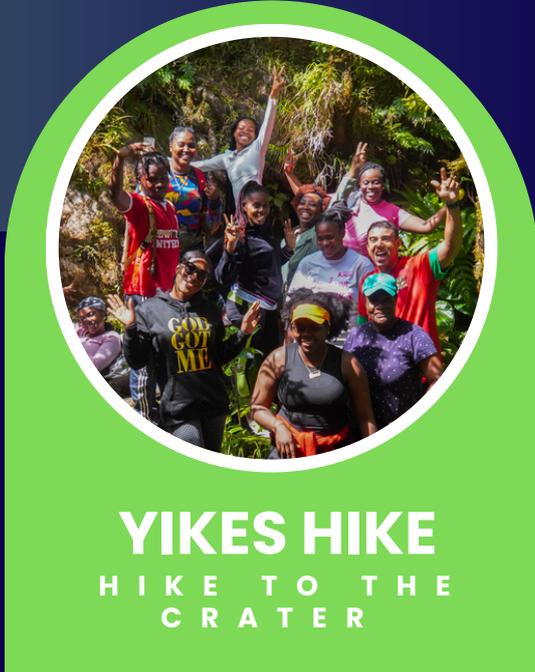




# ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE & MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

## 2025 MID-YEAR NEWSLETTER

As we mark the midpoint of the year, the Attorney General's Office and the Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs reflect on the progress achieved, the challenges overcome, and the significant contributions made across all departments. This edition highlights key accomplishments, ongoing initiatives and the unified efforts that continue to advance our mandate.



We invite you to explore the highlights, insights and moments that showcase the heart of our Ministry- our people, our progress, and our purpose.

# OPENING OF THE NEW LAW YEAR



On 10 January, the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court (ECSC) officially marked the commencement of the new law year under the theme: **“Accessibility and Awareness- The ECSC Bridging the Gap Through Community Engagement”**.



# WELCOME TO AGO MJLA COMMONS

At the start of 2025, the Attorney General's Office and the Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs launched a dynamic new team-oriented initiative filled with fun and engaging activities. This effort was designed to foster a positive workplace culture, strengthen team spirit and encourage camaraderie across departments.

**AGO MJLA  
COMMONS**

To promote these values throughout the Ministry, a curated calendar of events was introduced to encourage engagement, participation, and team bonding. Staff members were randomly assigned to one of four color houses- Black, Red, White, or Green- and invited to take part in a series of pre-events to earn points for their teams.

Following the house assignments, the excitement quickly built as the Ministry launched into a highly anticipated lineup of activities, thoughtfully coordinated by the Communications Team.

# FINDING YOUR WAY: DEPARTMENT DESTINATIONS

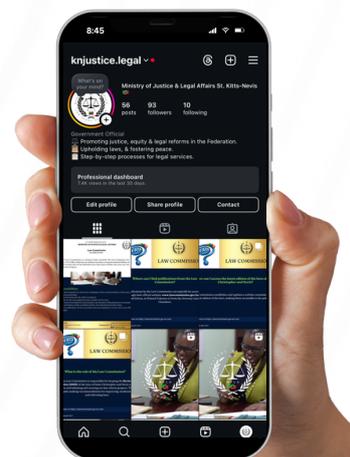
As part of our ongoing commitment to enhancing transparency and strengthening communication—both within the Ministry and with the public— we recognise the importance of knowing where each department is located. Easy access to the various departments is essential for

- Submitting documents
- Accessing legal services
- Resolving court-related matters
- Participating in public or legal engagements.

This promotes greater efficiency, clearer communication, and improved public service delivery.

To support this initiative, the Attorney General’s Office and the Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs launched a “Location Video” series. Each video offers a visual guide to where departments are situated and provides a brief overview of the services available at each location.

**Watch these on Instagram or  
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# JUDGE -ALONE TRIALS REFORM HIGHLIGHTED



**On 13-14 February, in Bridgetown, Barbados,** The **Honourable Garth Wilkin** participated in the Attorneys-General Roundtable, where he delivered a compelling address highlighting the **'Judge-Alone Trials Act'**, as a landmark reform. He emphasised its role in improving the efficiency and appropriateness of criminal justice and in strengthening the justice system overall.

