

Presidents 1976-2006

The list of PSOJ Presidents read like a 'Who's Who' of the Jamaican private sector, from diverse areas such as banking, media, insurance, tourism and manufacturing. Each PSOJ President brought their own style, experience and knowledge to the post.

1976 – 1981

Hon. Carlton Alexander, OJ, CD



Known for his business acumen and strong leadership abilities, the late Carlton Alexander was a founding member of the PSOJ and was unanimously elected its first president, serving a five year term. As the first Private Sector Hall

of Fame awardee, his recognition of the importance of education and his unparalleled support was highlighted. For his outstanding contribution to the development of the national private sector, he was awarded the national honour of the Order of Jamaica.

1981 - 1983

Mrs. Avis Henriques



Avis Henriques was the first woman to be named as President of this largely male dominated organisation. It was her role in leading a large family business and her dynamic involvement in the private sector which saw her being

elected as the second president in 1981. She was involved with the PSOJ from its genesis and was a key member of the group which drafted the constitution of the PSOJ and determined the Organisation's direction.

1983 - 1984

Mr. Roy Collister



Having served as the Vice President responsible for economic policy and taxation for several years, it was only natural that, as President, Roy Collister would continue to emphasize the need for tax reform and the deregulation of the

economy. Significantly, it was during his Presidency, that the Government established the USAID-financed Tax Structure Project, which led to the establishment of the first Tax Reform Committee of which he eventually became Chairman. To provide the economic analysis to support his advocacy for the abolition of exchange control, he enlisted the assistance of a leading U.S. economist, whose research was the precursor to an in-depth and accurate analysis of our economy.

1984 – 1986

Mr. Sam Mahfood



During his Presidency, the late Sam Mahfood was of the view that the PSOJ had outgrown its original premises at 14 Hope Road. Accordingly, on taking office in 1984, one of his main objectives was to relocate the

Organisation to premises where it would operate more

effectively. He, therefore, arranged to purchase the current PSOJ building, with financial assistance from USAID and by means of debenture finance provided by a number of PSOJ member companies. The Sam Mahfood Conference Room at the PSOJ is so named in permanent recognition of his contribution to the development of the PSOJ.

1986 – 1989

Mr. Peter Thwaites



During his term as President, Mr. Peter Thwaites encouraged the government to implement policies that would encourage exports and called for the divestment of state owned utilities. He also lobbied for the abolishment of exchange controls.

He continues to serve the PSOJ with distinction and was appointed Chairman of both Crime Stop and the PSOJ Standing Committee on National Security in 2006.

1989 – 1990

Hon. Gordon 'Butch' Stewart, OJ, CD



Gordon 'Butch' Stewart, tourism magnate, businessman extraordinaire and media mogul, is also a Private Sector Hall of Fame awardee. During his Presidency, he is credited with strengthening the very positive relations

developed with the People's National Party (Opposition). When they came into office in 1989, that relationship translated into some PSOJ policy initiatives, privatization and deregulation being implemented and the first

steps towards more market oriented policies started. The National Crime Prevention Fund (Crime Stop) was also launched during his term in office.

1990 – 1992

Hon. Dennis Lalor, OJ.



Under his Presidency, Dennis Lalor is credited with starting the healing process between the PSOJ and the Government and was commended by former Prime Minister, the late Michael Manley, on his contribution to a "true spirit of Private Sector/Government cooperation".

The high point of his tenure was the liberalisation of the Jamaican dollar. The invitation from Prime Minister Manley to head a delegation to the IMF and World Bank, to discuss proposed policy changes and the expected impact on the country, marked the first time that a private sector entity had represented the government.

1992 – 1994

Mr. Douglas Orane, CD



As PSOJ President for two terms, Douglas Orane led the initiative for electoral reform and lobbied for economic and exchange control liberalization. His membership on the National Task Force on Crime in 1993

helped to catalyse a change in the leadership of the police force. Mr. Orane served as an Independent Senator for the years 1998 to 2003. During that time, he chaired the Select Committee on the Companies Act, which led to

significant modernization of the Bill, passed by Parliament this year. He also chaired the Committee appointed to reduce waste in the Government sector, which produced a final document, colloquially known as the Orane Report, whose recommendations caught the imagination of the Jamaican public. In recognition of his contribution to commerce and the private sector, he was appointed a Commander of the Order of Distinction in the 2002 Independence Day Honours List. He was inducted into the Private Sector Hall of Fame in 2004.

