

● TO THE MEMORY OF MR. CALVIN AUGUSTUS HAMILTON ●

■ The **Ciarb Caribbean Branch** joins the global ADR community in mourning the loss and reflecting on the life of the late **Calvin A. Hamilton, C.Arb, FCI Arb**. In this special edition of **The Ciaribbean News**, issued on his birthday, Branch members and other colleagues pay tribute to Calvin and celebrate his life, his work and his accomplishments.

Calvin Hamilton was a native of Guyana who, with a BSc in Finance and Accounting, started a career in banking in New York, USA; but he became fascinated with law and so, went on to achieve a Juris Doctor (JD) and a Master of Arts in Law and Diplomacy. Following a chance meeting with a leading Spanish arbitrator, he relocated to Madrid establishing a career in law and international arbitration.

Calvin is survived by his widow, Bettina, and their two daughters, Miriam and Laura, to whom the **Ciarb Caribbean Branch** extends sincere condolences. ▲

■ *The opening tribute is by Sir Dennis Byron, Patron of the **Ciarb Caribbean Branch**.*

Calvin Hamilton, who taught at the University of the West Indies (UWI) Cave Hill Campus, was an established lawyer in Spain, after having been admitted in New York. He was an exceptional talent in the field of arbitration, and he did a lot of work in helping to build out the arbitration and ADR eco-system across the region. May his soul rest in peace. ▲

■ *Tribute by Justice Dr. Anthony Gafoor, Chair of the **Ciarb Caribbean Branch**.*

Calvin Hamilton's outstanding contributions to the regional growth of arbitration and dispute resolution in general were internationally recognised. His efforts as an arbitrator, registered with various domestic, regional and international dispute resolution bodies, were coupled with his sterling contribution, in an administrative capacity, to the growth and development of the **Ciarb Barbados Chapter** which he formerly chaired, but also by being a member of the **Ciarb Caribbean Branch** Committee.

More recently, he was co-author of the Institute for Transnational Arbitration (ITA) Report with recommendations on the future of arbitration in the region. His various contributions and erudite advice were always focused on the practicalities of arbitration as a dispute resolution mechanism.

He was also a tutor for the various arbitration courses which **Ciarb** offered via the Branch. He composed and directed mock arbitrations throughout the region which helped to illustrate the significance of arbitration as an invaluable dispute resolution tool. His pioneering efforts, coupled with a friendly and sincere approach, were well regarded by all who encountered him and his presence will undoubtedly be missed. ▲



Calvin Hamilton, C.Arb FCI Arb
1952 – 2024

● TO THE MEMORY OF MR. CALVIN AUGUSTUS HAMILTON ●

■ **Tribute by Hon. Barry Leon, Vice Chair of the Ciarb Caribbean Branch and Co-Chair of the ITA Americas Initiative Caribbean Task Force.**

Calvin Hamilton, who I knew for almost 25 years going back to International Bar Association's (IBA) annual conferences, was a wonderful person – thoughtful, dedicated, creative, loving life, enjoying his work, and highly committed to the development of arbitration in the Caribbean.

Calvin recently completed his terms as an International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) International Court of Arbitration member. He was instrumental in developing the IMPACT Justice Model Arbitration Bill, 2022 – model legislation tailored for the Caribbean that is compliant with the UNCITRAL Model Law.

For the past three years, we worked together closely as Co-chairs of the ITA Americas Initiative Caribbean Task Force, with Theominique Nottage as Deputy Chair. Less than two weeks before his death, we co-chaired, together with Dr. Crina Baltag, an UNCITRAL Latin America-Caribbean (LAC) Day webinar over two half-days, co-presented with the ITA and the UWI Cave Hill Campus' Faculty of Law. Calvin spoke a few times and moderated one of the four sessions.

