



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING DIVISION



EDITORS' NOTE

"Drafting is a very interesting area of law, as it involves conceptualising what the law is and writing it down for approval by Parliament. Conceptualisation of a draft law by the drafter will eventually become the intention of Parliament, which the court will, in most cases, labour to ascertain."

~ Mr Vuetaki-Ledua Rupeni Nawaqakuta - Legal Advisor for OAG.

Talofa lava and warm greetings ! This is the last edition of the Legislative Drafting Division ("LDD") newsletter for 2014 (Vol.7, Issue 4) which covers an update of all the events from October to December 2014. The events include Bills passed by Parliament and workshops attended by members of the LDD.

The last quarter of this year has certainly been busy and eventful for the LDD and you will see that in the details to follow. On that note, may our good Lord guide and keep you all safe this festive season!

"MERRY XMAS & A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!!"

Steffany Meredith (Editor)

IN THIS ISSUE:

Current Legislation 2014 pg 2-4

1. Parliament Update
2. Bills with Select Committee
3. Acts passed by Parliament
4. Subsidiary Legislation
5. Summary of Acts

Events 2014 pg 4-8

6. Tuna Commission
7. PILON Meeting
8. Samoa Convention on the Rights of a Child training
9. National Development workshop for cultural Industries in Samoa
10. Automatic exchange of financial account information training
11. Legal research training
12. LDD Induction training

Other Events 2014 pg 9-11

13. PDL
14. Consolidation project & team building activity
15. Farewells
16. Graduation
17. End of year prayer service
17. OAG Christmas decor and Carol competition & party
18. Upcoming Events

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: CHRISTMAS DECOR AND CAROL COMPETITION

12 December 2014

Apia, Samoa



Members of the Legislative Drafting Division who took 1st place for the competition held on the 12th December 2014. (Full report on page 11)



PARLIAMENTARY SITTINGS IN OCTOBER — DECEMBER 2014

MONTH	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
OCTOBER	-	21	-	-	-
NOVEMBER	-	-	-	-	-
DECEMBER	-	16	-	-	-



PARLIAMENT UPDATE OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2014 SESSIONS

21 OCTOBER SITTING

Bills completed second reading and referred to Select Committee (2nd Reading)

- ◆ Public Finance Management Amendment Bill 2014
- ◆ Community Law Centre Bill 2014
- ◆ Media Council Bill 2014

16 DECEMBER SITTING

Bills introduced to Parliament (1st Reading)

- ◆ Citizenship Investment Bill 2014
- ◆ Ports Authority Amendment Bill 2014
- ◆ Public Bodies (Performance and Accountability) Amendment Bill 2014

Bills completed second reading and referred to Select Committee (2nd Reading)

- ◆ Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2014/2015.

ACT PASSED BY PARLIAMENT FROM OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2014

<u>Title/Name of the Act</u>	<u>Date Passed</u>	<u>Date Commenced/Assented</u>
1. Lawyers and Legal Practice Act 2014	22 October 2014	28 October 2014
2. Tax Administration Amendment Act 2014	22 October 2014	28 October 2014
3. International Criminal Court Amendment Act 2014	22 October 2014	18 December 2014
4. Allied Health Professions Act 2014	22 October 2014	28 October 2014
5. Medical Practitioners Amendment Act 2014	22 October 2014	28 October 2014
6. Plumbers Act 2014	22 October 2014	28 October 2014
7. Commonwealth Youth Games 2015 (sponsorships) Act 2014 (passed under Urgency Certificate)	23 October 2014	28 October 2014

SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION

(Signed/promulgated by Head of State, Cabinet, Minister, Board or other appropriate authority)

1. Water Licensing Regulations 2014 — 14 Jan 2014
2. General Price Order (No.1) 2014 — 10 February 2014.
3. Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration (Fees and Form) Amendment Regulations 2014 — 19 February 2014.
4. Prisons and Corrections Act 2013 Notice of Commencement—30 April 2014. (Only provisions relating to appointment of the Commissioner of Prisons and Corrections)
5. General Price Order (2) 2014 — 15 May 2014.
6. Ministerial Departmental Arrangement Order 2014 — 26 May 2014
7. Occupational Safety and Health Regulations 2014 — 11 June 2014.
8. Tobacco Control Amendment Regulations 2014 — 11 June 2014.
9. General Price Order (4) 2014—21 November 2014
10. Special Price Order (No.1) 2014—17 October 2014
11. Special price Order (No.2) 2014—5 January 2014

