



PNGCJE

THIRD QUARTER

Newsletter

JULY - SEPTEMBER, 2026

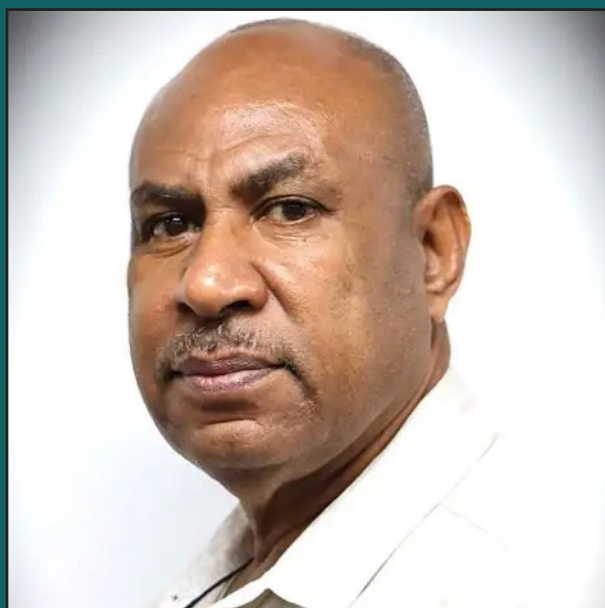


2027 CONFERENCES

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE •
- FEBRUARY 2027

COMMONWEALTH MAGISTRATES AND JUDGES ASSOCIATION •
- SEPTEMBER 2027

Note from the Deputy Executive Director



Papua New Guinea Centre for Judicial Excellence Deputy Executive Director, Mr Nicholas Mirou

The third quarter of 2026 has been marked by a strong programme of professional development, collaboration and knowledge sharing across the judiciary and legal profession. Through its education, training and outreach initiatives, the Papua New Guinea Centre for Judicial Excellence (PNGCJE) has continued to promote judicial excellence, strengthen institutional capability and support the effective administration of justice throughout Papua New Guinea.

During the quarter, PNGCJE successfully delivered a range of significant activities, including the LAWASIA Environmental Law Conference, Continuing Legal Education programmes, Judicial Wellness initiatives, International Judicial Well-Being Day activities, Effective Time Management training, and workshops on the Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct and Judicial Integrity and Responses to Gender-Based Violence. The Centre also conducted specialised programmes in Judgment Writing and Editing, supported the Sir Buri Kidu Lecture Series, and welcomed Professor Mary Keyes, whose visit contributed to valuable professional exchange and learning opportunities.

Our partnership with the University of Papua New Guinea School of Law continued to develop through the PNGCJE Guest Lecture

Series. Distinguished members of the judiciary, including Justice Nicholas Cooper, Justice Larissa Andelman, Justice Teresa Berrigan and Justice John G.F. Carey, shared their professional experience and expertise with law students on contemporary legal issues, judicial practice and career development. These engagements continue to strengthen the connection between legal education and the administration of justice while encouraging the next generation of legal professionals.

The achievements of this quarter reflect the dedication, professionalism and collective efforts of our judges, facilitators, staff, partners and stakeholders. Their commitment to judicial education and institutional excellence remains central to the advancement of a competent, independent and trusted judiciary.

On behalf of PNGCJE, I extend my sincere appreciation to all who have contributed to the success of our programmes and initiatives during this period. As we approach the final quarter of the year, we remain focused on strengthening professional capability, fostering innovation and supporting a judiciary that serves the people of Papua New Guinea with integrity, excellence and distinction.

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PNG takes centre stage in global Environmental Law Conference

Papua New Guinea proudly hosted the LAWASIA Environmental Law Conference 2026 from 19–21 August at APEC Haus, Port Moresby. Delegates from across the Asia-Pacific, Africa, Europe and the Americas gathered to address climate change, environmental governance, sustainable development and the rule of law. The event was jointly hosted by LAWASIA, the Papua New Guinea Centre for Judicial Excellence (PNGCJE) and the Papua New Guinea Law Society, with support from the South Pacific Lawyers' Association and the Commonwealth Lawyers Association.

The conference opened on 20 August with remarks from Mr Teong Liang Yap, Chief Justice Sir Gibuma Gibbs Salika, Mr Hubert Namani and Mr Steven Thiru. Hon. Deputy Chief Justice Ambeng Kandakasi delivered a keynote address highlighting the importance of the Environmental Rule of Law. Over three days, sessions explored environmental governance, dispute resolution, judicial capacity building and responses to emerging threats. Distinguished speakers included judges, lawyers and academics from Papua New Guinea, Australia, India, Fiji, Malaysia, Kenya, Guyana, the United Kingdom, Brazil and other jurisdictions.

The conference concluded with a keynote by Hon. Justice Antonio H. Benjamin, Chief Justice of Brazil, followed by closing remarks from LAWASIA, the Papua New Guinea Law Society and the Commonwealth Lawyers Association. His Excellency Sir Bob Bofeng Dadae GCL, GCMG, KStJ Governor General of PNG formally closed the event.

The gathering reaffirmed the international legal community's commitment to strengthening environmental governance, protecting indigenous rights and promoting sustainable development. Papua New Guinea showcased its leadership in environmental justice and judicial excellence, positioning itself as a key voice in advancing climate resilience and the rule of law across the Pacific.



Participants at the LAWASIA Environmental Conference 2026.



Justice John Carey presenting during the LAWASIA Environmental Conference 2026.

Justice Carey calls for stronger judicial capacity to uphold Environmental Rule of Law across PNG and the Pacific

Justice John G.F. Carey, Judge of the Supreme and National Courts of Papua New Guinea and Executive Director of the PNG Centre for Judicial Excellence (PNGCJE), has called for stronger judicial capacity to uphold the Environmental Rule of Law across Papua New Guinea and the Pacific.

Speaking at the LAWASIA Conference in Port Moresby, Justice Carey emphasised the growing complexity of environmental litigation and the need for continuous judicial education to equip judges with the skills to address disputes involving scientific evidence, customary land ownership, environmental harm, and development interests.

His Honour introduced the PNGCJE's CARE and CARE+E frameworks, designed to embed structured and sustained learning within judicial

institutions, moving beyond ad hoc training events. Justice Carey outlined priorities for capacity building, including recognising environmental law as a core judicial competency, developing a structured curriculum, building specialist expertise, creating practical judicial resources, and strengthening evaluation mechanisms. His Honour also proposed the creation of a Pacific Environmental Judicial Learning Network to foster regional cooperation, shared resources, and collective learning.

His Honour concluded by stressing that strong courts require capable judges, and capable judges are built through deliberate, structured, and sustained learning. The initiative reflects Papua New Guinea's leadership in advancing environmental justice and regional collaboration to meet shared environmental challenges.