Calvin spent part of what would be his last summer attending the Paris Olympics and enjoying all that Paris has to offer. Despite knowing that he had health issues, his death came as a shock to many. Thank you for so much, my dear friend! ▲

■ **Tribute by Mrs. Nicola Berry, a member of the Ciarb Barbados Chapter.**

Calvin Hamilton was a pillar to the Caribbean arbitration community and his loss is profoundly felt. He was dedicated to the development and growth of arbitration in the Caribbean region. He had a kind demeanour and was generous with his knowledge on arbitration. May his soul rest in peace.▲

■ **Tribute by Ms. Shan Greer, former Chair of the Ciarb Caribbean Branch.**

The arbitration community mourns the loss of **Calvin Hamilton**, a remarkable individual and a giant in the field of arbitration. Calvin was not only a trailblazer in the international legal and arbitration community but also a kind and generous mentor whose wisdom and guidance touched countless lives, including mine. His dedication to advancing dispute resolution in our region was unparalleled and his contributions will leave an enduring legacy. Whether advocating for excellence in arbitration or sharing his deep insights with the next generation, Calvin's passion and commitment were evident in everything he did.

On a personal level, I will forever cherish his friendship and unwavering belief in the potential of the Caribbean to stand tall on the global stage. His encouragement, especially during challenging times, was a source of strength for me and many others.

To his family, colleagues and friends, my heart goes out to you during this difficult time. Calvin's light may have dimmed, but his impact will continue to shine brightly in our hearts and the work we do. Rest in peace, Calvin. Your legacy lives on. ▲

■ **Tribute by Dr. Grenville Phillips II, a member of the Ciarb Barbados Chapter.**

I have been fortunate to have been taught international arbitration by **Calvin Hamilton**, and after becoming a Member of **Ciarb**, working with him. His fair and well-reasoned arguments were written with an elegance that normally comes with being a senior practitioner in the field.

My singular regret is that I did not engage him in topics outside of the profession. His unexpected departure has strengthened my resolve to do better in this regard. My condolences to his family and all who loved him. ▲

● TO THE MEMORY OF MR. CALVIN AUGUSTUS HAMILTON ●

■ **Tribute by Prof. Emerita Velma Newton, former Dean, Faculty of Law, UWI, Cave Hill Campus, and Regional Project Director, IMPACT Justice.**

Calvin Hamilton joined the staff of the Faculty of Law, UWI, Cave Hill Campus shortly after I became Dean in 2009. The students developed a deep admiration for him, as did other persons in the region who attended seminars at which he showed his love for, and deep knowledge of, arbitration procedures.

What I remember most is that his lectures started on time, unless something had happened for which he always apologised; they were well organised and he made sure that everyone understood the points being made before he moved onto others. He was always able to assemble an impressive team of fellow arbitrators from various countries at very short notice.

He made a great contribution to the development of the IMPACT Justice Model Arbitration Bill, 2022, which was later adopted by the CARICOM Secretariat as a model recommended for adoption by countries in the region, with only a few amendments.

He assembled a competent team of arbitrators to deliver a series of seven online workshops explaining the Model Bill to select stakeholders in his native Guyana providing a roadmap to the implementation of a new arbitration law. Seeing the Guyana Arbitration Act 2024 come to fruition must have been very pleasing to him.

Calvin spoke often and with pride of his family, especially his wife and daughters. The staff and students of the Faculty of Law and the staff of the IMPACT Justice Project, to which he made a tremendous contribution, thank them for sharing him with us. He is gone, but will live on in our hearts for a long time. May he rest in peace. ▲

