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Annex[[1]](#footnote-2)\*

Jewel G. L. Major (Bahamas)

I. Professional experience

Ms. Major, an attorney, has worked extensively in the field of law and human rights and at the national level she has led State reporting on various human rights issues and contributed to legal and human rights training and education. Ms. Major has participated widely in International Workshops and Conferences on a diverse range of human rights topics. She currently serves as Assistant Director of Legal Affairs and Heads the Human Rights Section in the International Legal Cooperation Unit of the Office of the Attorney-General. Ms. Major has conducted training on the UN Human Rights System and advises the Government on legal reform, has drafted and negotiated Multilateral and Bilateral Agreements, Treaties and Memoranda of Understanding between the Bahamas and other countries, chaired the National Human Rights Reporting Cooperation Mechanism, Chaired the National Migration Working Group and has appeared before the International Human Rights Treaty Bodies for Review on International Treaty Matters and the Universal Periodic Review. *Elected to the Human Rights Advisory Committee for the term 2022-2023, the first member from the Caribbean to be elected.*

II. Education/training

* Training on the Convention Port State Measures, Nassau, The Bahamas – November 2016;
* Course on Statelessness-Humanitarian Law Institute, Sanmarino, Italy – September 2016;
* Trainer of Trainer Course in the United Nations Human Rights Conventions –December 2015;
* Training in the Reporting Procedure for the United Nations Conventions – June 2015;
* Reporting Process and Implementation of The United Nations Human Rights Treaty Body System – February, 2014;
* UNHCR-Screening Refugees – 2013;
* WTO Dispute Settlement Course – April 2010;
* CARICOM-Treaty Law and Practise – July 2009;
* CARICOM-Treaty Law and Practise and Domestic Implementation – July 2009;
* Human Trafficking – sponsored by The American Embassy in April 2008;
* “*Writing Effective Budgets*” sponsored by the Public Service Commission in 2006;
* Certified as a *Restorative Justice facilitator* with New Zealand’s Restorative Justice Consortium – 2002;
* *Alternative Dispute Resolution training* Qualified Mediator – January 1997;
* Certificate of Legal Education-Call to the Bahamas Bar – December 1997;
* Certified Addiction Counsellor – April 1989;
* Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, Trinity College, Deerfield, Illinois – 1978–1984.

III. Employment

* 2021–Present – Assistant Director of Legal Affairs
* 2012–2021 – Chief Counsel
* 2007–2012 – Senior Counsel
* 2007–Present – Office of The Attorney-General and Ministry of Legal Affairs
* 2003–2007 – Urban Renewal Research and Planning Unit
* 1992–2003 – Christie, Davis and Co, Law Chambers
* 1987–1991 – The Bahamas National Council
* 1984–1986 – The Health Institute as a Psychological Therapist

A. International Legal Cooperation Unit

* Providing leadership to the organization of the Transfer of Offenders matters;
* Mutual Legal Assistance and Criminal Justice International matters;
* International Child Abduction matters;
* Vetting request from Ministry of Finance and United Nations (UN) and Inter-American Human Rights Matters (IACHR);
* Writing Opinions;
* A part of the legal team for the EPA Implementation;
* Responsible for the Office of The Attorney-General’s contribution and leadership in the United Nations Human Rights Conventions;
* Drafting and negotiating Multilateral and Bilateral Agreements, Treaties and Memorandums of Understanding between the Bahamas and other countries;
* Provide leadership to the organization of the Transfer of Offenders matters leading a monthly inter-agency meeting (BDCS, Passport Office, and MNS);
* Mutual Legal Assistance and Criminal Justice International matters.
* Appear before the Magistrate, Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal;
* Treaty Negotiations-Lead negotiator on the Memorandum of Understandings/Agreements with the Republic of Cuba, The Republic of Haiti and the Dominican Republic;
* United Nations Human Rights Matters – the preparation of National Reports (providing leadership to the Working Groups concerning the same;
* United Nations High Commission on Refugee – Liaison for UNHCR matters;
* Chairperson of the National Reporting Cooperation Mechanism;
* Chairperson of the Migration Working Group;
* Responsible for the Monthly updates for Extradition Matters;
* Focal Point for all Human Rights Matters;
* One of the two attorneys having carriage of the International Child Abduction cases. Responsible for the monthly updates of Child Abduction matters;
* Organized Training for Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Social Service and Department of Immigration and vet request from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Department of Social Services and the Department of Immigration;
* Appear before International Treaty Bodies for Review on International Treaty Matters;
* Trainer of Trainer in United Nations System and UN Human Rights Conventions;

B. Human Rights Section – Presently leading a section within the International Legal Cooperation Unit that deals with all international Human Rights matters.

