

**Law Association  
of Trinidad and Tobago**

established by the  
Legal Profession Act 1986



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PRESS RELEASE

The Law Association refers to the comments attributed to Justice David Hayton of the Caribbean Court of Justice in an interview published in the Express Newspaper on Sunday June 28, 2009. We concur with the statement of the President of the Court, The Honourable Mr. Justice de la Bastide, that the comments were inappropriate and improper.

Justice Hayton clearly descended into the arena of politics by comments he made regarding the influence of the Prime Minister, proposals for amendment of the Constitution, the role of party political constituencies and persons in active politics.

Like all other citizens, Judges are entitled to freedom of expression. However, in exercising that right a Judge must conduct himself in such a manner as to preserve the dignity of his office and the impartiality and independence of the judiciary.

Justice Hayton's descent into politics is a fundamental breach of judicial propriety and restraint and the Law Association deplores it. The prompt and unequivocal response of the President of the Court has mitigated the Association's concern, but we will maintain a watchful eye.

President

July 2, 2009