

Vision and Mission Statements



VISION

TO FOSTER AND MAINTAIN A JUDICIAL SYSTEM CHARACTERIZED BY FAIRNESS, INTEGRITY AND EFFICIENCY, FOUNDED UPON THE RULE OF LAW WITH THE AIM OF INSPIRING PUBLIC CONFIDENCE ENGENDERED BY COMPETENCE AND RESPONSIVENESS TO THE DIVERSITY AND EVER EVOLVING CHARACTER OF THE SOCIETY.

MISSION

THE JUDICIARY WORKS TOWARDS THE RESOLUTION OF CONFLICT IN THE SOCIETY BY RESOLVING DISPUTES THAT ARISE OUT OF THE OPERATION OF LAWS AND INVOLVE THE APPLICATION OF REMEDIES AND THE PUNISHMENT OF OFFENDERS.



2015 - 2016

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Introduction

THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM IS ESSENTIAL TO THE GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURE OF BELIZE AND IS ACCORDINGLY ACCOUNTABLE TO THE GENERAL POPULACE FOR ITS ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS.

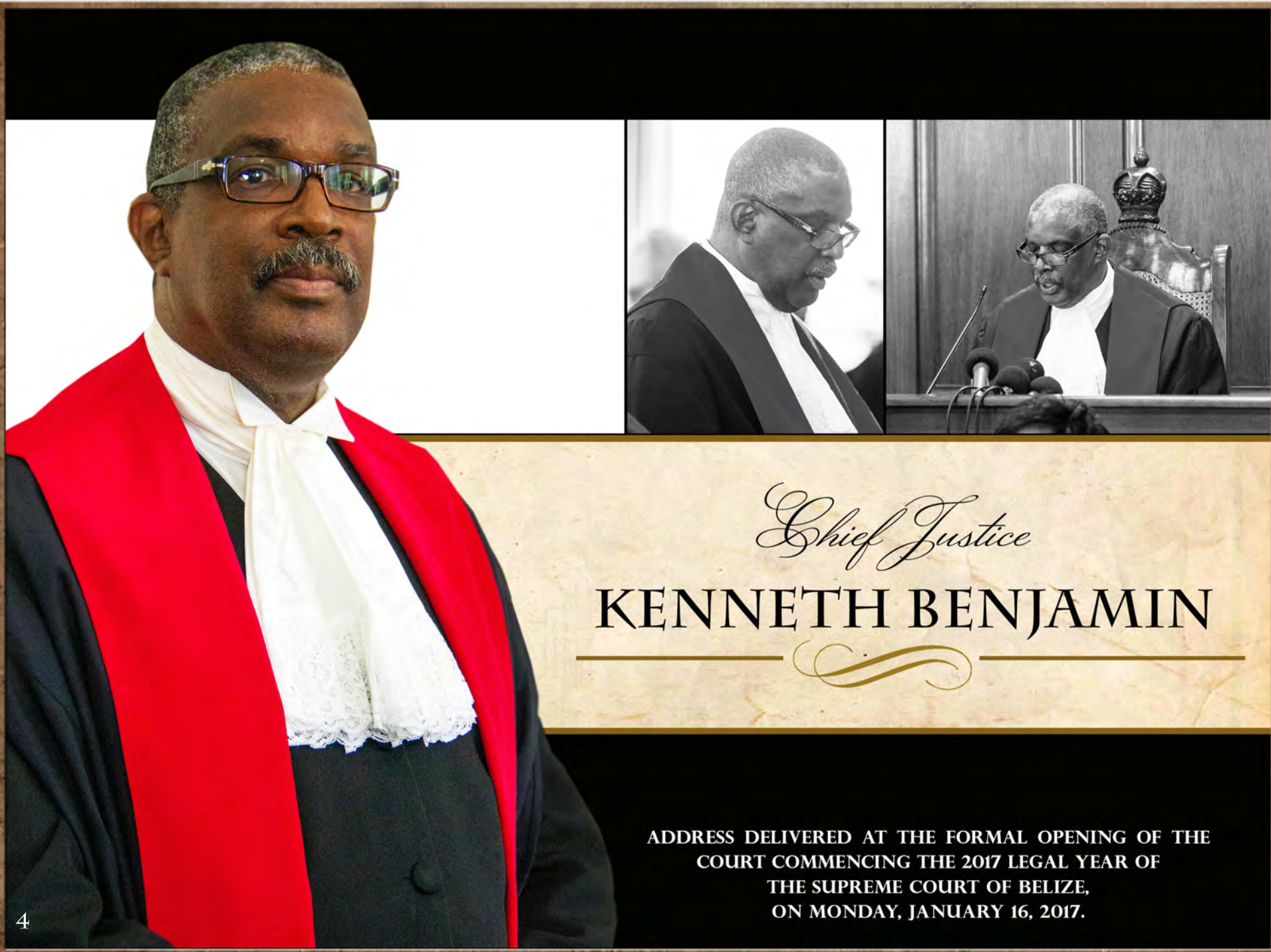
THIS ANNUAL REPORT SPANS THE PERIOD OF THE YEARS 2015 AND 2016 AND ENDEAVOURS TO RENDER AN ACCOUNT OF THE COURTS AT ALL LEVELS FROM THE ALCALDE COURTS AND THE MAGISTRACY TO THE SUPREME COURT, THE COURT OF APPEAL AND THE CARIBBEAN COURT OF JUSTICE. IT IS HOPED THAT THE REPORT WILL SERVE TO INFORM A WIDE SPECTRUM OF THE COMMUNITY WHILE DEMONSTRATING THE JUDICIARY'S COMMITMENT TO THE LAW AND AN ABIDING CONCERN FOR THE PROMOTION OF ACCESS TO JUSTICE.

THIS EDITION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT WILL BE LARGELY CIRCULATED ELECTRONICALLY WITH A VIEW TO MAKING OUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE REDUCTION OF THE CARBON FOOTPRINT. READERS ARE INVITED TO REVIEW THE ACHIEVEMENTS FOR THE YEARS 2015 AND 2016.

APPRECIATION AND GRATITUDE IS DUE TO THOSE WHO HAVE EXPENDED THEIR TIME AND TALENTS TO MAKE THIS PUBLICATION A REALITY.



2015 - 2016



Chief Justice

KENNETH BENJAMIN

ADDRESS DELIVERED AT THE FORMAL OPENING OF THE
COURT COMMENCING THE 2017 LEGAL YEAR OF
THE SUPREME COURT OF BELIZE,
ON MONDAY, JANUARY 16, 2017.

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

So wrote MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. in a letter in 1963. Significantly, Dr. King’s birthday is January 15. And today, we have gathered to review the activities of the justice sector in Belize and to project the aspirations of the Judiciary for the coming year 2017. I will be reporting on the activities of the third arm of Government and laying out in skeletal form the objectives for the future.

The Judiciary cannot stand by itself as it relies on the Executive and the Legislative pillars of Government to provide its funding. Throughout 2016, the support of our parent Ministry, the Attorney General’s Ministry has continued unstintingly as has been the case in previous years. In this regard, I wish to register our gratitude to the former Attorney General, Ms. Vanessa Retreage and wish her a seamless return to the private Bar. Congratulations are in order for the recently appointed Attorney General, Hon. Michael Peyrefitte. The Supreme Court stands ready to work alongside the Leader of the Bar in maintaining and initiating improvements to the administration of justice in Belize and preserving the independence of the Judiciary.

FISCAL ALLOCATION

Any review of the performance of the Supreme Court must begin with a reference to the resources made available by the Legislature for the conduct of the business of the General Registry, the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal. Even so, it must be recognised that the budgetary allocation is inevitably inadequate to meet the myriad of activities in need of financing. As I have said before, the Supreme Court must form strategic partnerships to advance initiatives and innovations in the areas of training, infrastructure and information technology. For the fiscal year 2016 – 2017, there is an allocation to the Judiciary of \$9,851,008 which translates into 1.06% of the National Budget. This is an increase of 0.04% from the period 2015 – 2016. Regrettably, it has already been signaled that the allocation will be cut for 2017 – 2018. Austerity will therefore be expected during the coming year.

JUDICIAL PERSONNEL

During 2016, all Judges of the Supreme Court were accorded full tenure and the complement of Judges was filled in both the Civil and Criminal Divisions. However, in December 2016, Hon. Mr. Justice Troadio Gonzalez achieved the retirement age and will demit office in 2017 upon completion of his outstanding work. This will leave a vacancy in the Criminal Division which will be addressed imminently. I wish to pay tribute to Justice Gonzalez who has been a fixture in public service in Belize for many years. Having served as Crown Counsel, Chief Magistrate and Director of Public Prosecutions, he ascended the Bench of the Supreme Court in January 1993. His 24-year career on the Bench has earned him the respect of the Bench and Bar alike. His experience and wisdom as a resource among his colleagues will be sorely missed.



The Magistracy was increased in October 2016 with the appointment of His Honour Magistrate Norman Rodriguez who now sits in Belize City. Soon after in December 2016, Magistrate Hettie Mae Stewart proceeded into retirement. Ms. Stewart was appointed to the Magistracy in 2004 having held the post of Deputy Marshal of the Supreme Court. We sincerely thank Ms. Stewart for her service and wish her all the best in her future endeavours. On April 1, 2016, His Honour Magistrate Dale Cayetano was appointed as the Director of the Family Court having acted in the position for one year previously. The Magistracy continues to stand below its complement of judicial officers. Efforts to attract fit and proper persons with requisite legal qualification will be intensified in 2017.

NEW STAFF – GENERAL REGISTRY

In 2016, the General Registry welcomed two new members of staff, namely, Ms. Shadae Westby as Assistant Marshal and Mr. Shimon Cain as Office Assistant. In July 2016, the position of Court Administrator was vacated with the resignation of Ms. Nancy Naj. While the post is yet to be filled, in the interim, Mr. Lino Chan has been appointed as Mediation Coordinator and he will be assisted by Mrs. Errolin Grinage.

CIVIL DIVISION

An aggregate of 781 claims were filed in the civil jurisdiction of the Supreme Court during 2016. To this must be added the 366 divorce petitions filed. Of these, 706 claims were taken to disposition and 342 divorce decrees were granted. In this regard, the civil jurisdiction has enjoyed a satisfactory case filing to case disposition ratio.

CRIMINAL DIVISION

In January 2016, the Criminal Procedure Rules were brought into force ushering in the concept of case management. The efficacy of these Rules is dependent upon a paradigm shift in the culture of how criminal matters are processed in the criminal justice system. Much time has been devoted to training of the main participants in criminal matters and the sensitization of other stakeholders and allied law enforcement agencies such as Customs, Belize Defence Force, Coast Guard, Social Security, Fisheries Department and GST. These efforts will continue for as long as it takes to entrench ethos of case management. The new criminal Procedures are applicable to new criminal matters. However, Judges and Magistrates are encouraged to apply the principles to the older cases in the system.

The Police Guidelines for the Interviewing and Treatment of Persons in Police Detention are in force as of January 1, 2016. These Guidelines are to be buttressed by the audio or video recording of Police Station Interviews and statements taken under caution. This necessitates the installation of electronic recording equipment in Police



Stations which is being anxiously awaited. It is hoped that benefits can accrue to the trial process as has been the case in other countries in the Region including Dominica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Bermuda. These jurisdictions have experienced the elimination of lengthy voir dire proceedings challenging the admissibility of caution statements.

The lists of criminal cases in the Central District remain at unacceptably high levels. The Northern Sessions have experienced an all-time low number on the list; this euphoria was however short-lived as it became apparent that this was attributable to the lack of processing of preliminary inquiries from the Magistrate's Courts in Orange Walk and Corozal. The Southern District has seen its list balloon from 10 cases or less to a record 54 cases pending as of December 2016.

REMAND POPULATION

As at December 31, 2016, the population of persons awaiting trial in the Central Prison stands at 475. Of that number, 146 have been in custody for in excess of two years. 249 inmates or 52%, are charged for murder. It remains a serious cause for concern that the remand population is disproportionately high. In an effort to address this situation, I have sought from the Attorney General's Ministry, budgetary support in the new financial year 2017 – 2018 for the engagement of three additional Judges for the Criminal Division for a fixed period with a view to tackling the cases that are outstanding for more than two years. As an interim measure, two Judges of the Civil Division have embarked on the conduct of status hearings in respect of older cases. These hearings were conducted on January 11 and 12, 2017 and will be repeated as necessary until the ad hoc Judges can be put in place.



SENTENCING GUIDELINES

The process of compiling sentencing guidelines for the use of Judges and Magistrates was commenced in 2015 and continued in 2016. The compilation is in an advanced state of completion and the draft will soon become available to stakeholders for comments and suggestions before final publication. The exercise is being informed by sentencing patterns in the Supreme Court and decided cases from the Court of Appeal coupled with the knowledge and experience of the Judges. When published, the Sentencing Guidelines will inform the sentence indication hearings provided for in Part 9 of the Criminal Procedure Rules.

MAGISTRATE'S COURT

A recent inspection of the Magistrate's Court in Corozal Town has turned up evidence of infestation. The situation is dire. To address this crisis, the Chief Magistrate and the Senior Magistrate of the District have engaged the Mayor. A plot of land has been identified as a possible site for a court complex in the heart of the Town. I am cautiously optimistic that this will provide the answer to the woes being experienced by the sitting Magistrate and the Court Staff in Corozal. The Magistrate's Court building in Dangriga is in need of repair. Estimates for the work are being sought and it is expected that a partnership with INL/US Embassy may be in the making. Dialogue has commenced and is continuing in order to make this a reality.

FAMILY COURT

It has become apparent that the Family Court is in need of case management software. It is hoped that concrete steps will be taken during the financial year 2017 – 2018 to commission the development of such software. The Family Court in Belize City has leased the ground floor of the building it presently occupies. The space is to be refurbished to allow for the two Courts and intake officers thus offering more convenient service to the public and to litigants. I wish to record in advance our gratitude to UNICEF for their willingness to assist in the funding for the renovation work.

The Family Court in Punta Gorda was rendered fully functional from January 2016. The case load has been steadily increasing with all family matters being attended to at the facility. This has necessitated the weekly attendance of a Magistrate from the Family Court in Belize City to preside in Punta Gorda. The projected growth is being monitored closely to inform the Director as to whether a permanent Magistrate may be required in the future. With funding made available by UNICEF, architectural drawings have been completed for the construction of a child friendly Family Court in San Ignacio. The proposed building is to be a green structure and when completed it will serve as a model for future child friendly Courts in other Judicial Districts in Belize. The process of tender for a contractor has commenced. Discussions are well advanced for the establishment of tripartite partnership involving the Government of Belize, UNICEF and INL/US Embassy to make the building a reality by early 2018; I wish to pause here to express our profound gratitude to Mr. Ivan Yerovi, the UNICEF Country Representative in Belize up to October 2016 when he departed for a new



assignment in Nicaragua. Under his leadership, the Judiciary of Belize and UNICEF has forged a meaningful working relationship which will enure to the benefit of the children of Belize.

DRUG TREATMENT COURT

The movement towards a Drug Treatment Court remains at a pilot stage. Be that as it may, the ad hoc committee has not been idle. Substantial work has been done on the enabling legislation with significant assistance from Mr. Albert Edwards, Deputy Solicitor General – Legislative Drafting. Two clients were sent to Jacobs Farm Rehabilitation Centre under the auspices of the Magistrate’s Court during 2015. Upon completion of the programme, both male clients graduated at a ceremony held in March 2016 and re-entered the community. Unfortunately, one client relapsed but I am pleased to report that the other is doing well and has adjusted admirably. The pledge from the OAS to assist with training remains intact as is the promise of support from our regional neighbours in Trinidad & Tobago, Barbados and Jamaica.

On November 9, 2016, the Drug Treatment Court Committee and the National Drug Abuse Control Council partnered with the Belize International Film Festival for the showing of the movie “BEING CHARLIE” at the House of Culture in Belize City. It was well attended and it was followed by a panel discussion on addiction and treatment in Belize.

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTE (ADR)

(1) ARBITRATION

2016 was a busy year for ADR. Under the leadership and drive of Hon. Mr. Justice Abel, the National Mediation Committee embarked on an ambitious programme to introduce court-connected arbitration. In October 2016, the first cohort of lawyers was trained under the auspices of the University of the West Indies Open Campus Belize subsidized by the Supreme Court. The facilitators were Dr. Christopher Malcolm and Ms. Shan Greer, both fully accredited representatives of the Caribbean Branch of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. The training course was attended by Magistrates, Crown Counsel and private legal practitioners and culminated in an examination. Indeed, at this time, there are in programme two cohorts being trained – one for non-lawyers and one for lawyers. At the end of the training, the successful participants would be rendered eligible to be rostered for court-connected arbitration. In order to make the programme a reality, a sub-committee of Attorneys is assiduously working on a final draft of rules which are intended to comprise Part 74 of the Supreme Court (Civil Procedure) Rules. These Attorneys are all volunteers and I wish to thank them publicly for their unselfish contribution. The ultimate objective is for Belize to take its place as a world-renowned centre for arbitration by the provision of quality arbitrators for the resolution of commercial and other disputes.



(2) FAMILY MEDIATION

During the period November 29 to December 3, 2016, at the instance of the National Court-connected Mediation Committee and under the aegis of the University of the West Indies Open Campus, a training programme was held for court-connected Family and Divorce Mediation. 23 persons (5 males and 18 females) were trained by Judge Nancy Flatters, a retired Judge and family mediation facilitator from Alberta, Canada. After 40 intensive hours, the participants were presented with certificates and are now eligible to be engaged in the Family Court throughout Belize. The training was in large part made possible by funding from Restore Belize and UNDP through the instrumentality of Ms. Marydalene Vasquez.

JUDICIAL CONTACT

During March 2016, the Supreme Court continued with its programme of judicial contact with the students at the Norman Manley Law School in Jamaica. Hon. Mde. Justice Griffith visited the Law School and presided over mock trials as well as interviewed the students. This exercise will continue in 2017 when Hon. Mde. Justice Arana is scheduled to visit the law school.

JUDICIAL EDUCATION

The Belize Judicial Institute chaired by Hon. Mde Justice Griffith continued to serve both the upper and lower judiciary. In May 2016, the Judges went into retreat at the Dream Valley Jungle Resort in the Cayo District for 1 ½ days.

Topics discussed included unrepresented litigants, tools and techniques of case management, the Criminal Procedure Rules and delay and backlog reduction strategies. Case studies of appellate decisions were also presented by individual Judges.



In the course of 2016, a number of judicial education initiatives were mounted:

1. **May 26, 2016** – Judicial Colloquium on Mental Health was organised for all Judicial Officers by the Death Penalty Project.
2. **June 17, 2016** – Half-day workshop was held on Competition Law and Policy with the assistance of the CSME Unit of the CARICOM Secretariat.
3. **June 2016** – Half-day refresher training on Cash Detention and Forfeiture followed by one day of mock trials. A similar exercise was held for Magistrates.
4. **November 25 and 26, 2016** – Training by UN High Commissioner for Refugees for Magistrates.

JUDICIAL CONFERENCES AND OVERSEAS COLLOQUIA

In February 2016, Senior Magistrate Arana attended a 4-week seminar hosted by the International Law Enforcement Academy in Roswell, New Mexico, USA. The Anti-Corruption Policy Forum and Academic Criminal Justice Seminar was sponsored by the Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) of the United States Department of State.

In April 2016, Hon. Mde. Justice Moore attended a UN Regional Course in International Law in Montevideo, Uruguay. Subsequently, in August 2016, she returned to Uruguay to represent the Supreme Court at an International Symposium addressing the incarceration of children in conflict with the law and alternative non-custodial measures.

Along with Justices Abel and Griffith, I attended an Intellectual Property Colloquium in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad hosted by the United States Patent Office on November 14 and 15, 2016. The Colloquium dealt with criminal adjudication and enforcement of intellectual property rights for the Caribbean.

On November 9 – 11, 2016, Hon. Mde. Justice Young attended a conference hosted by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime addressing the Combating of Child Sexual Abuse as a form of cybercrime.

UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION

At the invitation of UNODC, I joined other regional Heads of Judiciary in Panama City, to participate in the Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Launch of a Global Judicial Integrity Network. The object of the meeting was to explore the efforts made by the judiciaries in Latin America and the Caribbean with a view to strengthening judicial integrity in line with Article 11 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption. Participants made presentations highlighting peculiar challenges and problems and identifying best practices to inform the Global Judicial Integrity Network.



Attendance at this meeting was timely having regard to Belize's recent accession to the UN Convention against corruption.

JUDICIAL REFORM AND INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING PROJECT (JURIST)

In July 2016, the JURIST Project funded by the Government of Canada through Global Affairs Canada conducted a one-day Collaborative Workshop with stakeholders of the justice system to identify needs and priorities to inform the Work Plan for the next year of the Project. This event saw the coming together of a wide spectrum of persons representing organisations and agencies touching the justice system in Belize. There followed on November 11, 2016, a consultation to inform guidelines for sexual offences cases. Here again, the workshop attracted stakeholders of the criminal justice system and civil society to share of their local knowledge and experience. The work of the JURIST Project in backlog reduction and case management in the Court of Appeal will continue in 2017. Thereafter, attention will be turned to addressing the backlog of inferior appeals pending before the Supreme Court.

LAW LIBRARY

In January 2016, the Impact Justice Project funded by the Government of Canada through Global Affairs Canada conducted a workshop for Law Library Assistants. Law Librarian Mrs. Errolin Grinage and Library Assistant Ms. Angela Flowers attended from Belize. Subjects included Primary and Secondary Sources and the Cataloging and Classification of Legal Materials. The Impact Justice Project responded to my request and has funded a Library Review. In October 2016, Ms. Jacinth Smith, the Chief Librarian of the CCJ visited Belize and conducted an in-depth analysis of the Law Library. A detailed report has been presented to the Supreme Court and is available for perusal.

AUDIO-RECORDING EQUIPMENT

As of June 2016, all the courtrooms of the Magistrate's Court and the Supreme Court in every district are equipped with court audio recording and IT Equipment. During the period April to June 2013, through the kind generosity of the Government of the United States of America through the International Narcotic and Law Enforcement (INL) and the Central American Regional Security Initiative; equipment to the tune of \$372,610.18 (US) was installed in nine Supreme Courts and eighteen Magistrate's Courts. On behalf of the Judiciary of Belize, it is my duty to thank the Government of the United States of America for this far-reaching gesture. The net effect is that no longer are Magistrates required to record proceedings in long-hand. This would enable the swift disposition of cases and guarantee an accurate record of the proceedings for appellate purposes and otherwise.



