

SHALISHA J. SAMUEL-OKUNSEINDE

www.shalishasamuel.com | +1868 761. 5940 | me@shalishasamuel.com

EDUCATION

2019-2020	Legal Education Certificate	Hugh Wooding Law School
2017-2018	Bar Professional Training Course	The University of Law
2012-2015	L.L.B	The University of London
2008-2009	M.Sc. International Trade Policy	The University of the West Indies
2004-2007	B.Sc. Political Science	The University of the West Indies

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

- June 2021 – Present **Judiciary of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago**, Judicial Research Counsel I
- Conducts legal research, supports the drafting of procedural rules, briefs and policies.
 - Conducts in-depth legal research and analysis of case law, legislation, and procedural rules to support appellate decision-making and the preparation of reasoned judgments.
 - Secretary - Sexual Offences Committee, actively supports Chair in stakeholder consultations, drafts reports, conducts research to support the preparation of draft rules and procedures for sexual offences and human trafficking.
 - Conducts research to support the drafting of rules and procedures for small claims.
 - Secretary – Administration of Justice (Indictable Proceedings) Act (AJIPA) Implementation Committee, supported Chair in coordinating meetings, taking minutes, record management of Committee’s decisions and relevant documents.
 - Secretary - Supreme Court Criminal Backlog Committee, assisted in the development of comprehensive strategies to effectively reduce case backlog.
- Feb 2024 – Nov 2024 **National Advisory Committee on Constitutional Reform**, Secretary
- Managed Secretariat of 32 employees, overseeing work assignments, stakeholder consultations and communications. Developed training programmes, FAQs and workflows. Coordinated the revision and submission of the Committee’s Report to the Prime Minister. Prepared a Secretariat Report documenting the processes, strategies and successes.
- June 2020 – May 2021 **Virtus Chambers**, Junior Attorney. Trinidad and Tobago.
- Prepared compelling submission for an interim application before the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court (St. Vincent and the Grenadines) resulting in a unanimous decision.
 - Received instructions from senior attorney and clients to draft diverse legal documents pertaining to civil and criminal matters including breach of contract, drug possession and immigration.
- Oct ’19 – March 2020 **Invictus Chambers**, In-Service Training / Pupillage. Trinidad and Tobago.
- Drafted legal opinions, correspondence following review of legislation and procedural rules.
 - Matters included terrorism, sedition, judicial review, attempted murder, bail, mental health appeal, passport tampering, breach of contract, wrongful dismissal, immigration violations, charges against police officers, corporate law and applications to extend time.

- Oct '18-
Aug 2019 **Emera (Caribbean) Inc.**, Legal Intern. Barbados.
- Reviewed and drafted contracts for the group of companies including master services agreements, purchase orders, NDAs and other supporting legal documents.
 - Assisted in the management of litigation, claims, investigations and disputes.
- July 2018 **No5 Chambers**, Mini-pupillage. Birmingham, U.K.
- Shadowed a criminal barrister during the prosecution of a sexual assault case gaining valuable insights into various aspects of the trial process.
 - Observed case preparation in collaboration with Crown Prosecution Service, defence submissions, handling of vulnerable witnesses with special protection, applications for bad character evidence and past sexual behaviour, other legal arguments, summing up and closing speeches.
- July 2018 **Birmingham Crown Court**, Mini-pupillage. Birmingham, U.K.
- Shadowed a senior Crown Court judge and observed a full trial of death by dangerous driving, actual bodily harm, sentencing for various offences (assault, death by dangerous driving, child abuse). Practiced my approach to cross-examination of the cases and received priceless advocacy lessons from the Judge who trains Barristers in advocacy.
- June –
August
2016 **Clarke Gittens and Farmer**, In-Service / Pupillage. Barbados.
- Rotated every two weeks in Corporate, Property (probate, wills), Litigation, Property (mortgage, conveyance) and Commercial Departments gaining exposure to diverse areas of practice. Completed opinions, probate applications, affidavit and preparation of submissions.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

- June 2022
– June
2024 **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)**, Remote Legal Consultancy
- Conducted comprehensive legal research to analyse and summarise all intellectual (IP) judgments in 11 CARICOM member states of WIPO and update the database of IP legislation for these countries.
 - Reviewed legislation to determine the administrative and judicial procedure for IP and created process flows demonstrating the procedures.
- Feb 2013 **High Commission of Canada**, Political and Public Affairs Officer. Barbados
- Monitored and reported on the political climate and foreign affairs of Barbados, the Eastern Caribbean States, British Virgin Islands and Anguilla
 - Prepared press releases, briefs, remarks and speeches for High Commissioner relating to diplomatic relations and development.
- Nov 2010
– Aug
2012 **World Intellectual Property Organisation**, Consultant. Geneva, Switzerland
- Assessed developmental needs of 14 CARICOM member states to develop annual work plans, two-year strategic frameworks including national and regional training programmes and technical assistance to advance the administration of intellectual property in the region.
 - Prepared comprehensive report on WIPO's technical assistance over three years for WIPO-Ministerial Meeting held in Trinidad & Tobago.

SERVICE & AWARDS

2013-2021 **Rotary International**
Charter President – Rotaract Barbados West

2017 **University of Law: Provost Award of Excellence (Advocacy)**

PUBLICATIONS & CERTIFICATES

October 2023 The Intersection of Intellectual Property, Branding and Diversity in Modern Advertising
March 2020 Contract Breaches and Penalties Amid the Coronavirus Outbreak

Additional articles (10), certificates and additional experience available at
www.shalishasamuel.com and at www.linkedin.com/in/shalishasamuel

Updated February 2026