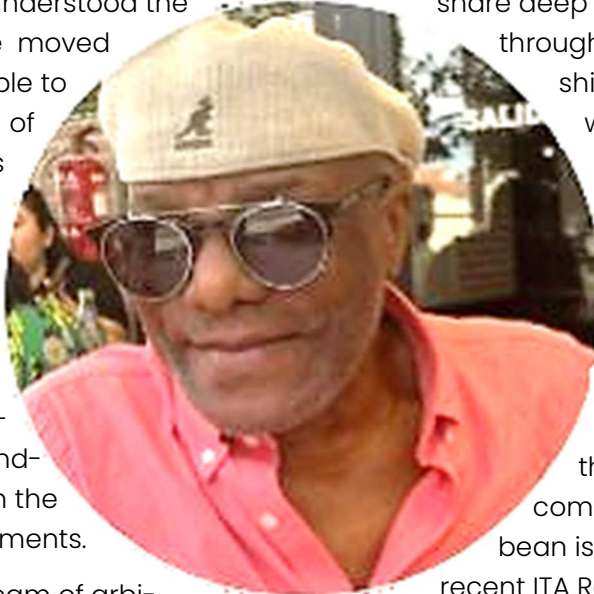
■ **Tribute by Ms. Salma Rahaman, Secretary of the Ciarb Trinidad and Tobago Chapter.**

Calvin Hamilton's passing came as a shock to all of us in the Caribbean, particularly since we had the privilege of interacting with him just a few weeks ago during the recent webinar series hosted by the UWI Cave Hill Campus, UNCITRAL and the ITA. His significant contribution to that series stood as a testament to his commitment to advancing knowledge and education in the field of international commercial arbitration.

In my personal interactions with Calvin, I found him to be a person of rare generosity, always willing to share deep insights and expertise. Whether through guidance, advice or mentorship, he offered support selflessly, with a kindness that made him a valued and trusted figure. I recall a particularly impactful conversation where he took the time to carefully explain complex arbitration concepts with such patience and clarity.

Calvin's steadfast dedication to the development of international commercial arbitration in the Caribbean is immeasurable. His work on the recent ITA Report and his instrumental contribution to the CARICOM recommended IMPACT Justice Model Arbitration Bill stand as powerful examples of his vision, determination and tireless effort to improve the landscape of arbitration in our region. He was not only a thought leader, but also a champion of the Caribbean's role on the global stage of arbitration and his influence will undoubtedly continue to shape the field for years.

We are deeply grateful to have known Calvin, and his legacy will forever remain with us, both in the institutions he helped strengthen and in the personal memories he leaves behind. Our heartfelt condolences go out to his family and colleagues. ▲



● TO THE MEMORY OF MR. CALVIN AUGUSTUS HAMILTON ●

■ *Tribute by Dr. Hans Mahncke, former Lecturer, UWI.*

It is with heavy hearts and deep sadness that we heard of the unexpected passing of our dear friend, **Calvin Hamilton**, who left us far too soon. Calvin was not only a brilliant lawyer and arbitrator but, more importantly, a wonderful husband and father, a source of wisdom, and a cherished friend. His insight will be profoundly missed by all who knew him.

I had the privilege of knowing Calvin for many years – years filled with adventure, laughter, late-night discussions, and the kind of quiet moments that linger long after they have passed. We arrived in Barbados together, both starting fresh in a new country. Our first few weeks were spent in the same hotel, and before long, we found ourselves living as neighbours. Over the years, our friendship deepened as we traveled together to distant places. We spent countless hours in cafés, lost in conversation, where we would debate everything from the latest Supreme Court rulings to the very nature of existence. Each discussion, whether profound or lighthearted, was a testament to the curiosity and camaraderie we shared. No matter where the conversation led, Calvin always offered the most thoughtful and nuanced perspectives.

One of the things I will miss most about Calvin is his extraordinary wisdom. It was not the kind that called attention to itself through grand gestures or dramatic moments. Instead, it was woven into the quiet way he listened – fully, without judgment – and then shared his insights, always with a gentle touch and a unique blend of charm and persuasion. Whether we were untangling legal puzzles or contemplating the meaning of life over a glass of his favorite rum, Calvin had the rare gift of being both profoundly wise and deeply humble, effortlessly balancing insight with an openness that made him all the more remarkable.

It is hard to envision a world without Calvin. It feels a little less vibrant, a little dimmer, and significantly

quieter without him. However, in every piece of wisdom shared, in every laugh, and in every word of encouragement, Calvin has left a legacy that will endure in the hearts of those who were fortunate enough to have known him.

