



# Mediation

## a Commonwealth perspective

**Date:** Tuesday 4th June 2019  
**Time:** 12.30pm - Lunch and Registration  
1:00pm - 3:00pm - Event  
**Location:** Law Society House, Belfast  
**Cost :** £40  
**CPD:** 2 hours General Group Study  
**Bookings:** [cpdbookings@lawsoc-ni.org](mailto:cpdbookings@lawsoc-ni.org)

**Mediation – a Commonwealth perspective** will provide those attending with a timely and insightful overview of the changing role which mediation now plays in dispute resolution in Commonwealth countries.

Attendees will hear from The Rt Hon Sir Declan Morgan, the Lord Chief Justice for Northern Ireland, Brian Speers, the President of the Commonwealth Lawyers Association and Mr Justice Vasheist Kokaram, High Court, Trinidad and Tobago who will provide his unique perspective on mediation.

## Programme

### Introduced by:

**The Rt Hon Sir Declan Morgan, Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland**

Sir Declan Morgan was educated at Peterhouse, Cambridge. He was called to the Bar in 1976 and took Silk in 1993. He was Senior Crown Counsel for Northern Ireland from 2002 until his appointment as a High Court Judge in May 2004. He was appointed to the Family Division in January 2007 and in September 2008 became one of two judges with responsibility for judicial review. Sir Declan was appointed Chairman of the Law Reform Advisory Committee for Northern Ireland in 2004. In April 2007 he was appointed Chairman of the Northern Ireland Law Commission. He will be stepping down from that position at the end of the summer. Sir Declan Morgan became Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland on Friday 3 July 2009.

### Presented by:

**Brian Speers, President Commonwealth Lawyers Association**

Brian Speers is managing partner of CMG Cunningham Dickey Solicitors in Belfast. He is regarded as one of the most experienced solicitor mediators in Northern Ireland and has pioneered the use of mediation for the resolution of commercial disputes and has lectured extensively in mediation both locally and internationally. He has been an active member (and former Chair) of the Education Committee of the Law Society of Northern Ireland (LSNI). Brian is also an elected member of the Council of LSNI and a former President of the LSNI for 2010 -2011. He has been Treasurer of the Law Society of Northern Ireland since 2015. Brian is the Law Society of Northern Ireland's nominee to the Commonwealth Lawyers Association (CLA) an international lawyers organisation involving all the 53 jurisdictions in the Commonwealth. In 2017 he was elected Vice President and in April 2019 he was elected President of the Commonwealth Lawyers Association.

### Key Note Speaker:

**Mr Justice Vasheist Kokaram, High Court, Trinidad and Tobago**

Justice Vasheist V Kokaram is a Judge of the Supreme Court of Trinidad and Tobago. Prior to his appointment in 2009 he was a partner in the firm MG Daly and Partners specialising in industrial relations, public law, international trade and mediation. Justice Kokaram was the Chair of the Court Annexed Mediation Pilot Project in 2010 and is currently a member on the ADR Implementation Committee in the Supreme Court, Trinidad and Tobago.

Justice Kokaram was the Chairman of the Mediation Board of Trinidad and Tobago (MBTT) 2010 to 2018. As Chairman he advocated the use and application of mediation as a means of developing a more peaceful and productive society. He led several public educational campaigns on mediation from 2010 to 2018 at the MBTT which convened several national Annual Mediation Symposia and also produced publications on mediation and certification. Prior to his appointment as a Judge he was a community mediator appointed under the Community Mediation Act from 1998 to 2005.