



The CI Arbbean News

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TO THE MEMORY OF MR. MAURICE JACK STOPPI

The Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CI Arb) Caribbean Branch joins with its Jamaica Chapter and the global alternative dispute resolution (ADR) community in mourning the passing of **Mr. Maurice Jack Stoppi, CD C.Arb FCI Arb FRICS FJIQS** and offers sincere condolences to his wife and family. In this special edition of **The CI Arbbean News**, Branch members pay tribute to the late Maurice Stoppi and celebrate his life, his work and his accomplishments.

■ *The opening tribute is by Mr. John S. Bassie, Deputy President of the CI Arb, Past Chair of the CI Arb Caribbean Branch and Chair of the Dispute Resolution Foundation.*

Maurice J. Stoppi was born in the United Kingdom and was a victim of WWII; he was an orphan. He often fondly reminisced of his journey to Jamaica. He is survived by his wife Margaret – his beloved “Tiny”, children and grandchildren. Maurice was blessed with a partnership with his wife of forty years, and he would have been 92 years young on November 16, 2022. He passed away on July 14, 2022.

Maurice started his career in London, England and from a humble office attendant rose to great stature in our region and around the globe. His position as Office Attendant in a quantity surveyor’s establishment allowed him to recognize that this would be his chosen path. He attended night school in Regent Street in London and lived in East London.

From the early days, Maurice was a trailblazer in arbitration. He was the oldest member of the **CI Arb** and often reminded me of his membership number, which was 728, when global **CI Arb** membership is now running above 17,000 members.

He was the Managing Partner of Stoppi Cairney Bloomfield, Chartered Quantity Surveyors, from August 1974. He was a former Board Member of the Dispute Resolution Foundation (DRF) from 2005, Fellow of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, Fellow and Past President of the Jamaican Institute of Quantity Surveyors and Fellow of the **CI Arb**. He was a lecturer and author.

In his role as Patron of Arbitration for the DRF, he supported and was instrumental in the Jamaica Chapter of the **CI Arb** being formed and in hosting the **CI Arb** in the region as the

Caribbean Branch was being formed. He spearheaded the committee, formed by the DRF, that lobbied for change to the old Arbitration Act that eventually led to Jamaica’s current UNCITRAL-based legislation.

As a qualified arbitrator, he was actively involved in Jamaica and the wider Caribbean in the field of arbitration, a provider of litigation support services and alternative forms of dispute resolution. He has acted in the roles of sole arbitrator, panel arbitrator, expert witness and government advisor in a wide range of commercial disputes, mainly related to the construction and civil engineering industry. He has been involved in several celebrated cases such as the landmark case of *The National Housing*

Trust (Appellant) v Y. P. Seaton & Associates Company Limited (Respondent) (Jamaica) [2015] UKPC 43 Privy Council Appeal No. 0072 of 2014, in which his award was the subject of the appeal and wherein the Privy Council upheld his award.

Mr. Stoppi successfully completed assignments, comprising research, advice to commissions of enquiry, lectures, dispute management and settlement, ranging over the wider area of the Caribbean for such organisations as the



The late Maurice Stoppi, CD C.Arb FCI Arb

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World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank and the Governments of Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas and Jamaica.

Maurice was a close friend and mentor. He was looking forward to the Caribbean Branch's spotlight during my upcoming **CIArb** Presidential year. We are fortunate that we have some of his expertise and knowledge in the works that he authored, like *'Commercial Arbitration in the Caribbean'*, *'Adjudication'* and *'Arbitral Travels'*. The DRF was fortunate enough to host the book launches of the first two titles mentioned. The death of Mr. Stoppi has deeply affected us all. Maurice's personal autobiography *'War Child'*, which can be found on Amazon, is an inspirational must-read. Maurice often said that humour got him through life.

Our thoughts and well-wishes go out to Margaret 'Tiny' Stoppi, his family, colleagues and friends as we celebrate his life.

