



Pacific Judicial
Integrity Program

PJIP Judicial Network Newsletter

Issue 6 | October 2024

Welcome to the sixth issue of the Pacific Judicial Integrity Program Judicial Network Newsletter.

In the third quarter of 2024, we delivered:

1. An advanced Online Course for Registrars/Court Officers on managing and reporting on fraud and corruption cases and,
2. A webinar on Women in Judicial Leadership.

We continue to work closely with Judicial Officers and Registrars across the region in the design and delivery of activities. Upcoming activities include:

- *Managing and Reporting on Fraud and Corruption Cases Workshop* in Nuku'alofa, Tonga, 6-8 November 2024;
- *Judicial Officers' Fraud and Corruption Workshop* in Apia, Samoa, 3-5 December 2024.

Chief Justices have received invitations to nominate judges and court staff to participate in these upcoming activities. We look forward to continuing to work with you.

With best regards,

Nicole Cherry

PJIP Team Leader

Advanced Course Launchpad

We are excited to announce the launch of the [Advanced Court Officers' Fraud and Corruption Cases Online Course](#).

This free course is designed to be accessible and flexible to enable court officers to progress through the course at their own pace.

Across four weeks in August, the PJIP team piloted the “live” version of the advanced online course. The course aimed to further increase the knowledge and skills of Registrars and Court Officers who directly assist Judges to manage and report on fraud and corruption-related cases. Participating

court officers explored bribery and fraud case issues; money laundering and ethics; procedural fairness, case management practices and security considerations and registrar/court officer wellbeing.



The course was presented by Judicial Registrars of the Federal Court of Australia Jo Wilson, Jodie Burns and Alicia Ditton, Chief Registrar of Supreme Court of Vanuatu, Shemi Joel, and Assistant Registrar Crimes, the National Court of Papua New Guinea, Victoria Belo.

Should your Court be interested in participating in a ‘live’ version of the course, please contact the [PJIP Team](#).

Women In Judicial Leadership Webinar



On 8 October, Chief Justice Debra Mortimer of the Federal Court of Australia and Chief Justice Tetiro Semilota of the High Court of Kiribati co-presented a webinar for Pacific judges on “*Women in Judicial Leadership*”. Facilitated by Justice Mata Tuatagaloa of the Supreme Court of Samoa, the webinar explored the key needs; how we might support women judicial officers; how to encourage the appointment of more women to leadership positions; and the importance of gender balanced leadership. The webinar was concluded with the presentations of research and findings from the Pacific Justice Sector Program's (PJSP) Empowering Women in Justice Workshop in Port Moresby (September 23-24), summarised by Dr Carolyn Graydon and Associate Judge Claire Loeak of the Traditional Rights Court of Marshall Islands. The webinar was attended by 14 participants including a Chief Justice, Judges, Law Commissioners and Magistrates from across 9 Pacific Island Partner Courts. The full recording of the webinar is available [HERE](#).

Resources

1. Nauru Declaration on Judicial Wellbeing, adopted on 25 July 2024. To read the full declaration, please click [HERE](#).

- The members of Judiciaries and other stakeholders gathered in person and virtually at the Civic Centre in Nauru on 25 July 2024 and adopted 7 Declarations on Judicial Wellbeing. The Nauru Declaration on Judicial Wellbeing includes 1) Judicial Well-being is essential and must be recognized and supported. 2) Judicial stress is not a weakness and must not be stigmatised. 3) Judicial well-being is a responsibility of individual judges and judicial institutions. 4) Judicial well-being is supported by an ethical and inclusive judicial culture. 5) Promoting judicial well-being requires a combination of awareness-raising, prevention, and management activities. 6) Judicial well-being initiatives must suit the unique circumstances and requirements of national jurisdictions. 7) Judicial well-being is enhanced by human rights.

2. UNODC Mentorship Programme: Empowering Women in Justice/for Justice. To read the full details about the program, please click [HERE](#).

