



PNGCJE NEWSLETTER

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Judges strengthen arbitration capacity at judicial colloquium



(From front L-R) Ms. Jo Delaney, Hon. Kevin Lindgren AM KC, Mr. Said Zaidansyah, Chief Justice Chief Sir Gibuma Gibbs Salika GCL KBE CSM OBE, Deputy Chief Justice Justice Ambeng Kandakasi GCL CBE, Ms. Penny Morton, and Mr. Daniel Melts AM, pictured alongside Judges from the Supreme and National Courts of Papua New Guinea during the first Judicial Colloquium on Domestic and International Arbitration held in Port Moresby.

Twenty-six (26) Judges of the Supreme and National Courts of Papua New Guinea have successfully completed a two-day Judicial Colloquium on International and Domestic Arbitration, held from 21–22 May 2025.

The event, hosted by the Papua New Guinea Centre for Judicial Excellence (PNGCJE) with support from the Government of Australia and the Asian Development Bank's Pacific Private Sector Development Initiative (PSDI), marks a major milestone in modernising PNG's dispute resolution framework. Chief Justice Sir Gibuma Gibbs Salika GCL KBE CSM OBE opened the colloquium, highlighting its role in deepening judicial understanding of the recently enacted Arbitration (International) Act 2024 and Arbitration (Domestic) Act 2024. "The new legislation aligns PNG with international standards and

supports fair and efficient resolution of commercial disputes," he said. ADB Country Director Mr. Said Zaidansyah emphasised the importance of effective implementation, noting arbitration as key to boosting investor confidence and easing pressure on the courts. Australian High Commission Minister Counsellor Ms. Penny Morton echoed this, calling the new laws "clear and predictable mechanisms essential for business confidence." Deputy Chief Justice Ambeng Kandakasi GCL CBE reinforced the judiciary's vital role: "We must understand the globally accepted principles of arbitration to ensure consistency and fairness in our rulings." Through expert-led sessions and interactive discussions, the colloquium provided judges with the tools and knowledge to confidently apply PNG's modern arbitration laws, paving the way for a stronger, more accessible dispute resolution system.

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PNGCJE delivers basic mediation skills training program for 2025

The Papua New Guinea Centre for Judicial Excellence (PNGCJE), in collaboration with the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Division, has successfully concluded a three-week Basic Mediation Skills Training (BMST) program. Held from March 17 to April 3, 2025, at the National and Supreme Court premises in Waigani, the program brought together 35 participants from diverse sectors, aiming to enhance mediation capabilities and foster effective dispute resolution across Papua New Guinea (PNG). The training program was led by an expert team of trainers from Risk Response Engage Design (RRED) and Mediation Pacific. Messrs. Andrew Kwimberi, Craig Jones and Bradley Chenoweth were the key facilitators for the training.

They were supported by experienced coaches including Ms. Jean Kila-Kalamo, Ms. Lanna Assaigo, Mr. Mark Selefkarriu, and Ms. Rachael A. Maniet, and Justice John Carey, and assisted by Deputy Chief Magistrate Josephine Kilage and Mr. Hughes Mileng who were Assistant coaches. The training style in using coaches greatly assisted participants to have practical training experiences which added depth and professional insight to the learning environment.

Delivered in two cohorts, the first group of 14 participants completed their sessions from March 17 to 21, with practical exercises held on March 31 and accreditation assessments on April 1. The second cohort of 21 participants underwent training from March 24 to 28, followed by practical sessions on April 2 and final accreditation assessments on April 3. The BMST program provided an exploration of core mediation principles and techniques, focusing on both theoretical understanding and practical application. Key components of the training included:

- Understanding conflict: causes, dynamics, and resolution

strategies, practical application to a personal case study;

- Overview of mediation - definition, purpose, and process. A description of Mediation models and the role and responsibilities of a mediator;

