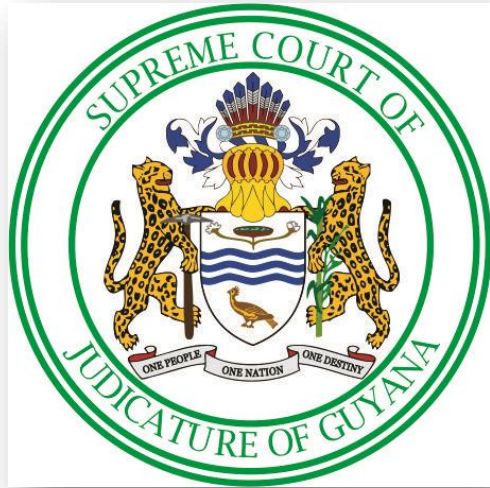


SUPREME COURT OF JUDICATURE



ANNUAL REPORT 2017



OUR MISSION

To uphold the rule of law and provide access to and timely delivery of justice in a fair, transparent and efficient manner.

OUR VISION

Encouraging and maintaining public trust and confidence through an independent, effective and accountable judicial system.

CORE VALUES

ACCESSABILITY

FAIRNESS

EQUALITY

INTEGRITY

TIMELINESS

IMPARTIALITY

RESPONSIVENESS

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Our Leadership



Mr. Justice Carl Singh, O.R., CCH

(retired with effect from 23rd February, 2017)



Mdm. Justice Yonette Cummings-Edwards

**Chancellor of the Judiciary (ag)
(with effect from 24th February, 2017)**



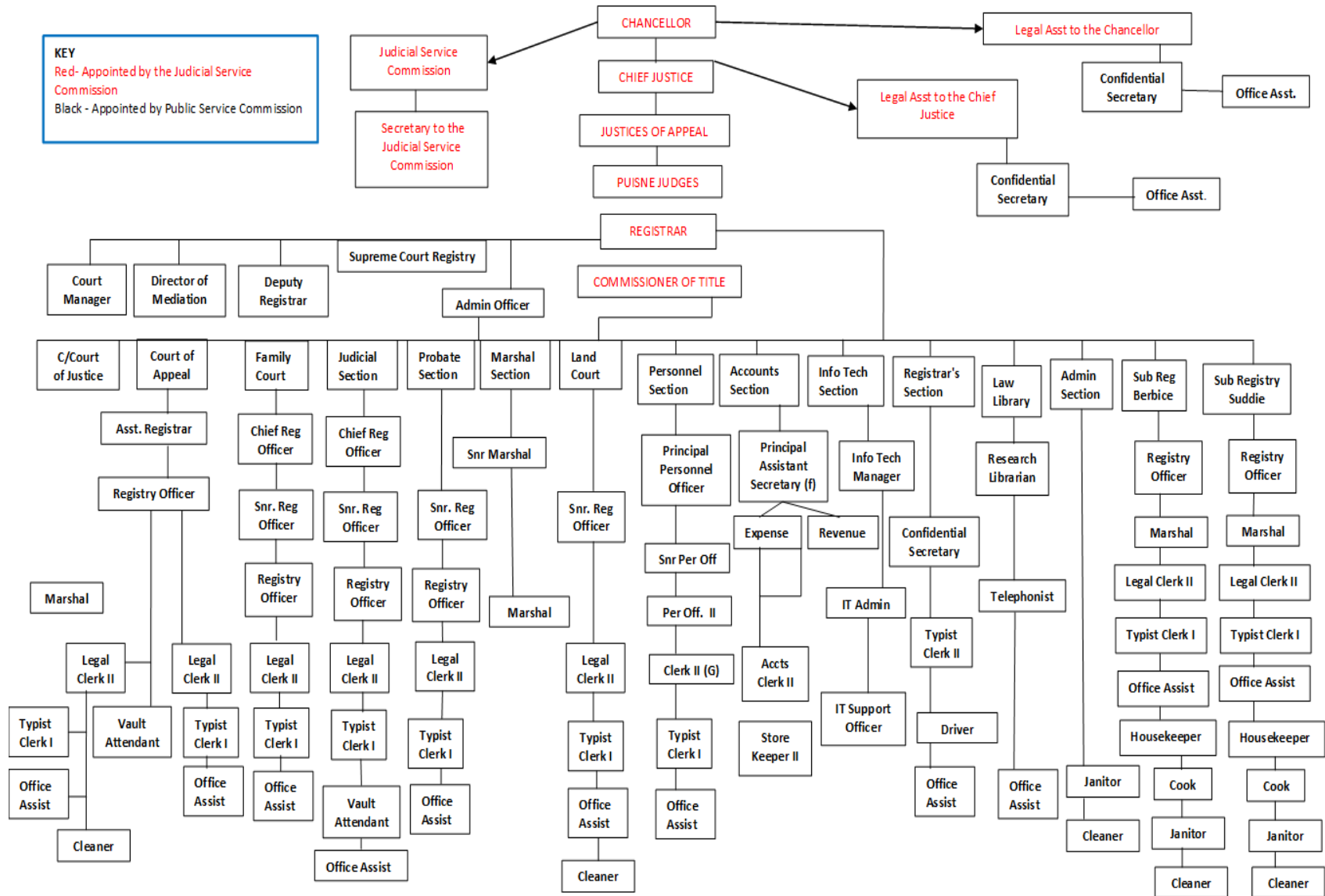
Mdm. Justice Roxane George

**Chief Justice (ag)
(with effect from 24th February, 2017)**

Chancellor of the Judiciary and the Chief Justice, along with other Judges of the High Court and Court



ORGANISATIONAL CHART - SUPREME COURT OF JUDICATURE



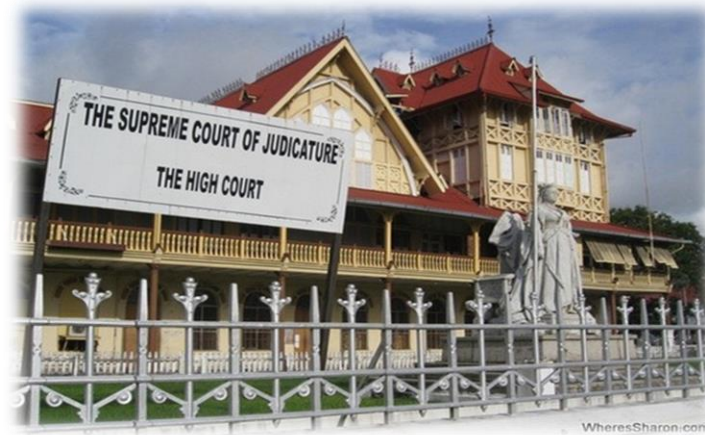
**Registrar of the Supreme Court,
Mrs. Sueanna Lovell**



**Deputy Registrar,
Ms. Alicia Lowenfield**



The Supreme Court of the Judicature



The High Court, Georgetown



The Berbice High Court



The Essequibo High Court

THE CHANCELLOR'S MESSAGE

The year under review has seen the realization of various initiatives that are in keeping with our mission of access to justice and timely and effective delivery of justice. Thus I have the honour to report on the successful realization, implementation and operationalization of activities that are consistent with our goals.

A new magisterial district was established. The creation of the Upper Demerara Magisterial District allowed for daily sittings of the Magistrate's Court in Linden and bi monthly sittings in Kwakwani. This allows members of the public, police, other law enforcement agencies and other stakeholders to have increased access to the services of the Magistrate's court in the Upper Demerara River communities in which they operate or reside. Previously, such court services could only be obtained twice per week in Linden, once per month in Kwakwani or at the Magistrate's court in Vreed-en-Hoop and Georgetown. The cost of travel, attendance and inconvenience of going to these destinations are now eliminated.

The expansion of the services offered in the Magistrate's court was also seen in the Lethem and Rupununi District. Daily sittings of the court in Lethem and the establishment of satellite courts in Karasabai, Aishalton and Annai eliminated the need for our indigenous people and other residents to travel long distances to access justice. The resident magistrate travels to the various locations in the Rupununi for regular scheduled court sittings.

The physical expansion of the infrastructure of the Supreme Court must also be mentioned. The construction of a new building at the High court compound which began in 2015 was completed. This building houses two Land Courts, three Civil Courts, a Marshal's Unit, Registry and staff facilities. Members of the staff enjoy a more comfortable environment and the Land Courts which were Charlotte Street, Lacytown and Brickdam have been brought into the High Court compound, thus forming one complex.

The promulgation and implementation of New Civil Procedure Rules (CPR) 2017 provided a huge fillip to the delivery of justice. The new CPR, in keeping with its overriding objectives, enables the Court to deal with cases more justly and expeditiously. Faster dates for trials, shortened trial time and faster disposition of cases under the New Rules have aided in the elimination of delays and backlogs.

History was created when a new Sexual Offences court was launched in November, 2017. This Court is the first of its kind in Guyana and the Caribbean. It also allows litigants, lawyers, social workers and victims to work in a special environment which seeks to eliminate secondary traumatization of victims and faster disposal of cases.

The compliment of judges in the High Court and court of Appeal allowed for an increase in timely disposition of cases. Four judges were appointed to the High Court and two temporary judges to the Court of Appeal.

The Magistracy also benefitted from an increase in numbers as three new Magistrates were appointed.

The success of any venture must be measured by tasks undertaken and the results achieved. Despite challenges along the way, which is a reality in any system, we are heartened by the response of stakeholders in the justice system. The year in review has seen an increase in the filing and disposal of cases. This shows that the persons accessing the justice system can enjoy and experience the delivery of justice in a more timely, transparent and efficient manner.

We intend to continue along this trajectory as the effective and timely dispensation of justice remains our ultimate goal.

Yonette

Cummings-Edwards,

CCH.

Retirements in 2017

Chancellor of the Judiciary (ag)



Justice Carl Singh O.R., C.C.H., retired from the office of the Chancellor of the Judiciary of Guyana in March 2017 after serving 12 years in the post. Former Chancellor Singh, who is also a former teacher, attended the University of Guyana where he graduated in 1977 with a Bachelor's Degree in History. Also, in that same year Justice Singh entered the UG/UWI LLB degree programme. He graduated from the University of the West Indies in 1981 with an LLB (Hons) degree. After leaving the University of the West Indies, Justice Singh successfully completed the professional Legal Education Certificate programme at the Hugh Wooding Law School. Upon his qualification as an Attorney-at-Law, he was admitted to practice at the Guyana Bar. The former Chancellor, subsequently, after spending a year in private legal practice was appointed Magistrate. He served for one year in this position before resuming his

private practice. In 1984 Justice Singh was appointed a Commissioner of Title and in 1986 he returned to private practice until 1995 when he was appointed a Judge of the High Court of Guyana. In the year 2000 he was elevated to the Court of Appeal and in 2005, Justice Singh was appointed the Chief Justice of Guyana. In May 2005, Justice Singh was appointed to act in the office of Chancellor of the Judiciary, a position which he held until his retirement.

In recognition of his work and contributions to the judicial system of Guyana, Justice Singh was awarded two of the highest national awards, namely, the Order of Roraima (OR) and the Cacique Crown of Honour (CCH).

JUSTICE OF APPEAL BEASRAJ SINGH (B.S.) ROY



Justice of Appeal Beasraj Singh Roy retired from the Court of Appeal in May 30, 2017. Justice B.S. Roy was appointed Puisne Judge in 1999 attached to the High Court. Before becoming a Puisne Judge, Justice B.S. Roy served as a Senior Magistrate from 1993-1999. In 2008 the Justice was then appointed Justice of Appeal.

Before joining the Judicial System, he spent some of his years employed as a Laboratory Technician attached to the

Government's Geological Survey and Mines Department. Justice B.S. Roy, furthered his studies at Islewood Polytechnic College in the UK, before moving on to the University of the West Indies and then to Hugh Wooding Law School. He was admitted to the Bar in 1978 in Trinidad and Tobago.

Justice B.S. Roy has served the judiciary and the country with excellence and distinction and we bid him a fond farewell with best wishes for his future endeavours.



The Supreme Court congratulates Justice Ramlal on his retirement after 17 years of yeoman service and wishes him well in his future endeavours.

Justice William Ramlal

Justice William Ramlal retired as Puisne Judge from the High Court on January 21, 2017. Justice Ramlal presided in both the criminal and civil jurisdictions. Prior to being appointed a Puisne Judge in July, 2000, he served as a magistrate for several years, a State Counsel in the Attorney General's Chambers; and a teacher from 1972 to 1978. He also had a vibrant private practice for several years.

Justice Ramlal attended the University of Guyana, where he read for the Bachelor of Laws Part One before proceeding to the University of the West Indies Cave Hill Campus, where he completed Parts Two and Three. He is also the holder of a Legal Education Certificate from the Hugh Wooding Law School and was a part of several professional training programmes.

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

The year 2017 was a year marked by spectacular highs and record achievements and gains for the judiciary as a whole and the Supreme Court of Judicature as an organization.

NEW LEADERSHIP: A CHANGING OF THE GUARD

During the period under review, the Supreme Court bid farewell to its Commander-in-Chief, so to speak, Chancellor Carl Ashok Singh, O.R., C.C.H., who retired from office after a tenure of twelve (12) years. The leadership of Chancellor Singh was marked by various innovative initiatives that resulted in a judiciary and judicial system that is today more efficient and responsive to the needs of the community which it serves.

Chancellor Singh's retirement paved the way for new leadership of the Supreme Court of Judicature in the person of Madame Justice Yonette Cummings-Edwards, O.R.,C.C.H. Madam Justice Cummings-Edwards was elevated from the post of Acting Chief Justice to perform the functions of Chancellor of the Judiciary. With her appointment, the Honourable Madam Justice Roxane

George was appointed Acting Chief Justice. What is significant about these appointments is that for the first time in the history of our country, the Judiciary has female leadership in every key position in its organizational structure. We have a female Chancellor, Chief Justice Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Chief Magistrate and Principal Clerk of Courts.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The year under review saw improvements to the physical infrastructure of the Supreme Court. Firstly, in the magisterial districts we had the completion of the new Sparendam Magistrates' Court which boasts two court rooms and facilities for two magistrates where previously, there was only one. This is significant because the volume of cases being dealt with at Sparendam had become far greater than one magistrate could efficiently handle. With the commissioning of the new facility, there is expected to be a significant increase in the output of the court at Sparendam and improved confidence in the delivery of justice in this magisterial district.

Additionally, the Upper Demerara River Magisterial District was created and gazetted thereby bringing court services to a new category of persons and enhancing access to justice for them. With the creation of this new district, there is now a fully functional court office at Linden. Before this, the persons at Linden who had business at the court registry had to travel to the West Demerara District office to get it done. Services such as applications for domestic violence relief, applications for maintenance and child support, among others all had to be done at the West Demerara office at Vreed-en-hoop. As one can imagine, this proved expensive as well as time consuming for the residents at Linden. This Office was a very welcome addition to our judicial landscape as a whole.

The new wing of the High Court, Georgetown, which now houses the Land Court and its registry, additional civil courtrooms, and the Marshals' department was completed and declared open by His Excellency, President David A. Granger at a simple ceremony in July, 2017. This facility has now brought the Land Court into the High Court compound for the first time in its history. It was previously housed in the Public Service Appellate Tribunal building on

Brickdam. This building has courtrooms and chambers assigned to each of the Commissioners of Title whereas they had to share facilities at the building in Brickdam. Significantly, the marshals are accommodated on the ground floor of the building in a space that is much more conducive to the performance of their duties. The area where they previously operated was cramped and dark and not at all conducive to the level of efficiency and productivity expected of our marshals. Their working environment has been greatly improved and it is reflected in their output as a department.

One of the major highlights of the year under review must be the establishment of the Sexual Offences Court. This Court was established pursuant to the requirements of the Sexual Offences Act and is the first of its kind in the entire Caribbean. The Court hears only criminal cases relative to offences against the Sexual Offence Act. It boasts several features that make it unique as compared to other criminal courtrooms. Because of the sensitive nature of the cases heard in this court, the court has been equipped with "special measures" to cater for the needs of its particularly vulnerable court users. The Sexual Offences Court was

established through collaboration between the Supreme Court of the Judicature and UNICEF, who provided adequate funding for a modernized, user-friendly and safe courtroom.

In December, 2017 the new Judges' Living Quarters at Suddie, Essequibo were completed and declared open by the Honourable Minister of State, Mr. Joseph Harmon. The building houses four apartments each with two bedrooms, toilet and bath, kitchen, living room, dining room, laundry room and a study. The new facilities are fully furnished and have a generator on site to cater for instances of power outage in the area. The facility overlooks the Essequibo River and is in close proximity to the Suddie Hospital and Police station. The flats are warm and welcoming, and while they will not replace the judicial officers' homes, they provide a comfortable home away from home.

CIVIL PROCEDURE RULES 2016

In February, 2017 the judicial system in Guyana received a major overhaul to its civil procedure with the promulgation of the Civil Procedure Rules (CPR), 2016. These Rules are the culmination of years of research, consultations and

drafting. In November 2016, new Civil Procedure Rules (“**CPR 2016**”) were laid in the National Assembly. The **CPR 2016** replaces Guyana's existing rules, which date back to 1955. With the implementation of the new rules, Guyana has finally fallen in line with several other Caribbean states, including the OESC, Jamaica, Trinidad and Barbados.

In drafting the **CPR 2016**, legal consultants Mr. E. Anthony Ross, Q.C. and Ms. Katrina Marciniak not only adopted many of the successful mechanisms already in place in the other Caribbean states, but they also introduced several new mechanisms in an attempt to overcome some of the problems that continue to plague those other systems. Guyana now has the most current set of civil procedure rules in the Caribbean and, with its new rules, has the opportunity lead the region by example.

TRAINING

There were once again several training opportunities provided to judicial officers, both overseas and right here at home. The Annual Judges' Conference was held at Lake

Mainstay Resort from 30th June to 2nd July. The Conference was themed “ The judges were ably guided through conference topics ranging from Case Management to Oil and Gas by The Rt. Honourable Sir Dennis Byron, President of the Caribbean Court of Justice, Ms. Alicia Elias-Roberts, Lecturer from the University of the West Indies and Professor Eddie Ventose, also of the University of the West Indies.

Later in the year, from October 27th–29th, the Court hosted its very first Magistrates’ Conference. The conference was also held at Lake Mainstay Resort under the theme....This initiative is expected to be an annual event going forward.

Overall, the performance of the Supreme Court in 2017 is indicative of a court on the right trajectory. We continued to build upon the gains and successes of 2016 and achieved greater success for our efforts.

I end with an expression of gratitude to the judicial officers, judicial support staff as well as the administrative staff of the Supreme Court for jobs well done. I anticipate that 2018 will be an even better year for us and look forward to your continued support and co-operation.

Sueanna Lovell
Registrar

OVERVIEW AND COURT

PERFORMANCE

OVERVIEW

INTRODUCTION

The Judiciary of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana is, as in any modern democracy, the third arm of a tri-partite state and functions independently of the other arms, that is to say, the Executive and Legislative arms. The concept that there are three distinct functions of government: legislative, executive and judicial, discharged by three separate agencies – the Legislative in the form of Parliament, the Executive in the form of the ministers and the government departments and agencies for which they are responsible and the Judiciary in the form of the judges and courts - is the cornerstone of our Constitution. In accordance with this principle of the separation of powers our Constitution provides expressly at Article 122 A (1) that:

“All courts and all persons presiding over the courts shall exercise their function

independently of the control and direction of any other person or authority; and shall be free and independent from political, executive and any other form of direction and control.”

In this regard therefore, Article 123 of the Constitution further provides for the establishment of a Supreme Court of Judicature consisting of the Court of Appeal and the High Court. Guyana, in April 2005, adopted the Caribbean Court of Justice as its final appellate court.

Guyana’s judicial system can best be described as a four-tiered system made up as follows:

(a) **The Court of Summary Jurisdiction or Magistrates’ Court.**

The summary jurisdiction of judicial system is governed by the Summary Jurisdiction (Magistrates) Act, Cap 3:05 which establishes the Magistrates’ Court and sets out its practice and procedure, provides for the appointment of magistrates and the regulation of their duties.

In their civil and jurisdiction, magistrates adjudicate in petty debt claims for the recovery of any debts or damages where the amount claimed is not exceeding one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) as well as claims for rent.

In their criminal jurisdiction, magistrates hear and determine complaints in respect of summary and indictable offences. Indictable cases can be tried summarily where the provision of the Summary Jurisdiction (Procedure) Act Chap.12:02 as amended by the Administration of Justice Act. 1978. (A.J.A) are applied or by embarking on a Preliminary Inquiry. The magistrates also function as Coroners in the conduct of inquests.

(b) The High Court

The High Court is governed by the High Court Act, Cap 3:02 and the Rules made thereunder and sits in Demerara, Berbice and Essequibo. There are two sub-registries outside of Demerara located at Essequibo and Berbice respectively. The High Court has several divisions including the Constitutional Court, the

Commercial Court, and the Land Court. The Family Court Division was opened in June 2016.

There is also the Full Court of the High Court which is an appellate court that hears appeals from interlocutory or summary decisions of High Court judges as well as appeals from the magistrates' courts. The Full Court is established by sections 75 to 84 of the High Court Act.

(c) The Court of Appeal

The Court of Appeal is governed by the Court of Appeal Act, Cap 3:01 and is a court of review.

(d) The Caribbean Court of Justice

The Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) is governed by the Caribbean Court of Justice Act 2004, and replaces the Guyana Court of Appeal as the final appellate court for Guyana.

The Courts resolve disputes by independently and impartially applying the law to the facts of each case

presented. Every party has the absolute right to an arbiter who is neutral and independent of the parties in the case and their advocates. These arbiters are the Justices of Appeal, the Puisne Judges, the Commissioners of Title, the Magistrates.

It is the Judiciary's task to ensure that all who utilize and interface with the courts at various levels are treated respectfully, fairly and equally. Each case must receive

The High Court, Demerara

The High Court of the Supreme Court is presided over by the Chief Justice and such number of Puisne Judges as may be prescribed by Parliament. This is provided for in Article 125 of the Constitution. Parliament has prescribed that number of Puisne Judges to be twenty (20). Currently, however, the High Court is functioning with twelve (12) Puisne Judges.

The High Court exercises original jurisdiction over indictable criminal matters, civil matters, commercial

individual attention, and the law must be applied uniformly. Regardless of economic, social or other status, each party in a dispute must receive equal access leading to consistency and predictability.

matters, Constitutional matters, administrative matters and family matters which previously were categorized as civil.

The Land Court, presided over by Commissioners of Title, exercises jurisdiction over land titling cases.

CRIMINAL JURISDICTION

The High Court exercises criminal jurisdiction in matters that are brought before it by way of indictment filed by the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP). These matters are heard by a single judge sitting with a jury of twelve (12). The Criminal jurisdiction functions in three (3) month periods called assizes or criminal sessions which are presided over by assigned judges for the particular session.

This Court hears and determines the most serious criminal cases. Section 27 of the High Court Act Cap 3:02 mandates that the Court hold sittings in the exercise of its criminal jurisdiction every year in each of the counties and expressly states the days for the commencement of such sittings. In furtherance of this mandate, there is a ceremonial opening

of the criminal sessions four times in each year in Demerara during which there is a parade and Guard of Honour. A judge takes the salute and inspects a Guard of Honour.

Similar ceremonial openings of the sessions are held in Berbice and Essequibo.

Ceremonial parade to mark the opening of the Criminal Assizes



CIVIL JURISDICTION

The High Court in its civil jurisdiction, deals with claims made pursuant to the court's inherent jurisdiction and such other jurisdiction as is vested in the court by statute. Such

The Constitutional Court

The Constitutional Court of the High Court, as the name suggests, hears matters filed seeking Constitutional relief and is presided over the by the Chief Justice.

The Family Court

The Family Court division of the High Court has separated from the High Court's traditional civil jurisdiction, matters pertaining to family-related issues such as petitions for divorce, division of property, custody and maintenance and has streamlined them in that special-purpose court with its own peculiar rules and procedure as set out in the **Family Court Rules 2016** with its own fully staffed registry. Two judges preside over the Family Division.

matters are dealt with by trial by a single judge, without a jury, or by way of chamber hearings.

In its civil jurisdiction, the High Court is separated by function into several divisions. These are as follows:

The Commercial Court

The Commercial Court, a specialized court which commenced operations on June 21, 2006, was implemented to shorten lengthy trials. It really is a precursor to the operation of the civil courts of the Supreme Court under the New Civil Procedure Rules. It introduced such concepts as case management and pre-trial reviews. It handles commercial-type civil litigation involving claims for money, the purchase and sale of commodities and contracts relating to the sale and purchase of land and other such matters. The Court is presided over by three judges, Justices Franklin Holder, Diana Insanally and Nareshwar Harnanan.



The Hon. Justice Franklin Holder



The Hon. Justice Diana Insanally



The Hon. Justice Nareshwar Harnanan

THE COURT OF APPEAL



**From L to R: Chancellor (ag) Justice Carl Singh (ret'd),
Chancellor (ag) Justice Yonette Cummings-Edwards,
Chief Justice (ag) Justice Roxane George, Justice of
Appeal (ret'd) B.S.Roy, Justice of Appeal dawn
Gregory, Justice of Appeal Deo Rishi Persaud.**

The Court of Appeal comprises the Chancellor, who is the head of the Judiciary of Guyana and Chairman of the Judicial Service Commission, and four (4) Justices of Appeal at full strength. The Chief Justice is also an ex officio member of this Court. The Chancellor is the President of the Court of Appeal, which at the end of 2016, was staffed by an Acting Chancellor, Justice Carl Singh, the Acting Chief Justice, Justice Yonette Cummings-Edwards who is a substantive Justice of Appeal and one Justice of Appeal, Justice B.S. Roy.

