

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE P. A. DOUGLAS
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE
SMALL CLAIMS COURT
CENTRAL EAST REGION
SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE



L'HONORABLE JUGE P. A. DOUGLAS
JUGE ADMINISTRATIF
COUR DE PETITES CRÉANCES
RÉGION DU CENTRE-EST
COUR SUPÉRIEURE DE JUSTICE

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Central East Region Counsel
Central East Region Paralegals
Central East Region Deputy Judges

FROM: Justice Peter A. Douglas, Administrative Judge
of the Small Claims Court for Central East Region

DATE: October 21, 2022

RE: Degradation in Professional Conduct toward Deputy Judges

I am contacting you in my capacity as Administrative Judge of the Small Claims Court in Central East Region.

The vast majority of professionals who attend Small Claims Court in CER conduct themselves entirely appropriately. This message is not for them. This message is for the few whose conduct may have fallen short of the profession's high standards.

It has been brought to my attention that many Deputy Judges have been experiencing a degradation in professional conduct in matters over which they preside. This degradation takes various forms, but includes aggressive or disrespectful language and non-punctuality, to name a few. There may be explanations for this behaviour. The pandemic has taken its toll on all of us. However, the Court must remain a place of safety, respect and decorum, as it is only in this environment that justice is nurtured.

I remind members of the profession that the Small Claims Court is a branch of the Superior Court of Justice. Our Deputy Judges are duly appointed judicial officials, entitled to the same deference and respect accorded Superior Court Justices.

I thank you for your attention and invite anyone who has concerns regarding decorum in Small Claims Court in CER to contact me at your convenience.

Yours Truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Douglas J." with a checkmark at the end.

Justice P. A. Douglas
Administrative Judge of the
Small Claims Court, Central East Region

PAD/bt