Rest easy, my friend. You have moved on to whatever comes next, but your spirit, your sense of humor and your generosity will remain with us forever. You were a rare soul – wise, kind, and full of life – and you will be deeply missed. ▲

■ *Tribute by Ms. Funke Adekoya, former Chair of the Ciarb Nigeria Branch.*

I join all others who mourn **Calvin Hamilton's** passing and extend my condolences to his family.

I cannot recollect when I first met Calvin. Still, each time we interacted, we always exchanged views on how to ensure that less well-known jurisdictions took their place at the arbitration table when issues of international importance were being discussed. Our last personal interaction was in 2020 as participants in a **Ciarb** webinar which focused on arbitration on the African continent. As usual, he gave practical and impartial advice. He was passionate about the development of arbitration in the Caribbean, where he lived, and eager to promote relationships between the Caribbean and the African continent. May his soul repose in peace. ▲

■ *Tribute by Ms. Nancy Thevenin, Adjunct Professor, St. John's University School of Law, NY.*

Calvin Hamilton's loss is deeply felt by many of us around the world. For me, he was a mentor, guide, beacon, partner on many projects, and sounding board on many more. He freely shared his knowledge and experience about international arbitration while helping to develop the field in the Caribbean and among those less represented in the international arbitration community. Calvin's presence, personality, generosity of spirit and inimitable style will be sorely missed. Rest in peace. ▲

● TO THE MEMORY OF MR. CALVIN AUGUSTUS HAMILTON ●

■ *Tribute by Mr. Christopher Campbell, Curator and Host of 'Tales of the Tribunal' podcast.*

It was at a conference in Atlanta, Georgia, the first time I met **Calvin Hamilton** – it was over breakfast, and it was shared with several other arbitration practitioners from the Caribbean. Little did I know that this would be the first of further future meals and fellowship to come.

Calvin, along with Brent Clinkscale and Peter Maynard, all presented regular and welcome sights at various arbitration events – appearing as practitioners that looked like me and had developed successful careers in the field.

Speaking of which, in the wake of his passing, I am somehow blown away that even as someone aware of the things Calvin was working on and had accomplished, there was even more that he had been doing. More that will have to be picked up by those who knew him and appreciated his work.

Calvin was a shrewd advocate and hard-working arbitrator. While I never worked with him professionally, this much was clear from having talked with him, listened to his philosophies, worked alongside him on various projects and read his writings. I appreciated his direct manner of speaking, his tenacity and especially his heart for being a voice for the often overlooked. In his later years we worked on initiatives to create opportunities for underrepresented, young practitioners and lesser-known arbitrators – all projects that I will continue to take on in his absence.

One of the last conversations we had was about the importance of efficient conduct of arbitral proceedings and the importance of arbitrator selection in that process.

I never took advantage of the opportunity to visit him at his home – something I regret even as I write this – but his legacy will live on in his memory, in his impact and in the example he set, not for just practitioners that look like us, but for the entire international disputes community.

My heartfelt condolences to his family and loved ones. Rest in Power and Peace, Calvin. ▲