■ **The next tribute is by Justice Dr. Anthony D. J. Gafoor, Chair of the CIArb Caribbean Branch & Chair of the Trinidad and Tobago Chapter.**

I am deeply saddened by the passing of a pioneering Caribbean arbitrator, Mr. Maurice Stoppi. I had the great privilege and pleasure of meeting Mr. Stoppi on a few occasions and attending the inaugural lecture in his honour held during Jamaica Arbitration Week 2018, as well as having some very memorable interactions with him. He was also an author and in two of his books, *'Commercial Arbitration in the Caribbean: A Practical Guide'* and *'Arbitral Travels: Reminiscences of a Peripatetic Jamaican Arbitrator'*, he shared his invaluable knowledge and experience of arbitration.

In yet a third book, *'Adjudication: A Practical Guide for the Caribbean'*, a copy of which he gifted to me in 2015, he remarked that "the practice of adjudication in our area of the Caribbean is in its infancy." However, with great foresight and customary erudition, he went on to point out that "the process is no longer called 'alternative' dispute resolution; it has come of age and, although indebted to its judicial ancestry, it is no longer an alternative, but a tried and tested system, valid in its own right. The fact that it is flexible and dynamic, in terms of responding to the current needs of par-

ticular sector interests, has also been demonstrated in other areas of non-commercial activity..."

I commend these words of wisdom to all dispute resolvers as part of the legacy which has been bequeathed to us by Mr. Stoppi, as our Caribbean Branch seeks to build on that legacy in further advancing such processes for the peaceful and amicable resolution of disputes. I respectfully offer sincere condolences to his wife, family and friends. May his soul rest in peace.

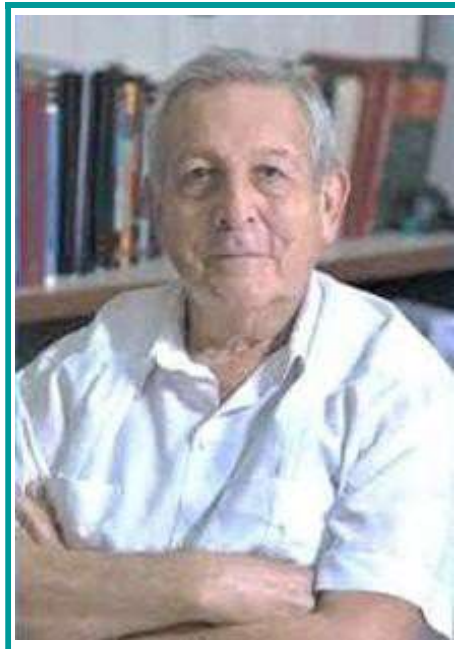
■ **The next tribute by Dr. Christopher P. Malcolm, Past Chair of the CIArb Caribbean Branch and Secretary-General of the Jamaica International Arbitration Centre Ltd. (JAIAC) is an**

extract from the JAIAC July Newsletter which can be viewed here https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-TDrTZKXeiphm_EmMmXfk9s_8Ehf9w9/view?usp=sharing

A man with an exceptional story, Mr. Maurice Stoppi, CD died on Thursday, 14 July 2022. His loss has left a chasm in our disputes resolution arena, and it has affected not only his immediate family but also JAIAC, where Maurice served as an Advisory Board member. The Annual Maurice Stoppi Lecture was established in his honour. Maurice was a pillar for the JAIAC to lean on, and an ever-giving giant whose stellar contribution to the development of arbitration in the Caribbean region is without equal.

As we bid Maurice farewell, we will continue to celebrate his life and legacy, while also acknowledging that the JAIAC was a major beneficiary of his generosity to a fault. Maurice guided the JAIAC in more ways than could be here acknowledged and the difference he made in how the JAIAC functions, as well as in the lives of countless practitioners at home and abroad, will be seen for many years to come.

We will miss Maurice Stoppi for his jovial and warm personality, his ever-giving nature and the intimate knowledge of arbitration in practice from a Caribbean perspective, known better by him than anyone else and generously shared with everyone. The JAIAC continues to thank his loving wife, Tiny, and his grieving family for having made Maurice available in service to the JAIAC and everyone who came under his mentorship or influence.



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■ *The next tribute is by Hon. Barry Leon, Vice-Chair of the CIArb Caribbean Branch and a member of the British Virgin Islands Chapter.*

I met Maurice Stoppi and members of his family for the first time at the inaugural Maurice Stoppi Lecture organised in his honour by the JAIAC in Kingston in 2018. The Lecture was given by the Hon. Dennis Morrison, then President of the Court of Appeal of Jamaica, and was followed by a reading, by Maurice's daughter Anya Levy, of the citation presented to Maurice.