GENERAL LEGAL COUNCIL

Under the chairmanship of the Chief Justice or a nominate Judge, the General Legal Council met consistently throughout 2016 for approximately 18 sittings. 16 new complaints were filed in 2016. Complaints were heard and decided upon in accordance with the Legal Profession Act, Chapter 320.

COMMISSIONERS OF THE SUPREME COURT

On December 14, 2016, sixteen (16) citizens of Belize were sworn as Commissioners of the Supreme Court and presented with Instruments of Commission. These deserving persons were selected to address the demands for service in the Districts and other critical spheres of activity including the Central Prison, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Supreme Court itself. As Chief Justice, I addressed the newly appointed Commissioners as to their role emphasizing the importance of integrity.

ELEVATION TO RANK OF SENIOR COUNSEL

Having conferred with the Supreme Court Judges and the General Legal Council, in the exercise of the power conferred on the Chief Justice by the Legal Profession Act, it is my pleasure to announce that the following Attorneys-at-Law have been elevated to the rank of Senior Counsel:

1. **Robertha Magnus Usher**
2. **Anna Dolores Balderamos Garcia**

These persons have distinguished themselves in the practice of law, more particularly in the area of family law, and are deserving of being admitted to the Inner Bar. A formal sitting to admit them will follow.

CONCLUSION

The time has come to address the acute problem of long remand in the prison population. The process must begin in 2017. Alongside this impetus, the culture of case management must be allowed to develop and take root in the criminal justice system.



In this year, ADR is poised to offer litigants and potential litigants an even wider array of solutions to their disputes. Such would be the effect with the advent of court-connected arbitration.

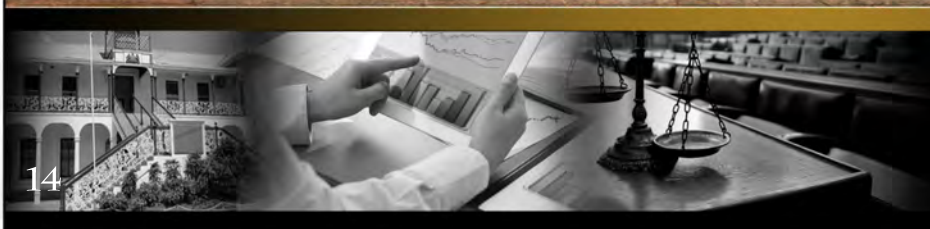
I wish to thank the staff of the General Registry for their supporting role in the administration of justice in the course of 2016. On behalf of the General Registry and the Magistracy, a note of gratitude must be recorded in favour of the Hon. Attorney General, the Solicitor General and the Administrative staff of the Attorney General's Ministry.

The ecumenical service as always set the appropriate tone for today's proceedings by the invocation of God's blessings. Thanks to Bishop Phillip Wright, Bishop Dorrick Wright and the other members of the Clergy including Rev. Lisbeth Tulloch who is a US-trained Attorney.

To the Commissioner of Police and his officers and to the security personnel assigned to the courts, I say thank you for keeping us safe and maintaining order. As is always the case, the Guard-of-Honour drawn from the Special Patrol Unit under the Command of Assistant Superintendent Gerald Jones did not disappoint and turned out with resplendence and discipline. I say thanks to them also.

Today, there is a seat unoccupied at the Inner Bar for our departed brother, Mr. Michael Young. May his soul rest in peace.

It is now my pleasure to declare the Legal Year of 2017 open. I invite the President of the Bar to address the Court.







*Maintaining a Commitment to
Fair Judicial Practice*

Caribbean Court of Justice



Caribbean Court of Justice

The Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) was inaugurated on 16th April, 2005 in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. The Court has two jurisdictions: an original and an appellate jurisdiction.

In its original jurisdiction, the CCJ is an international court with compulsory and exclusive jurisdiction in the interpretation and application of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas and to determine disputes arising there under. In its appellate jurisdiction the CCJ, serves as the final appellate court for member states that have acceded to its jurisdiction and determines appeals in both criminal and civil matters.

Belize signed on to the CCJ on 1st June, 2010. The other member states that have acceded to the jurisdiction of the CCJ are Barbados, Guyana and Dominica.

Appeals are primarily heard before the Court at its headquarters in Trinidad. However, because the CCJ is regarded as an 'itinerant' court or the 'travelling court', matters can also be heard in the country of any of the 'contracting' parties. During the week of April 20, 2015, the entire Bench comprised of the President, Sir Dennis Byron and the appellate Judges convened in Belize to hear matters on appeal from Belize and other jurisdictions. Matters are also heard by way of teleconferencing and video-conferencing.

The current composition of the CCJ is:

The President, The Right Honourable Sir Charles Michael Dennis Byron
The Honourable Mr. Justice Rolston Nelson
The Honourable Mr. Justice Adrian Saunders
The Honourable Mme. Justice Désirée Bernard
The Honourable Mr. Justice Jacob Wit
The Honourable Mr. Justice David Hayton
The Honourable Mr. Justice Winston Anderson
The Honourable Mme. Justice Rajnauth-Lee

Applications filed from Belize:

For the year January 2015 to December 2015 four (4) applications for special leave to apply were filed. Leave to appeal were granted to all four, however only three of the appellants filed appeals.





*“The Good of the people
is the Greatest Law.”
Marcus Tullius Cicero*



Court of Appeal





HON. JUSTICE MANUEL SOSA



The Honourable Justice Manuel Sosa, the President of the Court of Appeal was sworn into office by His Excellency, the Governor General, Sir Colville Young on 1 January, 2011 and became the first Belizean ever to be appointed President of the Court of Appeal of Belize. The President had previously held office as a Justice of Appeal from June 1999 until the date of his appointment as President. In 1971, President Sosa proceeded, as recipient of one of the two coveted British Honduras Scholarships, to the University of the West Indies (Mona and Cave Hill Campuses) from which in 1974 he obtained a LLB Degree and graduated with honors. He then attended the Norman Manley Law School in Jamaica, where in 1976 he obtained a Certificate in Legal Education and was the recipient of the Most Outstanding Student 1974 -1975 and Most Outstanding Final Year Student 1975-1976 awards. President Sosa was admitted to practice in Belize on 30 September, 1976. The motion for his admission having been seconded by the legendary Belizean Queen's Counsel, Sir Harrison Courtenay, in what may well have been the latter's last appearance as counsel. He commenced his private practice of the law in Belize immediately following admission and was elevated to the status of Senior Counsel on 24 September, 1986, just a few days short of a decade. President Sosa during his time in private practice served in the capacity of President and Vice-President of Belize Bar Association, and also as a member of the General Legal Council. On New Year's Day 1998, he was awarded the honour of Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire and on 13 September, 2012 was vested with the Order of Belize.

Hon. Justice Manuel Sosa

HON. JUSTICE SAMUEL LONGOLE AWICH



Justice of Appeal Awich is a national of Acholi Luo, Gulu, Uganda, Africa. He received his legal education in 1973 from Makerere University, Uganda and Diploma of Legal Practice in 1974. Awich, JA became a barrister in Solomon Islands and was elevated to a Judge of the High Court and later as a Judge of the Court of Appeal in that country. In 2001, he was appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court of Belize and served as Acting Chief Justice from October 2010 to September 2011. Awich JA was elevated to a Judge of the Court of Appeal of Belize in May 2012.



Hon. Justice Samuel Longole Awich



MADAM JUSTICE MINNET HAFIZ



Justice Hafiz-Bertram is a Guyanese-Belizean national. She received her legal training from the University of Guyana and the Hugh Wooding Law School in Trinidad and Tobago. She was then admitted to private practice in Trinidad and Tobago. She later served as a Crown Counsel at the Attorney General's Chambers in Belize for several years and later as a Registrar General of the Supreme Court of Belize.

Justice Hafiz-Bertram was appointed as a Supreme Court Judge in Belize in December, 2006.

Madam Justice Minnet Hafiz



HON. JUSTICE MURRIO DUCILLE



Justice of Appeal Ducille is a national of Jamaica. He received his Bachelor of Laws degree with Honours from the University of the West Indies and Certificate of Legal Education from Norman Manley Law School. He has held various posts over the years, including clerk of the court for the Parish of Portland; crown counsel in the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions in Jamaica; and deputy director of public prosecutions in Jamaica. He was also a recipient of the UN/UNITAR International Law Fellowship to The Hague Academy of International Law (Holland) and was subsequently attached to the United Nations Legal Office in New York.

Justice Ducille was elevated to a Judge of the Court of Appeal of Belize in 2015.

Hon. Justice Murrio Ducille

HON. JUSTICE CHRISTOPHER BLACKMAN



Justice Christopher Blackman is citizen of Barbados. He was a Judge of the High Court of Barbados from 1996 to 2000 and again from 2003 to 2008. He also served as a Justice of the Supreme Court of Belize from April 2001 to May 2003. In March 2008, he became a Justice of Appeal in the Bahamas. Justice Blackman was first admitted as a Solicitor, Supreme Court of Barbados, in January 1970 and remained in private practice until 1996.

Justice Blackman was elevated to the bench of the Court of Appeal Belize in 2014.

Hon. Justice Christopher Blackman





MS. ALBERTA PEREZ
DEPUTY REGISTRAR



The

Belize Court of Appeal

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Court of Appeal 2015

	Filed	Withdrawn	Struck Out	Judgments Delivered
Civil	22	5	2	9
Criminal	12	1	-	11

Inferior Appeals Lodged 2015

Civil	Criminal	Total
24	84	108

Court of Appeal 2016

	Filed	Withdrawn	Struck Out	Judgments Delivered
Civil	38	0	0	10
Criminal	12	0	-	10

Inferior Appeals Lodged 2016

Civil	Criminal	Total
24	63	87





Supreme | Court

*"The purpose of all Law
is Justice"*
Franz Rudolf von Weiss

Supreme Court





*Judges
of the
Supreme Court*



HONOURABLE CHIEF JUSTICE KENNETH BENJAMIN

The Honourable Chief Justice, Kenneth Benjamin is a national of Guyana and Antigua. He received his legal training from the University of the West Indies and Huge Wooding Law School in Trinidad and Tobago and returned to Guyana where he entered into private practice. Chief Justice Benjamin served as a Magistrate and Assistant Judge Advocate for the Guyana Defence Force and on the Court of Appeal in the Eastern Caribbean and the Supreme Court, sitting in both St. Lucia and St. Vincent. He also served as the presiding Judge for the Criminal Division of the High Court in St. Lucia, as a High Court Judge in Antigua, British Virgin Islands and Grenada and as Chief Magistrate in Antigua and Bermuda.

Kenneth Benjamin was appointed Chief Justice of Belize on September 15, 2011. He is a member of the Commonwealth Association of Judicial Officers and magistrates, a former Rotarian and a former cricket executive in Antigua. The Hon. Chief Justice Kenneth Benjamin is a Fellow of the Commonwealth Judicial Education Institute.

*Judges
of the
Supreme Court*



HON. JUSTICE TROADIO GONZALEZ

Justice Gonzalez is a national of Belize. He received his Bachelors of Law from the University of the West Indies and Certificate in Legal Education from the Norman Manley Law School in Jamaica. He has held positions such as Crown Counsel at the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Chief Magistrate and Acting Chief Justice. His career also included a stint at the Crown Prosecutor Office in England. He was a member of the Advisory Committee for UWI's School of Continuing Studies and a lecturer at University of Belize where he assisted in spearheading the paralegal program. Justice Gonzalez was appointed a Supreme Court Judge on April 1, 1993.



HON. MADAM JUSTICE MICHELLE ARANA

Madam Justice Arana, who is a Belizean, is Belize's First appointed female judge. She received her legal training from the University of the West Indies and the Norman Manley Law School in Jamaica. Justice Arana holds a Bachelors of Science Degree in English and masters of Law Degree (LLM-with Merit) in Commercial Law. She has held positions such as magistrate, Crown Counsel in the Office of the Director of Prosecutions, Legal advisor to the Social Investment Fund and Registrar General of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal in Belize. Justice Arana has experience as an attorney in private practice from the Offshore Financing Consulting Firm. She has lectured in Business Law at the University of Belize and presented at international seminars on offshore finance in Belize. Social engagements by Justice Arana include membership in the National Women's commission and legal representative of Youth Enhancement Services. She is a fellow of the Commonwealth Judician Education Institute and the recipient of the Alumni Achievement Award from SJCJC being recognized as someone who has obtained a high level of achievement throughout her professional career. Justice Arana was appointed Judge of the Supreme Court on January 1, 2006.

*Judges
of the
Supreme Court*



HON. JUSTICE SONYA YOUNG

Madam Justice Young is a national of Saint Vincent. She is a graduate of the University of the West Indies and acquired her Certificate of Legal Education in 1996. Before her appointment to act in her current position, as Judge of the Supreme Court of Belize in 2014, she was the Chief Magistrate in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines where she presided over the serious offences court for six years. She has been Registrar of the Supreme Court in St. Vincent and Registrar in Montserrat and the British Virgin Islands. She has also acted as Chief Registrar of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court. Justice Young has a special interest in the empowerment and mentorship of girls and young women.



HON. JUSTICE SHONA GRIFFITH

Justice Shona Griffith is a national of Guyana. She is a graduate of the University of the West Indies and was admitted to practice law in Guyana and Barbados after graduating from the Hugh Wooding Law School in 1996. After admission to the Bar, Justice Griffith briefly entered private practice in Barbados until June, 1997 but thereafter, held appointments at the public bar in Attorney-General's Ministries of St. Kitts/Nevis, the British Virgin Islands and Montserrat, between 1997 to 2011. She held the position as Senior Magistrate in Belize from October, 2011 until March, 2014 when she was appointed to act in her current position, as Judge of the Supreme Court of Belize. Justice Griffith holds a Masters of Law in Public International Law from the University of London and as of June, 2015 is now a Fellow of the Commonwealth Judicial Education Institute. She is a member of the Belize Shotokan Karate Association and its parent, the International Shotokan Karate Federation.

*Judges
of the
Supreme Court*



HON. JUSTICE ADOLPH LUCAS

Justice Lucas is a Belizean National. He received his training from the University of the West Indies and Certificate in Legal Education from the Norman Manley Law School in Jamaica. He has served as Crown Counsel and Senior Crown Counsel in the Office of Director of Public Prosecutions. He has also served as Chief Magistrate, Director of Public Prosecutions and practiced law privately. Justice Lucas enjoys sports such as basketball, football and track and field. Justice Lucas was appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court of Belize on June 23, 2003.



HON. JUSTICE COURTNEY ABEL

Justice Courtney Ashton Abel is a national of Guyana, a British citizen and belonger of Anguilla. He migrated to the United Kingdom from an early age and completed his primary, secondary and tertiary education there in 1979. He is a member of Inner Temple and was called to the Bar of England and Wales in February 1980. He has practiced privately on a broad range of matters in the UK, Anguilla and the Eastern and wider Caribbean and founded the law firm of Caribbean Associated Attorneys in Anguilla and St. Kitts. He has appeared as lead Counsel in many complex civil and commercial matters in all courts including the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. He was appointed an Additional Magistrate, Commissioner of Oaths and Notary Public in Anguilla. He was twice elected and served as president of the Anguilla Bar Association, Secretary, Vice President and president of the OECS Bar Association (of which he was elected an Hon. Life member), and as Treasurer and president of OCCBA (Organization of Commonwealth Caribbean Bar Association), as well as Vice President of the Anguilla Financial Services Association. He has been active in local community organizations, including The Rotary Club of Anguilla and on the Board of a private school. On October 22, 2012, Justice Courtney Abel was appointed to act as a Judge of the Supreme Court.

*Judges
of the
Supreme Court*



HON. JUSTICE HERBERT LORD

Justice Herbert Lord is a Belizean national. He received his legal training from the University of the West Indies (UWI), (LLB-Honors), and the Norman Manley Law School in Jamaica. Justice Lord also obtained a Certificate in Public Administration from UWI in 1976. He has held appointments of Senior Magistrate and Chief Magistrate.

Justice Lord was appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court of Belize on January 1, 2007 and holds the rank of Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE). He enjoys reading, cycling and dancing.



HON. JUSTICE DENIS HANOMANSINGH

Justice Hanomansingh is a Guyanese national. He received his legal training from Queens University of Belfast, Northern Ireland, and was called to the Utter Bar at Honourable Society of Middle Temple in London. He has held appointments of Acting Magistrate, Senior and Principal Magistrate, Director of Public Prosecutions and High Court Judge in Guyana.

He has served as Principal Crown Counsel in the Solicitor General Chambers in Barbados. Justice Hanomansingh is also a member of the New York Bar and was appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court on December 6, 2010.



*Judges
of the
Supreme Court*



HON. MADAM JUSTICE ANTOINETTE MOORE

In February 2014, Justice Antoinette Moore was appointed to preside in the Criminal Division as a Justice of The Supreme Court. Before joining the Judiciary, Justice Antoinette Moore was in private practice for 18 years in Belize. Her practice included criminal defense as well as human rights cases. Prior to relocating to Belize, Justice Moore was a staff Attorney for the largest provider of legal assistance for the indigent in Chicago and also spent several years there as the Deputy Director of an international human rights organization. Justice Moore was educated in the US, the Caribbean and the UK.

*We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking
we used when we created them. ”*



*” We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking
we used when we created them. ”*

Albert Einstein



Lawyer's Creed

MIND YOUR MANNERS.
TELL THE TRUTH.
KNOW THE LAW.



2015 - 2016



*The Good of People
is the Greatest Law.*

MARCUS TULLIUS CICERO



2017



MS. VELDA FLOWERS
REGISTRAR GENERAL



MS. KHADEEN PALMER
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR



MR. EDMUND PENNIL
DEPUTY REGISTRAR



MS. SHAWNA SWIFT
LEGAL ASSISTANT



GENERAL REGISTRY



CASE MANAGEMENT

The
SUPREME COURT *and*
General Registry



STENOGRAPHERS



MARSHALLS

The

SUPREME COURT *and* *General Registry*

Summary of Cases Lodged for Calendar Year: 2015

Type of Case / Description	Cases Lodged
ADOPTION	17
ALTERNATION OF MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION	4
APPEALS (TRIBUNAL)	1
APPLICATION	46
BAIL APPLICATION	395
CIVIL APPEAL INF. CRT	19
CRIMINAL	64
CRIMINAL APPEAL INF.CRT	77
ELECTION PETITION	1
ESTATE	1
FIXED DATE CLAIM	91
INFERIOR APPEAL (LEAVE)	8
MATRIMONIAL CAUSES	332
NON-CONTENTIOUS PROBATE	2
ORDINARY CLAIM	215
ORIGINATING SUMMONS	23
UN SOUNDNESS OF MIND	4

Summary of Cases Lodged for Calendar Year: 2016

Type of Case / Description	Cases Lodged
ADOPTION	18
APPLICATION	28
BAIL APPLICATION	330
BANKRUPTCY	2
CIVIL APPEAL INF. CRT	8
CRIMINAL	72
CRIMINAL APPEAL INF. CRT	19
ESTATE	4
FIXED DATE CLAIM	112
INFERIOR APPEAL (LEAVE)	1
MATRIMONIAL CAUSES	367
ORDINARY CLAIM	261
ORIGINATING SUMMONS	19
RESTORATION OF A COMPANY	2
UN SOUNDNESS OF MIND	2
WINDING-UP PETITION	2





MS. ERROLIN GRINAGE

LAW LIBRARIAN



The

SUPREME COURT LAW

Library

The Supreme Court Law Library

The Supreme Court Law Library (The Library), one of the first libraries set up in Belize, was established to provide comprehensive and sustainable resources for the judiciary and the legal profession. The Library is an integral and essential part of the day-to-day administration of justice in Belize. It manages a small print collection of primary and secondary legal sources, and provides reference and research services to its users.

The Library's goals are to:

- Provide legal information by utilizing both traditional and modern resources.
- Make legal information easily accessible by acquiring, preserving, and providing access to the members of the Judiciary, and
- Promote a library of quality that will meet needs of its users.

Training

The Librarian, **Mrs. Errolin Grinage** and the Assistant Librarian, **Ms. Angela Flowers** attended a workshop entitled "Caribbean Law Librarianship in Digital Age" hosted by the Canadian Government-funded project Improved Access to Justice in the Caribbean (IMPACT Justice). The workshop was held from January 25th – 27th, 2016 at the Knutsford Court Hotel, Kingston, Jamaica and provided training in law library procedures, organisation and research techniques.

Opening Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Mondays to Fridays. The Library is closed on Public Holidays.

Contact the Library:

Telephone: 501 227 5426

Fax: 501 227 2548





MR. VERNON CARD
DEPUTY REGISTRAR



BELIZE CITY STAFF

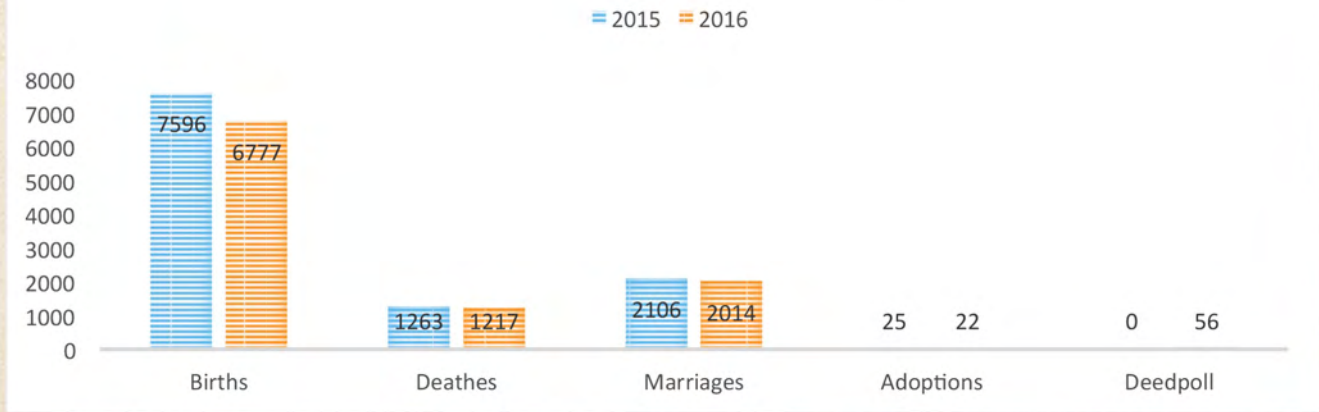
The

Vital Statistics Unit

VSU stats

Year	2015	2016
Births	7596	6777
Deaths	1263	1217
Marriages	2106	2014
Adoptions	25	22
Deedpoll	0	56

VITAL STATISTICS UNIT





STAFF MEMBERS

The

*Belize Companies and Corporate
Affairs Registry*

BELIZE COMPANIES AND CORPORATE AFFAIRS REGISTRY

In 2015 not much happened at the Belize Companies Registry other than the continued exceptional job done by the staff in order to deliver satisfactory customer service in a timely fashion. The Acting Assistant Registrar, **Mrs. Patricia Rodriguez** was on long leave in 2015 and **Mrs. Vanessa Morris**, from the General Registry Department in Belize City, held over for her. During this time Mrs. Morris carried out her newly assigned duties exceptionally well.

