

DAME JOAN A. SAWYER, DBE, PC

CURRICULUM VITAE

Date of Birth: 26 November, 1940

Place of Birth: George Town, Exuma, Bahamas

Marital Status: Widow of late Mr Geoffrey Rudolph Sawyer

Child/ren: Samuel Anthony Sawyer

Grandchild/ren: Robert Eric Sawyer & Shabethany Elyndra Sawyer

Education: George Town Public School (primary up to Grd. 7)

January, 1953 to November, 1957, The Government High School: obtained Cambridge Senior School Certificate (Grd.3) and certificates in commercial subjects.

Evening classes at Aquinas College in shorthand and typing – obtained Stage II shorthand and Stage III typewriting.

Evening classes at the Government High School evening institute obtained Advanced Level History and Literature.

1970 (by private study) obtained A Level British Constitution and O Level Economics (at A Level).

August 1970 – June, 1973 – studied at College of Law, England and private study passing the Bar Examinations with 2nd class honours as well as the LL.B (London University (External)) also with 2nd class honours.

Work Experience: November, 1957 to January, 1958 with Dr. A. Deans-Peggs as a clerical assistant.

3rd March, 1958 to April, 1968 from trainee clerk to Private Secretary; transferred to Ministry of

Education until later that year. Transferred to the Ministry of Works as Chief Clerk and later Higher Executive Officer. In January 1970 transferred to the Attorney General's Office to be trained as a lawyer.

June, 1973, resumed work with the Attorney General's Office/Department of Legal Affairs as Assistant Counsel. Subsequently promoted to Counsel and later Senior Counsel. Acted as Stipendiary & Circuit Magistrate for three months in 1978 and as Director of Legal Affairs in 1983, on two occasions.

October, 1984, transferred to the Central Bank of The Bahamas as In-house counsel and Bank Secretary.

6th May, 1988 sworn as a Justice of the Supreme Court

1995, appointed Senior Justice of the Supreme Court, and on 26 October, 1996, appointed Chief Justice of The Bahamas.

2001, 4th September, appointed President of The Court of Appeal

February, 2003, appointed an Honorary Bencher of the Honourable Society of Gray's Inn, London

June, 2004, appointed a member of the Judicial Committee of Her Majesty's Privy Council

Served for six (6) years (2 consecutive periods of 3 years) as a member of the Arbitral Tribunal of the Commonwealth Secretariat

Served as Patron of the Bahamas Branch of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators from inception to 30 April, 2016

26 November, 2010 demitted office of the President of the Court of Appeal.

Religious Affiliation: Birth to September, 2014 – Anglican/Episcopal
14 September, 2014, began attending St. Cecilia's Catholic Church and was received into full communion with the Catholic Church on April 4, 2015.