

PROFILE - MR. MICHAEL HYLTON, O.J., Q.C.



Mr. Michael Hylton, O.J., Q.C., has practiced law for more than 40 years in Jamaica, primarily as a commercial litigator and is also qualified to practice in Trinidad and St. Kitts and Nevis. After a very successful career at the private bar with the firm Myers, Fletcher & Gordon, he was appointed Solicitor General of Jamaica in January 2001, serving in that position until his return to private practice in late 2007.

Mr. Hylton has extensive experience and expertise in complex commercial matters, especially those involving financial institutions and instruments, constitutional and administrative law, taxation and intellectual property. He specializes in advocacy, with a particular focus on Privy Council appeals (having successfully argued more than 35 appeals before the Privy Council).

Mr. Hylton successfully argued the first Jamaican Privy Council case in relation to several issues and has presented or published numerous papers. At the Privy Council, some of the landmark cases argued involved a banker's power to vary the rate of interest and charge compound interest; the enforceability of "conclusive evidence" clauses in bank mandates; the duties of administrators of intestate estates in the sale of intangible assets; and the circumstances in which the court will declare a trust in favour of an unmarried spouse.

Mr. Hylton taught at the Norman Manley Law School for more than 30 years (first, the Law of Evidence and then Civil Practice and Procedure), and has chaired numerous public and private sector companies and committees. He served two terms as chairman of the General Legal Council and is currently a member of the Regional and Judicial Services Commission, the administrative arm of the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ), responsible for hiring and the disciplining of judges of the CCJ. He also served as a director and chairman of the Financial Services Commission, the Caribbean Financial Action Taskforce and the Civil Aviation Authority.

Chambers & Partners Global in its 2019 edition lists Mr. Hylton as its sole "Star Individual" in business law dispute resolution, and describes him as "a standout litigation lawyer in the jurisdiction". He was appointed a Queen's Counsel in August of 1995 and conferred with the Order of Jamaica award in 2006.

When he is not in court Mr. Hylton enjoys squash and travelling.