

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE OF LAW-REPORTING IN THE ENGLISH SPEAKING CARIBBEAN

A CASE FOR REGIONAL LAW-REPORTING¹

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The doctrine of judicial precedent is the cornerstone of the English legal system. Therefore, the publication of law reports, through which the development of case law can be followed, is of vital importance.² Today, over 350 years since the reception of the English legal system in some Caribbean territories,³ the law reports published in the region do not exceed 150 volumes, most of which have been issued during the twentieth century in the larger territories of Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago.⁴ This dearth of primary legal materials has serious implications for legal education in the West Indies, and for the practice and development of a West Indian jurisprudence.

The inadequacy of law reporting in the region has long been recognised and lamented by scholars interested in the development of West Indian law.⁵ As recently as April 1977, the following statement and resolution were made at the **Workshop on Legal Education in the Caribbean**:

"Noting the need for an improved system of reporting the decisions of the courts of the Commonwealth Caribbean and recognising that such a system is an essential service for the legal profession and regional legal training programmes at the Faculty of Law of the University of the West Indies and the law schools of the Council of Legal Education —

RESOLVES to recommend to the Faculty of Law and the Council of Legal Education that consideration be given to providing financial assistance for the purpose of establishing a quarterly printing and publication of current judgments of the courts of the region to be called the **West Indies Quarterly Reports**". (WIQR)⁶

The current system of law reporting which gives rise to the foregoing expression of dissatisfaction, will be discussed in the next section. This will be followed by an

outline of earlier law reporting efforts in the region.

Current Formal Law Reporting

1. The West Indian Reports [W.I.R.]

This series has been published since 1960 by Butterworths. Cases reported are selected by an Editorial Board, which comprises the Chief Justices and some other judges in Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, and the West Indies Associated States. In accordance with guidelines established by Butterworths, the publishers, editors select transcripts of cases which, in their opinion, are of sufficient importance to be reported. Emphasis is laid on the selection of cases from the Courts of Appeal which deal with questions of law of general interest to the region, or contain interpretations of statutes and the constitutions. Decisions of the trial courts are not selected unless they highlight questions of law considered to be of public importance.⁷

The **West Indian Reports** can be criticised on four main grounds:

- (1) The time lag between delivery of judgments and their publication is too long, ranging from several months to over three years, especially in the case of judgments from the West Indies Associated States.
- (2) The coverage is restricted to cases from Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, and the West Indies Associated States. Those of the Bahamas, Belize, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands — all English-speaking territories whose shores are washed by the Caribbean Sea — are not included.
- (3) For some reason — whether space limitation or the wisdom of the editors — some cases which may be considered of legal significance are not reported.
- (4) The high cost of the reports.

These criticisms will now be

discussed in detail. It is not clear how blame for the time-lag should be apportioned between the publishers and the West Indian judges who select and submit cases for publication. Assuming that the blame is mainly Butterworths', it follows that the Company should introduce administrative reforms designed to correct a short-coming which has persisted for far too long. If the blame is to be attributed to the West Indian editors who, because of their full-time duties, are too busy to submit judgments soon after delivery, then the assistance of the Faculty of Law of the University of the West Indies is necessary.

With reference to the second criticism, a Butterworths' source has indicated that the non-inclusion of cases from the "Caribbean rim" territories can be attributed to administrative factors, such as the considerable task of consolidating and editing the additional material, and the per volume cost increase likely to result. At the same time, the Butterworths' source has argued that the Company has never set the cost of the volumes as a limiting factor; rather, it is the importance of the cases reported which is the criterion for inclusion within the **West Indian Reports**. Consequently, and in spite of the administrative problems, the Company is presently considering the inclusion of Bahamian cases, and could possibly extend coverage to other territories mentioned in (2) above, provided the cases selected improve the quality of the reports.⁸ Clearly, there is a conflict between this statement and the previously stated position of Butterworths. But, if it is implemented, an increase in the scope of the **West Indian Reports** could result.

