

Message from PJSP Director Toli Sagaga



Tēnā koutou, Gudea Hi Hai, Fakatalofa atu, Fakaalofa atu, Ekamorwir Ormo, Kaselehlie, Alii, Talofa koutou, Halo, Talofa lava, Malo e lelei, Kia orana, Ni sab Bula Vinaka, Halo Olketa, Iqkwe, Mauri, Kia ora and warm Pasefika greetings.

2025 started well with several special events held in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland. In February the Pacific Judicial Conference brought together Justices and judges from across the Pacific and beyond, and we welcomed 15 Chief Justices (or their delegate) for the annual Chief Justices Leadership Forum. PJSP supported Te Kōti-ā-Rohe o Aotearoa, District Court of New Zealand with the District Court Judicial Exchange between NZ and Samoa followed by a study tour at the Auckland High Court. These events allowed for face-to-face talanoa, ongoing dialogue and stronger connections. We hope the participants found these events valuable and we appreciate the distances people travelled to Aotearoa New Zealand to attend.

*Ngā mihi,
Toli Sagaga*

Chief Justices Leadership Forum

Tamaki Makaurau February 2025



Chief Justices from our 15 Pacific partner countries, Australia, and Aotearoa New Zealand gathered in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland for the annual Chief Justices Leadership Forum on 14 February. Thirty-two Chief Justices, observers and guest speakers were welcomed to the full day programme, which started with a mihi whakatau by Chief Justice of Niue, Craig Coxhead, and words of welcome from Chief Justice of Aotearoa New Zealand and Tokelau, Rt Hon Dame Helen Winkelmann.

PJSP Komiti Chair, Justice Gerard van Bohemen led the sessions, where discussions continued around shared priorities the Justices had agreed at the CJLF in Samoa in 2024. Other sessions focused on PJSP's Strategy, the Pacific Judicial Leadership project, and the Pacific Judicial Digital Strategy. The Federal Court of Australia's International Program team also delivered a session on their plans for the Pacific judiciary.

Pictured: Back row: Chief Justice Patrick Keane (Cook Islands), Chief Justice Debra Mortimer (Federal Court of Australia), Chief Justice Tetiro Semilota Maate Moaniba (Kiribati), Acting Chief Justice Kinivilame Keteca (Nauru), Associate Justice Larry Wentworth (delegate for Federated States of Micronesia), Justice Savenaca Banuve (delegate for Fiji), Acting Chief Justice Sir John Muria (Tuvalu) and Lord Chief Justice Malcom Bishop (Tonga).

Front from left: Chief Justice Satiu Simativa Perese (Samoa), Chief Justice Gibbs Salika (Papua New Guinea), Chief Justice Sir Albert Rocky Palmer (Solomon Islands), Chief Justice Vincent Lunabek (Vanuatu), Chief Justice Carl Ingram (Republic of Marshall Islands), Chief Justice Craig Coxhead (Niue) and Chief Justice Rt Hon Dame Helen Winkelmann New Zealand and Tokelau).

Samoan judiciary welcomed to Tamaki Makaurau for Judicial Exchange

March 2025

Eleven members of the Samoan judiciary and court registry staff were welcomed to Tāmaki Makaurau in March for the biennial Judicial Exchange between judges from Aotearoa New Zealand and judges from Samoa. This year’s program was facilitated by the Chief Justice of New Zealand and Tokelau, Rt Hon Dame Helen Winkelmann and Chief District Court Judge of New Zealand Judge Heemi Taumaunu with other hosts Judge Jacquelyn Moran (Principal Family Court Judge New Zealand), Judge Ida Malosi (Principal Youth Court Judge New Zealand), Marcus Akuhata-Brown (Pou Whakaterere – Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Justice), and Reuben Lewthwaite (Director, Te Whare - Chief District Court Judges Chambers). The 2025 programme featured a trip to Te Oohaakii Marae near Huntly, and presentations by leaders and members of the Māori Parliament House of Waikato. The four-day programme facilitated many enriching conversations between judicial officers about the nature of their work.