INFORMATION FOR THE YEAR 2015

STATISTICS ON NEW REGISTRATIONS

- **TOTAL NEW REGISTRATIONS FOR THE YEAR 2015**

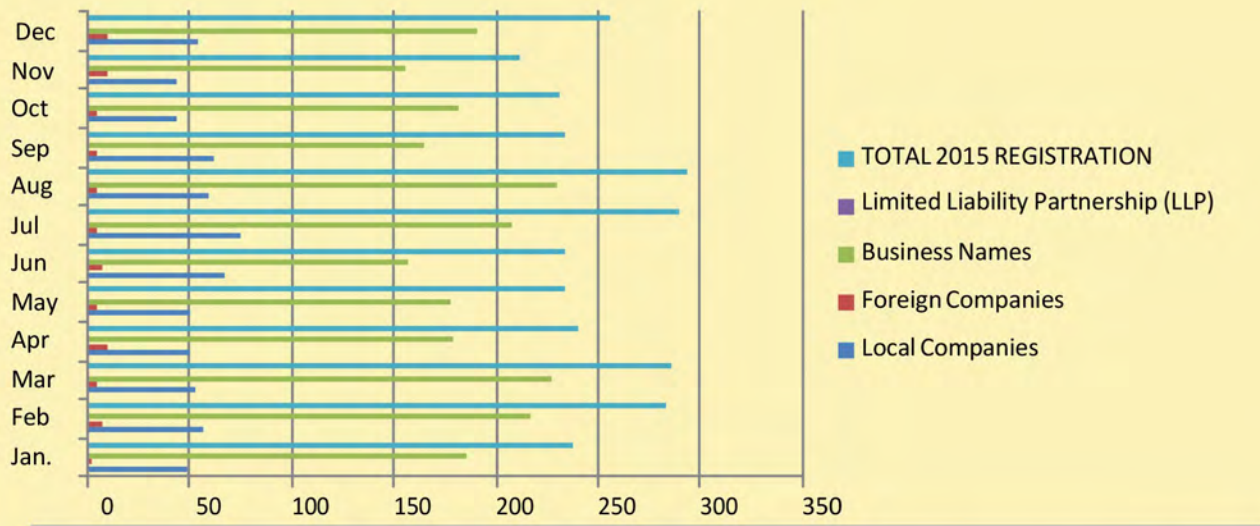
TYPES OF REGISTRATION	AMOUNT FILED BETWEEN THE PERIOD 1ST JANUARY 2015 – 31ST DECEMBER 2015
LOCAL COMPANIES	675
FOREIGN COMPANIES	80
BUSINESS NAMES	2,283
LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIP (LLP)	2

- **NEW MONTHLY REGISTRATIONS FOR 2015**

NEW REGISTRATIONS FOR THE YEAR 2015												
TYPES OF REGISTRATION	Jan.	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Local Companies	50	58	54	51	51		76	60	63	44	45	55
Foreign Companies	3	8	5	10	5		5	5	5	6	10	10
Business Names	186	218	228	180	178		209	230	165	182	157	192
Limited Liability Partnership	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	1	0	1	0
TOTAL	239	284	287	241	234	0	290	295	234	232	213	257



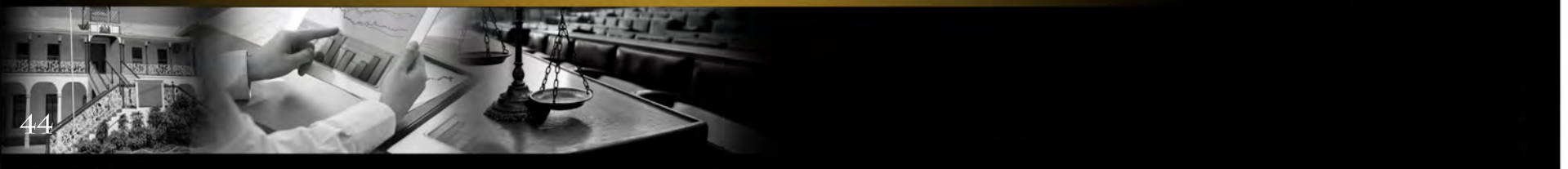
• GRAPH



TOTAL REVENUE COLLECTED FOR THE YEAR 2015 (reporting period is 1st November 2014 to 29th October 2015) is \$2,592,572.72.

1. E-REGISTRY PROJECT

For some time now the registry has been in dire need of upgrading its database and an overall need of becoming an automated registry, however, due to financial constraints the upgrade and automation was never realized. That is, until the Caricom Community Secretariat, under the umbrella of The Rights of Establishment regime and the funding of the 9th and 10th European Development Fund embarked on the development of a secure E-registry system to allow for CARICOM member states to have interconnectivity among all the registries of each member states. Under the E-registry project a regional registry and a national registry is being created to automate the entire filing system with the intent to harmonize the process and procedures of registering establishments in the Caricom countries.



The project is being conducted in several phases resulting in various meetings taking place and consultants were hired to commence the development of the new e-registry system. In February 2016 the system developers, hired by the Caricom Secretariat, namely Case Flow Systems, created a system for all Caricom member states to use. They then proceeded to have an online User Acceptance Session with **Mrs. Patricia Rodriguez**, Acting Assistant Registrar and **Ms. Velda Flowers**, the Registrar General and Registrar of Companies for the showing of the operations and functions of new e-registry system. Many issues arose during the sessions and it was quite apparent that they would have to be addressed in order for us to proceed with the E-registry system. For example, the issue of the receipt, the fees charged, harmonization of the process and forms with the other member states, etc. The session ended close to the end of the month of February 2016. After the user acceptance training session it was decided that the issues will be further discussed with the Registrar and inform the system developers of her decisions/feedback.

We then embarked on the tedious task of testing the system as much as possible, and became more familiar with the system. It is almost ready for use but still some issues are pending to be addressed. The phase of the system development has come to an end on the 31st day of August, 2016 with the undertaking from Case Flow Systems that they will provide support for up to a year. (No specific date was given)

Belize is now to proceed with utilizing the system, however, before announcing it to the public it has been decided that the system only be used in house so as to conduct further testing. This long awaited upgrade and automation of our national e-filing system will enable the Belize Companies Registry to be more efficient in providing data and statistics to other government departments, organizations and the general public at large.

2. NO MORE CHARGING OF PENALTY FEES ON THE FILING OF LATE ANNUAL RETURNS

In March 2016 we were informed by the Registrar General, who received instructions from the Attorney General Ministry, to cease and desist the charging of penalty fees for late filings of annual returns for all companies. Since then we have seen a drastic decrease of revenue collected under the penalty fee cost center, however, we are seeing a significant increase in companies bringing their company's file up-to-date thus enabling the once delinquent companies to engage in business once more.

3. TRAINING 2016

The Ministry of Public Service, Energy and Public Utilities, in partnership with the Belize Tourism Board (BTB) held customer service training for frontline personnel of all the Government Departments and three out of the seven staff members of Belize Companies Registry attended the training and received a certificate upon completion of the training. The other staff members are slated to attend a similar training later this year, 2016, when it becomes available.



4. Data for 2016

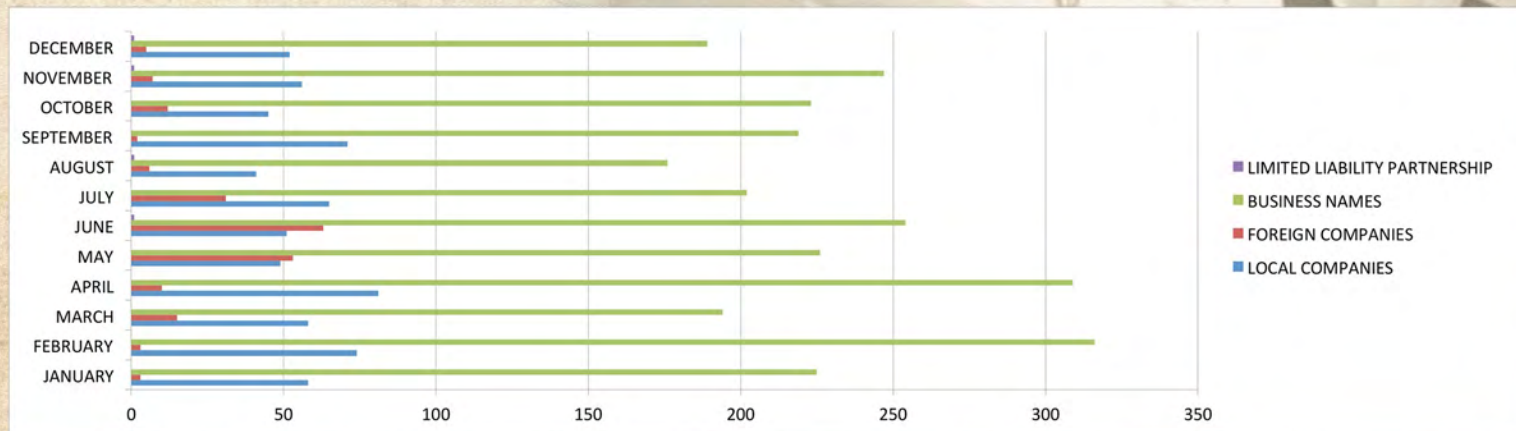
TYPES OF REGISTRATION	Jan.	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Local Companies	58	74	58	81	49	51	65	41
Foreign Companies	3	3	15	10	53	63	31	6
Business Names	225	316	194	309	226	254	202	176
Limited Liability Partnership (LLP)	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
TOTAL	286	393	267	400	328	369	298	224

5. Revenue collected so far up to JULY 2016

MONTHS 2016	TOTAL REVENUE
JAN.	198,664.90
FEB	371,071.42
MAR	230,349.53
APR	151,176.98
MAY	117,289.74
JUN	482,648.51
JUL	155,312.95
TOTAL REVENUE COLLECTED UP TO JULY 2016	1,706,514.03

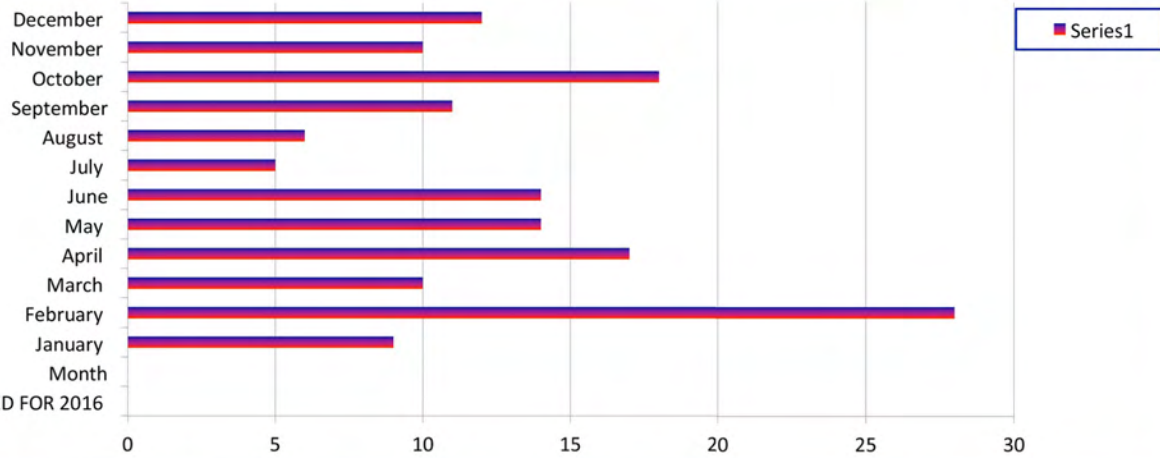
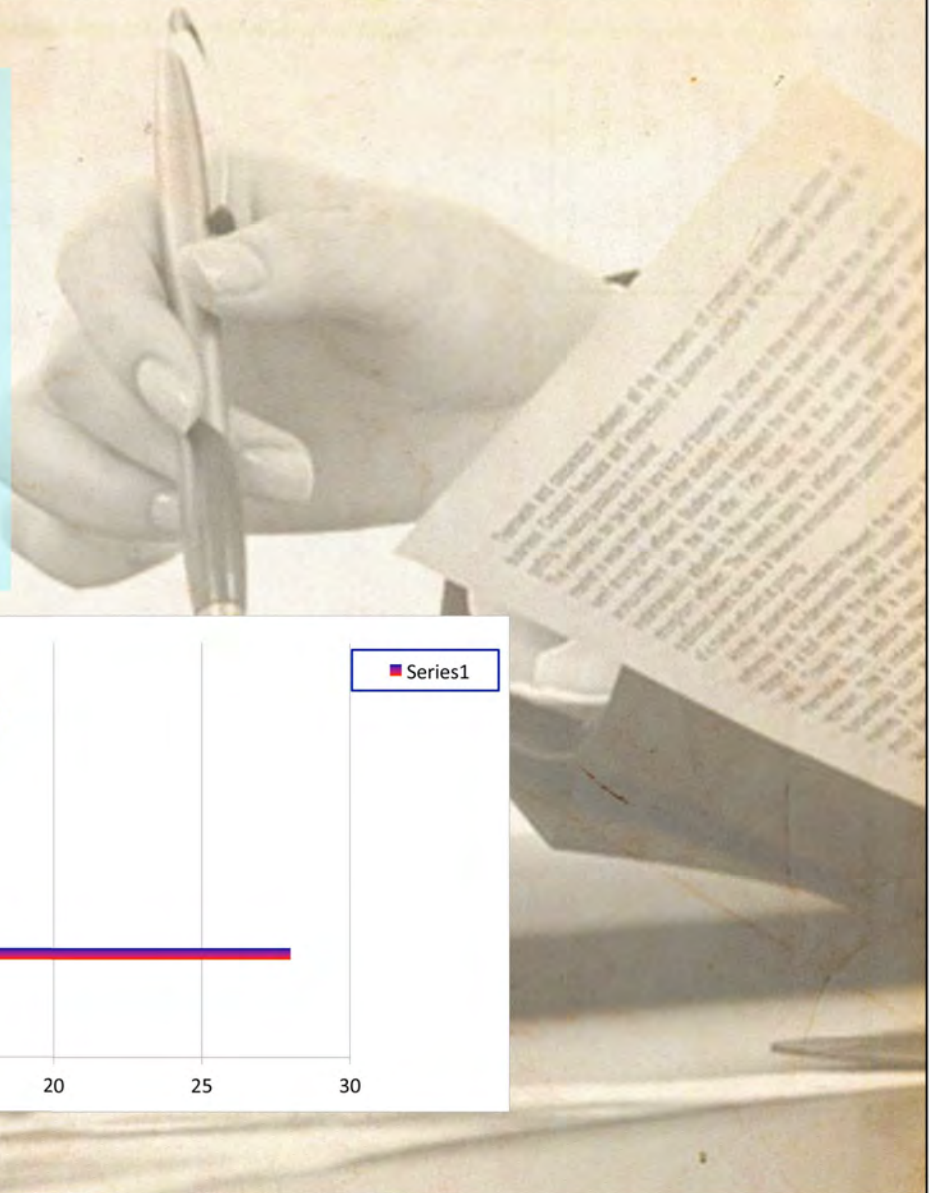
TOTAL REGISTRATIONS FOR THE YEAR 2016

MONTHS	LOCAL COMPANIES	FOREIGN COMPANIES	BUSINESS NAMES	LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIP
JANUARY	58	3	225	0
FEBRUARY	74	3	316	0
MARCH	58	15	194	0
APRIL	81	10	309	0
MAY	49	53	226	0
JUNE	51	63	254	1
JULY	65	31	202	0
AUGUST	41	6	176	1
SEPTEMBER	71	2	219	0
OCTOBER	45	12	223	0
NOVEMBER	56	7	247	1
DECEMBER	52	5	189	1
TOTAL REGISTRATIONS	701	210	2780	4



SEARCHES CONDUCTED FOR 2016

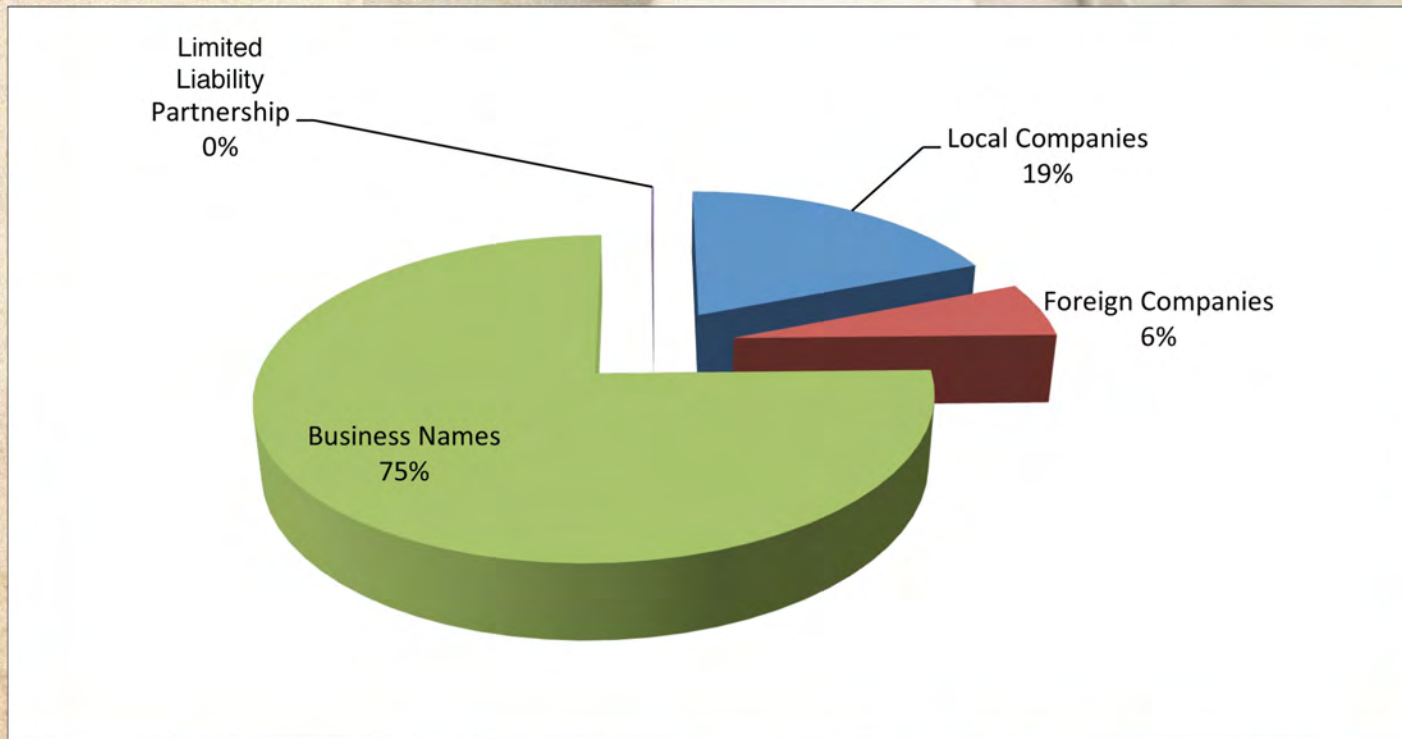
Month	Total
January	9
February	28
March	10
April	17
May	14
June	14
July	5
August	6
September	11
October	18
November	10
December	12



SEARCHES CONDUCTED FOR 2016



TOTAL REGISTRATIONS IN THE YEAR 2016





MS. CANDICE WESTBY FISHER
DEPUTY REGISTRAR



STAFF MEMBERS

Belipo

THE BELIZE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE (BELIPO)

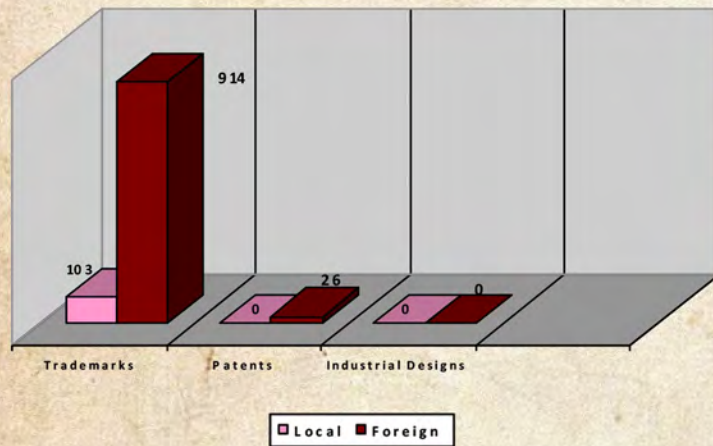
The Belize Intellectual Property Office (BELIPO), established under Part II of the Patents Act (Chapter 253), Revised Edition 2000, is the national intellectual property registry of Belize, Central America.

The functions of BELIPO are as follows:-

1. To administer the intellectual property legislation of Belize
2. To advise the Government of Belize on matters of policy relating to intellectual property rights, including Belize's international treaty obligations.
3. To promote knowledge of intellectual property in Belize.