Although the question of non-inclusion of several important cases in the **West Indian Reports** cannot be easily answered, it would seem that the present arrangements for the selection of cases is too restrictive. Butterworths could possibly consider adopting the practice followed by the Incorporated Council of Law Reporting in the

Weekly Law Reports, whereby judgments which are published as soon as possible after delivery are divided into two parts — starred and unstarred cases. The former are those considered to be near the borderline of reportability; the latter are those which, in the reporters' opinion, contain principles important to the development of law. It is these cases which are subsequently published with notes of arguments in the **Law Reports**.⁹ If this is done, the cost of the **West Indian Reports** will inevitably increase.

As it is, present and potential subscribers complain that the reports, with their limited and tardy coverage, are too expensive. The cost factor has been a cause for concern since the per volume price increased to £43 with publication of Volume 18 in 1977. Prior to that, the approximate per volume cost of £13 compared favourably with the price of other reputable report series.¹⁰ The expense argument used by many legal practitioners could hardly have been justified before 1977, in view of the fact that those same practitioners were able to subscribe to the much dearer **All England Law Reports**, and specialised British report series as well. By so doing, they were acknowledging a sad reality of the West Indian legal scene. The fact is that, although in some areas of the law a number of important West Indian cases are summarised in the **West Indian Reports**, yet legal practitioners seem to prefer citing English cases in the courts.

With respect to the phenomenal price increase in the **West Indian Reports** during 1977, it is of interest to reproduce information received from Butterworths. The Company is reported to have produced and marketed Volume 18 — publication of which had commenced in 1974 — at a loss of 35%. Since then, production costs rose by 93%. From the Company's standpoint, the only alternative to suspending publication was to increase the per volume price as it did.¹¹ Although Butterworths claims that it has kept its profit margin to an absolute minimum, no explanation is offered as to how an increase of 93% in production costs resulted in a market price increase of over 200%. In the present circumstances, it is possible that unless subscriptions increase dramatically, the current price may not be in force for very long.

2. The Jamaica Law Reports

The only other series of law reports now being published for the English-speaking Caribbean is the **Jamaica Law Reports**. Volumes 1 to 7 in this series were published between 1933 and 1960 on the authority of the island's Supreme Court. However, local publication was discontinued when Butterworths agreed to publish Volume 8, 1961 and onward.¹² This, however, did not materialise until 1976. So far, Volumes 8 to 13, excluding 12 and some parts of 14, have been received by the Faculty of Law Library. As in the **West Indian Reports**, most of the cases reported in the **Jamaica Law Reports** are from the Court of Appeal.

Current Informal Law Reporting

As far as this writer is aware, the only territories in which a system of informal law reporting exists are Belize, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla and St. Lucia.

1. Belize

In Belize, some judgments of the Supreme Court are published in the *Official Gazette*, often several months after date of delivery. Also, since mid-1977, the Belize Bar Association has been collecting and distributing copies of these judgments for a small fee. Most of the present subscribers are local practitioners and regional institutions. Apparently, the Association hopes to publish a collection of these reports as the **Belizean Law Reports**, if the local Bar shows sufficient interest.¹³ This, of course, is a commendable effort on the part of the Belize Bar Association, and one hopes that other Bar Associations in the region will follow suit.

2. Jamaica

Quite apart from the **Jamaica Law Reports** already discussed, the Legal Reform Division, Ministry of National Security and Justice of Jamaica, has, since October 1975, been publishing a selection of Supreme Court judgments in its **Bulletin of Current Legal Developments**. The object of this exercise — as stated in the first issue of the **Bulletin** — is that judgments published there would alert Jamaican lawyers — especially those in the country districts — to the existence of recent important decisions, copies of which are obtainable from the Supreme Court Library.¹⁴ So far, the **Bulletin** has

not appeared monthly as promised. In fact, only two issues were published in 1975, four in 1976, and none since. However, the scheme has apparently not yet been officially abandoned.¹⁵

3. Montserrat, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla and St. Lucia

In these territories, cases decided in the West Indies Associated States Supreme Court circuits are occasionally published in their *Official Gazettes*. This practice has been followed in Montserrat and St. Lucia since 1967;¹⁶ in St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla since October 1975.¹⁷ In view of the tardiness with which cases of the West Indies Associated States Supreme Court appear in the **West Indian Reports**, and until some other form of regional law reporting is developed, this informal gazette publishing is desirable, and should continue, although on a more regular basis.