1994 – 1996

Mr. Delroy Lindsay



Having worked as Director of Research and Economics, as Executive Director (1986 – 1991) and as President of the PSOJ, Delroy Lindsay was provided with a unique perspective of the Organisation. He considers his period

as Executive Director to have been very productive in terms of contribution to the private sector and that an important reason for this productivity was the quality of leadership and independence of Presidents, Sam Mahfood, Gordon ‘Butch’ Stewart and Dennis Lalor. As President, Lindsay helped to lobby for the reform of the police force, the electoral system and the Constitution. He considers that the PSOJ’s contribution to Jamaican society is evident and that the Organisation will continue to be at the forefront of rational analysis and independent thought in Jamaica.

1996 – 1998

Mr. Clifton Cameron



During Cliff Cameron’s Presidency, he is credited with lobbying the Government for the adoption of macro-economic policies to fuel the growth of the local economy. The liberalization of foreign exchange and the

market mechanism to determine the exchange rate remains one of the most important economic policies of any recent government in Jamaica. The divestment of a number of public sector entities and the deregulation of the Petroleum sector were other important policy steps. These were initiatives strongly lobbied for and firmly supported by the PSOJ during the nineties, as the Association firmly believed that without economic expansion, the necessary resources to fund critical social programmes would be unavailable to the country.

1998 - 2001

Mr. Peter Moses, CD



During Peter Moses’ Presidency, the PSOJ lent its support to such diverse activities as customs modernization, the establishment of a commercial court and a ship registry, labour reform and the Master Plan for Sustainable Development.

He presided over the PSOJ’s participation in the Select Committee appointed by the Senate to review the Companies Bill 2001, leading to the finalisation of the new Companies Act.

The continued rising incidence of crime and violence led to his involvement in the Report of the National Committee on Crime and Violence, signed between the two major political parties in 2002. The PSOJ also facilitated talks between the affected groups and the government and launched the Inner City Fund, which has to date, disbursed over one million dollars to organisations such as the Jones Town Agency for Change and the St. Andrew Parish Church outreach programmes. In addition, Peter Moses served as Chairman of a committee appointed by the Prime Minister to review gas price increases which had resulted in civil unrest. He helped to develop a Memorandum of Understanding between the government and the private sector to improve various areas of the public service.

2002 – 2003

Hon. Oliver F. Clarke, OJ



Gleaner Chairman Oliver Clarke is one of the founding members of the organization in 1976 and was inducted into the Private Sector Hall of Fame in 1997. During his term as President, he helped to build the strong relationship that currently exists between the private sector body and the government on issues of crime and security. Initiatives included the year-long Police Courtesy Weeks, held in all nineteen police divisions and the four-year PSOJ/Jamaica Constabulary Force monthly Phone-In programme. The PSOJ/Cable and Wireless Jamaica Job Creation award was also implemented early in his term as President. As President, Oliver Clarke helped to focus the attention of the private sector on the issue of HIV/AIDs in the workplace and the PSOJ also worked with the

Victoria Mutual Building Society on the Better Family Life Project, to create videos regarding family life and values, which were distributed islandwide.

2003 – 2006

Hon. Beverley Lopez, OJ, CD



Mrs. Beverley Lopez has been one of the leading advocates of a strong and unified private sector. She served as President of the JEA for six years and received the award of Commander of the Order of Distinction in 2002 for her contribution to the export sector. As President of the PSOJ for almost four years, she continued the Organisation's focus on crime and job creation and worked assiduously to strengthen the relationship between the private sector and government. During Mrs. Lopez' tenure as President, much effort and time was put into the Partnership for Progress, which sought to build a broad-based Agreement, to implement tangible measures to move the economy forward, reduce crime and create consensus on major issues of national interest. Under her guidance, the PSOJ planned the 2005 Stand for Jamaica rally, which led to the signing of the Political Code of Conduct and the \$5 million contribution of forensic equipment by GraceKennedy to the police. In 2006, Mrs. Lopez presided over the launch of the PSOJ Code on Corporate Governance and the PSOJ's 30th Anniversary celebrations. She was appointed a Member of the Order of Jamaica in 2006 for Private Sector Leadership - a fitting tribute to a woman who continues to serve with distinction.