



## Case Management Practices - Scenario

You are an experienced Registrar (or Associate/Assistant) in your Pacific Island Country Court. A new Judge has been appointed and has been allocated the hearing of a multi accused money laundering case.

Before the hearing commences, the prosecution indicates to you:

- The case involves 10 accused, who are members of a prominent family and their friends who reside in your Pacific Island Country. The accused are connected to a recently convicted a drug trafficker.
- The 10 accused are charged with conspiring to commit a money laundering offence.
- This is the first time such an offence has been prosecuted in your jurisdiction.
- All 10 accused are legally represented by different law firms and barristers.
- The accused family members are citizens of your country, but the friends are foreign nationals on bail to remain in your jurisdiction. The foreign nationals are from a country 4 hours away. You have been informed that the foreign nationals do not understand English or your language.
- The alleged offending involves the accused receiving cash drops from a convicted drug trafficker, depositing the cash into various bank accounts, making transfers from the bank accounts into overseas bank accounts held in third party names.
- The monies were then transferred back into bank accounts held in a company name connected to the convicted drug trafficker.
- One of the witnesses in the case was involved in the alleged offending but has decided to give evidence against the other accused for immunity from prosecution.
- The hearing is estimated to last 6 months. The Court staff member responsible for managing the hearing is due to go on maternity leave halfway through the estimated hearing period.
- The Judge has asked you for as much help as possible during the hearing and has asked you to indicate what you can do to assist.

The hearing has finished, the accused were all found not guilty. A senior court official has raised several concerns with respect to some things that went wrong during the hearing:

1. The court transcription service failed to provide the transcript of the hearing on time.
2. A new court staff member releases a confidential document to the defence team in error.
3. When overseas witnesses were due to give evidence, there were issues with the internet connection delaying their ability to give evidence and frustrating the Judge at the hearing.

*What are some key case management issues that arise in this money laundering trial scenario?*

*What things could you do to overcome the key case management issues identified?*

*Have you ever experienced issues/obstacles while managing large cases being heard in your Court?*

*What strategy did you use to address the issue/obstacle.*