

ISSUE 8 • SEPTEMBER 2020

Antigua & Barbuda

THE CITIZEN

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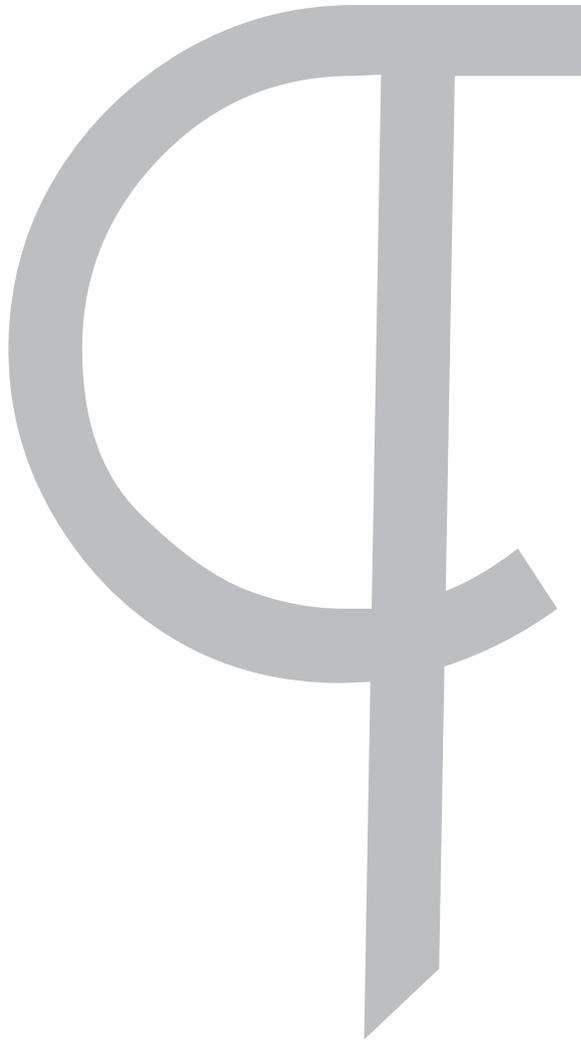
**Philanthropy: using
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THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

by

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THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING GUIDED, IN EARNEST



here is so much more to second citizenship than simply being able to travel around more easily, with our current world crisis highlighting some compelling reasons to arm yourself with multiple passports. But how do you decide which programme best suits you and your needs for second citizenship?

If you have the option to physically move to another country when borders are closed, you have the ultimate personal freedom and security. With your future travel or relocation pathway secured in the guise of your second passport, you are also able to create a concrete personal and financial foothold in your second home, opening up some attractive benefits.

All well and good so far. However, those individuals and families looking to obtain a second citizenship in today's world have many avenues to choose from, making it that much more complex to navigate the multiple options and programmes. On top of that, how do you decide which citizenship will not only allow you more freedom of travel, but invite better investment opportunities, higher education options or even that alternative vacation home? *Which one is better than the other based on your needs?*

Google is filled with hundreds, if not thousands, of self-appointed experts; so who do you trust with a decision that has the potential to expand your life and also you as an individual?

In the case of a second citizenship, a top resource is the government-appointed representatives listed on official government websites. However, you may find they will oversell the jurisdiction they can best monetise. A little research online for residency and citizenship, and going beyond page one of Google, will bring up some firms that have broad experience over multiple countries. Don't



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be afraid to dig and look for the ones that present well and give transparent information that answers a lot of questions upfront.

When you eventually speak to individuals who might assist you through the process, ask them if they themselves are an international citizen. Have they lived with multiple passports? Resided in multiple jurisdictions? And have they been assisting others to achieve their global citizenship goals for some time? If the answers to those questions are yes, you know that you are listening to a valuable perspective.

It's important that you are carefully listened to. The person you ultimately choose as your representative should take care to understand your needs and goals in detail. Getting through a citizenship or residency application in any jurisdiction is as much down to a good licensed agent as it is you collecting the correct paperwork. It's their job to guide you and advise as you

create your application with them to ensure you have given a clear transparent picture that can be assessed in a straightforward manner.

They should advise you, prior to your application, about the reasons why you might not be approved, and, in the course of speaking with you, they should be asking you pertinent questions to assess your eligibility. In essence, you should get the sense that they are interviewing you! A good agent will only want to put forward applicants who can be successful.

Many firms will run a due diligence report on you before representing you and that's not a bad thing. It shows that they take their roles seriously and will not take your money without some comfort that you are a viable applicant.

Once you have spoken to a number of professionals that might assist you, there are other considerations to take into account, such as their professional fees and their services that go beyond the initial applications. Lower fees aren't necessarily a mark of a lesser service, but buyer beware. My best advice is to firstly ask whether they are directly appointed by the government as a licensed agent or whether they themselves use an intermediary on the ground. You may as well go straight to the source and deal with someone on the ground. And is citizenship their primary business, or is it an add-on? Someone who is focused on citizenship and residency - and only that - will likely be more efficient and knowledgeable.

Secondly, what happens once you become a citizen? Will that person or team be your representative on the ground and how will they be able to help you? Beyond the passport, you should be able to create a personal and financial foothold that will benefit you and your family in many ways.

You may initially think that that the passport is a backup or a future hedge, but the truth for the great majority of economic citizens is that the country becomes a part of who they are, and potentially a part of their business decisions.

From corporate structuring and tax to personal security and global connections that can expand your life in unexpected ways, a second citizenship is much more than a passport, and your “(wo)man on the ground” is going to influence the depth and breadth of the benefits you can enjoy. ●

WELCOME



"I invite the potential new citizen to take a look at the wealth-generating opportunities which our citizenship provides, and the easily accessible structures put in place to grow this wealth."

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Thirty-eight years ago, in 1982, the Antigua & Barbuda government adopted the first piece of legislation that brought offshore financial services into being. Managing wealth and creating opportunities for high-net-worth individuals to have their resources increase in value were the objects of the legislation. Those objectives remain the same in 2020. The International Business Corporations Act and its several amendments have made the financial services afforded by the offshore banks, offshore trusts, and other vehicles which are a good future for wealth, a lot more secure.

I invite the potential new citizen to take a look at the wealth-generating opportunities which our citizenship provides, and the easily accessible structures put in place to grow this wealth. We are a peaceful nation, enjoying a legal system that is led by an independent judiciary, and we assure you that our sovereign (British) Commonwealth state is governed by laws that are enforceable all the way to Her Majesty's Privy Council in London.

Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, no economy in the entire Western Hemisphere of 35 independent states experienced economic growth greater than Antigua & Barbuda. We are now poised, as the disease slows its course in several large states, to take off as the crisis abates.

Your choice of Antigua & Barbuda is sound and secure. Our history proves it, and the Antigua & Barbuda passport is one of the most highly prized in the world.

Although tourism continues to play the major role in our economy, the management of wealth is also a very significant factor in the attractiveness of our jurisdiction. I welcome you to test our waters.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Browne'.

Honourable Gaston Browne
Prime Minister