Advocacy Training 101 for Clerks and Deputy Clerks of Court

NIA, in partnership with the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Justice Training Institute and the Court Management Services, hosted two Advocacy Training Seminars for Clerks and Deputy Clerks of Parish Courts. The first was held on April 5-7, 2019 at the Iberostar Hotel in St. James and was attended by 50 clerks and deputy clerks of the parish courts. The second was held at the Melia Braco Hotel in Trelawny April 12-14 and was attended by 55 clerks and deputy clerks of the parish courts.

These trainings are expected to contribute to the achievement of the Ministry of Justice’s broad objectives of improving court efficiency, reducing backlog, and increasing the use of Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanisms on the one hand. On the other it seeks to provide initial or refresher training for new and seasoned clerks.

The presentations which were delivered by facilitators from the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Restorative Justice Department at the Ministry of Justice, were interactive and utilised group activities. They covered topics such as: ‘Cross Examination’; ‘CFATF Overview and Jamaica’s Money Laundering Regime’; ‘Prosecuting Financial Crimes’ and ‘To Nolle or Not to Nolle? A Practical Guide for Clerks of the Court’.

The participants had generally positive feedback on the extent to which the seminar improved their confidence in executing their prosecutorial duties, and appreciated the incorporation of Restorative Justice practices as a part of the offerings.

Specialised Training Seminar Series for JPs

NIA collaborated with the Justice Training Institute in the Ministry of Justice to continue the series of Specialised Training Seminar for JPs. The third in the series was held at the Courtyard Marriott Hotel in New Kingston on April 16, 2019. A total of 64 Justices of the Peace from St. Catherine were on hand to participate in sessions on restorative justice, conflict resolution and mediation, role of JPs in Criminal Justice Proceedings and an overview of the Justices of the Peace Act 2018. The trainings were geared towards enhancing the capacity of JPs to assume greater responsibility in the efficient administration of justice thereby contributing to the overall prevention of community violence. In his remarks, NIA’s Executive Director, Professor Munroe, reiterated the importance of the JPs role as “judicial public officers” and as a critical element in the criminal justice system”. The fourth seminar was held at the Hilton Rose Hall Resort in St. James from May 20-21, 2019, and had 72 participants while the fifth seminar hosted JPs from St. Ann at the Jewel Runaway Bay from June 10 to 11, 2019 and had 79 participants.
NIA's Executive Director Professor Trevor Munroe sounded a warning that the efficiency of the country's public institutions was being challenged by forms of higher levels of criminality, nepotism and cronyism. He shared this message at the opening of a training seminar for Crown Counsels held at the Melia Braco Resort from May 3-5, 2019. The seminar was a partnership between the NIA, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Justice Training Institute. The seminar aimed specifically at retooling and building the capacity of agents of justice, in this case crown counsel. The proceedings included presentations on Circumstantial Evidence, Digital Forensics and Computer-generated Evidence, Expert Reports, Courtroom Etiquette and Decorum, Troubleshooting, Fresh Evidence and Prosecuting without a body. These were delivered by a range of experts including personnel from the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Supreme Court.

Chief Justice Bryan Sykes revealed that his vision for the Jamaican Court System to be the best in the Caribbean region in three years and among the best in the world in six could only be achieved if all elements of justice system were performing optimally. It is with this premise that the NIA embarked on a programme of continued support to the Justice Sector by partnering with the ODPP, JTI and CMS to host two training seminars for Assistant Clerks of Parish Courts from across the island. The first was held over the weekend of May 17-19, 2019 at the Iberostar Beach Resort in St. James, while the second was held at the same venue from June 7-9, 2019.

The seminars were geared towards enhancing the proficiency and professionalism of the cadre of staff in areas such as the readiness and preparation of files - a critical element in achieving strong case management in the court system. The participants were brought through a series of sessions ranging from general areas, such as the roles and responsibilities of the Assistant Clerks of Court, Alternative Dispute Resolution, to topics of particular relevance to their job functions such as court protocols, decorum and dress, marshalling evidence and tendering exhibits.