4. Trinidad and Tobago

In early 1978, a select number of Trinidad and Tobago Supreme Court decisions was published in the first issue of *The Lawyer* — a Quarterly Journal of the Trinidad and Tobago Bar Association — which covered the period October — December 1977. The law reports section is centrally placed, carries its own page sequence, and can be detached from the rest of the periodical. It is hoped that response to this first issue has been encouraging, and that the editors will include a note in the second, explaining the guidelines used for selecting cases.

Earlier Law Reporting

In spite of the desirability of informal unit law reporting in our present circumstances, the history of law reporting in the West Indies suggests that publications such as the **West Indian Reports** and the proposed **West Indian Quarterly Reports** should be encouraged and given full support by the legal profession in the Caribbean. For, as it will be shown below, and in Appendix I, some territories have produced no reports at all, and, in others, reporting ventures have been short-lived, or punctuated by long gaps. No law reports have ever been published for Belize, the Cayman Islands, the Leewards, or the Turks and Caicos Islands. The **Bahamas Law Reports** never continued beyond Volume 1, which contained a selection of Supreme

and Magisterial Court cases for the period 1900 to 1906. The **Barbados Reports** reached Volume 2: the first volume covering cases relating to Barbados which were determined in local courts and found in English law reports for 1694, 1831 and 1853 to 1893; the second containing cases decided in the island's Court of Error during the years 1860, 1863, 1878 and 1894 to 1903. Two volumes of the **Bermuda Law Reports**, embracing decisions of this island's Supreme Court, were also published. Plans to continue the Bermuda series have been discussed "ad nauseam" at all levels, but never brought to fruition.¹⁸ The only volume of law reports ever published for the Windward Islands contained decisions of its Court of Appeal for 1866 to 1904.

Unlike the experiences of the Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda and the Windward Islands, law reporting efforts in the larger territories have been more sustained.

Guyana

The earliest Guyana law reports still available¹⁹ contained cases decided in the Court of Review from 1856 to 1873, published in two volumes. From 1879 to 1874, further decisions of this court were published annually with indexes. A cumulative digest to these decisions was not produced until 1892 by Solicitor E.A.V. Abrahams. Meanwhile, a digest of decisions of the Privy Council in cases which originated in British Guiana between 1829 and 1869 was edited by R.H. Erskine, and published in 1882. In 1893, one year after producing his digest of Court of Review cases, Solicitor Abrahams issued the **Law Reports**, Old Series, containing Supreme Court decisions for the period 1855 to 1865. Unfortunately, he published no further volumes, and when publication of the **British Guiana Law Reports** (B.G.L.R.) commenced in 1893, the editors did not contemplate including Supreme Court decisions for the period 1865 to 1890. This gap has never been closed.

Volume 1 of the **British Guiana Law Reports** contained decisions for 1890/91, and by 1918, when the seventh volume was finally published, Supreme Court judgments for the period 1890 to 1897 had been reported.

A companion series, containing 1894 to 1898 Court of Appeal decisions only, was published between 1895 and 1898 in five volumes. From 1898 to 1913, Supreme Court decisions were reported informally in the **Official Gazette**, and three case digest volumes were published. Decisions for the period 1914 to 1930 were also issued originally in the **Official Gazette**, but they were later published in annual volumes, edited by Justices Dalton, Duke and Van Sertima. This pattern of annual reporting was broken during the depression years 1931 to 1937, but a collection of the decisions, edited by E.M. Duke, and a digest, compiled by L.C. Dalton, were both published in 1941.

Cases decided in the Guyana Supreme Court between 1938 and 1965 were edited respectively by Justices Duke, Stoby, Luckhoo and Shahabudeen, and published in annual volumes, each several years behind schedule. Indeed, the 1965 volume did not appear until 1972. Possibly this series was discontinued because decisions of the Guyana Supreme Court were being included in the **West Indian Reports** from 1960 onwards. But, the increasing delay in the publication of annual volumes suggests that it may have been discontinued anyway.