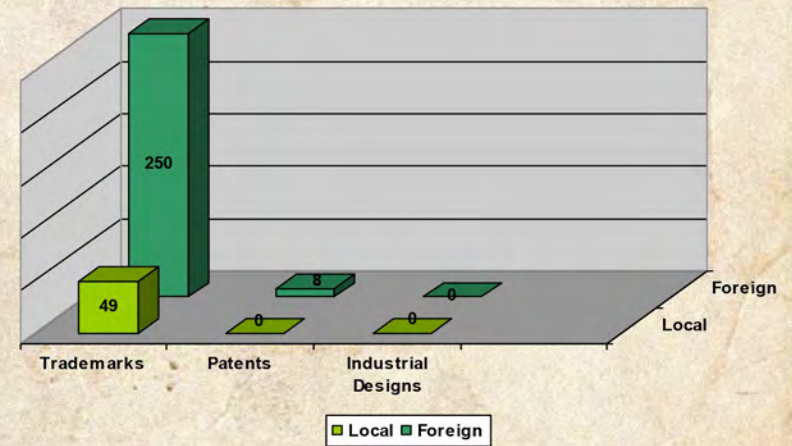
STATISTICS: Applications Received

The following chart shows the number of new trademark, patent and industrial designs application received during the 2015 reporting period



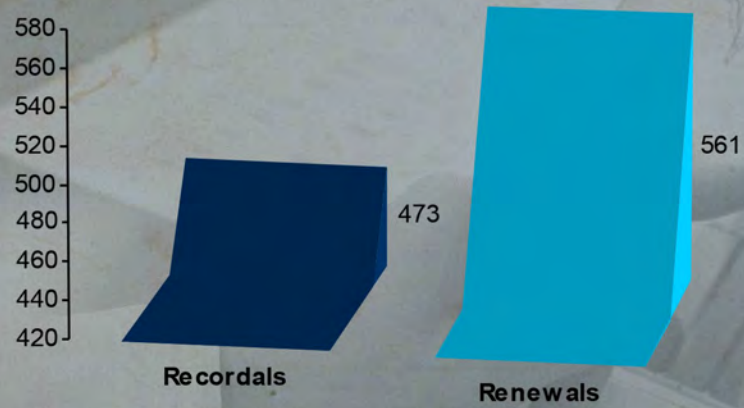
STATISTICS: Applications Received

The following chart shows the number of new trademark, patent and industrial designs application received during the 2015 reporting period



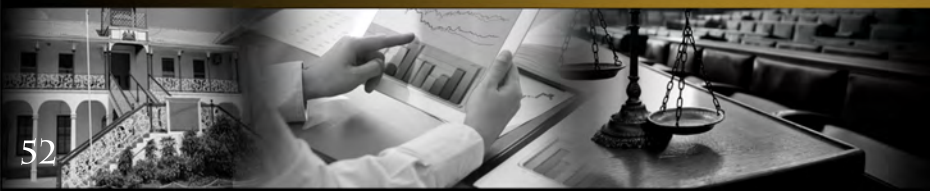
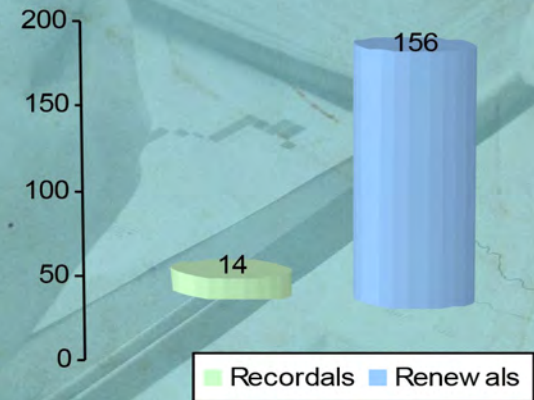
STATISTICS: Trademark Renewals and Recordals

The following chart shows the number of trademark, renewals and recordals received during the 2015 reporting period



STATISTICS: Patent Renewals and Recordals

The following chart shows the number of patent renewals and recordals received during the 2015 reporting period



STATISTICS: Comments...

- On July 12, 2003, Belize acceded to the 1960 and 1967 Acts of the Hague Agreement for the International Registration of Industrial Designs ('Hague Agreement'). This Agreement allows for a single application and fee to be filed through WIPO, requesting protection of Industrial Designs in Member States. When Belize is designated in an application form, a registration certificate is issued by BELIPO, and our portion of the fees earned therefrom are transmitted by WIPO to Central Bank, which contributes to the revenue earned by BELIPO.
- Since the 1967 Act however, the 1999 Geneva Act has been implemented by the Hague Union to which most Member States are now a party. As such, Member States who have not acceded to the 1999 Act have seen an extreme decrease in designations and revenue generated from the Hague Agreement.
- Belize's failure to accede to the 1999 Geneva Act has resulted in our now lack of significant revenue generated from Industrial Designs, as reflected in the Financial Performance and Statistics section of this report.
- Despite this, BELIPO continues to operate as a revenue generating body of the Government of Belize, earning over 60% profit each year.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

- BELIPO continues to distribute brochures and other printed materials received from WIPO to the general public through the Public Service Awareness Day, visitors to the Office, and during presentations/workshops.
- BELIPO is also listed on 'The International IP Directory 2015', published by the Informa Professional Publishing Company. The Directory contains contact details of more than 2000 of the world's leading Intellectual Property law firms and is aimed at lawyers, in house corporate counsels and IP rights' owners.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

- Tuesday, May 12, from 9a.m. to 12 p.m. at BELTRAIDE: **"Overview of Intellectual Property Rights in Belize"** for the staff of the **Small Business Development Centre (SBDC) Belize**
- Wednesday, May 13, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the National Heritage Library: **"Copyright" for the Archives Department**



- Wednesday, May 13, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the National Heritage Library: “Copyright” for the Archives Department”.
- Thursday, May 14, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at BELTRAIDE: “Introduction to Intellectual Property Rights” for entrepreneurs (through SBDC Belize).
- Wednesday, November 11, 2015 at BTEC Belize City: "Overview of IP in Belize" for entrepreneurs (Part of Business Labs under the REACH project).

Meetings and Workshops

- In April 2015, Sr. Assistant Registrar, **Mrs. Koreen Flowers**, attended the Committee of the Development of Intellectual Property at the WIPO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.
- In October 2015, Sr. Assistant Registrar, **Mrs. Koreen Flowers**, attended the fifty-fifth series of meetings of the member states of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO Assemblies).
- **Mr. Jamir Gutierrez**, Registry Officer III, attended a sub-regional workshop on the value of patent information and establishment of a network of technology and innovation support centers (TISC) in the Caribbean, held in October, 2016 in Jamaica.
- Sr. Assistant Registrar, **Mrs. Koreen Flowers**, attended a training workshop on Patent Search and Administration at the invitation of the Norwegian Trademarks and Patent office in Oslo, Norway.
- The Heads of Intellectual Property Offices and Ministers of IP meetings that was held in November 2015, was attended by Sr. Assistant Registrar, **Mrs. Koreen Flowers**. There was however no representations for the Ministerial Meeting by our Minister.

Workshop on Enforcement

On November 2 and 3, 2015, BELIPO in collaboration with WIPO and at the request of the **Chief Justice of Belize, Mr. Kenneth Benjamin**, hosted a workshop on enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights for the Judiciary and Law Enforcement Officials. Topics included: Building Respect for IP and Introduction of the WIPO Training Manual on IP Crime prosecution; criminal Enforcement of IP and the Public Interest; Legal Framework for IP Enforcement in Belize; Trademark Counterfeiting and Copyright Piracy; Investigating IP Crime; Trademark Infringement – Case Law Developments, including on well-known marks; Infringements over the Internet; Justification of IP Crimes and the Disposal of Infringing Goods – TRIPS requirements.



SERVICES TRADEMARKS	CLIENT SERVICE STANDARDS	RESULTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issue filing date stamps for trademark applications meeting filing requirements 	Within 2 weeks of filing date	99.9%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data capture of trademark applications 	Within 2 weeks of filing date	98.8%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approve acceptable applications/ issue first examination reports for unacceptable applications 	Within 2 months of filing date	99%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issue a trademark registration certificate 	Within 6 months of filing date	69%

Client Service Standards

SERVICES	CLIENT SERVICE STANDARDS	RESULTS
PATENTS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issue filing date stamps for patent applications meeting filing requirements 	Within 4 weeks from date of receipt of application	92%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issue confirmation of national entry for PCT applications meeting entry requirements 	Within 8 weeks from date of receipt of application	65%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First substantive examination action (including all known objections to patentability) 	Within 24 months from date of receipt of application	Within 24 months
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issue a patent registration certificate 	Within 30 months from date of receipt of application	Within 30 months



Client Service Standards

SERVICES	CLIENT SERVICE STANDARDS	RESULTS
INDUSTRIAL DESIGN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issue filing date stamps or issue report indicating application is incomplete 	Within 4 weeks from receipt of application	98.5%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examine application to assess the registrability of the design: allow the design or issue first examiners report Issue a certificate of registration 	Within 6 months from receipt of application	98.7%
INFORMATION SERVICES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respond to search request 	Within 24 hours	95.72%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respond to telephone enquiries 	Within 24 hours	97.54%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respond to email/general correspondence 	Within 5 working days	Within 5 working days

- In 2015, BELIPO was able to maintain an above-average client service standards by maintaining timelines set in its “Quality and Processing Manual”. The Staff at BELIPO operate at a high level of efficiency, ensuring that all clients receive quick and reliable service every time.

- BELIPO was also able to achieve its goal of increasing its presence through public awareness campaigns and sensitisation on intellectual property rights and its importance. Such campaigns and sensitisation included workshops on pertinent areas of IP and increased collaboration with key stakeholders.

- Once again however, BELIPO was not able to meet its goal of digitising of the registration system, as required under the EU-CARIFORUM Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA). The digitisation of BELIPO’s registration system would result in a further streamlined process of registration, inclusive of an online, searchable database, accessible by the public. This database will also provide proprietors with constantly updated statuses of their applications, as well as copies of all documents relating to said applications.

- BELIPO received some well needed resources such as computers and scanners for its day to day working activities. We are still however in need of dedicated staff and a specialised database software in order to complete this project, which was commenced in 2007 and placed on hold due to a lack of resources.

- Further, in relation to Belize’s IP obligations under the EPA to digitise its registration system, it is also necessary for BELIPO to update the specialised Industrial Property Administration System (IPAS) database software, provided by WIPO, to the newer IPAS Java version.

- In November 2015, WIPO in its commitment provided assistance with the upgrading of the Office’s database to IPAS Java. This was done by a WIPO Consultant along with Mr. Stephen Babb from the General Registry Dept. Training on the use of this new system was also afforded to the staff.



Plans for 2016

- In 2016, BELIPO expects to continue its public awareness
- BELIPO with WIPO's assistance will be conducting an IP Audit of Belize which will guide the development of a National Intellectual Property Policy and Strategy. Once adopted, this policy will serve as a basis and guiding framework for the Government and Office in building a modern intellectual property system in Belize.
- BELIPO has also established a relationship with the Small Business Development (SBDC) Center, BELTRAIDE with the goal to increasing awareness of IPRs and the relevant registration systems available among small and medium enterprises.
- The relationship between BELIPO and SBDC Belize will continue to be focussed on capacity building for SBDC Belize Staff, referrals, information sharing as well as sharing of marketing material to be displayed at respective offices, and workshop facilitation. To this end, BELIPO will be conducting presentations on Intellectual Property Rights and Trademarks in August of 2016.

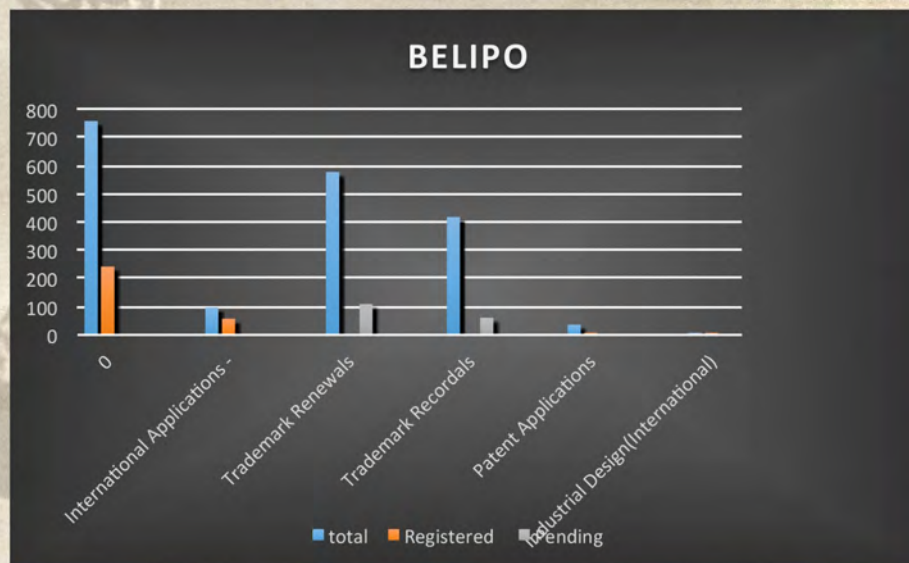
Conclusion

- BELIPO hopes to continue achieving the goal of increasing awareness of Intellectual Property Rights in Belize and the registration systems available to protect those rights.
- The staff continue to strive for excellence in the performance of their tasks and maintain the high quality of service our clients have come to know and expect. It has been a very difficult journey however, since we are under staff.
- Our Deputy Registrar, **Mrs. Candace Fisher**, resigned in 2015 which will become effective January 2016.
- BELIPO also continues to take pride in its status as a revenue generating body of the Government of Belize, as it seeks to fulfil its mission of building a modern intellectual property system.

While the database system was updated to the IPAS Java, BELIPO is experiencing quite a few glitches, to the effect that some trademarks cannot go forward to be entered as registered; some files are still not captured in the database and we are desperately in need of a new server. The current server is not functioning to the capacity that is needed for an efficient working regime. In other words it has slowed-down our efficiency in data capturing and pre-registration searches. We are still so desperately in need of an in-house IT personnel, also a Patent Officer and an Office Assistant/Driver.



Application	total	Registered	Pending
Trademark Applications	759	243	
International Applications -	98	58	
Trademark Renewals	578		110
Trademark Recordals	419		61
Patent Applications	37	4	
Industrial Design (International)	2	1	
Total	857		



*"Obedience to lawful authority is the Foundation of
Manly Character."*



*"Obedience to lawful authority is the Foundation of
Manly Character."*

Robert Lee



Chief Magistrate
ANN MARIE SMITH

“Equal and Impartial Access to Judicial Services”

THE MAGISTRACY DEPARTMENT

Establishment of the Magistrates’ Court

Section 3 (1) of The Inferior Courts Act (Chapter 94 of The Laws of Belize) sets out the constitution of the Magistrates’ Courts into the following Judicial Districts:

- a) The Belize Judicial District
- b) The Toledo Judicial District
- c) The Stann Creek Judicial District
- d) The Cayo Judicial District
- e) The Orange Walk Judicial District
- f) The Corozal Judicial District

The Belize Municipal Court is also under the authority of The Inferior Courts Act, authorizing it to do or perform any act or function.

Mission Statement

The Mission of The Magistrates’ Court is to provide the community with equal and impartial access to judicial services by ensuring the preservation of judicial independence, protection of individual rights and increasing the public’s trust and confidence by maintaining high ethical standards. The Magistrates’ Court continues to provide the community with equal and impartial access to judicial services by ensuring the preservation of judicial independence, protection of individual rights and increasing the public’s trust and confidence by maintaining high ethical standards.



Staffing

Senior Magistrate **Merlene Moody** retired in April 2016. We were joined by four new magistrates namely:

Magistrate Deborah Rogers assigned to Belize City and Punta Gorda as of 1st August 2016; **Magistrate Carlon Mendoza**, a native of Trinidad and Tobago assigned to Belize City; **Magistrate Emmertice Anderson** assigned to Belize City and Belmopan as of 1st August 2016 and **Magistrate Janelle Villanueva** who serves at the San Pedro Court.

Acting Finance Officer, **Catherine Ferguson** was transferred to the Central Health Region, Ministry of Health and was replaced by **Gaynor Flowers** as Finance Officer. Former Finance Officer, **Lucrecia Diego** passed away in June 2016.

First Class Clerk, **Adelaide Moya** was transferred to the Treasury Department. Our accounts department was further bolstered by three (3) new members of staff **Darlene Cole**, **Natalie Sandoval**, and **Georgia Joseph**. Clerical Officers **Dwayne Saldano** and **Shevonne Welch** were successful in the First Class Clerical Officers examinations and both remain with the department. Secretary **Kamelia Middleton** successfully completed the PROCCER certification in drug prevention and treatment conducted by the National Drug Abuse Control Council, Organization of American States and the University of the West Indies.

Transfer of Magistrates

The following transfers are effective 1st August 2016:

Senior Magistrate **Patricia Arana** transferred to Corozal
Magistrate **Albert Hoare** to Orange Walk
Magistrate **Hurl Hamilton** to San Ignacio
Magistrate **Emmerson Banner** to Dangriga
Magistrate **Deborah Rogers** to Punta Gorda
Magistrate **Emmertice Anderson** to Belmopan



Reforms

The Magistracy Department continues to strive towards an effective justice system and works with the Supreme Court and the Caribbean Court of Justice Jurist Project in achieving this goal. The reforms which began in 2011 are ongoing some of which are highlighted below:

Mediation in the Magistrates' Courts

The Mediation Pilot Project was rolled out in Belize City, Court 8, on June 1st 2016. Prior to this **Chief Magistrate Ann-Marie Smith** made a brief presentation to the Association of Mediators which was followed up by an in-depth training seminar/court walk through conducted by **Mrs. Julie Ann Bradley** on May 7th 2016. That session included simulated group mediations carried out using current civil suit claims. A further presentation was made to the Magistrates of the Civil Court (Court 8), Corozal and Dangriga. All presentations and training sessions were well received. At the time of writing this report, the first mediation sessions have been conducted by trained mediators **Ms. Beatrice Garbutt-Mark** and **Mrs. Consuelo Godfrey**. From all accounts the process has been met with enthusiasm and interest. Overall the experience thus far has seen success. Mediations have also been successfully carried out in the Corozal Magistrates' Court.

Audio Recording Equipment Project

The INL/CARSI Initiative has always been responsive to the requests of the Magistracy and by extension the Judiciary of Belize. The pledge of support to the drug treatment court initiative in the form of testing kits and training, the pledge of legal texts and the video link project are all examples of the continuing support and the collaborative relationship between INL/CARSI and the Government of Belize. There can be no doubt that this relationship has borne tangible improvements to the Criminal Justice System in Belize.

The very generous donation of the Audio Recording equipment valued at over \$300,000.00 US will go a long way in providing speedy decisions and records of appeal. The installation of the equipment included wiring, installation and testing which was carried out by the professional service and assistance of **Ms. Cheryl Dupree** of the INL/CARSI team, **Ms. Avril Bennet**, **Mr. Steven Babb**, **Ms. Lovette Nunez** and **Mrs. Diana Hendy**. Special mention must also be made of CITO, Director **Ms. Michelle Longworth** and her able staff. This equipment can only bode well for the administration of justice and will serve to increase public confidence in our judiciary. The Magistrates' Courts started recording in early May 2016.



It would be remiss of me not to mention the sterling contribution of our two former Criminal Justice Advisors who both worked tirelessly to bring this project to its present state. The groundwork of Ms. Sarah Fearnley was carried forward by Ms. Claire Wetton who have both since returned to the United Kingdom but whom have periodically checked in on this and other continuing projects. We thank them. Finally, an efficient and effective Criminal Justice system is what the citizens of this country expect and deserve; nothing less will suffice. This Audio Recording equipment will go a long way in achieving this goal.

Prison to Court Video Link Project

A corollary of the audio equipment project is the prison to court video link project which is to create video conferencing capabilities between the Courts in Belize City and the Kolbe Foundation Central Prison. The request is to have three mobile screens (one (1) for the Supreme Court and two (2) for the Magistrates' Court) and one mounted screen in the witness building. This project remains ongoing.

The Criminal Procedure Rules 2016

The aforementioned rules came into force in January 2016. The experience has been varied but in most part the Magistrates are not conducting business as usual and are applying the provisions of the rules to their daily sittings. The case management form needs to be utilized more, as its implantation and usage will assist in the scheduling of trials so that whenever a case appears on the trial docket it should be ready for trial. We continue to facilitate refresher courses on the Rules for Magistrates and Police Prosecutors alike.

Drug Treatment Court Initiative

The draft Drug Treatment Court Bill has been finalized and submitted to Cabinet. Pamphlets have been printed to assist in the sensitization of the general public. The OAS and the US Embassy has pledged assistance in training of stakeholders and the drug treatment team. It is hoped that this training will commence in July or August so that the court can be officially launched in July September 2016. Chief Justice Kenneth Benjamin, Chief Magistrate Ann-Marie Smith and Director of National Drug Abuse Control Council, Mr. Esner Velloso attended a high level workshop of Drug Treatment Courts in Washington DC in December 2015: 'Alternatives to Incarceration for Drug Dependent Offenders'. The workshop was intensive and yet informative giving participants from the Caribbean an opportunity to share best practices as well

as experiences in setting up a Drug Treatment Court.

Jacob's Farm Graduation

The Court continues to forge a relationship with Jacob's Farm Rehabilitation Center. The Center held its first official graduation at the court on March 11th 2016, with two graduates. So far the progress of one graduate has been spectacular with him gaining steady employment and living in a half way house. The path of the other graduate has not been as promising, however the Court and the aftercare committee continues to work with him in his journey for sobriety.

The Courts

San Pedro

The Court enjoys a good working relationship with the San Pedro police. The property needs to be fenced and air conditioning units are needed for the upstairs waiting area.

Independence

The Court at Independence continues to operate under the supervision of the Resident Magistrate **Yolanda de Moya**. A long awaited public bathroom was constructed on the premises. This Court is fully operational with recording facilities.

Dangriga

The Court at Dangriga continues to undergo repairs. The newly installed recording equipment is fully operational.

San Ignacio

The refurbishment of San Ignacio is entering its final phase with new fans and windows being installed. We remain thankful to **Miss Linda Hunter** and **Artisans Woodworks** of San Ignacio, for her kind donations and superb workmanship.

Belmopan

The Court at Belmopan continues to operate without adequate security. As stated in my report last year the matter while being raised with the Belmopan Police remains unresolved. The Department still intends to install a buzzer system to safe guard staff members after Court hours.



Benque Viejo del Carmen

The owner of the building at Benque has indicated that he intends to sell. We are therefore looking for suitable premises to relocate the Court to. This Court has been fitted with audio recording equipment.

Punta Gorda

The court at Punta Gorda Court remains the flagship court of the Magistracy Department and now shares premises with the Child Friendly Court. The work at the Court has increased in recent times with matters from villages such as Bella Vista being dealt with by the Punta Gorda Court as opposed to the court at Independence. The department is aware of the burden this change imposes upon persons coming from these villages and a solution is being sought to remedy the situation.

The Municipal Court

The Municipal Court recent moved into temporary offices above the Wellworth Store on Albert Street.



Training

We continue to enjoy a collaborative relationship with INL/CARSI, The National Prosecution Unit, FIU (Financial Intelligence Unit), The British High Commission and Asset Recovery Unit (Barbados) to provide quality training to the police, prosecutors and Magistrates. The **Chief Magistrate Ann-Marie Smith** attended a workshop on Cyber Crime in Sao Paulo, Brazil in September 2015. **Senior Magistrate Patricia Arana** attended the Anti- Corruption Policy Forum and Academic Criminal Justice Seminar in Roswell, New Mexico in February, 2016. **Magistrate Carlon Mendoza** attended Small Arms SICA Course held in Managua, Nicaragua in May 2016.