- Reference to core mediation skills: active listening, neutrality, and empathy, questioning, reframing, option generation, reality testing with supplementary practical activities to extend these skills;

- The mediation process demonstrated, step-by-step, by modelling with discussion of each of the specific stages;

- Mediation simulation and debriefs included discussion of effective communication in mediation, verbal and non-verbal communication, and skills and techniques mentioned above;

- Further discussions included the handling of emotions and difficult participants; power imbalances in mediation (cultural, financial, psychological); ethics; confidentiality; engaging interest-based negotiation in mediation; generating and evaluating options; managing impasses and overcoming deadlock;

- Participation in 7 mediation simulations with self-reflection, discussion with coach; and feedback on issues, gaps, observations;

- A presentation by Judge Wood on the legal context for mediation in PNG; and

- A presentation by ADR Registrar Jean Kalamo on PNG administrative arrangements for mediation. The final week of the program was dedicated to practical simulations and accreditation assessments, ensuring participants demonstrated competency in applying facilitative mediation skills in real-world scenarios. This session marked the first BMST of 2025, with a second session scheduled for November in Lae, Morobe Province, further expanding PNGCJE's commitment to providing access to justice by increasing mediation capacity and promoting effective dispute resolution nationwide.



Deputy Chief Justice Ambeng Kandakasi CBE speaking to the BMST participants.



BMST participants discussing in groups.



Facilitators and Court Officers from PNG and the Pacific who attended the Fraud and Corruption workshop in Port Moresby.

PCJE leads regional workshop on fraud and corruption case management

The Pacific Centre for Judicial Excellence (PCJE) hosted a landmark three-day workshop which focused on strengthening regional capacity to manage and report on fraud and corruption cases. The event commenced on 14 May and concluded on 16 May in Port Moresby. Supported by the Australian-PNG Law and Justice (APLJ) Program, this specialized training builds on the strong foundation of the Pacific Judicial Integrity Program (PJIP) and in partnership with PNGCJE/PCJE which has advanced court officers' capacity-building across the Pacific. The workshop was opened by the Australian High Commission Counsellor for Law and Justice Ms Tessa Phluekhann who thanked the PNGCJE and PCJE for hosting the workshop and praised the dedication of participants and reaffirmed Australia's ongoing commitment to regional justice initiatives. "This workshop is a testament to the strong and enduring partnerships between PNG, Australia, and our Pacific neighbours. Together, we continue to work towards robust legal systems across the region," said Ms Phluekhann. The workshop was designed by Registrars from Australia, Assistant Registrars from PNG and tailored to address key aspects of fraud and corruption case management, including ethical practices, evidence handling, data security, and personnel wellbeing.

The workshop also emphasizes peer learning and regional collaboration through shared experiences and presentations. In delivering the opening remarks, Mrs. Stacey Levakia-Wali, Assistant Director of the Papua New Guinea Centre for Judicial Excellence (PNGCJE) and Program Officer for PCJE, welcomed

the international participants representing various Pacific Island nations and the 31 participants from the provincial registries. "The PCJE was established through a Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Chief Justices of 15 Pacific Island Nations: Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu in recognizing the need for regional collaboration in comprehensive judicial education and training for Judges/Magistrates/Court Officers and professionals in the Law and Justice Sector.

"This workshop marks a significant step forward in addressing fraud and corruption in the region, and we are proud to lead this effort," Mrs. Levakia-Wali said. The workshop serves as an invaluable forum for sharing best practices, experiences, and resources. The aim of which is to enhance the participants skills and broaden their knowledge in managing and reporting on fraud and corruption offences. Mr. Ian Augerea, Registrar of the National and Supreme Court of Papua New Guinea, commended PNGCJE and PCJE for their leadership.

"This workshop is a milestone, as it is the first time PCJE is hosting such an event in PNG. Fraud and corruption are serious threats to society, and building our capacity to address these challenges is vital," Mr. Augerea said. He encouraged participants to absorb the knowledge and return to their jurisdictions as change agents, "and ask yourself, 'What is my role from now onwards in the fight against fraud and corruption?'" The workshop was coordinated by Ms Arabella Owen, PCJE Program Officer responsible for Court Officer for the Pacific Islands.

