

# THE JAMAICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

## JUST RIGHTS

### 1. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Thirty-Third Annual General Meeting of the Jamaican Bar Association will be held on Saturday, February 23, 2013 at the Institute of Jamaica, 10-16 East Street, Kingston at 10: 00 a.m. The Bar Council is urging members to attend and participate in the affairs of your Bar, including voting for officers and members of Council. Please ensure that your membership dues are current.

The Jamaican Bar Association Audited Financial Statements for the year ended September 30, 2012 are available on our website: [www.jambar.org](http://www.jambar.org). Members are invited to peruse them as soon as possible and to submit any queries to the Bar office.

### 2. BENEFITS TO BAR MEMBERS

The following are some of the benefits available to paid-up members of the Bar:

- (a) access to a **“suite of financial benefits”** due to the Bar’s agreement with the Bank of Nova Scotia Jamaica Limited. This will include members having potential access to billions of dollars at discounted interest rates or more favourable terms in relation to, inter alia, business start-up capital or loans; mortgages and motor vehicle facilities or loans;
- (b) discounted motor vehicle insurance premiums via ICWI, Spectrum Insurance Brokers and Guardian Insurance Brokers;
- (c) discounted costs to our Continuing Legal Education (“CLE”) seminars this is particularly important now with the advent of mandatory Continuing Professional Development via the amendment to the Legal Profession Act;
- (d) discounted fees for membership at Spartan Health Club/gym;
- (e) a free copy of our new, improved JAMBAR Journal newsletter to be published every quarter;
- (f) access to the legal material (*“mini library”*) at the Bar’s office;
- (g) discounted ticket cost for Bar events, such as **“Bar Beat”**; and

(h) discounted costs on stationery or other purchases at INC Limited, Liguanea Mall, St. Andrew (next to the post office).

### **3. LEGAL PROFESSION AMENDMENT ACT("LPAA")**

The Legal Profession Amendment Act was gazetted and became law in December 2012. This has significant implications for all members of the Bar particularly the provisions relating to continuing legal professional development ("CLPD") protection of clients' property and intervention in the practices of attorneys-at-law. The Regulations regarding CLPD will soon be gazetted. The Bar Council is urging all members to familiarize themselves with this landmark piece of legislation and to work with, or support, the General Legal Council to improve our profession.

### **4. SEMINAR**

A Continuing Legal Education Seminar will be held at the Norman Manley Law School on **February 2, 2013 at 9:00 a.m.** to discuss Case Management in Criminal Matters in the Supreme Court. Presenters will include: the Hon. Chief Justice Mrs. Zaila McCalla, Dennis Morrison, JA, the President of the Bar and representatives from the private bar and the DPP's office. This is the Bar's first seminar for 2013 and is of particular importance having regard, inter alia, to the backlog of criminal cases in the Courts and the enactment of the Legal Profession Amendment Act. All are invited to attend especially practitioners at the Criminal Bar.

### **5. NEW LEGISLATION**

The Bar has received the following Bills from the House of Parliament (Gordon House):

- An Act to Amend the Spirit Licence Act (**Act No. 10/12**)
- An Act to Amend the Public Debt Management Act (**Act No. 11/12**)
- An Act to provide for the admissibility in criminal and civil proceedings and Coroner's inquests of evidence by the use of special measures, and for matters connected therewith and purposes incidental thereto. (**Act No. 12/12**)
- An Act to Amend the Consumer Protection Act (**Act No. 13/12**)

- An Act to Amend the National Insurance Act; and for connected matters  
**(Act No. 14/12)**

## 6. NOTICES

- The Bar, represented by the President and General Manager Sandra Tapper, made a donation of \$50,000 to the Glenhope Place of Safety on Tuesday, January 28, 2013. This matched a donation made by the Bar in December 2012 to “The Academy”, an institution for challenged children.
- The Bar Association recently received a letter from the Commissioner General of Tax Administration Jamaica (TAJ) - inviting all Attorneys-at-Law to file their various Tax Returns on or before March 15, 2013. These returns can be filed electronically at [www.jamaicatax-online.gov.jm](http://www.jamaicatax-online.gov.jm)
- The Bar Association is working with the Ministry of Justice to ensure that a law is passed as quickly as possible authorising interim payments in Supreme Court matters.
- On Thursday, February 14, 2013 the Bar will be meeting with Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) officials, including Canadian Judges and Court Administrators and other stakeholders to discuss the criminal case management and case-flow management aspects of the JUST Program Workplan. Any member with any suggestions, please do not hesitate to let us have your thoughts and ideas so we may put them forward.
- Restorative Justice Week will be held February 3-8 under the theme **“Restore the Peace, Restore the Love, Restore the Kindness”**. The Ministry of Justice has invited members of the Bar to attend one of the scheduled activities: **International Restorative Justice Conference and Public Lecture** on Friday, February 8 at 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Knutsford Court Hotel, 11 Ruthven Road, Kingston 10. Members are invited to contact the Bar office urgently and indicate if they are interested in attending.
- The Caribbean Bar Conference will be held in Cape Town, South Africa in **April 2013**.

The following group packages are being offered by Quest Travel:

Delegate & Spouse (guest (non delegate) sharing double occupancy  
US\$18780.

Delegate (double occupancy/sharing with another Delegate) US\$9000.

All rates revert after 27<sup>th</sup> November 2012  
Delegate and Spouse US\$US21450  
Delegate sharing with another delegate US\$10450  
Guest sharing with another guest US\$11000 Single Occupancy and Business  
Class Quotes Available

Contact Dr. Margaret Green for details  
E-mail [questravelgreen@gmail.com](mailto:questravelgreen@gmail.com)  
Phone 9956865

## **7. REPORTS/PUBLICATIONS**

- Lexis Nexis books are available at the Bar's office for sale at discounted prices.
- Criminal Bar Quarterly (CBQ) Issue 3 Autumn 2012
- Interights Bulletin Volume 17 Number 1 Summer 2012
- Criminal Law & Justice Weekly (CL&J) Vol. 176 No. 50
- Fair Trading Commission Vol. XVII January 2013

Please contact Miss Tapper/Wilmot for further information.

4. **JAMBAR CONTACT**: The Association's offices are located at 78 Harbour Street, Kingston. The telephone numbers are 967-3394; 967-9034; 967-3783 (fax); Email: [jba@flowja.com](mailto:jba@flowja.com).  
Website: [www.jambar.org](http://www.jambar.org).

5. **PRESIDENT'S CONTACT INFORMATION**: Email may also be sent to the president at [president@jambar.org](mailto:president@jambar.org) or [iangwilkinson@wilkinsonlawja.com](mailto:iangwilkinson@wilkinsonlawja.com) .

***Ian Wilkinson***  
***President***  
***The Jamaican Bar Association***  
***January 2013***