Christmas





PLUMBERS ACT 2014



The Act regulates plumbers and plumbing trade and services. It provides for the qualifications and registration of plumbers including disciplinary matters and for the continuation of the Plumbers Association of Samoa ("Association"). There are 6 parts to the Act:

- ◆ Part 1 deals with Preliminary matters such as the title and commencement date, interpretation of terms and that the Act will bind the Government.
- ◆ Part 2 provides for the registration of plumbers. Plumbers are prohibited to carry out plumbing works unless they are registered (and hold a certificate of registration) or hold a certificate of exemption signed by the President of the Executive Committee.
- ◆ Part 3 provides for the continuation of the Association as a corporate entity incorporated under the Incorporated Societies Ordinance 1952. The Executive Committee of the Association is established to act as the executive body of the Association which carries out the functions, duties and powers of the Executive.
- ◆ Part 4 and 5 looks at the Disciplinary matters with regards to the investigation and prosecution of complaints which are to be heard by a disciplinary tribunal and offences and penalties.
- ◆ Part 6 is miscellaneous providing for Ministerial directives, services of notices, disputes, regulations and deals with other transitional matters.

The Act commences from and was assented to on 28 October

LAWYERS AND LEGAL PRACTICE ACT 2014

The Act repealed and replaced the Law Practitioners Act 1976 and continues the establishment of the Samoa Law Society and its Council as a body corporate/legal entity.

The Act provides for:

- ◆ a permanent roll and temporary roll of barristers and solicitors;
- ◆ rules and applications for admission as a barrister and solicitor setting out general requirement for eligibility (21 years, good character and proper qualifications);
- ◆ rules about the practice of law through issuing of annual practicing certificates;
- ◆ rules about solicitors trust accounts and auditing; and
- ◆ disciplinary rules and procedures such as the process of complaints and investigations and penalties for professional misconduct involving trust accounts.

The Act commenced and was assented to on 28 October 2014



ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS ACT 2014

The Act establishes the Allied Health Profession Council to provide for its functions, duties and powers to provide for the registration of allied health professionals. The Act commenced on 28 October 2014 and has 5 parts.

- ◆ Part 1 provides for preliminary matters such as short title and commencement and interpretation.
- ◆ Part 2 establishes the Allied Health Profession Council as a body corporate and empowers the Minister to appoint members of the Council.
- ◆ Part 3 provides for the registration of allied health professionals to which the Council may refuse or grant the registration of a person to be a qualified allied health professional.
- ◆ Part 4 and 5 deals with Offences and Miscellaneous providing for the Ministries exempted from liability, service of documents, regulations, fees and forms and other transitional matters.



TAX ADMINISTRATION AMENDMENT ACT 2014

The Act amends the Tax Administration Act 2012 by removing the reference to funds obtained under an international agreement under section 95(1) of the Income Tax Act 2012 for withholding tax and inserts a new section 9A in the Tax Administration Act 2012 with regards to information required for court proceedings by the Government. This new provision allows for the Attorney General to make a request to the Commissioner to release a document that is to be kept a secret when it is required in the proceedings (criminal and civil). The Act commenced on 28 October 2014

The Act commenced on 28 October 2014.

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT AMENDMENT ACT 2014

The Act amends the International Criminal Court Act 2007 ("Principal Act") by domesticating the Kampala Amendments to the Rome Statue, which Samoa ratified on September 2012 with regards to the crimes of aggression and the weapons amendment. A new section 7A was inserted in the Principal Act that deals with the crime of aggression. The Kampala Amendments to the Rome Statue was domesticated and incorporated in the Principal Act by inserting a new schedule.

The Act commenced and was assented to on 18 December 2014.



SUMMARY OF ACTS PASSED cont'd...



