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Appointment of Grand Court Judge, Financial Services Division

George Town, Cayman Islands - Her Excellency the Governor, Jane Owen, is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Mark Phillips KC as a Judge of the Grand Court of the Cayman Islands, assigned to the Financial Services Division.

The Judicial and Legal Services Commission (JLSC) conducted a recruitment exercise to fill the vacancy created by Justice Nicholas Segal's retirement on 20 October 2026. Following the standard application and interview process, the JLSC recommended Mr Phillips KC for appointment. Her Excellency subsequently accepted the JLSC's recommendation.

"I look forward to appointing Mr Phillips KC to the Grand Court and welcoming him to the Cayman Islands," said Her Excellency. "His extensive experience will further strengthen the high calibre of the Financial Services Division of the Courts, which plays a vital role in supporting the administration of justice and Cayman's position as a leading international financial centre."

Chief Justice, the Honourable Margaret Ramsay-Hale, also welcomed the appointment, stating, "It will be a pleasure to have Mr Phillips KC join the team of judges in the Financial Services Division and the wider Cayman Islands Judiciary. His strong background in commercial law will be a valuable asset, and I look forward to working with him."

Mr Phillips KC will commence his role as a Grand Court Judge in the Financial Services Division on 2 November 2026.

Notes for Editors:

Mr Phillips KC was called to the Bar in 1984, having graduated with an LLM in Commercial Law in 1983. He joined South Square Chambers in London in 1986 and took silk in 1999. He has extensive experience in insolvency, restructuring and commercial law and has appeared in courts at every level.

During his career, Mr Phillips KC has appeared in a number of significant cases before the House of Lords and Supreme Court, including the Lehman Pensions appeal, *Toshoku Finance, Paramount Airways, Leyland Daf, Sher v Policyholders Protection Board* and *Three Rivers District Council v the Governor and Company of the Bank of England*, in which he represented the Governor of the Bank of England. Most recently, he appeared in the Supreme Court for the successful appellant in *Valeriy Ernestovich Drelle v Servis-Terminal LLC*.

Mr Phillips KC has also appeared in several major scheme and restructuring matters, including Maxwell Communications Corporation, Atlantic Computers, Garuda Airlines, Madagascar Oil, Thames Water Utilities and Waldorf Production.

He has considerable experience before the Cayman Islands courts, having first appeared in the Grand Court in 1999. He subsequently appeared in the SPhinX matters and defended the GT Liquidators in the Saad fraud trial, which lasted 129 days. He has also appeared before the Hong Kong Court of Appeal and Court of Final Appeal and in the British Virgin Islands.

Mr Phillips KC has held a number of positions within the insolvency profession. He served as President of the Insolvency Lawyers Association in 2002, is a Founder Member of the International Insolvency Institute and is a former council member of R3 (the Association of Business Recovery Professionals).