In February 2017, the Court of Appeal experienced a changing of the guard with the retirement of Chancellor Carl Singh and the appointment to act in that capacity of Acting Chief Justice, Yonette Cummings-Edwards. Later in the year, in July, two Justices of Appeal were added to the numbers in the persons of Madam Justice Dawn Gregory and Mr. Justice Deo Rishi Persaud. Madam Justice Roxane George, as the new acting Chief Justice, was sworn in as a Justice of Appeal.

THE CARIBBEAN COURT OF JUSTICE



The Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) is Guyana's final appellate court. Headquartered in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Guyana joined the CCJ from its inception in 2005. The Supreme Court Registry has been deemed a Sub-registry of the CCJ and the Registrar a Deputy Registrar of the CCJ. Filing of appeals to the CCJ from Guyana are therefore done at the Supreme Court Registry in Guyana.

THE MAGISTRATES' COURTS

There are nine (9) magisterial districts which are administered through eight Head Offices and are listed hereunder starting with the districts in the east of Guyana as follows:

- (i) The Corentyne Magisterial District with head office at Whim.
- (ii) The Berbice Magisterial District with its head office at New Amsterdam.
- (iii) The West Berbice Magisterial District with head office at Fort Wellington.
- (iv) The East Demerara Magisterial District with its head office at Vigilance.
- (v) Georgetown Magisterial District with head office in Georgetown
- (vi) The West Demerara Magisterial District with head office at Vreed-en-Hoop
- (vii) The Essequibo Magisterial District with its head office at Suddie.
- (viii) The Upper Demerara River Magisterial District with head office at Linden.
- (ix) The Northwest Magisterial District which is administered by the Georgetown and Essequibo offices.

These nine Magisterial Districts are currently served by twenty-one (21) Magistrates. The Magistrates' Courts have both criminal and civil jurisdiction. They exercise jurisdiction in relation to summary criminal matters. These Courts also conduct Preliminary Inquiries into serious criminal matters to determine whether a case has been established against an accused person sufficient to put them on trial in the High Court. They also conduct trials into indictable matters which are by election tried summarily by

virtue of the provisions of the Summary Jurisdiction (Procedure) Act, Cap 10:02, as amended by the Administration of Justice Act, 1978.

In their civil jurisdiction, Magistrates' courts hear and determine petty debt claims for recovery of any debt or damages where the amount claimed does not exceed one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) unless statute dictates otherwise. They also adjudicate claims for rent owed and

possession of premises. The Magistrates' Courts also have Magistrates also bear the statutory responsibility to sit as Coroners holding Inquests into deaths which occur in circumstances which tend to excite suspicion. They also sit and determine eligibility of applicants to be granted liquor licences as members of the various county Liquor Licensing Boards.

In October, 2016 the Judicial Service Commission (JSC) employed five (5) temporary Night Court Magistrates. Their function was to help accelerate the hearing of a number of back log cases to help reduce the overcrowding of prisoners at the Georgetown Prison at Camp Street after a fire took

jurisdiction to hear applications for assessment of rent.

place at one section of the prison. Subsequently a commission of enquiry (COI) was carried out by the Government of Guyana which eventually led to the setting up of the temporary Night Court which extended from the 1st October, 2016 to 28th February, 2017.

On the 1st March 2017 two (2) Magistrates, namely Mr. Peter Hugh and Ms. Wanda Fortune, were appointed by the Judicial Service Commission to preside at the East Demerara Magisterial District. Further, on the 1st April, 2017, Ms. Esther Sam was also appointed a magistrate and presided at the Essequibo Magisterial District.

COURT PERFORMANCE

THE HIGH COURT, GEORGETOWN



The Family Court



A section of the Family Court Building



The Family Court Registry

The Family Court has separated from the High Court's traditional civil jurisdiction, matters pertaining to family-related issues such as petitions for divorce, division of property, custody and maintenance. This court has streamlined them in a special-purpose court with its own peculiar rules and procedure as set out in the **Family Court Rules 2016** with its own fully staffed registry. Two judges preside over the Family Division.

Established in June 2016, the Family Court caters to citizens seeking help to deal with family disputes through case management and a number of alternative dispute resolution processes such as mediation, social work intervention, and child and youth day-care services for children who attend court with their parents and/or guardians. These services are offered in a child-friendly room which was funded by UNICEF.



During its eighteen (18) months of existence, the court has proven to be one of the most important institutions. The Court interprets and applies the laws and rules of the Family Court to ensure equal justice under the law and a mechanism for dispute resolution.

Its mission is to provide the required support service to the Judiciary in dealing with family disputes. In its effort also to facilitate the maintenance of public trust and confidence, the Court has employed the use of *Skype* in order to improve the delivery of its service and as a delay reduction measure.

Figure 1 Illustrates the intake of matters to the Family Court.

Figure 1

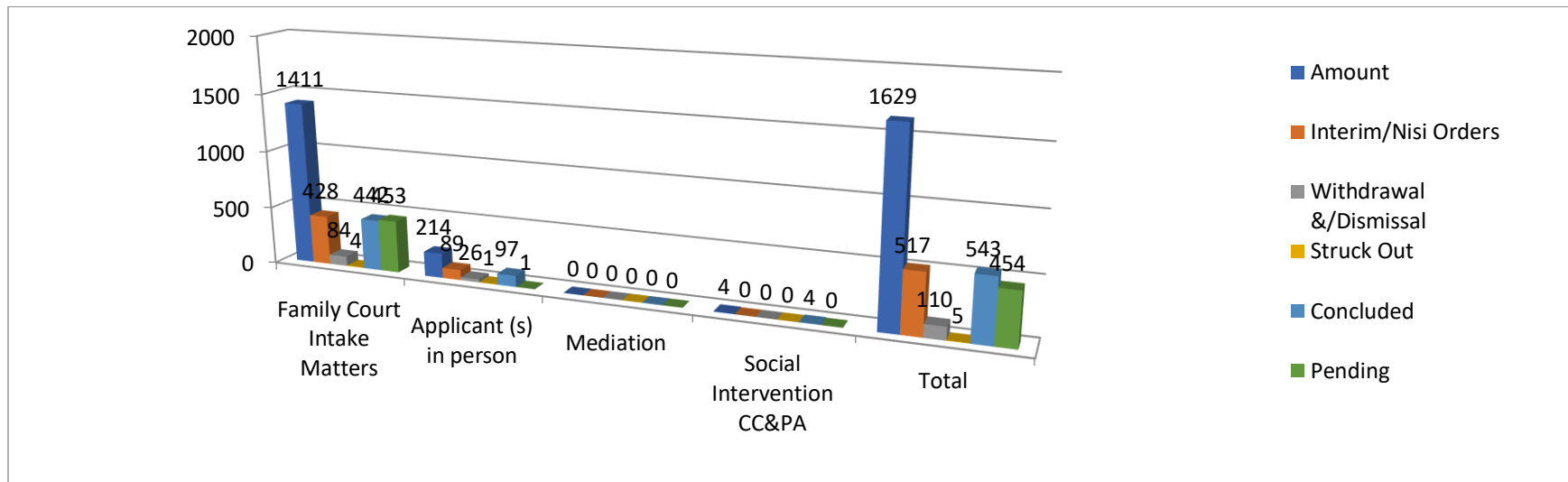


Figure 2 Illustrates the contrast between Custody, Access with Maintenance & Division of Property, Custody, Access with Maintenance and Custody with Access Applications over a twelve (12) months - (January- December, 2017)

Figure 2

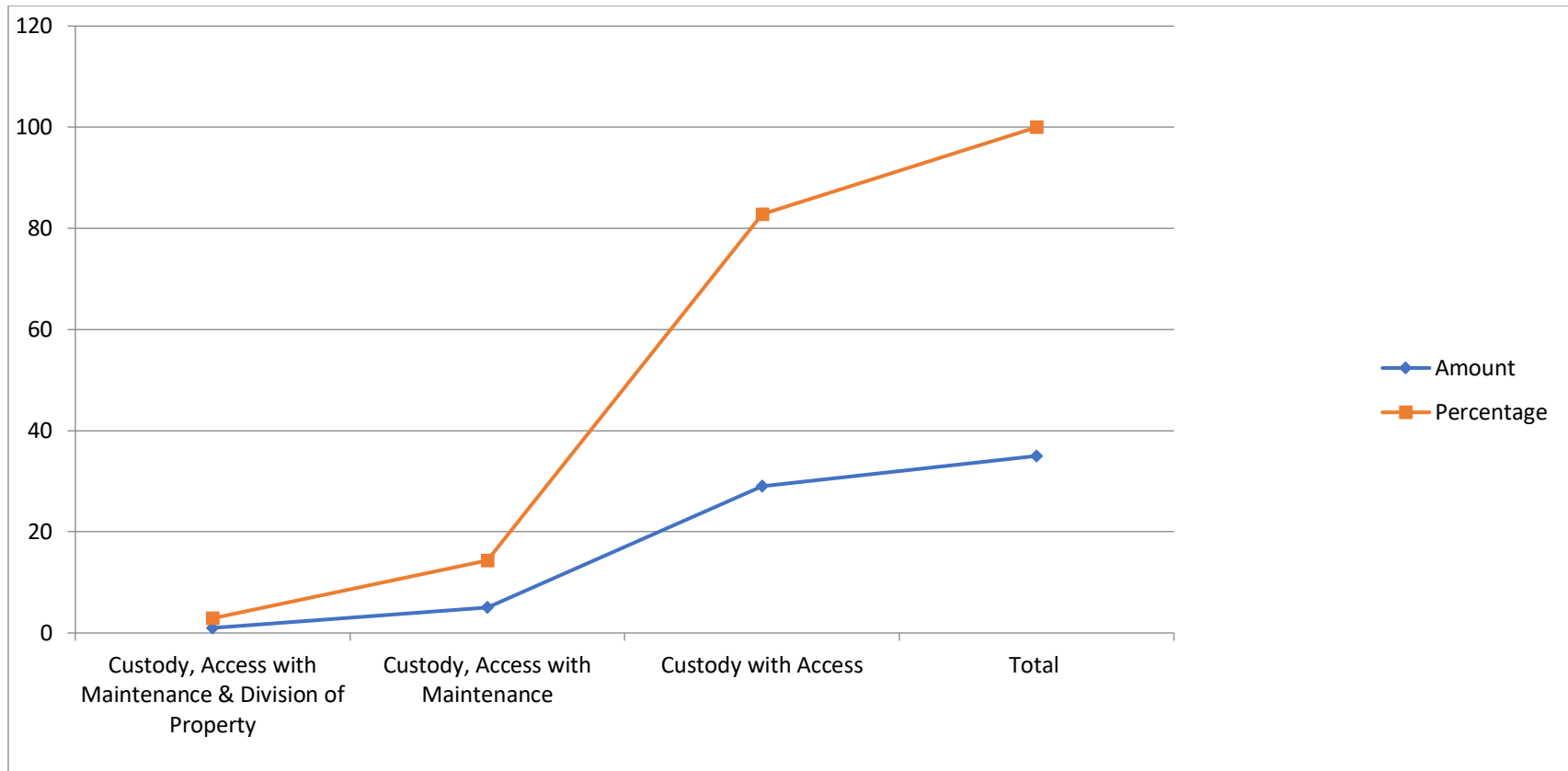


Table 3a & Figure 3b Illustrate the comparison between Division of Property, Injunction, Division of Property with Maintenance and Maintenance with Access Applications over a period of twelve (12) months - (January-December, 2017).

Table 3a:

Intake Matters	Amount	Percentage
Division of Property	13	50%
Injunction	2	7.7%
Division of Property with Maintenance	1	3.8%
Maintenance with Access	10	38.5
Total	26	100%

Figure 3b:

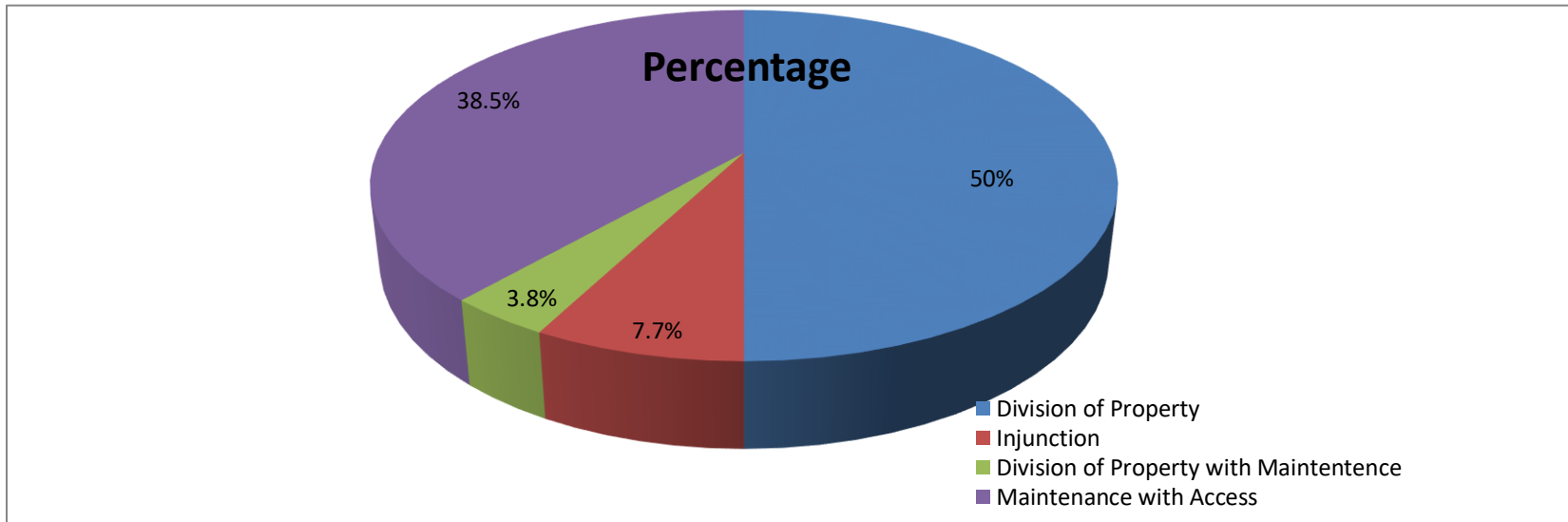


Table 4a & Figure 4b Illustrate the comparison between Divorce with Custody, Divorce with Maintenance, Divorce with Access, Divorce with Division of Property, Divorce with Custody & Access, Divorce with Custody & Maintenance, Divorce with Maintenance & Access and Divorce with Custody, Access & Maintenance Applications over a period of twelve (12) months - (January- December, 2017).

Table 4a:

Intake Matters	Amount	Percentage
Divorce with Custody	36	35.3%
Divorce with Maintenance	7	6.9%
Divorce with Access	9	8.8%
Divorce with Division of Property	11	10.8%
Divorce with Custody & Access	28	27.5%
Divorce with Custody & Maintenance	4	3.9%
Divorce with Maintenance & Access	3	2.9%
Divorce with Custody, Access & Maintenance	4	3.9%
Total	102	100%

Figure 4b:

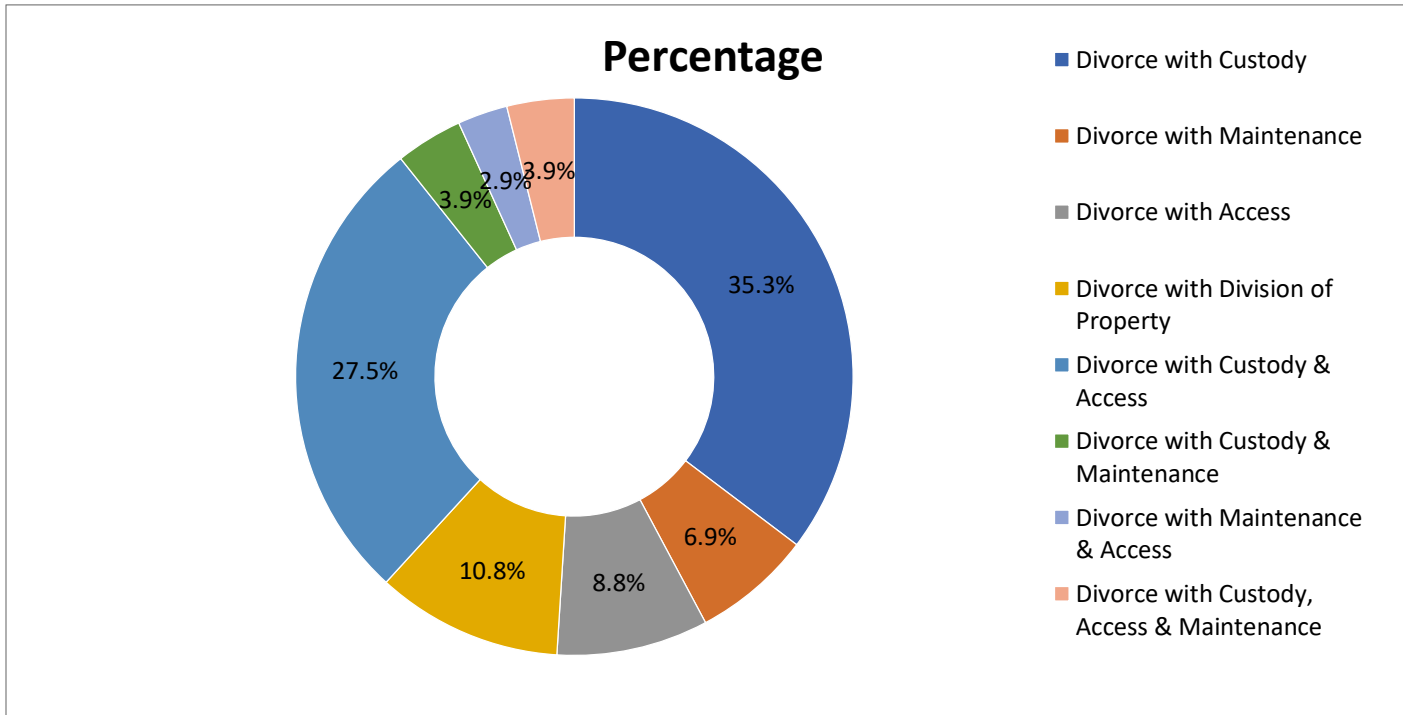


Table 5a & Figure 5b Illustrate the comparison between only Divorce, Custody, Maintenance, Access and Guardianship Applications over period of six (6) months (January-December, 2017).

Table 5a:

Intake Matters	Amount	Percentage
Divorce	606	89.4%
Custody	49	7.2%
Maintenance	5	0.7%
Access	13	1.9%
Guardianship	5	0.7%

Figure 5b:

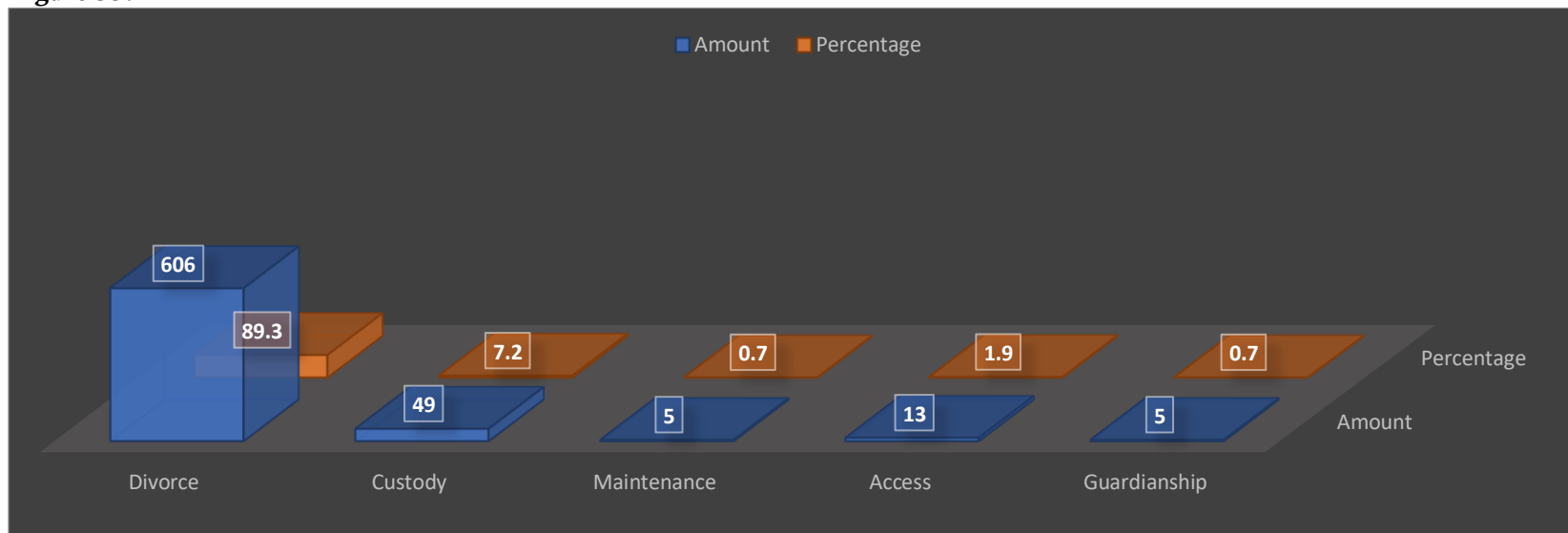
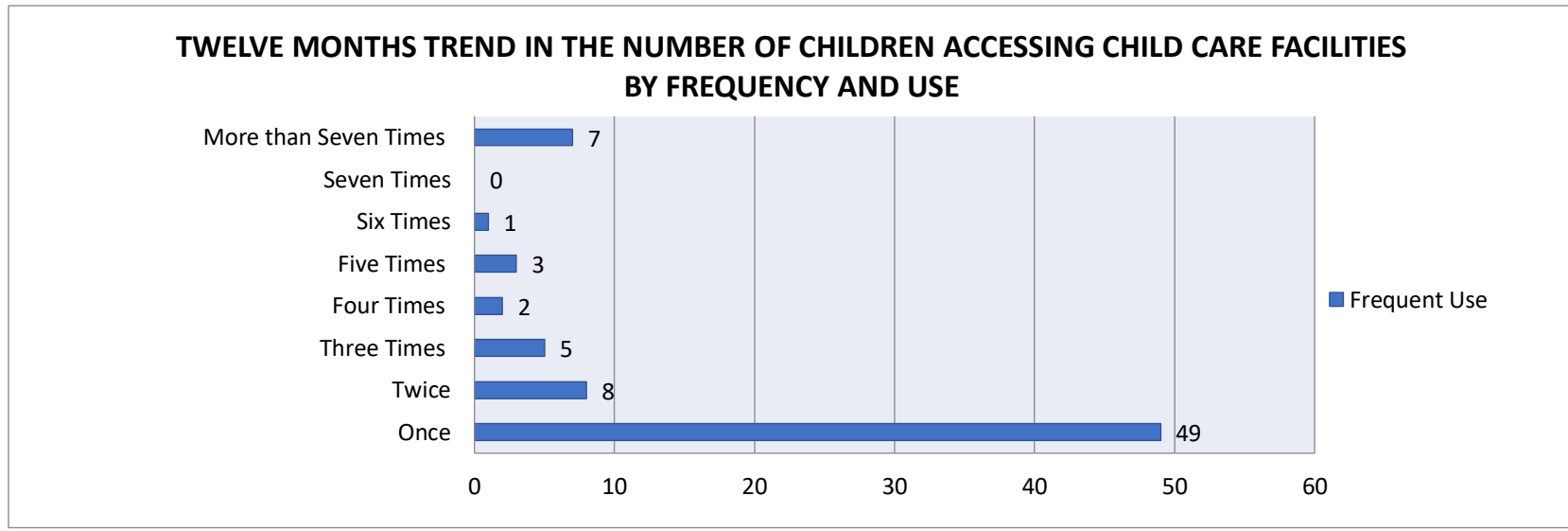


Figure 6a & 6b: Illustrate the number of cases in relation to children accessing the Childcare Facilities during the past year - (January-December, 2017) parallel to that of 2016.

Figure 6a:

Source of Referral	Number of Children Accessing Child Care Facilities
Court Referral	15
Child Care& Protection Agency Cases	9
Sexual Offence Matters	4
Total	28

Figure 6b:



THE LAND COURT REGISTRY

THE COMMISSIONERS OF TITLE



Ms. Melisa Robertson



Ms. Nicola Pierre



Mrs. Priscilla Chandra-Haniff

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Land registration was instituted in Guyana in 1959 with the passing of the Land Registry Ordinance No.18 of 1959 now incorporated in the **Land Registry Act Chapter 5:02** of the Laws of Guyana.

The objects of the Act are as follows: -

- (a) To simplify land titling.
- (b) To facilitate dealing therewith and
- (c) To secure indefeasibility of title to all registered proprietors, except in certain cases as specified in the Act.

The Act provides for the establishment of a Court of special jurisdiction to be called a Land Court, which shall be a Court of record and shall have a seal. This Court is presided over by a Commissioner of Title who has jurisdiction in all claims filed under the Land Registration Act.

Section 11 makes provision for the appointment of such number of Commissioners of Title as may be necessary for the purposes of the Act and Section 12 (1) stipulates the qualifications required for this post.

There is also a Land Court Registry, which performs the administrative functions under the Act. The Registrar of the Supreme Court is the administrative head of this registry.

JURISDICTION:

The Land Court deals with the following:

- (1) Petitions for declaration of title under the Title to Land (Prescription and Limitation) Act, Chapter 60:02 that have been assigned by the Honourable Chief Justice to the Commissioner of Title for hearing and determination.
- (2) Applications for registration of title brought under section 35 of the Deeds Registry Act Chapter 5:01 that have been assigned as at (1) above.

(3) Applications for registration of title brought under the Land Registry Act Chapter 5:02. These include: -

(a) Applications for first registration vide Sections 18-31.

