



CAJO

CARIBBEAN ASSOCIATION OF JUDICIAL OFFICERS



Virtual Conference Year Programming Report

The Future of Caribbean Courts: A Service or a Place?

October 29th, 2021

The Caribbean Association of Judicial Officers (CAJO) brings together the region's Chancellors, Chief Justices, Judges, Masters, Registrars, Parish Judges, Magistrates, Tribunal Members, Executive Court Administrators, and other judicial staff. The first meeting of judicial officers across the region took place in June 2009 in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago and this marked the birth of the CAJO. With its own Constitution and membership, the CAJO was ably headed by Hon Mr Justice Adrian Saunders, President of the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ), who served as Chair from 2009 – 2019. The CAJO is led by a Management Committee which comprises judicial officers elected at the Association's Business Meeting held biennially. At present, Hon Mr Justice Peter Jamadar, Judge of the CCJ, serves as Chair of the Association with Hon Mme Justice Vivian Georgis Taylor-Alexander, Judge of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court, as Vice-Chair. The Management Committee comprises 15 members from almost all countries in the region. The CAJO is also supported by its Research and Programme Coordinator, Elron Elahie. The CAJO provides a host of judicial education engagements for judicial officers across the region including its Biennial Conference, training programmes and workshops on various topics and areas of law and practice, and a biannual Newsletter, CAJO News.

Overview

On Friday 29th October , from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. AST, the CAJO hosted the fourth session of its 2021 programming, and Part 1 of its virtual conference. **The Future of Caribbean Courts: A Service or a Place?** Featured Professor Richard Susskind OBE who is the leading authority in technology and court systems. The webinar sought to provide critical insights to judicial officers, legal practitioners, and faculty of legal education institutes as well as encourage discussion around the future of courts in the Caribbean.

The session also included commentaries from Justice Adrian Saunders, President of the Caribbean Court of Justice and Justice Yonette Cummings-Edwards, Chancellor of the Judiciary of Guyana. There was also a question and answer segment moderated by Elron Elahie, the CAJO's Research and Programme Coordinator.

Over 150 participants joined the webinar and engaged with Professor Susskind and the commentators.

Insights

After the session, participants were asked to fill and submit a feedback form. With a combination of open-ended, yes/no, and LIKERT scale rating questions, the feedback form sought to ascertain the success of the session in delivering information, provoking engagement, and increasing interest.

Below contains key insights from the data collected from participants. **Judicial Education Impact** details how well participants learned and engaged. **Key Takeaways** explores open-ended feedback on what lasted with participants and what could be done to improve the session.

Judicial Education Impact

Participants were asked to rate, on a scale of 1-5 with 5 being the highest, four areas of the session: **Information Shared, Quality of Delivery, Engagement, and Benefit from Session**. None of the respondents rated any of these as 1, and, generally, a small percent of participants gave a rating of 2 and 3. **For all areas, between 24% - 33% of participants gave a score of 4 and 50% and over gave a score of 5.** Fig 1 below shows this.