Chief Justice Sir Gibuma Gibbs Salika opens judges' workshop on Environmental Law and Practice



Participating Judges during the Environmental Law and Practice workshop.

Papua New Guinea's Judiciary recently convened a two-day workshop on Environmental Law and Practice from 17–18 August in Port Moresby, bringing together thirty-two judges of the Supreme and National Courts alongside legal experts and facilitators from Papua New Guinea, Australia and Indonesia. The program was designed to enhance judicial understanding of environmental law and strengthen the courts' capacity to address increasingly complex environmental disputes.

Opening the workshop, Chief Justice Sir Gibuma Gibbs Salika GCL, KBE, CSM, OBE reflected on the central role of the environment in the lives of Papua New Guineans, particularly those in rural communities, and underscored the growing importance of environmental law in supporting sustainable development. He acknowledged the Motu Koita people as traditional custodians of the land, paid tribute to their elders, and commended the leadership of Deputy Chief Justice Ambeng Kandakasi and Justice Derek Wood in organising the program. He also thanked Professor Amanda Kennedy of Queensland University of Technology for her contribution as a key facilitator.

The sessions covered topics such as Environmental Justice in a Rapidly Changing PNG, Foundations of Environmental Law, Proceeds of Crime and Money Laundering in the Context of



Deputy Chief Justice Ambeng Kandakasi speaking during the Environmental Law Practice workshop.

Environmental Law, Access to Justice, Adapting Practice and Procedure, Evaluating Evidence, Remedies and Sanctions, Alternative Dispute Resolution, and The Craft of Giving Judgment. Presenters included Deputy Chief Justice Ambeng Kandakasi, Chief Judge Brian Preston, Justice Derek Wood, Justice Berrigan, Senior Commissioner Susan Dixon, Professor Amanda Kennedy, and Justice Bambang H. Mulyono of Indonesia.

Chief Justice Salika emphasised that the workshop was more than an academic exercise, noting that the knowledge and experience shared would strengthen the courts' ability to deal effectively with disputes involving land, mining, forestry, fisheries, pollution, conservation and community rights. He encouraged participants to actively engage in discussions and exchange experiences, highlighting the value of professional dialogue and shared learning.

The workshop reaffirmed the Judiciary's commitment to continuing judicial education and professional development, and demonstrated the importance of international cooperation in advancing environmental justice. Papua New Guinea's courts are now better equipped to respond to the increasing number and complexity of environmental disputes, ensuring that the rule of law remains central to protecting biodiversity, natural resources and community rights.

Judiciary launches judicial wellness retreat to strengthen health and wellbeing of judges



Eighteen Judges of the Supreme and National Courts of Papua New Guinea, together with their spouses, participated in a two-day Judicial Wellness Retreat at Loloata Island Resort. The program was officially opened by Chief Justice Sir Gibuma Gibbs Salika GCL, KBE, CSM, OBE, who emphasised the importance of supporting the mental, emotional, and physical wellbeing of judges as they carry out their constitutional responsibilities.

Chief Justice Salika described the retreat as a timely initiative recognising the demanding nature of judicial service and the need for good health to uphold the integrity, independence, and effectiveness of the judiciary. He noted that judges face significant pressures, including heavy caseloads, complex legal matters, administrative responsibilities, public scrutiny, and the emotional burden of decisions that affect individuals, families, and communities. He encouraged participants to seek professional assistance and rely on trusted support networks when needed.

The program explored the impact of cardiovascular, kidney, and metabolic health on judicial performance, with sessions on heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure, obesity, stress management, and healthier living. Practical approaches to early detection, resilience, and long-term wellbeing were highlighted, alongside discussions on the role of families in supporting judicial officers.

Chief Justice Salika stressed that wellbeing is not a sign of weakness but the foundation for good judgment, patience, resilience, and service. He encouraged judges and their spouses to actively engage, share experiences, and apply the knowledge gained to both personal and professional life.

The retreat reaffirmed the Judiciary's commitment to judicial wellness and professional development, providing valuable insights, renewed energy, and practical strategies to strengthen health and enhance service to the people of Papua New Guinea.

Judges and Judicial officers across PNG observe International Judicial Well-being Day



(L-R) Justice Rangajeewa Wimalasena, Justice John Carey, Professor Sadek and Deputy Chief Justice Ambeng Kandakasi.

Judges, judicial officers, and staff of the National Judicial Staff Services from across Papua New Guinea and the Pacific (via livestream) came together to observe International Judicial Well-being Day, highlighting the importance of physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health within the judiciary.

The day began with a prayer, followed by opening remarks from Acting Chief Justice Ambeng Kandakasi, who encouraged members of the judiciary to maintain balance in their lives and remain steadfast in their commitment to justice, integrity, and public service.

A central reflection was delivered by Father Bruce Kupi, Pastoral Vicar of the Catholic Archdiocese of Port Moresby, who spoke on nurturing the spiritual dimension of life alongside professional responsibilities. He reminded participants that sound judgment and effective service are strengthened by inner peace, resilience, and personal reflection, and emphasised the value of faith, community support, and healthy practices in sustaining judicial strength.

Throughout the day, judges engaged in activities promoting wellness, healthy living, and collegiality, including fitness exercises, health awareness programmes, and fellowship opportunities. Staff of the National Judicial Staff Service also participated in mental health presentations, medical checks, and a healthy lunch, with addresses delivered by the Secretary NJSS and the Registrar of the Supreme and National Court.

Organisers noted that Judicial Well-being Day reflects the judiciary's ongoing commitment to supporting the welfare of judges and court personnel, recognising that a healthy and resilient judiciary is essential to the effective administration of justice. The event also provided an opportunity for members of the bench and staff to strengthen professional relationships and reaffirm their shared commitment to delivering fair, independent, and efficient justice to the people of Papua New Guinea.

This observance underscored the importance of judicial wellness as a foundation for resilience, integrity, and effective service in the courts.

Chief Justice opens Basic Mediation Skills course to strengthen access to justice through ADR

The Papua New Guinea Centre for Judicial Excellence (PNGCJE), in partnership with the Judiciary's Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Committee, commenced a five-day Basic Mediation Skills Course from 20–24 July 2026 at Port Moresby. The program was designed to equip participants with foundational knowledge, practical skills, and ethical understanding to effectively facilitate mediation and resolve disputes outside the courtroom.

Chief Justice Sir Gibbs Salika officially opened the course, highlighting the important role mediation plays in improving access to justice, reducing court delays, lowering litigation costs, and promoting timely and amicable dispute resolution. He reaffirmed the Judiciary's commitment to strengthening alternative dispute resolution as an integral part of the justice system, encouraging participants to embrace mediation as a tool that preserves relationships and fosters lasting outcomes.

The training was facilitated by Mr Craig Jones of RRedd and Mr Andrew Kwimberi, both experienced ADR practitioners. Participants engaged in practical exercises, simulations, and interactive sessions to

build confidence and competency in conducting mediation processes. Representatives of the ADR Committee and PNGCJE noted that developing skilled mediators is a key component of the Judiciary's broader strategy to enhance access to justice.

