

Waigani National Law Courts



PNGCJE

THIRD QUARTER

Newsletter

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International Judicial Integrity and Well-Being conference

The Judiciary of Papua New Guinea, in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Commonwealth Secretariat, hosted the International Judicial Integrity and Well-Being Conference from August 20–22, 2025, in Port Moresby. This high-level event followed the successful Regional Judicial Conference held in Nauru from 24 to 26 July 2024, and the adoption of the Nauru Declaration on Judicial Well-Being on 25 July 2024.

The 2025 conference was supported by the Papua New Guinea Centre for Judicial Excellence (PNGCJE) and UNODC, under the framework of the Pacific Platform on Anti-Corruption: the Teieniwa Vision, and aligned with Article 11 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), which highlights the critical role of judicial integrity. Building on the efforts of the Global Judicial Integrity Network, established by UNODC in 2018, the conference brought together judges, magistrates, judicial leaders, and experts from across the globe, with a particular focus on the Pacific region. It aimed to strengthen global collaboration, promote judicial resilience, and reinforce ethical standards and well-being across judiciaries.

The central objective of the conference was to facilitate open, solution-oriented discussions on judicial integrity and well-being, recognizing their deep interconnection. Topics explored included:

- The Nauru Declaration on Judicial Well-Being;
- The interplay between judicial integrity and the personal well-being of judges;
- Psychological well-being in the judiciary, including bullying and harassment;

- Judicial leadership and its role in fostering well-being; and
- Leveraging technology to enhance judicial wellness and reduce stress.

The conference aimed to generate a deeper understanding of the psychological and technological challenges facing judicial officers and to craft actionable strategies to promote mental health, ethical decision-making, and systemic support.

The conference produced several key outcomes, including:

- Enhanced understanding of current and emerging challenges affecting judicial integrity and well-being, with a particular focus on mental health, stress management, and technological impacts;
- Actionable strategies to support judicial resilience, ethical leadership, and the development of well-being programs within judicial systems;
- Drafting parameters for the Nauru Declaration Commentary, with input from global participants to guide the implementation of the declaration's core principles; and
- Strengthened regional and international networks, fostering continued exchange of best practices, peer support, and innovation in judicial leadership and wellness.

The three-day event featured a mix of plenary sessions, expert panels, and interactive discussions designed to promote meaningful engagement and collaboration. Keynote speakers and facilitators from both regional and international levels led sessions and shared insights on the evolving needs of judiciaries globally. The conference also provided a platform for the next generation of judicial officers, including younger judges and magistrates, to participate and contribute through expressions of interest.



Participants of the International Judicial Integrity and Well-Being conference



Pictorial of the Conference



Judges attend Human rights workshop

The Papua New Guinea Centre for Judicial Excellence (PNGCJE), in collaboration with the Australia–PNG Law and Justice Partnership, successfully convened a one-day judicial workshop on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) as a violation of Human Rights, specifically tailored for judges across the country. The workshop, held in Port Moresby, was facilitated by Honourable Justice Oagile Bethuel Key Dingake and Honourable Justice Susan Purdon Sully, both respected jurists and human rights advocates.

The program aimed to deepen the judiciary's understanding of GBV as a grave violation of human rights and to strengthen judicial responses to such cases in PNG. Participants explored the national context of GBV, systemic challenges faced by survivors, gaps in legal and procedural frameworks, and opportunities for reform. Key discussions also addressed coordination among law enforcement, prosecutors, and courts to ensure justice is timely, fair, and survivor centred. The Chief Justice of Papua New Guinea, Chief Sir Gibbs Salika, GCL, KBE, CSM, OBE, delivered the keynote address, urging immediate and sustained action from the judiciary to combat GBV, which he described as a “human rights crisis that can no longer be ignored.” “It is no longer a matter that can be confined within the walls of homes or treated as a private dispute. It undermines the dignity of individuals, destabilises families, and erodes the very fabric of our society,” said the Chief Justice.