The participant generally had a positive perception of the seminars, and listed regular trainings and the incorporating others agents of the criminal justice system in the trainings which would enrich the discussions and enhance the seminars' overall impact.
Integrity Club Facilitators’ Urged to target ‘influential’ students and not just student leaders

Deputy Executive Director of National Integrity Action, Dr. Patrece Charles, urged participants at the Integrity Club Facilitators Training to be unconventional in their approach to recruiting new members. She gave the charge at the three-day training hosted by NIA at the Jewel Runaway Bay Resort in St. Ann from May 22 to 24, 2019. The training accommodated 30 participants from 15 high schools across the island. The training session focused on the issues surrounding the establishment and sustenance of the Integrity Club programmes; the use of restorative justice process as a method of dispute resolution in the high school environment; and the implications of the new Child Diversion Act for the work of administrators and facilitators on the school campus. In addition to guided group activities from the Integrity Ambassadors manual, the participants also heard from Ms. Sasha Denton, the Integrity Club facilitator at the Ascot High School, which has been identified as an exemplar in IC facilitation. Ms. Denton used multimedia to demonstrate the results of her students’ work within the school and community and highlighted the importance of being respectful, clear, current and topical as facilitators and allowing students to be expressive in building a sustainable club.

The participants generally gave positive ratings to administration of the seminar and particularly its impact on deepening their understanding of and capabilities in Integrity Club facilitation. The participants lauded the breadth of knowledge of the presenters and the use of the role-play to enhance their understanding of how host IC sessions.

UWI Faculty of Law’s 5th Annual Symposium on Law, Governance and Society

In her presentation to the audience at the UWI Faculty of Law’s 5th Annual Symposium on Law, Governance and Society, the Director of Public Prosecutions, Ms Paula Llewellyn, challenged modern law professionals to maintain transparency and accountability to the public despite the risk of reputational damages. She was speaking at the National Integrity Action supported Symposium held at the Melia Braco Village in Trelawny from June 28-30, 2019. Other notable presenters or speakers at the event included: Professor Dale Webber, Principal of the UWI Mona Campus; Mrs Donna Parchment-Brown, Political Ombudsman; Mrs Arlene Harrison-Henry, Public Defender; Mrs Dionne Jackson-Miller, journalist and Adjunct Tutor, UWI Faculty of Law; and Ms Jacqueline Cummings, Immediate Past President of the Jamaica Bar Association. NIA’s support for the event forms part of its broader commitment to building and cultivating relationships with actors in the justice system, in this case the legal education element, with a view of re-iterating their role as advocates in the fight against corruption.

83% of persons think that citizens risk retaliation if they report corruption.

Source: Global Corruption Barometer: Latin America and the Caribbean 2019
Camperdown High school emerged as victors of the island’s preeminent debating competition, upstaging Maggotty High School in the grand finals held at the TVJ studios in Kingston on April 29, 2019. The competition, which is geared towards fostering the development of the nation’s youth primarily through advocacy, was sponsored by NIA for the fifth consecutive year. The competition, held under the theme, “Challenge the present, change the future, through debate”, commenced in January 2019 and saw a total of 64 schools from across the island participating. There were topics which explored governance issues, such as term limits of elected officials and twinning the local and general elections among others. The competition was successful in achieving NIA’s objective of engaging the youth in critical thinking and research on current, topical and, in some cases, controversial issues while developing their oratory skills.

Othniel Williams, coach for Camperdown High being presented his award by Jamie-Ann Chevannes, NIA’s Youth Outreach Officer.

