



DRAFT

SEMINAR

The Role of Administrative Law in Utility Regulation

June 23-25, 2004

Nassau, Bahamas

Co-hosted by:

Public Utilities Commission of the Bahamas (PUC)

National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC)

Sponsored by:

United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

PROGRAMME

June 22, Tuesday:

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Registration

June 23, Wednesday:

8:00 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. Registration continued

Chair –Mr. E George Moss, Executive Director, Bahamas PUC

09:00 a.m. Welcome
Mr. Peter Bethel, Chairman, Bahamas PUC

09:15 a.m. Introduction of OOCUR
TBA

09:30 a.m. Purpose of the Seminar
Justice Prem Persaud, Chairman of Guyana PUC and Chairman of OOCUR

09:45 a.m. Address by the Prime Minister of The Bahamas
The Right Honourable Perry Gladstone Christie

10:15 a.m. ~Coffee Break~

Chair:

10:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. Results of the Legal Survey
Mrs. Rita Persaud-Kong, Secretary General of OOCUR

10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Legal Framework of OOCUR Member Countries

- **Barbados:** Ms. Cyralene Benskin-Murray, General Legal Counsel, Fair Trading Commission
- **Guyana:** Justice Prem Persaud
- **Jamaica:**
- **Trinidad & Tobago:** Ms. Turkessa Blades, Legal Counsel/Corporate Secretary
- **Bahamas:** Ms. Judith Smith, Legal Counsel

12:15 p.m. - 12:45 a.m. Discussion

12:45p .m. – 12:55 p.m. Wrap up



12:55 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

~Lunch~

Chair:

02:00 p.m. - 2:20 p.m.

Introduction to US Legal Regulatory Framework

Presenter: Administrative Law Judge Scott Storms
Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission/NARUC

02:20 p.m. – 02:35 p.m.

Discussion

02:35 p.m. – 02:45 p.m.

~Coffee Break~

02:45 p.m. -03:05 p.m.

An Overview of Public Hearings & the Process

Presenter: Ms. Cyralene Benskin-Murray, General Legal Counsel,
Fair Trading Commission (Barbados)

3:05 p.m. – 3:20 p.m.

Discussion

3:20 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Wrap- up

05:00 p.m.

Welcome Reception



June 24th Thursday:

Chair:

09:00 a.m. - 9:20 a.m.

Quasi-Judicial Acts: The Judicial Function of an Administrative Body
Presenter: The Honourable Mr. Justice Ricardo Marques (Supreme Court of The Bahamas)

09:20 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Discussion

09:30 a.m. - 10:10 a.m.

Legal requirements for Consultation
Presenters: Mr. Nicholas Higham – Solicitor, U.K.
Ms. Antoinette Bonamy – Deputy Director of Legal Affairs, Attorney-General's Office, Bahamas

10:10 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Discussion

10:30 a.m.

~Coffee Break~

10:45 a.m. - 11:05 a.m.

Judicial Acts: The Judicial Functions of a Tribunal
Presenters: Second Vice President Dianne Munns, NARUC
Chair, Iowa Utilities Board
The Honourable Mr. Justice Emmanuel Osadebay (Court of Appeal of The Bahamas)

11:05 a.m. - 11:20 a.m.

Discussion

11:20 a.m. - 11:40 a.m.

Introduction to US Legal Regulatory Procedures & Enforcement Process
Presenter: Administrative Law Judge Scott Storms
Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission/NARUC

11:40 a.m. – 12:05 p.m.

Discussion

12:05 p.m.– 12:15 p.m.

Wrap up

12:15 p.m.

~Lunch~

Chair:

1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Review of Caribbean Case Law arising from Judicial review:
- Bahamas – Mr. Lester Mortimer – Attorney-at-law (Callenders & Co)
- Barbados
- Guyana – Mr. Teni Housty – Attorney-at-law
- Jamaica
- Trinidad & Tobago
- other Caribbean Countries

3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Panel Discussion

03:30 p.m.

~Coffee Break~



03:45 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

Review of Caribbean Case Law arising from Appeal:

- **Bahamas** – Mr. Ferron Bethel, Attorney-at-law (Harry B. Sands, Lobosky & Co.)
- **Barbados** – Ms. Cyralene Benskin-Murray, General Legal Counsel,
- **Guyana**
- **Jamaica**
- **Trinidad & Tobago**
- **other Caribbean Countries**

4:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Panel discussion

5:00 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

Wrap up



June 25th Friday:

Chair:

09:00 a.m. - 9:20 a.m.

Consumer Complaints Handling & Procedure

Presenter: **Ms. Michelle Goddard**, Chief Executive Officer, Fair Trading Commission (Barbados)

9:20 a.m. – 9:35 a.m.

Discussion

09:35 a.m. – 9:55 a.m.

US Experience: Consumer Complaints Handling & Procedure

Presenters:

Second Vice President Dianne Munns, NARUC
Chair, Iowa Utilities Board

Chairman Bob Rowe
Montana Public Service Commission

9:55 a.m. – 10:10 a.m.

Discussion

10:10 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

~Coffee Break~

10:30 a.m. – 11:10 a.m.

Alternative Dispute Resolution

Presenters:

Chairman Bob Rowe
Montana Public Service Commission

Mr. Peter Maynard, Barrister-at-law (Immediate Past
President of the Bahamas Bar)

11:10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Discussion

11:30 a.m. -

Closing

Justice Prem Persaud, Chairman, OOCUR
Mr. Peter I. Bethel, Chairman, Bahamas PUC

12:00 (noon)

~Lunch~