

*“Sustainable Justice  
For Today, For Tomorrow,  
For All”*



# CMJA Annual Conference 2026

Kingston, Jamaica, W.I.  
20-24 September 2026  
[www.cmja.biz](http://www.cmja.biz)



*Conference Brochure*

## Kingston Jamaica

**Jamaica, the third largest island in the Caribbean, is known not only for its breathtaking beaches and vibrant culture, but also for its enduring democratic traditions and strong commitment to the rule of law. From the majestic Blue Mountains to the historic streets of downtown Kingston, our island reflects a rich tapestry of history, resilience and innovation.**

**Kingston, our capital city, is the cultural and judicial heart of Jamaica. It is here that our Parliament sits, our national institutions operate, and our courts carry out their constitutional mandate to administer justice without fear or favour, affection or ill will. The city blends heritage and modernity—where historic courthouses stand alongside a dynamic and forward-looking legal community.**

## WELCOME MESSAGE The Hon. Chief Justice of Jamaica

On behalf of the Judiciary of Jamaica, and on my own behalf, it is my distinct honour and pleasure to welcome you to Kingston for the Commonwealth Magistrates' and Judges' Association Conference in September. Jamaica is deeply privileged to host this important gathering of judicial officers from across the Commonwealth.

The Commonwealth represents a unique community of nations bound not merely by history, but by shared values—democracy, judicial independence, the separation of powers and respect for human rights. The CMJA Conference provides a vital forum for magistrates and judges of all ranks to engage in thoughtful dialogue, exchange experiences, and strengthen professional bonds in furtherance of these ideals.

At a time when judiciaries worldwide confront evolving challenges—ranging from technological transformation and case backlogs to threats to judicial independence and public confidence—our collective engagement is more important than ever. Conferences such as this allow us to reflect critically, learn from one another's innovations, and reaffirm our unwavering commitment to accessible, transparent and efficient justice systems.

Jamaica's Judiciary has, in recent years, undertaken significant reforms aimed at modernising court administration, improving case management, enhancing judicial education, and strengthening integrity frameworks. We look forward to sharing our experiences, while learning from the valuable insights and best practices of our Commonwealth colleagues.

Beyond the conference sessions, I encourage you to experience the warmth of Jamaican hospitality, our rich cultural heritage, and the vibrant spirit of our people. Whether through our music, cuisine, historical landmarks or natural beauty, I trust that your time in Kingston will be both professionally rewarding and personally memorable. It is my sincere hope that this Conference will deepen collaboration across our jurisdictions and further strengthen the bonds that unite us as members of the Commonwealth judicial family.

I look forward to welcoming you personally to Kingston in September.

**The Hon. Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes, OJ, CD**  
**Chief Justice of Jamaica**

### Aims and Objectives of the Conference

- To promote better understanding amongst judicial officers of all ranks and from all parts of the Commonwealth of judicial independence issues and to explore the approach to those issues in different parts of the Commonwealth;
- To promote greater awareness amongst the magistrates and judges of the Commonwealth, of international treaties and law relating to the development and access to justice, and to consider the practical application of that body of law;
- To enhance networking within the Commonwealth Magistrates' and Judges' Association on judicial developments.

# DRAFT PROGRAMME

(This Programme is subject to change)

## Sunday 20 September 2026

All Day - Council Meeting (by invitation only)  
Morning Chief Justices' Meeting (by invitation only)  
Registrations is between 14hrs-17hrs  
**Evening:** Welcome Reception

## Monday 21 September 2026

**Session 1:**  
**Opening Ceremony**

**Session 2:**  
**Keynote Speech:**

*"Sustainable Justice, For Today, For Tomorrow, For All"*

**Session 3: Concurrent Panel Session:**  
**3a:** *"Data-driven justice: improving performance and enhancing accountability"*  
**3b:** *"Open Justice versus Privacy in the Courts"*