I immediately came to like and respect Maurice. We connected. We stayed in touch – through periodic emails, and through a couple of very special long lunches when I was in Kingston.

While it may well be known, this tribute would be incomplete without me saying that Maurice Jack Stoppi was one of the Caribbean's leading arbitrators since the early 1970s, remaining active into his 90s. He made significant contributions to the development of arbitration in Jamaica and the wider Caribbean, including as author of several books on arbitration. He also wrote books unrelated to arbitration, like *'War Child'* (2017) and *'True Blue'* (2020).

Proudly, and with gratitude, I became the owner of a couple of Maurice's books, with a handwritten inscription to me in his 2017 book, *'War Child'*. A wonderful book!

Most important to me, Maurice was a lovely, kind and engaging person.

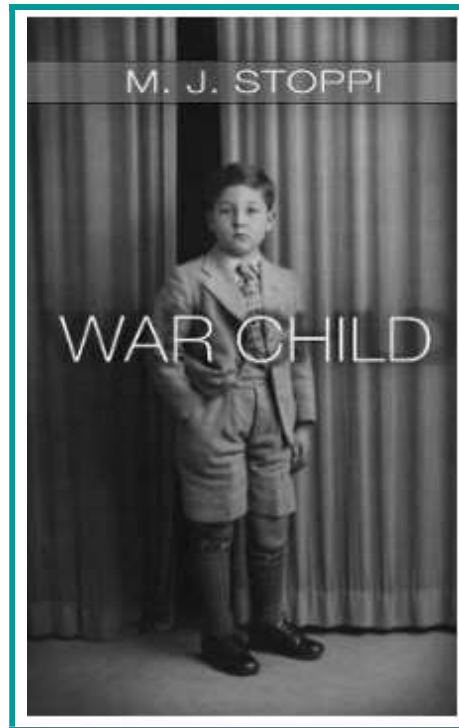
Among Maurice's many and diverse activities in Jamaica – and I stress "many" and I stress "diverse" – he was Chairman of the Holy Family School in Kingston, President of the United Congregation of Isrealites, and Board Chairman of the Jamaica National Dance Theatre Company.

Others, when summarizing Maurice's lifetime contributions, have used the Hebrew idiom "Tikkun Olam", meaning "repair of the world" – to make the world more just, peaceful, tolerant, and equal, through acts of charity, kindness, and political action.

Maurice was a recipient of the Order of the Holy Cross from His Holiness Pope John Paul, the Centenary Medal of the Institute of Jamaica, and the Order of Distinction in the rank of Commander from the Government of Jamaica. It is wonderful that he was so recognised and honoured during his lifetime.

It has been said that a lasting legacy is all about the actions a person takes during his or her lifetime and the way those actions affect how people remember the person. Maurice leaves a truly lasting legacy.

■ *The next tribute is by Mr. Ian W. Rollitt, Past Chair of the Barbados Chapter.*



I have known Maurice Stoppi since 1987 when I first came to live and work in the Caribbean. I was saddened to learn that this pioneering arbitrator, who was still very active in the field of dispute resolution, had passed away. Maurice was always warm and jovial. A very humble and unassuming man. A true gentleman.

I always touched base with Maurice when visiting Jamaica and with him, I was involved in the formation of the **CIArb** Caribbean Branch, chaired by John Bassie. A Chapter was formed for Barbados, of which I was the first Chair, and one for The Bahamas, chaired by Bertha Cooper-Rousseau. We used to meet at the offices of the Dispute Resolution Foundation at the Peace Centre in Kingston.

In 2010, when the **CIArb** President, Mr. Joe Behan, visited the Caribbean Branch to launch its two new Chapters, Maurice Stoppi's book titled *'Adjudication – A Practical Guide for the Caribbean'* was launched to coincide with the visit. I purchased six copies of the new title, which Maurice duly signed for me, and I gave him a bottle of Mount Gay Barbados Rum, which he really appreciated. In the book, Maurice credits my input in the footnote.

