

Message from PJSP Director, Toli Sagaga



Tēnā koutou, Gudea Hi Hai, Fakatalofa atu, Fakaalofa atu, Ekamowir 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.

PJSP has enjoyed hosting our partners and stakeholders at various trainings, hui, and events over this past quarter. A highlight for our team was welcoming 32 participants and 18 faculty from our partner countries to Poneke, Wellington for two weeks of Litigation Skills training in May. It was a large-scale, unique event, with 10 days of intensive workshops culminating in mock trials at the High Court and a graduation dinner.

I am also pleased to let you know all six videos in our Litigation skills video series are now available to watch online at the [PJSP website](#). The topics, delivered by Aotearoa legal experts, include Theory of the Case, Trial Preparation, Cross-examination, Ethical dilemmas, Examination in Chief, and Closings. I encourage advocates and litigators to view these resources and complete the feedback forms after viewing the episodes. Your feedback will help us to tailor future training offerings.

Ngā mihi, Faafetai lava

Toli Sagaga

Litigation Skills Training

May 2025



From left, the mihi whakatau /welcome for participants and faculty, workshops, mock trials, and a graduation dinner and entertainment.

Protection Order training, Vanuatu

June 2025

Eleven Island Court clerks from Vanuatu outer islands joined clerks in Port Vila for annual refresher training on administering the Family Protection Act in June. For many, this was the first time they met their Supervising Magistrate in person - a significant step in strengthening professional relationships. The workshops were facilitated by Dr Carolyn Graydon, PJSP's Human Rights and Access to Justice Advisor, supported by Holly Ewens, PJSP's Senior Advisor.

The workshops focused on streamlining Protection order application processes and preparations for a 24-hour toll-free hotline to support remote protection order requests. Clerks were trained in a step-by-step approach to receiving complaints, securing consent, and arranging applications, with role plays and case studies used to build confidence and skills. The training also addressed the well-being and support needs of clerks working in isolated and challenging environments. Discussions included strategies for managing vicarious trauma and suggestions for low-cost wellbeing initiatives, such as adjusted court hours and structured activities to support staff morale.

Holly noted that Island Court clerks face additional challenges as they work with difficult matters remotely and independently. "Court clerks are on the front lines of justice. They are often the first point of contact for complainants seeking protection. Island Court clerks are typically posted to islands other than their own, where they are away from family support networks and manage a range of responsibilities, often dealing with traumatized people and sensitive cases."



Island court clerks with PJSP training kaimahi.



Collyne T Maki, Malekula Island Court clerk meets her Supervising Magistrate Hannalaine Nalau Ilo.



International Judicial Conference on Integrity and Well-being, Papua New Guinea

August 2025



The Papua New Guinea Judiciary, in partnership with UNODC, hosted the International Judicial Conference on Integrity and Judicial Well-being in August in Port Moresby.

Themed "From Principles to Action: Advancing Judicial Well-being as the Foundation for Integrity, Resilience, and Public Trust," the conference followed on from the successful Regional Judicial Conference in Nauru and adoption of the [Nauru Declaration on Judicial Well-Being](#) in July 2024.

The 2025 conference brought together judges, magistrates, judicial officers, academics, and legal experts from across six continents to tackle emerging challenges affecting judicial integrity and well-being.

Key themes included implementing the Nauru Declaration on Judicial Well-Being, addressing psychological aspects of judicial life such as stress and harassment, judicial leadership and resilience, and technology's impact on the judiciary.

PJSP presented on the connection between judicial well-being and PJSP's strategic priorities and participated in the panel on "research and learning on judicial integrity and judicial well-being," led by the Australian Catholic University. The panel highlighted their upcoming study on judicial well-being in the Pacific region, which PJSP supports.

PJSP was represented by Janine Ford, pictured with Chief Justice Craig Coxhead (Nive).



Samoa Law Reform Commission visits PJSP HQ

August 2025



Members of the Samoa Law Reform Commission visited PJSP at the Supreme Court in Ponape Wellington for talanoa with PJSP Director Toli Sagaga and her PJSP kaimahi / staff about enhancing legitimacy and visibility in justice sector work.

The Samoa Law Reform Commission delegation included Executive Director Tufuga Fagaloa, Deputy Executive Director Sheliza Tapuai, and Executive Legal Officer Mearold Viliamu. During their visit to the capital, Tufuga Fagaloa and his team met with several law and governance agencies, fostering connections, and exchanging ideas in support of the Commission's objective of achieving ongoing, robust, evidence-based law reform in Samoa.

Left, the visiting Samoa Law Reform Commission team with Toli Sagaga and PJSP staff pictured at the Supreme Court of Aotearoa New Zealand.

Vanuatu Justices attend judgment writing course in Ponape, Wellington

August 2025

PJSP was pleased to support two senior judges from Vanuatu to attend the Te Kura Kaiwhakawā judgment writing course in Ponape Wellington in August. Justice Beverleigh Kanas Joshua and Justice Josaia Naigulevu joined 18 other judges from around Aotearoa New Zealand at the three-day workshop. The course focused on identifying what makes good judgment writing, and the importance of structure, clarity, tone, prose style, and inclusivity. Participants were asked to bring along one of their own judgments to analyse and tweak, applying what they learned during the course about the components of sound judgment writing. The writing faculty steering the workshops included retired English Professor Jane Stafford, Communications Manager Liz Kennedy, Supreme Court Justice Stephen Kós, Dr John Adams and Judge Hana Ellis, (pictured at right with the visiting Justices Beverleigh Kanas Joshua and Justice Josaia Naigulevu)



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