

**ADDRESS OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE, THE HONOURABLE
MR JUSTICE CECIL KELSICK, T.C. AT THE OPENING OF THE 1985-1986
LAW TERM IN THE HALL OF JUSTICE, KNOX STREET, PORT OF SPAIN,
ON THURSDAY OCTOBER 3, 1985**

Another important page in the history of the administration of justice in Trinidad and Tobago is being written today as we mark the 23rd opening of the 1985-1986 law term since the establishment of the Supreme Court by our Independence Constitution. We the judges of the Supreme Court are assembled for the first time in this impressive Convocation Hall of the magnificent Hall of Justice. We do so before members of the legal profession and of the public, many of whom have in the past participated in the administration of justice in the Supreme Court and will probably do so in the future; the former in the preparation and presentation of the cases and the latter as jurors or as witnesses.

The handing over ceremony of this structure from the Executive to the Judicial arm of the State took place in an imposing ceremony on Saturday September 21, 1985 when, in the presence of His Excellency the President, the Honourable the Prime Minister and the Honourable the Attorney General and Minister for Legal Affairs I received the keys to this building from the President and opened the front door.

My information concerning the missing Foundation Stone of this building which was laid in 1979 is that it was to have been delivered this morning by the building contractors, Higgs and Hill into the custody of the Registrar of the Supreme Court. I shall endeavour to ensure that it is embedded in an appropriate place at an early date. I shall also recommend that a plaque to commemorate the handing over of the Hall of Justice be suitably located.

The history of the construction of the building was recalled in the addresses at the handover ceremony and tribute paid to those who had conceived and implemented the idea. The Attorney General stated that this Hall of Justice was designed and intended to capture and articulate the spirit of, and to be a symbol of, justice reflecting the respect

and support of the Executive for the Judiciary. He voiced the expectation that it will provide us with a new opportunity to improve and enhance the administration of justice by providing a quick, sure and inexpensive service. These sentiments were endorsed by the Honourable the Prime Minister who indicated the support of his Government for keeping alive a vibrant and independent Judiciary.

His Excellency the President drew attention to the significance of the appellation “Hall of Justice”. He expressed the hope that the law would be administered therein as an instrument of justice to one and all, including persons accused of crime whose comforts had been catered for in the adequate cells provided.

I pledge the cooperation and dedication of the Judiciary to the achievement of those noble objectives. I welcome the assurance of the Executive to respect the independence of the Judiciary. I trust that it will be matched by the provision of other facilities complementary to the building.

The original furnishings planned for the Hall of Justice have been curtailed and maximum use is being made of the furniture now utilised by judges and staff. I am aware of the financial limitations within which the Government operates, but I express the hope that the importance of the administration of justice will receive its due priority in the allocation of the resources of the State and in particular for the provision of the requisite goods and services for equipping and maintaining the Hall.

The Honourable the Attorney General rightly focussed on the delays in the administration of justice. There are also inordinate delays in administration at the executive level in arriving at and implementing decisions in respect to terms and conditions of service of the Judiciary. I make mention of the provision of diplomatic or other special travel documents for judges and the effecting of repairs to houses allocated to the Judiciary.

We are indebted to the Registrar and other staff of the Supreme Court, to the Ministry of Works and to the Trinidad and Tobago Regiment who have worked feverishly to expedite

the removal of books, records and furniture from the premises previously occupied by the various divisions of the court to this locale.

The pride in this national monument is evidenced by the desire of members of the public, particularly the youth, to visit the building. These applications will be sympathetically entertained. The Bar Association have requested a meeting to discuss the accommodation provided for legal practitioners.

On behalf of my brother judges I thank all those who have participated in the ceremonies which have preceded the assembly in this room. The religious service was appropriately held in the stately Holy Trinity Cathedral which faces this Hall from the other side of picturesque Woodford Square. The Cathedral was made available by the Dean, the Very Rev. Rawle Douglin, who conducted the service. His Grace the Archbishop of Port-of-Spain, the Most Rev. Anthony Pantin delivered an inspiring sermon. I commend to members of the profession his invitation to assist the poor and needy by forming Neighbourhood Advice Centres. This service would supplement that provided by the Legal Aid and Advisory Authority. Pundit Mahadeo Sharma and Iman Hassan Karimullah and Pastor Collymore read the prayers. The responsive reading was led by the President of the Bar Association, Mr. Desmond Allum. The choir and the accompanying music completed the essentials for a memorable service. The blessing was pronounced by His Lordship the Bishop of Trinidad and Tobago, the Right Rev. Clive Abdulah. Finally we acknowledge with appreciation the presence at that service of H.E. the President, Dr. Wahid Ali. Our gratitude is extended to the Acting Commissioner of Police, Mr. Lance Selman, and members of the Police Force for the efficient parade. I was particularly impressed by the sprightly performance of the Women Police Constable drummers who headed the march past and then who formed its rearguard.

