



**Ministry of Industry
Investment & Commerce**

Jamaica's **Business** Ministry

MINISTERIAL ADDRESS

SENATOR THE HON. AUBYN HILL
Minister of Industry, Investment & Commerce

**CASELAW CONFERENCE FOR THE
CARIFORUM REGION, MERCOSUR AND CHILE**

TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2024

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Spanish Court Hotel

1 St. Lucia Avenue

Kingston 5

SALUTATIONS

- **Dr. Wendy Hollingsworth** – Coordinator of the CARIFORUM Intellectual Property Rights and Innovation Project (CARIPI)
- **Mr. Ignacio de Medrano** – Head of International Cooperation Service, European Union
- **Mr. Aniceto Ruiz** – First Counsellor & Head of Cooperation, Delegation of the European Union to Jamaica, Belize and the Bahamas
- **The Honourable Justice Winston Anderson** – the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) Academy for Law
- Other Members of the Judiciary
- **Ms. Lilyclaire Bellamy** – Executive Director, Jamaica Intellectual Property Office
- Representatives from AL-INVEST VERDE
- Representatives from CARIFORUM Intellectual Property Rights and Innovation (CARIPI)
- Media Practitioners
- Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

It is indeed a pleasure for me to join you this morning for this **Case Law Conference**. As a member of the Cabinet and the Senate of Jamaica, legislation, and the passage of legislation, is one of our core responsibilities. The work of the judiciary in interpreting and giving effect to clarifying issues that arise in the legislation is one of the key pillars of governance.

This morning, the Jamaica Intellectual Property Office (JIPO), under the leadership of its Executive Director, Lilyclaire Bellamy is hosting, in collaboration with the European Union (the “EU”), one of the key international partners of the Government of Jamaica, **CARIFORUM Intellectual Property Rights and Innovation (CARIPI)**, **AI-Invest Verde**, **Global Gateway**, the Caribbean Court of Justice Academy for Law; CARIFORUM, and the European Union Intellectual Property Office, a **Case Law Conference focused on intellectual property law cases**.

The importance of intellectual property cannot be overemphasized and the need to recognize that each of us possesses Intellectual Property (IP) is the **first step** of emphasis.

The **second step** is to take the time to register that IP and finally but perhaps critically, the **third step**, is to enforce our IP rights. This act of enforcement arises through the avenue of not only law enforcement agencies but also through the judiciary and the interpretation of the legislation.

As the Minister with responsibility for Intellectual Property, I understand and recognize the importance and significance of IP to the operation of all forms of enterprises. This has facilitated Jamaica becoming a signatory to international treaties **which enabled Jamaican businesspersons to be able to use more easily and access the global IP system for the registration of their intellectual property.**

Some examples:

1. Design rights through the **Hague Agreement** Concerning the International Registration of Industrial Designs.
2. Inventions and innovations through the Patent Cooperation Treaty;
and
3. The protection of business owners Trade Marks through the Madrid Protocol.

We have ensured that there is a local provision through JIPO and we have facilitated the international provision through these international treaties.

The recognition of the rights of the disabled has also been facilitated through amendments to the Copyright Act to enable persons who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise print disabled the opportunity to more easily have access to copyright works in an appropriate format. (e.g. Audio books).

The scope and content of the work of the Jamaica Intellectual Property Office (JIPO) includes the protection of Trade Marks, Designs, and other areas which are as diverse as music, computer programs which are

protected by Copyright; pharmaceuticals - protected by patents, clothing and jewellery – protected as designs, and Jamaica Jerk and Rum which are protected as a **Geographical Indications**.

Jamaica Blue Mountain Coffee Geographic Certification.

Executive Director Lilyclaire Bellamy and JIPO are working on several other plants and ideas for G.I. protection with help from the EU.

The management of intellectual property rights, including the enforcement of proprietor's rights and the interpretation of relevant case law by the judiciary, are integral aspects of that globally recognized stamp of approval that will provide credibility, and improve the competitiveness and reliability of our products and services, while boosting stakeholder and investor confidence.

Brand Jamaica and the excellence of our products and services must be protected and not infringed, if they are to contribute meaningfully to Jamaica's growth and development.

**INCREASE EXPORTS, PRODUCTIVITY, per capita GDP &
IMPROVE OUR TRADE BALANCE**

In order to build 'Brand Jamaica' and grow Jamaica's economy we must expand our exports and identify markets we must sell to.

To improve our per Capita GDP, we must increase our EXPORTS. This means that we **MUST IMPROVE OUR PRODUCTIVITY AND EFFICIENCY** which will increase the standard of living for all Jamaicans.

WE MUST IMPROVE OUR TRADE BALANCE to improve our competitiveness and demand for Jamaican products in international markets.

- MSME Roadshows plus IP through & JIPO and the other 19 of the Agencies in my Ministry.

Jamaica is a beneficiary of the Economic Partnership Agreement

which, is a preferential trade agreement signed between the member states of CARICOM and the Dominican Republic (CARIFORUM) and the member states of the EU.

The agreement provides local businesses duty-free and quota-free access to EU markets for Jamaican goods, offering a competitive advantage for Jamaican exporters.

This arrangement ties into the overall objectives of CarIPI which is to contribute to the integration of the CARIFORUM States in the World

Economy, through strengthening the enabling framework that stimulates innovation and competitiveness.

Arising from this favourable association, Jamaica has been the recipient of aid and grant funding toward national developmental sectors as you would have seen from your programme, with today's focus being on intellectual property rights. The EU has been Jamaica's perennially leading grant provider.

My heartiest congratulations to the EU, the EUIPO, WIPO, the CCJ ACADEMY for Law, AL-INVEST VERDE, CARIFI and JIPO on the hosting of this most important, timely and relevant conference.

I wish you all wonderful success!

Thank You

Aubyn Hill