PNGCJE hosts two-day juvenile justice workshop for judges



Judges who attended the Juvenile Justice workshop in Port Moresby.

The PNG Centre for Judicial Excellence (PNGCJE) hosted a two-day Juvenile Justice workshop for Judges from 5 - 6 May 2025, bringing together judges, legal experts, and key justice stakeholders to review and strengthen judicial approaches to juvenile justice across the country.

The first day of the workshop commenced on Monday, 5 May, with an in-depth session led by Justice Teresa Berrigan on the Juvenile Justice Act, outlining its objectives, the National Court's role, and the workshop's overarching goals. Key areas of focus included the importance of consistent application of the Act and a review of prior workshop resolutions.

Justice Laura Wawun-Kuvi presented on Criminal Proceedings: First Appearance and Bail, detailing procedural requirements and the responsibilities of court registries.

The mid-morning session addressed plea, trial, and sentencing processes with Justices Berrigan, Justice Iova Geita, and Justice John Kaumi highlighting practical procedures, core legal principles, and case-based challenges.

The afternoon featured group discussions and collaborative report-backs on sentencing checklists and sentencing outlines,

contributing to more uniform judicial practices in youth cases.

The second day of the workshop commenced with a session led by Justice Vergil Narokobi and Justice Wawun-Kuvi on broader National Court responsibilities, such as addressing human rights claims, civil actions, sentencing reviews, and institutional inspections.

A major highlight was the Juvenile Justice Committee Report, presented by Chairman Mr. Nichodemus Mosoro and Director Colin Sakap, detailing significant developments in rehabilitation and reintegration programs, facility operations, and national juvenile justice statistics.

The session also welcomed contributions from:

- Leslie Mamu, Public Solicitor;
- Raphael Luman, Acting Public Prosecutor;
- Josephine Kilage, Deputy Chief Magistrate; and
- OIC of Bomana Training College.

The workshop concluded with a discussion on resolutions, focusing on continued collaboration, consistent judicial practices, and improvements to the juvenile justice system.

PNGCJE and UNDP strengthen legal sector's role in anti-corruption and human rights workshop



Participants of the workshop.

The Papua New Guinea Centre for Judicial Excellence (PNGCJE), in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), successfully delivered a specialized workshop on May 6, 2025, aimed at empowering legal practitioners in the fight against fraud and corruption while promoting and protecting human rights.

The workshop was conducted under the UNDP's PNG anti-corruption Project, with generous funding support from the European Union.

Mrs. Stacey-Lavakia-Wali, PNGCJE Assistant Director and Program Officer for Judicial Sector Pacific Countries, in her opening remarks highlighted the importance of collaborative efforts in advancing good governance and sustainable development. "Together, we aim to contribute meaningful progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals for all Papua New Guineans.

Although PNG has enacted key legislation such as the Whistleblowers Act 2020, further work is needed to strengthen these legal frameworks. Legal practitioners play a critical role in ensuring these laws are ethically applied, reinforcing both institutional and personal integrity," said Mrs. Lavakia-Wali.

The workshop was facilitated by Mr. Drago Kos, UNDP Consultant and international expert on anti-corruption and governance. Mr. Kos led discussions on the interconnection between human rights and corruption, focusing on the legal profession's responsibility in addressing both.

Topics covered included:

1. The concept of human rights versus corruption;
2. Corruption's impact on human rights;
3. Integrating human rights into anti-corruption efforts; and
4. The role of legal professionals in defending human rights through legal proceedings.

Ms. Belinda Hughes, Executive Director of Legal at the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC), also presented an overview of ICAC's mandate and legislative framework.

