

ADDRESS BY THE HONOURABLE CHIEF JUSTICE
MARGARET RAMSAY- HALE AT THE OPENING OF
THE LEGAL YEAR ON WEDNESDAY 10 JANUARY 2024*

Greetings and Salutations

I am so pleased to see we have a full house. I extend a warm welcome to Her Excellency the Governor, Mrs. Jane Owen, the Hon Premier Mrs Juliana O’Conner - Connolly, the Hon Deputy Premier Mr. Andre Ebanks, Acting Deputy Governor, Wesley Howell, Hon Members of Cabinet, Hon Leader of the Opposition, the Hon Elected Members of the Parliament, CO Gloria McField-Nixon and other distinguished guests. I rely as ever on the Hon Attorney General to establish protocol but I bid all of you a very warm welcome.

I also acknowledge the presence today of the Honourable Judge of Appeal, Sir Anthony Smellie making his first appearance in the jury box with his wife, Lady Smellie.

Other special guests to my left in the jury box include Mrs. Samantha Williams, wife of Justice Williams.

I extend a special welcome to Mr. Justice St-John Stevens, who has served on the Grand Court for many years as an acting Judge and has returned for another acting stint in the Criminal Division. I am delighted to announce that the learned Judge, who is a Circuit Judge in the UK, has been appointed to the English Court of Appeal. He has very graciously said that his appointment to our Court made all the difference in the selection process. I thank him for the compliment and offer him our warmest congratulations.

And of course, last but not least, I welcome our colleagues in the Magistracy, the members of the profession and other officers of the Court, representatives of the media and everyone who has joined the proceedings by livestream.

REMARKS IN RESPONSE TO THE SUBMISSIONS MADE BY THE ATTORNEY - GENERAL, THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS, THE PRESIDENT OF CAYMAN ISLANDS LEGAL PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION, AND TO MR. COLIN MCKIE

I accede to the motion of the Opening of the Court for 2024 and offer some remarks of my own.

TRANSITIONS

We begin as we have done every year since I joined the Courts in 1998, with transitions within the Judiciary and the courts. I will not mention all who have left or have joined at the same time. Some I mention later in my speech so please don't pass up any notes to say I have forgotten anyone. At least, not until the speech is finished.

IN MEMORIAM

MR JUSTICE MICHAEL WOOD KC

I begin by noting, as the speakers before me have done, the untimely passing of Justice Michael Wood KC who passed away on 13 September 2023. He was appointed to the Grand Court in 2015 and made an enormous contribution to work of the Criminal Division as an acting Judge. I thank Mr. Mckie for his tribute to the late Judge which the Judiciary and all staff at the Courts wholeheartedly adopt. We add our own expression of condolence to the family of Justice Woods, including our own Mr. Nicholas Dixey who was his brother-in-law. Justice Wood was particularly fond of the Cayman Islands, perhaps because of its association with his wife and not the work. I believe, unless Mr. Dixey contradicts me, that they met here.

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We continue to hold his wife and son in our prayers.

APPOINTMENTS AND RETIREMENTS

I now have the happier task of welcoming back to our judicial fold Sir Anthony Smellie who bid us farewell only 14 months ago, having retired as Chief Justice after nearly 25 years at the helm. In her speech at the Valedictory Ceremony in his honour in January 2023, Mrs. Warnock KC spoke Sir Anthony's appointment as a Justice of Appeal of the Cayman Islands into existence, expressing her hope then that she would have the pleasure of appearing before him again in the future as a Judge of Appeal. We are delighted at his appointment as the first resident Judge of Appeal and the first Caymanian.

Also appointed a Judge of Appeal in the recent competition was Ms Clare Montgomery, a UK silk who has been referred to as "*a star*" by everyone to whom I have mentioned her appointment. Her background is set out in various press releases and her resume will soon appear on the website, so today I will say only that she is a very well-respected advocate and jurist - she sits on the Court of Appeal for both Jersey and Guernsey - and we are very lucky to have her on our Court. We congratulate her on her appointment.

Their appointments follow on the heels of the retirement last year of both Sir Bernard Rix, a former Lord Justice of Appeal in England who joined our Court of Appeal in 2013 and Sir Alan Moses, also former Lord Justice of Appeal in England who was appointed to our Court of Appeal in 2015. I express our thanks to both Sir Bernard and Sir Alan on behalf of the Judiciary and of the Cayman Islands for their distinguished service to the Court of Appeal and express my personal regret that there no formal ceremony was held in the Court to mark their retirement.