Belize was represented at the CAJO Conference in September 2016 by **Judge of Appeal Blackman, Judges of the Supreme Court Justice Sonia Young, Justice Shona Griffith and Justice Courtney Abel and Chief Magistrate Ann-Marie Smith.**

Judicial Education

- In April 2015, The Magistracy benefited from training in Judgment Writing, Judicial Ethics, E-filing and digital recording courtesy of the Jurist project and the CCJ
- In June 2016, we participated in another workshop facilitate by Jurist project which brought together stakeholders in an effort to find solutions to some of the problems currently plaguing the administration of justice in Belize.

Staff Retreat 2016

The Annual Staff retreat was held on 15th and 16th January 2016, at the Best Western Biltmore Hotel in Belize City. The retreat was held under the theme “Using technology to become problem solving courts - 2016 and beyond” and had the highest attendance record since 2011, due to the fact that day one was held on a Friday, ensuring full staff participation. Training sessions were divided into two groups targeting magistrates and support staff.

Some of the topics covered in the magistrate’s training sessions were:

‘Drug Treatment Court of Belize - update and overview’, ‘The Criminal Procedure Rules’, ‘Coroner’s Inquests A practical application of the Law’, ‘The importance of financial considerations and use of technology in the district courts’ and ‘Mediation in the Magistrates’ Court.’



applicable to new criminal matters. However, Judges and Magistrates are encouraged to apply the principles to the older cases in the system. The Police Guidelines for the Interviewing and Treatment of Persons in Police Detention are in force as of January 1, 2016. These Guidelines are to be buttressed by the audio or video recording of Police Station Interviews and statements taken under caution. This necessitates the installation of electronic recording equipment in Police Stations which is being anxiously awaited. It is hoped that benefits can accrue to the trial process as has been the case in other countries in the Region including Dominica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Bermuda. These jurisdictions have experienced the elimination of lengthy voir dire proceedings challenging the admissibility of caution statements.

The lists of criminal cases in the Central District remain at unacceptably high levels. The Northern Sessions have experienced an all-time low number on the list; this euphoria was however short-lived as it became apparent that this was attributable to the lack of processing of preliminary inquiries from the Magistrate's Courts in Orange Walk and Corozal. The Southern District has seen its list balloon from 10 cases or less to a record 54 cases pending as of December 2016.

REMAND POPULATION

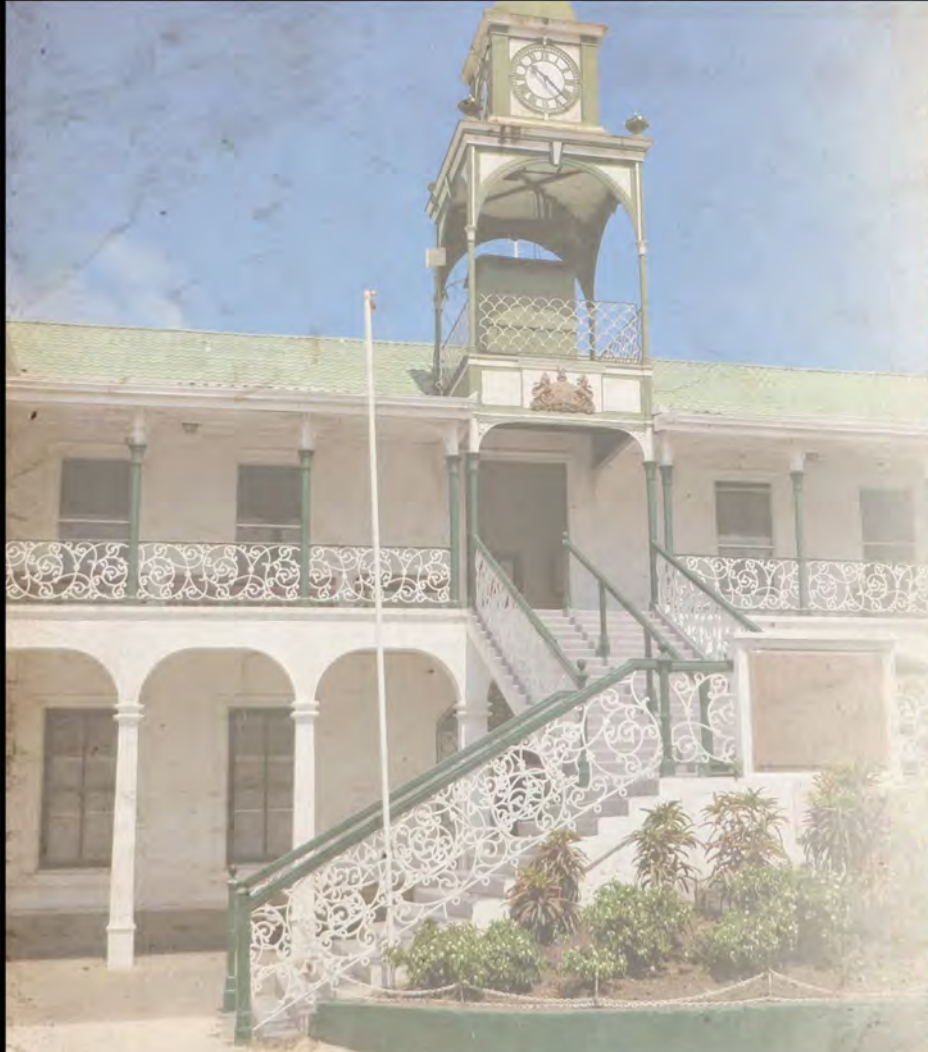
As at December 31, 2016, the population of persons awaiting trial in the Central Prison stands at 475. Of that number, 146 have been in custody for in excess of two years. 249 inmates or 52%, are charged for murder. It remains a serious cause for concern that the remand population is disproportionately high. In an effort to address this situation, I have sought from the Attorney General's Ministry, budgetary support in the new financial year 2017 – 2018 for the engagement of three additional Judges for the Criminal Division for a fixed period with a view to tackling the cases that are outstanding for more than two years. As an interim measure, two Judges of the Civil Division have embarked on the conduct of status hearings in respect of older cases. These hearings were conducted on January 11 and 12, 2017 and will be repeated as necessary until the ad hoc Judges can be put in place.

SENTENCING GUIDELINES

The process of compiling sentencing guidelines for the use of Judges and Magistrates was commenced in 2015 and continued in 2016. The compilation is in an advanced state of completion and the draft will soon become available to stakeholders for comments and suggestions before final publication. The exercise is being informed by sentencing patterns in the Supreme Court and decided cases from the Court of Appeal coupled with the knowledge and experience of the Judges. When published, the Sentencing Guidelines will inform the sentence indication hearings provided for in Part 9 of the Criminal Procedure Rules.

The support staff was introduced to the 'reclassification' exercise being conducted by The Ministry of The Public Service facilitated by the Consultant from the Ministry of Public Service - Mr. Malcolm Monplaisir. In keeping with the theme of the retreat, the Central Information Technology Office (CITO) was invited to address concerns and to explain how the CITO initiative will affect the day to day workings of the court and confidentiality.





2015 ~ 2016





Magistrate | Court

*"Justice delayed
is Justice denied"*
William E. Gladstone

Magistrate Court





MS. ANN MARIE SMITH
CHIEF MAGISTRATE



MS. SHARON FRASER
SENIOR MAGISTRATE



MS. MERLENE MOODY
SENIOR MAGISTRATE



MS. AMECIA DEMOYA
MAGISTRATE



MS. SHARON GILLETT
MAGISTRATE



MS. EMMERTICE ANDERSON
MAGISTRATE



STAFF MEMBERS

The
Magistrate Court



MS. PATRICIA ARANA
MAGISTRATE



MS. LA-DONNA JOHN
MAGISTRATE



MR. NORMAN RODRIGUEZ
MAGISTRATE



MS. JANELLE VILLANUEVA
MAGISTRATE



MS. DEBORAH ROGERS
MAGISTRATE



MR. CARLON MENDOZA
MAGISTRATE



The

Magistrate Court

*Ignorance of the Law excuses no man
from practicing it."*



*" Ignorance of the Law excuses no man
from practicing it."*

Addison Mirner



Family | Court

*"Law is Reason,
free from Passion"*
Aristotle

Family Court





MR. DALE CAYETANO
DIRECTOR



MS. NATALIA CARTER
MAGISTRATE



STAFF MEMBERS



MS. DANA E GRANT
MAGISTRATE



MRS. SHANTI NOVELO
MAGISTRATE

The

Family Court

1.0 / LEGAL AUTHORITY

The Belize Family Court has the authority to operate by virtue of the Family Court Act Chapter 93 of the Laws of Belize Revised Edition 2011. The Belize Family Court was established on April 1, 1989.

1.1 / JURISDICTION

The Belize Family Court is a specialized Court, which specializes in Family and Juvenile matters. The Court derives its authority from the following laws.

Families and Children Act	Chapter 173 of the laws of Belize
Domestic Violence Act	Chapter 178 of the laws of Belize
Married Person Protection Act	Chapter 175 of the laws of Belize
Juvenile Offenders Act	Chapter 119 of the laws of Belize
Certified Children Reformation Act	Chapter 121 of the laws of Belize
Probation Offenders Act	Chapter 120 of the laws of Belize
International Abduction Act	Chapter 197 of the laws of Belize
Penal System Reform Act	Chapter 102:1 of the laws of Belize

1.2 / MISSION STATEMENT

To serve the public by offering a complete, professional, family centered service in a caring committed and confidential manner based upon the principles of dignity and respect for all.

1.3 / OBJECTIVE

The Belize Family Court provides an environment where family and juvenile matters are handled in a holistic manner in order to provide alternative methods for reconciliation, protection, rehabilitation, growth and development in conjunction with other relevant organizations.



1.4 / FUNCTIONS OF THE COURT

In the fulfillment of its mission, the Family Court provides services to families and children in crisis and as well as children who come in contact with the law as Defendants in criminal proceedings.

1.5/ CHANGES IN STAFF

Magistrate Dale Cayetano joined the staff as the new Acting Director of the Belize Family Court. **Acting Director, Natalia Carter** was reverted to her substantive post of Magistrate. **Acting Clerk of Court, Tanya Craig** was reverted to her substantive post of Second Class Clerk and **Mrs. Garland Garcia** was appointed to Acting Clerk of Court. Two new staff members joined the team, **Ms. Decharie Gonzalez** was appointed as Intake/Welfare Office and **Mr. Shelton Graham** as Bailiff.

1.6 / TRAINING

A new Policy and Procedural Manual was written by consultant Diana Shaw and funded by UNCIEF for the Belize Family Court. Training will be provided for staff members before the implementation of the new manual.

1.7 / PUNTA GORDA FAMILY COURT

The Family Court Act makes provision for a Family Court in every district. On 30th June, 2015 there was the inauguration of the first Child Friendly Family Court in Punta Gorda Town. There are plans to continue this trend in San Ignacio and Dangriga Towns in the future.



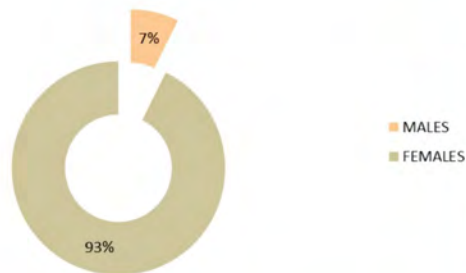
1.8 / PLAN OF ACTION

The Family Court staff will be trained in the use of the new policy and procedural manual;
Training in interpersonal relationship;
Training of Mediators;
Staff retreat;
Building of Child Friendly Court in San Ignacio and Dangriga Towns;
Upgrading of system by fully computerizing the cashier, case management, and warrant and fines;

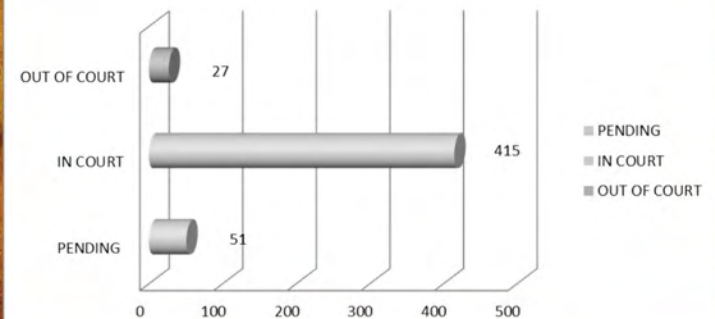
1.9 / CASES

2683 new applications for family matters were filed in the court in 2015. This has been increased by 185 from the previous year. Child/Spousal Maintenance continues to be the highest. A total of 492 new applications were made for Maintenance, of which 93% were made by females and 7% by males. 415 of the matters were settled in court, 27 out of court and 51 were pending at the end of the year. Applications for Recovery of Arrears continue to be of high priority.

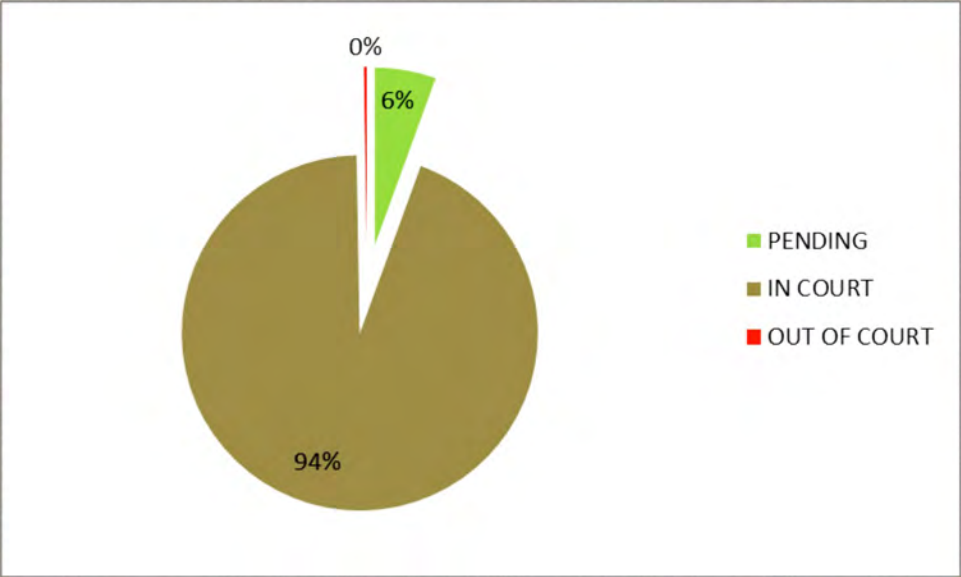
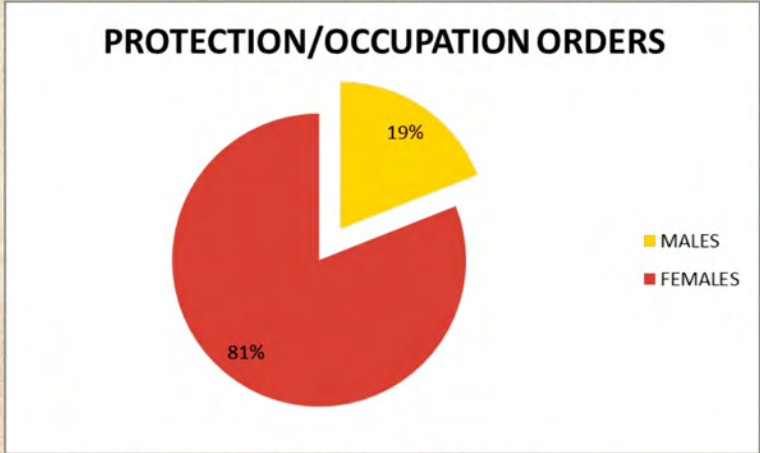
MAINTENANCE CASES BY GENDER



STATUS OF MAINTENANCE CASES



The issue of domestic violence continues to plague our society, resulting in a constant need for orders to be granted. A total of 538 Protection/Occupation Orders were granted, 81% were for females and 19% were for males. 94% of those cases were settled in court and 6% were still pending at the end of the year.



Over the years more men have been accessing the services of the court, as indicated by the number of applications made for Access/Visitation, Legal Custody and Contempt of Orders.



BELIZE FAMILY COURT REPORT

INTAKES FOR: **January - December 2015**
NO. OF CASES: **2683**

CASES	MALES	FEMALES	MIN/MAX AGES	PENDING	IN COURT	OUT OF COURT
ACCESS/VISITATION	127	8	18-75	23	106	6
ATTACHMENT	0	51	20-46	9	42	0
CARE ORDER	0	151	30-49	0	151	0
CONTEMPT OF COURT ORDER	17	0	28-47	2	15	0
CONTINUANCE OF PAYMENT	0	24	24-55	0	24	0
DECLARATION OF PARENTAGE	11	2	22-56	3	10	0
DECLARATION OF WRONGFULL REMOVAL/RETURN OF THE CHILD	0	3	33-66	0	3	0
DISCHARGE OF ACCESS ORDER	1	0	33	0	1	0
DISCHARGE OF SUPERVISORY ORDER	0	2	33	0	2	0
FAMILY ISSUES	50	54	20-70	65	0	39
GUARDIANSHIP	1	24	25-80	4	20	1
LEGAL CUSTODY	57	42	22-61	20	67	12
LEGAL SEPARATION	46	98	19-75	21	115	8
MAINTENANCE	36	456	16-67	51	415	27
MISAPPLYING MAINTENANCE MONEY	1	0	49	0	1	0
PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY	0	2	25-56	0	2	0

FAMILY LAW



FAMILY LAW

PROTECTION ORDER	72	307	17-77	21	356	1
PROTECTION/OCCUPATION ORDER	28	131	19-82	10	149	0
RECOVERY OF ARREARS	6	413	17-58	101	313	5
RELINQUISHMENT	1	10	18-45	1	10	0
REMITTANCE OF ARREARS	10	2	28-68	1	11	0
REVIVAL OF MAINTENANCE ORDER	5	18	26-48	3	20	0
REVOCAION OF ACCESS ORDER	0	1	33	0	1	0
REVOCAION OF MAINTENANCE	85	38	22-75	7	114	2
REVOCAION OF PROTECTION ORDER	1	6	17-49	1	6	0
SUPERVISORY ORDER	0	29	33-35	0	29	0
UNCONTROLLABLE BEHAVIOR	6	46	27-68	5	44	3
VARIATION DECREASE	67	3	20-62	6	65	0
VARIATION INCREASE	0	62	22-55	9	53	0
VARIATION OF ACCESS ORDER	16	15	24-50	0	31	0
VARIATION OF CUSTODY ORDER	5	10	27-70	2	13	0
VARIATION OF MAINTENANCE ORDER	14	8	22-59	2	20	0
VARIATION OF PROTECTION ORDER	2	2	27-66	0	4	0
TOTAL CASES:	665	2018		367	2212	104



2.0 / JUVENILES

305 juveniles came before the court for various offences. With 63 of them convicted for Possession of Controlled Drugs. Following were minor traffic offences. All the other offences were not of epidemic proportion.

