



CARICOM DIGITAL SKILLS TASKFORCE: CONSULTATIONS ON DIGITAL SKILLS

Justice (the Legal Profession)

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About the Speaker

- Bartlett D. Morgan is an experienced dispute resolution and digital law specialist. He is certified by the IAPP as a Certified Information Privacy Professional, with a focus on European privacy laws, and also holds a certificate in GDPR Data Protection Officer Skills.
- In his commercial dispute resolution practice, he acts for domestic, regional and international clients in matters before the High Court, Court of Appeal and Caribbean Court of Justice, as well as specialist tribunals. He has substantial cross-sector experience and has represented clients in telecommunications, tourism, banking & finance, insurance, fintech, digital media, e-commerce, distribution, manufacturing and government.
- A respected thought leader on digital law and policy issues impacting the Caribbean, Bartlett is regularly called upon to speak and write on issues at the intersection of law, policy and technology.
- He is a member of the Barbados Bar Association, the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and the International Association of Privacy Professionals. Bartlett formerly served as the representative for the Caribbean and Latin America on the At-Large Advisory Committee which advises the board of directors of the International Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers on Internet policy issues.
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Key discussion points



Digital skills acquisition reality



Constraints and **enablers**



Possible **goals** for digital skills?



Strategies and **resources**



Benefits from investing in digital skills + cost of inaction?



Digital skills acquisition landscape

What is the situation of digital skills acquisition and development among the sub-population across the region?