**Session 4: Specialist Sessions:**  
**4a:** *"Challenges to Arbitral Awards"*  
**4b:** *"Coroners and Pirates: Bodies, Wrecks and Treasures"*  
**4c:** *"The Lay Magistracy: Surviving 800 years of change"*  
**4d:** *"Conflicting Rights of the Child and the Parent"*  
**4e:** *"Military Justice- What next?"*  
**4f:** *"Admiralty: Crooked Captains, Escaping Ships"*

**Evening:** TBC

## Tuesday 22 September 2026

**Session 5: Panel Session:**  
*"Is Justice Dysfunctional, on its knees with chronic underfunding?"*

**Session 6: Concurrent Panel Sessions:**  
**6a:** *"Judicial Bullying and Harassment: Could it happen to you?"*  
**6b:** *"Is Environmental Justice no match for multi-national corporations?"*

**Session 7: Gender Section Session**  
*"Understanding and Dealing with Gender Based Violence"*

**Session 8: Breakout Discussion Groups**  
*"Are you on a daily diet of vulnerable witnesses or awkward litigants?"*

**Evening:** TBC

## Wednesday 23 September 2026

CMJA Endowment Fund  
UNODC Global Judicial Integrity Network

**Session 9: Panel Session**  
*"Current Tensions Between Judicial Independence and the Rule of Law"*

**Session 10: Breakout Discussion Groups:**  
*"Protecting Ourselves from Online and Physical Threats?"*

**Session 11: Panel Session:**  
*"Judicial Wellness: Mental Health and Physical Health"*

**Session 12: Learning Session**  
*"Writing Judgments not Novels"*

**Session 13: Closing Ceremony**

**EVENING: GALA DINNER**

## Thursday 24 September 2026

### OPTIONAL DAY OUT

A Coffee Tour to Craighton Coffee Plantation to see how the world famous Jamaican Blue Mountain Coffee is made.

A trip to the Bob Marley Museum on the site of the legendary musician's home. This house was Marley's home.

There will also be a visit to Devon House One of Jamaica's most celebrated historic landmarks, the Devon House Mansion is the architectural dream of Jamaica's first black millionaire, George Stiebel. Having gained his wealth from gold mining in South America, Stiebel was among three wealthy Jamaicans who constructed elaborate homes during the late 19th century

## ACCOMPANYING GUEST PROGRAMME

The LOC has arranged an interesting programme for accompanying guests which will include

**Monday: 21 September 2026**

Classic Tour of the City of Kingston including the University of the West Indies, National Heroes Park, Kingston Harbour, King's House, Jamaica House

**Tuesday: 22 September 2026**

Fort Charles, Port Royal Tour and lunch at Gloria's

**Wednesday 23 September 2026**

Sip and Paint / Make your own perfume

## ACCOMMODATION

Discounted Rates have been negotiated with the following hotels on a Bed and Breakfast basis exclusive of Service charge and Taxes.

### **PEGASUS HOTEL: (Conference Hotel)**

<https://www.jamaicapegasus.com/>

The Jamaica Pegasus Hotel is the Caribbean's most distinguished address for business and leisure.

Set within a majestic, 17-storey building in lively New Kingston, the hotel is surrounded by a verdant garden and offers stunning views of the mountains and the sparkling Caribbean Sea. Rooms and suits offer an abundance of space and modern [amenities](#) including complimentary Wi-Fi;

Accommodation starts at US\$165 single occupancy deluxe room (exclusive of service charges/ taxes).

Booking link: <https://reservations.travelclick.com/110148?groupID=5209444>

### **COURTLEIGH: (1mn walk)**

<https://www.courtleigh.com/>

Immerse yourself in the elegance and charm of this lovely boutique hotel - The Courtleigh Hotel & Suites – a jewel in the heart of Jamaica's capital city.