Mr. Justice John A. Braithwaite and I attained the normal retiring age of 65 years on May 30 and July 15, 1985, respectively. Under s. 136(2) of the Constitution, the President, acting in accordance with the advice of the Chief Justice, permitted each of us to continue in office until 31st October and 21st December, 1985, respectively, being the estimated

periods that are considered necessary to enable us to complete part heard matters and to deliver judgments in respect of cases that were commenced by us before we attained age 65.

On 12th July, 1985, the President, after consultation with the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition, appointed Mr. Justice Clinton Bernard to succeed me as Chief Justice on the day on which I vacate that office.

Mr. Justice Kester McMillan was appointed to act as a Justice of Appeal with effect from August 1, 1985.

Mr. Harold Koylass and Mr. Conrad Douglin were respectively appointed and appointed to act as, a Judge of the High Court as from 1st October, 1985.

Mr. Koylass was called to the Bar in 1950. After engaging in private practice he was appointed a Magistrate in 1959. He thereafter served as Crown Counsel, Senior Crown Counsel, Legal Draftsman II, Deputy Chief Parliamentary Counsel, Director of Public Prosecutions and Chairman of the Tax Appeal Board.

Mr. Douglin was called to the Bar in 1972. He acted as State Counsel I, and filled the offices of Administrative Secretary to the Chief Justice, Registrar and Marshal of the Supreme Court and Master of the High Court. Prior to his call to the Bar he served as a clerk in the Judiciary in various offices from Clerk to Principal Officer, as Clerk of Appeals, and he also filled the office of Registrar of the Industrial Court.

Mr. Justice McMillan has been a Puisne Judge since 1968 and is now the senior Puisne Judge. After his call to the Bar he engaged in private practice. He then entered the public service in Grenada where he was Legal Assistant to the Attorney General and Magistrate. He served as Legal Draftsman in the Federal Government of the West Indies and in the Government of Trinidad and Tobago.

Mr. Justice Clinton Bernard has been a Court of Appeal Judge since 1982. Prior to that he was a High Court Judge for 6 years. His previous offices include Deputy Solicitor General, Acting Solicitor General and Director of Public Prosecutions.

This is not the occasion on which to pay tribute to Mr. Justice Bernard. But I express the hope that he will make as outstanding a success in his tenure of office as Chief Justice as he has in those of High Court Judge and Justice of Appeal.

There are at present two vacancies on the High Court bench and there will be vacancies on that of the Court of Appeal when Mr. Justice Braithwaite and I vacate our respective offices.

Miss Monica Barnes, Chief Parliamentary Counsel has been appointed to act as Chairman of the Tax Appeal Board commencing 1st October, 1985.

Congratulations are extended to Mr. Justice Braithwaite on the conferment on him of the award of the Chaconia Medal (Gold) on the occasion of the twenty-third anniversary of Independence.

I record with regret the deaths during the past term of Mr. Inskip Julien, C.M.T.(G), who was for several years Secretary of the Law Society; of Mr. Arnold Chatoor, a prominent solicitor in San Fernando, and of Mr. Edgar Gaston Johnston, Q.C., tributes to each of whom were paid in the Supreme Court. Also for such mention is the passing on June 3rd of Sir John Blagden, who was a Puisne Judge of our Supreme Court from 1956 to 1960 and acted as its Chief Justice. He retired as Chief Justice of Zambia in 1969.

The post of Administrative Secretary to the Chief Justice has again been advertised. The three applicants will shortly be interviewed and a decision arrived at by the Judicial and Legal Service Commission.