Juvenile Statistics January – December 2015

CHARGE	Age		Con- victed	Dis- missed	With- drawn	Number of Cases	
	Male	Female					Range
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	10	1	14-16	0	7	4	11
ALLOWED SELF TO BE CARRIED ON A BICYCLE	0	2	15-16	1	1	0	2
ASSAULTING A POLICE OFFICER	2	2	15-17	1	3	0	4
ATTEMPT MURDER	3	0	16-17	0	3	0	3
ATTEMPT ROBBERY	1	0	17	0	1	0	1
BURGLARY	13	0	12_17	2	5	6	13
CARRIED A PERSON ON A BICYCLE	2	0	15	0	1	1	2
CAUSED BICYCLE TO PROCEED ON A ONE WAY STREET	19	3	15-18	6	15	1	22
CAUSED MOTOR VEHICLE TO PROCEED ON A ONE WAY STREET	1	0	17	1	0	0	1
COMMON ASSAULT	5	4	12_17	1	6	2	9
DAMAGE TO PROPERTY	2	4	13-17	1	5	0	6
DANGEROUS HARM	1	0	17	0	1	0	1
DISCHARGE FIREARM IN PUBLIC	1	0	17	0	0	1	1
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	1	0	15	1	0	0	1
DROVE MOTOR VEHICLE WITHOUT A THIRD PARTY RISK INSURANCE	3	0	15-17	3	0	0	3
DROVE MOTOR VEHICLE WITHOUT A BZE DRIVING LICENSE	3	1	15-17	4	0	0	4

Juvenile Statistics January – December 2015

CHARGE	Age		Con- victed	Dis- missed	With- drawn	Number of Cases	
	Male	Female					Range
DRUG TRAFFICKING	2	1	16-17	2	1	0	3
ESCAPE FROM LAWFUL CUSTODY	2	0	15	1	1	0	2
FAIL TO PRODUCE DRIVING LICENSE	1	0	17	1	0	0	1
GRIEVOUS HARM	2	0	13-15	0	1	1	2
HANDLING STOLEN GOODS	6	0	16-17	4	2	0	6
HARM	11	4	12_17	2	11	2	15
INSULTING WORDS	1	2	15-16	0	2	1	3
KEPT AMMUNITION WITHOUT A GUN LICENSE	4	0	15-17	2	2	0	4
KEPT FIREARM WITHOUT A GUN LICENSE	6	0	14-17	2	4	0	6
KEPT PROHIBITED FIREARM	1	0	16	1	0	0	1
LOITERING IN A PUBLIC PLACE	4	1	15-17	2	3	0	5
MISCHIEVOUS ACT	3	1	15-17	3	1	0	4
OBSTRUCTING A POLICE OFFICER	1	0	17	0	1	0	1
PERMITTING AN UNMUZZLED DOG TO BE AT LARGE	1	0	15	0	0	1	1
POSSESSION OF ARTICLE WITH BLADE	1	0	17	1	0	0	1
POSSESSION OF CONTROLLED DRUGS	60	3	13-17	47	13	3	63
PROFESS TO BELONG TO A CRIMINAL GANG	1	0	17	0	1	0	1
PUBLIC DRINKING	0	2	17-18	1	1	0	2
RESISTING LAWFUL ARREST	1	0	17	0	1	0	1
ROBBERY	7	0	14-17	1	4	2	7
RODE BICYCLE ON FOOTPATH	2	0	16	0	1	1	2
RODE BICYCLE WITHOUT BELL	24	2	14-17	1	24	1	26



Juvenile Statistics January – December 2015

CHARGE	Age		Con- victed	Dis- missed	With- drawn	Number of Cases	
	Male	Female					Range
RODE BICYCLE WITHOUT LAMP	18	1	13-17	4	14	1	19
THEFT	8	2	14-17	5	3	2	10
THEFT FROM THE PERSON	1	0	17	0	1	0	1
THREATENING WORDS	1	1	15-16	0	1	1	2
THROWING MISSILES	1	0	14	1	0	0	1
TRESPASSING ON PRIVATE PREMISES	1	0	16	0	0	1	1
UNLAWFUL SEXUAL INTERCOURSE	1	0	15	0	1	0	1
USE OF DEADLY MEANS OF HARM	2	0	16-17	0	2	0	2
USED MOTOR VEHICLE NOT COVERED BY THIRD PARTY RISK INSURANCE	1	0	17	1	0	0	1
USED UNLICENSED MOTOR VEHICLE	1	0	17	1	0	0	1
USING OBSCENE LANGUAGE	0	1	17	1	0	0	1
USING THREATENING WORDS	2	1	17	1	2	0	3
WILLFUL BREACH OF RULES	1	3	15-16	0	4	0	4
WOUNDING	13	4	13-17	7	5	5	17
GRAND TOTAL	259	46		113	155	37	305



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Statistical Reports / Charts

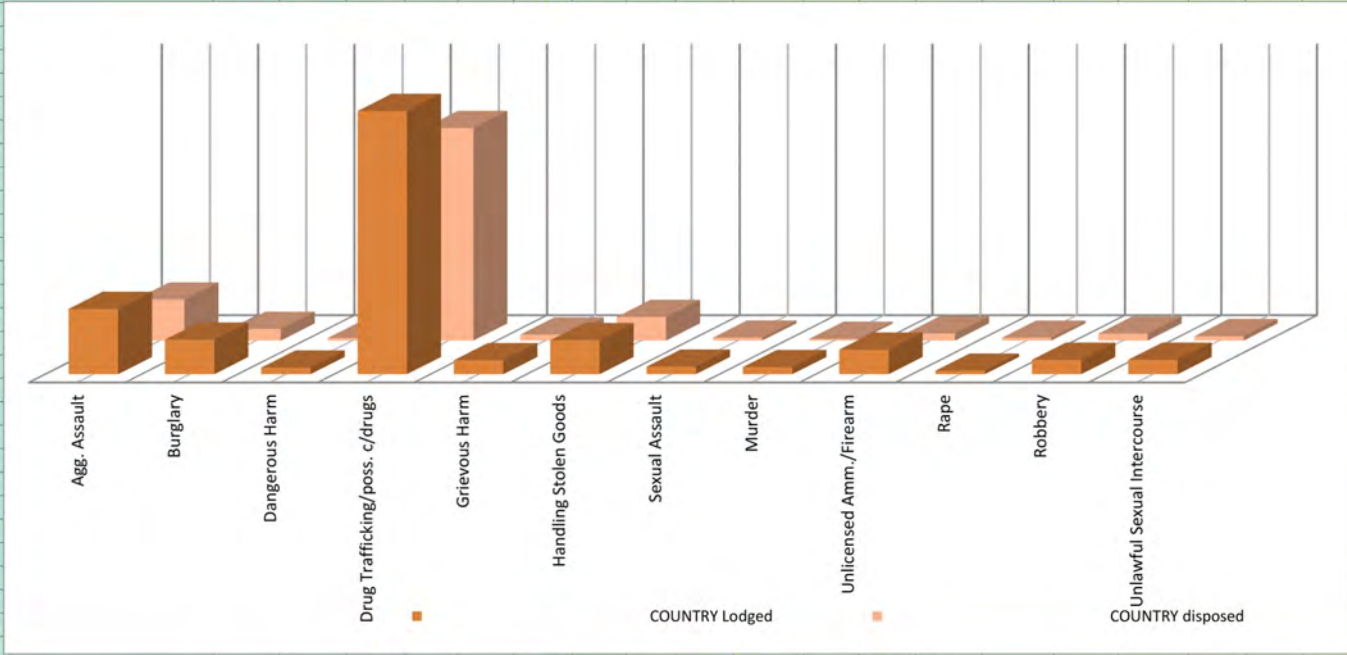
Statistical Reports / Charts



CRIME 2015	MAGISTRATE COURT STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 2015																				COUNTRY	
	Orange Walk		Corozal		Belize City		Belmopan		San Ignacio		Dangriga		Independence		Punta Gorda		San Pedro		Benque Viejo		Lodge	Disposed
	Ldg	Dsp	Ldg	Dsp	Ldg	Dsp	Ldg	Dsp	Ldg	Dsp	Ldg	Dsp	Ldg	Dsp	Ldg	Dsp	Ldg	Dsp	Ldg	Dsp		
Aggravated Burglary	3		3	3	5	1	1	0	1	0	6	24	5	0	0	1	10	1	0	0	34	10
Aggravated Assault	71	78	52	63	106	51	53	17	22	2	69	45	30	12	39	56	26	17	18	9	486	305
Arson	3	2	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	10	0	2	0	2	2	1	1	1	0	22	5
Attempt Rape	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	6	5	2	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	11	3
Attempt Murder	3	3	3	6	32	2	10	0	2	1	3	3	5	0	2	6	3	1	0	0	63	19
Attempt Robbery	1	3	0	1	3	2	0	0	2	0	5	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	6
Burglary	30	22	20	18	42	11	20	6	6	3	76	53	16	5	15	12	28	8	4	2	257	87
Claiming Upon a Forged Doc.	0	0	0	0	46	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	48	3
Dangerous Harm	8	7	2	7	26	1	3	1	1	0	3	14	3	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	49	19
Drug Trafficking	29	32	13	17	77	23	20	7	14	2	2	6	28	10	11	19	15	32	25	10	234	152
Escape	7	1	5	4	4	2	3	0	1	0	3	1	6	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	30	11
Forgery	1	1	0	0	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	31	4
Grievous Harm	8	14	16	9	20	6	11	1	3	0	25	16	6	2	5	5	8	7	2	1	104	45
Handling Stolen Goods	65	70	24	30	62	26	13	8	16	8	18	16	23	8	13	13	13	9	6	4	253	176
Incest	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	8	2
Sexual Assault	0	0	11	7	14	6	0	6	2	0	15	33	14	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	56	22
Kidnapping	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Maim	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	8	5
Manslaughter	4	3	7	0	3	0	8	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	22	4
Murder	6	6	3	2	21	0	7	0	2	0	5	2	3	0	2	3	3	2	1	0	53	13
Poss. Controlled Drugs	207	211	77	77	656	564	155	101	165	101	3	30	110	96	46	46	216	158	78	65	1713	1419
Poss. Unlicensed Ammunition	9	8	9	5	35	6	18	0	8	0	20	24	3	2	7	8	4	2	0	0	113	31
Poss. Unlicensed firearm	9	11	4	2	18	0	11	1	3	0	10	5	4	2	4	1	2	2	5	3	70	22
Rape	3	6	3	0	5	0	3	0	3	0	3	0	3	1	3	10	0	4	0	0	26	21
Robbery	9	2	17	32	30	6	8	1	5	0	27	25	1	0	3	6	3	3	4	2	107	52
Theft	36	8	37	50	119	65	34	9	12	4	40	10	22	11	7	6	44	27	10	7	361	187
Unlawful Sexual Intercourse	12	14	5	0	21	2	0	0	4	0	29	6	12	0	15	14	0	3	9	0	107	33
Unnatural Crime	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	1
OTHER	729	819	618	688	3924	2937	695	360	353	132	492	85	524	378	548	570	945	755	474	293	9302	6932
TOTAL	1254	1330	932	1023	5304	3711	1076	518	626	253	879	426	823	531	730	788	1326	1040	637	396	13587	10016
CIVIL SUITS	920	850	732	866	3650	1399	650	353	773	364	532	264	332	229	478	129	837	612	51	35	8955	5101
CORONERS INQUESTS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FAMILY MATTERS	546	418	951	817	0	0	611	484	620	315	445	312	387	375	273	268	743	444	135	83	4711	3516
KEY																						
Ldg - Lodged																						
Dsp - Disposed																						



	COUNTRY	
	Lodged	disposed
Agg. Assault	486	305
Burglary	257	87
Dangerous Harm	49	19
Drug Trafficking/poss. c/drugs	1947	1571
Grievous Harm	104	45
Handling Stolen Goods	253	176
Sexual Assault	56	22
Murder	53	13
Unlicensed Amm./Firearm	183	53
Rape	26	21
Robbery	107	52
Unlawful Sexual Intercourse	107	33
TOTAL	3628	2397

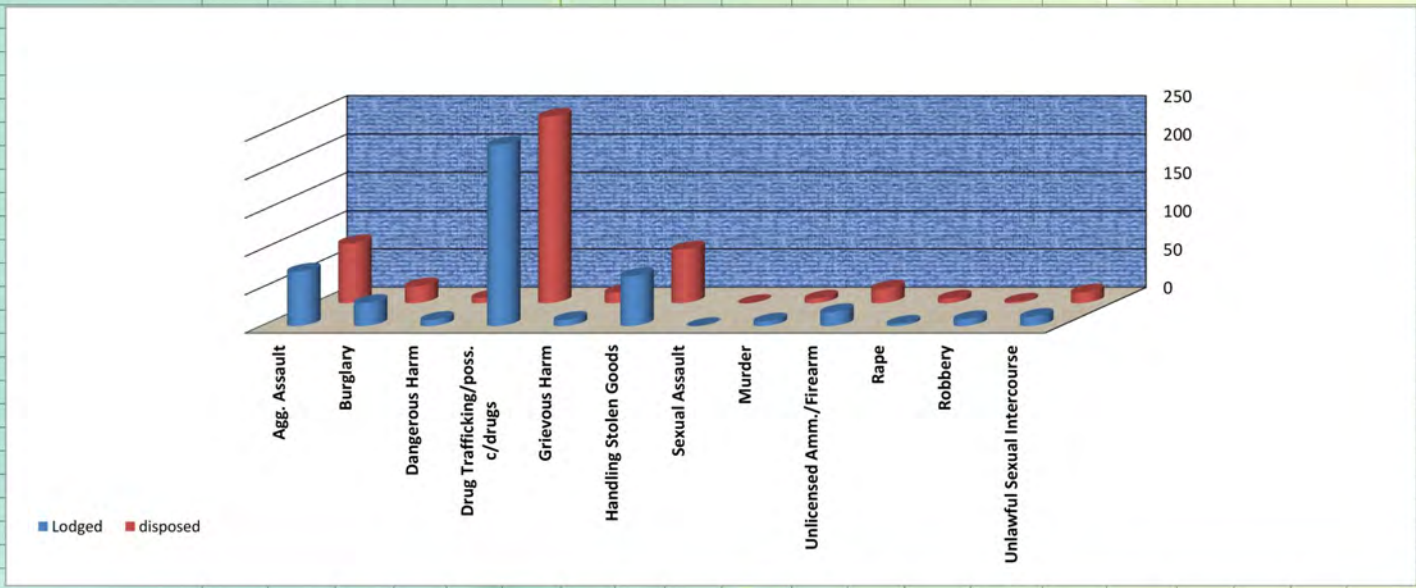




CRIME 2015

Orange Walk
Lodged disposed

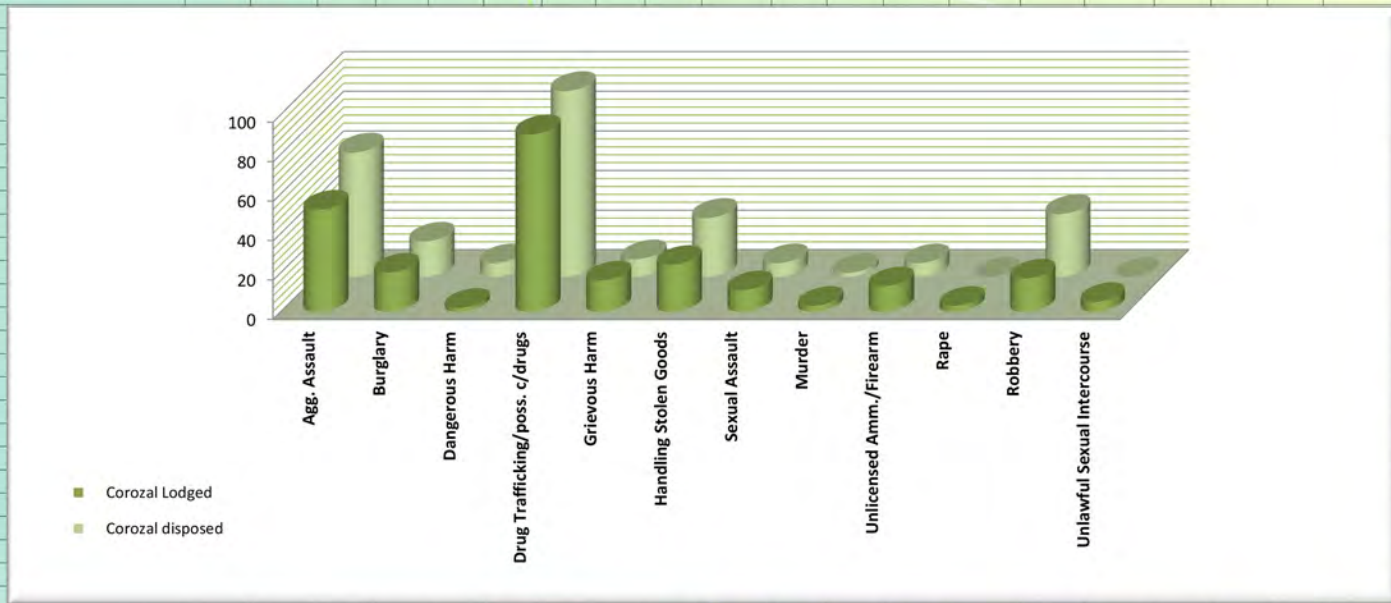
Agg. Assault	71	78
Burglary	30	22
Dangerous Harm	8	7
Drug Trafficking/poss. c/drugs	236	243
Grievous Harm	8	14
Handling Stolen Goods	65	70
Sexual Assault	0	0
Murder	6	6
Unlicensed Amm./Firearm	18	19
Rape	3	6
Robbery	9	2
Unlawful Sexual Intercourse	12	14
TOTAL	454	467





CRIME 2015

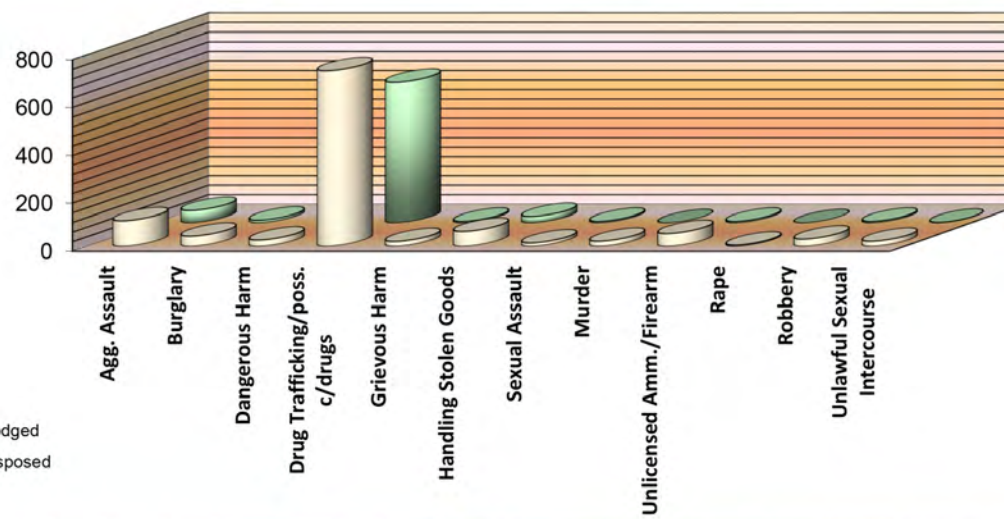
	Corozal	
	Lodged	disposed
Agg. Assault	52	63
Burglary	20	18
Dangerous Harm	2	7
Drug Trafficking/poss. c/drugs	90	94
Grievous Harm	16	9
Handling Stolen Goods	24	30
Sexual Assault	11	7
Murder	3	2
Unlicensed Amm./Firearm	13	7
Rape	3	0
Robbery	17	32
Unlawful Sexual Intercourse	5	0
TOTAL	256	269





CRIME 2015

	Belize City	
	Lodged	disposed
Agg. Assault	106	51
Burglary	42	11
Dangerous Harm	26	1
Drug Trafficking/poss. c/drugs	733	587
Grievous Harm	20	6
Handling Stolen Goods	62	26
Sexual Assault	14	6
Murder	21	0
Unlicensed Amm./Firearm	53	6
Rape	5	0
Robbery	30	6
Unlawful Sexual Intercourse	21	2
TOTAL	1133	702

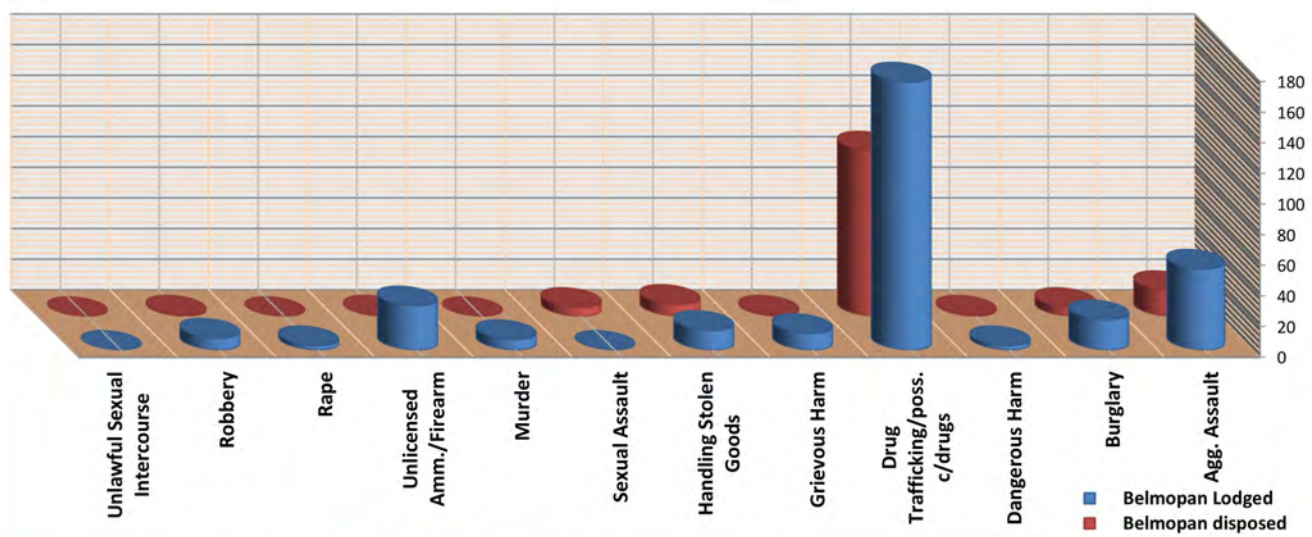


- Belize City Lodged
- Belize City disposed



CRIME 2015

	Belmopan	
	Lodged	disposed
Agg. Assault	53	17
Burglary	20	6
Dangerous Harm	3	1
Drug Trafficking/poss. c/drugs	175	108
Grievous Harm	11	1
Handling Stolen Goods	13	8
Sexual Assault	0	6
Murder	7	0
Unlicensed Amm./Firearm	29	1
Rape	3	0
Robbery	8	1
Unlawful Sexual Intercourse	0	0
TOTAL	322	149

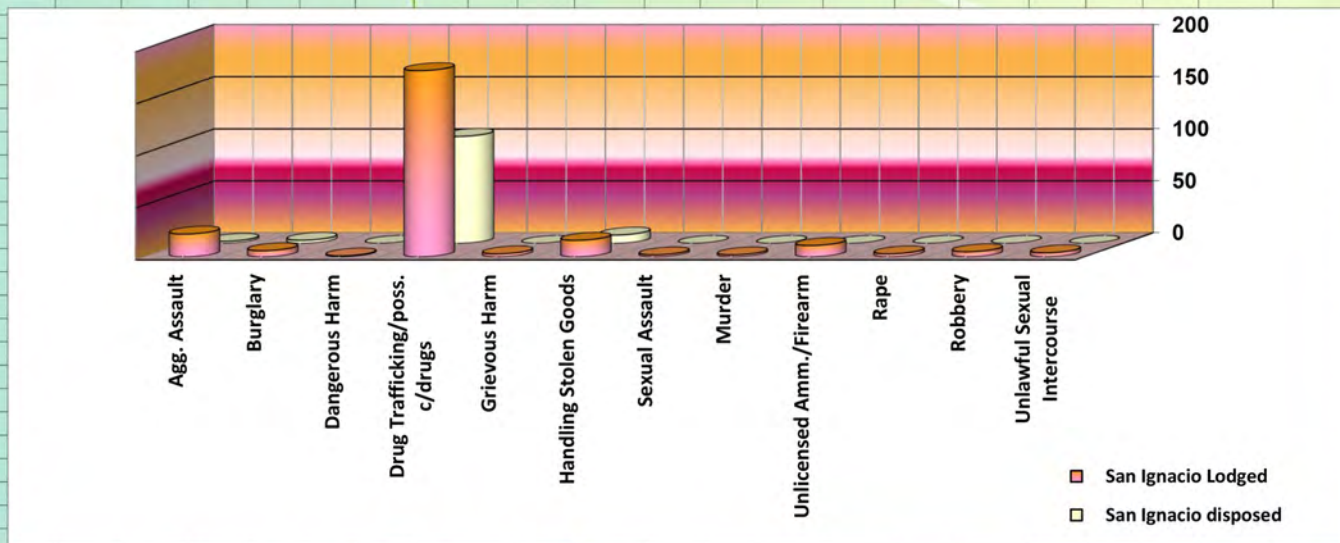




CRIME 2015

San Ignacio

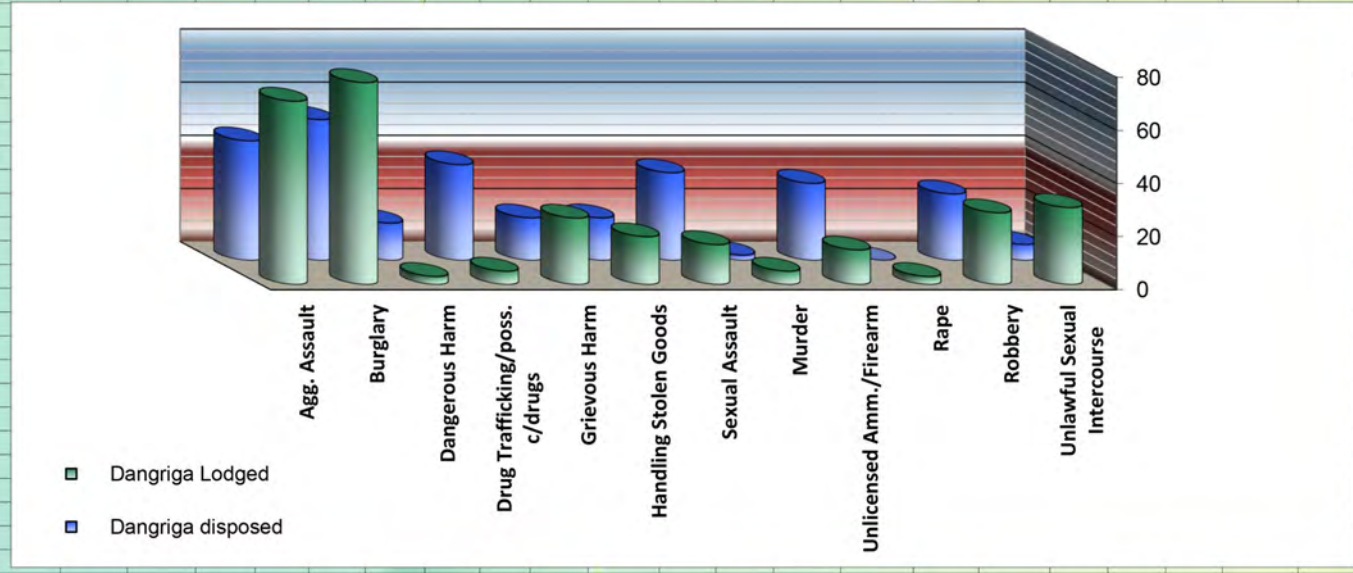
	Lodged	disposed
Agg. Assault	22	2
Burglary	6	3
Dangerous Harm	1	0
Drug Trafficking/poss. c/drugs	179	103
Grievous Harm	3	0
Handling Stolen Goods	16	8
Sexual Assault	2	0
Murder	2	0
Unlicensed Amm./Firearm	11	0
Rape	3	0
Robbery	5	0
Unlawful Sexual Intercourse	4	0
TOTAL	254	116





