



PRESS RELEASE

Chief Justice, Hon Mde. Louise Esther Blenman Delivers Keynote Speech at the Ceremony for the Presentation of Graduates of Hugh Wooding Law School

For Immediate Release

Belize City, Belize — 8th September 2024 — Hon. Madam Louise Esther Blenman, Chief Justice of Belize, delivered the keynote address at the Graduation Ceremony of the Hugh Wooding Law School, held on 5th October 2024 at the National Academy for the Performing Arts (NAPA) in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. The event, which honoured two hundred and thirteen (213), graduates, was attended by the Hon. Ivor Archie, Chief Justice of Trinidad and Tobago, members of the judiciary, Chairman of the Council of Legal Education, Ms. Liesel Weekes, K.C., members of the Council of Legal Education, principals of the Council's law schools, faculty of the Hugh Wooding Law School, and other distinguished guests.

In Hon Chief Justice Blenman's address, Her Ladyship delivered words of inspiration and encouragement to the new graduates, underscoring the critical role of integrity, dedication, and professionalism in the legal profession. Her Ladyship also reflected on the evolving role of law in advancing justice and development in the Caribbean, urging graduates to be advocates for positive change. Her Ladyship emphasized the region's vast potential, encouraging graduates to harness it to realize the aspiration of a united Caribbean community.

Hon Chief Justice Blenman reminded the graduates that the practice of law is a noble vocation through which they can make a significant impact on the lives of individuals and society as a whole. Her Ladyship called upon them to uphold the rule of law and contribute to making the Caribbean as attractive and competitive as other regions of the world. Her Ladyship also challenged the graduates to foster a strong Caribbean identity and contribute to the region's distinct community, advocating for the pursuit of what Her Ladyship termed "the Caribbean dream," as opposed to romanticizing foreign ideals like the "American Dream."

The Hugh Wooding Law School, a premier institution for legal education in the Caribbean, prepares its graduates to serve as legal practitioners across the region. This graduation ceremony marked a significant milestone for the two hundred and thirteen (213) graduates, many of whom are set to embark on legal careers throughout the Caribbean and beyond.

Hon Chief Justice Blenman's participation in this event is part of Her Ladyship's ongoing commitment to fostering legal education and supporting the development of young professionals in the Caribbean.

End