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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **The Senior Courts of Belize Judicial Education Institute to host landmark Conference on Criminal Justice Reform: Advancing the Caribbean Court of Justice Academy for Law Needham's Point Declaration**

The Senior Courts of Belize Judicial Education Institute is pleased to announce a landmark 5-day conference on Criminal Justice Reform titled "Advancing the Caribbean Court of Justice Academy for Law Needham's Point Declaration."

The conference will take place in Belize City from September 2<sup>nd</sup> to September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024, and will focus on the operationalization of the Needham's Point Declaration on Criminal Justice Reform and the reduction of backlog in the criminal justice system.

The conference will commence with an opening ceremony on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024. Acting President of the Caribbean Court of Justice, Hon. Mr. Justice Winston Anderson, will deliver the Keynote Address. This will set the stage for a week of intensive and enlightening in-depth sensitization. Participants will include judges, magistrates, crown counsel, defence counsel, police prosecutors, forensic analysts and other key stakeholders in the criminal justice system.

This high-level conference is funded by the European Union (E.U.) and the United Nations Development Programme (U.N.D.P.) PACE JUSTICE Project and the International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Agency (I.N.L.) and the Judiciary of Belize. It is the first of its kind in Belize.

Participants will benefit from the expertise of an esteemed faculty consisting of renowned jurists from the Caribbean and the Commonwealth, and other experts who will share their insights and strategies for the continued use of the Needham's Point Declaration and by the Criminal Justice Board and the justice sector stakeholders aimed at increasing efficiency.

The Senior Courts of Belize Judicial Education Institute is dedicated to the continuous professional development of the Judiciary and other stakeholders in the justice system. Through this initiative, the Judicial Education Institute aims to continue to promote efficiency and effectiveness in the criminal justice system.

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