



# TALANOA

*October 2020 Issue*

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## LAUNCH OF THE NEW PILON WEBSITE

The PILON Secretariat is very excited to announce the launch of our newly designed PILON website. The website is much faster, easier to navigate, and packed with information about PILON. Visit us at [www.pilonsec.org](http://www.pilonsec.org).

It is particularly important, in light of the challenges we face during the COVID-19 pandemic that Pacific Island law and justice officers can continue working together to address domestic and regional law and justice issues.

Our new website provides PILON members with an easy way to discover PILON activities and seminars, develop a deeper understanding of the Pacific law and justice sector and forge professional legal networks to mentor and support each other in the face of common challenges and opportunities. It improves access to the broad range of PILON-developed resources and other material relevant to law and justice in the Pacific, especially in relation to PILON’s current program

of work focusing on Cybercrime, Corruption, Sexual and Gender Based Violence, and Legislative Drafting.

The PILON Secretariat will be regularly updating the website with helpful information, meeting announcements and news. Among the new features of the website is a Members’ Zone, which is a central point of information on all working group activities, including meeting minutes, draft documents and learning resources. You and your colleagues can access this part of the website by registering for a free PILON Members’ account.

Our new website is mobile-friendly and there is also an integrated a social media button that links directly to PILON’s Facebook Page to support ongoing collaboration between law and justice officials and our partners across the Pacific.

We would like to thank Michaela Jackson-Andelova of the Australian Attorney-General’s Department and Rosy Fogatia of the PILON Secretariat who donated their time and energy to bring the new site to life, and web designer Mitchell Hughes, also of the Australian Attorney-General’s Department, who created the fantastic new design.

We hope you will find this new website useful and beneficial to your work. If you have any questions or would like to send us feedback, please contact us via [pilon@pilonsec.org](mailto:pilon@pilonsec.org).



## UPCOMING PILON EVENTS

### PILON ANNUAL MEETING

**Date:** 5 November 2020 (4 November 2020 – Eastern Pacific)

**Time:** 2pm – 4pm West Samoa Time (WST)

**Type:** Zoom meeting

### PILON WEEK 9-13 NOVEMBER 2020

The Pacific Islands Law Officers' Network (PILON) will be hosting a series of public webinars on the impacts of COVID-19 on PILON's three strategic priorities – Cybercrime, Corruption and Sexual and Gender Based Violence.

To register your interest for these events, please contact PILON Secretariat on [pilon@pilonsec.org](mailto:pilon@pilonsec.org). Further details will be advised, when available.

#### The effects of COVID-19 on cybercrime in the Pacific

**Date:** 10 November 2020

**Time:** 2pm West Samoa Time (WST)

**Type:** Live webinar

*This event will be delivered in partnership with the Council of Europe.*

#### The effects of COVID-19 on corruption in the Pacific

**Date:** 12 November 2020

**Time:** 1pm Nauru Time (NRT)

**Type:** Live webinar

*This event will be delivered in partnership with the United Nations Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption Project.*

#### Impacts of COVID-19 on experiences of Sexual and Gender Based Violence in the Pacific

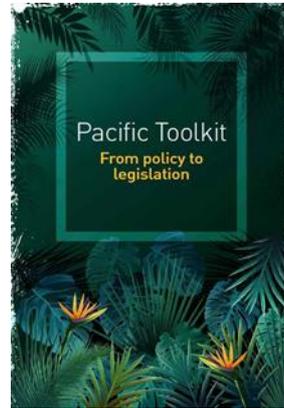
**Date:** TBC

**Time:** TBC

**Type:** Live webinar

## PACIFIC TOOLKIT: FROM POLICY TO LEGISLATION

The Australian Attorney-General's Department are pleased to announce the finalisation of the ***Pacific Toolkit: From policy to legislation***.



This toolkit has been designed to better equip Pacific Island government officials to navigate their way through challenging policy and legislative drafting processes. It provides a step by step guide to policy analysis, developing policy options, making recommendations to government and progressing law reform to implement government policy decisions.

