



Papua New Guinea Centre for Judicial Excellence (PngCJE)
Supreme & National Court of Justice



PROSPECTUS 2019

The Papua New Guinea Centre for Judicial Excellence (PngCJE) was established in 2010 under a Memorandum of Understanding entered into between the Chief Justice, Chief Magistrate and the Secretary for the Department of Justice and Attorney General.

The centre is responsible for the delivery of judicial education and training programs which are aimed to:

- Promote judicial excellence;
- Promote professional development and training; and
- Foster an awareness of judicial administration, developments in the law and social and community issues.

The Curriculum

PngCJE curriculum addresses five areas of focus in judicial education and development which are:

- a) Substantive Law and Court Practice & Procedure;
- b) Judicial Skills;
- c) Judicial Disposition;
- d) Judicial Management; and
- e) General Skills or interdisciplinary.

1. Substantive Law, Court Practice and Procedure

This principle helps judges maintain their knowledge and mastery of law. Judges learn to keep up to date with new developments and changes in the law and deepen their understanding of it.

2. Judicial Skills

This category takes in communication skills, decision making, and writing or presenting clear written judgments. Example of a course that will be covered under this principle includes Judgment Writing Skills for Judges and Magistrates, Accessing Credibility of Witnesses and Decision Making.

3. Judicial Disposition

This category covers Social Contexts, Outlook, Attitudes and Values. Courses that relate to this area include Dealing with People With Disabilities and Access to Justice, Gender Equality, Family and Domestic Violence.

4. Judicial Administration and Management

This category includes courtroom management, managing cases, and dealing with alternative dispute resolutions. Courses under this area help judicial officers to be competent in presiding over trials or deciding on cases. Advance Mediation training is included in this area of judicial education.

5. General Skills or Interdisciplinary

Varieties of approaches applied in upholding the principles of judicial education include; workshop lecturing, case studies & practical exercises; and research paper presentations. This range of skills assists officers to become multi-skilled, and reliable in carrying out clerical work, office administration, supervisory and senior management roles. Leadership, Management and Team Building Skills training is a component of this category of judicial education.

Development of Programs

Programs are developed based on training needs assessment of judicial officers and court staff and through program evaluations. Courses are also developed based on court surveys, new developments of the law or analysis from trends from the judiciary and law and justice sector.

Development of specific programs for training is done by the Design, Develop and Evaluation (DDE) sub-committees. These working groups design and develop specific programs by determining program topics, session objectives and activities. Identification of presenters for each topic in the program is also done by the DDE sub-committees.

Registering for Programs

Individuals interested in registering for courses should contact the PngCJE Secretariat.

Booking and Travel Information

Upon identification and availability of participant's details, accommodation, venue and travel arrangements are coordinated with the PngCJE Secretariat.

Evaluation of Programs

Evaluation is done at the end of each program. Following the training or presentation of a program, the Design, Develop and Evaluation sub-committee evaluates learning achieved and its potential impact.

Programs on offer for 2019



2019 Program Highlights

Below is a series of judicial educational programs that have been designed and developed to help judicial officers as well as staff from the Law and Justice Sector agencies meet the challenges of a diverse legal and social environment.

- 1. Certificate in Court Reporting** **February**
Effective operation of the court reporting service is integral to the overall successful operation of the PNG Justice System. This program aims to equip court reporting officers with a raft of skills dedicated to the achievement of a variety of specialized court reporting tasks.
- 2. Leadership, Management and Team Building** **February**
Participants will learn about leadership and management skills; and about different methods or approaches that contribute to team building. The workshop will also broaden their understanding of judicial administration and assist those already in management roles to benchmark their achievements and performances against best practices.
- 3. PngCJE Training of Trainers** **March**
This is a high-level professional learning process for qualified trainers who will be providing training and capacity building. The training will provide participants with exposure to adult learning theories as well as available training resources
- 4. CDS & FTR Training** **March**
The training will introduce court officers to new and better ways of managing data base systems used by the courts. The Case Docketing and the For the Record Systems are the two data management systems that will be the focus of this training.
- 5. Judicial Orientation for Judges** **April**
The program is an ideal start for newly appointed Judges. New appointees will learn essential skills for their new role in an atmosphere of camaradie and encouragement.
- 6. Sir Gibbs Salika Lecture Series** **April**
Designed to create a wider conversation, the Lecture will give the public and members of the law and justice sector an opportunity to listen to topics on the Judicial System. The

events will also allow participants to interact and network with each other, and with distinguished local and visiting foreign guest speakers.

7. Certificate in Court Administration

May - August

This three month course aims to equip middle managers within the Judiciary with skills and knowledge on good governance, court administration and management. Participants will identify and explain the different roles and functions of divisions within NJSS and analyse how efficiency and effectiveness of service can be achieved. The course will also address emerging issues in the court environment and take participants through the process of devising action plans that will guide and improve work performance.

8. Juvenile Justice (Court Registry Staff and Judges)

May

Improving the Juvenile Justice system of PNG is a co-priority of the government and as such a better understanding of Juvenile Justice by judicial officers is paramount. The program is aimed at increasing awareness and understanding of standards with respect to children who come into conflict with the law; and at encouraging the development of strategies that promote diversion options or alternatives for handling juvenile cases.

9. Judgment Writing (Judges)

May

Judgment writing creates a multitude of challenges especially when judges are under severe constraint to complete judgments within a short period of time and often in circumstances where they have several judgments to prepare. This workshop will help judges to present judgments according to the basic criteria for writing judgments under the common law system. It will look at what good judgment writing style is and stress on the importance of clarity, coherence and conciseness.

10. LLG Election Petition (Magistrates)

June

The Election Petition workshop is conducted to enhance skills for judges and registry staff involve in the LLG Election Petition cases. It is intended to provide an overview of how Election Petition cases are being managed and dealt with in the Court of Disputed Returns.

11. Underlying Law Conference on Banking

July

The Underlying Conference on the topic of Banking will involve presentation of papers from academics and members of the Law and Justice sector. Participants in this conference will have the opportunity to share their expertise and experiences in dealing with cases relating to banking transactions.

12. Accessing Credibility of Witnesses

August

One of the most important and often challenging tasks of a judicial officer is to make credibility determinations about witnesses. This course will help participants to access some of the best practices for assessing witness credibility.

13. CMJA Conference

September

The international conference for the Commonwealth Magistrates and Judges Association will be held in Port Moresby, 8 to 12 September. In attendance will be magistrates and judges from Commonwealth countries around the world. For this year the theme will be “Parliamentary Democracy and the Role of the Judiciary”.



Papua New Guinea Centre for Judicial Education

Our office is located at the National and Supreme Court of Papua New Guinea.

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