

CBA SEMINAR SERIES – 12 September 2015

Many thanks President Thoppil for allowing me to say a few words on the CBA Seminar Series, which by all accounts has been a huge success.

Firstly, I must thank fellow Council Member, Treasurer and Co-Chairman on the Seminar Series Committee, Mr. Neil Timms QC. This has been a project which Neil has personally pursued for over the past five years, going through various iterations, adjustments and modifications and which, in large part to his credit, was successfully launched in July of this. We are also happy to confirm that the Seminar Series has the full support of the Truman Bodden Law School. It has been a pleasure and indeed a privilege to participate on this Committee because it addresses something that I am deeply passionate about, the development of young Caymanians interested in a legal career.

The target audience for the Seminar Series are young Caymanians pursuing a career in law ranging from Law Students, PPC Students, Interns, Paralegals, Articled Clerks up to Junior Attorneys. However, anyone interested in attending the Seminar Series are welcome to attend.

The Seminars are intended to supplement and complement attorney education, including training programs that are currently being offered by various law firms to their trainees and young attorneys. This has been designed as a Pilot Program comprised of 8 Seminars running from July to December of this year. The Seminars are held on Wednesdays, generally twice a month. Each Seminar starts at 5:30pm and lasts for approximately 1 hour. The Seminars are FREE OF CHARGE and light refreshments are provided.

The first two topics were chosen based on popular demand by the Student Members who selected Corporate Law and Mutual Funds. Depending on the success of this Pilot Program, we hope to explore other areas of law, including Local Law, Immigration and Family Law that should form part of any Caymanian lawyer's knowledge and perspective, perhaps even encouraging some to foster an interest in those fields. We expect all law firms to help promote this Program, encouraging relevant lawyers and articled clerks to participate and permitting them time to attend the Seminars.

We have completed three of the eight Seminars so far. The First focused on "The Practical Issues of Setting up a Cayman Company" and was presented by the Cayman Islands Law Society President and Partner of Maples and Calder, Mr. Alasdair Robertson. The Second focused on "The Relationship between the Articles of Association and a Shareholders Agreement" and was presented by Mr. James Melen, a Partner at Walkers. Our most recent Seminar was held this past Wednesday and based on the growing interest and turnout we had 38 attendees, the most so far. Of that number, 9 were Articled Clerks and 14 Associates. The Seminar focused on "Directors Duties" and was presented by Mr. Peter McMaster QC at Appleby. The next Seminar is scheduled to take place on the 23rd of September at the offices of Maples and Calder and will focus on "Understanding Financial Statements and Identifying Red Flags". It will be presented by Mr. Hugh Dickson, a partner at Accounting Firm Grant Thornton.

On behalf of the Caymanian Bar Association I would like to personally thank each of the Presenters and their firms for freely giving of their time, boardrooms and refreshments in providing these seminars as well as the other Presenters and firms that have kindly agreed to participate. The impressive turnout thus far is clearly due to the high calibre of Presenters, each of whom are experts in their fields.

Speaking of turnout, I would like to thank all of the Law Students, PPC Students, Articled Clerks and Junior Associates for coming out to the Seminars as these Seminars were tailored specifically for you.

Lastly, I would like to thank the other members of the Committee, Alison Maxwell, Ridhiima Kapoor, Farrah Miller and Elkie Rose. The Seminar Series would not have been possible without your hard work, dedication and invaluable service.

For more information on the Seminar Series please visit our website at www.caymanbar.org.ky or contact us at info@caymanbar.org.ky.

I thank you all again for your time and now pass the floor back to the Master of Ceremonies.