As a result of the interest exhibited by members of the Guyanese judiciary, that territory has had the second longest history of law reporting in the English speaking Caribbean. This interest has also been responsible for the fact that most of the reports of cases decided in the West Indian Court of Appeal available today are those published in the **British Guiana Law Reports** from 1921 until 1958, when the court ceased to exist. Decisions of its successor, the Federal Supreme Court, and then of the British Caribbean Court of Appeal, were also included in the **British Guiana Law Reports** from 1958 until 1965.

Jamaica

This territory has had a longer history of law reporting than any other in the region. The earliest known published collection of its Supreme Court judgments were those for 1774 to 1787, edited by J. Grant, and issued in Edinburgh in 1794. After a long break, four volumes of law reports were published in Jamaica between 1839 and 1844. This flurry of reporting

was followed by a gap, which lasted until 1873/78, when the two-volume **Jamaica Law Reports** (Old Series) containing Supreme Court decisions for 1855 to 1876 appeared. Another gap — this time of thirty years duration — followed. In 1906, it was broken by publication of the **Jamaica Law Reports** (New Series) for 1905 to 1906. From then until 1923, when C.M. Ogilvie's selection of Supreme Court judgments for 1917 to 1923 became available, no law reports were published, not even on an informal basis in the **Jamaica Gazette**.

The next year, Justice J.E.R. Stephens undertook what seemed to him "a want, if not a necessity", and after painstakingly examining over 3,000 judgments, he published two volumes of the Jamaica Supreme Court and Privy Council decisions for 1774 to 1923. In the preface to this monumental work, Stephens explained that as Resident Magistrate for the parish of Portland between 1921 and 1924, the paucity of books and court records in his office had frequently forced him to borrow from lawyers pleading cases before him, and that neither these lawyers nor himself could discover whether any points of law raised had already been covered by decisions of the Supreme Court of Jamaica. Noting that he had chosen only those decisions which he considered useful, Stephens hoped that "some other lawyer" would collect and publish important cases omitted from his work. This hope has not been fulfilled. His other hope, that from 1924 onwards law reports of Jamaica would be published annually,²⁰ was also not fulfilled. Indeed, from 1917, judgments had been printed by the Government Printing Office and distributed annually to judges, resident magistrates, lawyers and other interested persons. However, no formal reporting of these judgments occurred until 1936, when those still extant were edited by Justice Clarke, and published by the Jamaica Supreme Court.²¹

Meanwhile, in 1933, publication of a new series of the **Jamaica Law Reports** commenced. This series of reports, Volume 7 of which also contained Privy Council decisions, was edited in turn by Justices Brathwaite, Gordon, McGregor and Duffus. It discontinued with the publication of Volume 7 in 1960, in accordance with an arrangement whereby Butterworths would con-

tinue the series.²² However, by 1963 Volume 8 for 1961 had not yet been published, and the Gleaner Company Ltd. commenced the **Gleaner Law Reports**. In all, five volumes of the Gleaner series were published between 1963 and 1968. From 1968 until 1976, when Butterworths finally produced some volumes of the **Jamaica Law Reports**, the **West Indian Reports** was the only medium for publication of Jamaica Supreme Court decisions.

Trinidad and Tobago

As far as law reporting is concerned, Trinidad and Tobago is a "latecomer" when compared with Jamaica and Guyana. For, publication of the **Trinidad and Tobago Law Reports** (TTLR) did not commence until 1913, when Volume 1, containing judgments delivered in the island's Supreme Court from December 1893 to April 1910, was published. Several cases decided in 1882, 1895, 1897 and 1908 which were not included in Volume 1 were published in Volume 2 during 1917. This volume also included some cases for the period April 1910 to December 1916. Volumes 3 to 6, containing judgments of the Trinidad and Tobago Supreme Court for 1917 to 1939, and of the West Indian Court of Appeal for 1923 to 1927, were published between 1918, and 1937, but Volume 7, covering the period 1933 to 1939, was apparently not published until after 1950.²³