Accommodation starts at US\$159 single occupancy (exclusive of service charges/ taxes)

Booking link: <https://reservations.travelclick.com/110145?groupID=5209448>

### **MARRIOTT COURTYARD: 5mns walk – 1 mn drive**

<https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/kincy-courtyard-kingston-jamaica/overview/>

Courtyard Kingston, Jamaica offers an elevated experience next to Emancipation Park. Enjoy complimentary Wi-Fi in the hotel's spacious rooms and suites. Take advantage of dining options, Deluxe standard Rooms start at Awaiting information. Booking Link: <https://app.marriott.com/reslink?id=1775088372734&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

### **SPANISH COURT (S HOTEL): 5 mn drive**

<https://thespanishcourt.topjamaicahotels.com/en/>

S Hotel Kingston offers an authentic boutique experience with a touch of grandeur. The modern, stylish rooms are designed for comfort, offering the perfect escape from the city's energy, while our inspiring restaurants fuel both your appetite and desire to explore. Accommodation starts at: US\$159 (exclusive of service charges/ taxes). Please contact Joseph Perrin: +1 876-926-0000 /+1 876-819-1796 or email: [jperrin@shotelkingston.com](mailto:jperrin@shotelkingston.com)

### **ALTAMONT COURT: 5mn drive**

<https://www.altamontcourt.com/>

Altamont Court is located near New Kingston's central strip — a few minutes of walk away from the centre. It is close to several high commissions and embassies, convention sites, banks, casinos, art galleries, museums, and nightclubs. It is a 1-minute drive from Emancipation Park. The convenience offered by our strategic location is unparalleled!

Accommodation starts at: US\$125/night- single occupancy (exclusive of service charges/ taxes). Please contact +1 (876) 929-4497 or send an email to [reservations@altamontcourt.com](mailto:reservations@altamontcourt.com) -quoting the CMJA Conference.

# CONFERENCE REGISTRATION DETAILS

The Conference will take place at the Pegasus Hotel. Complete the registration form online at [www.cmja.biz](http://www.cmja.biz).

Places are **ONLY SECURED ON PAYMENT OF REGISTRATION FEES**. If we do not receive the payment at the time of registration or within 15 days, your place will be forfeited and made available to new registrants. Places at the Conference are made on a first come first served basis. We would therefore urge you to **BOOK AND PAY NOW TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT**. [www.cmja.biz](http://www.cmja.biz)

	<b>EARLY DISCOUNT RATE</b> <i>(until 31 May 2026)</i>	<b>STANDARD RATE</b> <i>(After 31 May 2026)</i>	<b>LATE RATE</b> <i>(after 1 September 2026)</i>
CMJA Individual Member Fee	<b>£525</b>	<b>£625</b>	<b>£750</b>
Non CMJA member Delegate Fee	<b>£660</b>	<b>£760</b>	<b>£850</b>
Jamaica Local Delegate Fee	<b>£525</b>	<b>£525</b>	<b>£525</b>
Day Delegate (Local delegates) limited number available	<b>£250</b>	<b>£250</b>	<b>£250</b>
Accompanying Guest Fee	<b>£325</b>	<b>£325</b>	<b>£325</b>
Day Out (Optional)	<b>£90</b>	<b>£90</b>	<b>Not Applicable</b>

- **Early Discount rate:** To qualify for the early discount rate your Registration and Payment must be received by **1 May 2026**. All registrations will be acknowledged within 3 working days of receipt by email. If you do not receive confirmation please advise the CMJA.
- **CMJA Individual Member Fee:** Current paid up Individual Members of the CMJA who have paid a membership fee prior to 8 August 2026 are eligible for the CMJA Members discount. New Members who join for three years or more will benefit from the discount if joining at the time of registration. Apart from the discounted fee for registration, Member benefit from all benefits of Non-Members Delegates Rate (see below) as well as a certificate of attendance, sent after the conference.

**Join the CMJA now as an Individual Member for 3 years or more and benefit from the Discount as well as the benefits that come with membership!**

Go to <http://www.cmja.org/joinus.html>, or contact [info@cmja.org](mailto:info@cmja.org) for details.

