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**DPP'S CHAMBERS – DPP'S GREETINGS TO THE OPENING OF THE 38<sup>th</sup>  
CONFERENCE OF THE CARIBBEAN LAW LIBRARIES – THEME: Legal Research,  
Capacity Building & Innovation for Service Excellence**

Salutations

First, I wish to express my profound thanks to Ms. Douglas, President of the Caribbean Association of Law Libraries (CARALL) for the invitation to attend this Opening Ceremony and to bring short greetings. I take this opportunity to extend warm congratulations to CARALL on this 38<sup>th</sup> Conference. CARALL has been doing a great job and playing an important role since 1982 in relation to the legal/justice system in the Caribbean. CARALL has been addressing the common problems relating to the distribution of legal information within the region, acquisition policies and problems, and the ways in which greater cooperation amongst the law libraries could be achieved, enhanced legal research services and information resource sharing including the treatment of unreported cases.

Research is fundamental to the legal practice and procedure. Law Libraries have been the repositories where the materials, whether it be the legislation, texts or cases, for the research are found. Law libraries are an integral part of the justice system and are found in the universities, law schools, courts and law offices. Law libraries historically have been a building with physical books until recently with the advent of technology. With technology we now have online libraries. On-line libraries are now available in the jurisdictions in the Caribbean. All law books, whether they are texts, laws-legislation or cases, can now be accessed online. Despite the online law libraries, we still have our physical law libraries; undoubtedly CARALL now has to include online libraries in their considerations.

Some universities and law schools provide students with access to the online library wherever they are. Our own Hugh Wooding Law School makes provision for their students to access the Law Library online regardless of where they are, and I congratulate Hugh Wooding Law School for this improvement. A vast improvement which came with technology, and especially from when I was there, from 1988 to 1990. With the online libraries research is now easier and available at the click of a button on your desktop, laptop, or even phone regardless of where you are.

I wish CARALL success in continuing to carry out their agenda so that the capacity of lawyers, judges and students will be enhanced and hence a better quality of legal service in the region. I wish the delegates of this Conference success.

Thank you.

Shalimar Ali-Hack, SC  
DPP