The course marked the first stage in the national mediator accreditation pathway. Following formal assessments, successful participants will qualify as Provisionally Accredited Mediators in Papua New Guinea. This accreditation is expected to expand mediation services nationwide, offering communities and litigants greater opportunities to resolve disputes efficiently and cost-effectively without lengthy court proceedings.

By increasing the number of qualified mediators, the Judiciary continues to strengthen people-centred justice services and improve access to justice for all Papua New Guineans. The Basic Mediation Skills Course reflects ongoing efforts by the ADR Committee and PNGCJE to institutionalise mediation and build a professional cadre of accredited mediators capable of supporting courts, communities, and stakeholders throughout the country.



UNDP and PNGCJE strengthen Judicial Integrity and Response to GBV

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in partnership with the Papua New Guinea Centre for Judicial Excellence (PNGCJE), convened a workshop on Judicial Integrity and Gender-Based Violence from a Criminal Justice Perspective on 20 August 2026 in Port Moresby. The program brought together court staff from across the Judiciary to strengthen ethical decision-making and integrity in the handling of gender-based violence cases.

Opening the workshop, PNGCJE Deputy Executive Director Mr Nicholas Mirou highlighted the critical importance of judicial integrity in maintaining public trust and confidence in the justice system. He emphasised that fairness, accountability, and ethical decision-making are essential in ensuring access to justice, particularly for survivors of gender-based violence.

The training used a case-study approach, following a single gender-based violence matter through the criminal justice chain—from reporting and investigation to trial, judgment, sentencing, and post-trial outcomes. Facilitated by Ms Emily Patterson, UNDP Consultant, the sessions examined how the six core values of the Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct—Independence, Propriety, Impartiality, Equality, Competence and Diligence, and

Integrity—are tested at different stages of the process.

Through interactive discussions and peer learning, participants reflected on ethical challenges faced by police officers, prosecutors, defence counsel, judges, and court officials. Issues explored included investigating allegations involving influential individuals, addressing community pressures, avoiding harmful stereotypes, maintaining fairness in proceedings, and ensuring public confidence in judicial decisions.

The workshop aimed to build practical understanding of the Bangalore Principles, promote dialogue across the criminal justice chain, and strengthen the handling of gender-based violence cases through a judicial integrity lens. Participants left with enhanced skills to identify and respond to ethical dilemmas and a deeper appreciation of the role each justice sector actor plays in fostering public trust.

Organised under the EU-funded Preventing and Countering Corruption in Papua New Guinea Project, jointly implemented by UNDP and UNODC, the workshop reaffirmed the partners' commitment to strengthening judicial integrity, promoting accountability, and enhancing public trust in justice institutions throughout Papua New Guinea.



Participants of the Judicial Integrity and Gender Based Violence training.

Professor Mary Keyes pays courtesy call on Judge Administrator Justice John Carey

Professor Mary Keyes, Professor of International Law at Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia, paid a courtesy call on Judge Administrator Justice John Carey during her visit to the Papua New Guinea Centre for Judicial Excellence (PNGCJE).

Justice Carey, who also serves as an Adjunct Professor at Griffith University, welcomed Professor Keyes and expressed his appreciation for the strong academic and professional links between Griffith University and the PNG Centre for Judicial Excellence.

The meeting provided an opportunity for both academics and judicial leaders to discuss matters of mutual interest, including developments in international law, legal education, judicial training, and opportunities for strengthening collaboration between Griffith University and PNGCJE. Professor Keyes acknowledged Justice Carey's contributions to the judiciary and to legal education

through his role as an Adjunct Professor at Griffith University.

She emphasized the importance of fostering relationships between universities and judicial institutions to support excellence in legal scholarship and professional development.

Justice Carey noted that partnerships between academia and the judiciary play an important role in promoting the rule of law, advancing legal research, and preparing future generations of legal professionals.

The courtesy call reflects the strong ties between Griffith University and PNGCJE and highlights a shared commitment to advancing legal education, research, judicial excellence, and professional engagement across the region.



Caption: (L-R) Mr. Johannes Fege, Librarian for the Supreme and National Courts; Professor Mary Keyes; and Justice John Carey.



Caption: (L–R) Professor Mary Keyes; and PNGCJE Research and Publications Manager, Selen Blehe Guri.



PNGCJE Finance Manager, Peter Davani speaking during the courtesy visit by Professor Mary Keyes.



PNGCJE Judge Administrator and PNGCJE Management meeting with Professor Dr Mary Keyes

PNG Centre for Judicial Excellence welcomes Professor Dr Mary Keyes

The Papua New Guinea Centre for Judicial Excellence (PNGCJE) proudly welcomed Professor Dr Mary Keyes during her recent visit. The engagement offered Professor Keyes a comprehensive overview of the Centre's operations, programs, and its pivotal role in advancing judicial excellence in Papua New Guinea and across the Pacific region.

Professor Keyes was received by Judge Administrator Justice John Carey, Deputy Executive Director Mr Nicholas Mirou, Assistant Director Mrs Stacey Levakia-Wali, Research and Publications Manager Mrs Selen Blehe Guri, Finance Manager Mr Peter Davani, Information and Technology Manager Mr Barry Ludin, and Program Officer for PNG Judges Mr Tongia Kekebogi. Together, they extended the Centre's appreciation for her interest and provided detailed insights into their respective areas of responsibility.

Throughout the visit, Professor Keyes was briefed on the Centre's knowledge-sharing initiatives,

financial stewardship, digital infrastructure, regional programs under Pacific Judicial Excellence, and specialized training designed to strengthen judicial skills and professional development.

Justice Carey also contributed successful insights into the Centre's vision and achievements, reinforcing its commitment to judicial excellence and institutional growth.

Professor Keyes commended the Centre's work, stating:

"I am truly impressed with the PNG Centre for Judicial Excellence. The dedication of the team and the breadth of programs offered are remarkable.

Professor Keyes said that she was impressed with the Centre's website, which reflects the professionalism and vision of the institution.

The visit signified the importance of international collaboration in strengthening judicial institutions and promoting best practices across the region.

Professor Mary Keyes delivers 2026 Sir Buri Kidu lecture at UPNG



Professor Mary Keyes, together with Judges of the Supreme and National Courts of PNG with representatives of PNGCJE and the School of Law at the University of Papua New Guinea.

The University of Papua New Guinea's New Lecture Theatre hosted the 2026 Sir Buri Kidu Lecture on 1 July, featuring distinguished international legal scholar Professor Mary Keyes of Griffith University, Australia, as keynote lecturer. The event brought together members of the judiciary, legal profession, academia, government representatives, students, and the public to honour the legacy of the late Sir Buri Kidu, Papua New Guinea's first national Chief Justice and one of the nation's most respected jurists.