■ *Tribute by Mr. David Samuels, Managing Editor, Global Arbitration Review.*

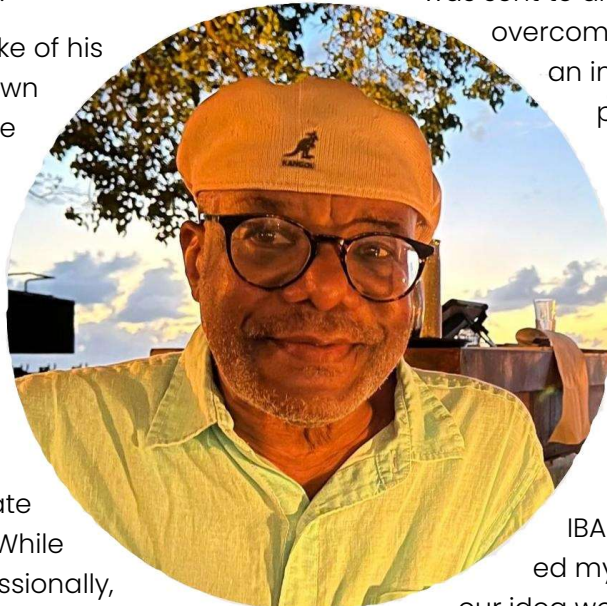
Before we started Global Arbitration Review (GAR), I was sent to an IBA conference – essentially to overcome my doubts about the idea for an international arbitration-themed publication. I wasn't sure about the people one tended to encounter in arbitration circles. They seemed a bit – untroubled by self-doubt, shall we say. Or like they expected to breathe pasteurised air. Whatever the exact quality was ... it didn't bode well.

I sat next to two people at the IBA committee dinner who changed my mind completely. I left certain our idea would work and more importantly that whatever happened these were good people. And I would enjoy their company.

One was **Calvin Hamilton**.

The rest as they say is history. Goodbye, Calvin. You left more footprints than perhaps you realised. You will be royally missed. ▲

● **Editor's Note:** Calvin Hamilton was the founding partner of **hamilton abogados**, Spain's first arbitration boutique, which was considered as a global player since 2009, consistently earning recognition among the Top 100 Arbitration practices by Global Arbitration Review.



● TO THE MEMORY OF MR. CALVIN AUGUSTUS HAMILTON ●

■ *Tribute by Ms. Tanya Goddard, Chair of the Ciarb Barbados Chapter.*

There are those persons you meet in the arbitration community who are exemplars of a great arbitrator and, for me, **Calvin Hamilton** was one.

I first met Calvin quite a few years ago at a small gathering of persons interested in revitalising the **Ciarb Barbados Chapter** at the Accra Hotel in Barbados. It was to be the first of many such enjoyable meetings as we collaborated on the development of the Chapter.

After a career spanning several decades, it would be no easy task to list all of Calvin's accolades. However, I would say that I had the privilege and pleasure of working with him on a number of projects in relation to building capacity and the development of arbitration, not only in the Caribbean but internationally as well – an experience for which I will always be grateful.

On a personal note, I will surely miss our robust discussions, not only about arbitration but life in general. His quick-witted banter and the mischievous gleam in his eyes during these exchanges always brought levity to these occasions. In addition, his reliable advice and encouraging words steadied the legs of many a young practitioner, such as myself.

We will always remember Calvin for the thought leadership, uplifting words, congenial personality and overall legacy that made Calvin the exceptional person I came to know him to be. ▲

■ *Tribute by Mr. Ron Layne and Mrs. Giselle Layne, a member and Secretary of the Ciarb Barbados Chapter, respectively.*

It was in 2019, during our introductory course to international arbitration, that we met **Calvin Hamilton**, a knowledgeable and straightforward gentleman who with ease was able to recall Articles from the New York Convention effortlessly.

He was comfortable with sharing his intellect, sharpness and experience with us and made the course highly enjoyable.

During further training, we got to see a little more of Calvin and know of his experiences. The integrity he projected and his impressiveness generally as an arbitrator and international practitioner of ADR were inspirational. He seemed comfortable with hectic schedules and international travel and was able to connect easily with his audience. He was humorous with his experiences seemingly made for anecdotes and we are sure there were many more he would have shared, if given the time.