Mrs. Rakana Varage Manoka Executive Officer to the Chambers of Justice John Carey shared her experience, stating, "The training was very informative. Often, decisions made or actions taken by individuals in the workplace are corruption-related without them even realizing it. This training helped shed light on those grey areas."

The session not only raised awareness about ethical practices but also provided practical tools to improve workplace procedures. "The training has equipped me with the knowledge and skills to develop more effective procedures to maximize. Too many procedures can sometimes cause unnecessary stress and reduce productivity. This training helped me see how to streamline processes without compromising integrity," she said.

Ms. Natasha Aiwara, one of the participants, described the training as both informative and engaging.

"The workshop provided a valuable opportunity for us to share our experiences and discuss the legal practices and human rights obligations that apply in Papua New Guinea, emphasizing the importance of open dialogue in strengthening court officers' understanding of their roles," she said.

Ms. Aiwara expressed strong support for ongoing professional development, stating that more trainings of this nature should be conducted regularly for court staff and legal practitioners to enhance their knowledge and effectiveness in upholding legal and human rights standards.

The session concluded with an interactive discussion on aligning legal practice with national anti-corruption strategies and human rights obligations.



Mr. Drago Kos speaking during the human rights and anti-corruption workshop.

PNGCJE collaborates with UNDP to train court officers on Human Rights and Anti-Corruption

The PNG Centre for Judicial Excellence (PNGCJE) in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and funded by the European Union delivered a training workshop aimed at raising awareness of the harmful impact of corruption on human rights and the critical responsibility of court staff in safeguarding judicial integrity.

The training was attended by Court officers in Port Moresby and designed to strengthen their role in preventing and addressing corruption, while upholding human rights in legal proceedings. The workshop was delivered under the Preventing and Countering Corruption in Papua New Guinea Project (PNG Anti-Corruption Project), funded by the European Union and jointly implemented by the UNDP and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). This initiative is part of the broader EU-PNG Partnership for Good Governance Programme.

International anti-corruption expert and UNDP Consultant, Mr. Drago Kos guided participants through key topics including:

- The concept of human rights vs. corruption;
- The impact of corruption on human rights;
- The importance of protecting rights within anti-corruption efforts;
- Human rights in legal proceedings; and
- Aligning legal processes with the dual goals of justice and anti-corruption.

Additional input was provided by representative Ms. Belinda Hughes, Executive Director of Legal at the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC), who presented the Commission's mandate and core legislation.

The workshop featured interactive presentations, case studies, group discussions, and practical exercises and builds on previous sessions held in 2024, continuing the PNG Anti-Corruption Project's work with the judiciary, lawyers, and court officials.

Ms. Susie Vaieke, Program Officer at the Pacific Centre for Judicial Excellence, noted that the workshop helped court officers recognize the importance of aligning administrative and procedural duties with principles of fairness, transparency, and accountability.

"Overall, the feedback indicates that the workshop successfully met its objectives of raising awareness about the impact of corruption on human rights and reinforcing the responsibility of court staff in safeguarding judicial integrity," she said.

The aim of the workshop was to ensure participants develop a much deeper understanding of the legal nature of corruption and human rights, the harm caused by corruption, and practical strategies to ensure there is a balance between combating corruption and protecting the rights of all legal stakeholders.

Judges enhance judicial efficiency through case management workshop

In a strong show of commitment to judicial excellence, twenty-five Judges from Papua New Guinea's Supreme and National Courts successfully completed a two-day Case Management Workshop in Port Moresby from 21–22 May 2025.