In his welcome address, Deputy Chief Justice Ambeng Kandakasi GCL, CBE described Sir Buri Kidu as a national leader whose life embodied wisdom, integrity, scholarship, humility, and an unwavering commitment to justice and the rule of law. He noted that Sir Buri's legacy continues to guide the courts through principles of judicial independence, constitutionalism, public service, accountability, and fidelity to the law.

The Deputy Chief Justice emphasised that the Sir Buri Kidu Lecture Series serves as an important forum for scholarly reflection and discussion on contemporary legal issues and challenges facing justice systems, encouraging dialogue between the judiciary, legal profession, academia, students, and the broader community. Welcoming Professor Mary Keyes, he described her as an internationally respected scholar whose contributions to legal education and research have earned recognition throughout Australia and beyond. He also noted her childhood connection to Papua New Guinea and her unique historical link through Dame Carol Kidu, who taught her in primary school.

The lecture reaffirmed the importance of judicial independence, legal scholarship, and academic dialogue in strengthening the justice system, while celebrating the enduring legacy of Sir Buri Kidu in shaping the nation's judiciary.



Deputy Chief Justice speaking during the Sir Buri Kidu Lectures Series at the University of Papua New Guinea.



Professor Dr. Mary Keyes speaking at the Sir Buri Kidu Lecture Series.

PNGCJE and UNDP strengthen judicial integrity through two-day Bangalore Principles training



Participants who took part in the two-day Bangalore Principles training.

Representatives from Papua New Guinea's justice sector strengthened their understanding of judicial ethics, integrity, and equality through a two-day training workshop on the Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct, delivered by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in partnership with the Papua New Guinea Centre for Judicial Excellence (PNGCJE).

Held from 10–11 August 2026 at the PNGCJE office in Port Moresby, the workshop brought together participants from the National Judicial Staff Services, Solicitor General's Office, Magisterial Services, and Judges' Chambers to examine ethical standards, contemporary challenges, and ways to reinforce public confidence in the administration of justice.

Opening the workshop, PNGCJE Deputy Executive Director Mr Nicholas Mirou highlighted the importance of upholding the highest standards of integrity and professionalism. He reminded participants that independence, impartiality, integrity, propriety, equality, competence, and diligence are fundamental values guiding judicial conduct and decision-making.

Sessions focused on equality in court proceedings

and services, addressing discrimination, stereotypes, implicit bias, gender-responsive justice, respectful treatment of court users, and accountability in cases of gender-related misconduct.

Through presentations, case studies, and interactive discussions, participants strengthened their ability to identify and respond to equality-related challenges in their professional roles. The program also provided a platform to exchange experiences on issues affecting the delivery of justice in Papua New Guinea. Mr Mirou acknowledged the continued support of the European Union and UNDP in advancing judicial integrity and anti-corruption efforts, thanking Dr Alma Sedlar, UNDP Chief Technical Adviser for Anti-Corruption, and Ms Emily Patterson, UNDP Consultant, for sharing international expertise.

The workshop forms part of ongoing efforts under the EU-funded Preventing and Countering Corruption in Papua New Guinea Project, aimed at strengthening ethical standards, promoting equality, and enhancing public trust in justice institutions. Building on previous initiatives, the program is being expanded to provincial centres including Lae and Kokopo, reinforcing judiciary's commitment to judicial integrity, ethical standards, and public confidence.

Judicial Ethics workshop strengthens Integrity and Professional standards in Kokopo



The Papua New Guinea Centre for Judicial Excellence (PNGCJE), in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Papua New Guinea, conducted a two-day Awareness Workshop on Judicial Ethics and the Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct in Kokopo from 13 to 14 August 2026.

The workshop brought together 12 participants from the National Court in Kokopo, the Public Solicitor's Office, and the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary (RPNGC), including Resident Judge Justice Rebecca Christensen. The training aimed to strengthen awareness of judicial ethics, reinforce professional standards, and promote the consistent application of ethical principles across the justice sector.

Opening the workshop on behalf of Judge Administrator Justice John Carey, PNGCJE and PCJE Assistant Director Mrs Stacey Levakia-Wali acknowledged the longstanding partnership between PNGCJE and UNDP in advancing integrity, accountability, and ethical leadership throughout Papua New Guinea. She thanked the European

Union, UNDP, participating institutions, and their leadership for supporting staff attendance.

Participants explored the Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct, focusing on the six core values of independence, impartiality, integrity, propriety, equality, and competence and diligence. Through presentations, case studies, group exercises, and peer discussions, attendees examined practical approaches to addressing ethical challenges in judicial and justice-sector roles.

Facilitated by UNDP Consultant Ms Emily Patterson, the workshop also addressed contemporary issues including judicial integrity, ethical decision-making, social media engagement, public communication, and the emerging impact of artificial intelligence on judicial ethics.

The programme reflects PNGCJE's continued commitment to strengthening ethical standards and fostering public confidence in the administration of justice across Papua New Guinea.

PNGCJE delivers second generative AI bootcamp for NJSS staff



The Papua New Guinea Centre for Judicial Excellence (PNGCJE) recently delivered and funded a second Generative AI for Beginners Bootcamp for National Judicial Staff Services (NJSS) staff, continuing its efforts to enhance digital literacy and workplace innovation across the Judiciary.

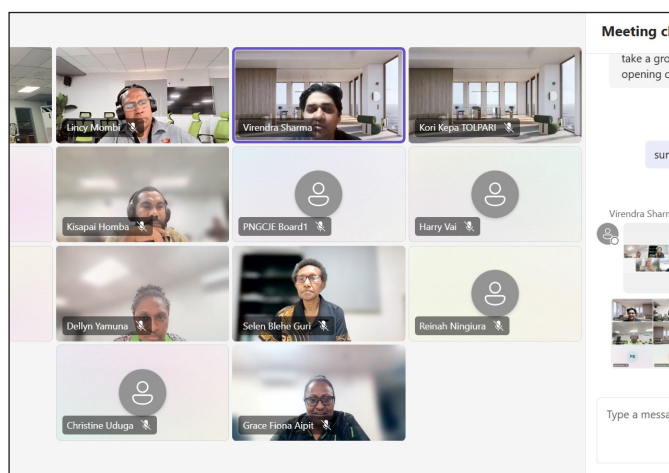
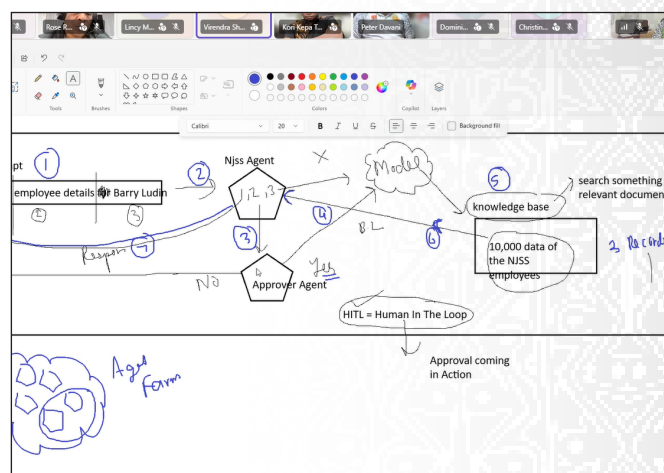
Held over three days at the PNGCJE Training Room, the programme provided participants with a practical introduction to Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Generative AI, focusing on how emerging technologies can improve productivity, research, communication and decision-making.