As well as providing an overview of the policy and legislative development process, this Toolkit contains a range of helpful resources, including: alerting officers to a range of important issues that need to be considered during the law reform process; offering tips on things to consider during consultation and implementation of a law reform project; and guidance on providing drafting instructions and working with a legislative drafter.

The Australian Attorney-General's Department thanks the many people who have contributed to this Toolkit, ensuring that it is tailored for the Pacific region. In particular, we would like to thank the members of the Pacific Legislative Drafters' Technical Forum, Nola Faasau of Pacific Island Forum Secretariat, and Fiona Leonard and Leigh Talamaivao of New Zealand's Parliamentary Counsel's Office for their guidance, feedback and suggestions.

The Toolkit will be launched at the upcoming PILON Annual Meeting (being held online on 5 November 2020) and is now available as an online resource on the [PILON website](https://pilonsec.org). As a shared Pacific resource, ongoing feedback is encouraged to ensure it remains relevant and reflects the needs of the Pacific.

If you would like to provide feedback on the Pacific Toolkit, or would like a hard copy of this resource, please email the PILON Secretariat at [pilon@pilonsec.org](mailto:pilon@pilonsec.org).

## NEW ATTORNEYS GENERAL JOIN PILON NETWORK

The PILON Executive Committee welcome the Attorney General of Samoa, Ms Savalenoa Mareva Betham-Annandale as the new Chair of PILON and its Executive Committee. Ms Betham-Annandale is also the new Chair of the SGBV working group. PILON also welcomes new Attorney General of American Samoa, Ms Mitzie Jessop Taase to the PILON community and we look forward to working closely with you over the coming years.

### Attorney General, Samoa

#### *Savalenoa Mareva Betham-Annandale*



Ms Betham-Annandale was appointed the Attorney General of Samoa in July 2020. She is a Samoan lawyer and jurist.

Attorney General Savalenoa Mareva Betham-Annandale was educated at the University of Central Queensland,

graduating with a B.A. in History in 1991. She then studied law at the University of the South Pacific, graduating with a law degree in 1997.

She worked as a public servant in New Zealand for the Department of Corrections, Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade before returning to Samoa to work for the Office of the Attorney General and the Ministry of Justice and Courts Administration.

Ms Betham-Annandale then entered private practice with her husband Lauaki Jason Annandale and served as the first female President of the Samoa Law Society until 2017.

In 2016 she called for judges of the Samoan Lands and Titles court to receive legal training.

During the COVID-19 Pandemic she was appointed by Samoa's Cabinet to sit on an advisory committee on the state of emergency.

Betham-Annandale replaces Mr Lemalu Herman Retzlaff, who resigned in March 2020 after four years in the position.

### Attorney General, American Samoa

#### *Mitzie Jessop Taase*



In July 2020, Ms Mitzie Jessop Taase became the first woman to be appointed Attorney General in the Territory of American Samoa, after a 20+ year career as an Attorney.

Prior to becoming Attorney General, she worked as Senate counsel for the Fono. Prior to that, Ms Jessop Taase worked as the Deputy Attorney General at the Office of the Attorney General for eight years.

During her legal career, Attorney General Mitzie Jessop Taase has continued to advocate for victims, including drafting the Territory's first Anti-Human Trafficking laws, Child Abuse laws, and Sex Offender Registration laws.

Ms Jessop Taase received her Juris Doctorate degree from Brigham Young University in Utah after receiving her undergraduate degree from the University of Utah.

## FAREWELLS

PILON also acknowledges prominent members the network who departed for new opportunities over the past year. We thank Dr Falai Taafaki of RMI, Mr Brendan Horsley of NZ, Mr Lemalu Hermann Retzlaff of Samoa, Mr Graham Leung of Nauru and Fiji and Ms Corinna Lafai Ituaso of Tuvalu for their dedicated support and hard work on behalf of PILON. Congratulations to Ms Lafai Ituaso on her recent appointment as Magistrate. We wish all of you the very best and hope to see you all around the Pacific law and justice community in the future.