I recognize the presence here today of Mr. Valdis Foldats who served the Courts of the Cayman Islands as Deputy Clerk and Clerk, then as Magistrate and Chief

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Magistrate, he also retired this year after for 25 years of exceptional dedication to the work of the Courts. A Valedictory Ceremony for him was held on Friday last.

The speeches from the Well of the Court reflected the extent to which Mr. Foldats is beloved and respected by the Bar and by the persons over whose cases he has presided for the last 12 years. Mr. Brian Yelverton, who successfully completed the Drug Court programme under Mr. Foldats supervision, also spoke and had nothing but praise for the former Chief Magistrate's compassion and humanity, whose ability to form relationships with the persons he was supervising made all the difference to their treatment outcomes. A special guest at the Ceremony was the Chief Justice of the Nunavut Court, which he described as being situate in the Arctic, who flew into Cayman to pay tribute to his friend of several decades, a friendship that went so far back, he said, that Mr. Foldats had hair.

The Ceremony was not livestreamed but it was recorded and is being edited and will soon be uploaded to the website for viewing. It's perhaps convenient to pause here to welcome Ms Elizabeth Charles who is now in charge of all things media related. She is our new **Chief Communications & Public Relations Officer** and will, among other things, be charged with revitalizing our website and giving us a presence on Twitter now "X", Instagram and Facebook.

Returning to the Valedictory Ceremony, I had intended to announce then that Her Honour Ms Hernandez was to be appointed as Mr. Foldats' successor but she graciously demurred, preferring the spotlight to remain on Mr. Foldats on the occasion of his special sitting.

I'm delighted to be able to speak about her appointment today and to say how very pleased I am that she is our new Chief Magistrate. HH Ms Hernandez enjoyed a successful career at the both the public and private Bar before being appointed to the Bench in 2014 as an acting Magistrate. As Crown Counsel in the Cayman Islands, she prosecuted a wide range of criminal matters and also provided legal advice to the Police, Immigration, Customs and the Department of Labour. In 1992, she joined the newly established firm of Quin and Hampson (now Mourant) of which

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she later became a partner and then Practice Manager up until the firm was sold to Mourant in 2007. Between 2007 and 2016, she successfully operated her own law firm, Hernandez and Co.

She has served her community in a number of leadership roles including as Chair of Cayman Airways Limited and as President of the Cayman Islands Chamber of Commerce, among other distinguished appointments.

Her leadership skills have been on full display in the Courts since she was appointed Coroner. HH Mrs. Hernandez revitalized the work of the Coroner's Court, providing statistics on water-related deaths to the Government, filing reports with various government agencies to prevent the recurrence of similar fatalities, improving systems and responses. She demonstrated extraordinary capability in developing and training court staff and members of stakeholder agencies including the police and has designed and led workshops to keep all stakeholders abreast of developments in the coronial jurisdiction.

I am satisfied that she will bring that same energy and spirit of innovation to the Magistracy, to which she was appointed full-time in 2018, in her new role as Chief Magistrate

We also said farewell to Paul Anglin Sr. who served the Courts as a marshal for 11 years, joining us from the police service where he served for 22 years for a total of 33 years in the public service. We wish Paul well in his retirement. We understand he intends to travel and hope he sends us a postcard from time to time.

Although we don't usually announce upcoming retirements, I make an exception on this occasion, as the date fast approaches, and note that at the end of this month, we will bid farewell to our Chief Bailiff, Richard Harford who has been with the Courts for 10 years having also joined us from the police service where he served for 23 years bringing his time in the service of the public up to 33 years.

THE BUSINESS OF THE COURTS

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There are some statistics in my Report and the Clerk of Courts record of case filings from 2008 to date is annexed to it so I will not spend the little time we have rehearsing them in detail. They will be available on the Website and the Clerk’s office will be happy to respond to any queries about the figures produced.

