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## Third Bar Review hits the shelves

A section of the audience at the launching of the New Bar Review

Ten years have passed since the last publication, but the Guyana Bar Association and the Guyana Association of Women Lawyers on Wednesday launched 'The New Guyana Bar Review — Volume Two'.

The event, which was held at the Georgetown Club on Wednesday, attracted members of the legal and diplomatic communities, apart from contributors, well-wishers and others.

There were remarks by Justice Donald Trotman; attorney-at-law Teni Housty, President of the Guyana Bar Association; Member of Parliament, Moses Nagamootoo; Mission Director of USAID-Guyana, Peter Hubbard; Attorney General Doodnauth Singh, and immediate past president of the bar association, Kashir Khan.

The Bar Review essentially features a focus on mediation, a judicial system that was introduced about four years ago as a pilot project intended to assist with the backlog in commercial cases. It also features opinionative articles on various legal issues, news on Bar activities, and reviews.

The New Guyana Bar Review is intended primarily to facilitate discussion, debate and dissemination of information on legal issues and developments impacting on the practice of law in Guyana and in the Commonwealth Caribbean.

Mr. Housty said that the journal covers a wide range of topics, such as legal education, supporting the rule of law, the administration of justice, and more. He also noted that, as a bar, members will continue to be vocal in their profession.

Mr. Nagamootoo described the publication as a ray of light in the country today. He said that the Bar Association of Guyana can contribute to the intellectual development of the country.

He noted that there has been a plethora of laws coming into the statutes, many of which have not been greatly ventilated in the public.

According to Nagamootoo, there has been very little public debate on these laws, and he hopes that the Bar Review will be addressing this.

Mission Director of USAID, Mr. Hubbard, said that he hopes that the support of the American people through USAID (a sponsor of the project) has provided a catalyst for the continued production of the publication.

According to him, the launching of the Bar Review journal is just one of several areas and opportunities for public-private partnerships.

Hubbard said that USAID is in the process of designing its follow-on strategy for assistance to Guyana over the next five years.

And he added that, as they roll out the programme in 2009, they hope that the Bar Association, as well as other organisations, will seek to engage in all areas of the programme relative to strengthening governance institutions, building consensus, and building capacity of civil society and non-governmental organisations.

"We see the role of attorneys in the mediation process as critical in support of strengthening the Mediator's Association.

USAID is instrumental in providing training for mediators and supporting mediation as a means of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) in Guyana," he said.

Hubbard also said that he hopes that, with the assistance of USAID, measurable progress can be made in the next five years to advance mediation and improve access to justice.

The New Bar Review also features a piece on attorneys who have been at the bar for fifty years or more.

Some of these attorneys are Miles Fitzpatrick, Rex McKay, Brynmor Pollard and Ashton Chase.

The first Bar Review was published in 1996 (volume one), while the second (volume 1 no. 2) was published in 1998.

This publication appears 10 years later. **Articles were submitted by Shalimar Ali-Hack, Jamela A. Ali,** Col. Joseph Harmon, Donald Trotman and others.

Sponsors of the project are USAID, DDL Group of Companies, Demerara Life Group, Guyana Bank for Trade and Industry, John Fernandes Group and Guyana Telephone and Telegraph Company Limited.