## Former Deputy Solicitor General-Criminal, New Zealand

### Brendan Horsley



Mr Brendan Horsley, a long serving PILON Executive committee member, left the network after many years for another appointment as an Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security in New Zealand.

The Hon Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern announced his appointment which has a significant oversight role to ensure the New Zealand Security Intelligence Service and the Government Communications Security Bureau act with propriety and operate lawfully and effectively.

Mr Horsley has had an extensive career at Crown Law, most recently in the role of Deputy Solicitor-General (Criminal). In that role he has been responsible for the professional leadership and supervision of the Crown prosecution network. He has also had significant involvement with the intelligence agencies and the Office of the Inspector-General.

*“It has been an honour and a privilege to have been associated with PILON over many years. My first PILON meeting was in 2008 in Vanuatu, since that time I have met many incredibly talented, principled and hard-working Law Officers from all around the Pacific. PILON is an important forum for those Law Officers to share common issues and innovations and to contribute to the rule of law in the Pacific. I wish PILON well in continuing its important work. Noho ora mai e hoa mā.”*

Previously Mr Horsley worked at the Ministry of Justice as the first National Director of the Public Defence Service, responsible for providing legal aid criminal defence services.

Mr Brendan Horsley was the Deputy Solicitor-General (Criminal) at Crown Law Office of New Zealand from 2014 through to 2020. His role oversaw an in-house team of 30, and the wider Crown Solicitor Network of around 180 lawyers, 16 Crown solicitors and \$38m of Crown investment per year.

## Former Attorney General, Samoa

### Lemalu Hermann Retzlaff



Early this year Mr Lemalu Hermann Retzlaff’s resigned from his post as Attorney General of Samoa. He is the former Chair of the PILON Executive Committee and the PILON SGBV Working Group.

“Lemalu expressed his gratitude and gratefulness to the Government for allowing him to serve these past four years,” said the Prime Minister, Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi.

“After much thought, prayers and discussions I have accepted Lemalu’s decision to move on with his family to take on fresh opportunities that have arisen overseas, including continued work in the legal field,” said the Prime Minister.

Previously Mr Lemalu worked at the Auckland Manukau and Waitakere offices as a senior lawyer and Acting Deputy Public Defender on the North Shore. He was also the Assistant Dean and taught commercial law at the National University of Samoa.

His father, Hon. Misa Telefoni, served as AG as well in the past before he entered politics, and Lemalu has now also had his time of service in the same position of AG for his country of birth.

“We wish him and his family all the very best into the future.” For Lemalu he says “serving Samoa was an honour and a privilege that was not taken lightly. It was with a heavy heart that I did hand in my resignation to the Hon Prime Minister.”

Mr Lemalu Hermann Retzlaff will be joining fellow PILON alumni and active participant, Mr ‘Aminiasi Kefu, former Attorney General of Tonga, taking up a position with the Crown Solicitor’s South Auckland Office, run by the firm Kayes, Fletcher and Walker (KFW).The firm KFW is in charge of all Crown prosecutions across the South Auckland jurisdiction.

## Former Secretary for Justice & Border Control, Nauru

### Graham Leung



Mr Leung is a Fijian lawyer with more than 35 years of post-admission experience. As Secretary for Justice & Border Control in Nauru he was a member of the PILON Executive Committee from 2013-2019, and also the Chair of the PILON Corruption Working Group for the same period.

A graduate of Adelaide University, he started work in the Fiji Government as a criminal prosecutor and later moved to the Attorney General's department. Mr Leung received a Fulbright scholarship and completed a Master of Laws degree at the University of California before being posted to the New York as Fiji's Deputy Ambassador to the United Nations.