- **Non-Member Delegate Fee includes:**  
Attendance at opening ceremony; entrance to all conference sessions; receipt of Conference documentation, access to the Delegates Area on the Conference Website ([www.cmja.biz](http://www.cmja.biz)) for papers distributed during the event-available at the Conference; lunch and refreshment breaks on 21,22,23 September 2026; attendance at welcome reception on 20 September 2026, evening functions and closing dinner; post conference papers (accessible online on the CMJA's conference website: [www.cmja.biz](http://www.cmja.biz), accessible from the beginning of the Conference-the password will be provided at the Conference itself and not before).
- **Day Delegate Fee: Includes:**  
Attendance at the Conference sessions on the Day of the Conference, Access to the Delegates Area on the Conference website for the papers distributed during the event and lunch and refreshment breaks on the day registered. This is only open to delegates from Jamaica.
- **Accompanying Guest Fee includes:**  
Attendance at Opening ceremony; Attendance at welcome reception, evening functions and closing dinner; Participation in the accompanying guest's programme of tours and lunches where specified.

### **Day out on 24 September 2026:**

The Local Organising Committee (LOC) and Steering Committee (SC) have arranged an interesting visit to sample the Jamaican Blue mountain coffee as well as a visit to the Bob Marley Museum and Devon House.

# CONFERENCE REGISTRATION PAYMENT

All registration fees need to be paid **IN ADVANCE TO THE CMJA** in **British Pound Sterling (GBP £)**. Places are **ONLY SECURED ON PAYMENT OF REGISTRATION FEES**. If we do not receive the payment at the time of registration or within 15 days, your place will be forfeited and made available to new registrants. All bank charges are the responsibility of the payee and must be paid at source. Any shortfalls will be charged on site if not covered in the original payment. If paying by bank transfer, please include the **NAME OF THE DELEGATE OR CMJA INVOICE NUMBER** on the copy of the transfer instructions.

## **CONFERENCE CANCELLATION AND NO-SHOW POLICY**

*All cancellations must be received in writing (by email or post). If you have paid your registration fee but do not participate in the Conference for whatever reason (see Disclaimer below), you will be deemed to have cancelled your participation and no refund will be given.*

The following is the CMJA cancellation policy:

**BEFORE 20 June 2026** full refund less admin fee of £90

**BEFORE 20 July 2026** less cancellation charge of £130

**AFTER 20 JULY 2026**– no refund

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### **GETTING THERE**

The nearest airport is **Norman Manley International Airport** and there are number of flights options available. Kindly check with your travel agent for the best route from your home country. There are also flights to Montego Bay (around 3hours from Kingston) and regular bus services to Kingston. Please let us know if you are arriving at Montego Bay instead of Kingston.

### **LAND TRANSPORT**

The LOC will be providing transportation to and from the airport for arrival and departures.

### **TRANSPORT TO/FROM THE CONFERENCE VENUE**

Transport during the Conference to and from the Conference venue will be provided from the Conference hotels.

### **PASSPORT AND VISA**

Prior to departure you must complete an Official Electronic, Immigration and Customs Card (<https://www.enterjamaica.gov.jm/>). Certain countries may require a visa for entry to Jamaica. Please check online at <https://www.pica.gov.jm/immigration/entry-visa-requirements> for the countries that require visas and the process to obtain a visa.

### **LETTER OF INVITATION**

Letters of invitation will **ONLY BE ISSUED** after payment is received from registered participants. Please note that such an invitation is intended to help potential participants raise travel funds or obtain a visa. It is not a commitment on the part of the conference or the CMJA to provide financial support or a guarantee that the host nation will issue the necessary visa.

### **DIETARY REQUIREMENTS AND SPECIAL NEEDS**

Please advise the organisers of any special requirements on the registration form and note that some requirements may be subject to charges.