COMMONWEALTH YOUTH GAMES 2015 (SPONSORSHIP) ACT 2014

The Act provides for sponsors (approved by the Board) and tax deductions for sponsors of the Commonwealth Youth Games 2015 ("CYG") which is to be held in Samoa. Under the Act, the sponsors will be entitled to tax deductions under the Income Tax Act 2012 for the value of their sponsorship of the CYG 2015. The income for the CYG Company is also exempted from tax.

The Act commenced on the 28th of October 2014.



MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS AMENDMENT ACT 2014

The Act amends the Medical Practitioners Act 2007 ("Principal Act") by including registration for applicants who are required to undertake short-term medical service. A temporary registration and a temporary practicing certificate is now provided for in the Principal Act.

- ♦ Section 11 of the Principal Act is amended to provide for a person who is qualified to apply for a temporary registration.
- ♦ Section 13 of the Principal Act is amended to provide for the Council to permit the application of an applicant for temporary registration who is to undertake medical service for up to 3 months in Samoa, and also to applicants applying for practical training who are undertaking relevant studies.

The Act commenced on 28 October 2014.

EVENTS FROM OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2014

11TH REGULAR SESSION OF THE COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF HIGHLY MIGRATORY FISH STOCKS

The 11th Regular Session of the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPFC) took place from 1-5 December 2014 at Apia, Samoa. Preparatory meetings were held by the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and WCPFC from 21-30 November.

The following Members, and Participating Territories attended American Samoa, Australia, Canada, the People's Republic of China, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), the Cook Islands, the European Union (EU), the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Fiji, France, French Polynesia, Guam, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, , Papua New Guinea (PNG), the Philippines, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, the United States of America (USA), Vanuatu.

As the custodian of the world's largest tuna fishery the functions of the Commission are of national and regional socio-economic importance within the WCPO and the region's tuna resource also makes a major contribution to global food security.

Some areas addressed during the meeting included: discussion of proposed Port State Measures - inspection-request mechanism, the requirement to inspect high risk fishing vessels, guidelines for inspection procedures, port inspector training and an inspection report – a response to the special requirements of SIDS; and the continued application of the Conservation and management measure for compliance monitoring scheme.

The following lawyers were nominated from the Attorney General's Office to be a part of the delegation for Samoa: Legal Consultant, Constance Tafua-Rivers, Principal State Solicitor, Kalameli Seuseu and State Solicitor, Dominic Talouli.



EVENTS FOR OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2014 (CONT'D)

PACIFIC ISLANDS LAW OFFICES NETWORK MEETING (“PILON”) THEME: ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES IN THE PACIFIC 10-13 NOVEMBER 2014 TARAWA, KIRIBATI



The PILON meeting was a 2 day event held in Tarawa, Kiribati and chaired by the Hon. Attorney General Titabu Tabane of Kiribati. The meeting was attended by Attorney General Ming C. Leung Wai, Assistant Attorney General (“AAG”) Precious Chang (Criminal Division) and AAG Loretta Teueli (Legislative Drafting Division). Others in attendance were from Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu and Kiribati (the host). Observer members also attended including the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS); Pacific Legal Information Institute (PACLI); University of the South Pacific; Secretariat of the Regional Rights Resource Team; South Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police; International Committee of the Red Cross and Secretariat of the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC);

The meeting focused on the theme of “*Environmental crimes in the Pacific*” with sessions and presentations carried out on *issues and best practices of combating environmental crimes in the Pacific* and *illegal fishing*. Following the presentations there was a discussion panel carried out on how member countries make best use of Vehicle Monitoring Systems (VMS) data to combat illegal fishing.



The final session of Day 1 were based on presentations and updates prepared by each member of PILON which saw it continue on to Day 2. Samoa’s country report was presented on the second day of presentations and updates. Day 2 also saw reports presented by the PILON Secretariat on 2014 *Strategic Plan* and PILON activities carried out in 2014. It was decided that the Strategic Plan will be extended for another year for the working groups to finish off their remaining activities. There were also presentations on updates of regional issues and initiatives such as:

- ◆ An update on Regional Legislative Drafters’ Forum by PIFS which Samoa, during the presentation,

reiterated its offer to host the Forum in September 2015.

