



Bahamas To Host CLC 2021

NASSAU, The Bahamas: Thousands of lawyers will be heading to The Islands of The Bahamas in 2021, as the destination is slated to host the prestigious Commonwealth Lawyers Conference (CLC).

The four-day conference will bring together judges, lawyers and other professionals from 53 member countries of the Commonwealth, including English speaking nations of the Caribbean.

The hosting of the conference by The Bahamas marks the second time the CLC will be held in the Caribbean region, the first time being in Ocho Rios, Jamaica, in 1986.

CLC Bahamas will also be the third time the conference has been held in the Western Hemisphere. The second time was in Vancouver, Canada in 1996, except for regional meetings.

Minister of Tourism and Aviation Dionisio D'Aguilar said The Islands of The Bahamas is privileged to host the conference.

“As a proud member of the Commonwealth of Nations, The Bahamas is honoured to host Commonwealth Lawyers Conference 2021. We’ve been passed the baton from Zambia, and we look forward to welcoming members of the legal profession from around the Commonwealth to our capital city of Nassau for a conference that will enrichen our collective jurisprudence,” he noted.

“CLC 2021 is a great opportunity for delegates to engage in enlightening discussions, share ideas and best practices and to network. We will also use this occasion to introduce members of this diverse gathering to many of the exciting touristic offerings of our destination. CLC 2021 Bahamas promises to be a memorable, dynamic conference.”

The Commonwealth Lawyers Conference is organized by the Commonwealth Lawyers Association (CLA) in London, and has been hosted since 1955 throughout the Commonwealth in countries like Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, India, Jamaica, New Zealand, Nigeria and the United Kingdom.

The CLA President 2017-2019, Mr. R. Santhanakrishnan of India, visited The Bahamas in January 2018 and again a year later in January 2019. Under his visionary and exemplary leadership, he reached out to, actually visited and connected practically all the jurisdictions of the Commonwealth. In January of this year, he was accompanied by incoming CLA President 2019-2021 Mr. Brian Speers of Northern Ireland and they both attended the inaugural meeting of the CLA Regional Hub for the Americas. They were hosted by the Hon. Minister Dionisio D'Aguilar and The Bahamas Bar Association. They also attended the 7th Annual Arbitration and Investment Summit: Caribbean, Latin America and Other Emerging Markets held at the Baha Mar Resort and Casino, which was co-sponsored by the CLA. Mr. Speers will preside from now until the end of the CLC in Nassau in 2021.

CLC 2019 was held in Zambia April 8 -12. The Bahamas' delegation to CLC 2019 led by Kahlil D. Parker, President of The Bahamas Bar Association, consisted of Khrystle Rutherford-Ferguson, Bahamas Bar Association Treasurer, Dr. Peter D Maynard, who was elected CLA Vice President for the Americas, 2019-2021, and Bertha Cooper Rousseau, an International Arbitrator who was also elected a CLA Council Member for the Caribbean. Erin Greene, of The Bahamas, was also among the speakers. Judges, lawyers and other professionals were present from around the Caribbean and 40 of the 53 member countries of the Commonwealth.

The CLC is reputed for its outstanding sessions relating to human rights and the rule of law. It is also the premier event for judges and lawyers of the highest courts around the Commonwealth and elsewhere.

The Bahamas Bar Association, whose membership totals over 1,100 lawyers, submitted the successful bid in collaboration with The Bahamas Ministry of Tourism, both entities having pledged their full support to CLC 2021 Bahamas.