He called on all participating judges to engage with openness and commitment, encouraging them to confront cultural, procedural, and systemic barriers that hinder justice for survivors.

“Let us be solution-oriented, asking: What can we do

differently? How can we use the law more effectively? What reforms or practices can we endorse to ensure justice is not delayed or denied?” the Chief Justice added. He affirmed that gender-based violence is not an inevitable part of PNG’s culture and reiterated the judiciary’s responsibility to safeguard human rights and uphold the rule of law. “Let this workshop empower us to sharpen our judicial response, strengthen, and reaffirm our commitment to justice for survivors, to the protection of human rights, and to the rule of law.” Remarks were also delivered by Ms. Tessa Plueckhahn, Counsellor for the Law and Justice Sector of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), who reiterated Australia’s commitment to supporting PNG’s justice institutions and efforts to combat GBV.

Justice Dingake led sessions on the workshop’s objectives and the broader context of GBV on human rights violation in Papua New Guinea, whilst Justice Purdon Sully provided critical insights into the legal framework governing violence against women, including issues related to sorcery accusation-related violence.

Partner organisations also contributed to the workshop with evidence-based presentations on:

- The national GBV context in PNG.
- Legal and procedural barriers faced by survivors.
- Challenges in prosecuting GBV cases, including evidentiary issues and witness management.
- Sorcery accusation-related violence and its intersection with GBV.

The plenary session concluded with a call for concrete recommendations to guide courtroom practice and contribute to broader judicial and policy reforms.



Judges who attended the Human Rights workshop.

Judicial Orientation for newly appointed Judges



Chief Justice, Chief Sir Gibuma Gibbs Salika with Deputy Chief Justice Ambeng Kandakasi, with senior Judges, Justice John Carey PNGCJE Judge Administrator, and the newly appointed Judges.

The Papua New Guinea Centre for Judicial Excellence (PNGCJE) successfully conducted a comprehensive three-days Judicial Orientation Program for ten newly appointed Judges of the Supreme and National Courts of Papua New Guinea. Held from 3rd–5th September 2025 at the Airways Hotel in Port Moresby, the intensive program aimed at equipping the new Judges with essential knowledge and skills to support them in their judicial duties. The program emphasized the importance of understanding the roles, responsibilities, and ethical obligations inherent in the administration of justice.

The orientation covered a wide range of critical topics, including judicial ethics and conduct, courtroom management, legal reasoning and writing, human rights, gender-based violence, and customary law. These sessions were facilitated by senior members of the judiciary, legal academics, and experts from regional judicial bodies. In his opening remarks, Chief Justice Sir Gibuma Gibbs Salika welcomed the new appointees and highlighted the critical role of integrity and independence in judicial service.

“As Judges, your decisions shape the law and affect lives. This orientation is the foundation of your judicial journey, ensuring you serve with wisdom, fairness, and independence,” said Chief Justice Salika.

Deputy Chief Justice Ambeng Kandakasi also addressed the participants, encouraging them to uphold the highest standards of justice and to embrace continuous professional development.

The program provided not only structured learning but also opportunities for peer networking and collegial exchange, strengthening consistency in judicial practices across jurisdictions.

Day one featured a panel discussion on Transition to the Bench with insights from Justice Lawrence Kangwia, Justice Iova Geita, Justice Oagile Dingake, and Justice