I repeat what I said in my address last year:

“The time is opportune for the appointment of a senior official as Court Administrator, more particularly with the imminent transfer of all divisions of the Supreme Court to the extensive Hall of Justice with its sophisticated equipment. There is also need for a separate Registrar to be assigned to the Court of Appeal. Furthermore, I advocate as a start, the recruitment of at least two (2) talented graduands from the Law School as Law Clerks to conduct research for each division of the Court of Appeal. This service has been successful in the Supreme Courts of the United States, of Ontario and of many Latin American countries, in which courts each Judge is allocated at least one clerk. It saves the time of the Judges, thus enabling more cases to be disposed of and it provides invaluable training for the young lawyer.”

The absence of such assistance has been one of the factors which contributed to part heard cases and reserved judgments that necessitated the extension of my term of office. My administrative work, which included duties normally performed by a Registrar, occupied a significant portion of my time spent in chambers when I was not in court. In the result preparation for current work and writing of judgments had largely to be carried out at evenings and weekends in competition with my other legal and social commitments.

As Chairman of the Council of Legal Education I presided over its annual meeting in Antigua on Friday 6th September, 1985, and two committee meetings which preceded it on 4th and 5th September. It was the first meeting which was attended by all the heads of the Judiciary of the participating territories: Barbados, The Bahamas, the Eastern Caribbean, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago.

In February I had presided at an Executive Committee in Barbados, and at meetings of the Selection Committee in Trinidad in October 1984 and June, 1985; and in Barbados in February 1985. The work of the Chairman has increased with the reorganisation of the administrative structure. The posts of Director and Deputy Director of Education have been abolished.

Both the Hugh Wooding and the Norman Manley Law Schools have become largely autonomous each under a Principal with a separate Registrar. Mr. Austin Davis and Mr. Allan Harris whose posts of Deputy Director of Legal Education and Deputy Registrar now impliedly abolished under the amendment to the Agreement, have been appointed on promotion respectively to the new offices of the Principal and Registrar of the Hugh Wooding Law School. In consequence of the new arrangements some of the coordinating duties previously exercised by the Director have devolved on the Chairman.

This change has been effected by an amendment to the Council of Legal Education Agreement signed by the participating Governments which was ratified in Trinidad and Tobago by an order of the President made under the Council of Legal Education Act. That amendment also altered the qualification for lawyers to practise by recognizing as qualified persons with a degree in law approved by the Council who are qualified to practise in England or in a common law jurisdiction (which includes the U.S.A.), and who in addition have pursued a six month course at a Law School during which they are required to take an examination which would normally consist of or include West Indian Constitution Law and Legal systems.

The Antigua meeting of the Council approved the reduction in the number of courses for the Certificate of Legal Education from 15 to 10, thus allowing more time for practical training in Trial Advocacy and in compulsory attendance at the Courts.

On Saturday September 28, I presided at the ceremony of the presentation of graduates at the Norman Manley Law School in Jamaica.

The usual three year term of a Chairman for which I was elected ends in September 1986. As I am a member of the Council by virtue of my office of Chief Justice my term should expire on 21st December, 1985.

The Council has agreed that I should over to the Chairman designate, Mr. Christopher Blackman, President of the Barbados Bar Association, on October 13th, the day after the presentation of graduates of the Hugh Wooding Law School.

This brings me to Law Reform and firstly, the Fusion Bill. Its enactment will complete this country's related obligation under the Council of Legal Education Agreement which contemplated fusion of the legal profession in all the member countries. The Act will also prescribe a disciplinary code for the profession and a Compensation Fund as a form of security to the public which is the consumer of legal services. These measures, together hopefully with independent representation on the Disciplinary Tribunals, should have an appreciable effect in restoring public confidence in the profession.

The Attorney General has explained the delay in passing the Bill into law. There were further extensions of the time for public comment on the Bill, more particularly at the request of the profession. A Bill taking into careful consideration those comments will soon be finalised for presentation to Parliament.

In regard to bringing into operation the new Property Legislation which was passed in 1981, the Attorney General states that urgent action is in progress to have the related administrative matters in place.

The Report on the work of the Law Commission for the period June 1, 1984 to May 31, 1985, lists a large number of bills prepared by the Commission which had reached various stages of implementation.