The Roundtable was hosted by the UNDP Pace Justice Project, with support from the European Union.

# CHARITY OUT REACH- ZAKERS AFFINITY CAUSES

On 26 February, the Attorney General's Office and Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs, proudly partnered with **Zakers Affinity Causes**, a non-profit organisation committed to empowering women and children affected by poverty, incarceration, and other life challenges.

This meaningful collaboration aligns with our ongoing commitment to:

- Gender Equality (SDG 5)
- Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (SDG 16)
- Partnerships for the Goals (SDG 17).

Together, we continue to champion change and uplift lives!



# HERITAGE TOUR WITH ST. CHRISTOPHER NATIONAL TRUST

On 1 March, the Ministry joined the **St. Christopher National Trust** for their Farm to Table Tour, celebrating **History & Heritage Month**.



By building partnerships with local institutions and preserving our culture, we support:

- Sustainability
- Gender Equality (SDG 5)
- Strong Institutions (SDG 16)
- Partnerships (SDG 17)



# MAGISTRATE'S COURT TRAINING



On 20-21 March, Magistrate's Court staff participated in a development workshop at the St. Kitts Marriott Resort. The training focused on building core competencies to enhance service delivery and promote a more effective and empathetic justice system.

## Key Areas of Focus:

- **Self Awareness & Emotional Intelligence**
- **Assertiveness & De-escalation**
- **Experiential Team Building Exercises**
- **Appreciative Inquiry**
- **Case Flow Management**

This initiative supports our commitment to **Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions (SDG 16)**.

HIKE TO THE CRATER -

# “YIKES HIKE”

As part of our House Sports Competition: **The AGO- MJLA Commons**, staff members laced up their hiking shoes and conquered the trek to **Mount Liamuiga**.

The activity wasn't just about earning points; it was also about:

- 🍃 Enjoying nature
- 👟 Getting some exercise
- 😂 Sharing laughter (and a few tears!)



# YOUTH PROTECTION SEMINAR- PS WILLIAMS REPRESENTS ST. KITTS & NEVIS



From 25-27 March, **Permanent Secretary Nerissa Williams** represented St. Kitts and Nevis at a high-level **Youth Protection Seminar**. The forum brought together policymakers, justice actors, and youth specialists from Latin America and the Caribbean.

Key focus: **Strengthening protection systems for children and young people**, especially in the context of organised crime and social vulnerability. Reflecting on the experience, PS Williams stated: "This seminar presented a valuable opportunity to engage with regional partners on practical solutions that can strengthen our national justice response to youth vulnerability. It reinforces the importance of a coordinated, rights-based approach across institutions".

# DIGITAL LAND SYSTEM MODERNISATION

## ADVANCING LAIS INTEGRATION



On 27 March, the Land Registry Committee convened with key stakeholders, involved in land management and transactions across the Federation. The focus of the meeting was to advance the integration of the Digital Land Administration and Information System (LAIS). This is a major step towards enhancing:

- Efficiency
- Transparency
- Accessibility of land services

**Stay tuned for the official rollout!**

# REGULATED MEDICINAL CANNABIS AUTHORITY LAUNCHED

On 25 April, the Honourable Garth Wilkin delivered remarks at the official establishment of the **Regulated Medicinal Cannabis Authority**. In his address, Attorney General Wilkin underscored the government's unwavering commitment to developing a responsible, forward-thinking, and internationally compliant medicinal cannabis industry.

*“The entire regime is now set for us. The table is set. It’s for us to be responsible, take advantage, and to build an industry that creates jobs and economic opportunities,” he stated.*

This milestone marks a bold step towards innovation, regulation, and economic empowerment in the Federation.



# ANYTHING But A BAG Day

As part of our commitment to a fun, engaging work culture, the AGO-MJLA joined in on the viral trend: "Anything But a Bag Day" on 16 April.

Staff across departments brought their A-game- carrying their belongings in anything but a traditional bag. From baskets to buckets and toolboxes to toy bins, the creativity was unmatched.

This activity, part of the AGO-MJLA Commons initiative, promoted:

- Friendly competition
- House team points
- Collective laughter and spirit



# SPIRIT WEEK

2 8 A P R I L - 2 M A Y

Spirit Week brought a burst of creativity, energy, and camaraderie across departments. Each day featured fun, themed activities tied to our colour house competition, with points awarded for participation.

