

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2022 MARCH 8

OUR'S FIRST FEMALE DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL CHERYL LEWIS: MAKING HER MARK BLAZING A TRAIL ✨

A full-length portrait of Cheryl Lewis, a Black woman with short dark hair, smiling. She is wearing a bright red blazer over a red skirt with a leopard print waistband, and black high-heeled sandals with red accents. Her arms are crossed.

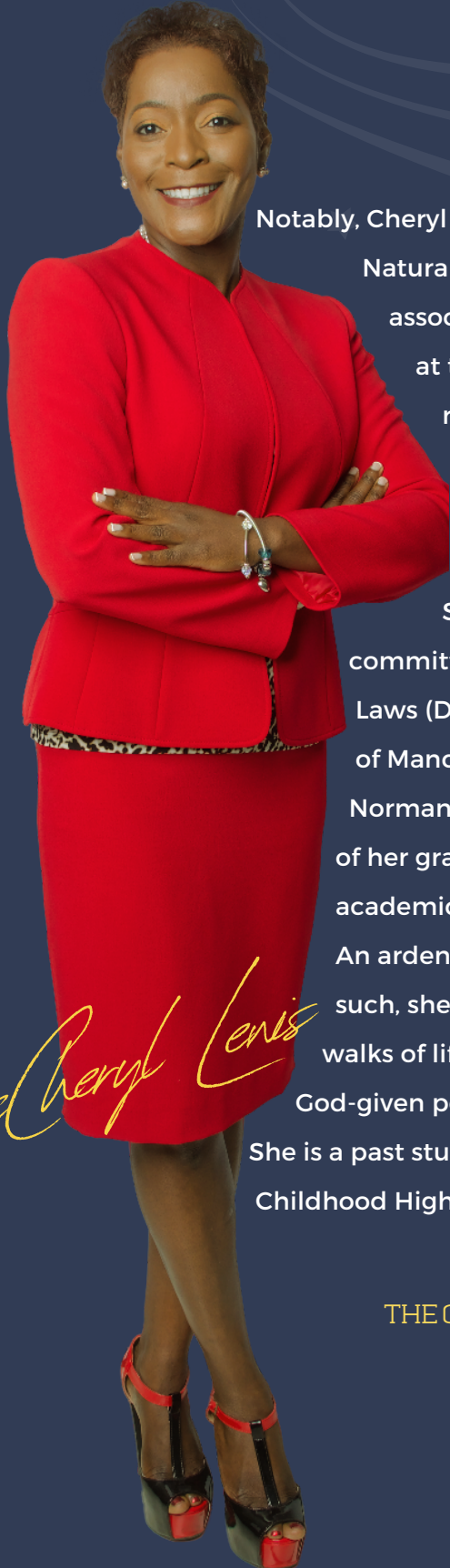
Cheryl Donna Marie Lewis rose to the position of the first female Deputy Director General of the Office of Utilities Regulation (OUR) in 2019 after a sterling career in law and utilities regulation, spanning some 24 years. She is widely viewed as one of the foremost authorities in legal and technical matters pertaining to utilities regulation in Jamaica and the wider Caribbean, a reputation which has seen her receiving many requests to provide advice, make presentations and participate on panels on such matters both locally and overseas. Cheryl's foray into utilities regulation started in the Attorney-General's (AG) Chambers where she worked as Legal Counsel for 15 years. Her various positions there included her appointment as the Director of Commercial Affairs, where she represented the Government in matters such as the privatizations of Air Jamaica and the Sugar Industry, Jamaica's first Debt Exchange, the creation of the Junior Stock Market and the introduction of ethanol in Jamaica (85 & 90).

Cheryl states, "Upon reflection, I am grateful for my years at the AG's Chambers as it exposed me to so many areas. It was perhaps, because of the multi-faceted experiences why I did not feel daunted to join the OUR which deals with highly specialized matters. I always love to challenge myself and I saw the opportunity to take another step in my career while at the same time serving my country."

Cheryl joined the OUR in October 2010 as Deputy General Counsel and became General Counsel 2 years later. She held this position for 6 years having responsibility for providing legal and strategic advice on regulatory and legislative matters regarding the OUR's statutory mandate. During her tenure at the OUR, she has provided effective representation locally and internationally.

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Notably, Cheryl has played an integral part in the introduction of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) in the electricity sector and the development of the associated infrastructure in Jamaica, the first such in the Caribbean at the time. She has delivered special lectures internationally relating to the Jamaica's experience with LNG. Cheryl is currently one of three Deputy Directors General at the OUR – the only female in its 25 year history – and has oversight for the Legal and Consumer and Public Affairs Departments. She is also a member of the Office's Legal Affairs sub-committee. A British Chevening Scholar, Cheryl holds a Masters of Laws (Distinction) in International Business Law from the University of Manchester in England, and a Legal Education Certificate from the Norman Manley Law School, Jamaica where she graduated in the top 5 of her graduating class. She holds many other professional and academic qualifications but remains humble in her success. An ardent Christian, Cheryl is a firm believer in 'paying it forward'. As such, she mentors teenagers, young adults and adults from various walks of life, guiding and motivating them to realize and release their God-given potential.

She is a past student of the Montego Bay High School for girls and Holy Childhood High School and is a member of the Jamaican Bar Association.

Cheryl Lewis