



**CI Arb**  
evolving to resolve  
Caribbean Branch

# The CI Arb News

## QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

of the Caribbean Branch of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators

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## THE INVESTITURE OF THE CI Arb PRESIDENT JOHN BASSIE

Mr. John S. Bassie, JP LLM FCI Arb C.Arb, founding member and first Chair of the Caribbean Branch of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CI Arb), was installed as the 2023 global President of the Institute at an Investiture Ceremony held at the University of the West Indies in Mona, Jamaica on 8 December 2022. The hybrid event was compered by Hon. Donna Parchment Brown, the first Honorary Secretary of the Branch, and was attended by Patron of the Branch, Rt. Hon. Sir Dennis Byron; Chair of the Branch, Dr. Hon. Justice Anthony Gafoor; other members of CI Arb, members of the Jamaica Parliament, Judiciary and Bar and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) practitioners, among others.



**PHOTO OP:** CI Arb President John S. Bassie (front row, 3<sup>rd</sup> from the right) with Chair of the CI Arb Caribbean Branch, Dr. Hon. Justice Anthony Gafoor (front row, 3<sup>rd</sup> from the left) and other members of CI Arb (from left to right) Ms. Shani Nembhard, Hon. Donna Parchment Brown, Mr. Bryan Branon, Mr. Stephen Shelton, Mr. Miles Weekes, Ms. Lisa Russell and Ms. René Gayle Roper

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During the Ceremony, online greetings and well wishes came from the 2022 global President of **CIArb**, Ms. Jane Gunn of the **CIArb** Thames Valley UK Branch, the 2012 global President of **CIArb**, Justice Jeffrey Elkinson of the **CIArb** Bermuda Branch, Chief Gbola Akinola, the Chair of the **CIArb** Nigeria Branch, Hon. Justice Charmaine Pemberton of the Trinidad and Tobago Chapter of the **CIArb** Caribbean Branch and Ms. Catherine Dixon, the Director General of **CIArb**, among others.

Mr. Bryan Branon, *(pictured below)*, the **CIArb** Regional Relationship Manager for the Americas Region, gave his greetings and well wishes in person before delivering the address on behalf of the **CIArb** Director General.



Other addresses were made in person by Hon. Delroy Chuck, Minister of Justice in Jamaica representing the Prime Minister of Jamaica, the Most Hon. Andrew Holness, and by Mr. Daniel Shepherd, the Deputy British High Commissioner representing the British High Commissioner to Jamaica, Her Excellency Judith Slater.

Following the greetings, well wishes and addresses, which were interspersed with musical performances by violinist Jovani Williams, President John Bassie received the insignia of office from Mr. Bryan Branon, while 'First Lady' Paulette Bassie was presented with a bouquet of roses by Ms. Cherrol Taylor of the Dispute Resolution Foundation (DRF) of Jamaica.

President Bassie responded by first thanking God, the **CIArb** Executive and Branches, his colleagues at the DRF and his office, his wife and his children, for their constant presence and support in giving him the opportunity to serve **CIArb** in an ambassadorial role and to share the collective joy of celebrating the global Presidency in the unique Investiture Ceremony. He then shared his vision for the future:

## Where We Find Ourselves

“As the world ascends from the spectre of the Covid-19 pandemic and we reach out to regain a sense of normalcy, I believe that we should take stock, that is, take the time to reflect on where we, as ADR practitioners and global citizens, are coming from, and as such, where we are heading.

As the world looks to find its footing and regularity, I have always said that we have a unique opportunity to reflect on how our organization, **CIArb**, can favourably impact the lives of persons.

We have seen, over the last two years, the Institute and its members rising to the challenge presented to us; the challenge of using our vast experience and versatile membership to continue to provide excellent ADR services whilst embracing the need to adapt and grow.

Most of us ADR practitioners are arbitrators, adjudicators and mediators, just to name a few of the mechanisms in our craft. We can remember times when we have had to encourage parties to try different ADR mechanisms, such as restorative justice, negotiation and conciliation.

Fellow practitioners, think about this for a moment; we are now able to practise our craft in a timely, efficient and cost-effective way that if we tabulate and learn our lessons properly from the last three years, we can find ourselves on the threshold of contributing to the resolution of disputes by the use of non-costly, non-traditional, though adversarial, mechanisms.”

## The Vision

“Whilst **CIArb** has already put in place the Pandemic Dispute Resolution Service, which is intended to assist business entities that are facing disputes resulting from the pandemic, I believe that it is necessary for us to have a more surgical, organized and systematic approach to harnessing the ADR power that exists through mediation and combination-type ADR services, such as Med-Arb or Arb-Med, just to name a few.

In continuation of the vision promulgated and lessons gleaned over the past pandemic years, I envisage the following:

1. A specific set of protocols that will provide training of elite first responder-type mediators.
2. These mediators will be called into service in emergencies - from war through to climate change events – but more particularly in areas affecting us close to home.

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We all know in the Americas that a serious hurricane or storm affects schools, communities, our judicial system and our businesses. Mediation and ADR can play a critical initiative-taking role. What is the result? In some countries the already over-worked and stretched resources will have a partner to assist in areas that need immediate assistance and attention.

3. I believe that such a force could be called on from different jurisdictions, mobilized to operate anywhere within a particular region and provide much needed relief with measurable metrics.

4. I believe that working with like-minded organizations, such as the DRF, as our **CIArb** strategic plan encourages, we can create a much-anticipated network that would provide the fuel to move us towards a real 'game changer' in our global citizens' lives.

5. My dear global brothers and sisters, our ADR industry recognizes that we are now in a position to affect the lives of the building blocks of our societies – our fellow human beings.