During our time with Calvin until earlier this year, we were able to benefit further from his insights and heard summaries of his efforts to advance the profile and stature of the arbitration community. In him, our perception of what it is to be a competent, professional arbitrator coalesced. He seemed always ready to lend his assistance. It was unfortunate news to hear of his passing and like many others have, without doubt, stated: the **Ciarb Barbados Chapter** has lost a cornerstone individual. We are saddened by his passing and convey to his closest family and friends our deepest condolences. ▲

■ *Message of condolence by Mr. Cesar Pereira, former Chair of the Ciarb Brazil Branch.*

Calvin's passing is awful news. I'm very sorry to hear that. I'm thankful I got to see and interact with him at least a little again at the recent conference. My thoughts are with all of you and his family. ▲

■ *Message of condolence by Mr. Eric Franco, Chair of the Ciarb Peru Chapter.*

I am sorry to hear the news of Calvin's passing. I am happy we shared some quality time thinking about the ITA Caribbean Task Force and our UNCITRAL LAC Day's panel. He was always welcoming and brilliant. Sadly, we will not enjoy having him. It is a great loss to our arbitral community. May his soul rest in peace. ▲

● TO THE MEMORY OF MR. CALVIN AUGUSTUS HAMILTON ●

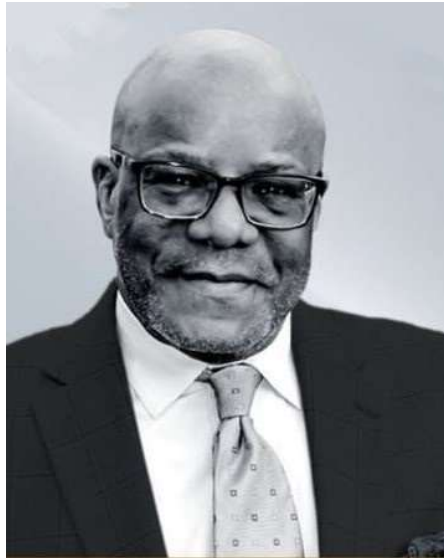
■ **Tribute by Ms. Theominique Nottage, Chair of the Ciarb Young Members Group.**

How do you know when someone is a mentor to you? Is it when someone *invests in your growth*? Or is it when they *show genuine interest* in your success and well-being? I think it must be a mixture of both coupled with an *unrelenting belief* in that person's ability to achieve success.

Calvin Hamilton has *invested in my growth*. In 2017, I was a very junior attorney with a strong interest in international arbitration. As a new Ciarb Member, I took up the mantle of Chair of the Young Arbitrator's Committee of the Ciarb Bahamas Branch.

In that role, I planned a workshop on drafting arbitral clauses and asked Calvin if he would be able to lead the workshop. He readily agreed and this was my first time working with him. What I appreciated most about this initial experience was that, notwithstanding my age or lack of seniority in the profession, he took me seriously and respected my ability to plan the workshop independently, but he was there with guidance.

As time went on, I had the opportunity to speak with Calvin regularly on building a career in international arbitration (from the Caribbean) and the development of arbitration in the Caribbean. I admired him and his career so much, that in 2019 when I was elected Young ICCA Co-chair and was asked who my favourite arbitrator was and why, I was quick to state *"Calvin Hamilton, because he represents diversity in international arbitration and he's from the Caribbean region like me!"* To me, he was representation – a black Guyanese man who had built a career in arbitration (in Spain of all places) and was known and well-respected in the international arbitration community.



In 2021, he asked me to serve as Deputy Chair of the ITA Americas Initiative Caribbean Task Force and I had the immense pleasure of working directly with him on the preparation of the Final Report and Recommendations for the ITA. This is how Calvin has invested in my growth. He has shared his knowledge and experience, provided guidance, feedback and encouragement, expanding my network.

Besides this, Calvin has *shown a genuine interest* in my success and well-being. As I reflect on my interactions with Calvin, I cannot think of any time that he did not ask about my well-being or wish me well with any initiative or project that he knew I was working on or leading. When I recently shared with

him that I had decided to return to private practice, he wished me all the very best, and characteristically ended his e-mail with *'Cheers, Calvin'*.