This week of events exemplified the power of play, unity, and positive workplace culture.



# PLEA BARGAINING TRAINING

On 1 May, the AGO-MJLA hosted its **inaugural Plea Bargaining Training Workshop.**

Bringing together:

- Crown Counsels from the DPP's Office
- Private criminal barristers
- Key justice stakeholders

The workshop was led by **Ms. Paula Llwellyn, CD, KC,** Director of Public Prosecutions of Jamaica, and **Assistant DPP Malike Kellier.**

This hands-on training equipped participants with the practical tools needed to implement plea bargaining effectively- in the interest of justice, efficiency, and the well-being of victims, accused persons, and their families.





# COMMONS FUN DAY

On 16 May, the Attorney General's Office and Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs hosted the first-ever AGO-MJLA Commons Fun Day at the NCI Grounds.

The day was filled with:

- Laughter
- Team games
- Friendly rivalries
- Bonding



Staff from across departments came together to enjoy a well-deserved break- marking a new tradition of unity and workplace wellness.

Brimstone Barristers emerged as the champions of the 2025 AGO-MJLA Commons Fun Day! This initiative is part of a broader vision- building a stronger, more connected workplace culture. These events go far beyond entertainment; they're about **team building, celebration, and collective success.**



# ADDRESS TO THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON CRIME PREVENTION

On 19 May, Attorney General Garth Wilkin addressed the **34<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice**, held in Vienna

## Key Highlights from the Address:

- Tackling transnational crime
- Legislative reform
- Crime reduction successes
- Capacity- building needs
- Strengthening international partnerships
- Anti-corruption progress
- Commitment to SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions)



**WATCH THE FULL REMARKS ON:**

[ADDRESS TO THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON CRIME PREVENTION](#)

# EL PACCTO 2.0 - PERU DIALOGUE



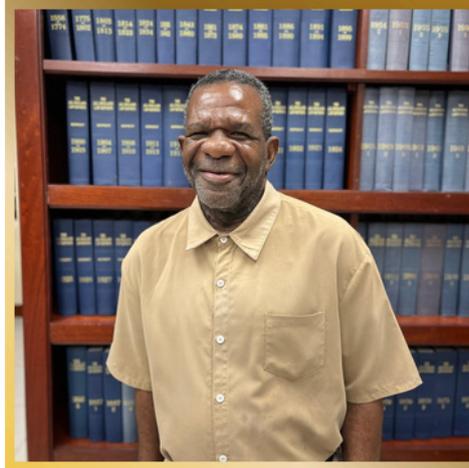
From 16-19 June, Attorney General Garth Wilkin and Permanent Secretary Nerissa Williams represented St. Kitts and Nevis at the **EL PACcto 2.0 Annual Meeting** in Lima, Peru.

AG Wilkin moderated the opening High-Level Dialogue, addressing emerging threats posed by organised crime in the Caribbean and the European Union.

The delegation also delivered a keynote presentation on **The Rule of Law in Justice and Security Responses to Organised Crime**, underscoring the need for stronger regional collaboration to tackle evolving criminal threats.

HAPPY  
Retirement!

# MR. KENLEY HENRY RETIRES AFTER 29 YEARS



**Mr. Kenley Henry's** unwavering dedication and outstanding service have left a lasting legacy at the High Court Registry.

While his presence will be greatly missed, we celebrate this new chapter and extend heartfelt wishes for a joyful, well-deserved retirement.

Thank you, Mr. Henry, for your remarkable contributions.

# PLANNING, MONITORING & EVALUATION (PME) TRAINING



The Attorney General's Office and Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs hosted a 3-day Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation (PME) Training programme for justice-sector professionals from 24-26 June. The training was delivered with technical support from the UNDP Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean Multi-Country Office. The workshop forms part of the Government efforts to embed a results-based culture across the justice system and strengthen institutional performance.

The workshop focused on:

- Developing theories of change and logic models tailored to justice functions.
- Crafting SMART indicators, baselines, and performance targets.
- Designing monitoring frameworks, scorecards, and narrative reporting templates.
- Applying basic evaluation methods, including formative and impact assessments.



