



FOCUS

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Fintech: Financing of the Future

Andre Hill



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Financial Technology (FinTech) can be defined as technology applied to improve financial activities. Over the past decade the development of FinTech has altered the way transactions are conducted. The most significant development in FinTech has been the creation and use of blockchain

technology. A blockchain is a decentralized public ledger of peer to peer transactions that does not require an independent third party to verify transactions or act as custodian. It allows for the transfer and validation of authority over an asset. These assets are often referred to as “tokens” which are a digital representation of value

or a set of rights within a specific blockchain.

Blockchain technology has a number of uses and the difficulty in regulating these new financial products such as tokens, stems from the variety of functions which may be assigned to them. For example, depending on the type of function, a token may be classified as money, property, utility or security. Regardless of how a token or financial product is classified, it is essential that The Bahamas has adequate legislation, regulation and policy to ensure clarity, certainty and protection for consumers and investors.

We have received enquiries from FinTech companies that are interested in setting up and providing these new financial products from within The Bahamas but have had to advise that the existing legislation is inadequate. Other jurisdictions have encountered similar problems with trying to use existing legislation and policy and deciding on the best government entity to regulate the various types of financial products. As a result, countries within the region such as Bermuda and Anguilla have already enacted legislation to deal specifically with virtual currencies, digital assets and initial coin offerings ("ICO"). In May of this year, Anguilla enacted the Anguilla Utility Token Offering Act, 2018 (the "AUTO Act") for the regulation of ICOs. Bermuda has enacted the Digital Asset Business Act, 2018 (the "DABA") for regulating the Fintech sector in Bermuda. Specific legislation crafted within the FinTech sector creates clarity and confidence for stakeholders. For example, the ability to define key terms. The AUTO Act defines terms such as blockchain, smart contract, token and utility token. On the other hand, the DABA outlines the application process and the types of licences that can be obtained to provide activities to the

general public such as issuing, selling or redeeming virtual coins, tokens or any form of digital asset, operating as an electronic exchange or providing custodial wallet services. Customers and investors can make better informed decisions when they are able to ascertain how a particular financial product will be classified and the regulations and policy surrounding it.

The Bahamas has a reputation for having an efficient financial services industry and is known as an international financial centre. The developments in FinTech undoubtedly impact the financial services industry of The Bahamas. It is imperative that The Bahamas keeps pace with these developments in order for the financial services industry to stay viable. The Bahamas has recognized the obvious impact of FinTech and there have been a number of conferences and seminars in 2018, in which experts have been invited to educate stakeholders and to further the discussion and debate as to the best way forward for regulating and allowing the provision of these new financial products from within The Bahamas. The government has also shown some commitment by promoting Grand Bahama as a FinTech centre. GIBC Digital, a company that provides digital solutions in automation, data intelligence, cyber & fraud, customer experience as well as regulation & compliance, has announced its intention to make a significant investment and establish its office in Grand Bahama. This is promising. In addition, the establishment of The Bahamas Financial Services Board Fintech Working group, which provides recommendations to the government and regulators, is essential in ensuring that the needs of stakeholders are addressed through collaborative engagement.

Blockchain technology has most notably been used for cryptocurrencies which are

decentralized digital currencies that generate units of currency and validate transactions independent of a central bank or government. Cryptocurrencies derive their value from being able to convert into other fiat currencies. The Bahamas faces a further impediment here with its exchange control restrictions. Presently, the Bahamian dollar is not a readily convertible currency with other fiat currencies around the world. This is an illustration that the legislation, regulation and policy in The Bahamas will have to be addressed even outside of the FinTech sector to be competitive as the exchange control restrictions are not conducive to the use of cryptocurrencies by Bahamian residents and to the setting up of cryptocurrency exchanges in The Bahamas. However, at the recent Bahamas Blockchain and Cryptocurrency Conference held in Freeport, Grand Bahama, the government has announced its intention for the Central Bank of The Bahamas to launch its own digital currency. This will assist, particularly in the Family Islands, where commercial banks have begun to downsize leaving a number of Bahamian residents unbanked.

The scope and applicability of FinTech is large. However, in order for The Bahamas to position itself at the forefront of the region, its FinTech sector must have clarity and certainty which is provided with specifically crafted legislation. This is paramount in creating confidence and attracting investors and developers. However, there is a fine line between protecting investors and consumers from the inherent risks of new creative financial products and over regulating, thereby stifling the FinTech sector. Time is of the essence, as the opportunity cost of being left behind is unquantifiable. 



