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Appointment of Two Justices to the Cayman Islands Court of Appeal

Her Excellency the Governor, Jane Owen, is pleased to announce the appointments of the Honourable Sir Anthony Smellie and Ms. Clare Montgomery KC to the Cayman Islands Court of Appeal.

During the period 15 September 2023 to 22 October 2023, the Judicial and Legal Services Commission (JLSC) carried out an open recruitment process advertising the post locally and overseas. Following a short-listing process, an interview panel interviewed four persons for the post; ultimately resulting in the JLSC recommending the Honourable Sir Anthony Smellie and Ms. Clare Montgomery KC as the successful candidates. Her Excellency accepted the recommendations to appoint both Sir Anthony and Ms. Montgomery as Justices of the Court of Appeal.

“It is my great privilege to appoint Sir Anthony and Ms. Montgomery as Justices of Appeal” the Governor said. “These individuals bring a wealth of skills, experience and knowledge that will enhance the already exceptional calibre of the Court of Appeal. I look forward to Sir Anthony’s return to the Cayman Islands judiciary and to welcoming Ms. Montgomery to the islands in due course.”

ENDS.

Notes for editors:

Hon. Justice Sir Anthony Smellie KC served as a Judge of the Grand Court of the Cayman for nearly 30 years, including almost 25 years as Chief Justice. He has served as a Justice of Appeal in Bermuda since 2018. Before being appointed to the Bench, Sir Anthony served as Acting Attorney General of the Cayman Islands, Solicitor General of the Cayman Islands, and Principal Crown Counsel and Crown Counsel for the Cayman Islands. Prior to this he worked as Crown Counsel and Assistant Director of Public Prosecutions for Jamaica, and Clerk of the Courts and Trustee in Bankruptcy for the Parish of Westmoreland, Jamaica. Sir Anthony holds a LLB Hons. from the University of the West Indies (1975), the post-graduate CLE in legal education from the Norman Manley Law School (1977) and the LLD (HC) from Liverpool (2006). He also holds a Diploma in Development & Finance Law from the International Development Law Institute in Rome, Italy (now the IDLO) and a certificate in Executive Education from the London Business School. He was called to the Bar in Jamaica in 1977 and was appointed Queen’s (now King’s) Counsel in 1991. Sir Anthony is the conferee of many honorary appointments, including as Honorary Bencher Gray’s Inn, STEP Judge, Member of the International Insolvency Institute and Member of INSOL.

Clare Montgomery KC serves as a Judge of Appeal in Guernsey and Jersey, a role which she has held since 2007. She attained Senior Judge of Appeal status in 2022. Ms Montgomery is a Deputy High Court Judge in England and Wales and a practicing King’s Counsel with experience in commercial,

crime and public law. Ms Montgomery graduated from the University College London in 1979 and was called to the Bar at Gray's Inn in 1980 and in Northern Ireland in 2001. She was appointed Queen's (now King's) Counsel in 1996.

The Cayman Islands Court of Appeal as constituted comprises of:

The Rt Hon Sir John Goldring, President

The Hon Justice John Martin KC, Justice of Appeal

The Hon Sir Richard Field, Justice of Appeal

The Hon C. Dennis Morrison, Justice of Appeal

The Hon Sir Michael Birt, Justice of Appeal

The Rt Hon Sir Jack Beatson, Justice of Appeal

The Hon Sir Anthony Smellie KC, Justice of Appeal

Ms. Clare Montgomery KC, Justice of Appeal