(b) Applications under section 79 of the Act; and

(c) Applications under section 107 of the Act.

Dismissed - 90

Dismissed for Want of Prosecution - 47

Struck Out - 4

Sine Die - 4

Taken off List - 9

OPPOSED PETITIONS:

Granted -18

Settled -NIL

Withdrawn/Discontinued -13

Dismissed -56

Struck Out -NIL

Sine Die -NIL

Taken off List -2

SUMMONSES

Granted -3

Dismissed - 6

Summary of work Accomplished for the year 2017

TOTAL HIGH COURT PETITIONS RECEIVED 2017

- 229

UNOPPOSED PETITIONS (DEMERARA)

Granted -190

Settled - Nil

Withdrawn/Discontinued - 67

TOTAL LAND REGISTRY APPLICATION

RECEIVED 2017 -128

UNOPPOSED APPLICATIONS

Granted -47

Withdrawn and Discontinued -21

Dismissed - 22

Dismissed for Want of Prosecution -5

Taken off List - NIL

Sine Die -NIL

THE JUDICIAL REGISTRY

FUNCTION OF THE JUDICIAL REGISTRY

The principal function of this section is to accept and record matters that are filed and to transmit them to the various Judges before whom they are fixed.

In particular, it is responsible for accepting all documents intended for filing and subsequent hearing before the three branches of the Supreme Court of Judicature namely The High Court and its appellate jurisdiction, the Full Court, and the Court of Appeal.

A Cause Book is maintained which allows for manual record to be kept for every matter that is filed. It reflects the progress of a matter in the system.

Over the years the Registry staff has been working diligently to input data into our computerized Database Management System. This system makes completing requests from members of the public much faster.

NEW CIVIL PROCEDURE RULES

On the 6th day of February 2017 the New Civil Procedure Rules were implemented. The overriding objective of these Rules is to enable the Court to deal with cases justly.

Dealing with cases justly includes:

- (a) Ensuring, so far as is practicable, that the parties are on an equal footing:
- (b) Saving expense;
- (c) Dealing with it in ways which are proportionate to the:
 - (i) Importance of the case;
 - (ii) Complexity of the issues;
 - (iii) Amount of money involved: and
 - (iv) Financial position of each party
- (d) Ensuring that the case is dealt with expeditiously, and

(e) Allotting to the case an appropriate share of the Court’s resources while taking into account the need to allot resources to other cases.

The Court may seek to give effect to the overriding object when it interprets any rule or exercises any discretion given to it by the rules. It is the duty of the parties and their attorneys-at-law to help the Court to further the overriding objective.

Table 1 Illustrates total number of cases filed under the old rules from January 2, 2017 to February 5, 2017 before the new CPR regime was implemented.

Table 1

Category	Number of cases
Adoption Summons	19
Appeals	6
Commercial Division	147
Constitutional Motion	7
Judgment Summons	16
Notice of Motion	5
Petitions	55
Specially Indorsed Writs	19
Summons and Application	94
Writ of Summons	32
TOTAL	400

Figure 1 a

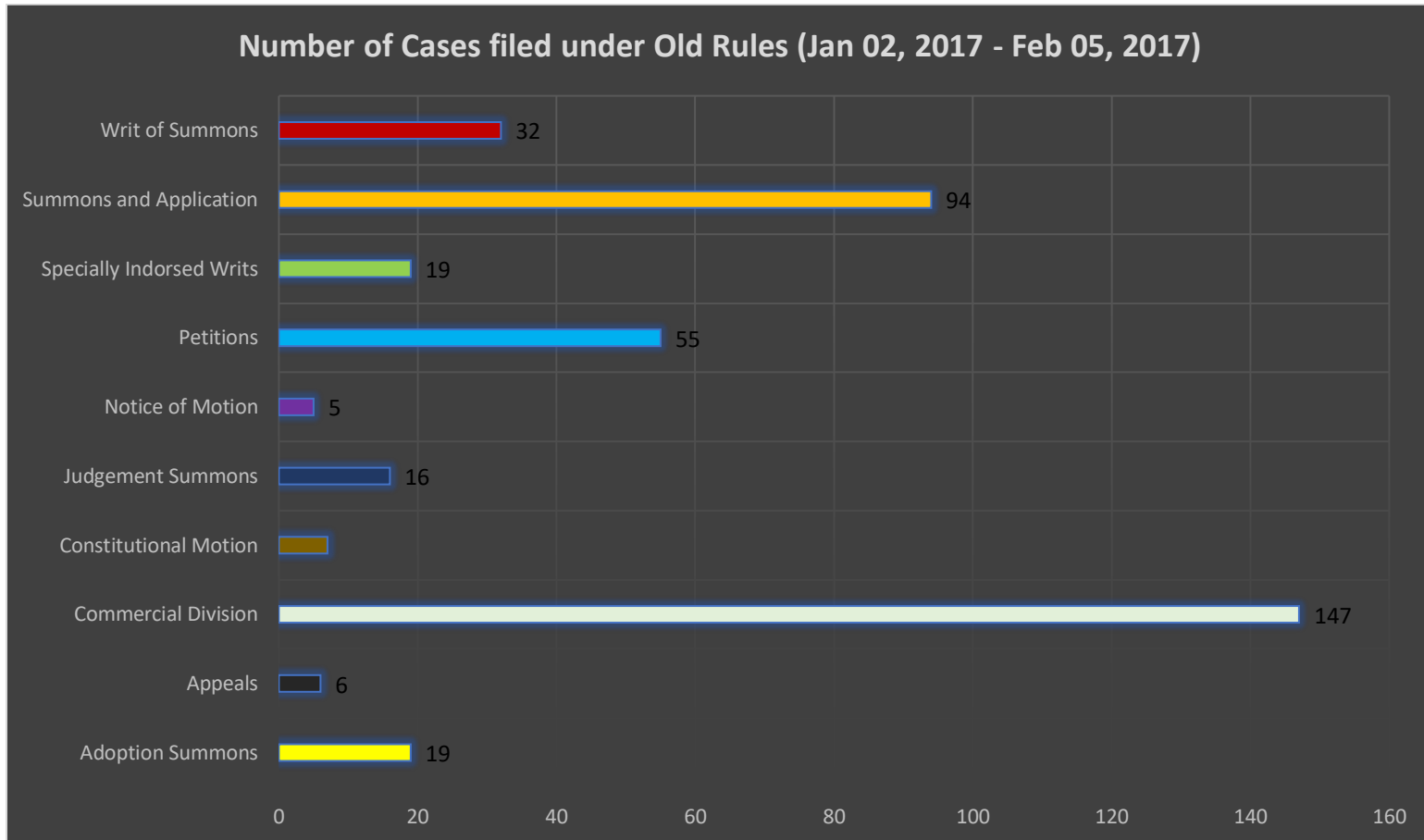
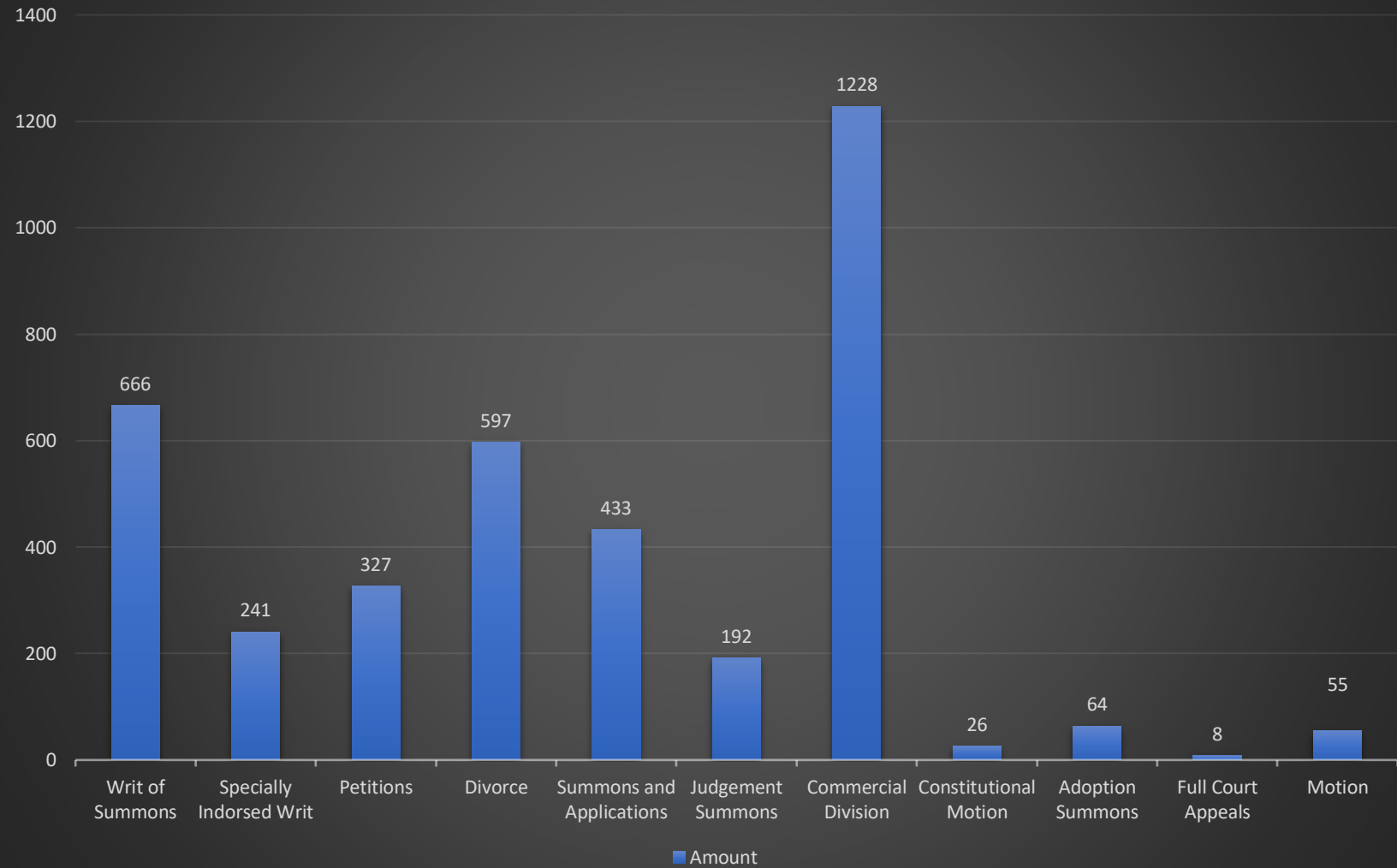


Table 1b

TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES CONCLUDED FOR THE YEAR 2017 IN THE HIGH COURT

CATEGORY	AMOUNT
Writ of Summons	666
Specially Indorsed Writ	241
Petitions (NON DIVORCE)	327
Divorce	597
Summons and Applications	433
Judgment Summons	192
Commercial Division	1228
Constitutional Motion	26
Adoption Summons	64
Full Court Appeals	8
Motion	55
Total	3837

Number of Cases concluded for the Year 2017



The total number of matters pending on the Bail Court List is **22** and the total number of matters pending on the Chambers List is **19**

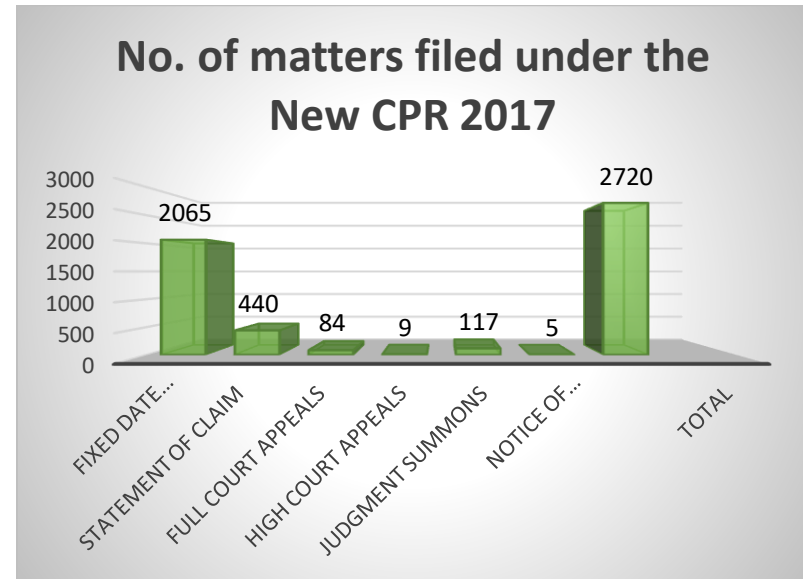
At present, a total of **1058** Request for hearing matters are awaiting dates. And **1173** are presently being heard by various Judges.

The following table illustrates number of cases were filed since the implementation of the New Civil Procedure Rules February 6 – December 31, 2017.

Table 1c

CATEGORY	NUMBER OF CASES
Fixed Date Application	2065
Statement of Claim	440
Full Court Appeals	84
High Court Appeals	9
Judgment Summons	117

Notice of Application	5
TOTAL	2720

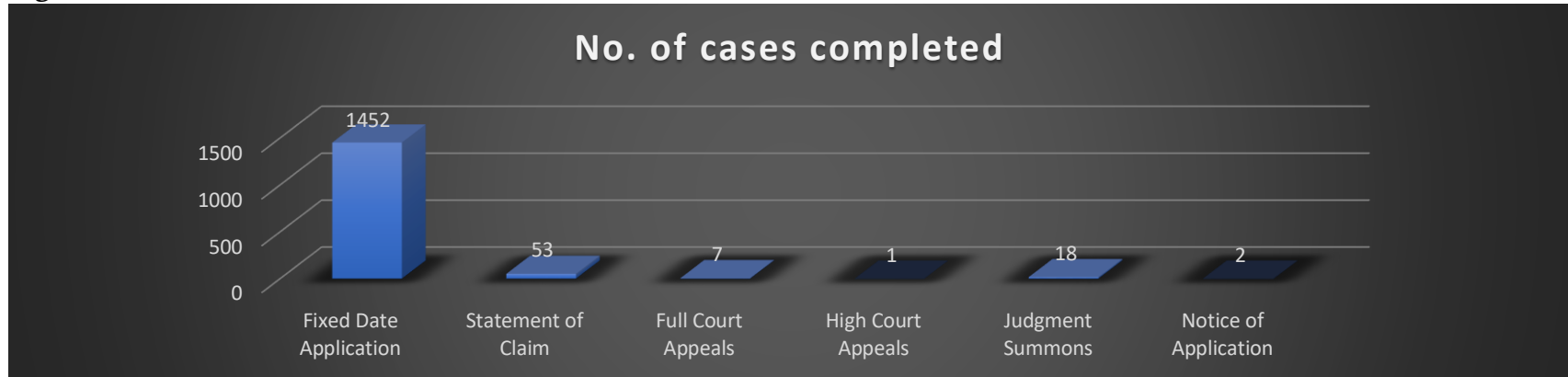


The following table illustrates the number of cases that were concluded since the implementation of the New Civil Procedure Rules

Table 1d

CATEGORY	NUMBER OF CASES COMPLETED
Fixed Date Application	1452
Statement of Claim	53
Full Court Appeals	7
High Court Appeals	1
Judgment Summons	18
Notice of Application	2
TOTAL	1533

Figure 1e



THE PROBATE SECTION

The Probate Section is called the Estates Division and deals with Letters of Administration, Probates, Wills, Caveats, Citations and Affidavits verifying accounts. This section is a part of the Judicial Registry of the High Court and is headed by a Senior Registry Officer.

The main objective of this section is to facilitate the process relating to the grant of Probate and Letters of Administration to enable executors and administrators to administer the estate of deceased persons according to law.

Set out in the various tables below are the statistics relative to the performance of this section in the period under review.

Table 1 Illustrates status of matters filed in the Probate Section and work done during 2017

Table 1

	Particulars	Application For Probate	Application For Letters of Administration	Re-Sealing Of Grant	Estates Withdrawn	Wills Deposited	Caveats	Citations	Affidavit Verifying Accts
Georgetown	Filed in 2017	312	594	6	-	929	124	15	-
Georgetown	Disposed at 2017-12-31	190 1 (Withdrawn)	360 10 (Withdrawn)	5	11	18	72	11	-
Georgetown	Pending at 2017-12-31	32 (Out of Order) 89 (Processing)	81 (Out of Order) 143 (Processing)	1	-	911	52	4	-

Table 2 Illustrates the Status of Matters Pending at 31st December, 2016 and Completed at 31st December, 2017

Table 2

Particulars	Application for Probate	Application for Letters of Administration	Re-Sealing of Grant	Estates Withdrawn	Wills Deposited	Caveats	Citations
Pending at 2016-12-31	150	397	2	-	843	80	12
Disposed at 2017-12-31	101	239	2	-	-	80	12
Pending at 2017-12-31	49	158	-	-	843	-	-

THE MARSHALS' DEPARTMENT



The Marshals' Department has been relocated to the ground floor of the newest wing of the High Court, Georgetown, and has benefitted from provision of a conducive working environment which is far more spacious.

WORK PERFORMANCE
TABLE 6 MARSHALS' SECTION MATTERS- Old Rules

Districts	Status	WRIT OF SUMMONS	Specially Indorsed Writ	Summons & Applications	General Petitions, Notices, Citations	Divorce	Judgment Summons	Witness Citation	Inter-Pleaders	Notice Of Motion	Writ Of Possession	Order Of Court	Levy	Total
G/town	Pending at 2017-01-01	200	1095	346	381	788	34	94	2	13	25	95	162	3235
NA Sub-Reg														

Esseq Sub-Reg																
G/town	Filed in 2017-01 Jan-31 st Dec	77	198	133	139	37	20	70	1	18	21	431	243	1388		
NA Sub-Reg																
Esseq Sub-Reg																
G/town	Disposed in 2017-01 ST Jan-31 st Dec	74	301	198	120	46	35	76	4	18	22	264	183	1341		
NA Sub-Reg																
Esseq Sub-Reg																
G/town	Pending at 2018-01-01	203	992	281	400	779	19	88	-	11	25	262	222	3282		
NA Sub-Reg																
Esseq Sub-Reg																

WORK PERFORMANCE

TABLE 8 MARSHAL'S SECTION MATTERS- NEW RULES 2016

Districts	Status	FDA	SOC	J/Sums	FCA	Inj	Witness Sums	Notice of Appeal	Adoptions Sums	Interpleader	Notice of Opposition	Order of Court	Notice of Applications	levy	Writ of Possessions	Notices, urgent without notices, Praecipe for	Total

																		Citati on & warni ng to Cave at
G/town	Pending at 2017- 01-01																	
NA Sub-Reg																		
Esseq Sub-Reg																		
G/town	Filed in 2017-01 Jan-31 st Dec	1635	458	108	6	19	6	10	12	2	1	966	29	28	1	38	331 9	
NA Sub-Reg																		
Esseq Sub-Reg																		
G/town	Disposed in 2017- 01Jan- 31 st Dec	1533	402	87	-	11	6	10	7	2	1	711	28	13	1	28	284 0	
NA Sub-Reg																		
Esseq Sub-Reg																		
G/town	Pending at 2018-01- 01	102	56	21	6	8	-	-	5	-	-	255	1	15	-	10	479	
NA Sub-Reg																		
Esseq Sub-Reg																		

WORK PERFORMANCE

TABLE 7 MARSHALS' SECTION MATTERS FAMILY COURT-DIVISION

Distri cts	Statu s	Form 1- P.F.D.	Form 2 S.O.A.F. C	Form 3 N.O.P	Form 4 A.O.S (Resp onden t)	Form 5 A.O.S (CO- respo ndent)	Form 6 N.O.A .R.F.F. R/D.O .P	Form 7 F.R/ D.O.P. A.F.W. E	Form 8 E.O.F.R/ D.O.P.R	Form 9 A.R.T. C	Form 10 R.T.T. R.T.C	Form 11 Applicat- ion	Form 12 N.O.P (Co- respon dent)	Form 13 Witnes s Summ ons	Form 14 N.O.A. F.D.N.T .B.M.A	Or de r of Co urt	Notice of Directi ons hearin g	Witho ut Notice App for Financ ial relief with Evide nce	Total
G/tow n	Pendi ng at	17	13	10	3	-	-	7	-	5	9	-	1	-	-	3	-		68
NA Sub- Reg	2017- 01-01																		
Esseq Sub- Reg																			
G/tow n	Filed in	1035	494	235	220	-	20	26	18	157	32	1	-	10	-	20	43	17	2396
NA Sub- Reg	2017- 01 Jan-																		
Esseq Sub- Reg	31 st Dec																		
G/tow n	Dispo sed in	795	393	209	200	-	17	27	12	114	25	1	1	2	-	12	42	17	1867
NA Sub- Reg	2017- 01 Jan-																		
Esseq Sub- Reg	31 st Dec																		

G/town	Pending at	257	114	36	23	-	3	6	6	48	16	-	-	8	-	11	1	-	529
NA Sub-Reg	2018-01-01																		
Essex Sub-Reg																			

Legend

- Form 1 Petition for Divorce & Other Matrimonial Causes
- Form 2 Statement of Arrangements for Children
- Form 3 Notice of Proceedings (Respondent)
- Form 4 Acknowledgement of Service (Respondent)
- Form 5 Acknowledgement of services (Co-Respondents)
- Form 6 Notice of Application by Respondent for Financial Relief/Division of Property
- Form 7 Financial Relief, Division of Property Application Form with Evidence
- Form 8 Evidence for Financial Relief/ Division of Property (Respondent)
- Form 9 Application Relating to Children
- Form 10 Reply to Application Relating to Children
- Form 11 Application
- Form 12 Notice of Proceedings (Co-Respondent)
- Form 13 Witness Summons

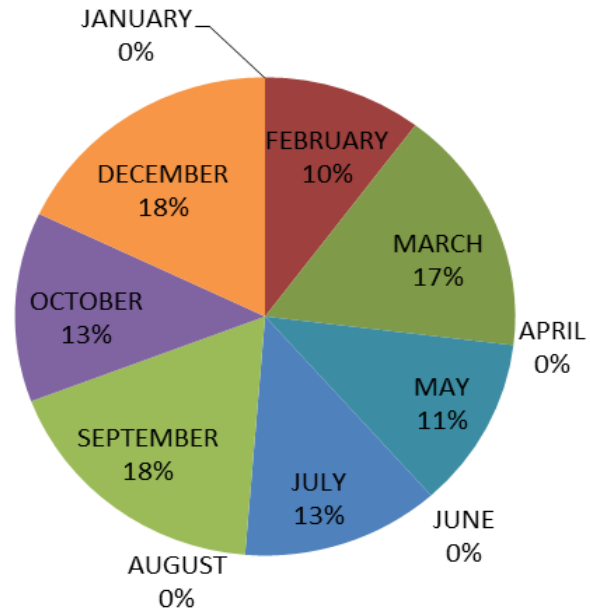
- Form 14 Notice of Application for decree Nisi to be made Absolute

- Order of Court

Execution Sales held by Registrar of The Supreme Court of Judicature for the Judicial Year 2017

Months	Demerara	Berbice	Essequibo	Total
Jan	-	-	-	-
Feb	8	-	-	8
Mar	13	2	-	15
Apr	-	2	-	2
May	9	-	-	9
Jun	-	-	-	-
Jul	10	-	-	10
Aug	-	-	-	-
Sep	14	-	-	14
Oct	10	-	-	10
Nov	-	-	-	-
Dec	14	1	-	15
Total	78	5	-	83

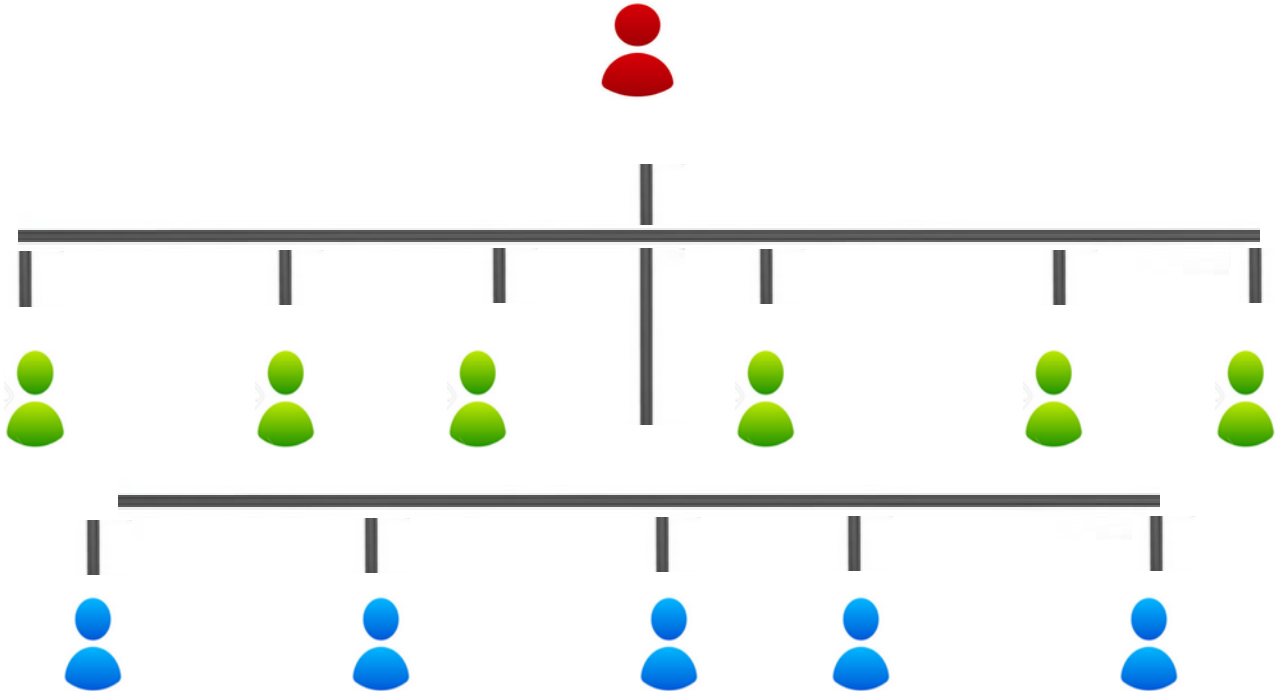
Sales



Information Technology Department




Information Technology Department Structure



 **Systems Administrator**

 **Systems Support Officer – Four (4) Positions Vacant**

 **Data Entry Clerk – Two (2) Positions Vacant**

Information Technology Department Overview

This department is responsible for providing the strategic vision for Information Technology in the Supreme Court and developing and maintaining standard operating and system support services.

