

BAR RIGHTS/JUSTICE FOR ALL **/JUST RIGHTS!????**

(Volume One - April, 2011)

1. The Jamaican Bar Association (**JAMBAR**) will continue to provide its members with important information, including details of upcoming Bar events, Bills before Parliament, colleagues (or their family members) who have made their transition and any other matter of relevance to the Bar via this medium – its new Bulletin **“Justice For All”**. Members are urged to get an email address so that “soft copies” of this “bulletin” can be submitted and received as quickly as possible. The administrative staff of the Bar will also be ensuring that those paid-up members who do not have access to email facilities will be provided with a copy of this document by other means.
2. As a result of the annual general meeting of the Jamaican Bar Association (**“JBA”**) held on the 19th March, 2011 a new Bar Council was elected. The new President of the JBA, elected unopposed, is **Ian G. Wilkinson**, who had been Vice President for a number of years, and the Vice President is **Mrs. Valrie Neita-Robertson**. The other members of the executive are **Althea McBean**, Secretary and **Donovan Walker**, Treasurer, the latter being elected to the said posts at the Council’s first monthly meeting on March 28, 2011.
3. Also at its first monthly meeting held on March 28, 2011 **Maurice Manning** was elected Assistant Secretary; and **Sherry Ann McGregor-Tai**, Assistant Treasurer. The other Council members are **Jacqueline Samuels-Brown, QC**, Immediate Past President (IPP); **John Leiba** the previous IPP; **Pamela Benka-Coker, QC**; **Norma Linton**,

QC; Janet Morrison; Nancy Anderson; Patrick Bailey; Paul Beswick; Sandra Minott-Phillips; Carol Vassall; Jacqueline cummings; Katherine Francis; Linda Wright; Michele Champagne and Leslie Campbell.

4. At the first council meeting the new president thanked the members of the Bar for the support reposed in him and expressed his gratitude to the members of the previous council (in particular the IPP Mrs. Samuels-Brown QC) for their sterling work for the Bar. The president emphasized that during his tenure he would be placing great emphasis on the welfare of the members of the Bar, including addressing a number of matters such as the provision of Counsel's/robing rooms and parking for counsel at various court houses throughout the island.
5. **BAR BEAT**: The JBA staged one of its chief fundraising events, "***Bar Beat***" on Saturday, **April 16, 2011** at "the Pub", Devon House. Several hundred members, friends and well-wishers came out, de-stressed, had fun and supported the Bar – in every sense! Special congratulations must be extended to Jade Hollis the chairperson of the Social Affairs Committee and her hard working committee members who toiled hard to stage a memorable event.
6. **BAR DINNER**: The Bar Association's annual banquet is scheduled to be held on **Friday July 22, 2011** at the **Jamaica Pegasus Hotel**. As is now the tradition, the Bar will be honouring stalwarts of the profession. The identities of these individuals and further information will be provided in due course. Please note the date and come out to have fun and support the Bar. More anon on this seminal event.

7. **LAWYERS' CREDIT UNION ?**: The Bar Council is considering the suggestion made by some members for JAMBAR to establish a credit union for lawyers. Suggestions from members on this topic are welcome.
8. **CELEBRATION OF LIFE**: JAMBAR extends condolences to the family and friends of our colleague ***Ava Dean Martin*** (class of 1999 and one of the legal counsel at the Administrator-General's Department) who made her transition recently. The Bar was well represented at her funeral, especially by her former classmate and assistant treasurer Mrs. McGregor-Tai who read the eulogy.

Our condolences also must be extended to esteemed Queen's Counsel (and recent JAMBAR Honouree) Mr. Fred Hamaty, his other family members, friends and staff on the passing of his mother. Let us celebrate her life especially as she played more than a passing role in gifting the profession with such a noble colleague!

9. **NEW LEGISLATION**: The Bar has received the following Bills from the Houses of Parliament (Gordon House):
 - (a) An Act to Amend the Criminal Justice (Plea Negotiations and Agreements) Act (***Act.No.30/10***);
 - (b) An Act to amend the Urban Renewal (Tax Relief) Act (***Act No. 31/10***);
 - (c) An Act to Make provision for the protection of systematically important clearing and settlement systems from disruptions that may lead to risks to the stability of financial systems, cause loss of confidence in the public payment regime in general, and for connected matters." (***Act. No. 32/10***); and

- (d)** An Act to Make new provisions for the establishment and operation of the National Library of Jamaica and to provide for connected matters.” (**Act No. 33/10**)

Copies of these may be obtained from the Bar office.

10. **OVERSEAS PROGRAMMES/SEMINARS**: JAMBAR has received notification from Public Administration International (registered in Cardiff, Wales) of:

(a) its two-week study programme “**Access to Criminal Justice and Human Rights: Police, courts and prisons**” in London, England between October 3 -14, 2011; and

(b) its two-week UK-based study programme “**Access to Civil Justice:efficiency, affordability and fairness**” scheduled for November 7-18, 2011. For further information, members can contact the Bar office (Miss SandraTapper or Miss Antoinette Wilmot)

11. **III Madrid Meeting**: JAMBAR has received notice from the ***Ilustre Colegio de Abogados De Madrid*** that the III Madrid meeting will take place May 13 and 14, 2011 in Madrid, Spain to “**...analyse important topics common to lawyers from different legal systems**”. Further information can be obtained from the Bar office.

12. The International Bar Association (**IBA**) will be staging a conference “**Global Investments In Real Estate: Trends, Opportunities and New Frontiers**” in Miami USA May 1-3, 2011.

13. The IBA will also be hosting the “**2nd Conference of the Americas**” which is scheduled to be held May 4- 6, 2011 at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Miami, USA.

Information regarding registration for the said events can be obtained from the JAMBAR office.

14. **PUBLIC LECTURE**: On Thursday, April 21, 2011 (at 5:00 pm) the institute for Gender and Development Studies (UWI) in collaboration with The Institute of Caribbean Studies (UWI) will be staging a public lecture by **Mr. Hugh Small, QC** at the Neville Hall Lecture Theatre (N1), Faculty of Humanities & Education, UWI Mona Campus. The topic is ***“Coral Gardens 1963: a Legal Analysis and Implications for the Jamaican Justice System”***. Members are encouraged to attend.

15. **JAMBAR CONTACT**: The Association’s offices are located at 78 Harbour Street, Kingston. The telephone numbers are 967-3394; 967-9034; 967-3783 (fax); Email: jba@flowja.com. Website: www.jambar.org.

16. **PRESIDENT’S CONTACT INFORMATION**: Email may also be sent to the president at president@jambar.org.

Ian Wilkinson
President
The Jamaican Bar Association
April, 2011