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Statement of the OECS Bar Association on the passing of Professor Ralph Carnegie on Saturday, January 7th, 2011

The OECS Bar Association notes with profound sadness the passing of Professor Ralph Carnegie, a virtual pillar of the Faculty of Law at the Cave Hill Campus of the University of the West Indies (UWI) during its 40 years of existence.

After a long and distinguished scholarly career, Professor Carnegie departed this life on Saturday, January 7th, 2011 at the age of 74 years following a heart attack days before, while still in disciplined active duty to the Caribbean people.

An intellectual giant, Rhodes Scholar and Senior Fulbright Scholar, Professor Carnegie touched the lives of many throughout the OECS, the wider Caribbean and indeed the international community. He was one of the founding professors of the Faculty of Law (Cave Hill) upon its establishment in 1970 and for the greater part of its 40 years, in his characteristic calm and patient style, lectured and tutored many of our current crop of outstanding lawyers and judges. Versatile and meticulous, he delivered many memorable lectures at UWI in diverse areas of the law including Contract, International Trade Law, Public International Law, Administrative Law and Constitutional Law.

Professor Carnegie has left an indelible mark at the Cave Hill Campus of UWI, serving in many senior capacities including Pro-Vice Chancellor, Acting Principal, Deputy Principal, Dean of the Faculty of Law, and Executive Director of the Caribbean Law Institute Centre. Indeed he devoted most of his academic life to the Faculty of Law at Cave Hill, for which he was proudly recognized in 2007 when the main lecture theatre was renamed after him.

Even after his official retirement from UWI in 2006, Professor Carnegie, driven by his own deep passion for the law, continued to play a pivotal role in the Masters' programmes in Public Law and International Trade Policy.

Professor Carnegie was not only a brilliant lecturer, but also a prolific writer, producing many scholarly pieces published in leading law journals throughout the Commonwealth, quoted in various textbooks, repeated in classrooms, cited in courtrooms, and referenced in countless legal research papers.

A true Caribbean man, Professor Carnegie was born in Jamaica, lived and worked in Barbados, and served CARICOM and the OECS up to his death. Apart from his membership of the Regional Judicial and Legal Services Commission of the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ), and of Constitutional Review Commissions in Grenada and St Kitts and Nevis, he was instrumental, together with Mr. Reggie Armour Q.C., in the drafting of the New OECS Economic Union Treaty signed in St. Lucia on June 18th, 2010 by Heads of Government of six (6) OECS countries.

The historic new treaty - which replaced the Treaty of Basseterre establishing the OECS in 1981 - seeks to create a single financial and economic space for OECS states, removing barriers to trade in goods, services, capital and labour among member states.

The OECS Bar salutes and celebrates the exemplary scholarly life and legacy of Professor Ralph Carnegie, so well known as a kind, gracious and decent human being. He has left behind a virtual gold mine of scholarly works through which he will continue to shape the lives of succeeding generations. No doubt he has secured his place in history.

We extend condolences his wife and children. May he rest in peace.

Tapley Seaton Q.C.
President
OECS Bar Association