Key Activities

- ❖ **Networking**
- ❖ **IT Media & Communications**
- ❖ **ICT Equipment Repairs and Upgrades**
- ❖ **IT Support Services**
- ❖ **Server Maintenance**
- ❖ **Database Maintenance**
- ❖ **Software Updates**
- ❖ **Document Preparation and Management**

Key achievements for the department in 2017

Networking

- Installed a fully functioning ICT Network for Video-Conferencing for the newly created Sexual Offences Court.
- Installed a fully functioning ICT Network for the newly built Linden Magistrate's Court.
- Installed a fully functioning ICT Network for the newly built Land Court.
- WIFI Connected for all Judges' Chambers.
- Installed the Supreme Court's Biometrics Time System.
- Upgraded the Supreme Courts Main Server to the latest model.
- Upgraded the ICT Network infrastructure between the High Court of Georgetown and the Berbice Sub-Registry.
- Upgraded the Supreme Court's ICT firewall and security.

IT Media & Communications

- Created an Electronic Calendar Software for the judges.
- Created an Electronic Video-Conferencing Calendar which can be accessed from any computer of the High Court in Georgetown.
- Created an Intranet which will facilitate staff to transfer files electronically.
- Over one hundred and twenty (120) Video Conferences were conducted in the High Court in Georgetown, at the Berbice Sub –Registry, Court of Appeal, Georgetown Magistrates’ Courts and Vigilance Magistrate’s Court

Procurement

- Assisted the Procurement Officer in the purchasing all ICT equipment.

ICT Equipment Repairs and Upgrades

- Repairs and upgrades have been done regularly to achieve a 100% level of working computers, printers and other ICT equipment.

IT Support Services

- Setup and support for the Land Court, Linden Magistrate’s Court and Sexual Offences Court openings.
- Provided IT Support to staff who were not fully knowledgeable of various applications such as Microsoft Office, Windows 7 and 10, Adobe Reader etc.
- Completed all work necessary to connect judges who had moved over to the Land Court and Family Court buildings.
- Printed Monthly Time Reports for staff
- Provided technical support for conferences and seminars.

Server Maintenance

- All servers fully updated and upgraded.
- Built a secondary server to maintain the judges' calendars, video-conferencing calendar and intranet.

Database Maintenance

- All databases have been fully updated and upgraded.
- Created categories in the database to facilitate the new rules i.e. Fixed Date Application and Statement of Claim

Document Preparation and Management

- Created and modified PowerPoint presentations and other documents for judges, senior staff and any other staff of the Supreme Court.

Software Updates

- All Windows 7 and 10 systems were fully updated
- All Anti-Virus programs were fully updated
- All MS Office applications were fully updated
- All other software programs were up-to-date
- All other software programs have valid product keys and serials

THE SUPREME COURT LIBRARY



INTRODUCTION

For the Judiciary to effectively fulfill its mission, the services of an efficient and adequately resourced Law Library are integral.

The legal information provided by the trained and competent staff, is always timely and relevant. The staff uses resources available at the local, regional and international levels.

OPERATIONS

During the period under review, the Supreme Court Law Library continued to provide effective and efficient services to all its stakeholders. These include:

- . The Chancellor
- . Justices of Appeal
- . Chief Justice
- . Puisne Judges
- . Registrar
- . Deputy Registrar
- . Members of the Bar
- . Law students
- . Approved Researchers

During the period August-September the Court Reporting Unit which was housed in a section of the library were relocated and this saw the Library utilizing the entire space again.

Throughout the year, the library was constantly in receipt of books and updated reports. Special mention must be made of the UNICEF collection of Family Law Texts that was

received in April to facilitate the work being of the Family Court.

A needs assessment of the library regarding its collection and staffing was conducted in May, 2017.

Throughout the year visits were made to the Berbice Sub-Registry Library, where updated collections were provided and shelving done to maintain some semblance of order to the collection.

Also in May, a visit was made to the Essequibo Sub-registry in relation to upgrading the library facilities there.

July 29th saw the completion of the Linden Reading Room in time for the dedication of the Upper Demerara Magisterial District.

July also saw the tagging, shelving and listing of materials at the Sparendam Magistrates' Court.

Visits were also made to various magistrates' courts with a view to providing them with research materials within the District.

In the last quarter the library took on a new look i.e. newly tiled floor; new shelves, more books on the shelves, and up-to-date reports.

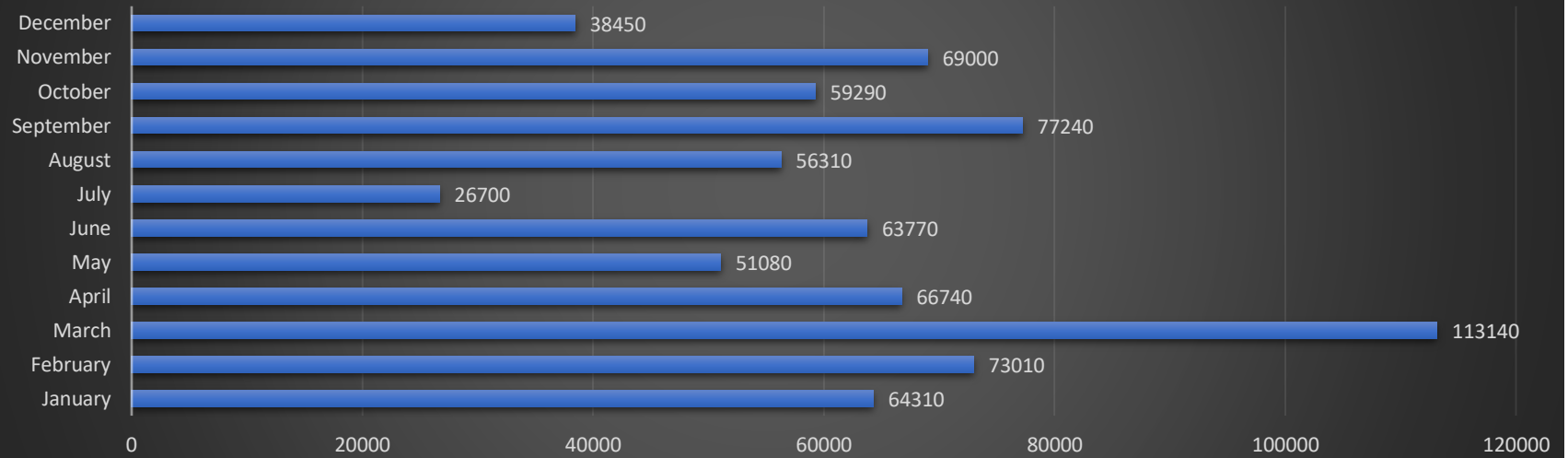
PHOTOCOPYING REVENUE RECEIVED

MONTHS	TOTAL (\$)
January	64,310
February	73,010
March	113,140
April	66,740
May	51,080
June	63,770
July	26,700
August	56,310

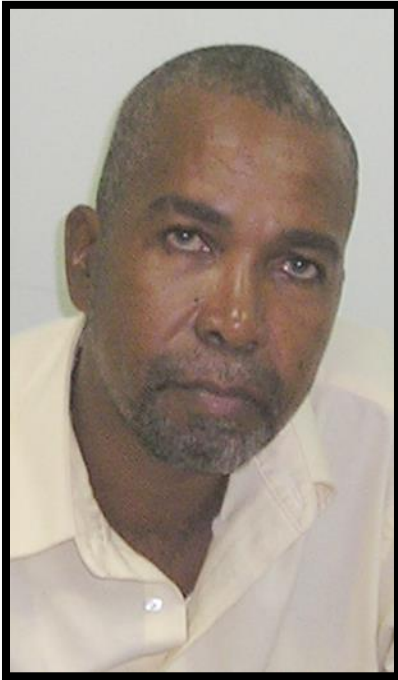
The library provides photocopying facilities for judicial officers and attorneys-at-law. The latter and other library users are charged a fee per page. The table below records the revenue received on a monthly basis for photocopying.

September	77,240
October	59,290
November	69,000
December	38,450

Chart showing Photocopying Revenue Received in the Year 2017



COURT CONNECTED MEDIATION



**Mr. Colin Chichester,
Director of Mediation Services**



The Mediation Centre

COURT CONNECTED MEDIATION

1. No. of matters referred	86
No. Judge directed	85
No. Attorney /client directed	1
2. No of Sessions scheduled (all parties ready)	194
No of matters settled before actual mediation	1
No of matters successfully mediated (agreement)	21

Analysis

The records reveal a decrease in matters referred to mediation for the period under review (*86 as against 106 in 2016*).

The number of matters referred for mediation by litigants/attorney remained constant.

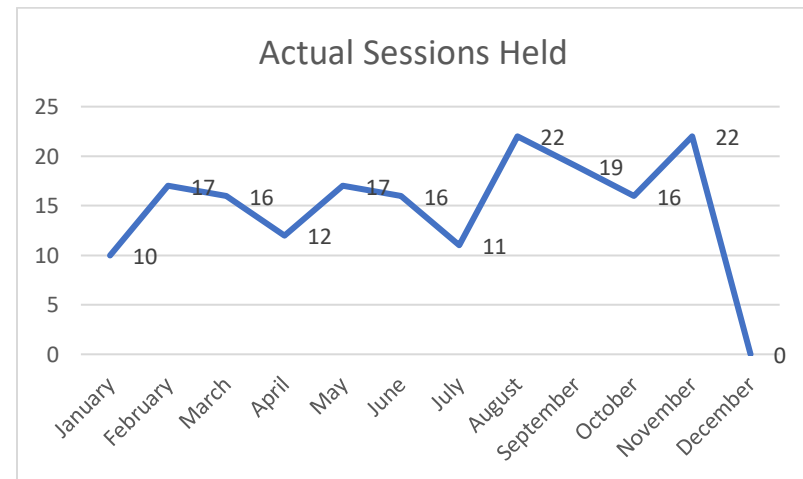
The number of matters scheduled for mediation increased from **140 to 194** whilst the number of matters successfully resolved also increased from **19 to 21**. The number of unresolved matters returned to court increased from **20 to 28**

No of matters unsuccessfully mediated (mattersreferred to trial) 28

No of matters partially mediated (some issuesresolved but case referred to trial) 10

No of matters referred for mediation but subsequently returned to trial in preference to mediation 10

No. of actual sessions held per month





ESSEQUIBO SUB-REGISTRY

The Essequibo Sub-registry, as the name suggests, is a sub-registry of the High Court Registry, Georgetown. It deals with High Court matters for the County of Essequibo and is headed administratively by the Registrar of the Supreme Court. A Senior Registry Officer performs the day to day administrative functions and supervises the staff. The operations of the Essequibo as well as the Berbice Sub-

CRIMINAL

A total of fifty-nine (59) criminal indictments were filed during the year 2017. Seventy-eight (78) were pending at December 31st 2016 making a grand total of one hundred and thirty-seven (137) criminal matters to be heard in 2017.

TABLE SHOWING CRIMINAL MATTERS IN ESSEQUIBO

Pending at December 31 st 2016	78
Filed in 2017	59
Disposed in 2017	17
Pending at December 31 st 2017	120

registries mirror those of the Georgetown judicial registry except that neither of them has a separate Family Court with its own registry. Additionally, the Land Court in Essequibo does not have its own registry; rather, its applications and filing are handled by the Sub-registry’s main office.

Seventeen (17) matters were disposed in 2017 leaving a total of one hundred and twenty (120) matters pending at December 31st, 2017.



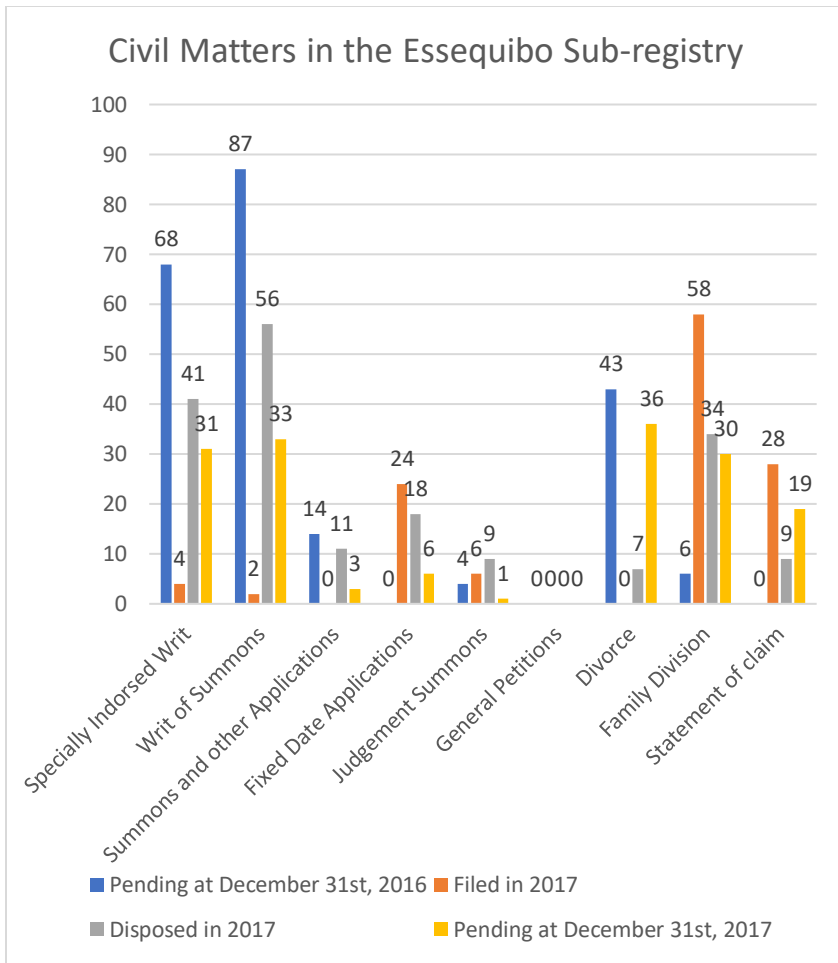
CIVIL

A total of one hundred and twenty-two (122) civil matters were filed in 2017 and two hundred and twenty-two (222) were pending at December 31st 2016 making a grand total of

three hundred and forty four (344) matters to be heard in 2017. One hundred and eighty-five(185) of those matters were disposed in 2017 leaving a total of one hundred and fifty nine (159) matters pending at December 31st, 2017.

TABLE SHOWING CIVIL MATTERS IN ESSEQUIBO

	Special ly Indors ed Writ	Writ of Summ ons	Summon s and other Applicati ons	Fixed Date Applicati ons	Judgme nt Summo ns	Genera l Petitio ns	Divorc e	Family Divisio n	Statemen t of claim	Total
Pending at December 31st, 2016	68	87	14	-	4	-	43	6	-	222
Filed in 2017	4	2	-	24	6	-	-	58	28	122
Disposed in 2017	41	56	11	18	9	-	7	34	9	185
Pending at December 31st, 2017	31	33	3	6	1	-	36	30	19	159



LAND COURT

Fifty-two (52) Petitions for prescriptive titles were filed in 2017 and eighty-seven (87) were pending at 31stDecember, 2016, making a grand total of one hundred and thirty nine (139) matters to be heard in 2017. Fifty-one (51) of those were heard, leaving a total of eighty-eight (88) matters pending at December 31st, 2017.

TABLE SHOWING LAND COURT MATTERS IN ESSEQUIBO

	Petition for Prescriptive Title	Deeds Registry Act Chapter 5:01, s. 35	Land Restriction Act Chapter 5:02,S.79	Land Restriction Act Chapter 5:02,S.107	Land Restriction Act Chapter 5:02,S.17
Pending at December 31st, 2016	87	-	-	-	-
Filed in 2017	52	-	-	-	-
Disposed in 2017	51	-	-	-	-
Pending at December 31st, 2017	88	-	-	-	-

10 were withdrawn and discontinued.

PROBATE

Fourteen (14) applications for Probate and Thirty One (31) applications for Letters of Administration were filed in

2017. Eight (8) applications for Probate and Nineteen (19) applications for Letters of Administration were issued.

TABLE SHOWING PROBATE MATTERS IN ESSEQUIBO

	Application for Probate	Application for Letters of Administration	Wills Deposited	Caveats Entered	Citations	Application to Sell by Private Treaty	Affidavit Verifying Accounts
Pending at December 31 st , 2016	3	8	210	14	6	-	-
Filed in 2017	14	31	35	2	1	-	-
Disposed in 2017	8	19	9	1	-	-	-
Pending at December 31 st , 2017	9	20	236	15	7	-	-

ESSEQUIBO SUB-REGISTRY
CRIMINAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2017

YEAR	SESSION	JUDGE	NO. OF CASES LISTED	NO. DISPOSED	CON- VICTIONS	ACQUITALS	NOLLE PROSQUI
2017	February	Nareshwar Harnanan	35	7	-	7	1
2017	May	Brassington Reynolds	38	4	1	3	-
2017	October	Priya Sewnarine- Beharry	59	6	3	3	-
TOTAL			132	17	4	13	1

Note: Thirty-Two (32) cases on the list keep recurring. They are cases where Arrest Warrants were issued for the Accused.

ESSEQUIBO SUB-REGISTRY – CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS

OFFENCE	MALE	FEMALE	CONVICTED	AQUITTED	NOLLE PROSQUI
Rape	11	-	10	1	1
Manslaughter	3	-	3	-	-
Murder	5	-	-	5	-

ESSEQUIBO SUB-REGISTRY – CRIMINAL MATTERS CONCLUDED

OFFENCE	MALE	FEMALE	CONVICTED	AQUITTED	FAILED TO ARRIVE AT A VERDICT
Rape	11	-	10	1	-
Manslaughter	3	-	3	-	-
Murder	5	-	-	5	-



BERBICE SUB-REGISTRY

CIVIL COURT

Judges that presided in Civil Court in Barbice and the nature of matters dealt with were as follows:-

- (a) **Honourable Justice R. George - January – March, 2017** – Family Division, Writ of Summons, Specially Indorsed Writs, Judgment Summons, Summons and Applications, Divorces and General Applications.
- (b) **Honourable Justice F. Holder - April – June, 2017** - Family Division, Writ of Summons, Specially Indorsed Writs, Judgment Summons, Summons and Applications, Divorce, General Applications, Fixed Date Applications and Statements of Claim.
- (c) **Honourable Justice N. Singh - July - December, 2017** - Family Division, Writ of Summons, Specially Indorsed Writs, Judgment Summons, Summons and Applications, Divorce, General Applications, Fixed Date Applications, Statements of Claim, Petitions

for Admission to the Bar, Full Court, Old Divorces for dismissal and/or consideration and Old Civil matters for dismissal/ and or consideration.

CRIMINAL COURT

Two (2) Judges presided during 2017.

- (a) Honourable Justice JAMES BOVELL-DRAKES - January- September, 2017.
- (b) Honourable Justice JO-ANN BARLOW – October – December, 2017.

These Judges dealt with matters such as Murder, Attempted Murder, Rape, Petitions for Bail and Full Court matters.

LAND COURT

Madam Melissa Robertson, Commissioner of Title, presided and dealt with matters such as Petitions for Declaration of Title, Land Registration, applications under section 107, Section 35 and Section 79 under the Deeds

Registry Act and also matters for dismissal and/or consideration.

FULL COURT

There were 2 (two) sittings of the Full Court in Barbice for the Calendar year 2017. The Honourable Chief Justice (ag.) Roxane George, Justice Jo-Ann Barlow and Justice Navindra Singh presided.

There was a special sitting of the Full Court in memory of deceased Attorneys-at-Law, Mr. Trevor Trim, Mr. Anamayah, Mr. Marcel Crawford S.C and Mr. Perry Gossai, presided over by the Honourable Chief Justice Y. Cummings Edwards and a team of Puisne Judges. The Registrar and Deputy Registrar were also in attendance.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE DURING 2017

CRIMINAL COURT

At the end of 2017, out of a total of 225 (two hundred and twenty five) criminal cases which were pending along with

the 73 (seventy three) filed in 2017, 35 (thirty five) were disposed of. All of the 13 (thirteen) Petitions for Bail filed during 2017 were disposed of.

CIVIL COURT

At the end of 2017, 106 (one hundred and six) Specially Indorsed Writs, 259 (two hundred and fifty nine) Writs of Summons, 41 (forty one) Summonses and Applications, 8 (eight) Adoptions, 11 (eleven) Judgment Summonses (old rules), 23 (twenty three) Judgment Summonses (new rules), 4 (four) General Petitions, 581 (five hundred and eighty one) Divorce Petitions, 14 (fourteen) Statements of Claim (new rules), 131 (one hundred and thirty one) Fixed Date Applications (new rules) and 318 (three hundred and eighteen) Family Division matters were disposed of.

The above totals represent matters pending at the end of 2016 and matters that were filed in 2017 which were completed.

LAND COURT

At the end of 2017 a total of 544 (five hundred and forty four) Petitions for Title, 3 (three) section 35, 20 (twenty)

section 79 and 200 (two hundred) section 107 were disposed of by the Commissioner of Title. From the Petitions for Title and Applications for Land Registration totals, 209 (two hundred and nine) matters were listed for dismissal/consideration and were disposed of.

FULL COURT

For the year 2017, 2(two) Criminal and 6 (six) Civil Appeals were disposed of.

PROBATE AND ADMINISTRATION

For the year 2017, 37 (thirty seven) Applications for Probate and 127 (one hundred and twenty seven Applications for Letters of Administration were disposed of. A total of 267 (two hundred and sixty seven) Wills were lodged, 1 (one) was uplifted. Out of a total of 19 (nineteen) caveats which were pending at the end of 2016 and the 8 (eight) that were filed during 2017, 24 (twenty four) lapsed. No Re-Sealing of Grant was filed.

MARSHALS

For the year 2017, 128 (one hundred and twenty eight) Specially Indorsed Writs, 43 (forty three) Writs of Summons, 20 (twenty) Summonses and Applications, 10 (ten) General Petitions, 6 (six) Divorce Petitions, 25 (twenty five) Judgment Summonses, 41 (forty one) Witness Citations, 7 (seven) Notices of Motion, 2 (two) Interpleader Summonses, 4 (four Civil Appeals, 40 (forty) Orders of Court, 208 (two hundred and eight) Fixed Date Applications, and 66 (sixty six) Statements of Claim, were served by the Marshals of the Berbice sub-registry.

10 (ten) Demerara levies and 14 (fourteen) Berbice levies were executed by the marshals of the Sub Registry, Berbice.

EXECUTION SALES

There were 4 (four) execution sales held in Berbice for the calendar year, 2017.

The above totals represent matters pending at the end of 2016 and matters that were filed in 2017 and concluded.

BACKLOG MATTERS

A total of 209 (two hundred and nine) Petitions for Title and Applications for Land Registration matters were listed for dismissal/consideration were disposed of.

A total of 418 (four hundred and eighteen) old Divorces, and 306 (three hundred and six) old Civil matters that were listed for consideration/dismissal were disposed of.

TRAINING PROGRAMMES:

On the 6th, 7th and 20th day of January, 2017, Mrs. Pamela Williams (Senior Registry Officer), Mrs. Petal Denny and Ms. Williams were involved in training on the introduction of the new Civil Procedure Rules at the High Court Georgetown. Mrs. Pamela Williams attended further consultations on the new Civil Procedure Rules held by the Honourable Chancellor (ag.) Madam Cummings-Edwards and the Honourable Chief Justice (ag.) Madam R. George, in the Chief Justice's Chambers, Georgetown.

On the 30th of March, 2017 the Honourable Chief Justice (ag.) had an interpersonal engagement with Berbice Sub

Registry staff members, and encouraged them concerning better efficiency, how they should manage movement of documents and general conduct. Staff members also consulted with her on the Family Court Rules and the new Civil Procedure Rules.

On the 17th 18th and 19th July, 2017, 2 (two) members of Staff from the Family Division Georgetown, trained the 2 (two) Data Entry and the Case Management clerks in Berbice.

UPGRADING THE SYSTEM

During 2017, Ms. Barnwell, Chief Librarian, on various occasions sent up Law Volumes and subsequently would come and pack same in their required order.

A new scanner was installed in the Data Entry Room.

On the 6th July, 2017 an Information Technology Technician from the Georgetown Supreme Court installed a system in the Civil Court Chambers, to facilitate efficient case management.