No Trinidad and Tobago law reports were ever published for the period 1939 to 1948, which should have been covered by Volumes 8 and 9 in the series. Indeed, when Volumes 7, 8 and 9 had not appeared by 1950, Chief Justice C. Furness-Smith heralded Volume 10, which contained cases decided between 1949/50 as being the first in a new series! He also praised editors Hosein, Furness-Smith and Seemungal for following "the best and most modern system of English law reporting, which is embodied in the All England Law Reports", and congratulated them on their restraint in the selection of cases suitable for reporting, and on their careful preparation of the headnotes.²⁴ Apparently, the editors of Volume 10 had promised to produce annual volumes of law reports, and Volumes 11 to 18 were indeed produced in the six years from 1950 to 1956. By then, their enthusiasm may have been

exhausted, and Volumes 17 and 18 were never published. Volume 19, containing cases decided during the period 1966 to 1969, was published in five parts between 1970 and 1974. The editor-in-chief of this work was M.T. Inskip Julien of the Trinidad and Tobago Supreme Court. Since 1974, no further volumes of **Trinidad and Tobago Law Reports** have appeared.

CONCLUSION

Clearly, law reporting in the English speaking Caribbean has had a chequered history, ranging from the production of one or two volumes in the cases of Barbados, the Bahamas, Bermuda and the Windward Islands, to the production of a few major series and occasional volumes in Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago. In the latter territories, and particularly in Jamaica, the history of law reporting has been punctuated by several gaps. Of the three major series — the **British Guiana Law Reports**, the **Jamaica Law Reports** and the **Trinidad and Tobago Law Reports** — the latter have been the most shoddily produced. For instance, no subject index was included in Volumes 1 to 4, although a separate index volume was published later; the editors were not mentioned until Volume 5, and publication dates were omitted from Volumes 7, and 10 to 16.

Of the report series begun during the late nineteenth and early to mid-twentieth centuries, only the **Jamaica Law Reports** are still being published — although with a sixteen-year interval from 1960 to 1976. The main reasons why most unit law reporting efforts have not been sustained would seem to be:

- (1) Lack of interest on the part of the local legal profession;
- (2) Lack of personnel with sufficient time to undertake the editorial responsibilities;
- (3) Lack of adequate financing.

The inescapable conclusion is that if a West Indian system of case law is to be firmly established, a more efficient and effective system of regional law reporting than now exists is needed. It stands to reason that for such a system to flourish, it must have the support of the legal profession.

The case for regional rather than unit law reporting can be argued on two grounds. Firstly, commercial publishers experience considerable

difficulty marketing works dealing with the law of small, individual jurisdictions such as the West Indian territories,²⁵ and are far more likely to undertake publication of regional than unit law reports. Indeed, they may probably agree to the latter only if publication is subsidized heavily by the unit government concerned. Secondly, if fully subscribed, regional law report series can be financially self-sustaining, and can also attract international and regional funding.

It would be advisable for the editors of any new series of West Indian law reports to consult the collection of mimeographed judgments in the Faculty of Law Library at the Cave Hill Campus of the University of the West Indies. The Library has been classifying and binding volumes of judgments delivered in the Industrial, Revenue and Supreme Courts of the region. The collection now consists of approximately 6,000 judgments, and, as shown in Appendix II, cover the period 1957 to date.²⁶ Some gaps exist, especially in the holdings of West Indies Associated States Supreme Court decisions. However, since 1975, most territories in the region — including those whose cases are not presently contained in the **West Indian Reports**, have been sending judgments to the Law Library. Most of the cases held by the Law Library have not been reported in the **West Indian Reports**, but some of these have been considered of great enough legal significance by Faculty of Law teachers, to be recommended reading for law students.