# LOCAL, REGIONAL & INTERNATIONAL *Engagements*

As part of our commitment to continuous learning, global collaboration, and justice sector development, representatives from the Ministry proudly participated in numerous conferences and training programmes throughout the first half of the year.

These engagements help to:

- Strengthen our institutional knowledge
- Introduce global best practices
- Ensure St. Kitts and Nevis remains part of critical regional and international conversations on justice, legal reform, and public administration.

## January- March 2025

- **Executive Committee Meeting for the Council Legal Education**  
31 January- 1 February
- **Digital Assets and Currencies in the Caribbean Sensitisation- Seminar and Training Workshop**  
4-6 February
- **2025 Prosecutor's Study Tour**  
2-8 March
- **National Tripartite Committee 2025 Sitting**  
12 March



# LOCAL, REGIONAL & INTERNATIONAL *Engagements*

- **Comprehensive Learning on Intellectual Property Rights for Policy-Level Interventions**  
17-29 March
- **Seminar on Youth Protection in Latin America and the Caribbean**  
25-27 March
- **Roundtable Discussion on Draft National Conservation and Environment Protection Bill**  
28 March

## April-June 2025

- **CARICOM's Regional BBNJ Preparatory Workshop**  
2-4 April
- **Mechanism for the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC) Meeting**  
8-9 April
- **Training Needs Review- Ministry of Social Development and Gender Affairs**  
14-15 April
- **Digital Transformation: Date, Design and Architectural Review Committee Meeting**  
15 April



# LOCAL, REGIONAL & INTERNATIONAL *Engagements*

- **2025 PACE Justice Project Steering Committee Meeting**  
30 April
- **Financial and Legacy Workshop for Persons with Disabilities**  
2 May
- **Launch of 16<sup>th</sup> Tranche of Development Account Project in St. Kitts and Nevis**  
20-23 May
- **Third Global Sustainable Islands Summit (with Island Innovation)**  
27-29 May
- **Octopus Conference on Cybercrime 2025**  
4-6 June
- **ITU/ UNDP Training on Digital Foundations for Justice Transformation**  
11-13 June
- **Meeting of the Inter-Ministry Consultative Committee (IMCC)**  
12 June



# LOCAL, REGIONAL & INTERNATIONAL *Engagements*

- **EL PaACTO 2.0 First Bi- Regional Meeting**  
16-18 June
- **Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (PME) Training**  
24-26 June
- **Meeting of Expert Working Group on Artificial Intelligence in the Justice Sector in the Commonwealth**  
27 June



## COMMONS WELLNESS CORNER

# THE 8 FORMS OF WEALTH

“Success without fulfilment is the ultimate failure.”

In an age where success is often measured solely by income, many thought leaders- like Robin Sharma- remind us that true wealth spans far beyond financial gain.

## REFLECT ON THE 8 FORMS OF WEALTH:

1. **Growth** – Are you learning something new each day?
2. **Wellness** – Are you caring for your body and mind?
3. **Family** – Are you nurturing the relationships that ground you?
4. **Your Craft** – Are you proud of what you do?
5. **Money** – Are you managing what you earn wisely?
6. **Community** – Are you surrounded by people who uplift you?
7. **Adventure** – Are you making space for exploration & joy?
8. **Service** – Are you giving back to something bigger than yourself?