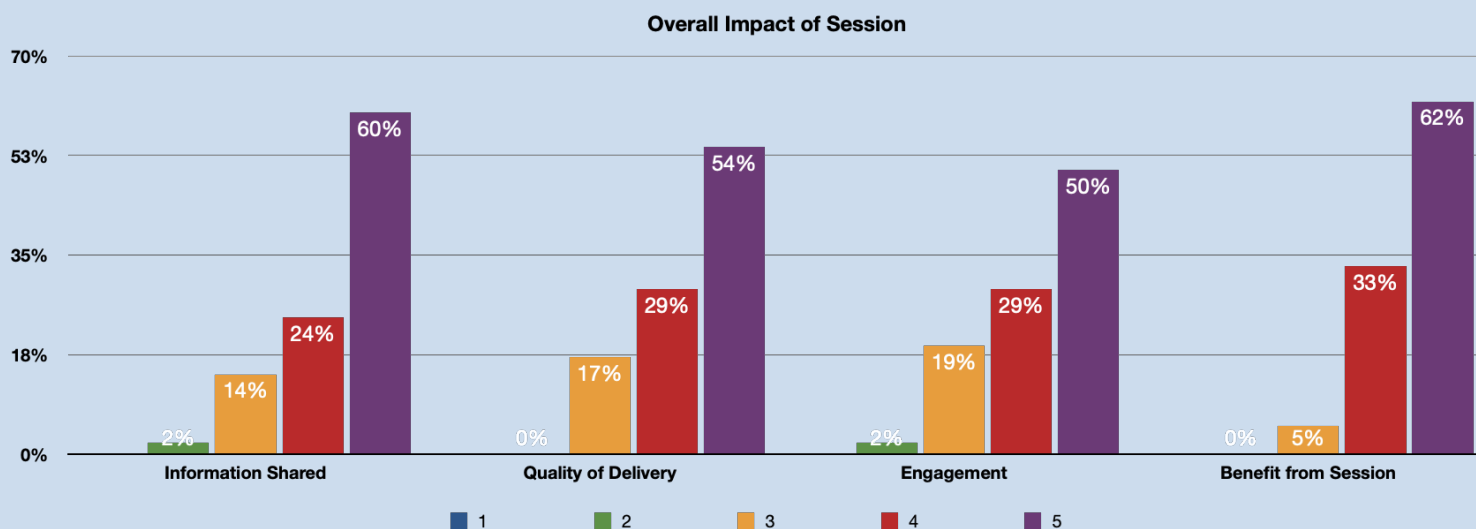


Figure 1 - Participant Rating (1-5) of Information Shared, Quality of Delivery, Engagement, and Benefit of Session

After what was shared at the webinar, the CAJO was interested in participants' views on how important is it that Courts remain mindful of court users' access to justice when implementing technology to make processes more efficient and effective? **Rated on a scale of 1-5 with 5 being very important, 10% of respondents gave a rating of 4 and the remaining 90% gave a rating of 5.** Fig 2 shows this data.

Judicial Education Impact Cont'd

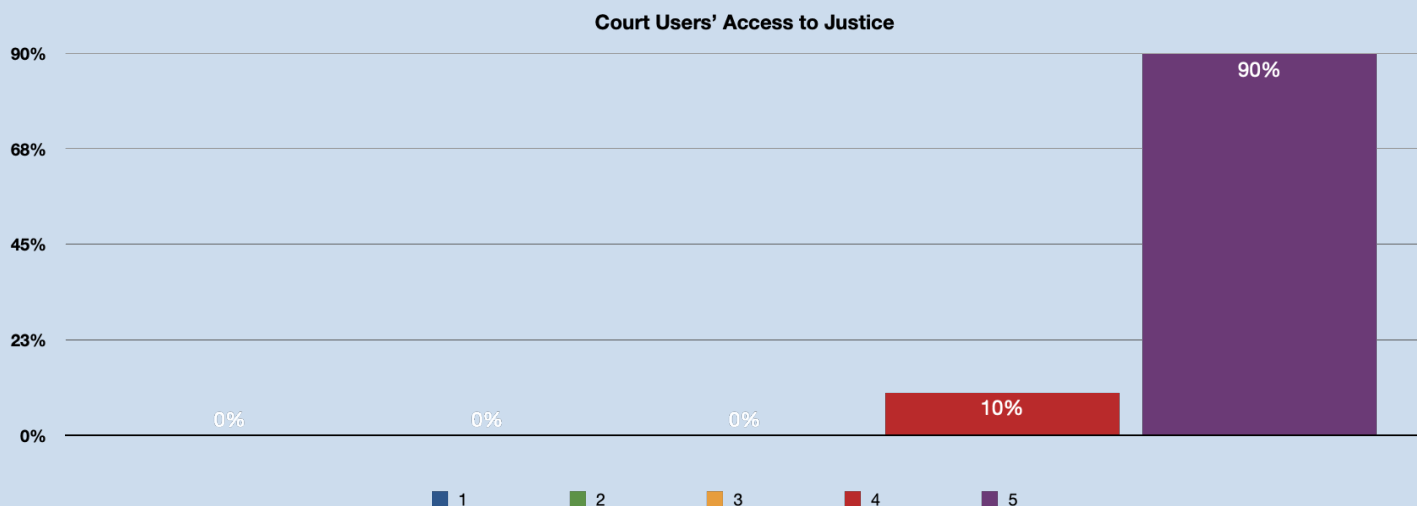


Figure 2 - Court Users' Access to Justice

The final two quantitative measures sought to ascertain whether participants would recommend the session to their colleagues as well as the CAJO's performance as a judicial education provider. This latter measure was rated using a scale of 1-5 with 5 being the highest.

Notably, **98% of respondents state that they would recommend the session to their colleagues**. As it relates to the CAJO's performance as a judicial education provider, **2% gave a rating of 3, 21% gave a rating of 4, and 77% rated the CAJO and 5**. Figures 3 and 4 below show this data.