Unfortunately, very few judgments are accompanied by separate notes of Counsels' arguments. One may well ask what is the value of legal argument once a judgment has been pronounced. A judge does not always deal with all points raised in argument, and, at a later date, someone reading the judgment may want to know whether the judge had a particular aspect of the case in mind. If arguments accompany the judgments, the reader will be able to discover whether the point was at all raised, even though not mentioned by the judge. It is being suggested that the proposed **West Indies Quarterly Reports** should contain summaries of arguments by Counsel.

The importance of law reports to the common lawyer can hardly be over-emphasised. Unlike a text-

book, a series of law reports is a permanent contribution to knowledge. Therefore, the standards set by the editor should be high enough to earn the series a good reputation, and justify its consultation by future generations. At present, the *West Indian Reports* is the only regional series in existence, and must of necessity be used by students and practitioners in the region, and by those elsewhere who are interested in West Indian jurisprudence. However, some improvements are needed. It is hoped that in the process of considering publication of a new series, the Council of Legal Education will pay due attention to the deficiencies in the current law reporting arrangements, and in series previously published within the region. On the question of cases selected for reporting, the following standard guidelines²⁷ seem wide enough to ensure that within reason, every case which is of importance, and is likely to be cited in court, will be published:

- (a) those making new law (e.g. dealing with a novel situation or extending the application of an existing principle);
- (b) those interpreting the language of legislation;
- (c) those interpreting clauses commonly found in contracts, wills, etc.;
- (d) those where the judge restates in modern terms an old principle of law, or perhaps where he restates the principle in terms of particular applicability to the local jurisdiction;
- (e) those where a court, usually an appellate court, sets out deliberately to clarify the law for the benefit of inferior courts;
- (f) those where a court states its views on a point of practice or procedure;
- (g) those where a court applies a principle which, although well established, has not been applied for many years, and might have been regarded as obsolete;
- (h) those dealing with quantum of damages, particularly in cases of personal injury (but the reporting of such cases should be restricted to very occasional reports indicating the general level of awards being made) and

- (i) in addition to the above, an editor will occasionally report other cases, for example, those which have been widely publicised in newspapers, and in which the legal significance has been mis-stated.²⁸

In view of our past experiences, and taking into consideration the foregoing guidelines, it is hoped that a new era of law reporting in the English speaking Caribbean will emerge in the near future.

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1. Thanks are due to M.C. Okpaluba, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Law, for invaluable assistance in the preparation of this article.
2. Kiralfy, A.E.R., *The English Legal System*, 5th ed. [London: Sweet and Maxwell, 1973] pp. 75-93; Walker, R.J., *The English Legal System*, 4th ed. [London: Butterworths, 1976] pp. 116-118.
3. See Patchett, K.W., *Reception of Law in the West Indies* [n.p., n.d.].
4. See Appendix I.
5. Ramsahoye, Fenton, "Legal Education in the West Indies", Law Conference of Trinidad and Tobago, 186. Port-of-Spain, July 23-27, 1973. Paper No. 24.
6. Workshop on Legal Education in the Caribbean, Fort Thomas Hotel, St. Kitts, April 10-12, 1977.
7. Information supplied by Justice P. Cecil Lewis, a former judge of the West Indies Associated States Court of Appeal; Justice Denys Williams, Puisne Judge, Supreme Court, Barbados.
8. Letter from Butterworths to Velma Newton, [March 28, 1978].
9. Ellis, C.J., "Law Reporting Today", *The Law Librarian*, Vol. 6, No. 1, 1975, pp. 58.
10. For instance, up to 1977, the approximate per volume cost of the Dominion Law Reports, All England Law Reports and Commonwealth Law Reports was L45 and L35 respectively.
11. Letter from Butterworths, op. cit.
12. See *Jamaica Law Reports*, Vol. 7, 1956-60, title page.
13. Letter of March 7, 1978, from M.C. Young, Secretary of the Belize Bar Association to the Hon. Sir Denis Malone, Chief Justice, Belize, copied to Velma Newton [March 10, 1978].
14. *Bulletin of Current Legal Developments*, No. 1, October 1975, p. 1.
15. Response from Ministry of National Security and Justice, Legal Reform Division, to query by Velma Newton [February 1978].
16. See Patchett, Keith and Jenkins, Valerie, *A Bibliographical Guide to Law in the Commonwealth Caribbean* [Jamaica: U.W.I., I.S.E.R. and Faculty of Law, 1973] pp. 12, 16.
17. *Ibid.*, p. 12. Also, letter from Attorney General of St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla to Velma Newton [June 27, 1977].

