



PRESS RELEASE

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Good day all:

Government House has announced the appointment of Ms Victoria Pearman as the next Ombudsman. Ms Pearman will succeed Ms Arlene Brock, whose term of office will finish on 31 January 2014.

His Excellency The Governor, Mr George Fergusson, said:

“I am delighted that Ms Pearman has accepted this role. The Ombudsman is a fundamentally important part of ensuring good governance, giving the individual a fair means of resolving problems which may crop up in dealing with the public service – and where necessary holding systems to account. Ms Pearman has a distinguished record of advocacy, mentoring and independence. She is highly qualified for the job’s challenges and responsibilities.

Ms Brock has been a remarkable and impressive Ombudsman, for which I am extremely grateful. Not only has she established the role in Bermuda and achieved widespread respect for the office here. But she has earned high regard among the wider Ombudsman community in the Commonwealth and beyond, gaining respect for Bermuda as well. “

Note for editors

The appointment of Ombudsman is made by the Governor under section 93A of the Bermuda Constitution Order. Before making the appointment, in which he was advised by a panel chaired by the Deputy Governor, the Governor is required to consult the Premier and Leader of the Opposition.

Ms Victoria Pearman graduated in Law from the London School of Economics and was called to the Bermuda Bar on 19 May 1993. She established Juris Law Chambers in 1998 and within the firm has trained and mentored a number of well-known lawyers. She was appointed to the Senate in 2001, serving for a period as Junior Minister of Education. Her legal career has been mainly within the defence bar.

Ms Arlene Brock was appointed as Bermuda’s first Ombudsman in 2005. In 2013, she was awarded an Honorary Life Membership in the International Ombudsman Institute, and served on the Institute’s Board of Directors from 2009 to 2012 and as Vice-President of the its Caribbean & Latin American Region.