Following a lengthy public service career, he ventured into private practice in Suva and joined Howards Law as Managing Partner. He was twice elected President of the Fiji Law Society. Mr Leung is a former Vice President of Law Asia and also a Council Member of the Commonwealth Lawyers Association.

After the removal of the Fijian constitution in April 2007, Mr Graham Leung left private practice and worked overseas for a number of years in Kenya, Switzerland and Solomon Islands. He has just retired from his last post of Nauru's Secretary for Justice (and before that Solicitor General and Registrar of the Supreme Court) in September last year. He was appointed Nauru's first Ambassador to the International Seabed Authority. He is now a consultant with the Suva firm of Toganivalu Law. His special interests are human rights, law of the sea and constitutional law.



Left: Graham Leung, Secretary Justice & Border Control Nauru; Lemalu Hermann Retzlaff, Attorney General Samoa and Brendon Horsley, Deputy Solicitor General, New Zealand

## PILON PARTNERS WORK UPDATES

### Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

#### FOC Subcommittee of Regional Security BOE Declaration

The FOC Sub-Committee on Regional Security (FSRS) convened its first Meeting for 2020 virtually on 4 September.

The Sub-Committee acknowledged the significant impact COVID-19 has had on the 2020 implementation plan for the Boe Declaration and agreed to reprioritise activities for 2021, including work on the Pacific Humanitarian Pathway on COVID-19. The Sub-Committee also noted the work being progressed by SPC, PIEMA and PIFS on the Regional Strategic Roadmap for Emergency Management (SREM) and the establishment of a Regional Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Mechanism.

### Pacific Community

The Pacific Community (SPC) is looking for a (Senior) Legal Officer to join their team.

#### Position: (Senior) Legal Officer

- Noumea-based position
- Attractive expatriate package
- Join the principal development organization in the region
- Type: Contract: International
- Category: Legal
- Reference ID: SH000025

The (Senior) Legal Officer will provide legal advice, legal support and research on day-to-day legal matters across SPC. He/she will improve internal governance and provide input into modernising and professionalising SPC's governance and risk operations.

This appointment will be made at either the Senior Legal Officer or the Legal Officer level, depending on the skills and experience of the successful candidate.

#### Application procedure

Closing date: 18 October 2020 (11:00pm NCT)

Applicants must apply online at <http://careers.spc.int/> (hard copies of applications will not be accepted).

Find out more at <http://careers.spc.int/job/senior-legal-officer-legal-noumea-new-caledonia-sh000025/4fd0da00-f93d-11ea-9769-42010a8a0009>

## LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT CORNER

### Webinars of Interest

**Event:** CyberSec & AI Summit

**Date:** 8 October 2020

**To register:** [cybersecai.com](http://cybersecai.com)

AI for privacy and security, revealing the challenges and opportunities facing all those working and researching at the intersection of AI, machine learning and cybersecurity.

### Webinar Recordings of Interest

**Event:** Digital Forensics by Zyber Global

**To find out more:** <https://zyberglobal.com/>

**Event:** Intellectual Property Crime with a focus on IP crime during the COVID-19 pandemic

**To find out more:** contact [la@iap-association.org](mailto:la@iap-association.org) to obtain this presentation

**Event:** Rule of Law Webinar Series: Will courts change forever following the COVID-19 pandemic?

**To find out more:** <https://thecommonwealth.org/rule-law-webinar-3-new-age-online-courts-has-covid-19-pandemic-ushered-era-develop-justice-through>

**Event:** IAP/GPEN webinar: Introduction of APC-HUB on fighting against transnational cybercrime

**To find out more:** contact [la@iap-association.org](mailto:la@iap-association.org) to obtain this presentation

## A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE



Corruption Working Group Meeting – Fiji 2019



SGBV Working Group Meeting – Samoa 2019



Cybercrime Working Group Workshop – Vanuatu 2019



PILON Annual Meeting – Cook Islands 2018



SGVB Working Group Meeting – Samoa 2019



Pacific Legislative Drafters' Technical Forum – Tonga 2017