- ◆ The PILON Litigation Skills Program also provided an update and confirmed that funding has been secured for this regional program to be offered for the next 5 years. Samoa also confirmed that it will host the beginning of this program for 2015.
- ◆ The Attorney General’s Department (AGD) of Australia provided a Forensic Law Review carried out in some countries of the PILON members including Samoa.
- ◆ The Pacific Prosecutors’ Association Conference report was also provided by Assistant Attorney General Precious Chang who co-chaired the meeting held in Fiji prior to the PILON meeting.

Observer members were also given the opportunity to give presentations to PILON, all except IFRC whose membership was accepted and determined at this meeting. There was also a presentation conducted by the New Zealand Crown Law on the Model Law for the Arms Trade Treaty prepared by the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. It was noted that this Treaty has been signed and ratified by Samoa and a draft Conventional Arms Bill is now in circulation with stakeholders for comments before it is revised and finalized for Cabinet approval.

The meeting ended with decisions toward the work plan of PILON for 2015 and the next PILON meeting will be held in the Solomon Islands in 2015.



EVENTS FOR OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2014 (CONT'D)



SAMOA CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD (Convention) TRAINING

10-12 November 2014

Ministry of Women Community and Social Development ("MWCSO")

Lizatalei Hakai of the LDD attended the above training on the Convention of the Rights of the Child which was ratified by Samoa in 1994. The training was conducted and organized by the Government (through MWCSO) in collaboration with Secretariat for the South Pacific and UNICEF Pacific, where participants from Government Ministries and civil societies attended.

The objectives of the training were as follows:

- (i) provide information on the Convention and its Articles, processes involved and reporting guidelines – linkages with the UPR;
- (ii) provide an opportunity for government and civil society to reflect on the Convention process, key challenges, achievements and progress to date;
- (iii) to take stock of implementation of the Convention recommendations for the initial review, and facilitate the follow-up reporting process; and
- (iv) create linkages between Convention Implementation programs and the recommendations provided in the Child Protection Baseline Report to ensure that partners know how to incorporate and action the recommendation of the report in their implementation plan of the Convention.

The training identified the recommendations that were given by the Committee during the initial review, and what Samoa has done to deal with the recommendations given. A result of the recommendations given by the Committee include the establishment of the Samoa Law Reform Commission, creation of new legislation and the review of existing legislation so our laws are in line with the obligations under the Convention. Participants also took part in activities carried out and what their roles were in implementing the Articles of the Convention. Significantly, Samoa ratified the Convention with reservations. This is with respect to free primary education for all children, as Samoa does not have ample resources to cater for this requirement. However, it was discussed during the training that Samoa is working toward lifting this reservation and is expected to submit the second report for the upcoming review in 2016.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP FOR CULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN SAMOA

19-22 NOVEMBER 2014

HOTEL MILLENIA (APIA, SAMOA)

The Ministry of Education, Sports & Culture (MESC) and the Secretariat for the Pacific Community (SPC), conducted a 4 day workshop on the National Development of Cultural Industries in Samoa and Siovia Liu attended the workshop on behalf of the Attorney General's Office. The workshop was funded by the EU-ACP under their project "Enhancing the Pacific Cultural Industries: Fiji, Samoa and Solomon Islands" and managed by SPC's Human Development Programme in collaboration with Pacific Island Forum Secretariat (PIFS), MESC and the Samoa Arts Council.

The purpose of the workshop was to bring all cultural industries stakeholders in Samoa together, including the public, private and civil society sectors, to map out the future directions of the cultural industries, by assessing current challenges and issues, and proposing solutions and ways forward. The opening address was given by John Stanley (Head of the European Union Office in Samoa) whereby he emphasized the importance of cultural industries in Samoa and its contribution to the economy of the country. The key note address was made by the Honourable Magele Mauiliu Magele (Minister of Education Sports and Culture) and he reiterated Mr. Stanley's position of the importance of cultural industries in the development of Samoa.

