



## **Statement by the OECS Bar Association on the passing of Ashley Bernardine, former President of the Grenada Bar Association**

The OECS Bar Association has received with deep sorrow news of the passing of Ashley Bernardine, a former President of the Grenada Bar Association (GBA) and of the Mediators Association of Grenada.



Bernadine, who served as President of the GBA from 2009 to 2010, passed away on Sunday (August 5th) at his home in St George's, Grenada, following a period of illness.

For several years, Bernadine played an active role in the OECS Bar Association, in particular attending Council meetings and the Annual Law Conference. He supported activities of the OECS Bar before, during and after his Presidency, extending as far back as 2003.

We recall him as a staunch advocate of mediation. He was proud of Grenada's role as one of the leading countries in the OECS engaging the court-connected mediation process with a significant measure success. He himself was an active mediator.

We recall too his consistent advocacy for an effective system of legal aid to ensure that accused persons in criminal matters were adequately represented. He emphasized the importance of giving back to society through pro bono service and urged Bars to find creative ways to involve younger lawyers in criminal practice. His was a prominent voice for the poor and marginalized and for minors coming into conflict with the law. He genuinely promoted service over mere financial gain.

Bernadine recognized the importance of Bar Associations in advancing the administration of justice. He was a live-wire at meetings, well known for his sense of humor, even while passionately advocating his views. Engaging and affable, he got along well with everyone, crossing age and gender barriers, and was well-liked by colleagues throughout the sub-region with whom he regularly came into contact at meetings.

At our quarterly council meeting in Grenada last June (2018), several visiting colleagues reached out to him upon learning that he was then hospitalized. Though challenged by his illness, he exuded his usual positive fighting spirit and great sense of humour.

We take this opportunity to extend sincere condolences to his wife and family and to our colleague members of the Grenada Bar Association.

Rest in peace Ashley!

Thaddeus M Antoine  
OECS Bar Association  
August 7th, 2018