

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE 2020

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic began in March 2020. The pandemic has caused extended disruption to the operations of the Council. The pandemic is without precedent in living memory. Cognizant of the disruption which has been caused to attorneys-at-law, the Council implemented measures to assist attorneys to comply with regulatory requirements which include enactment of the Legal Profession (Accounts and Records COVID-19 Amendment) Regulation 2020, whereby time was extended to 30th September 2020 for the filing of accountant's reports for the preceding financial year.

On a positive note the General Legal Council's Compensation Fund Rules were enacted to take effect on 1st April 2020 and a Committee has been appointed, chaired by Hon. B. St. Michael Hylton QC to manage that fund. The initial start up contribution to the fund of \$4 million has been committed by the Council.

The Disciplinary Committee has made adjustments to deal with the disruption which has been caused by the pandemic and the work of the Committee has continued with hearings being held by video link and the necessary protocols to govern such hearings have been issued.

The CLPD Committee has been active, offering CLPD webinars consequent on the fact that face to face seminars have been suspended since March 2020. These webinars have been made available for periods up to 7 days so that attorneys can view them at their leisure. The price of webinars has been discounted so that there will be no additional financial burden to attorneys during the period when face to face seminars are suspended. To further assist attorneys, a series of webinars were offered in May 2020 free of cost.

Notwithstanding the disruption caused by the pandemic, attorneys are enjoined to continue compliance with the governing regulations. I would like to thank the members and staff of the General Legal Council and the members of the Committees for their commitment and hard work.

DATED 18th AUGUST 2020


ALLAN S. WOOD
CHAIRMAN