**Judicial Education
Impact Cont'd**

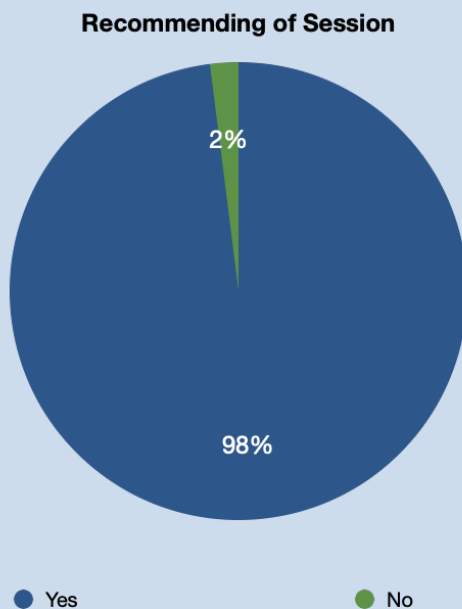


Figure 3 - Recommending of Session

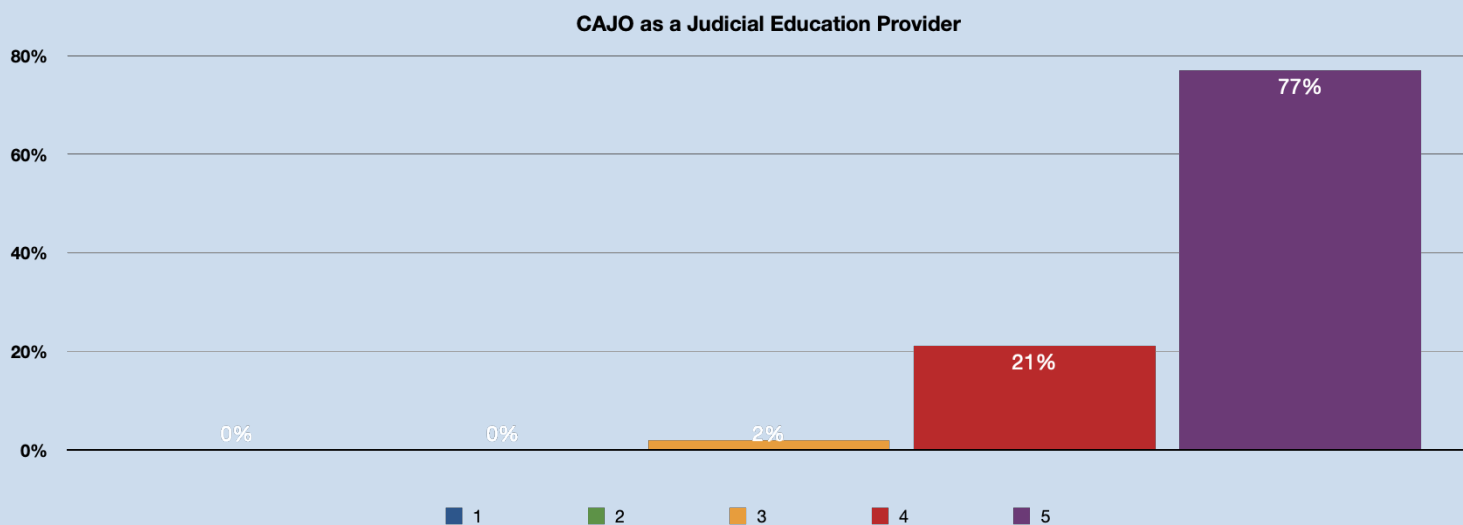


Figure 4 - Participant Rating (1-5) of the CAJO as a Judicial Education Provider

Key Takeaways

Participants were asked to provide comments in three areas: **what was most useful from the session, a most significant learning, and suggestions to improve the session.** Table 1 below captures a summary of the responses submitted by participants, organised in order of most frequent.

Most Useful	Significant Learning	Suggestions for Improvement
- The exploration of what innovation means	- The importance and nuance of technology	- None
- The practical approaches to developing the court system	- That the court is a service and not just a place	- More time for Q&A
- The different perspectives from Prof Suskind and the commentators	- The variety of approaches to ensuring justice is delivered	- Few Speakers
- Being encouraged to think outside the box	- The growing role of AI in courts	- Keeping to time
- Changing what justice looks like	- The culture change required	- More engagement with feature speaker

Table 1 - Most Useful, Significant Learnings, and Suggestion for Improvement based on the session

A number of participants also left final comments (which was an optional ask) and all expressed congratulations and gratitude to the CAJO for an excellent session.



C
AJO

CARIBBEAN ASSOCIATION OF JUDICIAL OFFICERS