



THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE | TE TARI TOKO I TE TUMU WHAKAWĀ

Kia ora, Kia orana, Tālofa lava, Mauri, Mālō e Ielei, Tālofa, Ni Sa Bula Vinaka, Fakaalofa lahi atu, Mālō ni, Noa'ia, Halo wantoks, Kaselehila, Ekamawir omo, Yokwe, Apinum, and warm Pacific greetings.

Appointment of Director, Pacific Justice Sector Programme (PJSP)

The Office of the Chief Justice, Te Tari Toko I Te Tumu Whakawā, is delighted to announce the appointment of Toli Sagaga as Director of the Pacific Justice Sector Programme (PJSP) effective 17 April 2023.

The Pacific Justice Sector Programme is a multi-jurisdictional initiative guided by the Pacific Chief Justices' 15-member Leadership Forum, which includes Aotearoa New Zealand's Chief Justice Winkelmann in her capacity as Chief Justice of Tokelau.¹

Toli, who is a first-generation New Zealand born Samoan, first joined the Office in October 2022 as PJSP's Deputy Director. Prior to that she had been the Principal Solicitor and second in command in the Litigation Team at Hīkina Whakatutuki (Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment).

She brings to the role a wealth of experience having worked in a range of roles across government, including as a senior policy analyst at Te Manatū mō ngā Iwi ō te Moana-nui-ā-Kiwa, the Ministry for Pacific Peoples.

Recruitment for a permanent director began in December 2022 and attracted more than 50 applications from within Aotearoa and the Pacific. Toli was one of six candidates shortlisted for interview.

Panel member², Tania Ott Deputy Commissioner for the Public Service Fale, said Toli brought to the role a rare combination of skills and experience:

"Toli's legal and justice sector background combined with her clear understanding of the need to put Pacific priorities and context at the heart of the programme's delivery make her a terrific appointment."

Toli Sagaga acknowledged the mentoring and support she had received from Janine McIntosh, who had been seconded from her substantive role as Director of Te Kura Kaiwhakawā, the Institute of Judicial Studies, to set up the MFAT-funded programme under the Institute's umbrella:

¹ See Appendix for a description of the programme.

² The interview panel comprised Justice Gerard Van Bohemen (Co-chair of the PJSP Advisory Komiti), Judge Coxhead (Te Kura Board member and Chief Justice of Niue and member of the Chief Justices Forum that oversees the work programme for PJSP), Dr Julia Ioane (member of the Te Kura Board and the PJSP Advisory Komiti), Tania Ott, (Deputy Commissioner for the Public Service Fale, Public Service Commission), Liz Sinclair (Advisor to the Te Kura Board on the governance and leadership arrangements for Te Kura and the PJSP).

“I have thoroughly enjoyed working with Janine and have learnt an abundance under her stewardship of the programme. I look forward to continuing working and collaborating with her and Te Kura Kaiwhakawā.”

Janine McIntosh said that during her months as Deputy Director PJSP, Toli has gained the respect of her colleagues, the judiciary and the wider stakeholder group:

“Toli’s style of leadership reflects the Samoan values she has been brought up with of alofa (love), tautua (service), fa’aaloalo (respect), and filigā (perseverance).

She came to the role with outstanding support from professional and community colleagues, one of whom commented that she would ‘bring a rich community of impactful people who will wrap around her to ensure her success and the success of the PJSP’.”

“We are very fortunate to have Toli and I am immensely proud of what the small establishment team has achieved in the programme’s first year and assure Toli of my ongoing support as she steps into this significant leadership position.”

Ends

Biography - Toli Sagaga

Toli Sagaga is a first-generation New Zealand-born child of Samoan parents who migrated to New Zealand in the 1960s. Toli's mother, Vaiula Fatialofa, hails from the villages of Lepā and Fasito'o Tai, and her father Vatau Sagaga, is from the villages of Matāfagatele Moataa and Saanapu.

She is proficient in Pāsifika cultures and in gagana Samoa and grew up embracing the diversity of modern New Zealand society including tikanga Māori and Te Reo.

