



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Statement of the Judiciary on the Passing of Mr. Ramon Alberga K.C.

The Judiciary is saddened to note the passing of Mr. Ramon Alberga OBE KC on Tuesday 23rd January 2024. Mr. Alberga was known as the Doyen and Father of the Cayman Islands Bar and rightly so in recognition of his esteemed legal career. This spanned close to seventy years in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands.

His contribution to the development of the jurisprudence in this jurisdiction cannot be overstated and is duly deserving of the special place of honor which he held each year at the ceremony to mark the opening of the legal year.

He was called to the English Bar in Middle Temple in February 1951 and thereafter to the Jamaican Bar. He was first instructed to appear in the Grand Court of the Cayman Islands by William Walker in 1964. Following his move to the Cayman Islands with his family in 1976, he appeared more frequently before these Courts. His pre-eminence as an advocate and his thorough research skills were consistently displayed.

In the early 1980's while he was president of the Cayman Islands Law Society, he recognised the absence of ready access to the judgments of the Cayman Courts and together with others he played a leading role in the establishment of the Cayman Islands Law Reports. The first volume of the Reports was published in 1987. Many of the judgments dating back to 1952 and before, which appeared in the early volumes of the Reports, came from Mr. Alberga's own extensive private collection. From the 1980's through to December 2020, he served faithfully for more than forty years as consulting editor of the Law Reports. To this he brought his considerable legal experience, eye for detail and dedicated energy. This is work which has been of much benefit to the Courts and the legal and wider community here and in other jurisdictions.

In 2011 at the opening of the Grand Court, on the 60th anniversary of Mr. Alberga's call to the Bar, in recognition of his years of dedicated service, his portrait was mounted in the foyer of the Court. He was the first attorney and only non-judge to be afforded this honor. This is reflective of the level of respect and the regard in which he is held. It was and will always be said of him that he fulfilled his duty as an officer of the Court in every sense of the word.

Mr. Alberga will be greatly missed by all who knew him. Sincere condolences are extended by the Hon. Chief Justice and the entire Judiciary to his family and friends.

Margaret Ramsey-Hale

Chief Justice

24th January 2024