



Pacific Judicial
Integrity Program

PJIP Judicial Network Newsletter

Issue 7 | December 2024

Welcome to the seventh edition of the Pacific Judicial Integrity Program, Judicial Network Newsletter.

In the last three months PJIP has:

- Delivered a workshop each for the region's judges and registrars;
- Continued to conduct quarterly case management discussions across the region;
- Conducted regional needs and digital readiness assessments; and
- Continued refining training materials to develop a Fraud and Corruption Handbook for the region's judges containing key legislation, jurisprudence and commentary.

The workshops conclude PJIP's in-person training activities, but all resources are available online and the Handbook will be launched in the first quarter of 2025. Looking beyond PJIP's conclusion, the assessments conducted by the team were designed to identify the priority areas for participating judiciaries to inform a future regional program. The strategy, scope and objectives of that program are being developed and the new regional program will likely commence in the second half of 2025.

We remain grateful for being able to continue to collaborate and work closely with judges, registrars and other court officials across the region in the delivery of specialised activities.

We wish you a restful holiday season and a happy new year.

With best regards,

Nicole Cherry

PJIP Team Leader

Judicial Officers' Fraud and Corruption Workshop

Hosted by the Honourable Chief Justice Satiu Simativa Perese of the Samoa Supreme Court and Ministry of Justice and Courts Administration, the Judicial Officers' Fraud and Corruption Workshop for judges was delivered in Apia, Samoa between 3-5 December. This specialist training workshop was 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 focused on areas identified by the region as the most complex and challenging.

The Honourable Chief Justice Satiu Simativa Perese officially opened the workshop, followed by a welcome address from Australian High Commissioner His Excellency Will Robinson. The workshop was attended by twenty Chief Justices, Deputy Chief Justice, Judges, Law Commissioners and Magistrates from across ten Partner Courts.

The workshop covered topics including judicial ethics; fraud and corruption-related law; case management; evidence, sentencing and decision-making. We are extremely grateful for the informative and engaging presentations and discussions led by Justice Teresa Berrigan, National and Supreme Courts of Papua New Guinea; Justice Robert Bromwich, Federal Court of Australia; Justice Wendy Abraham, Federal Court of Australia; Chief Judge Devereaux SC, District Court of Queensland; and Judge Mata'utia Raymond Schuster, District Court of Samoa.



Managing and Reporting on Fraud and Corruption Cases Workshop

The Supreme Court of Tonga hosted twenty-six Registrars and Court Officers from across the Pacific at the ***Managing and Reporting on Fraud and Corruption Cases Workshop*** for registrars from 6-8 November 2024. The three-day Workshop provided a platform for sharing best practice, experiences, and resources to broaden the knowledge, skills, and lessons relevant to their respective court contexts. The workshop discussed ethics and integrity, fraud, bribery and money laundering case types, procedural fairness, case management practices, security consideration and wellbeing.

The workshop was designed and delivered by Federal Court Judicial Registrars Alicia Ditton, Jodie Burns and Jo Wilson, PJIP System Adviser, Tony Lansdell, in partnership with Registrar Kalolaine Palu-Taufa and Deputy Registrar Mamaite Tuputupu from the Supreme Court of Tonga.



Digital Readiness Assessment

PJIP Systems Adviser, Mr Tony Lansdell continues to provide quarterly, remote tailored support to case tracking systems across the region, especially in the area of document management, active case management, data analysis and reporting of fraud and corruption cases, well as other cases in general.

To further support Partner Courts, the PJIP team are conducting a regional assessment of “digital readiness” to use existing and planned digital tools and processes. The findings will inform a regional strategy that will focus on building awareness of, desire for, knowledge about, and the ability to use digital tools and services, excluding the purchase of hardware or software. The draft regional strategy will be shared with the region’s leadership in 2025.

Resources

Please find below a collection of recently developed resources that may be of interest to you and your Court.

1. Presentation on Nauru Declaration on Judicial Wellbeing, His Honour Justice Rangajeeva Wimalasena, President of Nauru Court of Appeal. To watch the full recording, please click [HERE](#).

- On 25th July 2024, the Nauru Declaration on Judicial Wellbeing was adopted at a judicial conference held in Nauru. This declaration represents a landmark initiative for our judiciaries as it reflects a collective effort of a number of judicial leaders from around the world to promote judicial wellbeing as a global priority.”

2. The Impact and Use of Inconsistent Statements in a Criminal Trial, His Honour Judge Anthony Rafter SC, *District Court of Queensland*. To read the full paper, please click [HERE](#).

- The usual purpose of establishing that a witness has made a prior inconsistent statement is to attack the credibility and reliability of the witness. In *R v Etheridge, Sofronoff P* (Fraser and Morrison JJA agreeing) said: “[t]he aim is to destroy the reliability of the evidence given in court by demonstrating that the witness was prepared to give a different version of events on a prior occasion.”

3. UNESCO: Global Toolkit on AI and the Rule of Law for the Judiciary. To access the toolkit, please click [HERE](#).

- The “Global Toolkit on AI and the Rule of Law” for the Judiciary responds to these needs and provides judicial actors (judges, prosecutors, state attorneys, public lawyers, law universities and judicial training institutions) with the knowledge and tools necessary to understand the benefits and risks of AI in their work. The toolkit will assist judicial actors in mitigating the potential human rights risks of AI by providing guidance on the relevant international human rights laws, principles, rules and emerging jurisprudence that underpin the ethical use of AI.

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

Pacific Judicial Conference (9-12 February 2025)

The Rt Hon Dame Chief Justice Helen Winkelmann of New Zealand is hosting the Pacific Judicial Conference between 9-12 February 2025 in Auckland, New Zealand. Further information is available on the conference website: www.pjc2025.co.nz (password: **pacific25!**)



Chief Justices' Leadership Forum (14 February 2025)

The New Zealand funded Pacific Justice Sector Programme (PJSP) is hosting the Chief Justices' Leadership Forum in Auckland, New Zealand on 14 February 2025. *Please liaise with Matauaina (Taua) Fagalilo (matuaina.fagalilo@justice.govt.nz) or Sylvia Riches (sylvia.riches@justice.govt.nz) if you have any questions.*

Commonwealth Lawyers Association: 24th Commonwealth Law Conference

Save the date for the 24th Commonwealth Law Conference 2025 to be held in Malta from 6 - 10 April 2025. Set where east meets west in the sparkling Mediterranean, Malta will play host to legal practitioners from all over the world to debate current issues in the profession, exchange best practice and share experiences with colleagues. Registration will open in May with more details to follow. The CLS is also offering 3 grants of up to a maximum of £2,000 each, to assist lawyers (under 40 or within 7 years of call) to attend the conference. For more information and to view the program, please visit [here](#).

Judicial College of Victoria: Seminar on AI and the Future of Evidence

While generative AI tools like ChatGPT, DALL-E and Copilot capture the imagination with human-like creations of words and images, AI has the potential to transform how evidence is gathered and presented in your courtroom. Join this panel of experts to learn what the future holds for AI in your courtroom. Please visit [here](#) to register.

LAWASIA: LAWASIA International Human Rights Conference 2025

LAWASIA, in association with its Human Rights Committee, Environmental Law committee and Indigenous People Committee, is pleased to invite the participation of members and legal professionals at the 5th LAWASIA International Human Rights Conference, hosted by Nepal Bar Association, to be held in Kathmandu, Nepal, from 15-17 February 2025. Please visit [here](#) to register.

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*