TABLE 1: STATUS OF CIVIL MATTERS 2017

	Specially Indorsed Writ	Writ Of Summons	Summons & Other Applications	Adoption	Judgment Summons	Judgment Summons Under The Regular Jurisdiction	General Petition	Divorce	Statement Of Claim	Fixed Date Application	Family Division	Total
Pending at 2016/12/31	757	1089	156	118	106	NIL	4	1847	NIL	NIL	190	4267
Filed in 2017	60	28	29	2	9	32	NIL	NIL	95	315	447	1016
Disposed of in 2017	106	259	41	8	11	23	4	581	14	131 Pet. for bail not included	318	1485
Pending at 2017/12/31	711	1376	144	112	104	9	NIL	1266	81	184	319	4285

**TABLE 2: STATUS OF CRIMINAL MATTERS AT HIGH COURT,
NEW AMSTERDAM, BERBICE**

		INDICTMENTS
	Pending at 2016/12/31	225
	Filed in 2017	73
	Disposed of in 2017	35

TABLE 3: STATUS OF MATTERS FILED IN THE PROBATE SECTION, 2017

	Application for Probate	Application for Letters of Administration	Re-Sealing of Grant	Wills Deposited	Caveats Entered	Total
Pending at 2016/12/31	195	442	1	1990	19	2647
Filed in 2017	52	90	NIL	267	8	417

Disposed of 2017	37	127	NIL	1	24	170
Pending at 2017/12/31	210	405	1	2256	3	3234

TABLE 4: STATUS OF MATTERS FILED IN THE LAND COURT, 2017

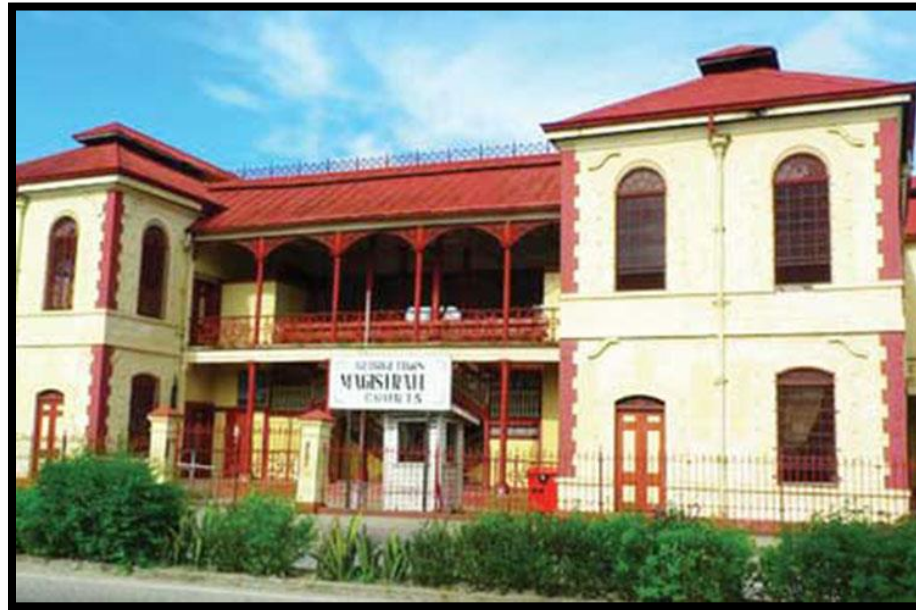
	Petition For Title	Section 35	Land Registration Section 79	Land Registration Section 107	Land Registration Section 17	Total
Pending at 2016/12/31	875	5	102	764	NIL	1746
Filed in 2017	379	1	3	198	NIL	581
Disposed of 2017	544	3	20	200	NIL	767
Pending at 2017/12/31	710	3	85	762	NIL	1560

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TABLE 5: STATUS OF MATTERS BEFORE THE FULL COURT

	CRIMINAL	CIVIL
Pending at 2016/12/31	30	94
Filed in 2017	6	10
Disposed of in 2017	2	6
Pending at 2017/12/31	34	98

THE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICTS



The Georgetown Magistrates' Court

Chief Magistrate



Her Worship Ann McLennan

Principal Magistrates

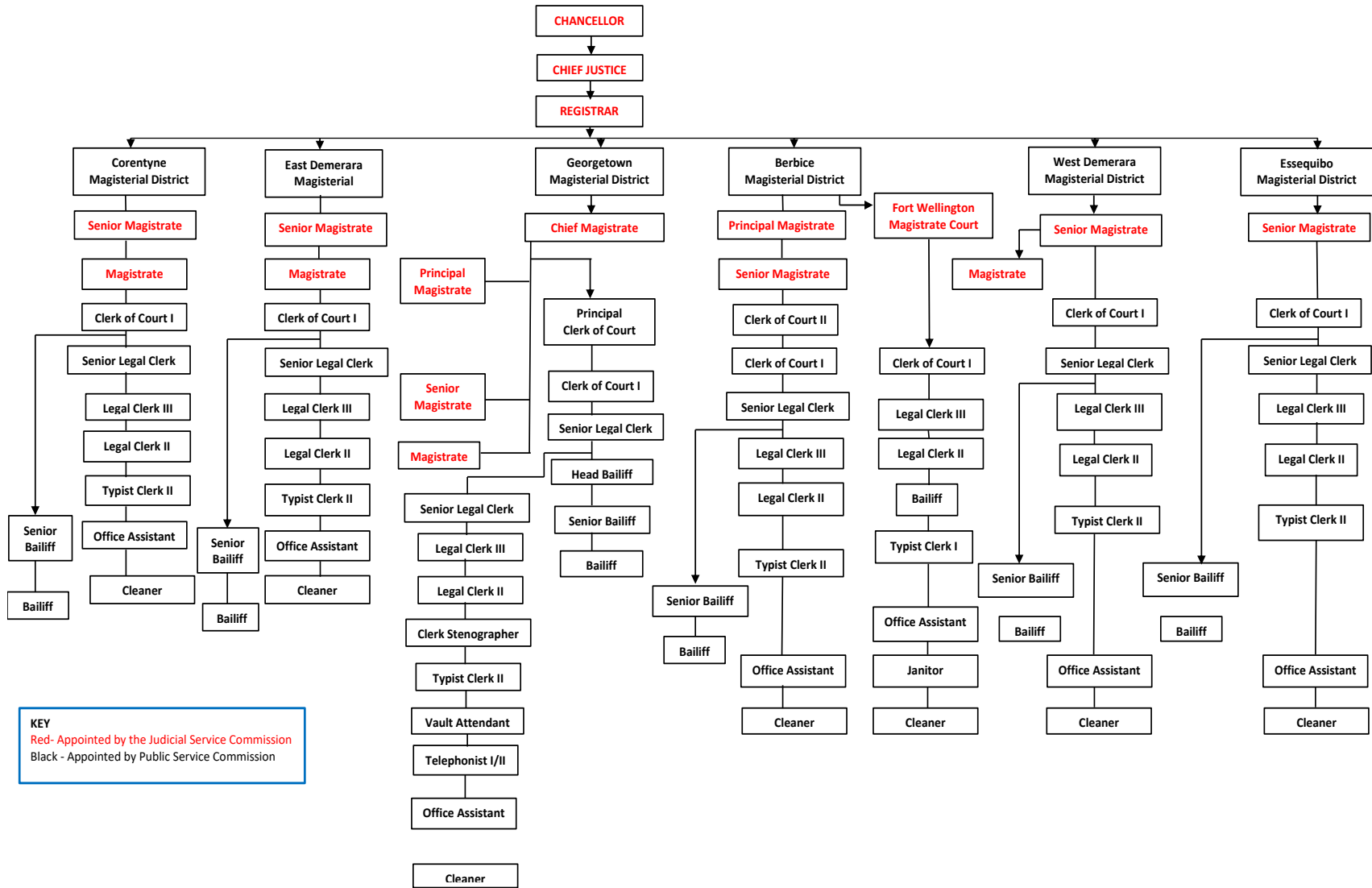
Senior Magistrates



Magistrates



ORGANISATIONAL CHART -MAGISTRATE'S COURTS



KEY
 Red - Appointed by the Judicial Service Commission
 Black - Appointed by Public Service Commission

THE GEORGETOWN MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT

INTRODUCTION

The Georgetown Magisterial District is recognized as District Number 1 (one) and consists of thirteen (13) Magistrates’ Courts, with the Rupununi Magisterial District and the North West Magisterial District falling under the Georgetown Magisterial District and its main office is located at Lot 1 Avenue of the Republic, Georgetown

This district is responsible for all Civil and Criminal matters filed for hearing by the presiding Magistrates. It is also responsible for safe custody of the records of all proceedings adjudicated over by the Magistrates, issuing certified copies of documents and/or information required by attorneys-at-law, litigants and members of the public.

OVERVIEW

There are thirteen (13) Magistrate Courts within the Georgetown Magisterial District, two (2) in the Rupununi Magisterial District and three (3) in the North West Magisterial District which are:

1. Court 1
2. Court 2
3. Court 3
4. Court 4
5. Court 5
6. Court 6
7. Court 7
8. Courts 8&9
9. Court 10
10. Court 11
11. Court 12
12. Providence 1
13. Providence 2

RUPUNUNI MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT

1. Lethem

2. Annai and Monkey Mountain
(presently all matters for this court are
being heard at Lethem)

NORT WEST MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT

1. Mabaruma
2. Acquero
3. Matthew's Ridge

These Courts are presided over by ten (10) full time Magistrates.

The statutory function of this District is confined to servicing the Courts and the members of the Public generally.

During the year under review this department played a significant role in the Administration of Justice and Revenue collecting.

FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

As it is with all magisterial district offices, these are the functions and responsibilities of the Georgetown magisterial district office:

- i. Filing of applications and issuing summons for maintenance/affiliation
- ii. Issuing of distress/arrest/commitment warrants for the recovery of monies owed
- iii. Executing writs and ejection warrants
- iv. Serving of summonses
- v. Filing of civil/criminal/inquest proceedings
- vi. Collection of fines
- vii. Payment of maintenance/affiliation
- viii. Filing of civil/criminal appeals
- ix. Typing of appeals/depositions and forwarding same to the Supreme Court.

- x. Accounting for all monies collected on behalf of the State.
- xi. Reconciliation of the Maintenance and Suitors bank accounts, the latter being the

bank account for lodgement of bail in criminal cases.

JUDICIAL SECTION

This section is responsible for the smooth functioning of the Civil and Criminal arms of the Court. It ensures that all

legal procedures are implemented and observed from the time of filing to the time of final disposition.

Tables 1 and 2 show the status of matters filed and disposed during the year under review.

TABLE 1 - STATUS OF CRIMINAL CASES

District		Summary	Indictable	Narcotics	Traffic	Preliminary Inquires	Inquests	TIP
Georgetown Magisterial District	Pending 2016-12-31	2387	435	183	849	119	25	3
	Filed Jan – Dec 2017	8429	630	262	7113	82	13	1
	Disposed Jan – Dec 2017	9802	616	315	7701	151	5	4
	Pending 2017-12-31	1014	449	130	261	12	33	NIL

TABLE 2 –STATUS OF CIVIL CASES MATTERS

District		Possession	Other Claims	Total
Georgetown Magisterial District	Pending 2016-12-31	40	86	126
	Filed Jan – Dec 2017	305	618	923
	Disposed Jan – Dec 2017	329	647	976
	Pending 2017-12-31	16	57	73

BAILIFF SECTION

This section is responsible for the serving of summonses in Criminal and Civil matters, executing levies and ejectment warrants.

The amount of matters filed and executed during the year under review in this section is shown on table 3.

TABLE 3 – STATUS OF BAILIFF SECTION

District		Service of Summons	Ejectment warrant	Writ of Execution	Auction Sales
Georgetown Magisterial District	Pending 2016-12-31	94	NIL	4	NIL
	Filed Jan – Dec 2017	2066	14	11	2
	Disposed Jan – Dec 2017	1747	14	13	2
	Pending 2017-12-31	413	NIL	2	NIL

APPEALS AND DEPOSITIONS

Notices of Appeal (Civil and Criminal) from decisions of Magistrates are filed in this section. Records of the appeal and the relevant documents are prepared and sent to the Registrar of the Supreme Court.

Depositions taken by the Magistrate in Preliminary Inquiries in Indictable matters are lodged in this section. If

the Accused is committed to stand trial at the High Court, the deposition is then typed and sent to the Registrar of the Supreme Court.

Appeals and Depositions filed and sent to the High Court during the year under review are shown on table 4.

TABLE 4—STATUS OF APPEALS AND DEPOSITIONS

District		Civil	Criminal	Preliminary Inquires	Paper Committal
Georgetown Magisterial District	Pending 2016-12-31	102	596	91	NIL
	Filed Jan - Dec 2017	10	179	79	30
	Forwarded to High Court Jan - Dec 2017	-	-	56	23
	Pending 2017-12-31	112	775	114	7

FINANCIAL SECTION

This section is responsible for the collection of Fines and Bail imposed on Accused persons during their trial.

Table 5a shows amount of revenue collected for the year 2017.

TABLE 5a – REVENUE FOR 2017

MONTH	FINES	FEES	Commission on Bailiff sale	COSTS	BAIL ESCHEATED
January	5,487,265	46,270	-	-	201,000
February	6,866,000	60,290	-	15,000	345,000
March	7,200,500	95,395	-	3,000	400,000
April	4,237,000	58,835	-	43,000	400,000
May	5,395,500	50,445	-	4,000	82,000
June	6,293,300	40,655	-	20,000	3,270,000
July	4,461,000	32,835	-	-	267,500
August	5,139,000	78,280	-	-	-
September	4,443,000	56,530	-	-	195,000
October	3,590,500	46,170	900	1,000	140,000
November	3,913,500	54,575	1,800	2,000	100,000
December	2,207,000	29,210	-	-	20,000
TOTAL	59,233,565	649,490	2,700	88,000	5,420,500

REVENUE FOR 2017

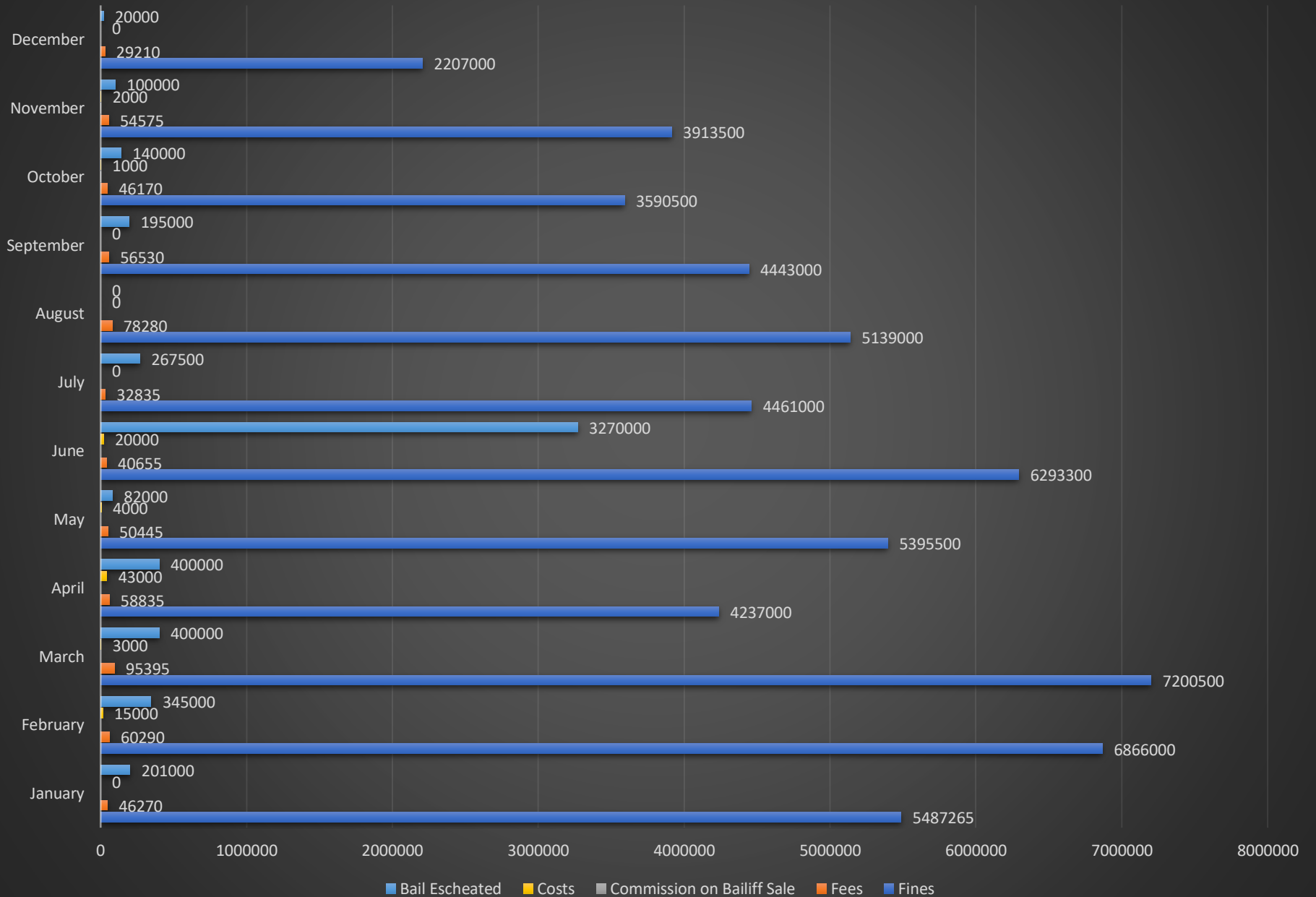


Table 5c shows that a total of **9,096** traffic tickets were filed. Of this number **1,439** were paid, **7,583** were sent to Court and **7,858** were disposed leaving **1,352** pending.

TABLE 5c - TRAFFIC TICKETS

District	No. of ticket filed Jan-Dec., 17	Total No. of ticket paid Jan-Dec., 17 in office	Amount of money collected in office \$	No. of ticket sent to court	Total No. of ticket disposed	Amount paid in Court \$
Georgetown Magisterial District	9,096	1,439	8,899,950	7,583	7,858	NIL

Table 6 shows the receipt and payment of bail for 2017.

TABLE 6 – SUITORS FOR 2017

MONTHS	RECEIPT \$	PAYMENT \$
January	14,073,336.00	15,679,086.00
February	16,432,000.00	20,044,991.00
March	26,400,660.00	27,574,610.00
April	20,064,900.00	12,314,900.00
May	24,878,250.00	18,648,000.00
June	23,622,000.00	19,801,500.00

July	14,596,900.00	17,970,000.00
August	12,322,250.00	10,203,400.00
September	13,037,925.00	14,187,175.00
October	20,145,950.00	10,545,241.00
November	18,712,050.00	20,240,000.00
December	14,717,580.00	20,353,130.00
TOTAL	\$ 220,538,801.00	\$ 207,562,033.00

COLLECTING OFFICE

This section receives monies from persons who are ordered by the Magistrate to pay periodic sums of monies for the maintenance of children, wives and/or parents. The money once paid is then paid to the person entitled, in compliance with the Order of the Court.

This section also prepares warrants for defaulters who have failed or neglected to make their payments.

During the year 2017, 50 (fifty) maintenance and 315 (three hundred fifteen) affiliation orders were made by the Court and 49 (forty-nine) orders were discharged.

Tables **7a** and **7b** shows the status of maintenance and liability claims, arrest and ejectment warrants issued and executed, and the amount of monies received and paid during the year pursuant to maintenance orders.

TABLE 7a – STATUS OF CLAIMS AND WARRANTS FOR 2017

District		Maintenance				
		Claims	Liability	Warrants		
				Distress	Arrest	Commitment
Georgetown Magisterial District	Pending 2016-12-31	241	89	6	8	NIL
	Filed Jan – Dec 2017	994	773	270	96	41
	Disposed Jan – Dec 2017	886	741	22	36	41
	Pending 2017-12-31	341	121	254	68	NIL

TABLE 7b – RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR 2017

MONTH	RECEIPT \$	PAYMENT \$
January	15,537,308.00	15,017,908.00
February	13,808,987.00	13,307,287.00
March	16,692,813.00	17,281,017.00
April	15,699,822.00	18,331,608.00
May	16,007,298.00	14,794,173.00
June	16,395,317.00	15,403,992.00
July	16,322,126.00	15,718,196.00
August	19,345,306.00	20,682,176.00

September	15,159,877.00	15,576,092.00
October	16,987,212.00	16,567,672.00
November	18,673,883.00	19,494,482.00
December	16,693,836.00	16,255,386.00
TOTAL	\$ 197,323,785.00	\$ 198,429,989.00

Each of the above sections keeps and maintains Registers and other records that are relevant to its functions as required by law and practice.

The Maintenance and Suitors Accounts are reconciled for the year in review.

Lethem Magistrate's Court

Criminal Cases Filed

2015	2016	2017
568	368	497

Backlog of Criminal Cases

2010	2013	2016	2017
1	1	6	35

EAST DEMERARA MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT



Vigilance Magistrate Court



Sprendaam Magistrate's Court

OVERVIEW

The boundaries of the East Demerara Magisterial District were established and demarcated in accordance with order 16/56 made under Section 3 of the Summary Jurisdiction Magistrate's Act, Chapter 3:05.

The District is recognized as District Number 3 and consists of five (5) Magistrates' Courts namely:

- (1) Mahaicony Magistrate's Court
- (2) Mahaica Magistrate's Court
- (3) Cove & John Magistrate's Court
- (4) Vigilance Magistrate's Court
- (5) Sparendam Magistrate's Court 1
- (6) Sparendam Magistrate's Court 2

Additionally the demarcation each of the boundaries of Courts in the East Demerara Magisterial District is as follows:

MAHAICONY MAGISTRATE COURT

- (a) On the eastern side by the Abary Creek
- (b) On the western side by Fair Field.
- (c) On the northern side by the Atlantic Ocean.
- (d) On the southern side by Moraikobai – Mahaicony Creek.

MAHAICA MAGISTRATE COURT

- (a) On the eastern side by Broom Hall Village
- (b) On the western side by Unity Village
- (c) On the northern side by the Atlantic Ocean.
- (d) On the southern side by Number 10 Village – Mahaica Creek.

COVE & JOHN MAGISTRATE COURT

- (a) On the Eastern side by Ann's Grove Village
- (b) On the Western side by Paradise Village
- (c) On the Northern side by the Atlantic Ocean.

VIGILANCE MAGISTRATE COURT

- (a) On the Eastern side by Bachelor's Adventure.
- (b) On the Western side by Good Hope.
- (c) On the northern side by the Atlantic Ocean.

SPARENDAAM MAGISTRATE COURT

- (a) On the Eastern side by Republic Drive
- (b) On the western side by Sophia.
- (c) On the northern side by the Atlantic Ocean.

These Courts are presided over by four (4) full time Magistrates with the main or head office located at Vigilance, East Coast Demerara. During the year under review this department played a significant role in the administration of justice and revenue collection. Repairs and painting of the Court building and office at Vigilance

were done, as well as cleaning, weeding and trimming of trees for all the Court compounds in this District.

The highlight of the year under review is the completion and commissioning of the brand new Sparendam Magistrates' Court building. The project commenced in 2016 and over for completion in 2017. It houses 2 courtrooms and facilities for two (2) magistrates. The building is the first building constructed by the Supreme Court to be outfitted with a wheelchair lift to facilitate court users who may be differently abled. It also boasts a briefing room for attorneys-at-law to conduct interviews with their clients and witnesses and a backup generator for the continuous supply of power. The building is also fully air conditioned, which was not the case with the previous building. Two magistrates, in the persons of Her Worship Senior Magistrate Zamilla Ally-Seepaul and Magistrate Alisha George were the first magistrates appointed to preside in this new facility.



The old Sparendaaam Magistrate's Court



The new Sparendaaam Magistrates' Court

WORK PERFORMANCE 2017

(a) Criminal and Civil matters filed and disposed of during the year under review are shown on the table hereunder also backlog cases as at 31st December, 2016.

CRIMINAL MATTERS

STATUS OF CRIMINAL CASES

NATURE OF OFFENCE	Summary	Indictable	Narcotics	Traffic	Preliminary Inquires	Inquest
Pending 2017/01/01	1450	734	265	1403	39	54

Filed 2017	3031	522	117	1241	11	4
Disposed 2017	3701	837	153	3419	12	7
Pending at 2017/12/31	780	419	229	325	38	51

CIVIL MATTERS:

NATURE OF OFFENCE	POSSESSION	OTHER CLAIM	TOTAL
Pending 2016/01/01	29	51	80
Filed 2016	103	104	207
Disposed 2016	100	103	203
Pending at 2016/12/31	32	52	84

CORONER'S INQUESTS

There were four (4) Coroner's Inquests filed in 2017. There are 51 inquests pending as at 31-12-2016 in the East Demerara Magisterial District.

BAILIFF SECTION:

The amount of levies, summonses and Supreme Court documents that were filed and executed during 2017 were as follows:

(1) 186 Summonses were filed and 181 were served, 5 were not served, 9 were brought forward from the year 2016.

(2) 20 Ejectment Warrants were filed and 9 were executed. 7 were brought forward from the year 2016. 18 are still pending as at 31st December, 2017.

(3) 45 Writ of Execution were filed, 179 were brought forward from the year 2016. 1 was executed. 63 are still pending as at 31st December, 2017.

(4) No Summons was transferred to Georgetown Magisterial District.

(5) No Domestic Violence Summons was transferred to Georgetown Magisterial District

SUITOR'S DEPOSIT

The status of Collecting and Refunding of the Suitors Deposit monies are as follows:

MONTH	RECEIPT \$	PAYMENT \$
January	6,243.470	5,042.470
February	5,870.883	5,274.883
March	6,929.550	7,880.150
April	7,622.750	4,002.400
May	7,507.040	8,249.540
June	9,573.850	7,163.300
July	7,193.650	6,062.950
August	7,750.550	9,671.050
September	7,514.850	5,725.000
October	5,568.646	8,279.875
November	4,754.350	7,306.971
December	5,950.400	6,114.650
TOTAL	82,479.989	80,773.239

During 2017 the total amount of money collected was \$82,479.989. The amount refunded/paid out was \$80,773.239.

The Bank balance at the end of 31st December, 2017 shows an amount of \$16,158.780. This balance is based on the fact that monies which were not drawn in 2016 were carried over to 2017.