**GRAND COURT
STATISTICS AT A GLANCE**

	Filed	Disposed	CCR ¹
CRIMINAL DIVISION (# of Indictments)	104	119	114%
CIVIL DIVISION (PROBATE)	239		
(GENERAL)	410		
FINANCIAL SERVICES DIVISION	414		
	Filed	Divorces Granted	
FAMILY DIVISION	355	286	

FINANCIAL SERVICES DIVISION

The Financial Services Division had an intake of 414 new cases. As you have heard from Mr. McKie, the Judges in that Division produced 134 judgments. For those of you who may not know, the Financial Services Division is a specialist division of the Court dealing with “*financial services proceedings*.” The cases are often complex matters involving multiple jurisdictions and are dealt with by Judges with specialist commercial expertise. The number of judgments produced by the Judges of that Court speaks to their hard work in the same way that the quality of the judgments speaks to their legal acumen. Our Judges have earned the high regard of their judicial colleagues in other jurisdictions.

¹ Case Clearance rate

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Currently, that Division has two resident specialist judges, Justices Kawaley and Doyle. The Division relies heavily on our two overseas judges, namely Justice Nick Segal, who is here with us today, and Justice Raj Parker. They were appointed to sit on a part-time basis to assist with the workload of the Courts but over time their workload increased and it became apparent that another Judge was needed to address what was an evident lack of capacity in that Division.

I am pleased to say that we found an exceptional candidate in Justice Jalil Asif KC who joined us on 2 January 2023. I am also pleased to say that although he will sit in the FSD, he will be a generalist Judge and sit in the Civil and Criminal Divisions as well. While a fuller account of his credentials are published both on the Governor's website and on ours, I will take a moment to note that Justice Asif enjoyed a distinguished career at the Bar in the UK where he also sat as Recorder, hearing criminal and later civil matters, and has practiced at the Commercial Bar in Cayman Islands for the last 11 or so years. His excellence as an advocate was recognized by his appointment as one of His Majesty's Counsel in 2010.

More importantly, he is a long-term resident of these Islands who has a well-developed understanding of the people that he is now called upon to serve in his new role.

I offer our warmest congratulations to Justice Asif on his appointment and say on behalf of all the Judges that we look forward to working with him.

FAMILY DIVISION

It has been another extremely busy year in the Family Division of the Grand Court. In 2023, 355 new files were opened. It is clear to me from the report prepared by my learned brother, Mr. Justice Williams, that the prospect for marriages in Cayman remains grim. My learned brother has advised me that 286 certificates of dissolution of marriage were granted, up from 251 in 2022. As an aside, according

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to one online aggregator, Cayman has the fifth highest divorce rate in the world. Russia is number one and the USA is number 6.

The statistics show, however, that a number of family matters remain before the Courts awaiting resolution, caused in large part by a number of unusually contested hearings, some occupying between 3 to 4 weeks of court time. Although my sisters, Richards and Carter JJ do assist in the Family Division as do I on occasion, as does the learned Magistrate, Her Honour Mrs. Gunn who acts a Judge of the Grand Court from time to time, Williams J takes on most of the work as the only judge permanently assigned to that Division. It may soon be time to consider adding capacity in that Division of the Court as well.

The number of matters that remain before the Court awaiting resolution by a Judge is concerning as it is part of the mission of the Family Division to assist people in ending their marriage in the most efficient and fair way possible and with the least amount of conflict. No divorce should be a pyrrhic victory. The Court deplores a scorched earth approach to family litigation, with legal fees taking up the largest part of the marital estate, and seeks to encourage settlement, if not for the sake of the parties, then at least for the sake of the children who suffer the emotional fall out from a hostile and hard-fought divorce.

Mediation has become an integral part of our Family Court procedures and the services we provide to families. It has been led by Ms Leslie Talbot for the last 4 years who has proved an exceptionally well skilled mediator whose mediated agreements have put many parents on a far better footing for long term cooperation with respect to children and financial arrangements. Leslie has helped numerous parties resolve what may have at first glance appeared to be irreconcilable disputes.

She has an outstanding success rate in assisting parents with reaching acceptable agreements. This year up to 18 December, Leslie reported that 104 fully settled cases have been fully settled and 11 are partially settled, a considerable increase

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from the 68 cases which were settled through mediation in 2022. This is a vivid illustration of the successful outcomes that family mediation can achieve.

Leslie is retiring this year and, while we normally note retirements at the Opening ceremony after they have taken place, I take the opportunity today to recognize Leslie and the contributions she has made to the Courts and to the families she has helped through a difficult period of transition and to say thank you and that she will be missed.

I also take the opportunity to welcome Ms Chanda Glidden who will be succeeding Leslie as the Family Mediator, who we are confident will not only build on Leslie's legacy - no pressure - but develop her own, as she too is a highly skilled mediator and has been working with Leslie for some time.