In criminal law there is legislation to allow for the defences of diminished responsibility and provocation by words. A Bill to repeal and replace the Narcotics Control Act

provides stringent penalties for offences in respect of a wide range of drugs more particularly in respect of “pushers”. This is a very important measure at a time when in several countries drugs are having a very harmful effect on the minds and bodies of the youth.

In civil law the Copyright Act 1985 and the Publication (legal Deposits) Act 1985 await the drafting of complementary subsidiary legislation before they are brought into force.

The Unfair Contracts Term Bill and the Consumer Protection Safety Bill have been passed by Parliament.

On the Parliamentary table are the Prevention of Corruption Bill, the Extradition Bill and the Professions related to Medicine Bill.

The Bar Association hosted a seminar on Law and Liberties in the Caribbean on October 24 and 25, 1984. The last edition of the Lawyer reproduces the address of the President of the Bar Association and some of the speeches delivered at this well attended meeting.

The book “Trial by Jury – Social and Psychological Dynamics” by Dr. Ramesh Deosaran, a lecturer in Social Science at the St. Augustine Campus of the University of the West Indies, was launched on June 17, 1985 at a function at which speeches were delivered by Mr. Ulric Cross, Chairman of the Law Commission, the Attorney General, Mr. Martineau, the President of the Bar Association, Mr. Allum, Sir Isaac Hyatali, former Chief Justice and myself. The final speech was by the author. The book, which is an informed critical analysis of the jury system, contains many constructive proposals for its reform.

Dr. David Pitt, a member of the House of Lords and a native of the West Indies has recently revived the plea for a West Indian Court of Appeal to replace the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. This sensible and perennial proposal has substantial support among the legal fraternity of the Caribbean. It can, however, only be

implemented if the political will can be galvanised among our historically insular-minded Governments and Parliaments to enact the necessary legislation. Past experience has shown this to be a futile exercise.

There has been a marked increase in the number of persons assisted by the Legal Aid and Advisory Authority and in the corresponding expenditure. The Authority has received able assistance from the Probation Service.

The number of persons seeking advice and aid and of those who received legal aid have increased considerably. Service is provided at centres in Port-of-Spain, San Fernando and Scarborough and in the near future it will be available through the Legal Aid office of the Hugh Wooding Law School at St. Augustine.

The number of legal practitioners registered with the Authority has risen from 140 in 1979 to 290. Legislation is being prepared to extend the service to Petty Civil cases and to appeals before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

At the Seminar hosted by the Bar Association in October last attention was drawn to the large number of persons, who, though unable to meet legal fees fall outside the qualifying limit for legal aid. As a result a call was raised for practitioners to devise some form of complementary programme by which such persons may be assisted. The Authority is very much aware of this situation and recommends that urgent consideration be given to the proposal by practitioners.

The Authority intends to continue with its education programme so that there may be a wider awareness among citizens of the service.

I attended a Seminar on Drugs held under the auspices of the Magistrates Association in July at which talks were delivered by experts on the subject including Dr. Michael Beaubrun. The role of the courts in the control of drugs was discussed in full with

specific attention being paid to the appropriate punishments to be administered to the different categories of offenders.

The Seventh Commonwealth Magistrates Conference was held in Nicosia, Cyprus, from 8 – 16 September 1985. The theme was “The Criminal process – from Arrest to Sentence”. Participants from Trinidad and Tobago were Justices Warner and McMillan, Chief Magistrate Lincoln Dwarika and Senior Magistrate Carol Mahadeo, as well as the Ombudsman, Mr. Evan Rees.

At the invitation of the United States Embassy I nominated Mr. Justice Clinton Bernard as a participant in the U.S. Information programme entitled “International Jurists Project” which took place in the U.S.A. from March 23 to April 23, 1985. The object was to familiarise participants with the principle of the American legal system, including the U.S. Constitution, and the separation of powers; to provide opportunities to review the Constitution, the legislative and legal protection of the rights of the individual and the concept of due process; also to discuss court management, advanced legal education, the criminal justice system and law enforcement.

Cabinet has agreed to provide the funds for the resumption of publication of the Trinidad and Tobago Law Reports. It has appointed an Editorial Board for two years, commencing June 15, 1985, which comprises the Chief Justice as Chairman, the Attorney General and Minister for Legal Affairs; Mr. Ulric Cross, Chairman of the Law Commission; Mr. Tajmool Hosein, Q.C., Mr. Desmond Allum, President of the Bar Association and Mrs. Indra Arman, a solicitor. The Board has decided to commence with volumes containing cases heard in 1985.