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From Catalina to Drones

Gina M. Berry



Introduction: Evolution of the Cayman Islands Civil Aviation

The Cayman Islands has a rich aviation heritage spanning the PBY Catalina (the “American Flying Boat”), which was the first Commercial airplane to fly into Grand Cayman (the largest of the three islands) in the 1940s and 1950s, to the modern-day drones, which, in step with the rest of the world, have grown in popularity in the Cayman Islands.

In terms of business opportunity, Cayman has recently distinguished itself by way of legislation which permits the addition of offshore aviation services to Cayman Enterprise City’s Special Economic Zone (now becoming the *Cayman Maritime & Aviation Services Park*) (“the Park”). This innovation, which has gained tremendous traction, enables international aviation service businesses to also benefit from Cayman’s tax-neutral environment. These include aircraft owners and brokers, corporate head offices of aviation industry related

businesses, aircraft manufacturing and repair businesses, technology companies and start-ups focused on aviation research and development, companies providing management consultancy and any other specialised services to the aviation industry. The Park is slated to become the largest transportation services group in the region and allows aviation companies the means to set up a physical presence in the Special Economic Zone (“the Zone”) in a cost effective and time efficient manner. The business, with a fully staffed office, can be fully operational in four to six weeks, inclusive of time spent obtaining any necessary staff visas. The ability to establish physical presence in the Zone facilitates aircraft registered with Cayman’s Civil Aviation Authority (“CAACI”) to meet Air Operator’s Certificate requirements in cases of commercial air transport. Already the Zone boasts over 200 companies which benefit from Cayman’s lack of corporate, income, sales, capital gains, or payroll

tax.

Added to this, the C\$55 Million dollar Owen Roberts International Airport Expansion and Renovation Project currently underway, and the recent ground-breaking for the CCACI’s brand new home next to this airport (named after a RAF Wing Commander, Owen Roberts, who was a pioneer of commercial aviation in Cayman), have led to a growing “buzz” in the aviation industry. This is an exciting time for aviation in Cayman.

What of Drones?

What was once a tool used exclusively by the military is now being used globally for commercial purposes and perhaps more as a toy. Drones were typically operated by pilots or military personnel who were formally trained in small unmanned aircraft (“SUA”) technology, systems and operations. Today, the average drone operator does not possess formal training in the handling of these drones and other SUA and this has created a need for increased regulation of the industry.

Regulation of Drones

As with a Boeing 737 and other conventional aircrafts, there are certain “rules of the air” which apply to drones and other SUA, including those equipped with surveillance or data acquisition capabilities. In the Cayman Islands, the first set of rules can be found in Article 73 of the Air Navigation (Overseas Territories) Order 2013 and apply to SUA with a mass up to and not exceeding 20kg. Similar to other countries, different rules and restrictions apply in the Cayman Islands, depending on whether the drone is being used for commercial gain or recreational flying.

At a minimum, a drone operator is required to take adequate steps to fully understand the rules governing the use

of the drone. There is a legal obligation to conduct proper safety checks and to ensure that all parts of the drone are properly working prior to flight. The operator is also required to ensure that the drone at all times remains within his clear line of vision. The operator must, of course, take all necessary steps to avoid collisions; not operate the equipment in any way that may cause danger to people or property; and not fly the drone in congested areas.

Commercial Use

Any commercial usage of a drone or other SUA is subject to approval and licensing requirements which are strictly observed. The owner/operator must obtain prior approval from the CAACI and obtain a business licence from the Department of Commerce and Investment.

If the drone is to be used for commercial purposes such as aerial work or surveillance, permission must first be obtained from the CAACI. Permission is obtained by submitting an application form together with a detailed Operations Manual, a complete evaluation checklist and a fee of \$2,000. On average, the CAACI receives two applications per month, which suggests there is not a lot of activity in this area, compared to other countries, such as the United States and Canada.

Drones with cameras or video equipment are restricted from flying:

- over and above 150 meters of any congested area or organized open-air assembly of more than 1,000 persons;
- within 50 meters of any vessel, vehicle or structure (not under the control of the drone operator); or
- within 50 meters of any person or 30 meters during take-off or landing (not including the operator).