During my last conversation with him, ahead of the UNCITRAL LAC Day webinar, he asked how private practice was going, and as I shared details with him, he automatically assumed that I would be in a leadership role at my new firm. He said that he was sure I would do well and the firm

was lucky to have me. That was his *unrelenting belief* in my ability to achieve success, because admittedly, I was still readjusting to the demands of private practice and not sure as yet about whether I would be able to build my practice in The Bahamas as I envisioned. But there was Calvin, ever confident in my ability to succeed and excel.

When I heard that Calvin had passed, I was filled with grief, and it was in that moment that I truly recognised that all this time, without any labels, he had been a mentor to me. To say that he will be missed is an understatement. I thank him for his mentorship and extend my condolences to his family and friends. Until we meet again, Cheers! ▲

● TO THE MEMORY OF MR. CALVIN AUGUSTUS HAMILTON ●

■ *The final tribute is by Mr. Miles Weekes, former Chair of the Ciarb Caribbean Branch and Editor of this special edition of The Ciarb News.*

I first met Calvin Hamilton just over a decade ago – on 31 October 2014 to be exact – at a meeting of Ciarb members resident in Barbados, which was called by the Chair of the Ciarb Caribbean Branch, in order to revitalise the Ciarb Barbados Chapter.

At that time, I had never seen or even heard of Calvin, as I was relatively new to Ciarb and was on only my first appointment as an arbitrator, having switched careers. There were only three qualifying Ciarb members present at the meeting and so Calvin, being the most senior and, by far, the most experienced, was offered the role of interim chair but he graciously declined and deferred that role to me, which was an unexpected honour.

Never one lacking in charisma, at that meeting, the ever-dapper Calvin was as jovial and ebullient as only Calvin could be, and it was the start of a professional relationship between us that blossomed into friendship and one that I will always cherish. He was generous with his knowledge, his acumen, his experience and his advice, all of which he allowed me to share; and all of which I valued and appreciated. As time went by, he exhibited an appreciation for my opinions in matters of arbitration and adjudication and a reliance on my advice in institutional administration, well beyond what I thought I possessed.

Between the two of us, we headed the Ciarb Barbados Chapter from that first meeting through nine and a half years, building potential membership from just 10 persons to well over 60 persons. We planned, executed and participated in many seminars, tutorials and lectures and worked on

various arbitration initiatives with other local, regional and international institutions – most memorably, the ones with IMPACT Justice on the Model Arbitration Bill, the ones with the Arbitration and Mediation Court of the Caribbean (AMCC) and BIBA – The Association for Global Business and, most recently, the UNCITRAL LAC Day webinar organised by the ITA and the UWI.

In 2019, Calvin seconded my nomination as the fourth Chair of the Ciarb Caribbean Branch, – a singular honour for me, and he was extremely supportive of my chairmanship over three terms, including giving tremendous support to the Fourth Triennial Conference in 2021. We ultimately got to collaborate professionally and were engaged as dispute resolvers on a construction project in his native Guyana up until his untimely demise on 22 November 2024.

To interact with Calvin was always a pleasure and I shall miss being able to do that with him. He introduced me to his favourite Guyanese rum but it will probably not taste the same sans his company. He was a unique, dependable colleague and an irreplaceable friend.

I wish to thank everyone who has contributed to this special edition of The Ciarb News in memory of Calvin. As I read through the many tributes, one common thread was Calvin's generosity. He gave of himself freely to everyone but yet, in doing so, he seemed able to make each individual feel as though his generosity was not routine but specially for them – an amazing trait.

To his immediate and extended family, friends and colleagues, I extend my sincere condolences and hope the warmth expressed in these tributes bring you much needed solace. Rest in peace, Calvin. ▲

● **DISCLAIMER:** The articles published in this newsletter are for general information purposes only and do not reflect the views of The Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. Their inclusion in the newsletter does not imply any endorsement by the Institute of their content, accuracy or authenticity.

Submissions, views and comments should be sent by e-mail to info@ciarbcaribbean.org

Copyright © 2024 Caribbean Branch of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. All rights reserved.