* Conducted training on the United Nations Systems, UN Human Rights Training and the guidelines for writing periodic reports.

C. September 2006–2007: Deputy Director of Urban Renewal, Office of the Prime Minister

* To assist with the structural development of the newly formed Department of Urban Renewal;
* Assist with the preparation and review of reports related to the financial planning, budget and expenditure requirements for the Department;
* Responsible for the supervision of staff and the office of the Department;
* Responsible for the preparation of the annual budget;
* Assist with the co-ordination of the work of the various Urban Renewal task force offices throughout the country;
* Overseeing and reporting on the progress of projects and programs to the Department;
* Responsible for all matters relative to recommendations pertaining to staff recruitment, promotions and training needs;
* Assist with the preparation of the organization and procedural manuals and specific job descriptions as required;
* Member of the team that worked with the Drafting Section at the Office of The Attorney General to draft legislation for The Department of Urban Renewal;
* Designed many community initiatives;
* Speakers circuit for the Urban Renewal Initiative;
* Founder and facilitator for the “Families Against Murder” (FAM).

D. 2004–2006: Assistant Director of the Urban Renewal Transformation and Research Unit – Ministry of Housing and National Insurance

* Organize the research (schedule and assignments);
* To conduct the weekly staff meetings;
* Manage the day-to-day operations of the Unit;
* To research and to create sustainable partnerships within the urban communities.

E. Research papers and publications

* June to July 2005, designed an interactive game to develop self-awareness, progress and intellect in school and children. To help students transform themselves, their schools, their communities and their country. From October to December 2005 this game was piloted at E. P. Roberts Primary School;
* “*The Socio-Demographic Profiles of five of the Urban Renewal Areas*”, published in August 2005;
* In October 2005, lived in the Mudd and Pigeon Peas, (two Haitian communities in Marsh Harbour, Abaco) to create a profile and to trace the historical development and variables that contributed to the growth and sustainability of these communities. Research completed in January of 2006; paper was never published;
* “*The Case of the Englerston District Constables: Sustainable Development and Urban Renewal*” was published in November 2005;
* Spiritual Transformation and Urban Renewal” was published in June 2006; and
* Research for the paper, “*Music and Empowerment: Study of the Urban Bands and Their Contribution to the Empowerment of the Students and Their Communities*” was completed in June 2006 and never published.

F. 1997–2003: Associate Attorney at Davis & Co. Law Chambers (formerly known as Ingraham, Christie & Co. and then Christie, Davis &Co.)

* Appeared in the Magistrate Court, Juvenile Court, Coroner’s Court, Supreme Court, Elections Court, Labour Conciliations and Tribunals. Appeared in the role of a Solicitor in the Court of Appeal and the Privy Counsel;
* Criminal Litigation: unlawful carnal knowledge, rape, robbery, armed robbery, stealing in course of employment, fraud, housebreaking, causing grievous harm, killing in the course of dangerous driving, extradition, manslaughter, attempted murder and murder;
* Commercial: one of two attorneys assigned to represent Crystal Palace Hotel. This included; labour disputes (in conciliations and the tribunals), industrial accidents and negotiations for Industrial agreements;
* Civil Procedure: contracts, malpractice, personal injuries, Sale of Land, Wills and Probate;
* Managed the Firm’s Family practice which included divorces, separation agreements, adoptions, maintenance and custody.

G. 1987–1992: The National Drug Council and Psycho-therapist with Health Institute

* Lead drug education to the rural areas of New Providence and the Family Islands;
* Therapist for High School students with the Health Institute;
* Evening recreational activities for drug addicts.