Participants were introduced to AI concepts, machine learning, data analytics and generative AI tools,

including ChatGPT, through interactive training sessions, demonstrations and hands-on exercises.

The bootcamp also explored emerging technologies such as data visualisation, natural language processing and computer vision, helping staff develop the confidence and skills needed to engage with AI responsibly and effectively in the workplace.

The successful completion of the second cohort reflects PNGCJE's ongoing commitment to professional development and preparing the Judiciary to embrace technology-driven solutions that support judicial administration, service delivery and organisational effectiveness.





Legal Professionals at the Continuing Legal Education program.

PNG Legal Professionals Participate in Continuing Legal Education Seminar in Port Moresby

The Papua New Guinea Centre for Judicial Excellence (PNGCJE), in collaboration with the Papua New Guinea Law Society and the Commonwealth Lawyers Association, successfully hosted the Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Seminar in Port Moresby on 1 September 2026. The event received strong support from the Bar Association of Queensland, reflecting a shared commitment to strengthening legal education and professional development within Papua New Guinea's legal profession.

The CLE Program is a key initiative of the PNG Law Society, designed to provide ongoing professional development opportunities for lawyers and legal professionals. It helps practitioners remain informed of developments in the law, improve competence, strengthen ethical standards, and contribute to the effective administration of justice.

The seminar brought together Chief Justice Sir Gibuma Gibbs Salika GCL, KBE, CSM, OBE,

members of the judiciary, senior representatives of the Law Society, legal practitioners, students of the Legal Training Institute, and online participants from across the profession. The agenda featured timely topics including lawyers' AML/CTF obligations, prosecuting corruption, leases and conveyancing, legal professional privilege, volunteerism, options for a class action regime in Papua New Guinea, health and wellbeing in the legal profession, and ethical standards and professional responsibility.

Presenters shared practical insights and experiences on emerging legal issues and professional obligations, while participants engaged in discussions and exchanged perspectives on challenges affecting legal practice locally and internationally. The seminar underscored the importance of continuous learning and professional excellence in maintaining public confidence in the legal profession and ensuring access to quality legal services.

Professor Amanda Kennedy pays courtesy call on Acting Dean Stephen Pokawin and meets with UPNG School of Law Faculty

Professor Amanda Kennedy, Dean and Head of the School of Law at Queensland University of Technology (QUT), Brisbane, Australia, paid a courtesy call on Acting Dean Stephen Pokawin at the University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG) School of Law on 15 June 2026. She was accompanied by Justice John Carey, Judge Administrator and Executive Director of the Papua New Guinea Centre for Judicial Excellence (PNGCJE).

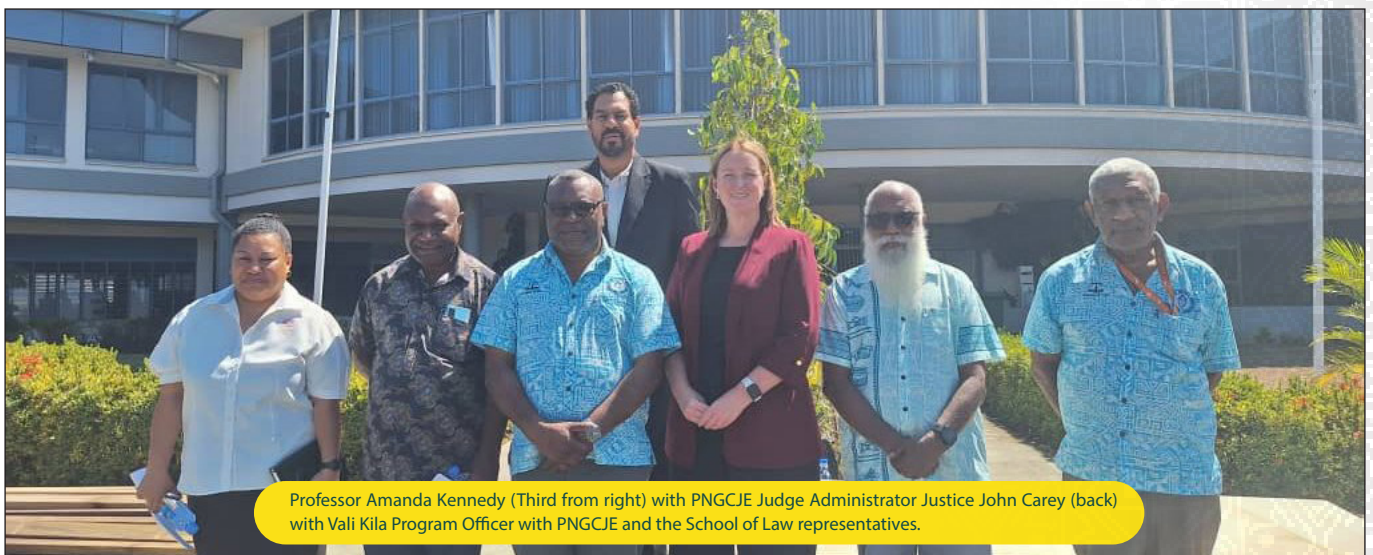
The visit provided an opportunity to discuss legal education, research collaboration, staff and student engagement, and capacity-building initiatives. Discussions also focused on strengthening cooperation under the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between QUT and UPNG, which provides a framework for academic and institutional collaboration.

Following the courtesy call, Professor Kennedy and Justice Carey met with faculty members of the UPNG School of Law. The meeting offered a valuable platform for exchanging ideas on contemporary legal education, curriculum development, research partnerships, and the role of law schools in preparing graduates to meet the evolving

needs of the legal profession and justice sector.

Acting Dean Pokawin welcomed Professor Kennedy and Justice Carey, expressing appreciation for their engagement and reaffirming the School's commitment to academic excellence and its role in developing legal professionals who contribute to Papua New Guinea's justice system and national development. Professor Kennedy commended UPNG's longstanding contribution to legal education and emphasised the importance of the MoU in fostering academic partnerships, collaborative research, and professional exchanges. Justice Carey highlighted the value of strengthening ties between universities and judicial institutions to support professional development, ethical leadership, and the rule of law.

