



CAJO

CARIBBEAN ASSOCIATION OF JUDICIAL OFFICERS



Virtual Conference Year Programming Report

Social Media and Caribbean Courts: Risk or Opportunity?

November 18th, 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 Thursday 18th November , from 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. AST, the CAJO hosted the fifth session of its 2021 programming, and Part II of its virtual conference. **Social Media and Caribbean Courts: Risk or Opportunity?** featured presentations by Mses Tatiana Veress and Cristina San Juan Serrano of the UNODC's Global Judicial Integrity Network, Judge Cristi Danilet, PhD, of the Romanian Judiciary, and Ms Semone Moore of the CCJ's Public Education and Protocol Unit. The webinar sought to explore the risks and opportunities that social media has for judicial officers and judicial institutions in the Caribbean, and will offer both philosophical and practical explorations.

The session also included the use of breakout rooms in which participants explored a case study on the use of social media and engaged in discussion once returned to plenary.

Over 90 participants joined the webinar and engaged with the presenters and case study.

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**. A nominal percent of respondents rated some of these as 1 and 2, and, generally, a small percent of participants gave a rating of 3. **For all areas, between 17% - 34% of participants gave a score of 4 and over 70% gave a score of 5 for the first three areas.** Fig 1 below shows this.

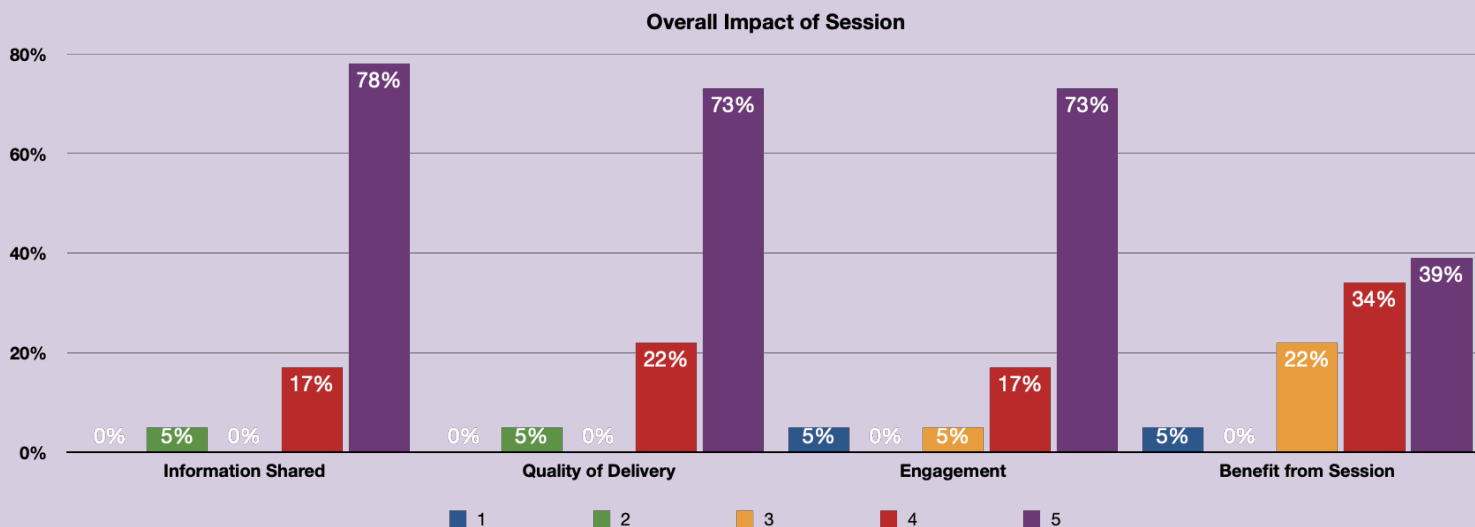


Figure 1 - Participant Rating (1-5) of Information Shared, Quality of Delivery, Engagement, and Benefit of Session

After what was shared at the webinar, the CAJO was interested in whether participants' would change how they think about their use of social media and how they actually use social media. **89% of respondents said they will change how they think about their use of social media while 78% said they would change how they actually use social media.** Fig 2 shows this.

