

Workshop: **Training of Ushers**

Date: **7th October 2017**

Time: **09.00 hrs to 12.00 hrs**

Venue: **Institute for Judicial and Legal Studies**

The Institute for Judicial and Legal Studies hosted a workshop in relation to the training of Court Ushers from the District Courts, Intermediate Court and the Supreme Court. The workshop commenced with the Director of IJLS, Ms. Mokshda Pertaub stating the mandate and objectives of the IJLS; mainly conducting workshops and courses for legal personnel to ensure the smooth functioning of justice. She also welcomed the resource people (Mr. Iqbal Maudarbacus, Principle Court Usher, Mr. Lallbeeharry, Principle Court Usher, Mr. Lobine Principle Court Usher and Mr. Hanslall Seebaruth MSK, Registered Usher) for their presence.

Court Ushers in Mauritius are governed mainly by the Court Ushers Act 1952. Their duties comprise mostly of serving judicial and extra judicial processes, execute writs, orders, warrants and effect sales of forfeited and seized articles. They are also required to attend court sittings, maintain order and discipline, call cases, parties and witnesses and administer oath to witnesses. Additionally, they have to keep register of documents (Usher's book of returns) and make the appropriate daily entries.

Relevant legislations applicable to Court Ushers:

- District Court (Civil and Criminal Jurisdiction) Acts
- Bankruptcy Act
- Sale of immoveable property Act
- Courts Act
- Civil and Criminal Procedure Act

Ms Pertaub conducted a session on enhancing communication for ushers especially because they have to deal with the public in court and facing hostility when serving summons. After this, Mr. Lallbeeharry explained an usher's responsibilities on 'Warrant and Seizures'. Lastly, Mr. Seebaruth elaborated on the mode of service of Ushers together with Mr. Lobine. It was a very interactive workshop as the audience was participating and sharing their experiences.

The workshop was a success and there were many requests made to the IJLS to organise another session very soon.