The workshop was organised by the Papua New Guinea Centre for Judicial Excellence (PNGCJE) and facilitated by the Hon. Justice David Campbell, a senior United States District judge for the district of Arizona. Justice Campbell is internationally recognised for his expertise in judicial case management, with over 21 years of experience on the bench. It was designed to enhance access to justice by strengthening judicial practices in case management. It will bring together judges from across the country to engage in in-depth sessions focused on best practices, technology integration, trial planning, judgment writing, and judicial integrity. Hon. Justice David Cannings, CBE in his opening remarks, emphasised the importance of effective case management within the judiciary. "We have many cases and we need to manage those cases," he said. "I have been a judge for 20 years, and this is the first time I have participated in a dedicated session on case management. It is

essential to the way we carry out our work," Justice Cannings said. Justice Cannings acknowledged that while all judges have their own methods of managing caseloads, they are not always the most efficient. "Judge Campbell will share valuable insights, knowledge, and techniques he has developed throughout his distinguished career. We are all eager to learn from his experience," Justice Cannings said. The case management workshop covered a range of critical topics aimed at enhancing judicial performance and strengthening the administration of justice.

Sessions facilitated by Justice Campbell included:

- Case assignment and managing case progress;
- Trial planning and preparation;
- Group discussions on practical scenarios;
- Judicial independence and integrity;
- The use of technology in case management;
- Writing judgments clearly and promptly;
- Judicial performance targets and monitoring; and
- Accountability and performance improvement.

The workshop provided participating judges with practical tools and strategies to enhance case flow, reduce delays, and improve the overall delivery of justice in Papua New Guinea.



Front row, second from right: Lead Facilitator Hon. Justice David Campbell alongside his wife, Mrs. Stacey Campbell, pictured with participating judges of the two-day Case Management workshop.



Front row, from left to right: Ms. Zoe Pelter, Ms. Vali Kila, Dr. Alma Sedlar UNDP Chief Technical Advisor on Anti-corruption, Mrs. Stacey Levakia-Wali PNGCJE Assistant Director and Pacific Islands Program Officer, and Mrs. Angela Paranda LTI Acting Director together with the participating LTI students.

PNGCJE and UNDP host anti-corruption workshop

The Papua New Guinea Centre for Judicial Excellence (PNGCJE) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) co-organised a one-day workshop on 27 May 2025 aimed at empowering students of the Legal Training Institute (LTI) to actively engage in anti-corruption efforts while upholding human rights in legal proceedings. The workshop was held under the Preventing and Countering Corruption in Papua New Guinea Project (PNG Anti-Corruption Project), funded by the European Union and jointly implemented by UNDP and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). This initiative forms part of the broader EU-PNG Partnership for Good Governance Programme.

Ms. Vali Kila, Program Officer for the Law and Justice Sector Agencies, in her opening remarks, emphasised PNGCJE's commitment to supporting anti-corruption efforts through education and capacity building. "The fight against corruption is a critical priority in PNG, and capacity building in this area is essential for fostering integrity, transparency, and accountability across all sectors of our society.

This workshop aims to equip you with the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively understand and address issues related to anti-corruption efforts," said Ms. Kila. Ms. Kila also highlighted the PNGCJE's role in delivering training programs that enhance competence and professionalism within the legal and judicial sector. She encouraged participants to engage fully, stating:

"Your participation today reflects your commitment to upholding integrity and advancing anti-corruption initiatives in your respective roles".

Ms. Zoe Pelter, UNDP Assistant Resident Representative – Governance, also attended the workshop, reinforcing the importance of building future legal leaders who are equipped to challenge corruption and promote justice. The workshop featured interactive sessions, including expert presentations, case studies, group discussions, and practical exercises. Key topics were delivered by Dr. Alma Sedlar, UNDP Chief Technical Advisor on anti-corruption, and included:

- Global situation in the fight against corruption;
- Features of the current and future PNG anti-corruption system;
- The concept of human rights vs the concept of corruption;
- Influence of corruption on human rights; and
- Importance of preserving human rights in anti-corruption theory and practice;
- Human rights in legal proceedings;
- How to ensure the best possible alignment of legal proceedings with the needs of fighting corruption and protecting the human rights?

Additional insights were shared by representative Ms. Belinda Hughes, Executive Director of Legal at the PNG Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC), who presented on the Commission's mandate and core legislation.