Judicial Education Impact Cont'd

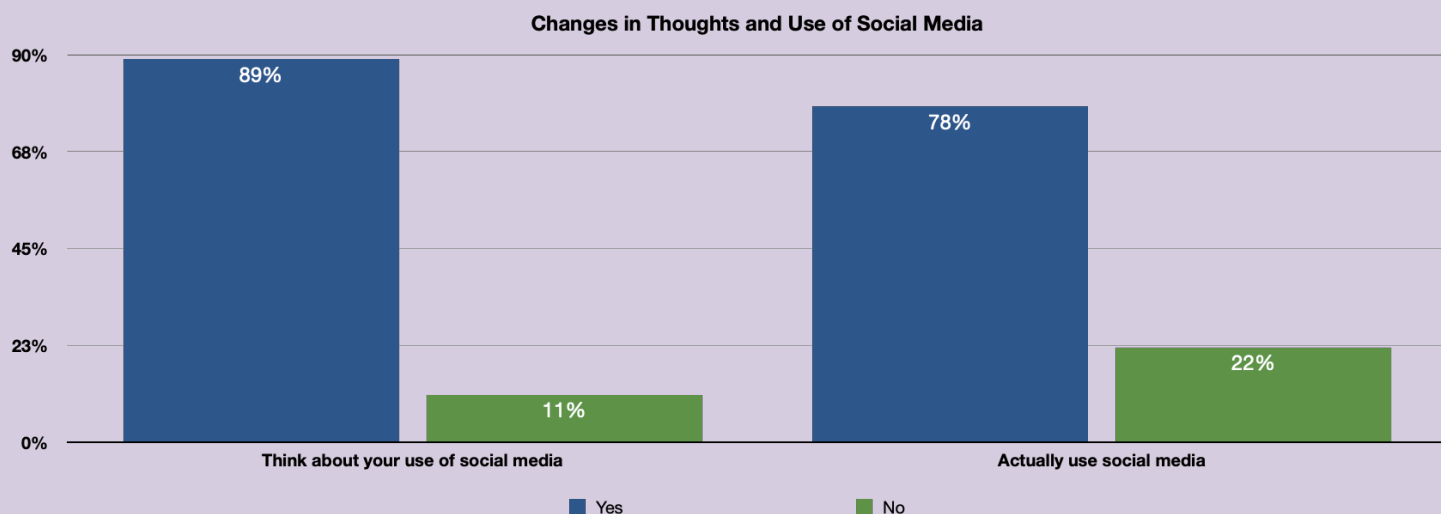


Figure 2 - Changes in Thoughts and Use of Social Media

The CAJO also asked participants to say if they think that the benefits outweigh the risks regarding the institutional use of social media as well as whether they found the UNODC's Non-binding Guidelines on the Use of Social Media by Judges helpful.

Notably **83% of respondents state that the benefits outweigh the risks when using social media for institutions.** With regard to the Guidelines, **95% found them helpful.** Figures 3 and 4 below show this data.

Judicial Education Impact Cont'd

Do you think that in relation to the institutional use of social media the benefits outweigh the risks?

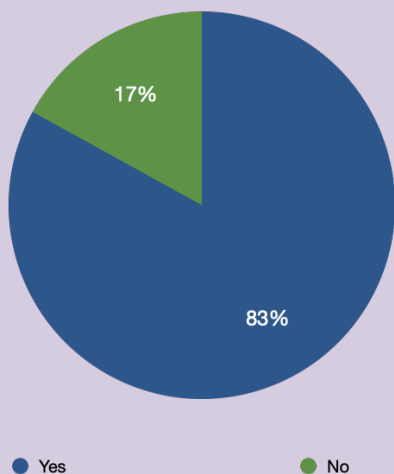


Figure 3 - Institutional Use of Social Media

Do you find the UNODC's Non-binding Guidelines on the Use of Social Media by Judges helpful?

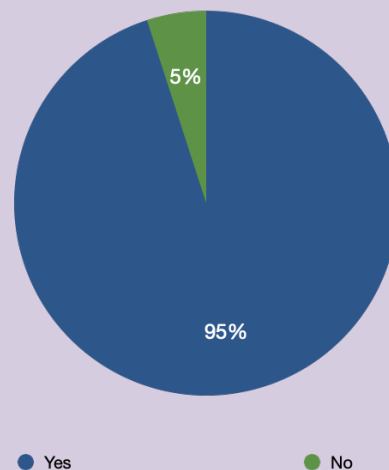


Figure 4 - UNODC Guidelines

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, **100% 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, **22% gave a rating of 4, and 78% rated the CAJO and 5.** Figures 5 and 6 below show this data.