With the increased use of drones particular by drone hobbyists and the potential risks of accidents involving conventional aircrafts, the CAACI has

issued additional restrictions which affect drone operators. This includes “no fly zones” within the Cayman Islands’ three airports and the prisons. In these cases, it is illegal to fly a drone within three nautical miles of any of the airports or one nautical mile of the prisons. While the Cayman Islands Law Reports do not yet contain any cases relating to breaches, the CAACI was no doubt influenced by the reported spike in usage of these drones, particularly in the vicinity of the Owen Roberts International Airport. The CAACI’s Direction was also likely influenced by reports from other parts of the world showing the role that drones and other SUA have played in smuggling contraband into prisons and breaching security systems. As such, the CAACI’s Direction is aimed at enhancing security in the Cayman Islands, especially in relation to its prisons.

There is currently no requirement under the regulations for drones to be registered. The Federal Aviation Authority in the United States had previously imposed a registration requirement which is now under review. Similarly, Cayman Islands regulations do not require operators to have a special flight operations certificate as required in Canada.

Enforcement

The CAACI is responsible for ensuring compliance of the laws relating to SUA in the Cayman Islands. An operator, who fails to comply with these laws, may be guilty of an offence and liable to a fine not exceeding \$6,000 or imprisonment for a period not exceeding two years, or both. Interestingly, there have been no prosecutions to date, which could suggest that there is relative compliance in this area. Whether this is real or perceived, only time will tell, as more persons become knowledgeable about their rights and obligations in relation to drones. The CAACI attributes compliance to its ongoing partnership with the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service, in bringing about educational awareness and safety training seminars. Safety is the

overriding concern for the CAACI who have confirmed that there have been no reports or incidents arising since the introduction of the laws. By way of comparison, there have been recent reports of prosecution in the use of laser-type lights which were shone at a police helicopter, with the overriding concern being for the safety of the aircraft.

As drones continue to grow in popularity, there will likely be an emerging number of disputes regarding their use. It is anticipated that legislation in relation to the use of drones and other SUA will evolve over time to keep pace with technological advancement. An interesting point to consider is how to best ensure that these drones comply with privacy laws. Operators are prohibited from flying their drone within 50 meters of a person, building or structure, or overhead groups of people at any height.

Protecting Privacy and Elements of Data Protection

Apart from safety issues the privacy issues and potential harassment actions connected with drones and other SUA are likely to create the most fertile ground for disputes, which will no doubt occupy many legal minds and cause a growth spurt to the currently bare case law in Cayman. There may also be data protection concerns especially with new regulations and legislation. The European Union’s General Data Protection Regulation (“GDPR”), came into force on May 25, 2018 and sets a single data protection standard across the EU which gives individuals more control over their personal data and considerably raises the stakes where there are breaches. Added to this is the Cayman Islands Data Protection Law, which comes in to force early next year and is intended to give the Cayman Islands a modern framework for protection against the misuse of individuals’ personal data, which would include identifiable images of people captured by drones with cameras. While the Cayman Data Protection Law, based on international best practice, only speaks to the actions of people or

companies within its borders, the EU's GDPR regulates the export of personal data outside the European Union and has extra-territorial effect. This means that, regardless of where it is located, any entity that holds or processes personal data on an EU subject must comply with the EU directive or face severe penalties which can be as crippling as EUR 20 million or 4% of the company's annual turnover, whichever is higher. Under Cayman's Data Protection Law, refusing to comply with an order would be an offence, with the data controller (the individual who determines what data is being processed and why) subject to a fine of CI\$100,000 or five years in jail.

Both the EU GDPR and Cayman's Data Protection Law emphasize the requirement of "consent" to varying degrees and the duty to ensure that explicit consent has been given by individuals for their personal data to be obtained and held. It is anticipated that proper "consent" (or lack thereof) to

drone recordings could feature prominently in privacy disputes relating to the use of drones and other SUA and the sharing of images obtained in that flight. By their very nature, drones can unobtrusively hover overhead and capture photographs and other personal information relating to the "unwitting victim" below.

It is noted that Canada's regulations on drone use include recommendations that drones should be flown during daylight hours and in good weather and the drone operator should respect the privacy of others.

It may well be that regulations regarding drone use in Cayman will need to be refined to ensure that all such matters are clearly stated.

Conclusion

Drones, perhaps, represent to the aviation industry in Cayman the huge steps taken in the general development

of these Islands over the last 70+ years. We have come a long way since the Catalina first touched down on our shores. From a regulatory standpoint, the drone forms part of a rapidly moving business, which will present challenges as it evolves. While Cayman has a controlled regime, this is in large part due to the size of the Islands and the current low degree of commercial activity involving drones. As the drone industry matures and new technologies and uses are introduced, additional challenges and regulation can be expected. We also look forward to some interesting case law in this region, which we think is inevitable. 

