

THE LAW ASSOCIATION OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

PUBLIC ADVISORY

The Law Association of Trinidad and Tobago (LATT) urges members of the public to exercise vigilance when engaging the services of an attorney-at-law by ensuring that he/she is the holder of a valid Practising Certificate, which is issued annually.

LATT wishes to inform the public that in accordance with Part B Clause 1 of Schedule Three of the Legal Profession Act Chapter 90:03 "LPA."

"An attorney-at-law shall not practise as such unless he has been issued a practising certificate in accordance with the provisions of the Act."

The above-mentioned is a mandatory provision to which all attorneys-at-law are compelled to adhere. Furthermore, an attorney-at-law who does not hold a current Practising Certificate may be prevented from appearing in Court matters and prohibited from filing legal documents to the detriment of their client. Non-compliance is a disciplinary offence and may be dealt with accordingly by the Disciplinary Committee. The Disciplinary Committee office is located on the First Floor, Hall of Justice, Knox Street, Port of Spain and can be contacted via telephone at 221-1847.

The public is also asked to take notice of Section 47 of the LPA, which makes it a criminal offence to impersonate an attorney-at-law. Any person whose name is not entered on the Roll of Attorneys or who is suspended from practising law is guilty of a criminal offence if such a person;

- (a) practises law;*
- (b) wilfully pretends to be an attorney-at-law; or*
- (c) makes use of any name, title or description implying that he is entitled to be recognised or to act as an attorney-at-law.*

A person found guilty of committing the referenced offence is liable on summary conviction to a fine of five thousand dollars and imprisonment for one year.

Members of the public are advised that:

- The Court may refuse to hear or entertain an attorney-at-law who is not the holder of a valid practising certificate;
- They may ask attorneys-at-law to produce their current Practising Certificates before engaging their services;
- They may inquire whether a person is entered on the Roll of the Attorneys by contacting the Office of the Registrar. The Office of the Registrar may be contacted via email at registraroffice@ttlawcourts.org or by telephone at 628-8529;
- On the LATT's website, they can access a directory of Attorneys-at-Law who hold valid practising certificates for the current law term via the following URL, which is updated monthly: <https://lawassociationtt.com/member/member-directory/>.

Please be guided accordingly.

BY ORDER OF THE 38TH COUNCIL