Youth Leaders engaged in training on Violence Reduction Strategies

NIA hosted a training for youth leaders from across the island on June 1, 2019 at the Courtyard Marriott Hotel in Kingston. The training builds on the gains of a prior event held in March 2019 under the theme, “The Role of Youth in Safeguarding Jamaica’s Governance, Justice and Economic Security” and seeks to sensitise citizens about youth violence, trafficking in persons and gender-based violence. The training attracted 37 participants, 21 males and 16 females, from a wide cross-section of youth leadership including: the IAM chapters at UWI, UTECH and Church Teachers College; the youth arms of the major political parties; student representatives from tertiary institutions; Police Youth Club Movement; Youth Advisory Council of Jamaica; Commonwealth Youth Ambassadors Network; National Interschools Brigade; and Youth4Change Foundation. The participants were brought through presentations such as: youth violence prevention strategies; manifestations of and responses to Trafficking in Person; and definitions of violence against women and the status of relevant legislations.

A follow-up training was held with 22 participants, 7 females and 15 males, on June 8, 2019 at the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, to develop
Grassroots Community Engagement

Clarendon Police Youth Clubs Council Annual General Meeting

The Clarendon Police Youth Club Council hosted their Annual General Meeting on April 14, 2019 at the May Pen Police Station Conference Room. The AGM, under the theme “Unsung Heroes: Change of Guard”, saw over 50 community and youth leaders from across the parish turn out to reflect on the past year’s work and ushering in the new executive. Member of Parliament for Central Clarendon, Hon. Mike Henry, and Opposition caretaker, Zuleika Jess, brought greetings at the event, which also saw NIA’s Community Outreach Officer, Mr Gavin Myers, addressing the gathering on the importance of intergenerational leadership in sustaining community development.

ALAC team participates in Justice Fair

NIA was invited by the Legal Aid Council to participate in a Justice Fair held on May 31, 2019 at the Homestead Community Centre in Spanish Town, St. Catherine. NIA’s ALAC team received complaints, facilitated referrals and interacted with persons throughout the day. The Office of the Public Defender, Victim Services Unit and the Restorative Justice Department from the Ministry of Justice, Dispute Resolution Foundation, Registrar General Department and National Task Force Against Trafficking in Person were among the other service providers who were on hand to participate in the day’s proceedings.

12% of our people report being offered a bribe to buy their vote.

Source: Global Corruption Barometer, Latin America and the Caribbean 2019

Participants working in groups to complete one of the exercises during a session at NIA’s Youth Violence Prevention Training.

Dr. Siddier Chambers, Bureau of Gender Affairs, engages with participant Raine Richardson during the domestic violence prevention session.

NIA’s ALAC Team engaging patrons of the Legal Fair.
NIA’s Executive Director, Prof Trevor Munroe, warned that, “...heightened citizen engagement is critical for transforming anti-corruption words into action, but equally requires enormous effort by anti-corruption leaders in public bodies as well as in civil society, especially in a period of relative public passivity”. He was addressing the gathering at the 5th Annual Regional Conference on the Commonwealth Caribbean Association of Integrity Commissions and Anti-Corruption Bodies held at the Grand Cayman Marriott Beach Resort, Cayman Islands, from the June 3rd to 7th 2019. Among the notable attendees were Commonwealth Secretary General, the Right Honourable Patricia Scotland, Q.C., his Excellency the Governor, Martyn Roper, OBE and the UNODC Regional Anti-Corruption Advisor in the Office for Central America and the Caribbean, Ms Stacy De Latorre. The conference was held against the backdrop of inconsistent support for Integrity Commissions and Anti-Corruption Bodies from government in the region, with funding, staffing legislation and public engagement being the main areas of contention.

