



*The Hon. Justice
Elliot Deighton Mottley, QC*

Chancellor, I want to start with a flashback.

The year is 1961, and four Barbadian law students are in their West London flat. Each of them is prodigiously bright, energetic – and hungry. I don't just mean hungry for success (which of course they are). I mean literally hungry: it's early evening, cold outside and they've been hitting the books all day. So Fred Waterman, George Brancker and young David Simmons turn to their flat mate – unquestionably the best cook among them – and cry with one voice: "Elliot, what we eating tonight, man?"

Almost 50 years after those salad days in Swinging London, some things haven't changed. The Hon. Justice Elliot Deighton Mottley, QC is still as much a maestro in the kitchen as he is in the courtroom (although I'm told his culinary skills have now been surpassed by young – now Sir – David Simmons and since I was told this by Sir David himself, it must be true). And Elliot is still the man his fellow lawyers turn to, not only when they want first-class proper pork chops. Because when it comes to expertise in the theory and praxis of all

aspects of criminal law, Chancellor, Elliot Mottley's reputation throughout the Caribbean is unrivalled. He is without a doubt *primus inter pares*, first among equals. He is the quintessential Caribbean lawyers' lawyer, the jurists' jurist.

During his long and extraordinary distinguished legal career, Elliot Mottley has served in virtually all regional jurisdictions. In fact, to list the territories where he has practiced as an attorney is virtually to draw a map of the Caribbean: Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Bermuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, the British Virgin Islands, Montserrat, Turks and Caicos, and Trinidad and Tobago.

It's not hard to see why he has always been so highly sought-after. His superb forensic skills as a trial lawyer have become the stuff of legend. In Barbados alone, for example, he defended in 86 murder cases with only three convictions for murder – a phenomenal record. In the eight cases he defended alongside Sir David Simmons backing the Seventies their success rate was a full 100%. Sir David's assessment of his old friend is unequivocal. "As a cross-examiner in criminal cases," he told me, "Elliot had no equal. He was quite simply the best."

In 1980 Elliot Mottley was made Queen's Counsel, and from then on his many appointments at the highest levels of our legal systems began. He has served variously, each time with enormous distinction, as Her Majesty's Attorney General for the island of Bermuda, as non-resident Justice of Appeal for Turks and Caicos, as acting Justice of Appeal here in Barbados and as Justice of Appeal in the Cayman Islands. His current engagement is as President of the Court of Appeal in Belize.

As a jurist, Justice Mottley uses his vast practical experience, his profound erudition and his comprehensive understanding of the instruments of law to advance the development needs of our diverse societies. Furthermore, he makes his judgments with a social and philosophical compassion that has been the hallmark of the man throughout his life, both professionally and personally. To adapt John Milton's great phrase, Elliot Mottley has so tempered justice with mercy that he is loved and respected in equal measure by all who know him: friends and family, colleagues and former constituents.

In 2007 he was the recipient of the Caribbean Luminary Award of the American Foundation of UWI, an incontrovertibly just accolade for a man who is such an exceptional combination of intellect and integrity, of humanity and humility. Accordingly, I take great pleasure in asking you now, Chancellor, by the authority vested in you by the Council and Senate of this University, to confer on the Hon. Justice Elliot D. Mottley, QC yet another entirely fitting laurel: the degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*.