Reconciliation was done for all of the accounts in this District i.e. from January – November, 2017 for Suitors and January-March, 2017 for the Collecting Office.

(1) Suitors Deposit Account No. 3101/01629004200.

(2) Bastardy and Maintenance Account No. 3103/0162900420001.

Reconciliation is currently being done from April to December, 2017 for the Maintenance Section.

REVENUE

The following Revenue was collected and deposited into Account 01610000407 with the Bank of Guyana.

Fines	16,346.950
Fees	189,465
State Costs	15,000
Bail forfeiture	2,300.000
Commission on Bailiff sales	2,850
TOTAL COLLECTED	18,854.265

The amount of Revenue collected at the Court and Office were indicated hereunder.

1. Mahaicony Magistrate's Court	\$724,500
2. Mahaica Magistrate's Court	\$1,163,500
3. Cove & John Magistrate's Court	\$979,150
4. Vigilance Magistrate's Court	\$1,827,500
5. Sparendam Magistrate's Court	\$2,561,325
6. East Demerara Magisterial District Office	\$11,598,290
TOTAL	\$18,854,265

COLLECTING OFFICE SECTION

During 2017 the amount of matters (Claims) filed for Collecting Office Section was 872.

The status for collecting and paying of monies was as follows:-

MONTH	RECEIPT \$	PAYMENT \$
JANUARY	10,491.011	9,298.056
FEBRUARY	6,898.626	7,357.934
MARCH	10,239.861	9,745.383
APRIL	8,922.777	9,137.758
MAY	11,616.022	9,927.252

JUNE	9,974.347	9,624.145
JULY	8,551.758	8,918.895
AUGUST	9,671.592	10,629.272
SEPTEMBER	8,318.940	7,274.158
OCTOBER	9,922,902	9,344.638
NOVEMBER	10,156.525	9,440.331
DECEMBER	9,345.944	10,634.636
TOTAL	114,110.305	111,332.458

Credit Balance

There is a credit balance of \$ 2,777,847. This balance is based on the fact that monies which have not been drawn in 2016 have been carried over to 2017. In addition there is

also an amount of \$73,309 in the old Bastardy and Maintenance Account (0352) with the Bank of Guyana which is yet to be transferred to the present account (3103).

COLLECTING OFFICE

Nature of Offence	Affiliation	Distress Warrant	Arrest Warrant	Commitment Warrant	Liability Application
Pending 31.12.2016	287	643	195	71	84
Filed 2017	872	265	78	20	800
Disposed 2017	853	182	37	14	528
Pending 31.12.2017	306	726	236	77	56

Music & Dance Licence Certificate.

Amount filed - 135
Amount granted - 134

Money Lenders Certificate

Amount filed - 13
Amount granted - 11

TRAFFIC TICKET REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2017

NATURE OF OFFENCE	AMOUNT
Pending 31-12-2016	1860
Filed 2017	701
Disposed 2017	985
Pending 31-12-2017	1576

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REPORT

NATURE OF OFFENCE	AMOUNT
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Pending 31-12-2016	240
Filed 2017	809
Convicted 2017	250
Disposed 2017	484
Pending 31-12-2017	315

APPEALS

NATURE OF OFFENCE	AMOUNT	
	Criminal	Civil
Pending 31-12-2016	157	2
Filed 2017	26	2
Typed and forwarded to Supreme Court	13	3
Pending 31-12-2017	170	1

DEPOSITIONS

NATURE OF OFFENCE	AMOUNT
Pending 31-12-2016	42
Filed 2017	10
Typed and forwarded to Supreme Court	8
Pending 31-12-2017	44

PAPER COMMITTALS

NATURE OF OFFENCE	AMOUNT
Pending 31-12-2016	19
Filed 2017	49
Typed and forwarded to Supreme Court	62
Pending 31-12-2017	16

WEST BERBICE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT



Fort Wellington Magistrate's Court



Weldaad Magistrate's Court



Blairmont Magistrate's Court

INTRODUCTION

The West Berbice Magisterial District is recognized as District Number nine (9) and consists of three (3) Magistrates Court with its main office located at Fort Wellington on the West Coast of Berbice. This district is responsible for all Civil and Criminal matters filed for hearing by the presiding Magistrate. It is also responsible for safe custody of the records of all proceedings adjudicated by the Magistrate, issuing certified copies of documents and/or information required Attorneys-at law, Litigants and members of the public.

OVERVIEW

The three (3) Magistrate's Courts within the West Berbice Magisterial District are:

- i. Weldaad Magistrate's Court
- ii. Fort Wellington Magistrate's Court
- iii. Blairmont Magistrate's Court

Each of the Courts in the West Berbice Magisterial District is separated by the following villages/communities:

WELDAAD MAGISTRATE'S COURT

- a. On the Eastern side by Britannia Village, West Coast Berbice
- b. On the Western side by the right hand of Abary River

- c. On the Northern side by the Atlantic Ocean

FORT WELLINGTON MAGISTRATE'S COURT

- a. On the Eastern side by Number 5 Village, West Coast Berbice
- b. On the Western side by Tempe Village, West Coast Berbice
- c. On the Northern side by the Atlantic Ocean

BLAIRMONT MAGISTRATE'S COURT

- a. On the Eastern side by the West Bank of the Berbice River
- b. On the Western side by Number 4 Village, West Coast Berbice
- c. On the Northern side by the Atlantic Ocean
- d. On the Southern side by the Ithaca Village

These Courts are presided over by one (1) full time Magistrate who sits at each of the courts on different assigned days of the week. During the year under review this

department played a significant role in the administration of justice and revenue collection.

JUDICIAL

Tables 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 1e, 1f, 2a, and 2b show the status of matters filed and disposed during the year under review are shown in a table.

TABLE 1a – STATUS OF CRIMINAL CASES

DISTRICT		SUM	IND	NA R	TRA F	PI	PC	INQ	TIP	TOTA L
West Berbice Magisterial District	Pending 2016	73	21	5	17	5	2	-	-	123
	Filed 2017	677	122	55	711	25	9	2	-	1601
	Disposed 2017	690	107	39	692	19	10	1	-	1558
	Pending 2017-12-31	60	36	21	36	11	1	1	-	166

TABLE 1b – STATUS OF SUMMARY CASES

DISTRICT		SUMMAR Y	INDICTAB LE TAKEN SUMMARY	PRELIMINAR Y INQUIRES	TOTA L
West Berbice	Pending 2016	73	16	5	94
	Filed 2017	677	122	25	824

Magisterial District	Disposed 2017	690	102	19	811
	Pending 2017-12-31	60	36	11	107

TABLE 1c – STATUS OF INDICATABLE CASES

DISTRICT		FILED	INDICATBL E TAKEN SUMMARY	PRELIMINAR Y INQUIRES	PAPER COMMITTA L
West Berbice Magisterial District	Pending 2016	28	18	5	5
	Filed 2017	156	122	25	9
	Disposed 2017	136	104	19	13
	Pending 2017-12-31	48	36	11	1

TABLE 1d DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

DISTRICT		TOTAL
West Berbice Magisterial District	Pending 2016	3
	Filed 2017	107
	Disposed 2017	108
	Pending 2017-12-31	2

TABLE 1e TRAFFICKING IN PERSON

DISTRICT		TOTAL
West Berbice Magisterial	Pending 2016	-
	Filed 2017	-

District	Disposed 2017	-
	Pending 2017-12-31	-

TABLE 1f MUSIC AND DANCE

DISTRICT		TOTAL
West Berbice Magisterial District	Pending 2016	-
	Filed 2017	39
	Disposed 2017	39
	Pending 2017-12-31	-

TABLE 2a – STATUS OF CIVIL CASES MATTERS

DISTRICT		POSSESSIO N	CLAIMS	OTHER CLAIMS	TOTAL
West Berbice Magisterial District	Pending 2016	1	-	1	2
	Filed 2017	9	8	9	26
	Disposed 2017	9	7	10	26
	Pending 2017-12-31	1	1	-	2

TABLE 2b MONEY LENDERS CERTIFICATE

DISTRICT		TOTAL
West Berbice Magisterial District	Pending 2016	-
	Filed 2017	3
	Disposed 2017	3
	Pending 2017-12-31	-

BAILIFF SECTION

The amount of matters filed and executed during the year under review in this section is shown in table 3.

TABLE 3 – STATUS OF BAILIFF SECTION

DISTRICT		SERVICE OF SUMMONS	EJECTMEN T WARRANT	WRIT OF EXECUTIO N	AUCTIO N SALES
West Berbice Magisterial District	Pending 2016	5	1	14	3
	Filed 2017	427	-	-	-
	Disposed 2017	423	-	-	2
	Pending 2017-12-31	9	1	14	1

APPEALS AND DEPOSITIONS

Appeals and Depositions filed and sent to the High Court during the year under review are shown in table 4.

TABLE 4 – STATUS OF APPEALS AND DEPOSITIONS

DISTRICT		CIVIL	CRIMINAL	PAPER COMMITTAL	PRELIMINARY INQUIRES
West Berbice Magisterial District	Pending 2016	-	7	2	1
	Filed 2017	-	15	8	9
	Disposed 2017	-	17	10	10
	Pending 2017-12-31	-	5	-	-

FINANCIAL SECTION

Table 5a shows amount of revenue collected for the year 2017

TABLE 5a – REVENUE FOR 2017

MONTH	FINES	FEES	COSTS	BAIL ESCHEATED	BAILIFF COMPENSATION
January	1,629,000	23,575	1,000	-	-
February	785,000	13,050	1,000	-	-
March	1,371,500	32,200	6,500	-	-
April	1,199,500	6,875	1,000	-	-
May	1,315,000	11,450	2,000	10,000	1,800
June	689,500	9,175	-	-	-
July	959,500	19,790	3,000	200,000	-
August	1,088,000	14,450	-	-	-
September	760,500	7,075	-	-	-
October	1,075,500	10,755	-	-	-
November	1,574,500	15,665	2,500	-	-
December	1,467,300	11,255	1,000	-	-
TOTAL	13,914,800	175,315	18,000	210,000	1,800

TABLE 5b – REVENUE AS PER COURT FOR 2017

MONTH	BLAIRMONT	FORT WELLINGTON	WELDAAD	OFFICE
January	453,100	147,500	160,000	892,975
February	141,300	235,000	102,500	320,250
March	105,000	255,000	40,000	1,010,200
April	220,000	667,500	35,000	284,875
May	380,000	520,000	50,000	390,250
June	29,300	242,500	102,500	324,375
July	223,500	135,000	7,500	816,290
August	103,500	75,000	175,000	908,950
September	100,000	190,000	37,500	440,075
October	65,000	266,000	47,500	707,735
November	212,500	142,500	127,500	1,110,165
December	200,000	275,000	55,000	949,555
TOTAL	2,233,200	3,151,000	940,000	8,155,695

Table 5c shows that a total of 1427 tickets were filed of this number 404 were paid 956 were sent to Court and 954 were disposed of leaving 73 pending.

TABLE 5c – TRAFFIC TICKETS

DISTRICT	NO. OF TICKET FILED JAN-DEC 2017	TOTAL NO. OF TICKET PAID JAN-DEC 2017 IN	AMOUNT OF MONEY COLLECTED IN OFFICE \$	NO. OF TICKET SENT TO COURT	TOTAL NO. OF TICKET DISPOSED	AMOUNT PAID IN COURT \$
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OFFICE						
West Berbice Magisterial District	1427	399	2,149,500	956	954	30,000

Table 6 shows the receipt and payment of bail for 2017

TABLE 6 – SUITORS FOR 2017

MONTH	RECEIPT	PAYMENT
January	2,886,000	945,000
February	1,606,500	1,931,500
March	2,509,750	2,450,000
April	1,123,250	1,305,000
May	1,977,800	2,469,300
June	1,787,750	2,335,000
July	1,912,250	1,366,500
August	3,029,400	1,812,400
September	1,432,400	1,890,000
October	2,011,500	1,192,400
November	3,054,750	3,365,000
December	2,758,000	2,068,000
TOTAL	\$26,089,350	\$23,130,100

COLLECTING OFFICE

Tables 7a and 7b show the status of claims, warrants issued and executed, and the amount of monies received and paid during the year.

TABLE 7a – STATUS OF CALIMS AND WARRANTS FOR 2017

DISTRICT		MAINTENANCE				
		WARRANTS				
		CLAIM S	LIABILIT Y ORDER	DISTRE SS	ARRES T	COMMITMEN T
West Berbice Magisterial District	Pending 2016	7	10	148	128	-
	Filed 2017	199	179	63	46	8
	Disposed 2017	198	172	40	41	8
	Pending 2017-12-31	8	17	171	133	-

TABLE 7b – RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR 2017

MONTH	RECEIPT	PAYMENT
January	2,797,700	2,768,200
February	2,364,400	2,193,800
March	4,140,300	3,930,100
April	2,771,100	2,693,300
May	2,914,900	2,759,100
June	2,475,000	2,583,100

July	2,576,400	2,906,400
August	3,192,800	3,428,400
September	2,330,070	2,338,570
October	2,936,100	2,598,200
November	2,943,400	2,988,000
December	3,670,500	3,048,100
TOTAL	\$35,112,670	\$34,235,270

Each of the above sections keeps and maintains registers and other records that are relevant to its functions as required by law and practice. The Maintenance and Suitors Accounts are reconciled for the year in review.

Berbice Magisterial District



Reliance Magistrate Court



Albion Magistrate Court



New Amsterdam Magistrate's Court

GENERAL OVERVIEW

The Berbice Magisterial District within its defined boundaries consists of five Magistrate Courts across the District.

These courts are as follows:

1. New Amsterdam magistrates' Court 1 .
2. New Amsterdam Court 2 and the Main Office.
3. Reliance Magistrates' Court.
4. Albion Magistrates' Court.
5. Sisters Magistrate Court.

The main registry and office for the administration of the functions of the Berbice Magisterial District is located at the New Amsterdam Magistrates Court in New Amsterdam, Berbice.

The courts in the Berbice Magisterial District function in both civil and criminal jurisdictions.

MAINTENANCE ACCOUNT

	AMOUNT \$
MAINTENANCE ACCOUNT	
Opening Balance As At 31st December 2016	3398619
Money Received	64285940
Amount Paid Out	64301161

Balance As At 31st December 2017	3383398
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LIABILITY ORDER

Pending at 31.12.2016	22
Filed in 2017	214
Disposed in 2017	208
Pending at 31.12.2017	26

CLAIMS AND WARRANTS

	CLAIMS	DISTRESS WARRANT	ARREST WARRANT	COMMITMENT WARRANT
Pending at 31.12.2016	34	0	0	0
Filed in 2017	369	39	12	5
Disposed in 2017	377	39	12	5
Pending at 31.12.2017	26	0	0	0

No. of Maintenance orders made-21

No. of affiliation orders made -101

REVENUE AND SUITORS SECTION

REVENUE COLLECTION

DESCRIPTION OF REVENUE	AMOUNT \$
Fines & Fees	16726485
State Cost	576400
Seizure	1320000
TOTAL	18622885

SUITOR'S ACCOUNT

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT \$
Balance As At 31 st December 2016	59407162
Money Received	37493700
Amount Paid Out	40351750
Balance As At 31 st December 2017	56549112

BAILIFF SECTION

BALIFF

	SERVICE OF SUMMONS	EJECTMENT WARRANTS	WRIT OF EXECUTION	AUCTION SALES
PENDING AT 13.12.2016	0	17	28	NIL
FILED IN 2017	57	6	8	NIL
DISPOSED IN 2017	57	6	8	NIL
PENDING AT 31.12.2017	0	17	28	NIL

JUDICIAL SECTION

1. CIVIL CASES

CASES	POSSESSION	CLAIMS	OTHERS	TOTAL
Pending At 31.12.2016	3	6	4	13
Filed In 2017	28	37	23	88
Disposed In 2017	27	42	27	96
Pending At 31.12.2017	4	1	0	5

Sub-table (1)(a) (extracted from the total civil cases filed).

Money Lenders and Pawn Brokers Licenses

Pending at 31.12.2016	2
Filed in 2017	5
Disposed in 2017	7
Pending at 31.12 .2017	0

2. CRIMINAL CASES

CASES	SUMMARY	INDICTABLE	NARCOTICS	TRAFFIC	P.I	PAPER COMMITTAL	INQUEST
Pending At 31.12.201 6	282	136	35	74	31	21	5
Filed In 2017	2072	231	123	1357	55	46	0
Disposed In 2017	2131	247	131	1328	47	50	0
Pending At 31.12.201 7	223	120	27	103	39	17	5

Sub-table(2)(a) (extracted from the total criminal cases filed).

CASES	RAPE	DOMESTIC VOILENCE	Trafficking in persons
Pending At 31.12.2016	36	18	0
Filed In 2017	25	177	0
Disposed In 2017	50	177	0
Pending At 31.12.2017	11	18	0

TAFFIC TICKETS

No. Of tickets filed	Amount paid	Amount of money collected \$	No. of tickets sent to court	Total No. of ticket disposed	Amount paid in court \$
	542	2612500	2302	2302	105000

2844					
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TRAFFIC TICKETS

Pending at 31.12.2016	0
Filed in 2017	2844
Paid/Disposed in 2017	2844
Pending at 31.12 .2017	0

MUSIC AND DANCING LICENSE

Pending at 31.12.2016	0
Filed in 2017	23
Disposed in 2017	23
Pending at 31.12.2017	0

DEPOSITIONS/PAPER COMMITTALS

	<u>DEPOSITIONS</u>	<u>PAPER COMMITTALS</u>
Pending At 31.12.2016	0	1
Filed In 2017	11	24
Forwarded to High Court In 2017	7	25
Pending At 31.12.2017	4	0

APPEALS

	CIVIL	CRIMINAL
Pending At 13.12.2016	8	59
Filed In 2017	0	19
Disposed In 2017	0	2
Pending At 31.12.2017	8	76

CORENTYNE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT



No. 51 Magistrates Court



Mibicuri Magistrates Court



Springlands Magistrate Court

GENERAL OVERVIEW

The Corentyne Magisterial District (C.M.D) consists of four (4) sub-districts, which include:

- ❖ Whim Magistrates' District which covers the areas of Portuguese Quarter to Tarlogie on the Corentyne Coast.
- ❖ Mibikuri Magistrates' District which covers the four polders: - Lesbeholden to Yakasari in Black Bush Polder, Corentyne.
- ❖ No. 51 Magistrates' District that covers areas No. 35 Village to No. 65 Village on the Corentyne Coast.
- ❖ Springlands Magistrates' District which covers No. 66 Village to Orealla on the Corentyne River. As far as the 4th parallel of the North Latitude.

The above-mentioned sub-districts each has a Magistrate's Court, the head office being the Whim Magistrate's Court in the Corentyne Magisterial District. These courts function in both civil and criminal jurisdictions.

STATUS OF CRIMINAL AND CIVIL CASES FILED FOR 2017 IN THE CORENTYNE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT

Table 1 – CRIMINAL CASES

2017 – Transactions	Summary	Indictable	Narcotic	Traffic	Preliminary Inquiries	Inquest
Pending at 2016-12-31	368	151	45	104	69	11
Filed in 2017	1835	339	93	1488	92	1
Disposed in 2017	1940	298	93	1450	51	9
Pending at 2017-12-31	263	192	45	142	110	3

Table 2 – CIVIL CASES

2017 - Transactions	Possession	Claims	Others	Money Lenders
Pending at 2016-12-31	4	16	20	-
Filed in 2017	12	67	31	5
Disposed in 2017	14	68	51	5
Pending at 2017-12-31	2	15	NIL	NIL

- **Trafficking in Person Report for 2017 – 2**
- **Domestic Violence Filed For 2017 - 46 – Convicted -16 Dismissed -29 - Pending-1**

Table 3 Illustrates the status of records in this section.

Table 3 – Status of Appeals and Depositions.

2017 Transactions	Appeals		Paper Committal	Preliminary Inquiries
	Civil	Criminal		
Pending at 2016-12-31	4	49	NIL	2
Filed in 2017	NIL	14	8	11
Disposed in 2017	NIL	6	7	10
Pending at 2017-12-31	4	57	1	3

MAINTENANCE

Table 4 Illustrates the status of operation for 2017.

Table 4 – Status of Matters Filed in the Collecting Office

2017 Transactions	Claims	Warrants		Commitment Warrants
		Distress	Arrest	
Pending at 2016-12-31	39	51	102	24
Filed in 2017	569	32	21	17
Disposed in 2017	559	20	53	24
Pending at 2017-12-31	49	63	70	17

BAILIFF SECTION

Table 5 Illustrates the status of matters filed in this section.

Table 5 – Status of matters filed in the Bailiff Section.

2017 Transaction	Service of Summons	Ejectment Warrants	Writ of Execution	Auction Sales
Pending at 2016-12-31	2	NIL	3	NIL
Filed in 2017	77	1	1	NIL
Disposed in 2017	79	1	4	NIL
Pending at 2017-12-31	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

ACCOUNTS SECTION

Table 6 – Status of the Accounts Section (Revenue and suitors)

Table 6(a) – Revenue

2017 Transaction	Amount
Fines	\$28,248,024
Fees	\$292,230
State Cost	\$1,719,250
Seizure of Bail	\$1,955,000
Total	\$32,214,504

Table 6(b)- Suitors

Particulars	Amount
No. of Cheques issued	612
No. of Payees	612
Cash paid Out	\$30,327,050
Cash Received	\$38,589,300

Traffic Ticket Section

This section is a sub-section of the revenue section.

Table 7 below Illustrates the status of traffic tickets for the year 2017.

Table 7– Status of traffic Tickets

No. of Tickets Filed	No. of tickets paid In Office	Amount of Money Collected	No. of tickets sent To Court	No. of tickets Disposed of	Amount of Tickets paid in Court.	No. of Tickets Pending
6354	422	2,632,500	1922	5980	3,580,000	374

Upper Demerara River Magisterial District



Linden Magistrate's Court

OVERVIEW

The Upper Demerara River Magisterial District within its defined boundaries consists of two Magistrate's Courts. This District is the newest addition to the magisterial districts in the country and was created to meet the needs of a portion of our citizenry that was previously unserved by the services offered by a local court office.

These courts are as follows:

6. Linden Magistrates' Court which houses the main office
7. Kwakwani Magistrates' Court.

The main registry and office for the administration of the functions of the Upper Demerara River Magisterial District is located at the Linden Magistrates Court Burnham Drive, Wismar Linden.

The Registry and office of the Upper Demerara Magisterial District was declared open by His Excellency, President David Granger on 3rd August, 2017. This Magisterial District removes the need for residents of Linden, Ituni and

Kwakwani to travel to Vreed-en-Hoop and New Amsterdam to access legal services.

These Courts in the Upper Demerara River Magisterial District function in civil and criminal jurisdictions.

STATISTICAL COURT PERFORMANCE FOR UPPER DEMERARA MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT

LIABILITY ORDERS

Pending at 31.12.2016	NIL
Filed in 2017	51
Disposed in 2017	29
Pending at 31.12.2017	22

CLAIMS AND WARRANTS

	CLAIMS	DISTRESS WARRANT	ARREST WARRANT	COMMIT MENT WARRANT
Pending at 31.12.2016				
Filed in 2017	80	7	1	NIL
Disposed in 2017	48	5	NIL	NIL
Pending at 31.12.2017	32	2	1	NIL

No. of Maintenance order made- 7

No. of affiliation order made - 73

REVENUE AND SUITORS SECTION

REVENUE COLLECTION

DESCRIPTION OF REVENUE	AMOUNT \$
Fines & Fees	4,949,170.
State Cost	60,000.
Seizure	Nil
TOTAL	5,009,170.

BAILIFF SECTION

	SERVICE OF SUMMON		EJECTION WARRANTS	WRIT OF EXECUTION	AUCTION SALES
	CRIMINAL	CIVIL			
PENDING AT 31.12.2016	NIL	2	NIL	1	NIL
FILED IN 2017	NIL	22	3	4	NIL
DISPOSED IN 2017	NIL	10	2	NIL	NIL
PENDING AT 31.12.2017	NIL	12	1	5	NIL

JUDICIAL SECTION

1. CIVIL CASES

CASES	POSSESSION	CLAIMS	OTHERS	TOTAL
Pending At 31.12.2016	-	-	-	-
Filed In 2017	5	10	2	17
Disposed In 2017	3	2	2	7
Pending At 31.12.201	2	8	NIL	10

Sub-table (1)(a) (extracted from the total civil cases filed).

Money Lender and Pawn Broker License

Pending at 31.12.2016	NIL
Filed in 2017	NIL
Disposed in 2017	NIL
Pending at 31.12 .2017	NIL

2. CRIMINAL CASES

CASES	SUMMARY	INDICTABLE	NARCOTICS	TRAFFIC	P.I	INQUEST
Pending At 31.12.2016	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Filed In	1008	94	63	579	4	1

2017						
Disposed In 201	735	26	35	283	1	-
Pending At 31.12.201	273	68	28	296	3	1

Sub-table (2)(a) (extracted from the total criminal cases filed).

CASES	PRELIMINARY INQUIRES/PAPER COMMITTAL	TRAFFICKING IN PERSON
Pending At 31.12.2016	NIL	NIL
Filled In 31.12.2017	31	NIL
Disposed In 2017	7	NIL
Pending At 31.12.2017	24	NIL

Sub-table(2)(b) (extracted from the total criminal cases filed).