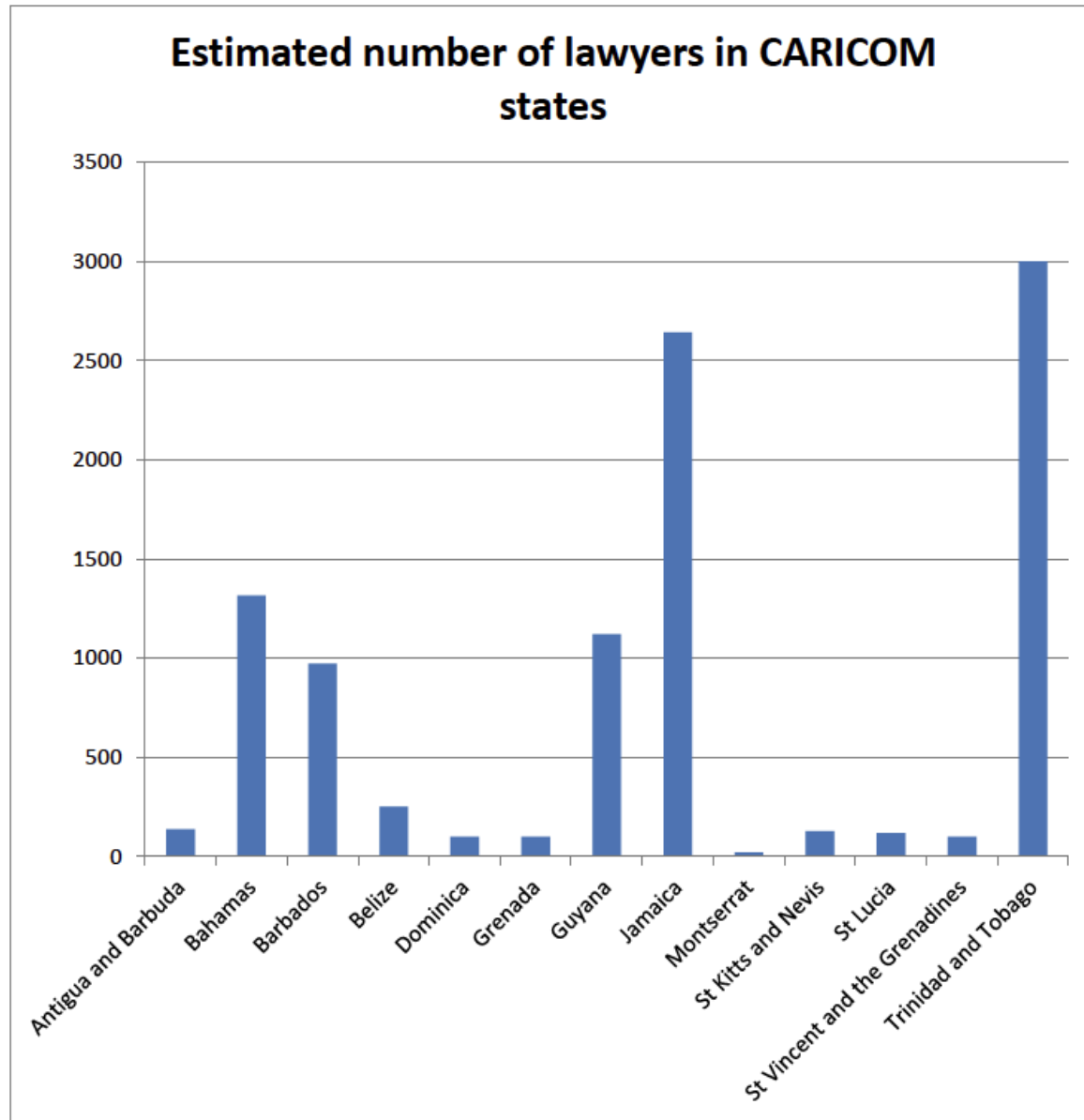
Landscape

- Existence of [Single ICT Roadmap](#) requiring CARICOM countries to “e-empower” business and citizens // fleshing out?
 - Existence of digital agenda in some jurisdictions (but not nearly enough). E.g. [Belize](#)
- **COVID-19** = fast-tracking of digital skills around online learning and collaboration
 - remote working
 - Basic digital skill adoption generally
- Law schools
 - No indication that law school curricula specifically focused on digital skills // although indirectly they already are! (LOMAT; online collaboration tools etc)
 - Constant flow of law school graduates into the legal profession in CARICOM countries via CLE programs
 - See next slide for number of lawyers per territory
- Bar Associations
 - Some evidence of digital skills training // ad hoc // sparse
- Self-directed digital skills acquisition by individual legal practitioners and law practices /// cost // access

- Source: IMPACT JUSTICE



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Constraints and enablers

What are the constraints and enablers

Constraints and enablers (digital skills acquisition)

Constraints

- Law schools
- Lack of cohesive digital strategy
- Many practitioners not digital natives (steeper learning curve)
- Time to learn

Enablers

- Law schools
- COVID and resulting post-covid environment
- Upward trending internet connectivity regionally



Possible goals for digital skills?

What should the goals for 2030 and 2040 be for this sub-population?

(Possible) Goals

50% of legal population should have training for core legal-specific and general digital skills

2030

2040

A significant portion of the population of legal practitioners will be digital natives at this point
90% of legal fraternity should have training for core legal-specific digital skills




Strategies and resources

What are the strategies and resources needed, and how should these be rolled out?



Strategies and resources

- Digital skills training in law schools
 - Ongoing education for existing practitioners
 - Certification? Debatable
 - Monitoring and coordination of efforts around digital skills acquisition (regional and local)
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Skills to focus on

- Sensitization around general digital skills. Examples:
 - Word processing
 - Spreadsheets
 - Cybersecurity considerations,
 - Computers generally
- training in respect of the specialist digital tools and skills. Examples:
 - e-discovery
 - electronic practice management
 - Collaboration tools
 - Court case management systems





Benefits from investing in digital skills + cost of inaction?

What are the strategies and resources needed, and how should these be rolled out?

Costs and benefits

BENEFITS

- Minimise gap with developed world counterparts (skills/efficiency)
- Continued quality of service notwithstanding digital modes of service delivery
- Additional efficiencies in service delivery not available in non-virtual contexts
- Greater scope of services

COSTS

- Furthering digital divide ()
- Inability to serve clients (meet them where they are)
- Limiting opportunities

Thank you