



INTRODUCTION

OF THE PRIME MINISTER

AT THE

OPENING OF THE BAR ASSOCIATION'S OFFICE BUILDING

BY

SEN. THE HON. ALLYSON MAYNARD GIBSON
ATTORNEY GENERAL AND MINISTER OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

19TH APRIL, 2013

Greetings.

Good afternoon,

I congratulate Mrs. Ruth Bowe Darville, President of the Bar Council and the entire Bar Council. Today is an important day in The Bahamas' history and Bar Association's history. Today, the Bahamas Bar Association is opening its own building, during the 40th year of our country's independence and in a place easily accessible to the people that we have the privilege to serve. We have come a long way from the days in the Bayparl Building. As Secretary of the Bar, I remember meetings there and the challenges that we faced. Owning our own building was a dream. Today, as Attorney General and the Leader of the Bar I will sit for Council Meetings in the Kendal Isaacs Room in our own building. Kendal Isaacs, after whom the Council Room is named, was the first president of The Bahamas Bar Association. He was called to the Bar on July 5th, 1950, being #33 on the Bar List and interestingly, was former resident of this building.

William McPherson ("Peter") Christie another honoree, was called to the Bar on May 15th 1951, being # 36 in the Bar List.

Godfrey Kelly also an honoree was called to the Bar on April 25th , 1953, being # 39 on the Bar List.

Our Prime Minister and keynote speaker, Perry Christie, was called to the Bar on December 23rd , 1970, being # 105 on the Bar List.

The honorees and the Prime Minister share several qualities. Some of these are:

1. They all understood the responsibility and privilege of being members this ancient, honourable and distinguished profession;
2. Clients and the profession benefitted from their focus on proper preparation, their indefatigable work ethic and oratorical skills;
3. They were committed to and supported the Bar Association's role in promoting the Rule of Law;
4. They all gave public service in many areas other than the practice of the law – interestingly, they all served in the political arena;
5. They were successful lawyers by whatever yardstick used to measure success.

I knew the Prime Minister before I was called to the Bar on December 19th, 1980. I assure you he has remained steadfastly committed to living and exemplifying the qualities of which I just spoke. He is committed to the development of the standards of this ancient and honourable profession as is set forth in the Code of Professional Conduct and is adhered to by custom.

As Attorney General (a member of his Cabinet) as and a member of the Bar, I can assure Bahamians and all within our borders of his unrelenting commitment to the Rule of Law and the efficient administration of justice.

Ladies and Gentlemen, please join me in welcoming to the podium the Rt. Honourable Perry Gladstone Christie, member of the Bahamas Bar and Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

