

Legal practitioners undergo advocacy training

The Nauru Court is currently conducting advocacy training for local legal practitioners with expert advice and experience from Australia.

Barrister Ashley Halphen who is from Melbourne Australia comes with thirteen years' experience at the Victorian Bar arrived this week (18 June) and is working with Public Defender Knox Tolenoa and other legal practitioners involved in defence work.

Mr Halphen stated that he was delighted to be in Nauru and have the opportunity to work with local practitioners.

"Advocacy is the art of persuasion. Like any art, developing skill is a lifelong experience. Only with commitment, courage and diligence comes a level of mastery," Mr Halphen said.

His advice and guidance in the areas of court preparation and the conduct of cases has been invaluable to the local practitioners.

Mr Halphen will be conducting an advocacy workshop tomorrow (23 July) with an expected participation of 15 including members of the Nauru Police Force.

Mr Halphen is also expected to run a practical training session or moot court prior to his departure.

"It's very important that we do the advocacy workshop and moot court. The way information is presented by counsel in court is very important for the Court's decision-making. I'll be

offering suggestions on the different ways of handling a case in court." Mr Halphen said.

Earlier this month (5-13 June) another advocacy training session was conducted that included the development of civil and criminal procedures manuals.

Mr Guillaume Bailin who is an Associate to the Chief Judge of Victoria was accompanied by Mr Ben Franklin who is a researcher for the Chief Justice based in Melbourne developed relevant procedures and manuals suitable to Nauru.

This is Mr Bailin's third trip to Nauru for training purposes. During this trip he developed the 'Drop Box' for use by the judiciary which allows practitioners and staff to access the Court lists, judgements, decisions, rulings and Orders made by the Court.

He also developed a Civil Procedure and Criminal Procedure Manual for Nauru which makes references to procedures and legislation.

The visits and training by Mr Bailin, Mr Franklin and Mr Halphen will be the third advocacy training funded under the Pacific Judicial Development program.

The Chief Justice His Honour Geoffrey Eames QC and Registrar of the Supreme Court Peter Law obtained funding under the Pacific Judicial Development Program (PJDP) for the training making visits this month the third and fourth training visits funded by the PJDP.



Barrister Ashley Halphen is passionate about training local legal practitioners in advocacy work



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