Vergil Narokobi. This was followed by a session on Civil Trial and Procedure and Case Management led by Deputy Chief Justice Ambeng Kandakasi and Justice John Carey. Justice Oagile Dingake delivered a session on Human Rights, while Justice Vergil Narokobi presented on Judicial Ethics and Conduct. The day concluded with a discussion on Judicial Review, again led by Justice Dingake. Day two began with a presentation on Criminal Trial and Procedure by Justice Panuel Mogish. Justice Teresa Berrigan addressed Dealing with Juveniles, while Justice Narokobi led a session on Customary Law and Disqualification/Conflict of Interest. Justice Kangwia spoke on the Leadership Tribunal, and Ms. Ethel Akike introduced participants to Integrated Criminal Case Management. The third and final day focused on technological tools and decision-making processes. Mr. Stuart Koltes and Mr. Bruce Ifina delivered a session on FTR Digital Recording Systems. Ms. Rose Apai presented the PNG Legal Information Network, followed by an overview of the Integrated Electronic Case Management System (IECMS) from Deputy Chief Justice, NJSS Registrar Mr. Ian Augerea, and Mr. Robert Tony. Later, the Judicial Decision-Making session was led by the Deputy Chief Justice and Justice Berna Collier, and the program concluded with a session on Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) by Justice Derrick Wood.

Each session featured active question and answer segments, fostering open dialogue and deeper understanding between the new Judges and experienced panellists.

Justice Mohammed Khan expressed his gratitude to the panellists, stating that he appreciated the organization of such a program for the newly appointed judges.

Deputy Chief Justice Ambeng Kandakasi also expressed his gratitude to Justice John Carey, Judge Administrator of the PNGCJE, and the centre staff for their support and assistance throughout the three-days program.

Judges attend International Judicial Well-Being Day

Judges of the Supreme and National Courts of Papua New Guinea (PNG) observed the first International Judicial Well-Being Day last Friday July 25, 2025.

On the occasion, the Chief Justice Chief Sir Gibb Salika delivered a powerful message highlighting the importance of physical and mental wellbeing for Judges and Court staff, noting that wellness is essential for the effective delivery of justice.

On 4th of March the United Nations General Assembly unanimously declared 25 July as the International Day for Judicial Wellbeing earlier this year, following the adoption of the Nauru Declaration in 2024. PNG's Judiciary has long recognized the link between judicial integrity, access to justice, and the wellbeing of those who serve in the justice system. In his address, the Chief Justice acknowledged the immense dedication of Judges and Court staff who often sacrifice their own health due to the demands of their roles. He urged all members of the Judiciary to take time for reflection and self-care, stating, "Judicial wellbeing is not a luxury but a necessity."

He also emphasized the role of mental health, a topic often overlooked in cultural conversations, and called for greater openness and institutional support. "In the same way that we must seek medical help for physical ailments, we must not hesitate to seek support for mental health challenges," he said. The Chief Justice expressed gratitude for the support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), which continues to advocate for judicial integrity and wellbeing, both of which are crucial in the fight against corruption and in strengthening public trust in the judiciary.

"The Nauru Declaration clearly states the judiciary is made of human beings – individual and independent persons appointed to the judicial office; therefore, the Judiciary is fundamentally a human system, dependent upon the collective human capacities and faculties of individual judges. My colleague judges and those performing corporate and registry support to the judiciary, Judicial Wellness matters. It matters because in this jurisdiction judges lack time for physical and mental care; experience stress frequently due to workload and isolation and at times feel unsupported by their institutions. These factors and others you may experience reflect realities that is experienced by each one of us. Judicial Stress, if unaddressed, can adversely erode decision making, delay justice and diminish public trust. I want to unequivocally state that each Judge and every court staff has the commitment from this Judiciary to do all that it can to promote your health and wellbeing," he said. Reflecting on his own recent health recovery, the Chief Justice noted the importance of compassion and community within the judiciary, thanking his colleagues for their support. He concluded by affirming the Judiciary's commitment to promoting wellness through institutional measures and by encouraging all members of the court system to recognize the value of their health. "You are valued, you are seen, and your wellbeing matters," he said. The Chief Justice also welcomed the participation of regional

counterparts, including Hon. Justice Rangajeeva Wimalasena, the President of the Nauru Court of Appeal, Hon. Sir John Muria, Chief Justice of Tuvalu and Hon. Tetiro Semilota, Chief Justice of Kiribati and fellow judges who joined in recognizing this historic milestone.