CIVIL DIVISION

The Civil division under the supervision of Justice Carter continues to perform very well. There were 410 General Civil filings and 239 in Probate. Unhappily we are not capturing the data in the Civil Division as we do in the Criminal Division so I cannot provide you with a comprehensive review of the Division's performance.

I have just mentioned the success of mediation in the Family Division. This year we will be promulgating Court-Connected Mediation Rules this year as we seek to improve outcomes in the Civil Division.

CRIMINAL DIVISION

In the Criminal Division, we had 104 new indictments being presented to the Grand Court. Happily, with the assistance of Justice Carter, who was finally appointed in October last year to fill the vacancy left by my elevation to Chief Justice, the Criminal Division disposed of 119 cases, a case clearance rate of 114%.

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I am very pleased to sit with Justice Carter today as a full-time member of the Grand Court and to acknowledge the contributions she made to the administration of justice before her appointment. For some 5 years, she held the title of acting Judge, sitting for upwards of 36 weeks or more in some years in the Civil, Criminal and Family Divisions of the Court before she was appointed to act in the post left vacant by my elevation.

She is a valued colleague and I speak on behalf of all the Judges when I say how pleased we are that she has finally been appointed to full membership of the Court.

I must and do acknowledge the contribution of the acting Judges to the success of the Criminal Division. Their assistance over the years has been invaluable.

I will return to a further consideration of the work of the Grand Court Criminal Division and our concerns about its ability to deliver consistent results later in my speech.

**SUMMARY COURT
STATISTICS AT A GLANCE**

	Filed	Disposed	CCR
CRIMINAL (ALL ISLANDS)	1010	1097	111%
TRAFFIC	1066	1016	95%
CIVIL Applications for protection Orders under the DVA		26	
General Civil claims		262	
MAINTENANCE AND AFFILIATION			
CORONER'S COURT	81	74	91%

In the Summary Court, the Chief Magistrate, Her Honour Mrs. Hernandez reports that the Magistrates continue to perform at a high standard. The Court had an intake of 984 cases in Grand Cayman and 26 criminal cases in the Sister Islands for a total of 1010 cases. 1097 cases were disposed of by the Magistrates during the year.

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This is a case clearance rate of 111% on Grand Cayman and of 127% on Cayman Brac. This is an increase in the case clearance rate over 2022 which was 105%.

I will just pause here for the benefit of those unfamiliar with the term, to explain the significance of the case clearance rate. I'll start by saying it's one of the global measures in the framework for Court Excellence of how well a court is performing. If a court clears 100% of the cases that comes in, then it is handling its case load and no interventions are necessary. If the case clearance rate is below 100% then there will have to be an intervention because the cases which were not tried will go forward, year on year until you have a backlog. If the clearance rate remains under a 100%, there will be a backlog that grows year on year. The court clearance rate is data which is used to drive decision-making including decisions on how the funds allocated to the Judiciary are to be used.

There were 1066 new traffic matters. 1016 were disposed of which is a clearance rate of 95% which is good and on par with 2022 when 1,148 traffic matters were filed and 1,097 disposed of, a case clearance rate of 96%.

In the Coroners Court, 74 matters were disposed of, up from 45 in 2022. In keeping with our commitment as stated last year, to take justice to the people, the Coroners Court was held in the Brac in August 2023 for a week, with 6 jurors from Grand Cayman attending.

I commend Her Hon Mrs. Hernandez on taking that initiative.

REVIEW OF 2023

We have enjoyed a measure of success in meeting our 2023 strategic priorities.

1. IT INFRASTRUCTURE AND EXPANSION OF THE CURIA PLATFORM

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Our first strategic priority was to continue the development of our IT infrastructure and building our storage capacity to support the continuing expansion of the CURIA case management system. At its most basic, CURIA is the platform that allows you to file cases online and access information about cases online among other things.

I am happy to report that we have achieved significant strides in improving service delivery through the Curia platform and that cases for the Court of Appeal can now be to be filed electronically. The expansion of the CURIA platform will now permit the migration of criminal matters from JEMS to the platform. All other divisions of the court have already been migrated to the CURIA platform from JEMS, which was our old case management system.

Fines have been payable online for some time now. Court fees are now payable online as well as Attorney and Notary Public fees with those certificates being electronically generated. We anticipate being able to receive escrow payments in the FSD division on the platform by mid-January 2024 but, if not, then by the end of the first quarter.