The Ministry of Justice hosted a high-level stakeholders’ breakfast at the Courtyard Marriott Hotel on June 14, 2019. The breakfast served to both signal the passage of the Child Diversion Act and the subsequent implementation of the National Child Diversion programme, which is being supported by NIA and other stakeholders. Child Diversion is premised on the belief that incarceration of children leads to a greater likelihood of future criminal behaviour, and consequently to steer children who commit certain offenses away from the formal justice system. Speakers at the breakfast included Minister of Justice, the Hon. Delroy Chuck; the representative from the United Nations Children’s Fund, Ms. Mariko Kagoshima; and NIA Board Member, Dr Terri-Ann Gilbert-Roberts.
CVSS - Restorative Practice for Integrity Champions (ICs)

CVSS has been coordinating restorative practice trainings for select Integrity Champions, who have been doing outstanding work through their CBOs in their respective communities. Under the first phase of the project ICs were trained and commissioned before completing or being actively involved in the planning and execution of community-based training intervention programmes. The second phase of trainings is expected to enhance the capacity of the ICs to assist their communities in arriving at better outcomes through work with their CBOs. It is expected that CBOs from communities in Clarendon, Kingston, St. Ann, St. Catherine, St. James and Westmoreland will benefit from the trainings over the next two quarters.

YCWJ Stakeholder Forum and Media Morning

The YCWJ held a Stakeholders’ Forum and Media Morning at the Multifunctional Room at the Main Library at the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus on May 2, 2019. The event was conceptualised a way of updating its stakeholders, partners and beneficiaries of the organisation’s activities as well as introducing new components under the ‘Community Build Back with Yute (CBBY)’ project: Youth Inspired Safe Space (YISS) Initiative. In addition to NIA, YCWJ attracted representation from public sector organisations and civil society actors such as the Jamaica Constabulary Force, the Office of the Political Ombudsman, Community Development Department of the University of Technology and the Digicel Foundation.

YISS Field Team Training and Survey Pilot

The YCWJ has partnered with 6 police youth clubs in urban and rural Jamaica to conduct community-based research, in their respective communities, with a view to identifying issues of youth safety and security as well as potential solutions. In preparation for the data collection, five training sessions were conducted in Kingston, St. Catherine and St. James from May 4th to 26th, 2019. The sessions introduced the participants, aged 16-29, to basic research methodologies, general field research protocols, ethics in research and an interviewing simulation exercise. In total there were 44 participants from 6 youth clubs including: Barrett Town, Montego Bay, Cambridge Tri-Star, Bog Walk, Gordon Pen and Newton Square Police Youth Clubs.

Sports for Life (SFL) - Majesty Gardens Easter Tournament

The Jamaica Basketball Association, in partnership with the YCWJ, hosted a one-week basketball competition targeting youth aged 8-15 at the Majesty Gardens basketball courts. The competition which ran from April 18 to 26, 2019, saw 60 youth in two divisions, and consisting of ten teams participating. The tournament continues JABA’s efforts at changing youth attitudes towards violence and reduce violent behaviours. It also dovetails with the plan of YCWJ and NIA to address the problem of indiscipline and maladaptive behaviour by deepening the engagement with participants using tools for conflict resolution, leadership, communication, respect and integrity.
Sports Changing Lives in Majesty Gardens Community

Benefits of the YCWJ ‘Sports for Life’ initiative continue to bear fruits for the youth in Majesty Gardens community. In June, two participants, Brandon Davis, aged 12, and Jacquan Dennis, aged 13, were invited to the Ballaz Six-A-Side Football Father and Son Match at the Ballaz Liberty Park in Kingston. The event combined football with motivational speeches from renowned athletes, such as international footballer Raheem Sterling and athletics superstars, Usain Bolt and Yohan Blake, as a means of motivating youth to become productive citizens.

Additionally, two female beneficiaries of the basketball programme in Majesty Gardens, Tahjera Forbes, 16, and Shadae Smith, 19, were selected to represent Jamaica in the Government of Jamaica/China Exchange Programme from July 1 to September 1, 2019. Both females are seeking to capitalise on other activities that have emerged from their successful participation in the exchange programme.