Ms. Vali Kila Program Officer Law and Justice Sector.



Dr. Alma Sedlar Chief Technical Advisor on Anti-corruption, UNDP.

PNGCJE promotes legal integrity with ethics CLE seminar



Participants of the CLE Seminar.



Participants of the CLE Seminar.



Mr. Julian Ensbeys speaking during the CLE.

The Papua New Guinea Centre for Judicial Excellence (PNGCJE), in partnership with the PNG Law Society (PNGLS), the Department of Justice and Attorney General (DJAG), and the Australian Government Solicitor (AGS), recently hosted a successfully Continuing Legal Education (CLE) seminar focused on “Legal Ethics and Professional Responsibility.” The seminar, delivered by Mr. Julian Ensbeys, Senior Executive Lawyer at AGS, brought together legal professionals to explore the critical importance of ethical conduct in the legal profession. Mr. Ensbeys, has extensive experience in public law, judicial review, and national security matters, led an engaging and thought-provoking session using real-world case studies from Australia and other jurisdictions to illustrate ethical dilemmas lawyers face in practice.

The event underscored the unique role that ethics play in distinguishing the legal profession and emphasized the importance

of understanding the formal rules of conduct and reflecting on their responsibilities as a lawyers.

Participants shared insights and engaged in open discussions about the complex challenges lawyers encounter, particularly regarding ethical standards and combating corruption. Senior members from the profession were able to gain invaluable insights and different perspectives on practical advice from the presentation. As part of PNGCJE’s ongoing mission to promote judicial excellence and uphold the rule of law, this CLE seminar served as a vital platform for legal professionals to enhance their knowledge, maintain professional competence, and reinforce their commitment to integrity and accountability. CLE programs are an essential component of professional development, helping lawyers stay up-to-date with legal developments, hone their skills, and uphold the high standards expected by the profession and the communities they serve.



Judges from the Supreme and National Courts of Papua New Guinea who participated in the Latimer House Principles Symposium.

The PNGCJE and Commonwealth Secretariat host Latimer House Principles Symposium for Judges

The Papua New Guinea Centre for Judicial Excellence (PNGCJE) and Commonwealth Secretariat held a two-day symposium on the Latimer House Principles on June 19-20, 2025. The Symposium for Judges from the National and Supreme Courts of Papua New Guinea addressed the separation of powers doctrine, independence of the Judiciary, accountability mechanisms, ethical governance and supporting the rule of law. Delivering the Welcome remarks, Hon. Justice John Carey, PNGCJE Judge Administrator, spoke of the significance of the event, highlighting its role as an essential platform for dialogue and exchange of ideas among judicial colleagues. He noted, "This symposium reflects our shared commitment to advancing judicial education throughout the Pacific region and the wider Commonwealth. By partnering with the Commonwealth Secretariat, we are reinforcing our dedication to strengthening good governance, upholding the rule of law, and ensuring judicial independence." He also emphasized the critical importance of self-reflection on the part of the judiciary to ensure the ongoing adherence to the Latimer House Principles. These principles, focused on fostering transparency, accountability, and balance between the Executive, Legislature, and Judiciary, are integral to maintaining a healthy democracy. Dr. Elizabeth Macharia, Commonwealth Head of Rule of Law, also addressed the symposium, underscoring the significance of the Latimer House Principles in advancing democratic values. She indicated the importance of strengthening judicial cooperation across the Commonwealth, noting that the exchange of

ideas and best practices, especially in regional contexts contributes significantly to the overall improvement of judicial systems worldwide.