The Eight Commonwealth Law Conference will be convened at Ocho Rios in Jamaica from September 7 – 13, 1986. It is the first time that the venue will be in the Commonwealth Caribbean. I appeal to the members of the legal profession, judges, officers in the judicial and legal service and practitioners to attend the Conference and I hope that many of you will also contribute papers.

COURT STATISTICS

1. On the Criminal Side

(a) In the High Court

The information from the Director of Public Prosecutions is that as at 30th May, 1985 the number of trials pending were 1768, 79 of which were for murder.

The Report of the High Court Judge who held the last Gaol Delivery on 31st July, 1985 discloses that at the Port-of-Spain Assizes there were 184 persons detained on 251 warrants awaiting trial. The corresponding figures for San Fernando were 83 and 117. There were 28 persons on 33 warrants awaiting the hearing of appeals. During the 1984 to 1985 Term 359 matters were listed in Port-of-Spain for hearing and 59 determined. The corresponding figures for San Fernando were 168 and 22 and for Tobago 16 and 7.

(b) In the Court of Appeal

As at 3rd October, 1984 there were 26 appeals pending. During the last term 14 matters were filed and 16 were disposed of, so that at the end of July 1985 there were pending 26 appeals against conviction and/or sentence from the High Court. Of these 5 were against convictions of murder.

2. On the Civil Side

These are the statistics for the 1985-1986 Term covering the period 3rd October, 1984 to 31st July, 1985.

In the High Court

At Port-of-Spain the number of civil appeals filed was 6025 of which 887 were matrimonial. In San Fernando the corresponding numbers were 2365 and 367, and in Tobago 237 and 47.

Actions set down in the General List but not yet listed for hearing from 1st November, 1981 to 31st July, 1985 in Port-of-Spain were 2061 and in San Fernando 1380; while the actions listed for trial in Port of Spain were 673 and in San Fernando 774.

The number of actions listed and determined during the term were:

	<u>Tobago</u>		<u>Port of Spain</u>		<u>San Fernando</u>	
Actions	<u>Listed</u>	<u>Determined</u>	<u>Listed</u>	<u>Determined</u>	<u>Listed</u>	<u>Determined</u>
Divorces	-	-	1150	914	572	366
Other	98	34	824	276	388	109
Summonses (in Chambers)	298	148	7195	3334	5246	1598
	-	-	260	85	446	77

IN THE COURT OF APPEAL

On 3rd October, 1984 there were 393 outstanding civil appeals. During the last term 165 new matters were filed.

The record is to be settled in 245 matters; it is settled but not filed in 148 matters. The record is settled and filed and therefore reading for hearing in 35 cases.

The number of matters disposed of including motions was 110, in 30 of which judgment was reserved.

Magisterial Appeals – The statistics are as follows:

	<u>Disposed Of</u>	<u>Outstanding</u>
Port-of-Spain	198	88
San Fernando	76	87
Tobago	23	7

There were 22 Petty Civil Appeals entered, in non of which the record has been filed.

The statistics present a gloomy picture – more particularly on the criminal side where the freedom of the individual is involved. It calls for urgent attention. Problems have arisen in regard to the insufficiency of jurors, after exemptions from service are allowed by a judge in Chambers. The Judges of the Supreme Court have suggested that the upper age limit for service as a juror should be increased from 60 to 65, and that Parliament should reintroduce the provision which was in the 1962 Constitution allowing for persons over the retiring age of 65 to be appointed as temporary Judges of the Supreme Court. There is a sufficient number of court rooms and of judges chambers in the Hall of Justice to accommodate such temporary judges.

In a news item of one of the daily Newspapers of September 27, 1985 under the caption ‘Chief Justice confirms Judges Appointments’ it was reported that I had confirmed appointments to the Judiciary therein specified.

A report of similar appointments, but not attributed to the Chief Justice, previously had appeared in an issue of the other daily of 24th September, 1985.

On my instructions the Registrar of the Supreme Court wrote on September 27th to the Editors of both newspapers denying that I had made any such communication and requested the publication be given to this denial.

The letter to the first mentioned daily was belatedly published in yesterday’s issue of that paper.

To date this request has not been complied with by the other newspaper.

