

**FROM GRASSROOTS TO THE AIRWAVES: PAYING FOR
POLITICAL PARTIES AND CAMPAIGNS IN THE CARIBBEAN¹**

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¹ The opinions expressed in this document do not necessarily reflect those of the Organization of American States.

Table of Contents

Acknowledgements	page 3
Chapter I Disclosure and Enforcement of Political Party and Campaign Financing in the CARICOM States.....	page 5
<i>Selwyn Ryan</i>	
Chapter II Caribbean Comparative Analysis on Political Party and Campaign Financing: Access to the Media	page 39
<i>Doug Payne</i>	
Chapter III Political Party Financing and Women’s Political Participation in the Caribbean.....	page 59
<i>Cynthia Barrow-Giles</i>	
Conclusions From Grassroots to the Airwaves: Paying for Political Parties and Campaigns in the Caribbean	page 77
<i>Steven Griner</i>	

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The overall objective of this study was to provide a comparative analysis of the 34 member states of the OAS, assessing not only the normative framework of political party and campaign financing, but also how legislation is actually put into practice. The specific themes addressed included Disclosure, Enforcement, Public and Private Financing, Access to the Media, and Gender. The study, to be published in three separate volumes, includes in-depth analysis of all the countries of the hemisphere.

Political leaders, academics, and civil society activists made up the team of national researchers. We believe that the diversity of these researchers provides a three-dimensional picture of political party and campaign financing, albeit at the risk of incorporating some personal opinion. Every effort has been made to provide a balanced, yet nuanced, view of this topic. Given the fluidity of political party reform in the region, some information may already be out of date upon publication of this report, an inherent hazard in a complex project such as this.

Numerous Caribbean experts contributed their time, expertise and knowledge of political parties in the Caribbean. First and foremost, we would like to thank Professor Selwyn Ryan of the University of the West Indies and Mr. Doug Payne for drafting the thematic chapters of this report. Professor Clyde Wilcox of Georgetown University reviewed each national report and thematic chapter and provided invaluable insights for this study.

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