***Article first published in TerraLex Connections - August 2018 issue.**



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Theo Burrows Receives 'Millennial of the Year' Award




Theo Burrows was awarded the Millennial of the Year honour at the Bahamas Financial Services Board (BFSB) recent financial services awards gala dinner.

Theo Burrows, who specializes in private client and wealth management work, said: "I am thankful to BFSB for

selecting me as the 2018 Millennial of the Year. I encourage my peers in the industry to keep striving towards excellence as I look forward to passing the baton to next year's recipient."

Theo's practice focuses on trusts, wills, estate planning, foundations,

private trust companies, company law and international commercial contracts.

Theo is a Director of the STEP Bahamas branch and has been invited to participate in the planning for the STEP Caribbean conference 2019 which will be held in The Bahamas. 

At The Cutting Edge

How Bahamian trust law continues to keep pace with international developments

Sharmon Y. Ingraham



The Bahamas has a long, deeply rooted, trust law history originating in its colonial past as a part of the British Empire. While recognising its rich trust law heritage, The Bahamas' financial services industry continues to develop, modernise and implement initiatives consistent with best practices and a view to addressing the needs of its clientele. In addition to its trust law products, The Bahamas has implemented legislation to enable the creation of private law foundations and private trust companies, the latter of which is subject to light touch regulation by the Central Bank of The Bahamas. However recent amendments have been made to the trust legislation and will be the primary focus of this article.

In keeping with its objective to adhere to best practices, The Bahamas through the Automatic Exchange of Financial Account Information Act 2016 (the "AEOFI Act") has incorporated into Bahamian law the Common Reporting Standard ("CRS")

created by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development. The AEOFI Act became enforceable on 1st January 2017. The AEOFI Act is supplemented by Regulations, which also became effective in 2017. The CRS regime impacts Bahamian law trusts where there are ties to participating CRS jurisdictions.

While addressing mechanisms to ensure the industry is well regulated and adheres to international standards, modification of Bahamian trust legislation is made periodically to ensure the evolving needs of the industry are met. The Trustee Act 1998, a cornerstone of the industry, was recently amended. An important amendment was a provision concerning the Rule in Hastings-Bass ("the Rule"), as derived from the English Court of Appeal decision in *Re Hastings-Bass* [1975] Ch. 25.

After the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom decision in *Pitt v HMRC, Futter v HMRC* [2013] UKSC 25, concerns arose

on the application of the Rule. The new section 91C of the Trustee Act seeks to reinstate the Rule in Bahamian law as it had been applied in The Bahamas prior to the *Pitt* and *Futter* decision. The provision grants the court the discretion to set aside an exercise of fiduciary power on an application commenced by a beneficiary, trustee, protector, authorised applicant, power holder, the Attorney General or any other person with the leave of the court. The court may also deem an exercise of fiduciary power to be voidable under the section and further empowers the court to adapt its order to the particular circumstances before it.

Other recent amendments to the Trustee Act include (i) clarification of the scope of a release which an outgoing trustee may obtain and (ii) an extension of the protection under a trust instrument concerning the alienation of trust property. While the statutory provision originally restricted the indemnity which could be obtained by a departing trustee, it did not also restrict the release granted to such trustee. With the amendment, the provisions on indemnities and releases to trustees are now uniform in that a trustee is unable to obtain an indemnity or release in respect of liabilities arising from a breach of trust or which the trustee would otherwise not be entitled to a release or indemnity.


The Trustee Act now enables a settlor or donor of a trust to be protected under provisions regarding the inalienability of trust assets. Accordingly, in the event a settlor or donor becomes bankrupt, such provisions can limit recourse to the assets of the trust through the insolvent settlor or donor to meet claims of creditors. While offering further protection to settlors and donors who are also beneficiaries, this provision is subject to the Fraudulent Dispositions

Act. Accordingly, a creditor is not precluded by the amended Trustee Act provisions from pursuing legitimate claims under the Fraudulent Dispositions Act.

Finally, the Trusts (Choice of Governing Law) Act 1989 ("TCGL Act") has also been recently amended. The TCGL Act amendment extends the scope of the

Bahamian firewall provisions. Consequently, foreign orders obtained against a beneficiary as a result of a personal relationship are unenforceable against the Bahamian trust.

The recent amendments ensure that Bahamian trust law continue to keep pace with modern developments. Other measures are being considered, including

legislation regarding valid and effective execution by a trustee acting for both sides and the use of seals, which would continue the quest to adapt to and address industry changes. 

