



Monica Theresa Joseph

Chancellor, three score years and ten ago, Monica Theresa Joseph came into this world. She attended the St. Joseph's Convent, where the finest values of home and church, of family and God, of faith and integrity were infused in generous doses, in preparation for an outstanding career as Judge of the Supreme Court.

As if further noble preparation for a life of service were necessary, she spent ten years in the Civil Service of Grenada, before proceeding to Britain to read law in 1963. She was admitted to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn in 1966. She returned to public service in Grenada in 1967 and became Assistant Secretary for External Affairs in the Chief Minister's Office, and then Senior Assistant Secretary in the Premier's Office. In 1972 she moved to the Attorney General's Office in St. Vincent as Legal Assistant, and moved rapidly through the ranks of Crown Counsel, Senior Crown Counsel, Solicitor General and Director of Public Prosecutions – breaking the tradition of male domination as she went.

In 1982 she was appointed Supreme Court Judge in the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, serving in Anguilla, Dominica, Tortola, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Monserrat. From 1992 she acted on the Court of Appeal, serving in the remaining Lesser Antilles of Antigua, Anguilla, St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Grenada. She came to know the islands of the OECS better than the LIAT pilots who flew her in, out and sometimes over.

Although she retired from the Supreme Court in 1996, she just goes on serving, like the Energiser Bunny. She has been Deputy to the Governor General of Grenada, Boundaries Commissioner for Turks and Caicos, Boundaries Commissioner and Adjudication Officer of the British Virgins, Chairman of the Public Service Commission of Grenada, Chairman of the Coalition for Rights of the Disabled,

President of the Grenada Netball Association and Member of the Roman Catholic Youth Commission and a host of other Committees. And in 1997 this jewel in the crown of these jewels of the Caribbean was recognized by the Queen, with the award of Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, or CBE.

Chancellor, like her namesake Mother Theresa of Calcutta, Monica Theresa Joseph has been mother to many thousands. She has brought her good judgement and cheerful approach to bear on every conceivable human and civil problem. In the words of her fellow jurists, she listens and probes and is totally impartial. She was married to her work, and ministering mother to more than half a million people.

She has lived a life of love and service, and at this time of challenge to the people of her beloved country Grenada, we know she will continue to inspire, guide and serve her people. And so I invite you, Chancellor, to recognize our very own Mother Theresa, Justice Joseph, Commander Monica, who has been all things to all the people of these islands, by conferring on her the degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*.