When President Behan introduced Maurice, he mentioned that Maurice's **CIArb** membership number was a very low number since he had joined early in 1960. Back in 2010, there was little **CIArb** representation in the Caribbean, yet in Jamaica was the arbitrator everyone knew – Maurice Stoppi.

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■ *The next tribute is by Mr. Martyn C. W. Bould, a member of the Cayman Islands Chapter and now Maurice Stoppi's successor as the longest-serving CIArb member in the Caribbean Branch.*

The Caribbean region will be forever indebted to the contribution made by Maurice Stoppi over many years to the construction industry and to the effective resolution of disputes he made with his wise and measured approach.

As a fellow Quantity Surveyor and Arbitrator, I had the privilege of knowing Maurice and working with him for more than 50 years. He was always ready and willing to assist in any way he could with advice and guidance. Rest in Peace.

■ *The next tribute is by Mr. Derek I. Outridge, a member of the Trinidad and Tobago Chapter.*

Maurice Stoppi's book '*Commercial Arbitration in the Caribbean: A Practical Guide*' is the process and product of my being as a construction lawyer, mediator and arbitrator. I owe these achievements to this great arbitrator and mentor. Rest in peace, Maurice, and my condolences to his family and loved ones.

■ *The next tribute is by Mr. Kent P. Gammon, a member of the Jamaica Chapter.*

I met Maurice Stoppi about thirteen years ago as he was a senior mason in the Masonry and I was a neophyte mason. He was the District Grand Orator and carried out that function extremely well. I was then exposed to his intellect in arbitration when I decided to become an arbitrator and read his text on commercial arbitration, which is a rite of passage in becoming a Caribbean arbitrator.

I have also read cases in which he arbitrated and was impressed with his rigorous analysis on the complex issues he arbitrated. He had a calm demeanour and exemplified what it is to be a consummate gentleman.

The arbitration fraternity in the Caribbean has lost a giant in the field and it is to us to ensure his legacy never falters by emulating him in our arbitration endeavours. May his soul rest in peace and light perpetual shine on him.

■ *The next tribute is by Justice Roy K. Anderson (Ret'd), a member of the Jamaica Chapter.*

I wish to join with the arbitration community of the Caribbean in expressing my shock and grief at the passing of the erstwhile Maurice Stoppi. Here was a man, as gentle as he was wise, the essence of humility despite the reservoir of his vast knowledge of the subject of arbitration and generous to a fault in sharing that knowledge.

He was the source of advice to me and to many others in this area in which he was the doyen of Caribbean Arbitrators. I had the pleasure of introducing his book '*Arbitral Travels: Reminiscences of a Peripatetic Jamaican Arbitrator*' on the occasion he was honoured by the JAIAC and, at which time, his book was launched. Written in the same easy but humorous cadence in which he often conveyed with simplicity the most profound views of his craft, this book is one of which every member of our profession should have a copy, as a tribute to this unsung giant of a Man.

■ *Sincere expressions of sympathy to the family of Mr. Stoppi are sent by the following members:*

Mr. George W. Holder (Barbados Chapter), **Ms. René M. Baptiste** (St. Vincent and the Grenadines Chapter), **Mr. Paul S. St. Bernard** and **Hon. Madam Justice Maureen T. Rajnauth-Lee** (Trinidad and Tobago Chapter), who described Maurice as a "well-cherished Jamaican icon" and **Mr. Dean H. Burrowes** (Jamaica Chapter) who, at Mr. Stoppi's funeral, conveyed condolences on behalf of the Chair and members of the **CIArb** Caribbean Branch.

■ *The final tribute is by Mr. Miles F. Weekes, Past Chair of the CIArb Caribbean Branch and Past Chair of the Barbados Chapter.*

The name Maurice Stoppi was well known to me through construction industry networks, so while attending the 2015 **CIArb** Caribbean Branch Centenary Conference in Jamaica, I made sure to seek an introductory audience with him. His warmth and authenticity were striking, but his interest and encouragement of my arbitral pursuits shall stay with me forever. Well done, Maurice, you have fought the good fight...and dare I say, won! Rest in Peace.

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Submissions, views and comments should be sent by e-mail to info@ciarbcaribbean.org

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