2. ESTABLISHMENT OF DISTRICT COURTS

I announced last year, that to deal with the loss of the Town Hall as a venue for the Summary Courts and the difficulty of finding parking in a congested George Town and in keeping with the principle that the Courts should take justice to the people, we would be establishing District Courts.

Well, the Court Administrator, my PA Ms Hilde and I drove around West Bay with Chief Marshall Josen who is a West Bayer in search of a suitable location to hold court in the District of West Bay. We found none.

There was not one municipal building to be found. The Town Hall had become a library and the only other public space was within the West Bay Primary School.

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With no money in the budget to rent accommodation for the Courts and no suitable space being readily identifiable, Ms Shiona has dispatched herself to the East to see what might be available in Bodden Town.

She reported that a Community Center was under construction which might prove suitable in the future but there was nothing presently available for the use of the Summary Courts.

We have not given up and will report next year on progress made.

3. THE RE-INTRODUCION OF JP's IN THE SUMMARY COURT

In 2023, we began our initiative to re-introduce the Justices of the Peace back into the Courts where we consider they have a valuable role to play as leaders in their community. We are working with a small pilot group as we seek to identify the best sort of training to equip them for the roles. They have also had a course of familiarization with the courts and court processes, first observing proceedings from the gallery and then from the bench, sitting with the magistrates. I am happy to report that none of them observed proceedings from the dock.

The magistrates have devoted much of their time mentoring the JP's. I did not pass on all the expressions of gratitude to the Magistrates that I was asked to convey but I do so now publicly on behalf of the JP's, many of whom are here with us this morning. Thank you very much.

In 2024, Justices of the Peace sitting in the Summary Court will become a reality. They will be deployed in the Traffic Court which will relieve the magistrates of a significant amount of their current caseload. The DPP very kindly offered to help with designing and delivering in conjunction with the Courts some mock trials and role plays.

Training in this regard will continue for the first half of 2024.

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4. BUILDING CAPACITY ON THE GRAND COURT

One of our strategic priorities for 2023, was to build the capacity of the Bench by creating two additional posts. Justice Asif has been recruited to one such post. We will start the recruitment exercise for another Judge in the near future, with a view to appointing another full-time judge of the Grand Court in June.

This Judge will sit primarily in the Criminal Division which has been reliant for the last several years on the availability of overseas acting judges to get the work of that Division done.

I want to thank the Governor and the Government for their continued commitment to support the Judiciary and the Courts which allowed us to establish the two new Judicial posts.

5. DEVELOPING A BLUEPRINT FOR COURT EXCELLENCE

Last year I announced that the Judiciary would be moving forward with the Court Excellence project. If you would indulge me, I would repeat for those who were not present last year and the members of the public who may be attending this Ceremony remotely for the first time, that the International Framework for Court Excellence is a resource *“for assessing a court’s performance against seven detailed areas of court excellence.”* It provides *“clear guidance for courts intending to improve their performance.”*²

The Framework provides for continuous evaluation and improvement through the collection of data to measure performance. Decision-making ought to be data driven.

It is imperative that we have a strategic plan informed by the Court Excellence Framework. We have started the process. We administered the questionnaire and

² International Framework for Court Excellence, p.1

collated the results. We had focus groups and a two-day strategic planning session which were lively and informative and we hope to be able to publish our strategic plan by the end of the June at the very latest.

5. BUILDING A MODERN TECHNOLOGY ENABLED COURTHOUSE

And this brings me to our most important strategic priority which is to have courts which are fit for purpose. I am conscious of the time but I think it must be said that while the Judiciary is grateful that we were able to add the Law Courts building at Cardinal Ave to the Court campus, bringing the number of courthouses to 3, it is still not enough to meet our needs. I won't bore you with the technical details that make retrofitting an old bank building into a contemporary court an expensive task which cannot produce the Courts we need. Suffice to say, that the structural design of the building has made it almost impossible to do so.

To the disappointment I am sure of the leaders of government who might have thought "*New Chief, New Speech*", I find myself this morning renewing the call made by the former Chief Justice for a bespoke Courthouse built to modern standards, technologically enabled and designed to ensure accessibility to people with disabilities. So, "*New Chief, Old Speech.*"

The Grand Court tries category A offences: murder, arson, robbery.

We only have two custody courts suitable for the trial of such offences and those are Courts 1 and 2 in the main Courthouse.