Spot Valley High School Reading Competition

The YCWJ continued its support to the Modern Languages and Literacy Department of the Spot Valley High School, as it hosted the second iteration of its Reading Competition and Trivia Finals on May 16 to 17, 2019. Held under the theme, “Rehabilitating and Securing Literacy Education for the Future through Partnership”, the competition had twenty-four participants, with 19 girls and 5 boys, all of whom were beneficiaries of the school’s literacy programme supported by YCWJ in 2017.

Flanker Resource Centre School Suspension Programme

The Flanker Resource Centre, with support from the YCWJ, continued to host a School Suspension Programme for students in St. James. The programme uses a two-pronged strategy of off-site suspension support and on-site preventative sessions at the schools, facilitated through individual sessions by a social worker, to address maladaptive behaviour in all its manifestations. The participating schools include: Spot Valley, Mount Alvernia, Anchovy, Knockalva, Maldon, Cambridge and Irwin High Schools and Flanker Primary and Junior High School. During the reporting period, 67 students, 46 girls and 21 boys, participated in the off-site suspension component, with an additional 23 girls, aged 12 to 15 who were on the brink of suspension, participating in individual and guided-group sessions. There were six students who were referred for some intensive interventions, such as psychiatric evaluations and substance abuse programme offered by CSJP and NCDA respectively.

Child’s Month Fun Day

The YCWJ, through its Change Through Arts component, supported the Catalyst Entertainment Group in their annual Stop the Crime and Violence Child’s Month Fun Day at the Sabina Park on May 25, 2019. The initiative utilises creative and cultural arts as a conduit for change and motivation for youth aged 6-17 to express themselves and expose their talents as well as to bring youth together. Since June 2018, the group trained ten young males who wrote songs and poetry around the tagline “Stop the Crime”, after which they embarked on a tour of twenty-six at-risk communities in Kington, St. Andrew and St. Catherine. The Fun Day was the culmination of the tour where thirty ‘catalysts’ from twenty-six communities received trophies and plaques as a result of exhibiting excellence in academics, behaviour and in the performing arts.
The Nannyville Uprising Youth Action Club, with the assistance of the NIA and YCWJ, hosted the ninth instalment of the Nanny Bee Spelling Competition on June 15, 2019 at the Sir Howard Cooke Character Development Centre in Nannyville Gardens. There were 30 participants from the community, 21 girls and 9 boys, between the ages of six and twelve who competed in six categories— from grades one to six. The champion spellers for each category were: grade one, Amelia Ross; grade two, Antwone Thomas; grade three, Kendre Grant; grade four, Inari Wright; grade five, Jhadore Prince; and grade six, Tashi Coombs.

The competition was preceded by a parenting workshop on May 25, 2019 at the Sir Howard Cooke Character Development Centre in Nannyville Gardens. The workshop was attended by ten parents and guardians of participants. NIA’s Deputy Executive Director, Dr Patrece Charles, facilitated the highly-interactive session which touched on issues such as proper parenting styles, encouraging academic discipline in children, alternative forms of discipline and positive reinforcement techniques. The keenly-contested competition is in its ninth year, and based on its track record of unifying the community, it is expected that the 10th anniversary will be a memorable one.

The YCWJ supported the Forward Step Foundation’s one-month workforce development training scheduled to be held at the Gregory Park Community Resource Centre from June 24 to July 26, 2019. The training attracted thirty-one women who were deemed to be at risk of or victims of domestic violence. The training fuses a life skills and integrity component with a therapeutic metal forging craft skills, which will equip participants with an entrepreneurial skill upon completion.

The YCWJ supported the Social Development Commission’s Cultural Village tribute to the formation and development of Marcus Garvey’s UNIA on June 29, 2019 at the Kingston Waterfront. The event drew participants from various community-based groups who are involved in local economic development initiatives.
Kevaughn has served in leadership capacities both locally and nationally. Kevaughn attended May Day High School (2010-2015) and Manchester High School (2015-2017). At May Day High School, he served as the Head boy, Students Council Vice-President, President of the Innovators Club and the Vice-President of Marketing and Productions in the Junior Achievement Club (JACE). He also served the nation as Regional Secretary/PRO (Region V) for the National Secondary Students’ Council. At the Manchester High School, Kevaughn served as a Senior Prefect, the Chief Events Coordinator for the Students’ Council and the Acting Regional Vice-President (Region V) of the National Secondary Students’ Council.