Speaking at the occasion via zoom was Chief Justice Semilota, who spoke about the challenges her jurisdiction faced in regards to Judicial Well-Being.

Also speaking via zoom at the International Day for Judicial Wellbeing, the Chief Justice of Tuvalu reflected on the origins of this global initiative, tracing it back to the adoption of the Nauru Declaration on 25 July 2024. He emphasized that the declaration marked a critical shift in acknowledging that judges are human beings with real needs, challenges, and vulnerabilities. "Judicial wellbeing is no longer a taboo subject. It is not a luxury-it is a necessity for justice, integrity, and the rule of law." The Chief Justice noted that the wellbeing of judges has long been overlooked, especially in small and developing jurisdictions, where judicial officers often work under geographical isolation, with limited personnel, resources, and support. Judges in such contexts frequently take on multiple roles, often without adequate administrative or collegial assistance.

He affirmed that the Nauru Declaration brings global attention to these realities and calls for meaningful action to support the physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing of those who uphold justice systems around the world.

Delivering his remarks via zoom at the International Judicial Well-Being Day, the Hon. Justice Rangajeeva Wimalasena, President of the Nauru Court of Appeal, extended his gratitude to the organisers and commended the extraordinary collaboration that led to the creation of the Nauru Declaration on Judicial Wellbeing.

Justice Wimalasena recalled the inception of the Declaration in 2024 as an ambitious yet unprecedented effort, carried out entirely online with the support of key regional leaders, including Chief Justice Sir Gibb Salika of Papua New Guinea, Deputy Chief Justice Ambeng Kandakasi, Chief Justice Sir John Muria, and Chief Justice Tetiro Semilota, among others. "With dedication from the drafting committee, we were able to craft seven guiding principles to promote judicial wellbeing across the globe," he noted.

He praised Chief Justice Sir Gibb Salika for being the first to pledge formal adoption of the Declaration in Papua New Guinea, a commitment that has since been honoured. In addition, Justice Wimalasena lauded Sir Gibb for taking the further step of committing to host the next Judicial Wellbeing Conference in PNG, a promise that will soon be fulfilled with the up coming International Judicial Integrity and Wellbeing Conference, which is set to welcome judges and leaders from around the world.

"Chief Justice Sir Salika, your remarkable commitment to advancing this cause is both commendable and inspiring," Justice Wimalasena concluded.

Judges and spouses take part in Judicial Wellness program to promote holistic well-being

Judges from the Supreme and National Courts of Papua New Guinea, accompanied by their spouses, successfully participated in a two-day Judicial Wellness Program held from August 4–5, 2025, at the Loloata Island Resort in Central Province.

Now in its third year, the program was funded and facilitated by the Papua New Guinea Centre for Judicial Excellence (PNGCJE) with the aim of promoting and maintaining a healthy lifestyle among members of the judiciary and their spouses. The initiative reflects an ongoing commitment to ensuring the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of those serving in the justice system. The Opening remarks were delivered by Justice Berna Collier on behalf of the Chief Justice of Papua New Guinea, Chief Sir Gibuma Gibbs Salika. Justice Collier emphasized the judiciary's dedication to fostering holistic wellness, describing it as "both an honour and a privilege" to welcome judges, spouses, partners, and facilitators to the retreat.

"This is our third consecutive year hosting this program at Loloata. Each year, we aim to deepen our understanding of wellness, recognizing that our duties as judges extend beyond intellectual demands and require attention to our physical, mental, and spiritual health," Justice Collier stated. She highlighted the importance of prioritizing well-being within the judiciary, acknowledging the valuable contributions of program facilitators whose