The reports were partially inaccurate. There has been only one substantive appointment to the office of the Puisne Judge and one acting appointment each of Justice of Appeal and of Puisne Judge. There are no vacancies at present in the Court of Appeal. The other Judge whose name was incorrectly mentioned has been seriously embarrassed by these publications.

Freedom of the press and of expression are fundamental rights protected in our Constitution of which the judges of the Supreme Court are the guardians. They carry with them a corresponding duty and responsibility to verify the facts before publication from the proper source and to make any corrections that are drawn to the publishers' attention, more particularly by persons who are directly or indirectly adversely affected thereby.

This brings me to another matter in which the press has been involved.

It is with great reluctance that I find it necessary to make a few brief comments on the case of Sookoo v The Attorney General in which the Judicial Committee has finally decided that the President has continued me in office as Chief Justice until 21st December, 1985, thus endorsing the construction impliedly placed on the relevant enactment by the President in his letter to me of 28th June, 1985, which reads:

“Pursuant to section 136(2) of the Constitution I hereby permit you to continue in office as Chief Justice until December 21, 1985, this being the period necessary to enable you to deliver judgment or to do any other thing in relation to proceedings that were commenced before you before July 15, 1985.”

In regard to the adverse imputations which have been made on my conduct by the trial judge and certain organs of the press, I make the following statements which are relevant in assessing my bona fides (and that of the President).

It is the duty of counsel to present to the court an accurate statement of facts and of the law, at least the written law. A similar obligation rests on responsible organs of the press to do so, if necessary, with legal advice.

If the facts are correct, intelligent readers of, or listeners to, the publication will be able to form a reliable opinion as to whether or not the comments of the publisher thereon are objective, fair unbiased and unprejudiced.

Section 136(2) had been invoked on several previous occasions when no objection had been voiced. These were in respect of Mr. Justice Cross from 30th April 1982 to 31st January 1983, Mr. Justice Hassanali from 14th August 1983 to 15th April 1984, and Mr. Justice Braithwaite from 30th May 1985 to 31st October 1985.

The Supreme Court is on long vacation from 1st August to 3rd October. My official duties precluded me from registering for and attending the Commonwealth Magistrates' Conference at Cyprus in September.

Excluding the period of the long vacation the extension, of my term is for 3 months 4 days and that of Mr. Justice Braithwaite is 3 months less 3 days. My outstanding matters number 24; those of Mr. Justice Braithwaite 11. Five appeals are common to us.

I will derive no permanent benefit by way of increased pension from the extension since, in company with the President and the Prime Minister, I am entitled to full pension equivalent to my salary from the date of my appointment as Chief Justice (see s.7 of the Judges and Salaries Pension Act Chap. 6:02). No upward salary revision is likely to take effect within the extended period. Parliament has assumed that the persons appointed as Heads of State, of Government and of the Judiciary can be trusted not to abuse the privilege by retiring prematurely (even after a day in office).

Where a judge is continued in office under s. 136, there is provision under s. 104(2) of the Constitution for the appointment of a temporary judge, so that the work of the Courts will not suffer. Mr. Justice McMillan has been appointed under that section, thus enabling the Court of Appeal to sit in two divisions.

Several other Caribbean territories provide for extension of offices of Judges beyond age 65. There has been persistent agitation from the Bar and press for such an extension in Trinidad and Tobago so as to retain the services of judges with years of first instance and appellate experience.

The present Court of Appeal Judges have all been appointed comparatively recently: one in 1982, 2 in 1983 and one in 1984. Only one of them had previous appellate experience. I was appointed in 1978 and Mr. Justice Braithwaite in 1980.

I had to decide whether to make available my experience (and also that of Mr. Justice Braithwaite) to participate in important constitutional tax and other appeals, the numbers of which have escalated in the last two years, or to confine myself to administrative and other duties for several months before July 15, 1985.

In the Court of Appeal the judgments are of three judges not of one. Each judge is entitled to write his own judgment even though a particular judge is assigned to write the first judgment.

In conclusion, I convey my gratitude to my brother judges, the Masters and Registrar of the Supreme Court, as well as to the magistrates and the staff of the Judiciary for their services and cooperation during the past year.

I now formally declare open the 1985-1986 Law Term and may the blessings of the Almighty rest upon our labours.