There was an attempt to make a custody court in the Law Courts on Cardinal Avenue but it was not fully successful. I am happy to take anyone present on a tour of the Court campus and explain why the existing court facilities are not fit for the purpose.

I can speak to this building now to give you a flavour of what we are dealing with. We had a criminal court user's meeting where, for the Criminal Bar, the need was

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highlighted for designated witness care rooms, in particular, for vulnerable witnesses in serious criminal cases. This is to ensure that such witnesses are not waiting in common areas or areas accessible to the general public.

The executive team then did a walkthrough which showed that we are operating with severe space constraints. The entry and exits to the Court for Jurors, the size of the facilities available for jury deliberations were all issues identified as requiring review and work in this year. We discovered, among other things, that the jury room, on this building where defendants charged with murder and other serious offences are tried, cannot accommodate 12 jurors at a table so they can sit together for deliberations or even for a cup of coffee.

It is to be remembered that these are members of our community who give willingly and thoughtfully their time to play what is a critical role in the proper administration of justice. We have renovated the jury rooms and are trying to overcome the challenge of expanding the space.

Justice Richards has been constrained to only fix one jury trial at a time because she only had access to Court 1, as Court 2 was assigned to the Summary Court. That too was an impediment to the proper administration of justice as only one custody and one non-custody case could be tried at the same time. Only non-custody cases can be tried in Court 5 which is in Kirk House and only when that Court is available and not being used for FSD trials.

I directed that Court 2 be used for Grand Court criminal trials. This has displaced the lawyers as their robing room has been converted to a jury room. That new jury room cannot accommodate 12 jurors either.

A robing room was set up for the lawyers in the old library, but this is not ideal as they are now in an area that might be considered the *sanctum sanctorum* of the Judges.

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Modern Courts require witness care rooms for both the prosecution and defence witnesses. This is urgent and essential. Imagine being a victim of a violent crime and sitting in the foyer across from the person who you have accused of committing the crime against you.

To create such rooms on this building, we are going to have to displace the Court Reporters who can't be moved too far because they work in these two courts.

Even more critically, the decision to prioritise the Grand Court trials has displaced the Summary Court. There are no other courtrooms of comparable size, capable of accommodating the Criminal and Traffic Return Days, when upwards of a 100 people might attend court, and the Town Hall is no longer available for the Court's use.

We are making do and we continue to try, within the constraints of the funding that has been approved for the Judiciary and Courts, to make changes to ameliorate the situation we are in, but the fact is that we need modern technology enabled Courts, with jury boxes which are equipped with monitors and table tops that can accommodate bundles and allow the jurors to take notes of the proceedings if they so desire.

We are known as a world class financial center but the Courts in which the Judges of the FSD sit are not technology-enabled courts either, with power outlets, microphones and monitors being available at Counsel's table. Courts 8 and 9 are exemplars of the modern court, but they are too small to accommodate the most significant hearings in the FSD. Justice Segal is currently hearing a 12-week trial in Court 5. He has between 40 and 50 lawyers in that matter. Most of the technology, apart from a wall mounted screen and microphones, have been supplied by the Bar, as it was during the AHAB trial.

It cannot continue and it may yet reach the stage where one or more Courts cease to sit because the conditions are inimical to the proper administration of justice.

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New Rules/Practice Directions

I close on what I hope is a high note with reference to one small change in the Rules and a new Practice Direction.

We made the decision last year to re-introduce terms for the sittings of the Grand Court. The reintroduction of the summer vacation in particular will allow us to undertake overdue repairs to the roof of this building and other renovations to improve the accommodations for witnesses, litigants, lawyers and other court users.

It will allow the over-burdened Registries, bowing under the weight of work, time to catch up.

It will also allow time for the training of staff and Judges.

Order 64 has been amended which sets out the mechanism for calculating the dates of each term and I will shortly issue a Notice publishing the dates for the new terms for 2024.

I hope the reintroduction of terms is welcomed by the lawyers as well.

The next bit of news is relevant to the Civil and Commercial Bar: I am pleased to advise that we have revised the fees that are recoverable on taxation upwards, as set out in Practice Direction 1 of 2024 which was recently gazetted.

Close

That brings the proceedings to a close. Thank you for your kind attention. I look forward to working with you all as we continue to uphold our mission of delivering fair, timely and effective justice to the people of the Cayman Islands.

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