expertise in mindfulness and wellness will help participants manage the unique pressures of judicial life. "To the Judges and their spouses and partners who made time in your busy schedules to attend—thank you. Your presence demonstrates a strong commitment to self-care and collective well-being," she added. Referencing recent remarks by the Chief Justice during the Judicial Wellness Day on 25 July 2025, Justice Collier reiterated that "Judicial wellbeing is not a luxury but a necessity," and encouraged participants to use the retreat as a time for meaningful reflection and lifestyle balance. "Our health is our most valuable asset. By nurturing our well-being, we not only improve our personal lives but also reinforce the strength and effectiveness of our judiciary. A healthy judge is a more effective judge, and a supportive spouse is a cornerstone of that journey," she concluded. The program featured a range of distinguished sessions designed to enhance mental clarity, physical health, and emotional resilience. Highlights included a virtual mindfulness presentation by Justice Peter Jamadar of the Caribbean Court of Justice; a discussion on "The Drivers and Obstacles" led by the Honourable Cameron Andrew Moore of the Federal Court of Australia; and a session on retirement preparation delivered by retired Justice Gavara-Nanu. In addition, on-site physical health checkups were provided by the St. John Ambulance team.



Chief Justice, Chief Sir Gibuma Gibbs Salika, Justice Les Gavara-Nanu (ret.), with Judges and their spouses at the Judicial Wellness Program.

Induction of judges for the 3rd quarter of 2025

The Judiciary is pleased to announce the formal induction of four judges during the third quarter of 2025, marking continued progress in strengthening the bench and upholding the rule of law.

Justice Larissa Andelman joined the bench on 31 July 2025.

Justice Mohammed Khan and Justice Rebecca Christensen were inducted on 14 August 2025.

Acting Justice Jeffrey Mesa was inducted on 21 July 2025.

Each of the newly inducted judges brings a wealth of experience and dedication to their respective roles, reinforcing the integrity and capability of the court.

The comprehensive inductions is aimed to familiarize the new judges with the structures, systems, and services essential to the effective functioning of the Judiciary.

The induction program gives an overview of the

“Papua New Guinea Judiciary delivered by Mr. Nichodemus Mosoro, National Judicial Staff (NJSS) Secretary”.

This then was followed by a presentation on the National Court Registry and Sheriff Enforcement, which provided insights into the administrative and enforcement arms of the court system.

Technical briefings on key judicial systems and registries were also presented. These included sessions on the Supreme Court Registry, the Integrated Electronic Case Management System (IECMS), the Case Docketing System (CDS), and the Integrated Criminal Case System Database (ICCSDB).

In addition to the systems and registries, the induction also features presentations from several core operational and support services within the Judiciary. These include the Papua New Guinea Legal Information Network (PngLIN), Court Reporting Services, Court Library Services, Information Technology (IT) Services, Protocol, and Security.

PNGCJE welcomes the Research & Publications manager and Finance officer

The Centre is pleased to welcome two new members to our team:

Mrs. Selen Blehe Guri, who joins us as the new Research and Publications Manager. Mrs. Guri brings a wealth of experience in legal research, and knowledge dissemination.

Her leadership in this role will be instrumental in strengthening our research outputs and supporting the Centre’s mission to promote excellence in the judiciary through informed and evidence-based approaches.

The other new officer is Ms. Mecthild Korere, appointed as the new Finance Officer. Ms. Korere brings with her good financial management skills and accounting.

Her knowledge in accounting and finance will support the Centre’s financial operations and ensure accountability and transparency in the management of resources.

We are excited to have Mrs. Guri and Ms. Korere on board and look forward to their valuable contributions in advancing the goals and programs of PNGCJE.

PNGCJE rolls out training programs for Court Officers in the Provinces



Mr. Peter Michael, Program Officer Magisterial Services facilitating to the officers in Mendi, Southern Highlands.



Ms. Emmah John Program Officer NJSS, facilitating to the officers in Wabag, Enga Province.

The Papua New Guinea Centre for Judicial Excellence (PNGCJE) has conducted and facilitated training programs for the NJSS Court Officers across nine (9) provinces. The training programs were aimed at strengthening the administrative and personal productivity capacities for the National Court, District court staff and Law and Justice Sector agencies. These training programs commenced in February and were delivered in the following provinces: West New Britain (Kimbe), Milne Bay (Alotau), Manus (Lorengau), West Sepik (Vanimo), Western (Daru), Eastern Highlands (Goroka), Simbu (Kundiawa), Southern Highlands (Mendi), and Enga (Wabag), with a combined total of 213 participants.

