual Distinguished Guest Lecture.



0623: Following his address, Lord Mance responds to a question by Chief Justice Smellie. Justice Andrew Jones is centre.

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