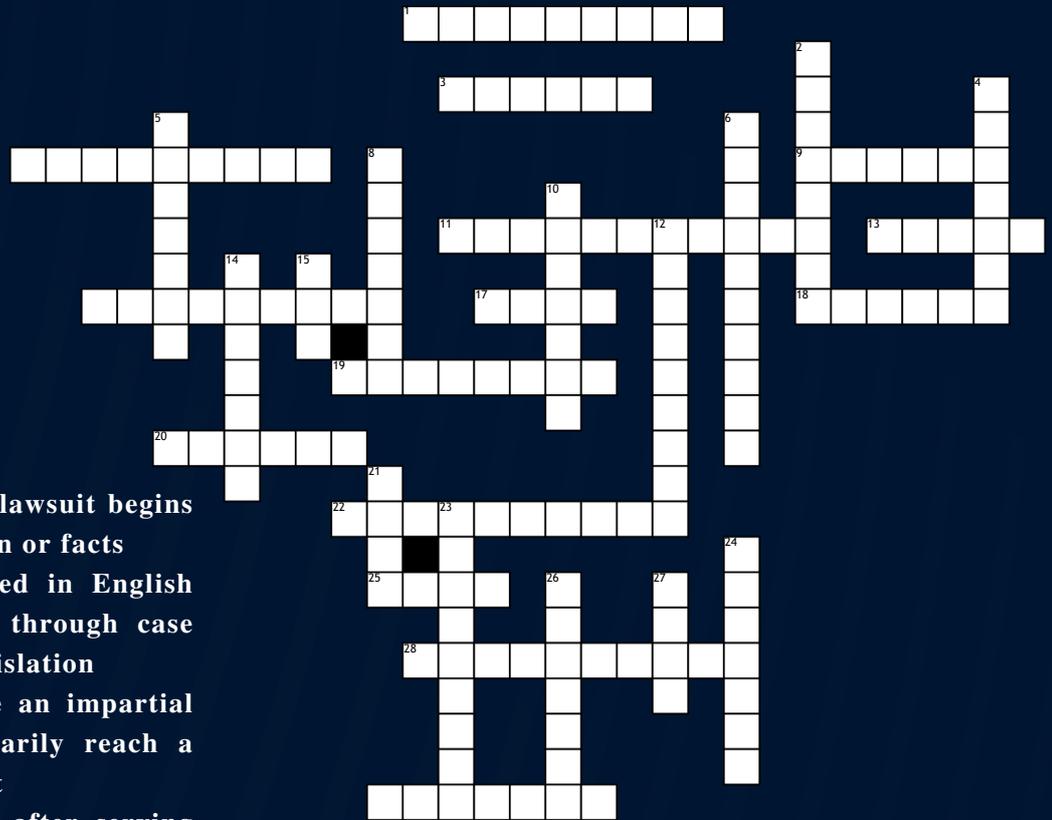
Take time to consider how your work and choices contribute to these forms of wealth in your own life- and in the lives of others.

Let this be your reminder: Success is not just about productivity- it's about purpose.

Let's not just strive to work hard, but to live fully.



# Test Your Knowledge



## ACROSS

1. a formal meeting before a lawsuit begins in order to disclose information or facts
3. \_\_\_\_\_ law, used in English Canada, has been developed through case decisions by judges, not by legislation
7. a resolution process where an impartial third party assists to voluntarily reach a mutually acceptable settlement
9. release from incarceration after serving part of a sentence
11. one of the words in ADR
13. \_\_\_\_\_ law is for disputes between individuals
16. a previous legal decision that courts rely on to make future decisions
17. a civil injury or wrong to someone else
18. when a higher court reviews the judgement of a lower court trial
19. \_\_\_\_\_ law is for wrongs committed against the state
20. Habeas \_\_\_\_\_ a court order used to bring a person physically before a court in order to see if there is enough evidence to proceed to criminal trial
22. the party being sued in a lawsuit
25. temporarily, or indefinitely, stopping a judicial proceeding
28. a court order to stop doing, or to start doing, a specific act
29. \_\_\_\_\_ judgements are made if the defendant in a civil action doesn't appear for the trial

## DOWN

2. an order to appear in court to testify as a witness
4. \_\_\_\_\_ damages are compensation for lost wages or expenses before a civil trial begins
5. compensation paid to a successful litigant
6. a formal accusation of a serious crime
8. \_\_\_\_\_ claim: when the defendant in a civil action sues the plaintiff right back
10. testimony given by a witness who tells second hand information, generally not allowed
12. a written statement under oath
14. lying in court while under oath
15. Men's \_\_\_\_\_ the mental element of a crime (2)
21. Actus \_\_\_\_\_ the physical element of a crime (2)
23. the party suing someone else in a lawsuit
24. to collect money or property via a court order
26. \_\_\_\_\_ damages: compensation for future lost earnings, or pain and suffering
27. money given to the court to ensure

# CLOSING OF THE MID YEAR UPDATE 2025



As we reflect on the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the year, through collaborations and transformation, the Ministry remains committed to **enhancing accessibility, efficiency, and transparency** within the justice system. The journey continues as we head into the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the year.

*Stay Connected!*

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