Kevaughn Currently attends Church Teachers’ College: Mandeville and is in pursuit of a Bachelor’s degree in Education, majoring in English Language and English Literature. He serves there as the President of the Integrity Action Movement for Students (the youth arm of the NIA), the Art of Speaking Foundation, a JNWAY Ambassador and is a former Youth Parliamentarian (2017/18) assigned to the constituency of North-West Manchester.

What does integrity mean to you?
For me integrity means, in its simplest form, honesty. It is the ability to not be persuaded to do wrong. It is being resolute in your decision in a particular matter, to do good and right regardless of the outcome that may arise or follow. In a sense, it is making you incorruptible.

How does it affect the personal decisions you make?
Integrity is the baseline of my moral compass. It affects the decisions I make, the avenues I decide to embark on, what I do professionally through leadership and even socially. I try to be 100% authentic and honest, and so live up to the criteria which would have been provided by me, a post that I may take on or the profession that I am in. And so, by using integrity as this baseline for whatever decision I make, it makes life for me less tedious because there is really nothing there to cover up, to lie about or no one else there to implicate on a matter but myself. It also guides me in reflection, when I ask myself whether the decision that I made was for selfish reasons. Did I practice favouritism or nepotism in any way? Did I achieve the mandate that I originally set out to achieve? Did everyone benefit from whatever I have done or how I have lived holistically? Or was it just about me?

Why do you advocate for integrity?
Why do I advocate for integrity? Without integrity in the world, the world would be in disarray. Imagine a world with no one who is honest, no one who is truthful to themselves, that is just doing whatever they want to do, whenever they want to do it, despite it affecting others in a wrong or a bad way. It is imperative that people stand up for what is good and right, whether it be morally or in terms of law. Without integrity we are practically living without a conscience and, a people without a conscience are divided, and because of this, things will fail.

What forms of integrity advocacy are you involved in and how?
I currently practice social media advocacy, whether it be on twitter or Instagram. I partake in training and developing young people across Manchester and nationally, to develop integrity in their leadership or lifestyle. Personally, I am a mentor to young people across Jamaica. I try to model a lifestyle that can be emulated, whether it be through financial management or through leadership or general mentorship. I also work with several NGOs, including the IAM, which is under the NIA to promote good leadership and governance, honesty integrity, accountability and transparency.

Suggest one area of Jamaica’s governance that integrity and transparency could vastly improve?
I believe that we need more integrity and transparency in our politics and political agreements. I believe that there should be stricter monitoring as it relates to their spending and that they should be more accountable and present the requisite documents to prove their level of expenditure. Also, under the banner of politics you have nepotism, so because I know you and favour you I am going to grant you a level of opportunity while other persons are put at a disadvantage. So those are two major things that I believe that if they are addressed in Jamaica, would cause a major improvement.
The entire family of National Integrity Action wishes to express our deepest sympathy and sincerest condolences on the passing of former NIA Board Chair, Martin Henry, an outstanding, patriotic citizen of Jamaica. Martin was among the first board members for NIA, from the first meeting November 11, 2011, and remained with us since then, up to the very moment of his passing, never missing a Board meeting. His work added value to the mission and his methodical manner provided clarity to many discussions. As we work, NIA will always acknowledge his role in whatever advances our organization and our people make in strengthening integrity in our beloved Jamaica. As we go forward, NIA will be partnering with stakeholders to memorialize his work through the establishment of an award that carries forward advocacy on the principles of good governance, transparency, accountability and integrity, ideals that were promoted by Martin Henry.