

Tavares-Finson, Neita-Robertson now Queen's Counsel

The Observer



Prime Minister Andrew Holness (second Left) and Attorney General Marlene Malahoo-Forte (second right) with distinguished attorneys Valerie Neita-Robertson and Tom Tavares-Finson after they were admitted to the Inner Bar at a ceremony at the Supreme Court, downtown Kingston, last Thursday.

Photo: Robinson Lionel Rookwood

NOTED defence attorneys Tom Tavares-Finson and Valerie Neita-Robertson have been admitted to the inner bar.

The two were conferred with the title of Queen's Counsel (QC) last Thursday at a ceremony at the Supreme Court in downtown Kingston. The appointments, which were made by Governor General Sir Patrick Allen on the recommendation of Prime Minister Andrew Holness, took effect on April 7.

Prime Minister Andrew Holness and members of his government, the Opposition, the legal fraternity as well as family and friends of the two attorneys crammed Court One of the Supreme Court to witness the robing.

Neita-Robertson was proposed by her cousin Queen's Counsel K Churchill Neita, and Tavares-Finson by Frank Phipps, QC, after which they were both robed and invited by Chief Justice Zaila McCalla to take their seats at the Inner Bar.

McCalla, while presiding over the ceremony that ran over an hour, commended the attorneys on their appointment and urged them to continue being an example to their juniors.

Director of Public Prosecutions Paula Llewellyn, during her tribute, hailed the attorneys as two of the legal fraternity's gladiators who advocate for justice.

"Mrs Neita-Robertson is a fast-calibre pace bowler. When you face her coming to deliver you know that you are going to get a bouncer, a throat cutter... You have to be able to stand your ground. I wish today to pay tribute to Mrs Neita-Robertson. That great charmer (Tavares-Finson) is like the classic spinner. He uses his interpersonal skills to charm, to lure you into a sense of security," Llewellyn compared.

She added that Neita-Robertson pays attention to detail and is always reminding her colleagues that they are on call in the cause for justice.

She added that both attorneys are her seniors and mentors in and outside of court.

"Mr Finson has done me the honour of coming to sit at the side and to listen to me in full flight in the Mary Lynch case. ...I would say he was giving me support for the prosecution, but it was a rough case and at the end of my address he said 'Paula, well done'," Llewellyn recalled.

Neita-Robertson, known for her fierceness, became emotional during her reply as she thanked her four sons for their support and love.

A past student of Wolmer's High School for Girls, and the University of the West Indies, Mona, Neita-Robertson has been a practising attorney for 39 years.

Tavares-Finson, meanwhile, who is the president of the Senate, was called to the English Bar in 1978 prior to being called to the Jamaican Bar in 1982. He thanked his family, judges who he has appeared before, and fellow attorneys.

— Racquel Porter

Trial For Cop Charged With Murder Of Pregnant Woman, Among Two Cases Postponed



The Gleaner

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Livern Barrett, Senior Gleaner Writer

The murder trial of a policeman who shot and killed a pregnant woman in St Thomas four years ago was postponed in the Home Circuit Court this morning.

Kay-Ann Lamont was shot twice during an alleged altercation with Corporal Dwayne Smart after she was accosted for using indecent language in Yallahs, St Thomas.

READ: Pregnant woman shot dead in police confrontation, another injured
Smart is scheduled to stand trial on October 17.

Meanwhile, another murder trial involving two other policemen was also postponed in the Home Circuit Court this morning.

The accused are Corporal David Hutchinson and Constable Kenneth Daley who are charged with two counts of murder arising from the shooting deaths of two men in Tredegar Park, St Catherine in 2010.

The men - Jerome Williams, otherwise called 'Crab' and another called 'Kevin' or 'Bilbo' were shot while a police team was allegedly pursuing gunmen believed to have been involved in the slaying of eight persons in the community.

The policemen were charged following a ruling by the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Man angered by court decision also accused of murder

The Observer



Superintendent David White says that the police have also increased their presence at the Savanna-la-Mar Parish Court.

Lemonte/Photo

SAVANNA-LA-MAR, Westmoreland —

The Westmoreland police have beefed up security around a parish judge and an attorney following threats against their lives allegedly by a man who was the complainant in a matter before the Savanna-la-Mar Parish Court.

Commanding Officer for the Westmoreland Police Division Superintendent David White told the Jamaica Observer yesterday that the police have also increased their presence at the Savanna-la-

Mar Parish Court, and are now looking for a man who lives in the parish and who reportedly issued the threats against the lives of the attorney and the judge.

According to Superintendent White, the suspect is also wanted in connection with the shooting death of his neighbour, who was killed near his home hours after a case of unlawful wounding in which he (the suspect) was the complainant was thrown out of court last Thursday by the parish judge.

The attorney, White said, represented the man who was eventually slain in the matter.

Yesterday, Superintendent White declined to disclose the names of the parish judge and the attorney who have been threatened, citing “security reasons”, but stressed that “we have very good investigators and therefore we expect to settle this matter very quickly”.

“Basically what happened is that [the suspect] took [the victim] to court in a matter, the judge threw out the case but he [suspect] felt that it was not justifiable... [the victim] was then shot and killed and threats were then issued to the attorney and the parish judge,” Superintendent White explained.

The End