Toli obtained a Bachelor of Laws from Te Herenga Waka (Victoria University) from 1997 and Bachelor of Arts (Education) in 1992. Since that time, she has applied her legal skills and Pāsifika knowledge to work in roles involving Pāsifika engagement and delivering Pāsifika cultural leadership including; as a senior policy analyst at the Te Manatū mō ngā Iwi o te Moana-nui-ā-Kīwa, the Ministry for Pacific Peoples, as private secretary for the Minister for Pacific Peoples, as a member of the Senior Pacific Advisors Group for the Royal Commission Abuse in Care Inquiry.

She has many years' experience in private legal practice and has established strong working relationships with Pāsifika leaders and networks in Pāsifika communities. Along with her legal experience across both the private and public sectors, she has worked on not-for-profit boards focussed on educating and assisting youth and Pāsifika communities particularly in the fields of sports, education, and the arts.

Toli has vast and strong connections with Pāsifika cultures in Aotearoa and the Pacific region through her involvement in various organisations including, to name a few, Wainuiomata Pāsifika Education Success Initiative, Wellington Pāsifika Business Network, Pacific Lawyers Association, Borrin Foundation's Improving Pāsifika Legal Education project, Government Legal Network Increasing Māori and Pāsifika Lawyers in Government project, Fale Malae Trust fundraising committee, Ulalei Netball Club.

Before joining the Office of the Chief Justice as Deputy Director of the Pacific Justice Sector Programme in October 2022, she was Principal Solicitor and 2IC at the Litigation Team at Hīkina Whakatutuki (Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment).



Pacific Justice Sector Programme (PJSP) – Fact Sheet

History and Purpose

Te Kura Kaiwhakawā (Te Kura) is the education and development arm of Aotearoa New Zealand’s judiciary. Te Kura is a business unit of the Office of the Chief Justice | Te Tari Toko I te Tumu Whakawā.

From 1 January 2022 Te Kura is funded for an initial five year period by Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) to deliver support to judiciaries and courts in 15 Pacific countries.

The Pacific Justice Sector Programme brings together three previous regional justice programmes funded by Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) through the International Development Cooperation Programme:

- the Pacific Judicial Strengthening Initiative (PJSI) – previously administered through the Federal Courts of Australia
- the Judicial Pacific Participation Fund (JPPF) – previously administered through Te Kura and;
- support for litigation training – previously and continuing to be administered by the Crown Law Office and the Pacific Islands Law Officers Network, (PILON).

The programme encompasses a wide range of services and activities spanning mentoring, professional development and technical training (including court performance management) through to enhancing human rights and gender and family violence responsiveness. An important objective of the programmes is to support relationships between formal and informal justice systems in ways which increase access to fair and high-quality justice for vulnerable people.

Governance

Governance of the PJSP is provided by:

MFAT – the PJSP works closely with MFAT, including with Pacific posts, and reports progress regularly.

The Pacific Chief Justices, and their Regional Programme Executive Committee, have direct influence over the programme content at a strategic and operational level to ensure needs are being addressed for each nation and region.

The Te Kura Board has ownership accountability for the performance of the PJSP team – its human and financial resources, leadership, risk management and stewardship. The Board will exercise this through a dedicated Komiti, with members from the New Zealand judiciary, New Zealand Pacific community and the Ministry of Justice. The Komiti is a sub-board of the Te Kura Board, which provides oversight and a point of escalation.

The PJSP Director works closely with the Judicial Lead for the PJSP who is appointed by the Chief Justice of New Zealand.

Structure and Resources

The PJSP has been set up as a separate team, reporting to the Director of Te Tari Office of the Chief Justice.

PJSP has a small professional team of 6-8 staff, primarily based in Wellington.

The initial 5 year budget for PJSP is \$11.5m, subject to annual review and agreement with MFAT. Possible additional funding sources for the PJSP are in discussion.

Operating Principles that underpin the PJSP's programme approach

1. PJSP focuses on Pacific priorities.
2. PJSP works in a culturally appropriate, collaborative, and respectful way.
3. PJSP supports approaches and solutions that are sustainable.
4. PJSP supports innovation and a culture of continuous learning.
5. PJSP delivers high-quality activities that are relevant to the context and informed by evidence.