The inaugural New Zealand Samoa Judicial Exchange took place in Apia, Samoa in 2023. The Exchange is also a great example of the values underpinning the Treaty of Friendship signed by our two countries in 1962.

Pictured: front row from left: Principal Family Court Judge Jackie Moran; Chief District Court Judge Heemi Taumaunu; Chief Justice of New Zealand and Tokelau Dame Helen Winkelmann; Chief Justice of Samoa Satiu Simativa Perese; and Principal Youth Court Judge Ida Malosi after exchanging gifts.



Law Commissioners Handbook, hand-delivered to Tokelau

March 2025



The updated Handbook for the Law Commissioners of Tokelau was officially hand delivered to each of the Law Commissioners on the three atolls – Fakaofu, Atafu and Nukunonu – of Tokelau throughout the month of March. The Handbook was first published in 2008. The work updating and translating the Handbook across 2023 and 2024 was undertaken by the Handbook Editorial Committee led by former Samoan judge and PJSP trainer Tagaloa Enoka Puni, and included Professor Tony Angelo, Law Commissioner Safiti Gualofa, Aukusitino Vitale, and Apolima Tamoia. The [Tokelau Law Commissioners Handbook](#) is available to download at the PJSP website.

Pictured from left, Tagaloa Enoka Puni handing over the handbook to Fakaofu Law Commissioner Safiti Gualofa.

Latest Litigation Skills video released

Over the past six months PJSP has released a series of videos designed to assist new counsel grow their litigation skills. This month we have made the **Examination-in Chief** video available at the [PJSP website](#). The **Examination-in- Chief** video provides a guide and best practice etiquette for examining a witness in court.

Please note, if you have not already registered to access the restricted resources on our website, you will need to [register](#) and create a 16-character password before you can watch the videos in the Litigation Skills series.

After you've watched the video, test your knowledge with our 1 -minute [Quick Quiz](#) and let us know what you think of the video via [a short survey](#). Your feedback is valuable as it helps us to best tailor our training support materials. Other videos in the series include The Theory of the Case, Trial Preparation, Cross Examination, and Ethical Dilemmas.

Spotlight on Tonga

PJSP works in partnership with the judiciary, Magistrates, lay judicial staff, legal advocates, and court staff of Tonga, providing on going technical support for Tonga's court management systems and court performance. PJSP also provides scholarships for the University of South Pacific's Certificate and Diploma of Justice program, and supports regular training activities in the Human Rights, Access to Justice, Litigation Skills, Family Protection Orders and Continuing Legal Education Workshops.

Pictured left, PJSP trainer Dr Carolyn Graydon presents certificates from the 2024 Human Rights and Access to Justice training workshops to staff of the Family Protection Legal Aid Centre.



Family Protection Orders Training, March 2025

Senior Magistrate Peti Langi, the residing Magistrate from the Court of Vava'u Tonga, conducted two 'Family Protection Orders' training/workshops, the first in Nukualofa Tongatapu and the second in Vava'u. Altogether 27 participants attended the training. Participants from the Family Legal Aid Centre (FPLAC), Court staff, the Police Domestic Violence Unit (DVU), and the Tonga Family Courts learned the meanings of domestic violence and domestic relationship. The workshop went over the different types of protection orders available under the Family Protection Act and the key elements required to issue a Protection Order.

Participants discussed challenges they faced when completing Protection Order applications and options and tools to consider in these circumstances. This training was designed to reinforce the availability of Protection Orders and its effect as well as expanding the reach within the advocacy community in Nukualofa.

Pictured right, participants with Senior Magistrate Peti Langi, (seated 3rd from left) with PJSP kaimahi Vaimoana Fakaosi and Senior Magistrate Ane Tavo-Mailangi) at the Protection Order workshop in Nukualofa March.

