



**WEBINAR REPORT FOR
PACIFIC COUNTRIES CENTRE FOR JUDICIAL EXCELLENCE 2021**

1) Introduction:

The webinar was held by the PCCJE on the 28th of September 2021 and titled:

- “The Rule of Law, Protection of the Law and the Role of Lawyers”**
- **focus on the Pacific and Commonwealth actions and other institutions.**

2) Program Objective (s)

The webinar was designed to:

- a) Define Rule of Law and guided those involved in the legal fraternity to continue to uphold this principle.
- b) Create a discussion on the Protection of the Law not only in Papua New Guinea but also in other Pacific jurisdictions.
- c) Reinforce the important role of lawyers with regards to the Rule of Law and the Protection of the Law

3) Targeted Audience

The target audience for this presentation was primarily aimed at lawyers, public servants and politicians. In total there were at least 15 participants that logged on to the webinar.

We were privileged to have the Acting Chief Justice of FSM Honorable Bealeen Carl-Worswick Supreme Court of Federated States of Micronesia in attendance with Justice Larry Wentworth and Justice Dennis Belcourt.

Also present were lawyers from Samoa in particular from the CLN Lawyers LLP firm.

4) Venue

The webinar was presented by Mr David Denniston. Invitations were issued to the following countries: Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tokelau, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

5) Presenter

David Denniston is a PNG and Australian admitted lawyer who practices across government, disputes, land, administrative, commercial, climate change, water, environment, planning, energy & resources, employment, governance, defence, and law & justice international capacity development programs.

Legal adviser & advocate, government, commercial, administrative, disputes, development, energy & resources, land, property, environment, climate change, water, regulatory & institutional frameworks, shipping, employment, customs, debt, excise.

Establishment and management of contract performance, governance, compliance, risk and audit frameworks. International development adviser in law & justice, governance and capacity building in support of public and private sector development, including program, design, implementation and monitoring & evaluation.

Experienced in stakeholder engagement & management, civil military cooperation, governance and the rule of law, in complex environments. Roles have included management, strategy and training

6) Highlights from Webinar

The webinar was divided into three areas:

- a) Rule of Law – highlight was Rule of law outcomes; Lord Bingham’s eight principle of the Rule of Law; LexisNexis Rule of Law Foundation
- b) Protection of the Law- developments from other regions: discussion on case of *Commissioner of Prisons and another Respondents v Seepersad and another (Appellants) Trinidad and Tobago [2021] UK PC 13 Privy Council Appeal No 01112 of 2019.*
- c) Role of Lawyers – In relation to what law and bar associations and lawyers do to uphold the law. David gave a brief outline of the Samoa Law Society & the Commonwealth Lawyers Association, & the CMJLA & CLEA.

7) Methodology

The method used in the webinar was a lecture based with Mr David Denniston providing a narrative of the key areas outlined above.

8) Conclusion

The topic that needs to be discussed in forums such as this webinar to ensure that those involved and practicing in the legal arena are given the opportunity to not only express their views but also realign themselves to the important principle of the Rule of Law.

. Attachments

- i. **Webinar Flyer**
Attach the copy of the webinar flyer
- ii. **Case Material**
PowerPoint Presentation by David Denniston