CASES	RAPE	DOMESTIC VOILENCE
PENDING AT 31.12.2016	NIL	NIL
FILED IN 2017	17	25
DISPOSED IN 2017	5	24

PENDING AT 31.12.2017	12	1

TRAFFIC TICKETS

No. Of tickets filed	Amount paid	Amount of money collected \$	No. of tickets sent to court	Total No. of ticket disposed	Amount paid in court \$
620	90	477,500	520	301	NIL

TRAFFIC TICKETS

Pending at 31.12.2016	NIL
Filed in 2017	620
Disposed in 2017	391
Pending at 31.12 .2017	229

MUSIC AND DANCING LICENSE

Pending at 31.12.2016	NIL
Filed in 2017	36
Disposed in 2017	36
Pending at 31.12.2017	NIL

APPEALS/DEPOSITIONS SECTION

DEPOSITION/PAPER COMMITTAL

Pending At 31.12.2016	-
Filed In 2017	51
Disposed In 2017	31
Pending At 31.12.2017	20

APPEALS

	CIVIL	CRIMINAL
PENDING AT 13.12.2016	-	-
FILED IN 2017	1	53
DISPOSED IN 2017	-	5
PENDING AT 31.12.2017	1	48

West Demerara Magisterial District



Leonora Magistrate Court



Wales Magistrate Court



Vreed-en-Hoop Magistrate Court

The boundaries of the West Demerara Magisterial District are defined in the Summary Jurisdiction Magistrates Act Chapter 3:05

The main office of this district is situated on Vreed-en-Hoop Stelling Road, West Coast Demerara, where the administration is carried out. The Vreed-en-Hoop Magistrate's Court is located on the Southern side of the compound of the Vreed-en-Hoop Police Station and the court is housed in the upper flat of the building.

This Magisterial District has Five (5) gazette Magistrates' Courts:

1. Vreed-en-Hoop
2. Leonora
3. Parika
4. La Grange
5. Wales

Three (3) of the above mentioned magistrates' courts are operational. The Parika and La Grange Magistrates' Courts have never been operational due to unavailability of suitable accommodations. All matters arising in those areas are heard and dealt with at the courts nearest to the area where the matter occurs.

The Leonora Magistrate's Court is housed next to the Leonora Police Station in a fence yard. The newly constructed building was opened on the 19th January, 2014.

The Wales Magistrate's Court is situated on the western side of the Wales Police Station and surrounded by a fenced yard. The Statutory Court days are:-

SATATUTORY DAYS	COURT
Monday	Vreed-En-Hoop
Tuesday	Leonora
Wednesday	Leonora
Thursday	Wales
Friday	Vreed-En-Hoop

Like all other Magisterial Districts this District has the Suitors/Fines (Revenues) Section, the Appeals/Deposition Section, the Criminal/Civil Record Filing Section, and the Collecting Office.

These District courts are presided over by two (2) magistrates.

On 2nd August, 2017 Linden Magistrate's Court, which was previously a part of the West Demerara Magisterial District, was relocated to the Upper Demerara River Magisterial District. All monies and case jackets relative to that court were handed over to clerk of court.

THE REVENUE SECTION

FINES, FEES, COST AND BAIL ESCHEATED

<i>MONTH</i>	<i>FINES</i>	<i>FEES</i>	<i>COST</i>	<i>BAIL ESCHEATED</i>
January,2017	\$2,835,000.00	\$12,975.00	\$75,000.00	\$105,000.00
February,2017	\$2,841,000.00	\$19,750.00	\$55,000.00	\$500,000.00
March,2017	\$2,540,075.00	\$12,725.00	\$15,000.00	---
April,2017	\$1,920,000.00	\$13,600.00	\$21,500.00	\$250,000.00
May,2017	\$2,700,500.00	\$18,350.00	\$5,000.00	\$120,000.00
June,2017	\$2,393,000.00	\$17,130.00	\$28,000.00	---
July,2017	\$1,538,000.00	\$23,200.00	---	---
August,2017	\$1,370,000.00	\$17,200.00	\$25,000.00	---
September,2017	\$863,500.00	\$12,985.00	---	---
October,2017	\$1,042,500.00	\$15,150.00	\$15,000.00	\$430,000.00
November,2017	\$813,500.00	\$17,225.00	---	\$65,000.00
December,2017	\$884,500.00	\$14,725.00	---	\$50,000.00
Total	\$21,741,575.00	\$191,015.00	\$244,500.00	\$1,520,000.00

THE SUITORS ACCOUNT

This account is used to deposit monies collected for bail, compensation/restitution, bailiff Auctions, appeals, and civil judgments.

SUITORS

#.	Month	Amount Collected	Amount paid out
1.	January	\$4,488,152.00	\$7,004,000.00
2.	February	\$7,125,856.00	\$5,873,500.00
3.	March	\$7,360,700.00	\$6,139,808.00
4.	April	\$5,624,000.00	\$7,456,150.00
5.	May	\$5,928,325.00	\$5,993,075.00
6.	June	\$11,436,825.00	\$7,445,575.00
7.	July	\$11,430,350.00	\$5,979,600.00
8.	August	\$9,335,350.00	\$21,871,953.00
9.	September	\$3,026,900.00	\$6,663,274.00

10.	October	\$5,376,200.00	\$6,493,950.00
11.	November	\$3,873,000.00	\$3,768,000.00
12.	December	\$4,038,450.00	\$7,063,200.00
	Total	\$79,044,108.00	\$,91,752,085.00

THE COLLECTING OFFICE

#	Month	Amount Collected	Amount paid out
1.	January	\$9,361,350.00	\$9,965,500.00
2.	February	\$8,178,400.00	\$7,766,950.00
3.	March	\$10,353,300.00	\$10,383,200.00
4.	April	\$9,017,200.00	\$9,400,400.00
5.	May	\$10,768,350.00	\$10,598,850.00
6.	June	\$10,608,100.00	\$9,681,400.00
7.	July	\$9,392,250.00	\$8,968,250.00

8.	August	\$10,571,800.00	\$12,726,200.00
9.	September	\$8,498,200.00	\$9,407,200.00
10.	October	\$9,355,700.00	\$8,608,000.00
11.	November	\$9,613,800.00	\$10,092,600.00
12.	December	\$10,284,400.00	\$10,438,300.00
	Total	\$116,002,850.00	\$118,036,850.00

Period	Maintenance				
	Affiliation	Liability	Warrants		
			Distres s	Arrest	Commitment
Pending 2016-12-31	38	40	2	5	-
Filed Jan – Dec 2017	315	283	64	16	-
Disposed Jan – Dec 2016	217	207	60	20	-
Pending 2017-12-31	136	116	6	1	-

APPEALS AND DEPOSITIONS

APPEALS AND DEPOSITION

Period	Civil	Criminal	Paper committal	Preliminary inquires
Pending 2016-12-31	3	143	71	61
Filed Jan – Dec 2017	1	32	19	21
Disposed Jan – Dec 2017	-	-	40	31
Pending 2017-12-31	4	175	50	51

CRIMINAL CASES

During the year 2017 a total of four thousand, two hundred and forty six (4,246) criminal cases were filed.

Status of Criminal Cases

Period	Summary	Indictable	Narcotics	Traffic	PI	Inquests	Trafficking in persons
Pending 2016- 12-31	304	128	10	48	53	21	-
Filed Jan –	2022	325	169	1686	44	3	-

Dec 2017							
Disposed Jan – Dec 2017	2117	365	142	1669	66	12	-
Pending 2017-12-31	209	88	37	65	31	12	-

CIVIL CASES

STATUS OF CIVIL CASES

The table below reflects fifty (50) possession cases filed and fifty one (51) claims were filed.

Period	Possession	Other Claims	Total
Pending 2016-12-31	-	5	5
Filed Jan – Dec 2017	50	51	101
Disposed Jan – Dec 2017	27	12	39
Pending 2017-12-31	23	44	67

BAILIFF SECTION

Period	Service of Summons	Ejectment warrant	Writ of Execution	Auction Sales
Pending 2016-12-31	5	-	-	1
Filed Jan – Dec 2017	114	1	4	-
Disposed Jan – Dec 2017	61	-	1	-
Pending 2017-12-31	58	1	3	-

TRAFFIC TICKETS

No. of ticket filed Jan – Dec 2017	Total No. of ticket paid Jan – Dec 2017	Amount of money collected \$	No. of ticket sent to court	Total No. of ticket disposed	Amount paid in Court
1533	446	\$2,755,000.00	981	735	140



Financial Report

The Supreme Court remained with the Integrated Financial Management and Accounting System (IFMAS) operated by the Ministry of Finance for the releases of funds and processing of payments.

In the year 2017 funds for recurrent and capital expenditures were released separately but as a lump sum under chart of account “6323 – Constitutional Agencies” from the Ministry of Finance.

Accounts

This department’s activities are still being managed by the two (2) Chief Accountants who share the responsibilities of the post of Principal Assistant Secretary (Finance) which is to date vacant. This position is awaiting the Public Service Commission (PSC) to be advertised for the filling.

This department is responsible for the administration of all financial matters in this Constitutional Agency for processing of payroll, expenditure, collection of revenue and its transfer into the Consolidated Fund, and Budget

preparation, operate accounts for minors pursuant to Orders of Court, Registry Court Account, that is, money paid into the Registry by litigants to abide the outcome of civil proceedings and the execution sales account.

In terms of expenditure of current and capital budget allocations, the staff of this unit must ensure that monies are spent in accordance with sub – heads or chart of accounts under which monies are drawn by a direct charge on the Consolidated Fund subject to conformity with the financial practices and procedures approved by the National Assembly.

In the year 2016, the Supreme Court submitted its budget proposal for the year 2017 to the Ministry of Finance for the sum of two billion and thirty-three million, three hundred and thirteen thousand dollars (G\$2,033,313,000) for both recurrent (operational) and capital (developmental) expenditures for consideration.

The National Assembly approved the total sum of one billion, seven hundred and sixty-six million and seventy-

nine thousand dollars (G\$1,766,079,000) as a lump sum to facilitate both recurrent and capital expenditures on 27th October, 2016.

This approved amount represents 0.71% of the total estimates of two hundred and fifty billion, one hundred and twenty-three million, one hundred and sixty-six thousand dollars (G\$250,123,166,000) approved by the National Assembly for Public Sector for both current and capital expenditures.

After reviewing our lump sum budget of G\$1,766,079,000, this amount was inadequate to meet proposed expenditures for employment cost.

In October, 2017 the Supreme Court made a request to the Ministry of Finance for a Supplementary Provision of thirty million, three hundred and ninety-nine thousand one hundred and twenty-two dollars (G\$30,399,122) to offset the following employment expenditures:

1. For the payments of salaries and other emoluments for five (5) temporary Magistrates from 1st January to 28th February, 2017.
2. For the payments of salaries and other emoluments for three (3) Permanent Magistrates from 1st March and April to 31st December, 2017.
3. For the payments of salaries and other emoluments for the Judicial Research Assistant / Legal Assistant to the Honourable Chancellor from the 20th February, 2017 to 31st December, 2017.

This amount was approved by the National Assembly on the 17th November, 2017 increasing our approved budget allocation for 2017 to the sum of one billion seven hundred and ninety-six thousand four hundred and seventy-eight thousand one hundred and twenty-two dollars (G\$ 1,796,478,122)

During the year 2017, additional funds were received from the Ministry of Finance through Inter/Intra Departmental Allocation Warrants to meet the following expenditures:

- IDW# 2501 - ten million, six hundred and twenty-one thousand, nine hundred and fifty-five dollars

(\$10,621,955) to meet expenditure for the payment of five (5) temporary Night Court Magistrate's for the period 1st October, 2016 to 31st December, 2017 which was unbudgeted for.

- IDW# 2502 –Thirty-two million, one hundred and eighty-nine thousand, six hundred and nineteen dollars (\$32,189,619) to meet expenditure for the payment of salary increases for year 2017.
- IDW# 2503 - one million, four hundred and sixty-eight thousand seven hundred and seventy-three dollars (\$1,468,773) to meet additional expenditure for the payment of salary increases for year 2017.

Summary of Funds Received for 2017

Revised Approved Budget	\$ 1,796,478,122
Inter/Intra Departmental Allocation Warrants	\$ 44,280,347
Total	\$1,840,758,469

Statutory Cost

To fulfill our obligations with respect to remuneration for Judges, the Supreme Court expended the sum of two

hundred and ninety-eight million six hundred and eighty-nine thousand seven hundred and two dollars (G\$298,689,702) on statutory expenditure for year 2017. This amount represents 16.22% of total funds received for 2017.

Employment Costs

To fulfill our obligations with respect to remuneration to all members of staff except the judges, the Supreme Court expended the sum of seven hundred and twenty-eight million three hundred and two thousand two hundred and thirty dollars (G\$728,302,230) on employment for year 2017. This amount represents 39.56% of total funds received for 2017.

Other Charges

The Supreme Court expended the sum of five hundred and sixty-four million, nine hundred and sixty-six thousand, four hundred and fifty-nine dollars (G\$564,966,459) on Other Charges for year 2017. This amount represents 30.69% of total funds received for 2017.

♣ Overseas Travelling for Judicial Officers

The Supreme Court expended the sum of nineteen million, eight hundred and twenty-seven thousand, five hundred and sixteen dollars (G\$19,827,516) for overseas travelling for Judicial Officers attending conferences, seminars and training:

- ❖ Registry Management Systems and Electronic Record Keeping Management with the US Court of Appeals in San Francisco for the period 11th – 22nd March, 2017
- ❖ The Commonwealth Judicial Education Institute (CJEI) for an Intensive Study Programme for Judicial Educators from 04th – 23rd June, 2017 in Halifax, Canada.
- ❖ Mediation workshop on 20th – 21st April, 2017 in Trinidad hosted by Judicial Reform and Institutional Strengthening (JURIST) Project.
- ❖ The Honourable Madam Chancellor (ag), Justice Yonette Cummings-Edward and the Honourable Madam Justice Dawn Gregory attending a meeting overseas for the period 20-24/05/2017.
- ❖ Family Law Workshop at the Supreme Court Complex, Bridgetown, Barbados from the 25th to 28th May, 2017.
- ❖ The International Anti-Corruption Academy/National Association for Court Management Joint annual conference on 07th – 14th July, 2017.
- ❖ The Heads of Judiciary meeting in Trinidad on the 23rd and 24th May, 2017.
- ❖ The Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court's 50th Anniversary celebration.

- ❖ Conference in Virginia, USA from the 07th – 13th July, 2017.
- ❖ Ten (10) Judicial Officers attended the Caribbean Association of Judicial Officers (CAJO) conference in Curacao from 28-30/09/2017 which was held at the Renaissance Hotel.
- ❖ The Council of Legal Education meeting in Port of Spain, Trinidad from 07th – 10th September, 2017.
- ❖ Two Magistrates attended the National Association of Women Judges conference in Mexico City from the 11th – 13th September, 2017.
- ❖ Two Judges attended the National Association of Women Judges conference in Atlanta Georgia, USA from the 11th – 15th October, 2017.
- ❖ Four Judicial officers attended Commonwealth Magistrates and Judges Association Conference (CMJA) in Tanzania for the period 24th to 28th September, 2017.
- ❖ Four (4) Judicial Officers attended study tour in Jamaica from the 22-25/11/2017.
- ❖ Two (2) Judicial Officers attended a conference in Trinidad on 11/11/2017.
- ❖ Two (2) Judicial Officers attended part one of the “train the trainer” Gender Sensitization workshop in Trinidad on 23-24/11/2017.
- ❖ The South-South Human Rights forum from the 4-11/12/2017 in Beijing, China
- ❖ Six (6) Judicial Officers attended the International Association of Women Judges

14th Biennial Conference 2018 from 2nd – 6th May, 2018 in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

- ❖ Commonwealth Judicial Education Institute (CJEI) for an Intensive Study Programme for Judicial Educators from 5th – 24th June, 2018 in Halifax, Canada

♣ Training

During the year 2017, the Supreme Court expended the sum of four million, nine hundred and ninety-six thousand, six hundred and forty dollars (\$4,696,640) for conducting several trainings for Judges, Magistrates and staff

- ❖ Team building training – “To build capacity and enhance the skill of staff of the Magistrate’s Courts to effectively and efficiently work as a team”.
- ❖ Training programme on Justice Education on the 27th and 28th January, 2017 at Regency Suites, Hadfield Street.
- ❖ Continued training in Mediation Services.

- ❖ Legal seminars for Judges and Magistrates - Workshop held on 22nd May, 2017 at the Georgetown High Court Conference Room.
- ❖ Professional Staff Development – “The pre-requisite life-skills needed to enhance professional behavior in the workplace”.
- ❖ Training for the implementation of the new Civil Procedure Rules 2016.

♣ Security Services

The Supreme Court expended the sum of fifty-three million, four hundred and twenty thousand, two hundred and seventy-seven dollars (\$53,420,277) to provide security for court buildings at the Georgetown, Berbice and Essequibo High Courts, Georgetown, New Amsterdam, Linden, Lethem and Leonora Magistrate’s Court, Court of Appeal and The Marshal’s Bond, Lombard Street, Georgetown.

♣ Operating and Court Related Expenses

The Supreme Court expended the sum of four hundred and ninety-six million, four hundred and fifteen thousand, three

hundred and six dollars (\$496,415,306) on operating and court related expenses such as:

- ❖ Drugs and Medical Supplies for staff
- ❖ Field Materials and Supplies
- ❖ Office Material and Supplies
- ❖ Print and Non-Print Materials
- ❖ Rental and Maintenance of Buildings
- ❖ Maintenance of Other Infrastructure
- ❖ Local Travel and Subsistence
- ❖ Vehicles Spares and Service
- ❖ Utility Charges
- ❖ Equipment Maintenance
- ❖ Cleaning and Extermination Services
- ❖ National and Other Event
- ❖ Refreshments and Meals
- ❖ Other
- ❖ Rates & Taxes

Table I below illustrates the comparison of Actual Recurrent Expenditure (Operational) incurred for the years 2015 - 2017

Table 1

No.	Line Item/Chart of Account	Actual Expenditure		
		2017	2016	2015
1	Statutory Cost	298,689,702	330,821,364	303,154,328
2	Employment Cost	728,302,230	663,650,520	569,582,505
3	Drugs and Medical Supplies	441,650	1,381,334	1,066,560
4	Field Materials and Supplies	1,121,679	1,355,983	139,200
5	Office Materials and Supplies	32,002,883	26,876,863	20,480,720
6	Print and Non-Print Materials	25,106,432	41,575,326	33,864,992

7	Fuel and Lubricants	6,015,900	4,517,378	4,410,642
8	Rental of Buildings	11,930,000	10,955,000	9,469,340
9	Maintenance of Buildings	34,692,049	32,641,921	24,958,872
10	Janitorial and Cleaning Supplies	15,814,764	12,610,333	10,322,444
11	Maintenance of Other Infrastructure	8,867,462	8,257,172	16,997,439
12	Local Travel and Subsistence	99,155,119	86,724,300	64,504,347
13	Overseas Conferences and Official Visits	19,827,516	24,504,162	250,200
14	Postage, Telex and Cablegrams	2,744,050	1,805,570	1,842,250
15	Vehicle Spares and Maintenance	4,690,725	3,813,987	3,463,277
16	Telephone Charges	31,484,321	27,561,697	23,076,985
17	Electricity Charges	62,545,513	36,796,700	37,400,217
18	Water Charges	12,524,869	10,227,612	10,134,125
19	Security Services	53,420,277	56,506,291	56,596,422
20	Equipment Maintenance	17,792,951	13,786,767	12,750,482
21	Cleaning and Extermination Services	10,990,678	7,916,798	7,614,762
22	National and Other Events	1,870,980	2,190,500	753,647
23	Refreshments and Meals	18,593,362	14,517,180	13,976,692
24	Others	81,134,485	98,473,625	48,862,341
25	Training (including Scholarships)	4,696,610	3,613,954	543,755

26	Rates and Taxes	7,502,184	3,540,665	0
		1,591,958,391	1,526,623,002	1,276,216,544

Summary For 2017

Receipts

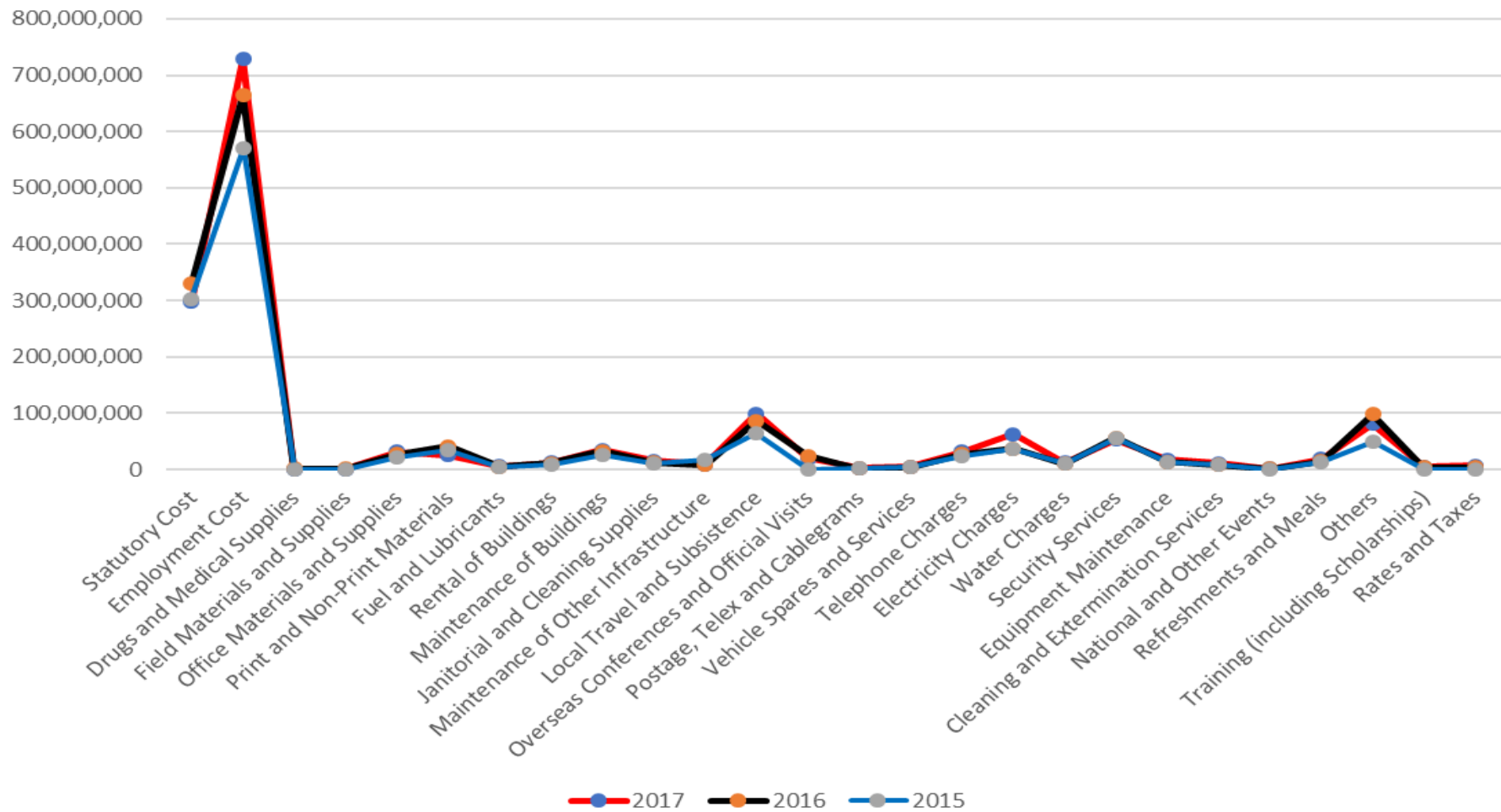
Budget 2017	1,517,279,000
Supplementary Provision	30,399,122
6141 – Revision of wages & salaries	<u>44,280,347</u>
	1,591,958,469

Payments

Statutory Cost	298,689,702
Employment Cost	728,302,230
Other Charges	<u>564,966,459</u>
	<u>(1,591,958,391)</u>

Balance Return to Consolidated fund on IDW 2502 78

Line Chart Showing Comparisons of Actual Recurrent Expenditure (Operational) incurred for the Years 2015-2017



Capital Expenditure

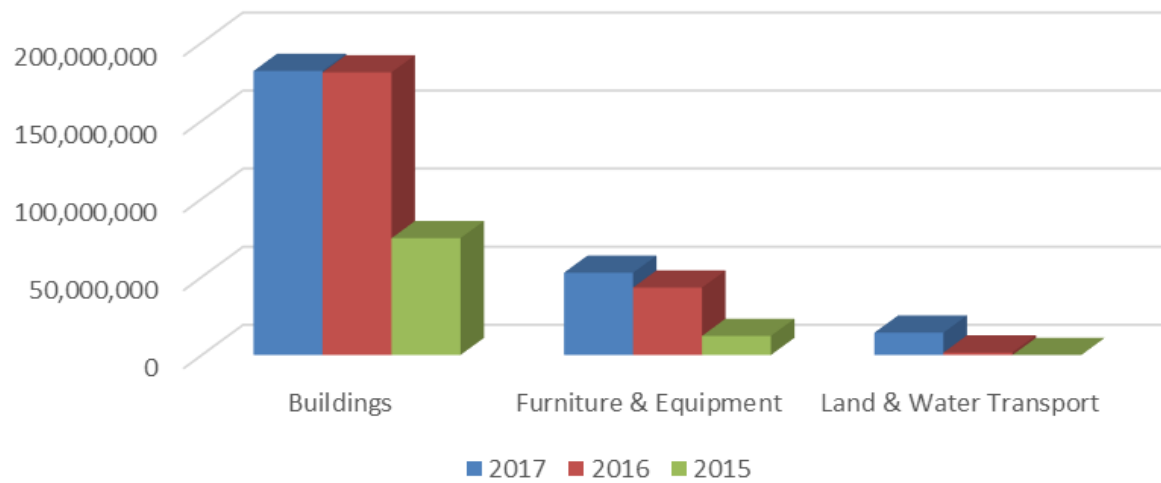
The Supreme Court expended the sum of two hundred and forty-eight million, seven hundred and ninety-nine

thousand, six hundred and twelve dollars (\$248,799,612) on Capital expenditure for year 2017. This amount represents 13.52% of total funds received for 2017.

