

Introductory Note

The Hon. Chief Justice, Mme. Louise Esther Blenman and the Senior Courts of Belize were delighted to host a special dinner in honour of two legal luminaries, the Hon. Mme. Justice Antoinette Moore and Hon. Mr. Justice Francis Cumberbatch, both of whom have retired from the bench after years of legal service. The two judges served for many years as High Court Judges here in Belize, and have made outstanding contributions to the Judiciary, to Belize and to court users. Together, these senior judges have worked assiduously and are highly regarded by justice stakeholders and colleagues for their scholarship, erudition and fairness and have contributed commendably to the jurisprudence of Belize.

The Hon. Mme. Justice Antoinette Moore

The Hon. Mme. Justice Antoinette Moore's distinguished legal career began in the United States of America, where she was called to the Bar in 1985. She later obtained her Legal Education Certificate from the Norman Manley Law School in 1996 and went on to practise law in Belize for 19 years before her elevation to the bench as a Justice of the Criminal Division of the Supreme Court (now High Court) of Belize. She primarily sat in the Southern Administrative District and served in her capacity as High Court Judge for twelve (12) years. Throughout her illustrious legal and judicial career, Justice Moore served in numerous capacities, bringing to each role her extensive legal knowledge, erudition and commitment to the administration of justice. Her judicial service was characterised by independence, careful reasoning, fairness and a steadfast commitment to human rights and the dignity of all who appeared before her court. Through her judgments and contributions to the development of Belizean jurisprudence, she has made a lasting impact on the legal landscape of Belize and the wider Caribbean. She has presided over numerous complex and high-profile criminal matters including *R v William "Danny" Mason and others*, *R v Kareem Martinez*, and *R v Wilmer Escobar*. Hon. Mme. Justice Moore's career stands as a testament to the enduring values of judicial integrity, intellectual rigour and an unwavering commitment to justice for all.

The Hon. Mr. Justice Francis Cumberbatch

The Hon. Mr. Justice Francis Cumberbatch's outstanding legal career spans more than four decades of legal practice and judicial service. He began his career in 1977 as a Crown Counsel in the Chambers of the Director of Public Prosecutions of Guyana and he was called to the Bar in Guyana in 1980. As an advocate, he established a formidable reputation in the courts of Guyana and The Bahamas for his intellect, legal acumen and diligence. His extensive experience and distinguished advocacy led to his appointment as a judge of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court, where he served with distinction for nine years before joining the Judiciary of Belize, where he served as a Justice of the Criminal Division of the Supreme Court (now High Court) of Belize for eight years. Throughout his career, Justice Cumberbatch served in numerous capacities, including as Head of the Criminal Division, bringing to each role his considerable legal knowledge, brilliance and erudition. As a High Court judge, Hon. Justice Cumberbatch has presided over numerous high-profile criminal matters including *R v Marlon Padilla and Guillermo Duarte*, *R v dean Galvez* and *R v Pablo Catzim*. His judicial service has been characterised by a steadfast commitment to fairness, principled decision-making and the administration of justice, as well as a deep appreciation for regional integration and the development of Caribbean jurisprudence.