CRIME 2015

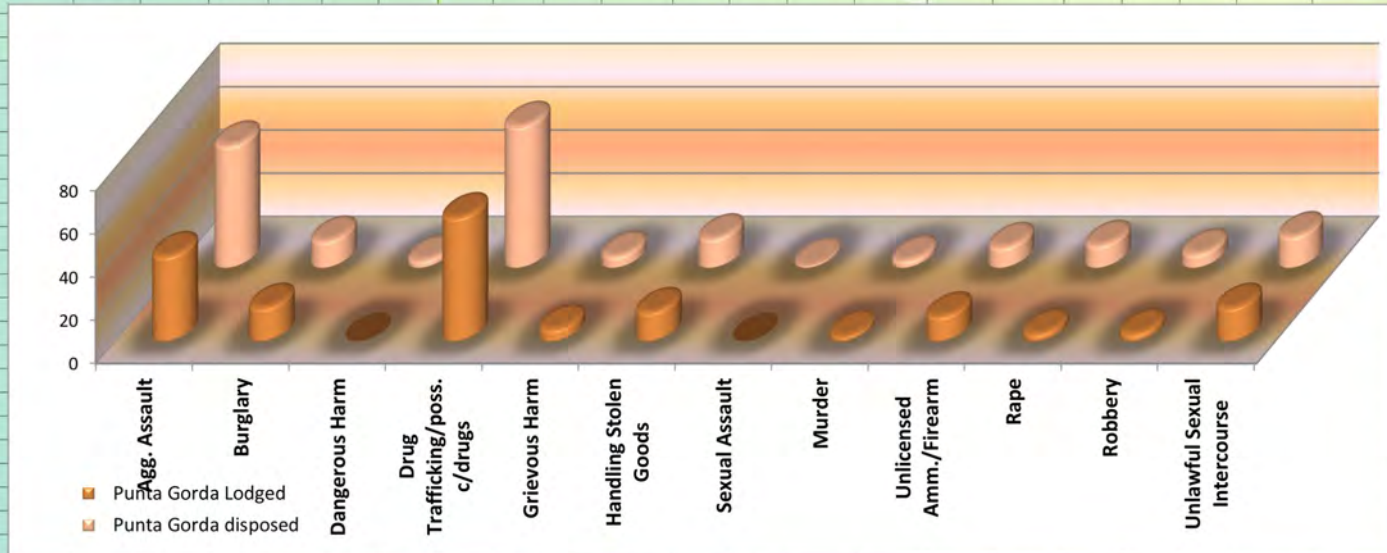
	Dangriga	
	Lodged	disposed
Agg. Assault	69	45
Burglary	76	53
Dangerous Harm	3	14
Drug Trafficking/poss. c/drugs	5	36
Grievous Harm	25	16
Handling Stolen Goods	18	16
Sexual Assault	15	33
Murder	5	2
Unlicensed Amm./Firearm	13	29
Rape	3	0
Robbery	27	25
Unlawful Sexual Intercourse	29	6
TOTAL	288	275





CRIME 2015

	Punta Gorda	
	Lodged	disposed
Agg. Assault	39	56
Burglary	15	12
Dangerous Harm	0	3
Drug Trafficking/poss. c/drugs	57	65
Grievous Harm	5	5
Handling Stolen Goods	13	13
Sexual Assault	0	1
Murder	2	3
Unlicensed Amm./Firearm	11	9
Rape	3	10
Robbery	3	6
Unlawful Sexual Intercourse	15	14
TOTAL	163	197

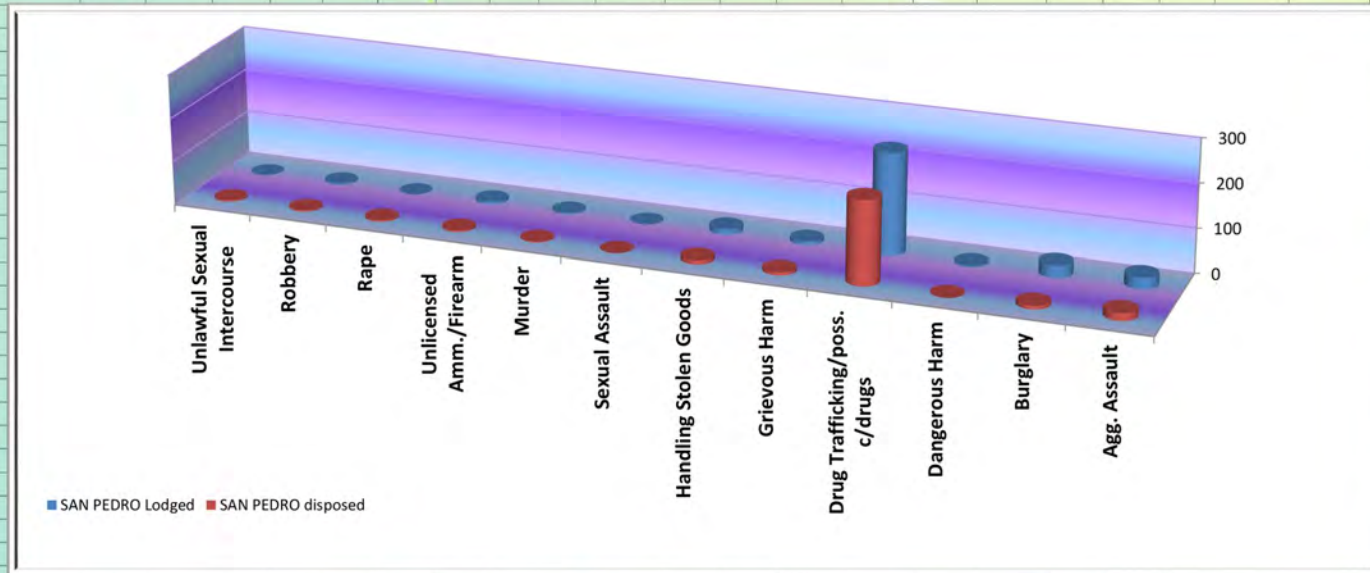




CRIME 2015

SAN PEDRO

	Lodged	disposed
Agg. Assault	26	17
Burglary	28	8
Dangerous Harm	3	0
Drug Trafficking/poss. c/drugs	231	190
Grievous Harm	8	7
Handling Stolen Goods	13	9
Sexual Assault	0	0
Murder	3	2
Unlicensed Amm./Firearm	6	4
Rape	0	4
Robbery	3	3
Unlawful Sexual Intercourse	0	3
TOTAL	321	247

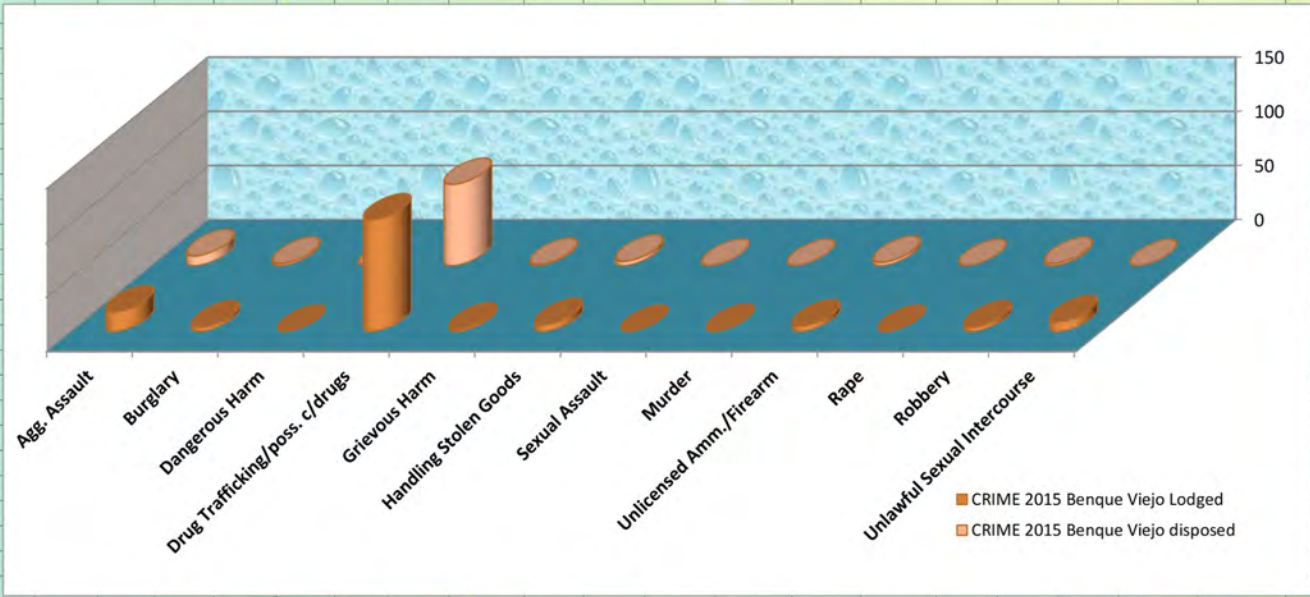




CRIME 2015

Benque Viejo

	Lodged	disposed
Agg. Assault	18	9
Burglary	4	2
Dangerous Harm	0	0
Drug Trafficking/poss. c/drugs	103	75
Grievous Harm	2	1
Handling Stolen Goods	6	4
Sexual Assault	0	0
Murder	1	0
Unlicensed Amm./Firearm	5	3
Rape	0	0
Robbery	4	2
Unlawful Sexual Intercourse	9	0
TOTAL	152	96

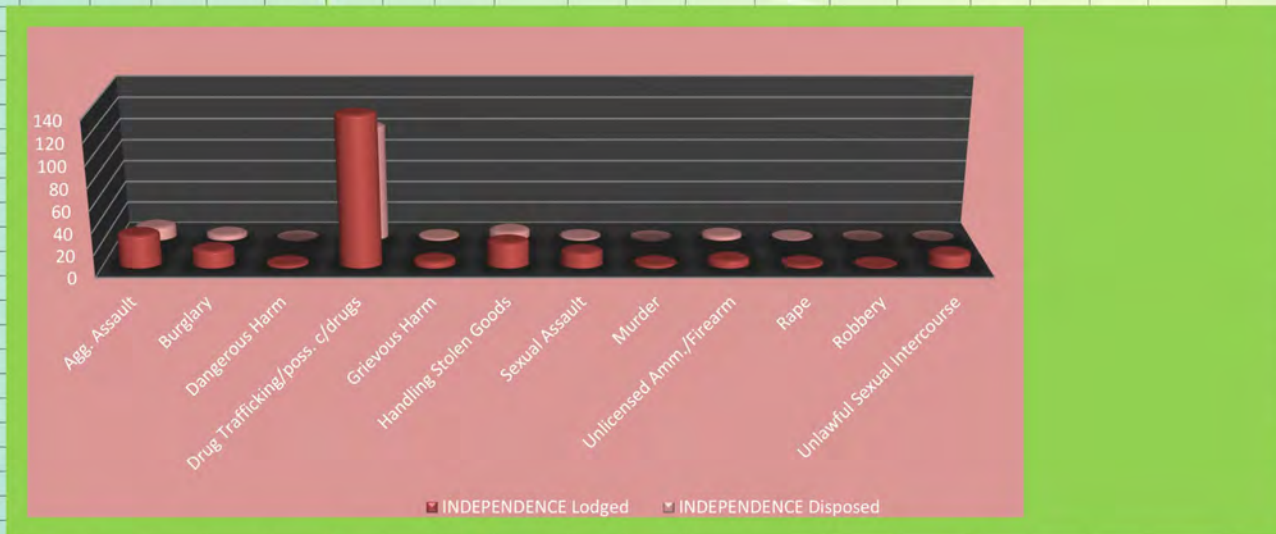




CRIME 2015

INDEPENDENCE

	Lodged	Disposed
Agg. Assault	30	12
Burglary	16	5
Dangerous Harm	3	0
Drug Trafficking/poss. c/drugs	138	106
Grievous Harm	6	2
Handling Stolen Goods	23	8
Sexual Assault	14	2
Murder	3	0
Unlicensed Amm./Firearm	7	4
Rape	3	1
Robbery	1	0
Unlawful Sexual Intercourse	12	0
TOTAL	256	140



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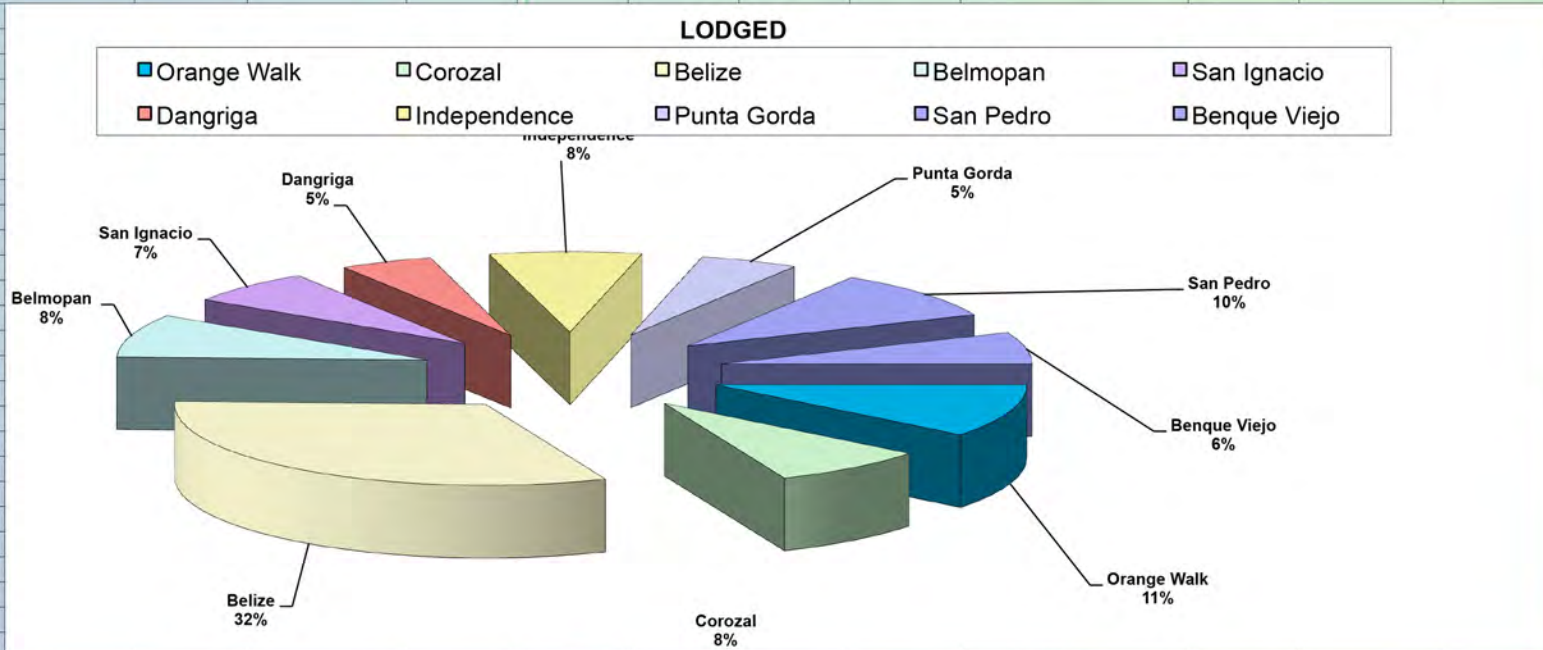


Statistical Reports / Charts

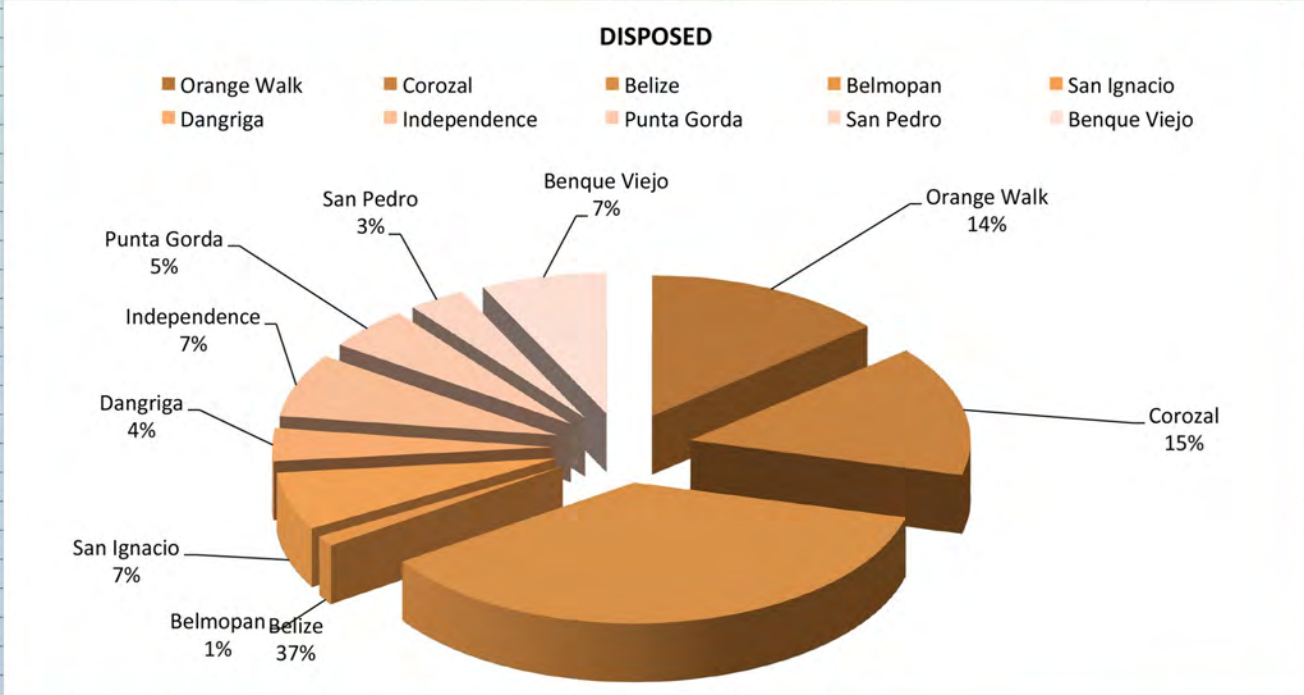
Statistical Reports / Charts



STATISTICAL REPORT FOR 2016		
DISTRICTS	LODGED	DISPOSED
Orange Walk	1230	909
Corozal	935	975
Belize	3686	2372
Belmopan	998	80
San Ignacio	786	432
Dangriga	561	246
Independence	915	475
Punta Gorda	593	320
San Pedro	1137	215
Benque Viejo	733	472
TOTAL	11574	6496



