



BIO DATA – HON. KENNETH BENJAMIN, CHIEF JUSTICE OF BELIZE

The Hon. Chief Justice Kenneth Benjamin was born in Georgetown, Guyana, South America where he attended Queen's College. In 1972, he was awarded the Guyana Scholarship and proceeded to read law at the University of the West Indies from which he graduated with the Bachelor of Laws degree in 1975. After receiving professional training at the Hugh Wooding Law School in Trinidad and Tobago, he was admitted to practise in Guyana in 1977. He was an associate of the firm of Clarke & Martin, Solicitors until 1980 when he became a sole practitioner. During that time, Chief Justice Benjamin acted as a stipendiary Magistrate and was appointed Assistant Judge Advocate of the Guyana Defence Force. He moved to Antigua/Barbuda where he served as Magistrate and subsequently Chief Magistrate between 1988 and 1993. Thereafter, he ascended the Bench of the High Court of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court and sat as Resident Judge in Antigua/Barbuda, Montserrat, British Virgin Islands and Grenada. Prior to taking up his appointment in Belize, he was the Presiding Judge of the Criminal Division of the High Court of Saint Lucia. He has also sat in the Court of Appeal of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court.

Presently, he is the Chief Justice of Belize in Central America as of September 15, 2011. He has led initiatives in criminal justice reform and he has partnered with UNICEF to introduce child friendly family courts in Belize. The civil process has seen

the introduction of mediation and is soon to have court-connected arbitration available. The groundwork is being laid for the piloting of a drug treatment court.

He is a member of the Commonwealth Magistrates and Judges Association as well as a Fellow and Patron of the Commonwealth Judicial Education Institute. He has been Chairperson of the Conference of Heads of Judiciary and Chief Justices of the Caribbean Community from May 2014 to May 2017.

The Chief Justice is married with two adult children.