**Judicial Education
Impact Cont'd**

Would you recommend this session to your colleagues?

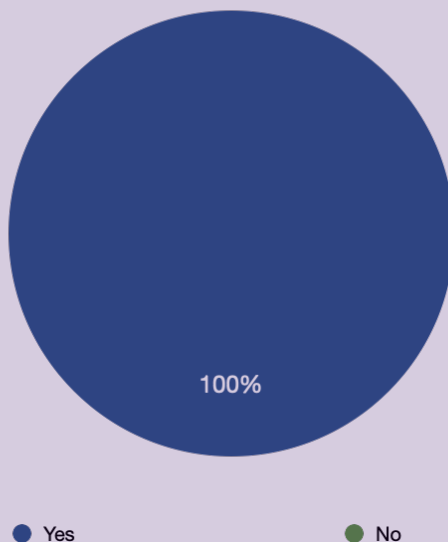


Figure 5 - Recommending of Session

CAJO as a Judicial Education Provider

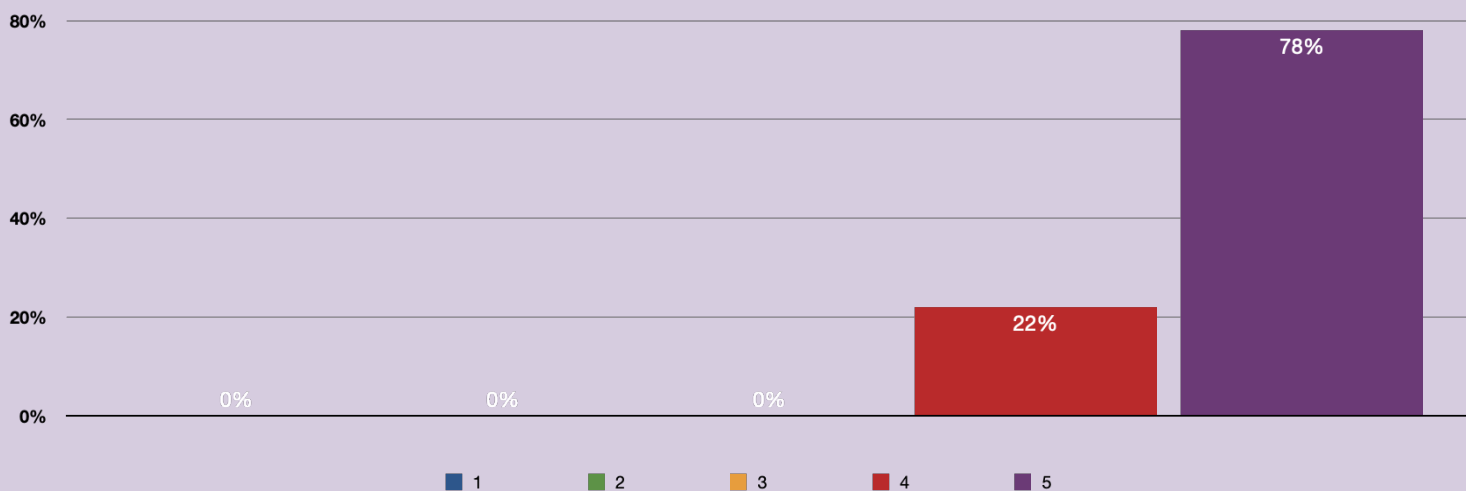


Figure 6 - Participant Rating (1-5) of the CAJO as a Judicial Education Provider

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 use of social media as an educational tool	- The shifting attitudes on judges' use of social media	- None
- The practical insights shared on the use of social media	- The reach and impact of social media in the Caribbean	- More time for pre-session reading
- The resources and material provided	- The need to be alert and risk-aware when using social media	
- Tips on how to increase awareness on the risks	- The ethical guidelines for the use of social media	
- The breakout groups and the case study	- The inevitability of social media	

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 and UNODC for an excellent session.



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