The visit reaffirmed the strong relationship between UPNG, QUT, and the judiciary, while opening opportunities for future initiatives that advance legal education, research collaboration, and professional training. The UPNG School of Law remains committed to building productive partnerships with national and international institutions in pursuit of excellence in education, research, and community service.



Professor Amanda Kennedy (Third from right) with PNGCJE Judge Administrator Justice John Carey (back) with Vali Kila Program Officer with PNGCJE and the School of Law representatives.

QUT Law Dean Professor Amanda Kennedy pays courtesy call on UPNG Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian Findlay



Professor Amanda Kennedy, Dean and Head of the School of Law at Queensland University of Technology (QUT), Brisbane, paid a courtesy call on Professor Ian Findlay, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG) during her recent visit to Port Moresby.

Professor Kennedy was in Papua New Guinea to co-facilitate an Environmental Law Training Programme for judges of the Supreme and National Courts on 17–18 August, focusing on contemporary developments in environmental law and emerging challenges relating to climate change, sustainable development, and natural resource governance.

During the courtesy call, Professor Kennedy and Professor Findlay discussed opportunities for greater cooperation between QUT and UPNG, including academic exchanges, research partnerships, and professional development initiatives for law students, academics, and legal practitioners. Justice John Carey of the National and Supreme Courts briefly joined the meeting, welcoming the ongoing engagement

between academia and the judiciary in advancing legal education and judicial capacity building.

Professor Findlay acknowledged the significance of partnerships that contribute to advancing legal scholarship and capacity building within Papua New Guinea and the wider Pacific region. Professor Kennedy expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to engage with UPNG's leadership, emphasising the vital role of universities in supporting the development of law, good governance, environmental stewardship, and the rule of law.

The visit underscored the strong and growing links between academic institutions and the judiciary, reflecting a shared commitment to promoting excellence in legal education, research collaboration, and judicial development. It reaffirmed UPNG's dedication to building productive partnerships with national and international institutions in pursuit of excellence in education, research, and community service.

Dr Schetzer speaks on Youth Justice and Criminal Responsibility at UPNG

Students at the University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG) School of Law were privileged to attend a thought-provoking guest lecture by distinguished legal academic and youth justice expert Dr Louis Schetzer on the topic “Youth Justice: When Does a Child Develop Criminal Responsibility?”.

Dr Schetzer, a Teaching Academic at the University of New South Wales Faculty of Law and Justice and National Legal Research and Policy Manager at the Justice Reform Initiative, has over three decades of experience in criminal law, youth justice, human rights, and legal reform. He is currently conducting research in Papua New Guinea on village courts and youth justice. Welcoming the opportunity to engage with students, Dr Schetzer expressed gratitude for the warm reception he has received during his stay in the country.

Before commencing his lecture, Dr Schetzer paid tribute to the late Supreme Court Justice Ere Kariko, acknowledging his significant contribution to Papua New Guinea’s justice system.

The lecture explored one of the most debated issues in criminal law: the age at which a child should be held criminally responsible. Drawing on international developments, human rights standards, and comparative experiences from Australia, Papua New Guinea, and other jurisdictions, Dr Schetzer

challenged students to critically examine how the law understands childhood, responsibility, and accountability. He encouraged reflection on whether youthful mistakes should automatically result in criminal labelling, highlighting the importance of language and the harmful effects of stigma.

Dr Schetzer examined Papua New Guinea’s current minimum age of criminal responsibility (10 years) and compared it with international approaches, noting UN recommendations to raise the threshold to at least 14 years. He also discussed the doctrine of *doli incapax*, which presumes children may lack the capacity to understand the seriousness of their actions unless proven otherwise.

Students actively engaged in discussions on legal responsibility, maturity, child development, and evolving youth justice systems worldwide. The lecture provided valuable comparative perspectives and encouraged critical thinking about balancing accountability, rehabilitation, and the rights of children.

This guest lecture formed part of the PNGCJE and UPNG School of Law Guest Lecture Series, which continues to enrich legal education by connecting academic learning with practical experience and exposing students to contemporary issues in youth justice, criminal responsibility, and judicial education.



Dr. Schetzer speaking during the Guest Lecture at the University School of Law.



Dr Schetzer along with PNGCJE representatives and the School of Law.

Justice Carey encourages UPNG law students to consider a career in Judicial Education

Law students at the University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG) School of Law were encouraged to broaden their vision of legal careers beyond traditional practice and consider judicial education as a vital and emerging field that strengthens the justice system and promotes access to justice.

Delivering a lecture to students and faculty, Justice John Carey, Judge Administrator and Executive Director of the Papua New Guinea Centre for Judicial Excellence (PNGCJE), proposed that judicial education should be recognised as the fourth pillar of the legal profession—alongside private practice, public sector law, and judicial service. He emphasised that judicial educators play a critical role in strengthening competency, promoting ethical standards, and ensuring continuous professional development across the justice sector.

Justice Carey shared his own professional journey, noting how judicial education shaped his path to the Bench. He explained that PNGCJE, established in 2010, now delivers around 140 training activities annually, covering judicial ethics, professional conduct, emerging legal issues, wellbeing, leadership, and access to justice. He highlighted the Centre's competency-based approach, which focuses on measurable improvements in professional performance and service delivery.

The lecture also addressed modern challenges facing the judiciary, including increasing caseloads, evolving laws, digital technologies, and the rise of artificial intelligence. Justice Carey stressed that judicial education is essential in preparing judges, lawyers, and court officials to embrace innovation responsibly while maintaining professional and ethical standards.

Encouraging students to view judicial education as a meaningful career pathway, Justice Carey noted that PNGCJE is expanding its capacity and creating opportunities for lawyers to contribute to professional education, legal reform, and institutional development across Papua New Guinea and the Pacific.

“The future of our justice system depends on continuous learning, professional excellence, and the commitment of the next generation of legal professionals. PNGCJE stands ready to support and develop those who are committed to serving justice and strengthening the rule of law,” he said.

This lecture formed part of the PNGCJE–UPNG Guest Lecture Series, which continues to enrich legal education by connecting academic learning with practical experience and exposing students to contemporary issues in judicial education, professional development, and access to justice.



PNGCJE Judge Administrator speaking during the Guest Lecture at the University School of Law.



Law students listening to the lecture delivered by PNGCJE Judge Administrator Justice John Carey at the School of Law.

Justice Andelman delivers lecture to UPNG School of Law students on Social Media Litigation and Child Safety

The University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG) School of Law was privileged to host Justice Larissa Andelman for a special lecture examining the growing legal challenges facing global social media companies. Delivered through the Papua New Guinea Centre for Judicial Excellence (PNGCJE), the session provided students with valuable insights into recent United States litigation concerning the impact of social media platforms on children and young people.