***Article first published in Trust Bahamas - September 2018 issue.**



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Protection of the Fruits of Advice by Privilege

Philip S. Boni

The doctrine of legal professional privilege will most commonly arise where a party is requested to produce documents in the course of litigation, but may also arise in other specific circumstances, for example under the Confidential Information Disclosure Law, 2016.

There are a number of situations where document disclosure can arise in the Cayman Islands however this article will focus on the principles of legal professional privilege as it applies to document disclosure in litigation, pursuant to the Grand Court Rules ("GCR"), which govern civil procedure. In particular GCR Order 24, which provides for discovery of documents in a party's 'possession, custody or power'.

Discovery

When an order for document disclosure is made under GCR Order 24, the parties must file a list of documents, which will indicate those documents over which privilege from production or inspection is claimed. This article will consider legal professional privilege which is divided into communications which are

privileged:

- where there is no litigation pending: 'legal advice privilege'; and
- when litigation is pending, which is referred to as 'litigation privilege'.

Legal Advice Privilege

The English case of *Three Rivers District Council* spoke to the privilege which can exist even where there is no pending litigation. Lord Scott noted that the framework of society was built upon "a belief in the rule of law, that communications between clients and lawyers, whereby the clients are hoping for assistance of the lawyers' legal skills in the management of their [the clients'] affairs, should be secure against the possibility of any scrutiny from others, whether the police, the executive, business competitors, inquisitive bodies or anyone else".

Litigation Privilege

When litigation is pending, the application of the 'legal professional privilege' principle can be complicated because it involves two separate sets of

communications: firstly, those between the legal adviser and third parties when the attorney is seeking information or evidence to formulate the legal proceedings; and, secondly, communications between a party, the legal adviser and the third party.

Case Law in the Cayman Islands

In the case of *Attorney General vs. Bridger (2015 (1) CILR 206)* the plaintiff applied for an injunction to prevent the defendant from relying on a number of privileged documents in defence of an action for misfeasance in public office. The defendant was a well-respected officer in the Metropolitan Police Force in London who was brought to the Cayman Islands as a senior investigating officer in a case called "Operation Tempura". As part of the defendant's defence, he wished to show that he had received legal advice at every stage of the investigation. He, therefore, showed the plaintiff several documents, which had been created during the operation, which the defendant retained. The Attorney General alleged that he had emphasised that the documents were


privileged and that the defendant was not entitled to retain the documents or to disclose them to any other party. The defendant changed his legal representation and then sought to rely upon the documents in his defence. The Attorney General applied for an injunction to prevent him from relying on these documents because they were subject to legal advice privilege. On the subject of privilege, Williams J in reaching his decision noted that the defendant had “failed to address the issues in question” and had filed an affidavit “not directed to the specific issue of legal privilege and who was entitled to waive it”.

Privilege in Cayman Islands

It certainly can be said that privilege is an area of law which is still developing in the Cayman Islands, and which is of great practical importance. It may be the view of the Cayman Courts as a reputable Offshore Financial Centre that the rule of law requires that individuals can obtain legal advice in private and this should remain sacrosanct.

Arguments regarding legal professional privilege will no doubt continue to be brought before the courts and will continue the development of the doctrine in this jurisdiction. Hopefully, raising the issue of privilege will not be an afterthought but will be uppermost in

the minds of legal advisers where the discovery or disclosure of documents is required.

The courts of the Cayman Islands in well-reasoned decisions will continue to decide when the “fruits” of legal advice should be privileged, and by doing so will continue to enhance the jurisprudence of the jurisdiction. 

***Adapted from *Protection of the Fruits of Advice by Privilege* - TerraLex Connections - November 2017**



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Firm Ranked Among Top Global Firms in Chambers High Net Worth Guide



Philip C. Dunkley, QC

Higgs & Johnson’s leading law firm status has been confirmed by Chambers and Partners in its annual publication Chambers High Net Worth (2018). The guide that covers offshore trusts noted that the firm is known to have “a strong reputation”, with sources stating that “they are top-tier without question”. The firm received the highest ranking (Band 1) and was recognized for being “very responsive, knowledgeable and experts in their field”.



Dr. Earl A. Cash

Chambers Commentary for Ranked Attorneys


Philip Dunkley QC is lauded as a commercial and chancery disputes specialist. Sources state that he is “very highly regarded for his work on litigation matters and is an industry leader” with interviewees also attesting to his trustworthiness.

“Well regarded as a leading practitioner”, Dr. Earl Cash is recognized for the skillful handling



Heather L. Thompson

of trust establishment and administration. Sources praise him as being a “solid trusts lawyer.”