Mr. Peter Michael, PNGCJE's Program Officer Magisterial Services and lead facilitator said the training programs focused on two core sessions: Effective Time Management & Productivity and Basic IT Training. The Effective Time Management & Productivity training sessions consisted of:

- Time Management;
- 7 Habits of Highly Effective People; and
- Stress Management.

"This training session provides practical tools for managing tasks, prioritizing workloads, and addressing inefficiencies in the workplace," Mr. Michael said. "Importantly, it also focuses on understanding and managing workplace stress to support the mental well-being of our staff."

This training session was facilitated by Ms. Emmah John (PNGCJE Program Officer - NJSS, Ms. Olivia Paru (PNGCJE Executive Officer) who co-facilitated on behalf of Mr. Tongia Kekebogi (PNGCJE Program Officer - Judicial), with Mr. Michael.

The Basic IT Training session, facilitated by Mr. Barry Ludin, PNGCJE's IT Manager focused on strengthening digital skills essential to today's modern court operations. These sessions included:

- Basic IT Support;
- MS PowerPoint;
- MS Teams;
- MS Outlook 365; and
- Zoom meeting applications

"The aim was to improve the digital literacy of court officers so they can confidently use modern tools in court operations," Mr. Michael said. He added that the dual-focus training approach reflects the evolving demands placed on court officers in today's digital, high-pressure environments. "These trainings sessions are not just about skills development; they are more about empowering our staff to manage their time and mental health more effectively in an increasingly digital and fast-paced judicial environment." "These sessions will enable staff to navigate digital tools more efficiently, improving productivity and confidence in technology-driven court processes" Mr. Michael stated. Participants have responded positively to the initiative, describing the sessions as timely, relevant, and impactful and many reported immediate improvements in their day-to-day performance. Mr. Moses Epa, a District Court staff member from Mendi, emphasized the need for such trainings to continue, especially in remote locations. "There needs to be more training like this throughout the district courts, especially in areas like ours that are far from the main centres," he said. "These kinds of programs not only improve how we work, but they also help us manage our daily lives better. It's encouraging and empowering to see that NJSS and PNGCJE are committed to our professional development." Mr. Henry Minape, Assistant Registrar at the Mendi National Court, also expressed his appreciation, adding that these trainings are essential for the efficient and effective functioning of the courts. Mr. Micheal and his team will conduct and facilitate more trainings to cover other provincial court centres to ensure all court staff through out the country participate and benefit from the training programs.

NJSS staff mark International Judicial Well-Being Day

Staff from the National Judicial Staff Services (NJSS) gathered today at the Waigani Supreme and National Court premises to commemorate International Judicial Well-Being Day, joining courts across the country in highlighting the vital role of wellness in the justice system.

The event was officially opened by Mrs. Stacey Levakia-Wali, Assistant Director and Program Officer of the Papua New Guinea Centre for Judicial Excellence (PNGCJE). In her address, she underscored the importance of supporting the health and well-being of all who serve within the judiciary. "Inspired by the 2024 Nauru Declaration on Judicial Well-being, the judiciary recognises that judicial work is demanding and that addressing stress and mental health is essential, not a weakness," said Mrs. Levakia-Wali. "This day underscores the need to support everyone involved in the justice system, from courtroom to administrative offices." She noted that wellness activities were taking place simultaneously across all provincial courthouses, reflecting a unified and ongoing commitment to building safe, respectful, and

supportive work environments throughout the PNG judiciary.