H. 1991–1993: Appointed to the Juvenile Panel resigned to commence law studies

I. 1995–1997: President of the Law Student’s Association

IV. Experience with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

A. Appearances

* 2012, July – Appeared before the *Committee for the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)* – United Nations in New York at the Fifty-second session, as lead Counsel;
* 2013, January – Appeared before the Human Rights Council to present the *Universal Periodic Review* (UPR), United Nations, Geneva, Switzerland at the Fifteenth session, as lead Counsel;
* 2015, Covered the Session of the Human Rights Counsel for The Bahamas, Geneva, Switzerland;
* 2018, Appeared before the Human Rights Council to present the Country’s *Universal Periodic Review* (UPR) at the United Nations, Geneva Switzerland at the 29th session, as lead Counsel;
* 2018, Appeared before the *Committee for the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)* – United Nations, Geneva Switzerland at the session as lead Counsel.
* 2023, Appearance before the *Universal Periodic Review*, May 3rd, 2023, Geneva, Switzerland

B. Lead the following initiatives

* 2014 – Planned Workshop training: A Workshop and Training on, “*The Reporting Process and Implementation of The United Nations Treaty Body System*”, was conducted on February 27th and 28th, 2014 in Nassau, The Bahamas. The trainer was Mr. Bradford Smith of the High Commissioner’s Office on Human Rights, Geneva, Switzerland;
* 2013 – Organized The Bahamas participation in a Case Study sponsored by the Universal Periodic Report (UPR) – A case study which purpose was to assist State parties and other actors to share knowledge, information and relevant good practices regarding national reporting and coordinating mechanisms. The study focused on the experiences of different countries in establishing a national reporting and coordinating mechanism for reporting United Nations human rights bodies and for following up the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of these bodies. The study included 4 case studies which looked at the current practices and challenges faced in the establishment of mechanisms in these countries; The Bahamas, was one of the countries approached to participate. We are waiting for the results of this study;
* 2015 – Established and chair the *Migration Working Group* (MWG);
* 2015 – Established and chair the National Reporting Cooperation Mechanism (NRCM);
* 2017 – Chaired the Caribbean Migration Consultations (CMC) in Nassau, The Bahamas, Represented The Bahamas at the formation meeting of the CMC n Belize, 2016–Sponsered by IOM/UNHCR.
* 2017 – Lead the planning and execution of the Roundtable discussion for the United Nations Convention Against Torture Initiative (CTI), and its ratification, Nassau, The Bahamas.
* 2022 – Three day virtual training partnering with the UN.

V. Contribution to United Nations human rights country reports

* 2008 – Made a contribution to the “*Fundamental Rights of Women Section*” in preparation for the Universal Periodic Review Adoption of The Bahamas in Geneva, Switzerland;
* 2008 – Conducting the research to contribute for the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights report;
* 2011 – Assisted in writing the CEDAW Periodic Report – 2011;
* 2012 – Assisted In writing the UPR Country Report – 2012;
* 2014 – assisted with the *Convention on The Rights of The Child* Report – 2014;
* 2017 – lead the writing of the UPR Report October 2016;
* 2016 – Assist with the CEDAW Periodic Report;
* 2023 – Assisted with drafting the National Report for UPR, 2023.

VI. Other speaking engagements

* Panellist at the Caribbean Regional Consultations, Grand Cayman Islands, sponsored by UNHCR and IOM – September 2014;
* Expert at the United Nations’ Universal Periodic Review Workshop in FIGI – November 2015;
* Presented at the Hague Meeting International Law, Guyana, September 2016;
* Presented at the Convention Against Torture initiative (CTI) on the United Nations Convention Against Torture Closed Meeting of Non-Member States, CHILE. March 2017;
* Spoke on behalf of the Caribbean States on the Implementation of ‘The Brazil Plan of Action’ at Brasilia, Brazil – Sponsored by IOM and UNHCR – February 2018;
* Planned and executed Training for Government and Civil Society on the issue of “Statelessness” partnering with UNHCR – June 2019;
* Planned and participated in a training by UNICEF and IsraAid in conducting child friendly spaces during a disaster, October 2019. Directed a Child Friendly space after hurricane Dorian from September 2019–March 2020;
* Expert and Facilitator for Technical Workshop for CTI Redress for Commonwealth and Caribbean – December 2020 – virtual;
* Expert at the Regional Workshop on the National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up-sponsored by the United Nations – December 2021.

**A list of Community Involvement and Awards can be supplied upon request.**

1. \* Curricula vitae are issued without formal editing. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)