We realize that this will give us the platform to join with all dispute resolvers and peacemakers to ensure that our fellow citizens have the necessary tools available and clear avenues to a return to normalcy in a timely, efficient, cost-effective and peaceful manner. In fact, it is my sincerest belief that we have an excellent opportunity to take ADR to another level as a result of our immediate past experiences.

Accessibility to quality, timely justice is a global right and I intend to reach out to all like-minded

entities globally and continue this great vision.”

President Bassie (*pictured below right*) continued by speaking about the Institute’s strategic plan, which he said was carefully crafted by the Director General and her team, adopted after consultation with the members and the Branches and distilled into **CIArb**’s strategic aims, which are

- to globally promote the constructive resolution of disputes,
- to become an inclusive global thought-leader, and
- to develop and support an inclusive global community of diverse dispute resolvers, thus embodying the themes of Equality, Diversity, Inclusivity, Communication and Continuity. He shared his view of the way forward.

## Global Effort - The Way Forward

“This road map has started us on a journey that if properly adhered to, is flexible enough to promote the global growth of the Institute within the ADR industry and allow us to retain our position as the number one ADR organization in the world. We will continue to work to improve our members’ experience by investing in our people ensuring Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity in all jurisdictions where our Branches currently exist and to wherever we expand.

So, what is the way forward? I believe that we stick with the plan. I have no doubt that the incoming team will be great ambassadors for the Institute. The team on to which I will be passing the baton should expect no surprises.

We will be embracing Inclusivity; our discussions will allow the plans of the Institute to be widely shared and discussed through open communication.

The need for Diversity is the engine of growth. We will be ensuring that this is one of the main action points as this is the outward signal of germination and growth and I will ensure the need for Continuity.

This need for a steady, persistent flow of positive progression is what we the leaders and ambassadors of this great Institute are charged with.

I too will encourage and offer partnership and friendship going forward to ensure...you guessed it...Equality, Diversity, Inclusivity, Communication and Continuity. I intend to continue this great vision, embodying these themes.



This, my colleagues, has started. I have endeavoured to meet each of the Branch Chairs to ensure that all will feel that they have a direct line to me.

I have met with the global Deputy President and Vice President to ensure that we are all on the same page and enjoy their counsel as together we create opportunities, navigate challenges and celebrate successes as an organization.

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Ultimately, we must enhance access to justice, and this will best strengthen the rule of law. If we seek to enhance access to justice, provide a timely, cost-effective, convenient and inviting conduit to justice, we will see an improvement of life at all levels. We must inculcate this approach of ADR in our schools and communities, our legal systems and in our private sector industries and businesses.

As a result, I promise you, we will see an expeditious improvement in our children's lives – the future building blocks of our society; an immediate improvement in our communities – the homes of our citizens; a further warming to our judicial system – enhancing the correct and appropriate approach to resolving disputes; and also in our approach to business and commerce – the way we trade, the way we want to be dealt with; in other words, 'Do unto others as you would have them do unto you!'

So, what we are engaging in is a ground swell approach and activity that will affect local life, our regional life and ultimately global life and the worldwide citizenship. We have an obligation to do what is in our grasp to ensure and preserve the rights of any global citizen to their right to quick, easy and affordable justice.

Transforming the accessibility of justice globally is a game changer. But we cannot do it alone. Like-minded jurisdictions and organizations, such as the DRF, the Private Sector Organization of Jamaica and

other partnerships, must pool our collective cerebral and other resources and this will lead to success. Make no mistake, this approach is historical, it is legal, and it is moral!

Together we represent a vision for the world in which we are all respected and have an opportunity to fulfil our potential, where inevitable conflicts can be resolved in a timely manner with minimum harm and loss, whether we are businesspersons, individuals, communities or States."

## The Commitment

"We are all dispute disruptors, and we are committed to supporting the efforts of all well-thinking organizations and individuals, as well as any State, to having the capacity to reach a gold standard by effective dispute resolution that is built on a strong, reliable justice system where we proudly say we can receive justice for all.

In continuation of the vision promulgated and lessons gleaned over the past pandemic years, I envisage the following:

- As I mentioned, a specific set of protocols that will provide training of elite first responder-type ADR practitioners.
- It is also my intention to lay down a marker for all like-minded individuals and organizations to bond together in a common Accord.
- Further, I will not lose sight of valuable experience gleaned by former Presidents and I pledge to utilize the wonderful resource

afforded me at Bloomsbury Square in the United Kingdom.

- I have been invited to and will visit, either in person, virtually or both, all Branches as I extend a warm welcome to the Branches to visit the Americas, the Caribbean or best yet Jamaica.
- I pledge to practice what I believe ...the practice of Appropriate Dispute Resolution.
- I pledge to be a listening ear for all who need to be listened to and a voice for those who feel that they are not heard; to be a unifier and to make you proud of our illustrious organization.

I recognize that this cannot be attained without your support, and I thank you for giving me the support necessary to achieve our aims. In closing, I want to thank you, friends, leaders, colleagues, and thank you Chartered Institute of Arbitrators."

## HAPPY NEW YEAR

**The CIArbbean News**, on behalf of the Chair, Officers and Members of the CIArb Caribbean Branch Committee, wishes readers a healthy and prosperous 2023.

## HAVE YOUR SAY

Readers are encouraged to share their views and comments on the newsletter and its content, and to submit original papers for future publication. The newsletter is published on a quarterly basis and readers should submit papers, views, and comments by e-mail to [info@ciarbcaribbean.org](mailto:info@ciarbcaribbean.org)

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