### **HEALTH REQUIREMENTS**

Jamaica has strict health entry requirements and on arrival. It is the responsibility of the delegates to ensure that they are compliant with all requirements in the host country in relation to vaccinations. The CMJA and Local Organising Committee will make every effort to ensure safety during the Conference. Please ensure that you comply with the regulations of any third country you are travelling through. The CMJA cannot assist with any requirements for transiting passengers.

### **CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE**

The certificates will be sent after the conference to all paid up CMJA Individual Members who participate. If you

are interested in Individual Membership, please join online at: [www.cmja.org/individuals/](http://www.cmja.org/individuals/)

#### **DRESS CODE**

During working sessions, dress code will be lounge suit. National dress/lounge suit is appropriate for evening functions including the Gala Dinner. During the Accompanying Guest programme and Day Out casual clothes and are recommended.

#### **INSURANCE**

The organisers will not assume responsibility for possible accidents or incidents at the conference or for travelling to/from the conference or for any cancellations or postponement of flights due to travel restrictions imposed for COVID 19, natural disasters or other reasons, including visa issues. Participants must obtain travel insurance (medical, personal and luggage) in their home countries prior to departure.

#### **PRIVACY POLICY**

The CMJA complies with UK data protection legislation. The privacy policy of the CMJA is available on the CMJA's Conference website at: <https://cmja.biz/privacy-policy>

#### **CURRENCY**

The currency of Jamaica is the Jamaican Dollar. Payments for hotels will be charged in US\$. Please check the exchange rates on [www.xe.com](http://www.xe.com) or with your bank.

#### **TEMPERATURES DURING SEPTEMBER**

Temperature in Kingston at this time of the year is between 16°/26°C or 61°/79°F.

#### **TOURIST INFORMATION**

For information on tourism in Jamaica, please visit: <https://www.visitjamaica.com/>

#### **DIGNITY AND RESPECT POLICY**

At its events, the CMJA seeks to create a safe and productive environment for everyone, irrespective of race, gender, gender identity and expression, age, sexual orientation or disability. Participants in the Conference are expected to comply with the CMJA's Dignity and Respect Policy (see **Dignity-and-Respect-Policy-2025 on cmja.biz** for the full policy) .

#### **DATA PROTECTION/ PRIVACY POLICY**

The CMJA makes every effort to protect the data it holds on delegates and accompanying persons in the run up and during the Conference. This information will be held by the CMJA for up 4 months following the Conference in order for it to complete all its administrative and financial requirements of the Conference including the issuance of certificates of attendance.

The CMJA will also be producing a list of delegates and accompanying guests (title, name, country and position only). This will appear in the secure area of the Conference website at the beginning of the Conference and will remain on that website for up to 100 days after the conference. Thereafter all details will be deleted from the website. In accordance with UK law, the CMJA will not share your personal details with any third parties other than people directly associated with the conference (which may include the organisers of events held during the Conference) and the Immigration Services for entry requirements. Please ensure you answer **all boxes** on the Registration form to ensure that the CMJA is able to comply with data protection information. The CMJA's privacy policy is available on the CMJA's website at: [Privacy Policy | CMJA Conference](#)

#### **DISCLAIMER**

Please note that space is limited at the Conference venue, Accompanying Guest Tour and Day Out so Registrations will be allocated on a first come, first served basis and on the basis of receipt of fees. The organisers will not assume responsibility for any visa refusals or delays that lead to the cancellation of attendance or non- appearance at the Conference and no refunds will be issues in this case. The organisers will **not** assume any responsibilities for any changes to travel restrictions or for cancellations due to positive testing due to COVID 19. The organisers reserve the right to amend or cancel the event or amend the terms and condition of registration where it is deemed necessary. They also reserve the right to withdraw any invitation to attend the Conference. The CMJA also reserves the right to change /or substitute events advertised in the programme. In the event of cancellation of the conference, a full refund of any registration fees less admin cost will be paid but the organisers will accept no further liability.