Justice Andelman discussed proceedings involving major platforms including Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Snapchat, and TikTok. She explained how plaintiffs have argued that design features such as infinite scrolling, autoplay videos, algorithmic recommendations, and constant notifications were deliberately created to maximise engagement, contributing to addictive use and adverse mental health outcomes among minors.

Students were introduced to the legal theories underpinning these cases, including product liability, negligence, misleading conduct, and misrepresentation claims. Justice Andelman highlighted evidence linking excessive social media use to issues such as anxiety, depression, eating

disorders, body dysmorphia, self-harm, and suicidal ideation. She also examined broader constitutional implications under the First Amendment and protections afforded to social media companies under Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act.

Encouraging students to reflect on the Papua New Guinea context, Justice Andelman noted that similar legal questions may arise domestically, raising important issues about the responsibilities of technology companies and the adequacy of existing laws to protect children in a digital environment.

Her Honour thanked UPNG, PNGCJE, and faculty for their engagement, emphasising the importance of exposing law students to contemporary legal issues with significant social, technological, and policy implications.

This lecture formed part of the PNGCJE-UPNG Guest Lecture Series, which continues to connect students with members of the judiciary and legal profession, offering practical insights into emerging challenges in technology law social media regulation and judicial education.



Law students listening to the lecture delivered by Justice Larissa Andelman at the School of Law.

Justice Teresa Berrigan highlights the role of Anti-Money Laundering Laws in combating environmental crime

Law students and legal professionals at the University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG) School of Law attended a powerful guest lecture by Justice Teresa Berrigan of the Supreme and National Courts, who explored the role of anti-money laundering legislation in combating environmental crime and safeguarding Papua New Guinea's natural heritage.

Justice Berrigan highlighted the growing links between environmental crime, corruption, organised crime, and money laundering, noting that environmental crime is among the most profitable forms of transnational crime globally—surpassed only by drug trafficking, counterfeiting, and human trafficking. She stressed that addressing environmental crime is particularly critical for Papua New Guinea, given its rich biodiversity and vast natural resources.

Her Honour explained that while prosecuting offenders remains important, traditional enforcement often targets individuals at the lower end of offending, leaving criminal networks largely intact. She outlined how Papua New Guinea's Proceeds of Crime Act and provisions of the Criminal Code can be used to recover illicit assets, restrain criminal property, and prosecute money laundering

offences connected to environmental crimes. “By stripping offenders of their profits and penalising those who enable them, authorities can recover illicit gains and remove both the means and motivation for future criminal activity,” Justice Berrigan said. She also reminded participants of Papua New Guinea's constitutional responsibility to ensure that resources are used for the collective benefit of its people and future generations.

The lecture encouraged students to recognise the growing importance of financial investigations, asset recovery, and anti-money laundering laws in addressing environmental offending. By highlighting the intersection of environmental crime, organised crime, corruption, and money laundering, Justice Berrigan underscored the vital role of future lawyers, prosecutors, judges, and legal practitioners in maintaining the environmental rule of law.

This session formed part of the PNGCJE–UPNG Guest Lecture Series, which continues to enrich legal education by connecting students with members of the judiciary and legal profession, offering practical insights into emerging challenges in environmental crime, anti-money-laundering, and asset-recovery.



Law students listening to the lecture delivered by Justice Teresa Berrigan at the School of Law.

Justice Carey reappointed to the bench



(L-R) Chief Justice of Papua New Guinea Sir Gibuma Gibbs Salika, His Excellency Sir Bob Bofeng Dadae GCL, GCMG, KStJ, Governor General of PNG and PNGCJE Judge Administrator Justice John Carey after His Honor's reappointment.

His Excellency Sir Bob Bofeng Dadae GCL, GCMG, KStJ, Governor General of Papua New Guinea, today officiated at the swearing in ceremony of Justice John Carey, Judge Administrator and Executive Director for the Papua New Guinea Centre for Judicial Excellence (PNGCJE), who has been reappointed to the Supreme and National Courts of Justice.

The reappointment was made by the Judicial and Legal Services Commission as part of its continuing mandate to strengthen the judiciary and ensure the effective administration of justice across the country. Under this appointment, His Honour will serve as Judge of the Supreme and National Courts for a further term of three years. During the ceremony, Justice Carey formally took

the Oath of Declaration of Office, the Declaration of Loyalty, and the Judicial Declaration before the Governor General.

The occasion was witnessed by the Chief Justice of Papua New Guinea, Chief Sir Gibuma Gibbs Salika GCL, KBE, CSM, OBE, underscoring its significance to the nation's judicial leadership. Also in attendance were Mrs Ebony Carey, wife of Justice Carey, His Honour's chamber staff together with staff of the PNGCJE.

Held at Government House, the ceremony marked another important milestone in maintaining continuity and stability within Papua New Guinea's highest courts.

Justice Carey elected CMJA Pacific Region Vice President

The Papua New Guinea Judiciary is proud to announce that Justice John Carey has been elected Vice President for the Pacific Region of the Commonwealth Magistrates' and Judges' Association (CMJA) at the CMJA Council Meeting held on 20 September 2026 in Kingston, Jamaica.

Justice Carey was elected to fill a vacancy and will serve until the next CMJA Triennial Conference and General Assembly in 2028. Since 2022, His Honour has served as a Pacific Region Council Member, contributing to initiatives that strengthen judicial cooperation, professional development, and the rule of law across the Commonwealth.

The CMJA is an international organization dedicated to promoting judicial independence, integrity, education, and excellence in the administration of justice among Commonwealth nations. Justice Carey's election reflects the confidence placed in his leadership, expertise, and longstanding commitment to judicial development.

In accepting the appointment, Justice Carey reaffirmed his commitment to supporting the work of the CMJA and fostering stronger collaboration among judges and magistrates throughout the Pacific and wider Commonwealth.

A Judge of the National and Supreme Courts

of Papua New Guinea and Judge Administrator of the Papua New Guinea Centre for Judicial Excellence (PNGCJE), Justice Carey was appointed to the bench in July 2023 after several years of service as Executive Director of the PNGCJE.

With more than 30 years of professional experience across the Caribbean and Pacific regions, Justice Carey has built a distinguished career in law, judicial education, dispute resolution, human rights advocacy, and public service. His Honour's work through the PNGCJE has been instrumental in advancing judicial training and professional development throughout the Pacific, while also supporting community outreach and access-to-justice initiatives in Papua New Guinea.

A respected judicial educator and author, Justice Carey has published extensively on judicial integrity, constitutional law, gender equality, judicial education, and access to justice. His Honour's election as CMJA Vice President marks another significant milestone in a career dedicated to judicial excellence, the rule of law, and strengthened cooperation among Commonwealth judiciaries.

Congratulations to Justice John Carey on this outstanding achievement and on representing Papua New Guinea at the highest levels of Commonwealth judicial leadership.



PNGCJE Judge Administrator Justice John Carey.



PNGCJE Judge Administrator Justice John Carey.