Table II below shows the comparison of Actual Capital Expenditure (Developmental) incurred for the years 2015 – 2017

No.	Line Item/Chart of Account	Actual Expenditure		
		2017	2016	2015
1	Building	181,854,027	180,983,928	74,818,006
2	Furniture & Equipment	52,666,023	43,135,539	12,231,703
3	Land & Water Transport	14,279,562	1,592,606	0
	Total	248,799,612	225,712,073	87,049,709

Bar Chart Showing Comparison of Actual Capital Expenditure (Developmental) incurred for the years 2015 – 2017



Summary For 2017

Receipts

Budget 2017

248,800,000

Payments

Buildings

181,854,027

Furniture & Equipment

52,666,023

Land & Water Transport

14,279,562

(248,799,612)

Balance Returned to Consolidated fund on Line Item 6323

388

Buildings

The amount of one hundred and eighty-one million, eight hundred and fifty-four thousand and twenty-seven dollars (\$181,854,027) was expended on Buildings. The following are major works (projects) that were continued and new projects undertaken in 2017:

Roll-over projects for 2017

1. Construction of the Georgetown Land Court, Region No. 4
2. Construction of the Sparendam Magistrates' Court, Region No. 4
3. Construction of Judges' Living Quarters at Suddie, Region No. 2
4. Construction of North-Eastern Fence at Leonora Magistrate's Court, Region 3.

New Projects

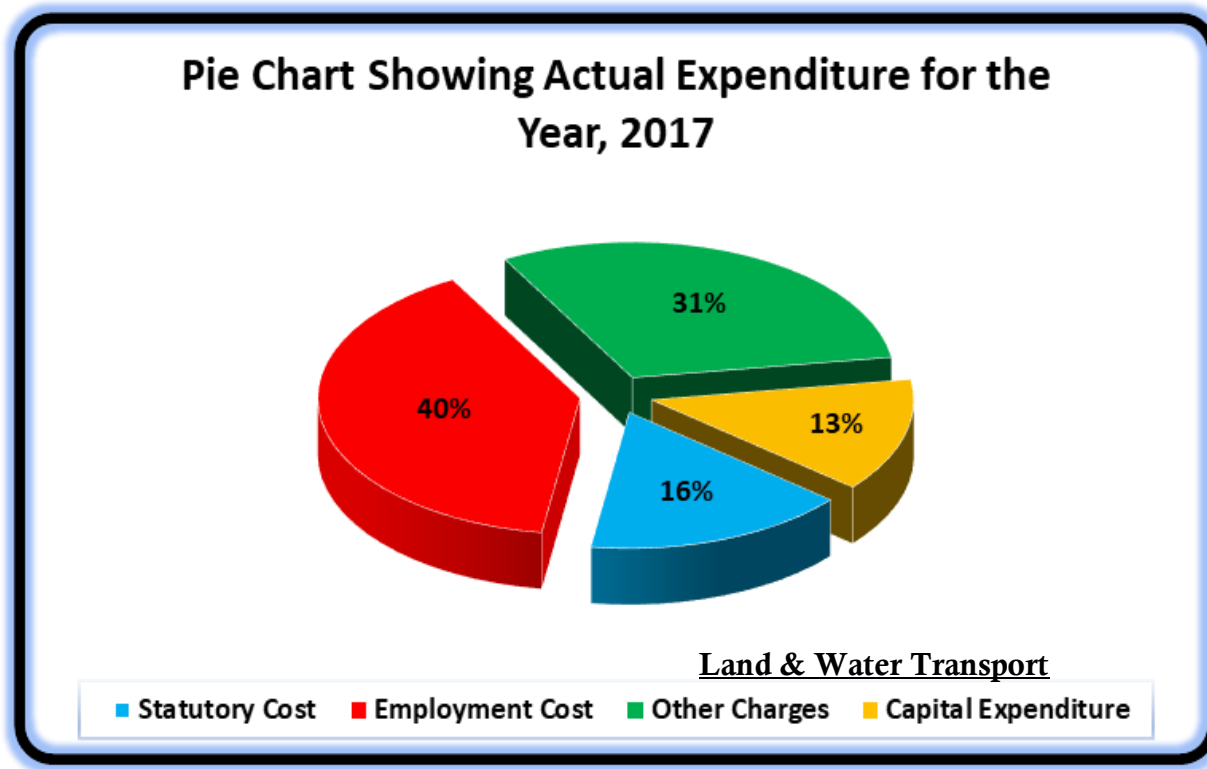
Rehabilitation of North South Wing of the Supreme Court of Judicature, Region 4.

1. Construction of Guard Hut, Stairs, Shed, Walkway & Installation of AC at Suddie Supreme Court Suddie Village, Region 2.
2. Construction of Diamond Golden Grove Magistrate's Court, Region 4
3. Construction of Lunch room at New Amsterdam High Court, Region 6.
4. Heightening of Driveway & Reconstruction of fence at New Amsterdam High Court, Region 6
5. Construction of Guard Hut at Leonora Magistrate's Court, Region 3
6. Construction of Guard Hut at New Amsterdam High Court Region 6
7. Reconstruction of stairs at Court of Appeal, Region 4
8. Modification of Layout of the Land Court Registry & Marshal Section Land Court, Georgetown Region 4

Furniture & Equipment

The amount of fifty-two million, six hundred and sixty-six thousand and twenty-three dollars (\$52,666,023) was expended on the purchasing of Office furniture and equipment for the various sections and Magisterial Districts within the Supreme Court to provide the staff of the Judiciary with adequate furniture and equipment so that

improved office accommodation and operational efficiency could have been achieved in a more comfortable and conducive working environment.



The amount of fourteen million, two hundred and seventy-nine thousand, five hundred and sixty-two dollars (\$14,279,562) was expended for the purchasing of four (4) motor vehicles from our capital budget 2017 to replace five (5) vehicles disposed of in 2017 that were deemed unserviceable/uneconomical to repair and maintain. Note, our 6264 – Vehicle spares and maintenance cost for the year 2017 amounted to four million six hundred and ninety thousand seven hundred and twenty-five dollars (G\$ 4,690,725) an increase of 22.99% from 2016 which led to the decision to sell and purchase new vehicles as follows:

Acquisition of Vehicles

- (1) Toyota Corolla Fielder – PWW 6375 – G\$ 2,150,000
- (2) Toyota Corolla Mark X - PWW 6339 – G\$ 3,229,562
- (3) Toyota Premio - PWW 6882 – G\$ 2,500,000

- (4) Toyota 4x4 Hilux Vigo - PWW 6863 – G\$ 6,400,000

Total G\$14,279,562

Disposed Vehicles

- (1) Toyota Carina AT 192 (Sedan)– PLL 2250– G\$ 550,000
- (2) Toyota Carina AT 192 (Sedan)- PLL 2253 – G\$ 400,000
- (3) Toyota Corolla Wagon - PLL 2228– G\$ 600,000
- (4) Toyota Corolla Wagon - PLL 2066 - G\$ 550,000
- (5) Toyota Avensis - PRR 1092 - G\$ 750,000

Total G\$2,850,000

The revenue from disposals was deposited into the consolidated fund and recorded under line item 5715 - Sale of Assets in the year 2017.

Others Receipts

The Supreme Court received a donation from UNICEF on 9th August, 2017 in the sum of G\$ 5,000,000 for the setting up of the Sexual Offences Court. The Supreme Court deposited the said sum into the Consolidated Fund and created a deposit fund line item in the IFMAS system. Further, on the 24th November, 2017 UNICEF made another donation towards the setting up of the Children's Court in the sum of G\$ 4,140,000 and which was deposited into the Consolidated Fund on the 27/11/2017 giving a total donation of nine million one hundred and forty thousand dollars (G\$ 9,140,000).

As at 31st December, 2017 the Supreme Court expended a total of four million six hundred and twenty-eight thousand eight hundred and seventy-two dollars (G\$ 4,628,872) leaving a balance of four million five hundred and eleven thousand one hundred and twenty-eight dollars (G\$

4,511,128) rolling over into 2018 for the setting up of the Children's Court.

REVENUE

The Supreme Court Registry is a revenue earner. The Registry earns revenue in the form of fees which are required to be paid in accordance with the scales of fees contained in the Rules of Court for the performance of duties and execution of processes by officers of the court.

The Magistrates' Courts are also revenue earners. They collect revenue in the form of fees which are required to be paid in accordance with the scales of fees contained in the Rules of Court for the performance of duties and execution of processes by officers of the court.

The Magistrates' Courts also earns revenue from fines and costs imposed by Magistrates from the outcome of cases and in some cases where bail is escheated by the Magistrates.

Table III below show a comparison of actual revenue collected for the years 2015 - 2017.

Chart of Accounts	Revenue Name	Actual Revenue Collected		
		2017	2016	2015
5326	Fees, Fines & Seizures	270,167,910	169,602,604	209,729,100
5327	State Cost	2,719,150	4,197,011	2,853,244
5419	Other Loans & Advance	25,244	27,148	24,948
5616	Sundries	395,413	1,622,528	904,742
5715	Sale of Asset	4,100,000	-	-
	Total	277,407,717	175,449,291	213,512,034

Bar Chart shows the comparison of actual revenue collected for the years 2015 - 2017.

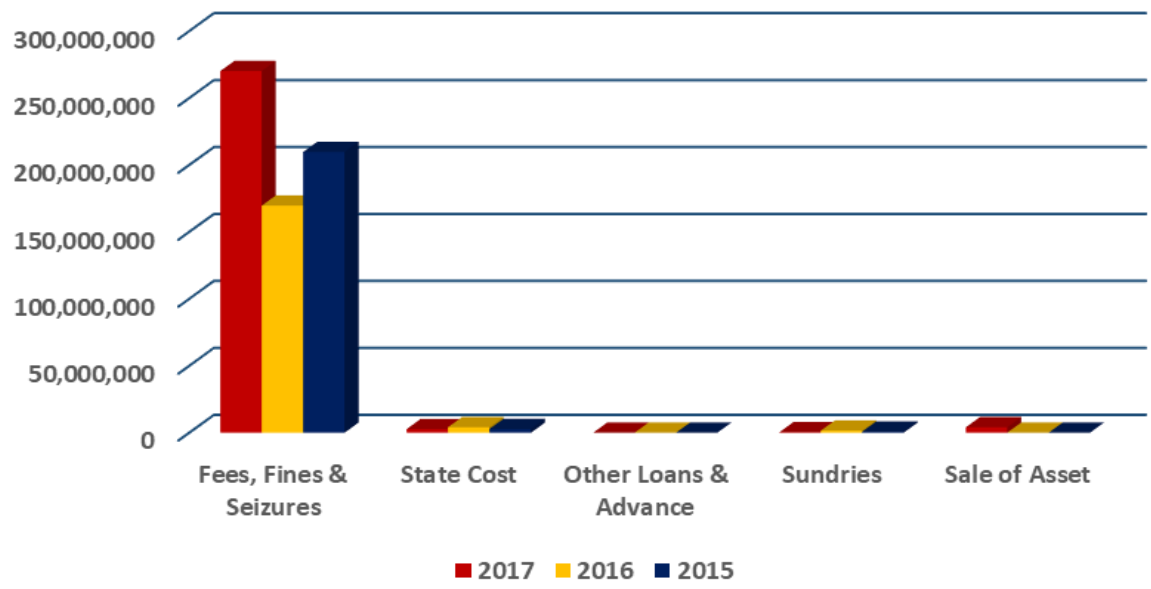


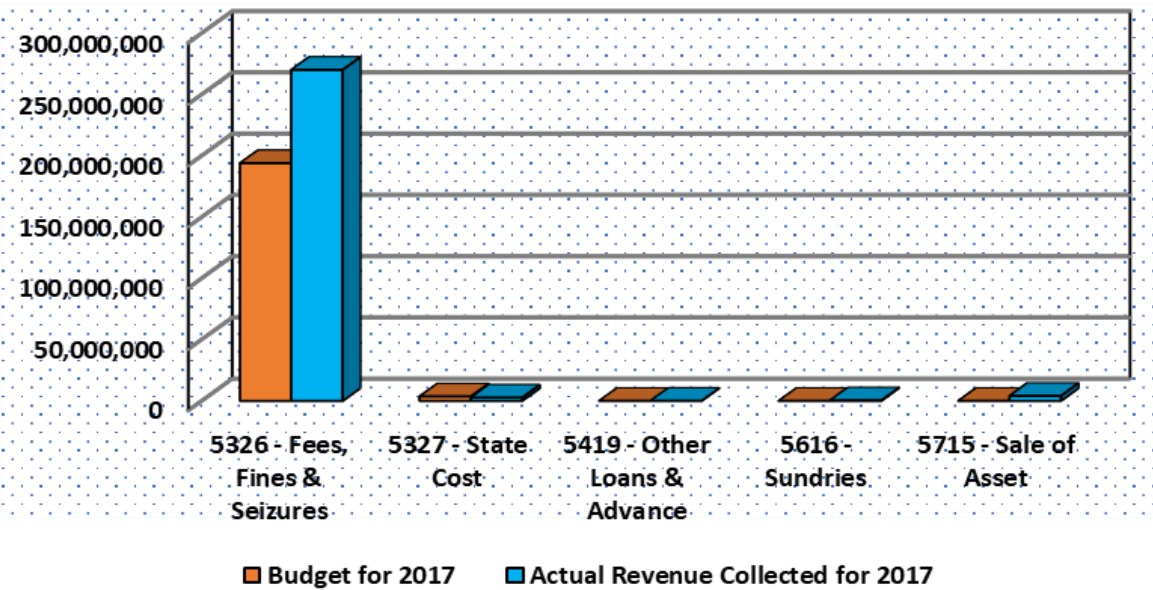
Table and Chart below Illustrates actual revenue collected for the year 2017 as against budgeted amount.

Chart of Accounts	Revenue Name	Budget for 2017	Actual Revenue Collected for 2017	Variance
5326	Fees, Fines & Seizures	194,000,000	270,167,910	76,167,910
5327	State Cost	3,640,000	2,719,150	(920,850)
5419	Other Loans & Advance	-	25,244	25,244
5616	Sundries	-	395,413	395,413
5715	Sale of Asset	-	4,100,000	4,100,000
	Total	197,640,000	277,407,717	79,767,717

The Supreme Court exceeded the approved budget estimate for revenue collection for the year 2017 by 40.36%. This was attributed mainly to the implementation of the New Civil Procedure Rules 2016 which became operational in February, 2017. This saw the beginning of speedy trials – giving earlier trial dates and stricter timelines. Judges have to work at a much faster rate in a shorter space

of time hence more matters are disposed and filed. With this introduction came an increase in filing fees e.g. to file a Writ of Summons previously was G\$30 now costs G\$3,500 to file a fixed Date Application or Statement of Claim and whereas to file a defense was G\$10, it now costs G\$ 2000 under the CPR. All of this resulted in a surplus in our revenue collection for 2017.

Chart Showing Actual Revenue Collected Against Budgeted For the Year, 2017



**THE YEAR IN REVIEW-
HIGHLIGHTS**

NEW CIVIL PROCEDURE RULES

On the 6th day of February 2017 the New Civil Procedure Rules were implemented. The overriding objective of these Rules is to enable the Court to deal with cases justly. Dealing with cases justly includes:

- (f) Ensuring, so far as is practicable, that the parties are on an equal footing:
- (g) Saving expense;
- (h) Dealing with it in ways which are proportionate to the:
 - (v) Importance of the case;
 - (vi) Complexity of the issues;
 - (vii) Amount of money involved: and
 - (viii) Financial position of each party
- (i) Ensuring that the case is dealt with expeditiously, and
- (j) Allotting to the case an appropriate share of the Court's resources while taking into account the need to allot resources to other cases.

The Court may seek to give effect to the overriding object when it interprets any rule or exercise any discretion given to it by its rules. It is the duty of the parties and their Attorneys-at-Law to help the Court to further the overriding objective.

NEW COURTS

SEXUAL OFFENCES

Over the years there has been an increase in sexual offences cases being heard before the court. This form of violence has been seen as a human rights violation. Consistent with the State's responsibility to take steps to protect individuals from human rights abuses and grant redress where necessary, and being cognizant of the rise in sexual violence and the deficiencies in the law, a holistic approach was employed with consultations for the drafting of the Sexual Offences Act.

In 2010 the Sexual Offences Act, was enacted and as its title suggests, it is “an Act to reform and consolidate the laws relating to sexual offences and to provide for related matters.”

The Act made provision for the establishment of a Sexual Offences Court and thus a specialized court was birthed in 2017. The necessity for such court came from the rise in the number of sexual offence cases, the need to have a fair but speedy trial for the resolution of these sensitive matters and

to have victims and witnesses testify in an atmosphere that does not lend itself to secondary trauma.

The Court which is housed at Court 6, in the south eastern section of the High Court is modernized and equipped to deal with these cases in a manner that is on par with similar courts in other jurisdictions.

The judiciary, recognizing that victims can be re-victimized when they have to recount their stories in a courtroom with strangers and the accused, furnished the court with the necessary equipment to protect victims and to avoid secondary victimization.

The Court is outfitted with special measures for the protection of vulnerable witnesses including, a Liberty recording system, monitors for Skype conferencing, a special measures room from which victims can testify remotely and a special screen to surround the witness box

for the protection of traumatized victims. The Sexual Offences Court was established through collaboration between the Supreme Court of the Judicature and UNICEF, who provided adequate funding for a modernized, user-friendly and safe courtroom.

The Court was officially declared open on November 14, 2017 by the Honorable Minister Amna Ally, Minister of Social Protection and the Honorable Justice Mdm. Yonette Cummings Edwards, the Chancellor of the Judiciary of Guyana (ag) and is the first of its kind in the entire Caribbean region.

SCENES FROM THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE SEXUAL OFFENCES COURT



Spanking new Sparendam Magistrate's Court building completed and declared open, 17th February, 2017



NEW WING OF THE HIGH COURT, GEORGETOWN OPENED- HOUSES LAND COURT AND ADDITIONAL COURTROOMS, JULY, 2017



UPPER DEMERARA RIVER MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT DECLARED OPEN, AUGUST 2, 2017



NEW JUDGES' LIVING QUARTERS DECLARED OPEN AT SUDDIE, ESSEQUIBO, 20TH DECEMBER, 2017



UNICEF DONATES LEGAL TEXTS

Acting Chancellor Justice Yonette Cummings-Edwards received 23 legal books for the Family Court, donated by UNICEF in support of the operation of the Family Court on Friday, 28th April, 2017.

Handing over the law books, UNICEF Representative for Guyana and Suriname Sylvie Fouet noted that supporting the development of the Family Court has been on the agenda of the Committee on the Rights of the Child since 2004.



In photo from (l) to (r) Justice Rishi Persaud, Justice Sandra Kurtzius, The Hon. Chancellor(ag) Justice Yonette Cummings-Edwards, UNICEF Country Representative Ms. Sylvie Fouet, Chief Justice (ag) Justice Roxane George, Justice Dawn Gregory and Justice NareshwarHarnanan

2017 Appointments and Promotions

Judicial Appointments in 2017

On 24th February, 2017, His Excellency, the President, announced the appointment of the Honourable Madam Justice Yonette Cummings-Edwards to perform the functions of Acting Chancellor of the Judiciary. Simultaneously he also appointed Madam Justice Roxane George to the post of Acting Chief Justice, thus ushering in a new era in the leadership of the Judiciary.

In accordance with Article 128 (1) of the Guyana Constitution:

“The Judges, other than the Chancellor and the Chief Justice, shall be appointed by President, who

shall act in accordance with the advice of the Judicial Service Commission.”

The President on 17th July, 2017 presented four attorneys-at-law with credentials to serve as Puisne Judges and two Puisne Judges with credentials to serve as Justices of Appeal. Those sworn in as Puisne Judges were Justice Gino Persaud, Justice Sandil Kissoon, Justice Simone Morris-Ramlall and Justice Damone Younge. Justice Deo Rishi Persaud and Justice Dawn Gregory were sworn in as Justices of Appeal.

ACTING CHANCELLOR AND ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE



Justices of Appeal

Justice Deo Rishi Persaud



Justice Dawn Gregory



Puisne Judges



Justice Simone Morris-Ramlall



Justice Damone Younge



Justice Sandil Kissoon



Justice Gino Persaud



Magisterial Appointments in 2017

Peter Hugh



Magistrate Peter Hugh joined the Judiciary of Guyana as Magistrate to the Vigilance and Cove and John Magistrate Courts on March 1, 2017. Magistrate Hugh obtained his Legum Baccalaureus (LLB) at the University of Guyana and proceeded to the Hugh Wooding Law School (HWLS) where he obtained his Legal Education Certificate (LEC) in 2003. He was also admitted to the local bar that same year. Magistrate Hugh brings with him a wealth of legal

knowledge to the Magisterial Courts which will serve as a testament to the courts mandate to provide adequate and capable magistrates to the Guyanese populace who seek timely and fair justice.

Esther Sam



Magistrate Esther Sam attended the University of Guyana between 2004-2007 where she pursued her Bachelor of Laws degree. In 2007 Magistrate Sam enrolled at the Hugh

Wooding Law School (HWLS) where she obtained her Legal Education Certificate (LEC) in 2009. Ms. Sam was later accepted to the Bar that very year. Before being appointed to the esteemed position of Magistrate in April 2017, Ms. Sam performed duties as a Principal Legal

Advisor, attached to the Attorney General's Chambers between the years 2015 to 2017.

Wanda Fortune



Magistrate Wanda Samantha Fortune, who graduated from Hugh Wooding Law School in 2012, was admitted to practice at the Guyana Bar that same year. Ms.

Fortune besides having a legal mind also holds a certificate

in Business from the International Business College (IBC). Magistrate Fortune, before being appointed Magistrate in 2017 was attached to the Guyana Legal Aid clinic as legal counsel.

Promotions

In June, 2017, the Judicial Service Commission announced several promotions within the ranks of the magistracy as follows:

Principal Magistrate:	Magistrate Sherdel Isaacs-Marcus
	Magistrate Faith McGusty
	Magistrate Judy Latchman
	Magistrate Allan Wilson (given the salary and conditions of the post)
Senior Magistrate:	Magistrate Leron Daly

Magistrate Sunil Scarce
 Magistrate Zamilla Ally-Seepaul
 Magistrate Alex Moore
 Magistrate Clive Nurse

Court Staff

The following court staff were appointed to the court in 2017 between January 1 to November 1.

Names	Designation	Location
Kemchan Toolaram	Legal Clerk	Fort Wellington Magistrate Court
Carlisa Crawford	Legal Clerk	Fort Wellington Magistrate Court
Tarmila Singh	Legal Clerk	Family Court
Zafeera Hakh	Legal Clerk	Suddie Magistrate Court
Rocquel Charter	Legal Clerk	Vigilance Magistrate Court
Keizeia Lambert	Legal Clerk	High Court, Georgetown
Reneka Persaud	Typist Clerk	High Court, Georgetown
Kenisha Williams	Counter Clerk	Family Court
Devon Kisson	Counter Clerk	Family Court
Marcia Anthony	Cleaner	Georgetown Magistrates Court
Debra Baynes	Cleaner	Georgetown Magistrates Court
Keesha Brotherson	Listing Clerk	Family Court
Shamar Smith	Office Assistant	Probate Office

Lettrel Henry	Administration Office	High Court, Georgetown
Debbie Persaud	Assistant Registrar	Family Court
Wamanda McKenzie	Marshal	Supreme Court of the Judicature
John Chung	Marshal	Supreme Court of the Judicature
Aliea Khan	Marshal	Supreme Court of the Judicature
Nelissa Peterkin	Marshal	Supreme Court of the Judicature
Jamilah Jones	Marshal	Supreme Court of the Judicature
Jordon Clarke	Marshal	Supreme Court of the Judicature
Yogendra Kissoon	Marshal	Supreme Court of the Judicature
Mohamed Alli	Driver	Supreme Court of the Judicature
Daniel James	Driver	Supreme Court of the Judicature
Sherice Bennett	Legal Clerk 11	Sub-Registry Berbice
Monique Watts	Legal Clerk 11	Sub-Registry Berbice
Vonetta Usher	Vault Attendant	Supreme Court of the Judicature

LOOKING AHEAD

It is hoped that the Supreme Court will continue to build on the progress and successes of 2017 and take the court further along the road to achieving our vision as set out in the Vision Statement. With the world continuing to innovate technologically, it is our goal to take the supreme Court further along the way to achieving 21st century technological advancements in our courts.

E-Litigation and e-filing are the way of the courts of the future. Supreme court, Guyana does not intend to be left behind. As such, we intend to make efforts in 2018 to seek partners that will assist us in achieving our ultimate goal of making our judiciary fully automated. We recognize that it will be a process and will certainly not be realized overnight, but we intend to make bold steps in this direction in the new fiscal year. We have already sought a budgetary allocation to cater for an e-litigation platform to be developed for the supreme court on the civil side.

Additionally, in 2018, there are plans to establish a Children's court, the first of its kind in Guyana. This is in

keeping with the trend of seeking alternative sentencing for young children and young persons who come into conflict with the justice system. The Children's court will have special facilities that make it friendlier and less intimidating to children and provide alternatives to incarceration.

It is also hoped that in 2018 construction will commence on magistrates' courts at Bartica, Mahdia and Kwakwani. At all of these locations, the court facilities are substandard and require urgent attention.

We continue to ask that our customers partner with us and give critical feedback so that we may continue to make necessary changes and improvements to our infrastructure and services. By this process we will continue to meet the needs of all court users and engender confidence in the judiciary.