Ranked as a Senior Statesperson, Heather Thompson, is “very highly respected in the trusts field and has an excellent, international reputation”. Clients emphasize that she is “very knowledgeable about trusts and methodical in her research”. 

Annual Firm Seminar



Oscar N. Johnson, Jr with invited speakers Minister Symonette and Christina Rolle and fellow partner, Dr. Earl A. Cash.



Invited speaker Giev Askari with seminar attendees Edmund Rahming and Chavez Johnson.



Mechelle Martinborough (Securities Commission of The Bahamas) and Partner, Zarina Fitzgerald.



H&J Attorneys, Nia Rolle, Jonathan Deal and Andre Hill with seminar attendee.



H&J attorneys and staff participating and attending the annual seminar.



Seminar attendees enjoy coffee and conversation during the networking break.



Partner, Tara Archer-Glasgow with seminar attendees during the networking break.




Eldridge McPhee (JP Morgan) with fellow seminar attendees during the networking break.

HIGGS & JOHNSON hosted its annual client seminar under the theme *'Thriving in Transformative Times'*. Global Managing Director, Oscar N. Johnson, Jr. delivered welcome remarks. Opening remarks were given by the Minister of Financial Services, Trade & Industry and Immigration, the Hon. Brent Symonette, MP.

The seminar delivered interesting and thought-provoking presentations on issues currently evolving the financial services sector. The sessions addressed the increasingly widespread use of blockchain technology and its challenges; provided insight into the Securities Regulators' perspective on crypto-assets; discussed ways in which to leverage the Commercial Enterprises Act; and summarized relevant US tax and reporting issues with a focus on opportunities and solutions. There was also an interactive session that encouraged attendees to engage in discussions on a case study highlighting the relationship between CRS and trusts.

The seminar concluded with a lively and entertaining talk by lunch time guest speaker, Gowon Bowe - Group Chief Financial Officer at Fidelity Bank & Trust International Limited.

The seminar hosted a cadre of interesting and prominent speakers from many different sectors of economics, finance and technology. Higgs & Johnson speakers included Bahamas partners, Portia Nicholson and Paul Davis; Senior Associate Alexandra Hall and Associates Ja'Ann Major and Andre Hill.

Invited guest speakers included Giev Askari - Senior Wealth Planner at HSBC Private Banking and Christina Rolle - Executive Director of the Securities Commission of The Bahamas. 

Attorneys Participate in the IBA AGM in Rome



Senior litigator and asset recovery specialist Tara Archer-Glasgow, was nominated Vice Chair of the Poverty & Social Development Sub-committee and participated in its executive meeting in advance of their session at this year's International Bar Association's (IBA) Annual Conference. Tara also sits on the editorial board of the IBA Dispute Resolution Section's publication and previously served as the secretary treasurer of the IBA's Poverty & Social Development Subcommittee.

Senior Associate, Audley Hanna was also in attendance and co-chaired the consumer litigation showcase panel entitled "Collective redress and other options available to consumers in relation to their data, data privacy and software rights". Hanna was the only Caribbean participant on a six-member panel of experienced legal practitioners and cutting-edge academics. He was also elected Chair of the Consumer Litigation Committee during the conference.

The conference is the legal profession's largest international event and featured more than 200 conference sessions and seminars on various branches of law, new trends in the development of legal business, and main legal changes in countries that affect the global legal landscape.

Firm Sponsors STEP LATAM



Cecil Ferguson (Chairman STEP Bahamas), Sharmon Ingraham & Theo Burrows

The firm was pleased to sponsor STEP LaTam, the pre-eminent conference for wealth structuring and trust and estate practitioners. In attendance were attorneys Sharmon Ingraham and Theo Burrows, both Directors of the STEP Bahamas Branch. The theme of this year's conference highlighted the merging of common law and civil law identifying same as the cross-roads of the future. Boasting the largest attendance to date, this conference brought together decision makers and industry leading players from within Latin America and around the globe.

Gina Berry Chairs Transplant Council



Following the recent implementation of the Human Tissue Transplant Law in the Cayman Islands, paving the way for local organ donations and transplants, the Caymanian government appointed Country Managing Partner - Gina Berry as the chair of the Human Tissue Transplant Council.

New Attorney Joins Commercial Practice group



Corey Brown, upon completing his pupillage, joined the firm as an Associate in the Commercial Transactions and Financial Services, Insurance Law and Regulation practice groups.