Justice Carey speaks on professional ethics to ITI staff



Staff of the International Training Institute (ITI) recently participated in an engaging and practical lecture on professional ethics presented by Hon. Justice John Carey, Judge Administrator of the Papua New Guinea Centre for Judicial Excellence (PNGCJE).

During the session, Justice Carey highlighted the importance of ethical conduct in the workplace, emphasising key values such as integrity, accountability, confidentiality, respect, impartiality and responsibility.

His Honour noted that ethical behaviour is fundamental to maintaining public trust and promoting a positive and productive work environment.

Participants were encouraged to reflect on their professional responsibilities and consider the impact their decisions have on colleagues, stakeholders and the wider community. Justice Carey also stressed the importance of making principled decisions when faced with ethical challenges in everyday work situations.

To reinforce learning, staff took part in interactive group discussions centred on workplace ethics scenarios. The exercises encouraged participants to identify ethical concerns, evaluate appropriate responses and apply ethical principles to real-life situations.

ITI representatives commended Justice Carey for sharing his expertise and practical insights, noting that the session provided valuable guidance to strengthen ethical awareness and professional standards among staff.

Concluding the presentation, Justice Carey reminded participants that ethics goes beyond compliance with rules and involves a personal commitment to doing what is right, even in difficult circumstances. His Honour encouraged staff to serve as role models of integrity and professionalism in their respective roles.

The session was well received, with participants expressing appreciation for the practical examples and thought-provoking discussions that enhanced their understanding of professional ethics.

Federal court judge shares advocacy insights with aspiring LTI students



Justice Darryl Rangiah speaking during the lecture to Legal Training Institute students.



Law students listening to the lecture delivered by Justice Rangiah at the Legal Training Institute.

Aspiring trainee lawyers at the Legal Training Institute (LTI) gained valuable advocacy insights during a guest lecture hosted by the Papua New Guinea Centre for Judicial Excellence (PNGCJE), featuring Justice Darryl Rangiah of the Federal Court of Australia.

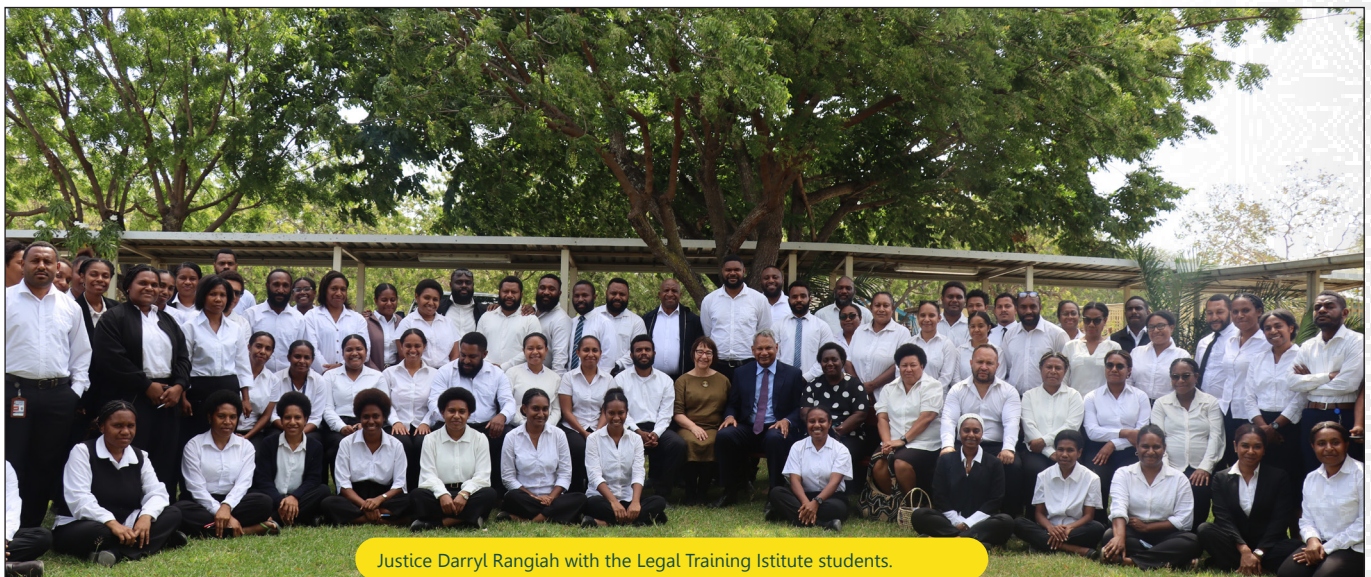
Presenting on “Seven Ways to Be a Great Advocate,” Justice Rangiah shared practical lessons from more than 30 years of legal and judicial experience, emphasising that effective advocacy is built on clear communication, accuracy, preparation and persuasion.

Participants learned the importance of presenting

evidence-based arguments, identifying key issues early, responding directly to judicial questions and preparing thoroughly for cross-examination.

LTI Director Ms Angelyn Paranda thanked Justice Rangiah and PNGCJE for the initiative, noting that such engagements help bridge the gap between legal education and practice while inspiring Papua New Guinea’s future lawyers to pursue professional excellence.

The lecture forms part of PNGCJE’s ongoing commitment to strengthening advocacy skills and supporting the development of the next generation of legal professionals.



Justice Darryl Rangiah with the Legal Training Institute students.

Kokopo Court Staff complete Productivity and Time Management training



PNGCJE facilitators with Staff of the Kokopo National and District Court.

A total of 27 staff members from the Kokopo National and District Court successfully completed a two-day Effective Time Management and Productivity Training held from 30 to 31 July 2026 in Kokopo.

Delivered by officers from the Papua New Guinea Centre for Judicial Excellence (PNGCJE), the training aimed to strengthen staff capacity in managing workloads, improving workplace productivity, and enhancing personal and professional effectiveness.

The program featured three key sessions: Effective Time Management and Productivity, facilitated by Mr Peter Michael, PNGCJE Program Officer (Magisterial Services), focused on the importance of time management, identifying common time wasters, and applying practical strategies to improve efficiency and productivity in the workplace.

The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People, presented by Ms Belliam Iomu, PNGCJE Research and Publications Officer, explored the seven principles of

personal and professional effectiveness. Participants were encouraged to apply these habits to strengthen performance, teamwork, and personal growth.

Stress Management, facilitated by Ms Emmah John, PNGCJE Program Officer for the National Judiciary Staff Services (NJSS), addressed the causes and impacts of stress, warning signs to watch for, and practical coping strategies to support wellbeing in the workplace.

Participants expressed appreciation for the practical knowledge and skills gained throughout the training. The program reinforced the importance of effective time management, personal effectiveness, and stress management in fostering a productive and healthy court environment.

The PNGCJE and the Judiciary remain committed to investing in staff development initiatives that enhance service delivery while supporting the professional growth and wellbeing of court personnel.



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