- UNODC has launched a mentorship programme for women professionals in anti-corruption law enforcement and the judiciary, aiming to empower and advance women servicing in judicial and law enforcement institutions. The mentorship programme is open to judges participating in the Global Judicial Integrity Network and operational anti-corruption law enforcement officials from member authorities of the GlobE Network. The Programme will strive to support women professionals facing challenges such as discrimination, biases, stereotyping and other obstacles, helping them fully thrive in their careers by fostering a supportive community for peer-learning and experience-sharing.

3. AI in the Courtroom: Colombian Constitutional Court's Landmark Ruling Cites UNESCO's AI Tools. To read the full article, please click [HERE](#).

- In a groundbreaking decision, the Colombian Constitutional Court has issued a ruling with significant implications for the use of artificial intelligence (AI) within the country's judicial system. The decision was prompted by a recent ruling in Colombia where the judge used ChatGPT to rule on whether a child with disabilities had to pay a fee to a health insurance company to access medical treatment, where the Court ruled that the child was exempt from paying the fees. Nonetheless, the use of ChatGPT, with widely known problems by the judge to reason in a matter related to the fundamental right to health raised alarm bells on whether such AI tools can be used for legal reasoning.

Should there be any articles or resources that you would like to share with the Judicial Network, please send to pjip@fedcourt.gov.au

Upcoming Events

PJIP: Managing and Reporting on Fraud and Corruption Cases Workshop

PJIP will be hosting the Managing and Reporting on Fraud and Corruption Cases Workshop for Registrars and Court Officers from 6 to 8 November, in Nuku'alofa, Tonga.

This specialist training workshop has been informed and designed by Registrars and Court Officers from across the region, with the purpose of further supporting their roles in



PJIP: Judicial Officers' Fraud and Corruption Workshop

PJIP will be delivering the Judicial Officers' Fraud and Corruption Workshop for judicial officers from 3 to 5 December in Apia, Samoa.

This specialist training workshop has been informed and designed by Judicial Officers from across the region, with the purpose of building competence amongst colleagues to hear some of the most prevalent types of fraud and corruption-related cases in the region. The workshop will provide the opportunity for regional sharing of best practice, experience and resources that broadens the knowledge base and enhances avenues for judicial officers to further develop skills and lessons relevant for the context of their court. Invitations for nominations have been sent to all Chief Justices.

ACU Webinar: Nauru Declaration on Judicial Wellbeing

The Australian Catholic University is hosting a webinar on "Nauru Declaration on Judicial Wellbeing: Why Judicial Wellbeing is Important and the Way Forward" on 31 October. The session will be conducted via Zoom and is expected to run for 1.5 hours. This webinar explores the important topic of judicial wellbeing, discussing its significance, and challenges, and raising awareness in light of the recently adopted Nauru Declaration of Judicial Wellbeing.



Please register to attend the webinar [here](#).

Australian Attorney General's Department Pacific Legal Policy Programs 2025

The Australian Government Attorney General's Department (AGD) is inviting Pacific Islands Countries to apply to participate in AGD's 2025 Pacific Legal Policy Champion Program and Pacific Legal Policy Twinning Program.

The Policy Champions Program aims to build the capacity of Pacific law and justice officials and police officers to develop rigorous public policy proposals and enable them to be champions for good policy development practices.

The Pacific Legal Policy Twinning Program provides a unique opportunity for high performing Pacific law and justice officers who have previously undertaken the Pacific Legal Policy Champions Program to undertake a six-week placement in the Australian Attorney-General's Department.

Further information can be found [here](#).

Comments and Feedback



We welcome and appreciate comments or contributions. If you have any feedback or require further information, please contact the [PJIP team](#).

You are receiving this email as you've previously attended a PJIP activity. Should you wish to opt-out of receiving the Judicial Network Newsletter please [contact us](#).



*PJIP is funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
and implemented by the Federal Court of Australia in collaboration
with Papua New Guinea Centre for Judicial Excellence*