"Promoting wellness is crucial to ensuring fairness, competence, and public trust in the courts," she added. As part of the day's program, Pacific International Hospital (PIH) partnered with NJSS to provide on-site health screenings. A team of three doctors and three nurses from PIH conducted free health checks for NJSS staff, including blood pressure monitoring, blood tests, and weight assessments. Staff were also able to consult directly with the doctors on site. The event featured informative health talks, with Dr. Ludwig P. Nanawar presenting on "Work-Life Balance", and Dr. Steven Yennie from Rainbow PIH sharing insights on "Secrets to Healthy Living." Each presentation concluded with an engaging question-and-answer session, allowing staff to interact directly with the speakers. NJSS staff expressed their appreciation for the initiative, many noting that it was the first event of its kind held for them. The PNGCJE program officers confirmed that this will now become an annual event, reaffirming the judiciary's long-term commitment to staff well-being.



Staff of NJSS lining up for a health check-up done by the Pacific International Hospital.

PNGCJE and UPNG host the Sir Buri Kidu Lecture Series



Participants of the Sir Buri Kidu Lecture Series.



Back Row (L-R) Justice Vergil Narokobi, Justice Peter Tokilen, Justice Joseph Crowley.
(Front Row L-R) Professor Sam Kaipu, Executive Dean, SOL UPNG, Justice Panuel Mogish, Deputy Chief Justice Ambeng Kandakasi, Dr Alfred Chan, Vice President of Hong Kong Mediation Centre, Justice Iova Geita, Sumasy Singin, Lecturer SOL UPNG.

The Papua New Guinea Centre for Judicial Excellence (PNGCJE), in partnership with the University of Papua New Guinea School of Law (UPNG SOL), recently organized the latest edition of the Sir Buri Kidu Lecture Series. This initiative aims to promote national dialogue on key issues such as constitutionalism, governance, and the rule of law. Established in honor of Sir Buri Kidu, Papua New Guinea's first indigenous Chief Justice, the lecture series provides a platform for scholarly engagement and discussion on matters critical to the country's legal and constitutional development. Since its inception, the series has contributed significantly to fostering legal awareness and judicial excellence within the nation. This year's series featured distinguished legal scholars, including Dr. Bal Kama, a renowned constitutional law expert, and Dr. Alfred Chan, Vice President of the Hong Kong Mediation Centre. Their presentations underscored the evolving role of the judiciary in Papua New Guinea and highlighted the expanding significance of mediation in both domestic and international legal contexts. In April, Dr. Kama, a Special Counsel in Legal Practice and Adjunct Assistant Professor at the University of Canberra's Faculty of Business, Government and Law, delivered a lecture titled: "Rethinking Judicial Power in PNG: 50 Years Under an Autochthonous Constitution." His address examined the development of the judiciary within the framework of Papua New Guinea's indigenous constitutional system, advocating for a more transformative and responsive interpretation of judicial authority. In June, the series continued with a presentation by Dr. Alfred Chan, Vice President of the Hong Kong Mediation Centre and co-founder of multiple international dispute resolution initiatives. His lecture, titled:

"Bridging Paths: Navigating the Art and Science of Mediation to Foster Trust and Trade Across Borders," focused on the importance of mediation in dispute resolution, emphasizing its role in building trust, facilitating cooperation, and promoting international trade. During the second lecture, the Acting Chief Justice, Hon. Ambeng Kandakasi, delivered opening remarks emphasizing the growing importance of mediation and alternative dispute resolution (ADR) in Papua New Guinea's justice system. Justice Kandakasi highlighted the need to shift from adversarial approaches towards collaborative mechanisms that better serve communities, reduce court congestion, and restore relationships. Each lecture was followed by a moderated panel discussion involving guest speakers, academics, and legal practitioners.

These sessions provided opportunities for interactive dialogue, allowing participants to ask questions and engage in meaningful exchanges on complex legal issues. The Sir Buri Kidu Lecture Series functions as an important educational platform with the objectives to:

- Broaden exposure to advanced legal thought and practice;
- Promote judicial excellence aligned with the constitutional identity of Papua New Guinea;
- Facilitate dialogue and networking among students, academics, and members of the judiciary.