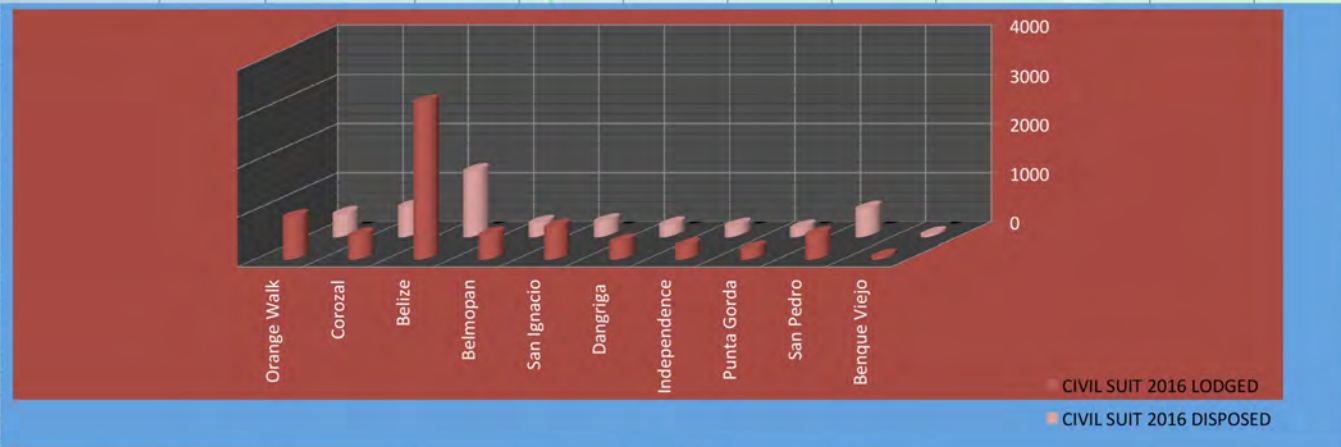
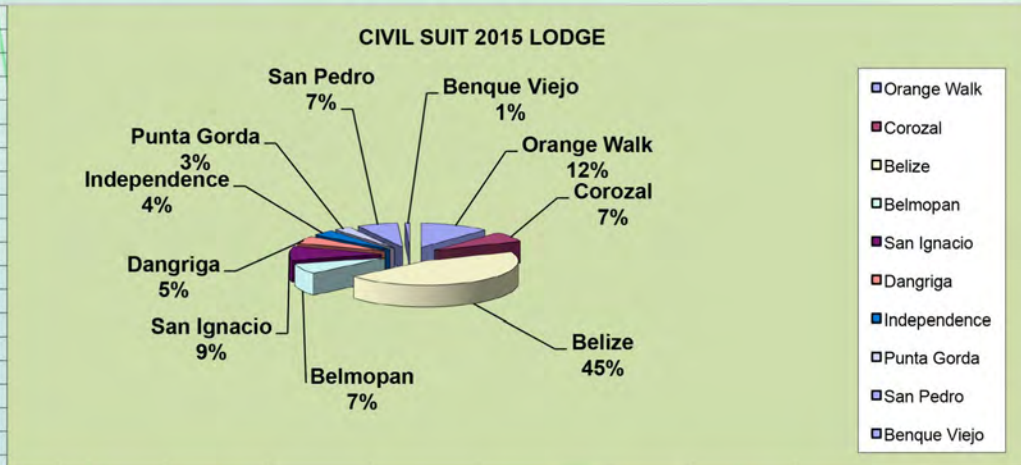
This Report reflect the amount of Criminal matter Lodged Country Wide for 2016



This Report reflect the amount of Criminal matter Disposed Country Wide for 2016



DISTRICTS	LODGED	DISPOSED
Orange Walk	853	461
Corozal	482	610
Belize	3197	1336
Belmopan	497	278
San Ignacio	656	311
Dangriga	348	245
Independence	273	217
Punta Gorda	208	183
San Pedro	507	565
Benque Viejo	59	49
Total	7080	4255



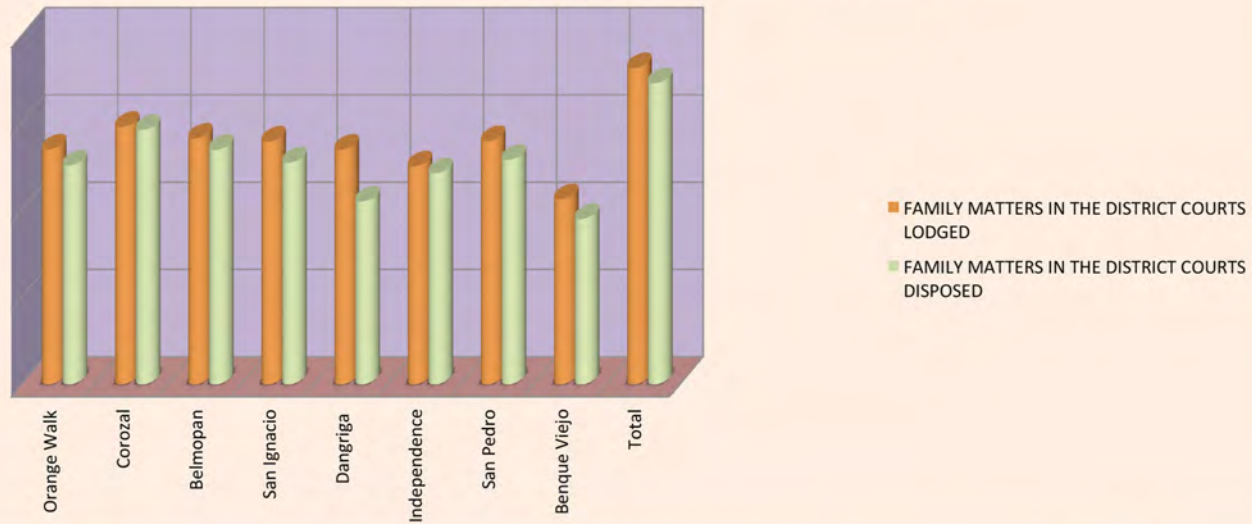
FAMILY MATTERS IN THE DISTRICT COURTS

DISTRICT	LODGED	DISPOSED
Orange Walk	494	323



Corozal	895	830								
Belmopan	656	489								
San Ignacio	606	348								
Dangriga	491	125								
Independence	316	264								
San Pedro	612	375								
Benque Viejo	132	79								
Total	4202	2833								

FAMILY MATTERS FOR THE DISTRICT COURTS



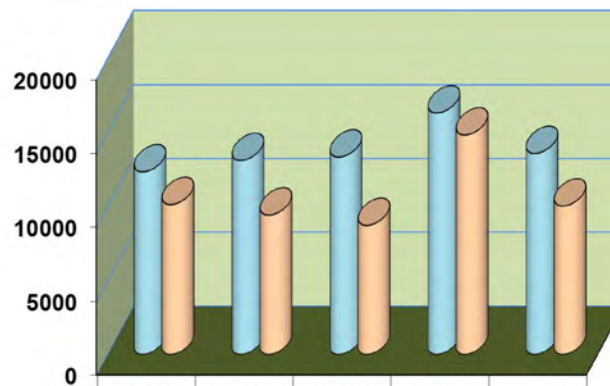
YEAR	LODGED	DISPOSED								
2011	12333	10118								
2012	13107	9402								
2013	13341	8703								
2014	16335	14835								



2015	13587	10016
2016	11754	6496

CRIMINAL STATISTIC REVIEW COUNTRY WIDE FROM 2010 - 2015

■ LODGED
 ■ DISPOSED



	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
■ LODGED	12333	13107	13341	16335	13587
■ DISPOSED	10118	9402	8703	14835	10016

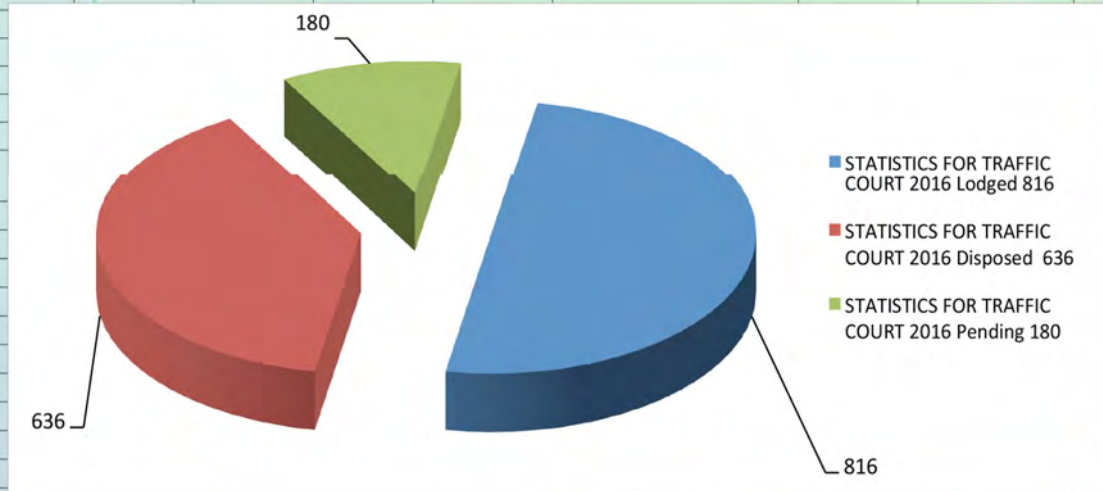
MURDER

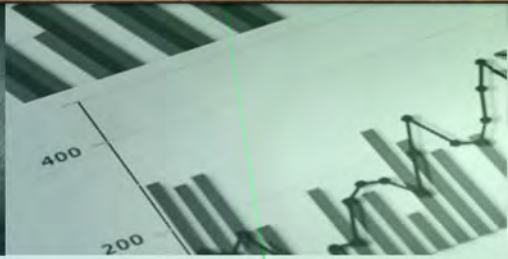
YEAR	LODGED	DISPOSED
2011	63	8
2012	68	11
2013	50	4
2014	46	5
2015	53	13



STATISTICS FOR TRAFFIC COURT 2016

Lodged	Disposed	Pending
816	636	180





Juvenile Statistics							
CHARGE	Gender		Age	Convicted	Dismissed	Withdrawn	Number of Cases
	Male	Female	Range				
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	1	0	15	0	1	0	1
ALLOWED SELF TO BE CARRIED ON A BICYCLE							
ASSAULTING A POLICE OFFICER	1	0	16	0	1	0	1
ATTEMPT MURDER	1	0	15	0	1	0	1
ATTEMPT ROBBERY							
BURGLARY	1	0	14-Jan	1	0	0	1
CARRIED A PERSON ON A BICYCLE							
CAUSED BICYCLE TO PROCEED ON A ONE WAY STREET	1	0	16	0	1	0	1
CAUSED MOTOR VEHICLE TO PROCEED ON A ONE WAY STREET							
COMMON ASSAULT							
DAMAGE TO PROPERTY							
DANGEROUS HARM							
DISCHARGE FIREARM IN PUBLIC							
DISORDERLY CONDUCT							
DROVE MOTOR VEHICLE WITHOUT A THIRD PARTY RISK INSURANCE	4	0	14-16	4	0	0	4
DROVE MOTOR VEHICLE WITHOUT A BZE DRIVING LICENSE	4	0	14-16	4	0	0	4
DRUG TRAFFICKING	1	0	16	1	0	0	1
ESCAPE FROM LAWFUL CUSTODY							
FAIL TO PRODUCE DRIVING LICENSE							
GRIEVOUS HARM							
HANDLING STOLEN GOODS	1	0	16	0	1	0	1
HARM	1	0	15-Jan	0	1	0	1
INSULTING WORDS							
KEPT AMMUNITION WITHOUT A GUN LICENSE	1	0	16	0	0	1	1
KEPT FIREARM WITHOUT A GUN LICENSE							
KEPT PROHIBITED FIREARM							
LOITERING IN A PUBLIC PLACE							
MISCHIEVOUS ACT							
OBSTRUCTING A POLICE OFFICER	1	0	16	0	1	0	1
PERMITTING AN UNMUZZLED DOG TO BE AT LARGE							



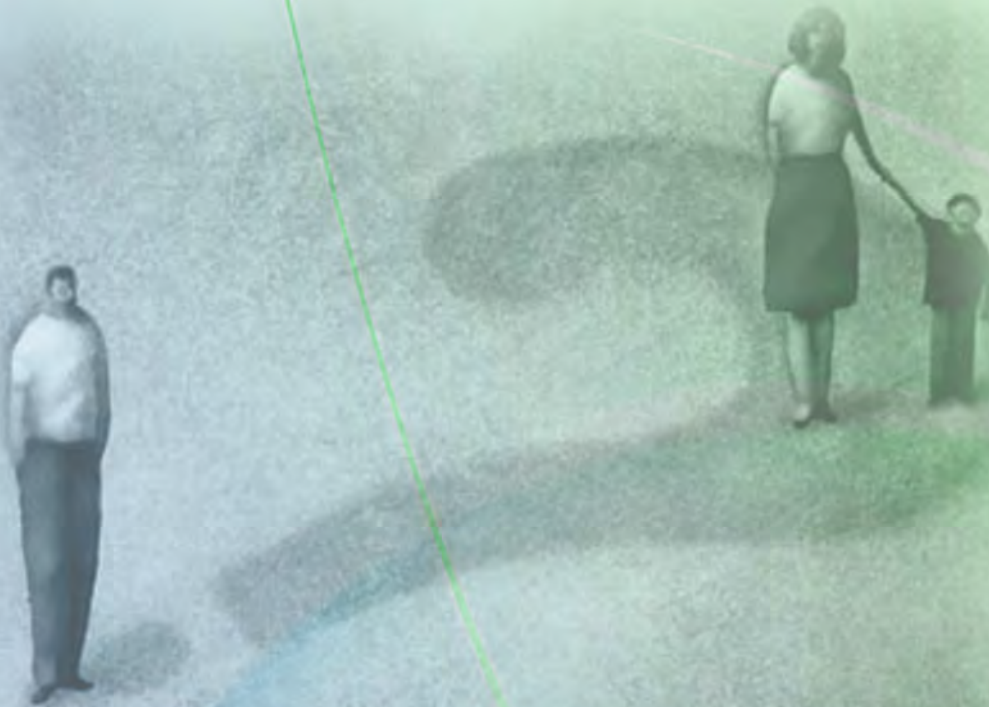
POSSESSION OF CONCH DURING CLOSE SEASON	1		17			1	1
PROFESS TO BELONG TO A CRIMINAL GANG	1		15		1		1
PUBLIC DRINKING	1		17		1		1
RESISTING LAWFUL ARREST	1		17	1			1
ROBBERY	5		13-17	1	2	2	5
RODE BICYCLE WITHOUT BELL		1	17	1			1
THEFT	8		15-17		6	2	8
THREAT TO DAMAGE PROPERTY	2		16-17	1	1		2
UNLAWFUL SEXUAL INTERCOURSE	2		15-17		1	1	2
USE OF DEADLY MEANS OF HARM	2		16-17		0	2	2
USED UNLICENSED MOTOR VEHICLE	2		17	2			2
USING OBSCENE LANGUAGE	2		16-17	1	1		2
USING THREATENING WORDS	2	1	13-16		3		3
WOUNDING	6	5	13-17	3	6	2	11
TAKING CONVEYANCE WITHOUT AUTHORITY	1		17		1		1
GRAND TOTAL	166	27		80	87	26	193



Juvenile Statistics							
January - December 2016							
CHARGE			Age	Convicted	Dismissed	Withdrawn	Number
	Male	Female	Range				of Cases
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	5	3	15-17	3	5		8
AGGRAVATED BURGLARY	1		14			1	1
ALLOWED SELF TO BE CARRIED ON A BICYCLE	1		15		1		1
ARSON	1		16			1	1
ASSAULTING A POLICE OFFICER	1		17	1			1
ATTEMPT MURDER	3		16-17		1	2	3
ATTEMPT BURGLARY	1		16		1		1
BURGLARY	2	2	15-17		3	1	4
CARRIED A PERSON ON A BICYCLE	1		16		1		1
CAUSED BICYCLE TO PROCEED ON A ONE WAY STREET	7		16-17	2	5		7
COMMON ASSAULT	9	4	13-17	2	8	3	13
DAMAGE TO PROPERTY	4	2	13-16		5	1	6
DANGEROUS HARM	1		17			1	1
DROVE MOTOR VEHICLE WITHOUT DUE CARE AND ATTENTION	1		16	1			1
DROVE MOTOR VEHICLE IN CONTRAVENTION OF L/PERMIT CONDITION	3		17	2	1		3
DROVE MOTOR VEHICLE WITHOUT BOTH H/LAMPS LIT	1		17		1		1
DROVE MOTOR VEHICLE WITHOUT A THIRD PARTY RISK INSURANCE	5		16-17	5			5
DROVE MOTOR VEHICLE WITHOUT A BZE DRIVING LICENSE	3		16-17	2		1	3
DRUG TRAFFICKING	2		16-17		2		2
ESCAPE FROM LAWFUL CUSTODY	4	1	14-17	2	3		5
FAIL TO PRODUCE SPECIMEN	1		16	1			1
GRIEVOUS HARM	3	1	15-17	2	1	1	4
HANDLING STOLEN GOODS	8	1	14-17	1	8		9
HARM	6	4	13-17	4	4	2	10
KEPT AMMUNITION WITHOUT A GUN LICENSE	4		16-17	1	3		4
KEPT FIREARM WITHOUT A GUN LICENSE	5		16-17	2	3		5
KEPT PROHIBITED FIREARM	2		17	1	1		2
MISCHIEVOUS ACT	1		16	1			1
MURDER	1		15			1	1
POSSESSION OF CONTROLLED DRUGS	43	2	13-17	37	7	1	45



VARIATION DECREASE	53	0	24-57	6	47	0	53
VARIATION INCREASE	3	46	20-52	6	43	0	49
VARIATION OF ACCESS ORDER	27	18	20-84	3	42	0	45
VARIATION OF CUSTODY ORDER	6	7	25-48	2	11	0	13
VARIATION OF MAINTENANCE ORDER	14	4	29-51	3	15	0	18
VARIATION OF PROTECTION ORDER	6	2	23-52	0	8	0	8
TOTAL CASES	612	1734		314	1923	109	2346





Belize Family Court							
January - December 2016----Family Matters							
CASE			Age	Pending	In Court	Out of Court	Number
	Male	Female	Range				of Cases
ACCESS/VISITATION	114	7	19-75	22	79	20	121
ATTACHMENT	0	29	24-60	1	27	1	29
CARE ORDER	0	130	26-35	0	130	0	130
CONTEMPT OF COURT ORDER	14	2	20-54	1	15	0	16
CONTINUANCE OF PAYMENT	0	17	28-50	1	15	1	17
DECLARATION OF PARENTAGE	13	2	20-55	3	12	0	15
DECLARATION OF WRONGFULL REMOVAL/RETURN OF CHILD	1	0	59	0	1	0	1
FAMILY ISSUES	32	43	19-58	49	0	26	75
GUARDIANSHIP	3	14	31-65	1	16	0	17
LEGAL CUSTODY	54	26	22-70	23	51	6	80
LEGAL SEPARATION	35	83	20-75	16	97	5	118
MAINTENANCE	28	410	16-56	62	337	39	438
MISAPPLYING MAINTENANCE MONEY	3	0	38-45	0	3	0	3
PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY	1	2	42-61	0	3	0	3
PROTECTION ORDER	71	326	18-81	18	378	1	397
PROTECTION/OCCUPATION ORDER	27	127	19-84	5	149	0	154
RECOVERY OF ARREARS	0	322	24-60	74	240	8	322
RELINQUISHMENT	2	14	22-43	2	14	0	16
REMITTANCE OF ARREARS	12	2	28-61	2	11	1	14
REVIVAL OF MAINTENANCE ORDER	2	11	28-54	0	13	0	13
REVOCAION OF ACCESS ORDER	1	2	35-43	0	3	0	3
REVOCAION OF CUSTODY	0	1	41	0	1	0	1
REVOCAION OF LEGAL SEPARATION	1	2	28-36	0	3	0	3
REVOCAION OF MAINTENANCE ORDER	83	31	19-71	14	100	0	114
REVOCAION OF PROTECTION ORDER	1	4	24-45	0	5	0	5
REVOCAION OF PROTECTION ORDER/OCCUPATION ORDER	1	1	38	0	2	0	2
REVOCAION OF OCCUPATION ORDER	1	0	46	0	1	0	1
SUPERVISORY ORDER	0	23	34-35	0	23	0	23
TENANCY ORDER	0	1	38	0	1	0	1
UNCONTROLLABLE BEHAVIOR	3	25	30-52	0	27	1	28



POSSESSION OF CONCH DURING CLOSE SEASON	1		17			1	1
PROFESS TO BELONG TO A CRIMINAL GANG	1		15		1		1
PUBLIC DRINKING	1		17		1		1
RESISTING LAWFUL ARREST	1		17	1			1
ROBBERY	5		13-17	1	2	2	5
RODE BICYCLE WITHOUT BELL		1	17	1			1
THEFT	8		15-17		6	2	8
THREAT TO DAMAGE PROPERTY	2		16-17	1	1		2
UNLAWFUL SEXUAL INTERCOURSE	2		15-17		1	1	2
USE OF DEADLY MEANS OF HARM	2		16-17		0	2	2
USED UNLICENSED MOTOR VEHICLE	2		17	2			2
USING OBSCENE LANGUAGE	2		16-17	1	1		2
USING THREATENING WORDS	2	1	13-16		3		3
WOUNDING	6	5	13-17	3	6	2	11
TAKING CONVEYANCE WITHOUT AUTHORITY	1		17		1		1
GRAND TOTAL	166	27		80	87	26	193



Punta Gorda Family Court January - December 2016---Family Matters							
CASE			Age	In Court	Pending	Out of Court	Number
	Male	Female	Range				of Cases
ACCESS/VISITATION	13	2	20-49	13	1	1	15
ATTACHMENT	0	25	22-52	25	0	0	25
CARE ORDER	0	31	0	31	0	0	
CONTINUANCE OF PAYMENT	0	4	33-43	4	0	0	4
DECLARATION OF PARENTAGE	4	1	42-55	4	1	0	5
DISCHARGE OF ACCESS ORDER	1	1	32-42	2	0	0	2
FAMILY ISSUES	21	18	19-56	0	7	32	39
GUARDIANSHIP	0	1	48	1	0	0	1
LEGAL CUSTODY	20	15	23-48	31	2	2	35
LEGAL SEPARATION	3	13	22-47	16	0	0	16
MAINTENANCE	0	102	17-48	95	0	7	102
PROTECTION ORDER	7	84	16-73	90	0	1	91
PROTECTION/OCCUPATION ORDER	0	16	24-63	15	1	0	16
RECOVERY OF ARREARS	0	104	21-59	97	7	0	104
RELINQUISHMENT	0	3	18-40	3	0	0	3
REMITTANCE OF ARREARS	0	2	25-50	2	0	0	2
REVOCAION OF CARE ORDER	0	2	32-35	2	0	0	2
REVIVAL OF MAINTENANCE ORDER	0	2	38-49	2	0	0	2
REVOCAION OF MAINTENANCE ORDER	21	12	20-64	33	0	0	33
REVOCAION OF PROTECTION ORDER/OCCUPATION ORDER	1	2	38-52	3	0	0	3
SUPERVISORY ORDER	0	4	0	4	0	0	4
UNCONTROLLABLE BEHAVIOR	0	4	36-49	4	0	0	4
VARIATION DECREASE	10	0	21-42	10	0	0	10
VARIATION INCREASE	0	21	26-48	19	1	1	21
VARIATION OF ACCESS ORDER	2	1	31-36	3	0	0	3
VARIATION OF PROTECTION ORDER	0	1	66	1	0	0	1
GRAND TOTAL	103	471		510	20	44	574