18. Letter from Chief Justice Knowles, Supreme Court, Bahamas, to Velma Newton [June 13, 1977].
19. See Shahabuddeen, M., *The Legal System of Guyana* [Georgetown, 1973] p. 336. Apparently, some decisions were reported by an S.F. Landry in 1846, but cannot be traced.
20. Stephens, J.E.R., *Supreme Court Decisions of Jamaica and Privy Council Decisions from 1774-1923* [London: Printed for the Crown Agents for the Colonies by C.F. Roworth, 1924] Vol. 1, pp. iii-vi.
21. Clark, Adrian John, *Supreme Court of Judicature of Jamaica. Judgments, 1917-32* [Jamaica: Government Printing Office, 1936] foreword.
22. See Note 12.
23. *Judgments delivered in the Supreme Court of Trinidad and Tobago*. Edited by T. Hosein, J.G. Furness-Smith and L.A. Seemungal. *Trinidad and Tobago Law Reports*, Vol. 10, 1949-50 [n.d.; n.p.] In the foreword to this volume, the Chief Justice noted that a volume of reports to cover the period 1934-1949 was being prepared.
24. *Ibid.*
25. Society of Public Teachers of Law. Working Party on Law Publishing. *Final Report on Law Publishing and Legal Scholarship*, August 1977, pp. 11-12, 26-27.
26. See Appendix II.
27. Commonwealth Secretariat. *A Manual of Law Reporting*, prepared by Paul H. Niekirk [London: The Secretariat, 1977] pp. 3-4.
28. *Ibid.* Apart from such cases, those of headline interest in the newspapers are seldom of sufficient legal significance to justify reporting.

APPENDIX I WEST INDIAN LAW REPORTS AND DIGESTS

General

*See *Law Reports of British Guiana*, which contain judgments of the West Indian Court of Appeal, 1921-1956.

**Trinidad and Tobago Law Reports*, Vol. 5, 1923-1927 contains judgments of the West Indian Court of Appeal for these years.

**West Indian Reports* (London: Butterworths, 1958-) contains judgments of English speaking Caribbean territories other than the Bahamas, Belize, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Bahamas

*Solomon, Kenneth, ed.

Bahamas Law Reports, 1900-1906: Supreme Court and Magisterial Court Cases (Nassau: Printed by Leon Dupuch, 1906) 108p.

Barbados

- *Greaves, W. Herbert, ed.
Reports of Cases relating to Barbados to be found in the English law reports, and of certain cases argued and determined in the local courts. Selected and edited by W. Herbert Greaves and C.P. Clarke (Barbados: Printed by J.B. King & Co., 1897/1904). 2 vols.

Bermuda

- *Beatty, K.J.
Bermuda Law Reports, 1904-1926 (Bermuda; (1925-1927)). 2 vols.

Belize

Judgments have occasionally been published in the Official Gazette since 1950, and since mid-1977, copies have been circulated by the Bar Association.

Guyana

- Alves, J.; Dampier, F.E. and Maxwell, B.
Collection of Cases decided in the Court of Review, 1856-1873 (Demerara, 1873-74). 2 vols.
- *HELD BY THE LAW LIBRARY.
- *British Guiana. *Court of Review. Judgments, 1879-1894* (Georgetown: Colonist (1879), Jardine (1880-1894). 16 vols. (Law Library lacks volumes for 1880 and 1888). Erskine, R.H.
Digest of decisions of the Privy Council under Roman and Dutch Law, 1829-1869 [Demerara, 1881]
Abrahams, E.A.V.
Digest of Cases, Review Court, 1856-1891 (Demerara, 1892) 154p.
Abrahams, E.A.V.
Law Reports, Old Series, 1855-1865 (Demerara, 1893-1896). 2 vols.
- *British Guiana *Law Reports, 1890/91, 1891/92, 1891/93, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897* (Georgetown: "The Argosy" Co. Ltd., 1892-1918). 7 vols.
- Supreme Court of British Guiana, Appellate Jurisdiction judgments, 1894-1898* (Georgetown, 1895-1893). 5 vols.
- Belmonte, B.E.J.C.
Alphabetical Digest and Index of Decisions from 1856-1906 ... (London, 1907) 419p. and Supplement, 1908.
- Sharples, O.E.L.
Digest of Cases, Supreme Court, 1901-1909 (Georgetown, 1910). 2 vols.

