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Statement of the OECS Bar Association on the passing of the Prime Minister of Barbados, David Thompson Q.C.

The OECS Bar Association joins with the people of Barbados and the wider Caribbean now mourning the loss of and paying glowing tribute to the late Prime Minister David Thompson who passed away early Saturday morning (Oct.23rd) at his St. Phillip's home in Barbados at the youthful age of 48 years.

An outstanding lawyer, seasoned politician and exemplary family man, Prime Minister Thompson's passing represents a great loss to the people of the region. Not only did he champion the cause of the people of Barbados, but his was also a permanent, persistent and passionate voice promoting regional unity, supporting regional institutions, advocating for the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME) and embracing the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ), He was a indeed a true Caribbean patriot!

In May 2009 Prime Minister Thompson was elevated to rank of Queens Counsel, a title reserved for those who have made outstanding contributions to the development of the law. His elevation came as no surprise given his brilliance as an advocate, his intellectual depth, his ability to quickly grasp legal issues, and his well over 20 years' experience at the Bar. Like many of our outstanding legal luminaries in the region, Prime Minister Thompson is a proud graduate of the Faculty of Law of the University of the West Indies (1984) and the Hugh Wooding Law School (1986).

Prime Minister Thompson was committed to a life of service culminating, in January 2008, in his appointment as Prime Minister of Barbados. We note that prior to his occupation of the highest office of Government he had served as a Minister of Culture and Community Development and Minister of Finance in a previous administration; as Leader of the Opposition on two occasions; and as a Member of Parliament for 22 unbroken years, representing the constituency of St. John.

Though relatively youthful - at 48 years – Prime Minister Thompson’s wide professional, personal and political experiences would no doubt have prepared him for his new role as Barbados’ sixth Prime Minister. We note too .that, as Prime Minister, he constantly advocated transparency, accountability, good governance, and honesty & integrity in public life – worthy ideals that ought to be promoted and adhered to by all in public life.

The OECS Bar looks forward to the newly appointed Prime Minister, Freundel Stuart, himself a lawyer and Queens Counsel, continuing the Thompson legacy of promoting regional unity, building regional institutions, forging greater links with the OECS sub-region and enhancing the Caribbean as a true competitor on the global market.

We take this opportunity to urge our colleague attorneys throughout the Region to continue to be concerned, not only with the practice of law, but also with the overall development of society and with effecting of meaningful and positive change for the common good of our people. We point to the shining examples of the late Prime Minister Thompson.

The OECS Bar wishes to extend heartfelt sympathies to the wife, children, parents and & wider family of the late Prime Minister, and in particular to our colleagues of the Barbados Bar. Take comfort in the fact that, though gone much too soon, the late Prime Minister Thompson lived a full, rewarding and productive life. Let us embrace his legacy.

May his soul rest in peace.

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