Since 2010, PNGCJE and UPNG Law School have collaborated to bridge theoretical legal knowledge with practical application, strengthening the university's role as a centre for legal scholarship and leadership within the Pacific region.

Centre hosts CLE seminar in partnership with Regional and International Legal bodies



Participants at the CLE Seminar.

The Papua New Guinea Centre for Judicial Excellence (PNGCJE), in collaboration with the Commonwealth Lawyers Association and the Papua New Guinea Law Society, successfully hosted the PNG Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Seminar on 5 September 2025 in Port Moresby.

The event received significant support from the Bar Association of Queensland, the PNG-Australia Partnership, the Mineral Resources Authority, and the PNG Women Lawyers Association. The seminar brought together a distinguished group of participants, including Her Excellency Winnie Kiap, Chair of the Commonwealth Foundation; Chief Justice Sir Gibbs Salika GCL KBE CSM OBE; Deputy Chief Justice Ambeng Kandakasi; members of the judiciary from Papua New Guinea and Australia; senior representatives of the PNG Law Society; legal practitioners; students from the Legal Training Institute (LTI); and barristers from the Queensland Bar. The agenda featured a broad range of timely and critical topics, including:

- The new Mining Bill;
- Natural resources law and biodiversity protection;
- Courtroom advice for young lawyers;
- The role of artificial intelligence (AI) in the judiciary and legal practice;
- The Commonwealth Latimer House Principles and the

separation of powers;

- The establishment of an independent referral bar in PNG;
- Readiness for an independent Bar Association;
- Updates from PaCLII;
- Developments in Law Society member benefits and its new website; and
- The introduction of compulsory CLE in PNG.

A notable highlight of the event was the presentation by Mr. Hubert Namani, President of the PNG Law Society, titled “CLE in PNG – Has the Time Come?” Mr. Namani, together with Mr. Tauvasa Tanuvasa, Acting Secretary Papua New Guinea Law Society formally announced the phased implementation of compulsory Continuing Legal Education for all legal practitioners in Papua New Guinea.

Under this new initiative, lawyers will enter a transitional period from now through to the end of 2026. From 2027 onwards, all practising lawyers in PNG will be required to complete a minimum of 10 hours of CLE annually to maintain their practising certificates.

This announcement was made during a special session chaired by Chief Justice Sir Gibbs Salika and co-chaired by Mr. Andre Crowe CBE KC of the Queensland Bar. The session was also broadcast live online, further extending the reach of the seminar.



Pictorial of WNCC Opening





About the PNG Centre for Judicial Excellence

THE Papua New Guinea Centre for Judicial Excellence (PNGCJE) coordinates judicial education and training for Papua New Guinea Judiciary, Magisterial Services, and Law and Justice Sector agencies. The purpose of the Centre is to facilitate and coordinate structured professional training to all judicial officers, court officers, and officers of the law and justice sector to help improve the delivery of judicial services to the people.

The PNGCJE has been involved in various activities and programs in 2024 aimed at promoting court excellence and improving access to justice. The Centre also offered a variety of programs and assisted conferences including the Asia Pacific Mediation Forum, Advanced Mediation Skills Training, Protocol training, Fraud and Corruption workshops, Judicial Wellness Program, Financial Literacy, and Customer Service.

The PNGCJE was established in 2010 under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) entered between the Chief Justice of the PNG Supreme and National Courts, the Chief Magistrate and the Secretary for the Department of Justice and Attorney General.

Key Objectives for the Establishment of PNGCJE

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

Our Core Values

The core values that underpin the professional development activities of PNGCJE are:

- Excellence in the professional integrity and competence of Judicial officers and Court staff;
- Excellence in dispensation of justice by the Courts according to international best practices;
- High level of competency, skills and experiences of Judicial officers and Court staff;
- Maintenance of democracy, good governance and the Rule of Law by the judiciary.



2025

Third Quarter Newsletter

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