Dalton, L.C.

- Digest of Case Law, 1910-1920* (Georgetown, 1922) 212p.
- *British Guiana. *Supreme Court. Reports of Decisions, 1914* (Georgetown: "The Argosy" Co. Ltd., 1915) 78p.
- **Reports of decisions of the Supreme Court of British Guiana with Index and Digest, 1915-1920.* Edited by L.C. Dalton. (Georgetown: "The Argosy" Co. Ltd., 1916-1921). 7 vols.
- **Reports of decisions of the Supreme Court of British Guiana and on Appeal there from in the West Indian Court of Appeal ... 1921.* Edited by L.C. Dalton. (Georgetown: "The Argosy" Co. Ltd., 1922) 215p.
- Reports of decisions of the Supreme Court of British Guiana during the year 1922 and in the West Indian Court of Appeal [Nov. 1920 - March 1923].* Edited by L.C. Dalton and S.J. Van Sertima. (Georgetown: "The Argosy" Co. Ltd., 1923) 219p.
- **Reports of decisions of the Supreme Court of British Guiana during the year 1923 in the West Indian Court of Appeal 1920-1924 and in the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.* Edited by S.J. Van Sertima, 1924. (Georgetown: "The Argosy" Co. Ltd., 1925) 189p.
- **Reports of decisions in the Supreme Court of British Guiana during the year 1924, in the West Indian Court of Appeal 1921-25, and in the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, 1925.* Edited by E. Mortimer Duke. (Georgetown, 1926) 355p.
- **Reports of decisions in the Supreme Court of British Guiana during the year 1925, in the West Indian Court of Appeal 1925-26 and in the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council 1926.* Edited by E. Mortimer Duke and S.J. Van Sertima. (Georgetown: "The Argosy" Co. Ltd., 1927).
- **Reports of decisions in the Supreme Court of British Guiana during the year 1926 and in the West Indian Court of Appeal 1926.* Edited by S.J. Van Sertima. (Georgetown: "The Argosy" Co. Ltd., 1928) 144p.
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Cumulative index including

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*Jamaica. Supreme Court

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APPENDIX II

MIMEOGRAPHED WEST INDIAN JUDGMENTS HELD BY THE FACULTY OF LAW LIBRARY, CAVE HILL

Territory	Years
Antigua	1959, 1961, 1967-73, 1976-
Bahamas	1972-
Barbados	1959-65, 1967-
Belize	
(formerly British Honduras)	1967, 1969-
Bermuda	1968, 1970-
British Virgin Islands	1966-73, 1975-
Cayman Islands	1972, 1973, 1975-
Dominica	1959, 1967-74, 1976-
* Grenada	1958-60, 1962, 1965-73, 1975-
I Guyana	
(formerly British Guiana)	1957, 1959, 1968-
" Jamaica	
(Industrial Disputes Tribunal)	1975-1976
S Jamaica	
A (Supreme Court)	1957-59, 1963-
I Jamaica	
1 (Revenue Court)	1972-1978
B Montserrat	1968-73
St. Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla	1967-
St. Lucia	1967-
St. Vincent	1961, 1965, 1967-
Trinidad and Tobago	
SI (Industrial Court)	1965-75, 1976-
Trinidad and Tobago	
(Supreme Court)	1962-
Trinidad and Tobago	
(Tax Appeal Board)	1967-78

**Indexes to the Law Library' Collection of Mimeographed Judgments*

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