Hon. Justice David Cannings CBE addressing the symposium on behalf of the Chief Justice Sir Gibuma Gibbs Salika, GCL, KBE, CSM, OBE further reaffirmed the importance of the Latimer House Principles. He stated that principles, adopted in 2003 after extensive collaboration among Commonwealth legal and parliamentary bodies, serve as the cornerstone for ensuring the separation of powers, mutual respect, and cooperation between the Executive, Legislature, and Judiciary. Justice Cannings acknowledged Papua New Guinea's strong constitutional framework that guarantees an independent judiciary, free and fair elections, and the protection of human rights. He also highlighted the continuing need for reflection on how the judiciary can adapt to the evolving needs of democratic societies. "This symposium is a space for open dialogue and introspection," he said. "It is an opportunity for us to discuss critical issues such as improving access to justice, ensuring socially responsive judgments, and strengthening judicial ethics in the context of a rapidly changing global landscape." The successful two-day symposium on the Latimer House Principles, was led by Hon. Justice Oagile Key Dingake, Hon. Justice Vergil Narakobi and Hon. Justice John Carey. The expertise and leadership of all of the Judges ensured comprehensive and engaging dialogue, focusing on how the Latimer House Principles can be further integrated into judicial practices across the Pacific region.

Strengthening advocacy skills with our Pacific neighbours



Victorian Bar President Justin Hannebery KC (front row, centre), Stacey Levakia-Wali, Assistant Director and Program Officer for Judicial Officers with the PNG Centre for Judicial Excellence (front row, third from left) and International Advocacy Training Committee Chair Peter O'Farrell (front row, third from right) are pictured with all 17 participants and some of the Bar's volunteer mentors at the start of the Train the Trainer two-week program in Melbourne.

Seventeen senior lawyers from the Pacific region took part in an intensive “Train the Trainer” program, led by some of Victoria’s most experienced barristers. This unique two-week program was held in Melbourne for the second time and is designed to build advocacy skills that will assist the lawyers in future court appearances. It will also equip them to teach advocacy to junior lawyers and law students in their home countries. The program comprises shadowing and mentoring sessions with specialist advocacy trainers and barristers, as well as courtroom observation days, including briefings with judicial officers. All barristers and judiciary members are volunteers. Participants are from a diverse range of legal backgrounds, spanning many areas across civil and criminal law.

There were 13 delegates from Papua New Guinea, two delegates from Vanuatu and one delegate each from Fiji and Samoa. At the opening ceremony the Victorian Bar President Justin Hannebery KC said the Bar was proud of its advocacy training program. He said good advocacy was at the core of the Bar’s values. “Improving access to a system of law in a just and fair society is something we all aspire to,” he said. “Advocacy is a constant learning experience, and I hope this program provides participants with a rewarding experience.” Peter O’Farrell KC, Chair of the Victorian Bar’s International Advocacy Training Committee (IATC), said the participants had all been chosen by their countries as the next generation of leaders. “This is the second year of the program following the

initial one, which was a great success,” Mr O’Farrell said. “The goal is to build capacity in advocacy training in the Pacific.” Mr O’Farrell KC said it was the IATC’s hope that in five years’ time, 100 lawyers from Pacific Nations would have completed the program to build a cohort of lawyers across the Pacific teaching advocacy to junior lawyers, law students and the profession in their home countries. Stacey Levakia-Wali, who is the Assistant Director and Program Officer for judicial officers with the Pacific Centre for Judicial Excellence, attended as a participant in the inaugural program last year. She said the outcomes of the program varied for each participant. “In Papua New Guinea, the aim over the next five years is to establish a local team of advocacy trainers to teach local students at the Legal Training Institute in criminal and civil advocacy,” she said. For 40 years, members of the Victorian Bar and judiciary have assisted the legal profession in the Pacific by providing advocacy training to lawyers. It builds on Australia and New Zealand’s long-standing support for the rule of law and effective administration of justice in the Pacific since the 1980s. This year, the Victorian Bar has partnered with the Papua New Guinea Centre for Judicial Excellence, the Pacific Centre for Judicial Excellence, the Pacific Justice Sector Program, the Australia-Papua New Guinea Law and Justice Partnership, the Australia Government’s Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the New Zealand Government to deliver the program.