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### **Appointment of Justices to the Cayman Islands Court of Appeal**

His Excellency the Governor, Anwar Choudhury, is pleased to announce the appointments of Sir Michael Birt and Sir Jack Beatson to the Cayman Islands Court of Appeal.

Throughout February and March 2018, the Judicial and Legal Services Commission (the "JLSC") carried out an open recruitment process advertising the two posts locally and overseas. Following a short-listing process, an interview panel interviewed five persons for these posts; ultimately recommending Sir Michael Birt and Sir Jack Beatson as the successful candidates. His Excellency accepted the recommendations to appoint the Justices to the Court of Appeal.

"It is my distinct privilege to appoint Sir Michael and Sir Jack as Justices in the Cayman Islands" the Governor said. "The expertise and calibre of the Court of Appeal, and indeed our judiciary, continues to flourish with the appointment of highly qualified individuals such as these. I am grateful to the JLSC for their continued recruitment efforts and I look forward to welcoming Sir Michael and Sir Jack to the Cayman Islands in due course" he continued.

#### **Notes for Editors:**

Sir Michael Birt was educated at St Michael's Preparatory School in Jersey and then at Marlborough College, Wiltshire. He attended Magdalene College, Cambridge University from 1966 - 1969 where he obtained a degree in law. He was called to the English Bar in 1970. After pupillage at 7 New Square, Lincoln's Inn he joined common law chambers

as a tenant at 2 Crown Office Row, Temple where he practised as a barrister until 1975. In 1976, he joined the firm of Ogier & Le Cornu in Jersey and on 3rd October 1977, qualified as a Jersey advocate. He became a partner of Ogier & Le Cornu on 1st January 1978 and was appointed a Crown Advocate in 1987. In January 1994, he was sworn in as Attorney General for Jersey. He was appointed a QC in 1995. He served as Deputy Bailiff of Jersey from February 2000 until July 2009. He was sworn in as Bailiff (Chief Justice) of Jersey in July 2009 and retired in January 2015. He currently sits as a Commissioner (judge) of the Royal Court of Jersey and is a member of the Courts of Appeal in Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man. His appointment begins in November 2018.

Sir Jack Beatson was a member of the Court of Appeal of England and Wales between January 2013 and February 2018. Between 2003 and the end of 2012, he served as a Justice of the Queen's Bench Division, sitting in the Administrative Court and the Commercial Court as well as in the general QB list and presiding over criminal trials. He was Fellow and Tutor in Law at Merton College, Oxford between 1973 and 1994, a Law Commissioner for England and Wales between 1989 and 1994, a member of the Competition Commission between 1995 and 2001, and the Rouse Ball Professor of English Law at Cambridge University and a Fellow of St John's College, Cambridge from 1994 until 2003. Called to the Bar in 1973, he was a member of Essex Court Chambers between 1982 and 1989, and 1994 and 2003, and was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1998. At the Law Commission, Sir Jack led its work on contract and commercial law, civil evidence, damages, administrative law, and financial services. He has authored and edited leading legal texts including *Anson's Law of Contract* (27th - 30th eds.), *Good Faith and Fault in Contract Law* (1995), and *Human Rights: Judicial Protection in the United Kingdom* (2006). He was elected a Fellow of the British Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences in 2001, and awarded higher doctorates by the Universities of Oxford (DCL) Cambridge (LLD) on the basis of his publications. He holds Honorary Fellowships at Brasenose College, Oxford (where he studied law), Merton College, Oxford, and St John's College, Cambridge. Since leaving the Court of Appeal, Sir Jack has become an arbitrator at 24 Lincoln's Inn Fields and a judge of the Astana International Financial Centre's Court in the Republic of Kazakhstan. His appointment begins in November 2018.

The Cayman Islands Court of Appeal as constituted comprises of:

The Right Honourable Sir John Goldring (President)

The Right Honourable Sir Michael Birt

The Right Honourable Sir Jack Beatson

The Honourable Sir Richard Field

John Martin, QC

Justice (Cecil) Dennis Morrison

The Right Honourable Sir Alan Moses

The Honourable Sir George Newman

The Right Honourable Sir Bernard Rix