Presenters of the workshop included Theresa Potoi (Executive Director of the Samoa Law Reform Commission) who presented on the Intangible Cultural Heritage Convention and model law on traditional knowledge. One issue that she raised was the difficulty in legislating traditional knowledge. Other presenters included, Tuilagi Seiuli Allan Alo (President, Samoa Arts Council), Auelua Samuelu Enari (CEO-MCIL), Leituala Kuiniselani Toelupe (CEO-MWCSO) and other well respected persons of the business community.

The outcome of the workshop was the drafting of a draft framework for the next five to ten years for the development and marketing of the Samoa's cultural industries, with attached actions and activities, timelines and partnerships to address issues that were raised during the workshop.



AUTOMATIC EXCHANGE OF FINANCIAL ACCOUNT INFORMATION TRAINING
12 DECEMBER 2014
APIA, SAMOA
DBS BUILDING, CONFERENCE ROOM



Melissa Dejong of the Global Forum Secretariat conducted a training on “Automatic Exchange of Financial Account Information” which was hosted by the Ministry for Revenue. Siovia Liu attended the training on behalf of the Attorney General’s Office. Representatives from the Samoa International Finance Authority, Ministry for Revenue, and Central Bank of Samoa were also present at the training.

The purpose of the training was to educate the participants on this new frontier in Exchange of Information for tax related purposes. The rationale behind this system is to address issues in relation to international tax avoidance and evasion. Under this system the jurisdictions obtain information from their financial institutions and automatically exchange that information with other jurisdictions on an annual basis. It sets out the financial account information to be exchanged, the financial institutions that need to report, the different types of accounts and taxpayers covered, as well as common due diligence procedures to be followed by financial institutions. The 2 topics for discussion were:

- ♦ The Common Reporting Standards (CRS), which contains the reporting and due diligence rules to be imposed on financial institutions; and
- ♦ The Model Competent Authority Agreement (Model CAA), which contains the detailed rules on the exchange of information.

This new regime draws extensively on earlier work of the Organization for Economic and Co-operation Development in the area of automatic exchange of information. It integrates progress made within the European Union, as well as global anti-money laundering standards, with the intergovernmental implementation of the US Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA), which requires foreign financial institutions around the globe to report account details of their U.S. customers to the U.S. tax administration.

The CRS is designed into the 3 following dimensions to prevent taxpayers from avoiding the CRS:

The financial information to be reported with respect to reportable accounts includes all types of investment income (including interest, dividends, income from certain insurance contracts and other similar types of income) but also account balances and sales proceeds from financial assets.

The financial institutions that are required to report under the CRS do not only include banks and custodians but also other financial institutions such as brokers, certain collective investment vehicles and certain insurance companies.

Reportable accounts include accounts held by individuals and entities (which includes trusts and foundations), and the standard includes a requirement to look through passive entities to report on the individuals that ultimately control these entities.

The CRS also describes the due diligence procedures that must be followed by financial institutions to identify reportable accounts.

Samoa has yet to put in place this new system and commit to it but it is certainly one way to tackle money laundering, tax evasion and avoid double taxation.



EVENTS FOR OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2014 (CONT'D)

LEGAL RESEARCH TRAINING OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL APIA, SAMOA 19 DECEMBER 2014



The workshop was conducted by State Solicitor Brigitta Lo Tam of the Criminal Division and Leutu Leuluaialii of our Office Library. The idea of the training was initiated by the Attorney General to educate and remind the Office of the importance of good Legal Research Skills. The main purpose of the training was to educate and enhance our knowledge and understanding of carrying out thorough legal research in the Office. There are three parts of which the research must be provided for:



- ♦ **Information gathering** whereby the issue is described and explored and thus the issue must be descriptive by means of information gathered, described and summarized.
- ♦ **Theory testing** whereby the collected data is tested and put for understanding causal relations and predictive of what might happen in various scenarios.
- ♦ **Conclusion** whereby the idea on the issue is described and summarised showing the statement of opinion of the legal research issue.

The participants of the training were shown to familiarise with the new location of materials and resources in the library, as well as the new library resources that have been introduced into our Office library and Office data system. The Legal Research Training was an opportunity for the participants especially the juniors of the three (3) legal divisions of the Office to learn what they will be expected to accomplish from their legal research output when assigned to. This Training is the second phase of the Legal Research Training, which will be continued throughout the years to continually educate the Office on good legal research skills and understanding.

LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING DIVISION INDUCTION TRAINING OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL APIA, SAMOA 11 DECEMBER 2014

The Legislative Drafting Division (“LDD”) conducted a training for new law clerks. Law clerks from the Criminal, Civil and the LDD attended the training in order to grasp knowledge on the role of the LDD, and also anticipate what is expected within the Division. The training covered the following:

- ♦ composition of the Drafting Division;
- ♦ role of the Drafting Division;
- ♦ legislative drafting Manual;
- ♦ general practices within the Division.
- ♦



This was also an opportunity for the new Law Clerks to be able to understand the work that the Division deals with and also to be aware of the standards and obligations that are required of the law clerks. The new law clerks that recently joined our Office are Kylie Wilson, Titilua Aiono and Terina Sefo (Drafting Division), Fuifui Ioane and Chrisanthy Amosa (Criminal Division) and Ryan Masinalupe (Civil Division).



PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMA IN LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING (“PDL”) APRIL—NOVEMBER 2014 UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC



Program Coordinator Mr Vuetaki Ledua Rupeni Nawaqakuta with participants of the PDL course in Suva, Fiji.

Two members from the Office of the Attorney General, namely Siovia Florina Liu and Steffany Meredith undertook the PDL Program this year (2014). The PDL is offered once a year by the University of the South Pacific (“USP”) as a premier qualification in legislative drafting. The PDL is a 30 week Program which commenced in April and concluded in November with a compulsory workshop (“Workshop”) (held at USP Statham Campus, Suva, Fiji on 6 – 7 November, 2014) as the main and final assessment for the Program. The Program was fully funded by the Commonwealth of Learning with the exception of travelling costs for the Workshop. The program coordinator was Mr Vuetaki- Ledua Rupeni Nawaqakuta who is also the legal advisor for the Office of the Attorney General.

The PDL program is designed for the beginner as well as the experienced drafter to acquire knowledge in the art and science of legislative drafting. The program had 6 modules with 8 assignments. These 8 assignments assisted the participants with learning practical skills in translating government policies into clear and effective laws, critiquing policies for a proposed law, redrafting of technical and archaic provisions as well as introducing the participants to the legislative drafting process in a progressive manner. During the Workshop, general discussion were focused on the 8 assignments submitted for the program followed by group work where groups were required to prepare a draft plan, a draft Bill and to make comments on the proposed policy.

The program is a good building block or a starting point for those who seek to pursue a career in legislative drafting. The participants are taken through a well-structured approach in terms of drafting a legislation that is clear, precise and simple and give effect to the intended policies in accordance with the Constitution.

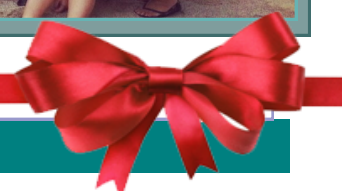
The above-mentioned staff members have successfully completed the PDL Program and it is highly recommended that other legal officers be encouraged to undertake the Program especially those of the Legislative Drafting Division.

CONSOLIDATION PROJECT & TEAM BUILDING ACTIVITY 18 December 2014

The Legislative Drafting Division completed its annual end of year consolidation project with a team building activity trip to Vaiula Beach Fales, Tafatafa. The Consolidation project focuses mainly on consolidating and reviewing existing laws of Samoa whereby amendments to any existing laws are incorporated into the Principal Act. The consolidation of Laws for 2014 was officially completed and released on 23 December 2014.



The team building activity was a chance for the team to be able to bond and reflect on the year’s work and challenges and at the same time to celebrate the end of the project.





FAREWELLS

GRADUATION



The Office of the Attorney General ("OAG") bid farewell to two valuable lawyers in the Office.

Loukinikini Vili worked in the OAG for over 5 years and was part of the Civil team. She now holds a post at the Office of the Ombudsman as a Investigations and Legal Officer. Theodora Matalavea worked with the OAG for almost 2 years in the Legislative Drafting Division and was actively involved in the drafting of Bills and other subsidiary legislation. She now holds a post as a Policy and Business Improvement consultant at the Ministry for Revenue.

We wish you both all the best in your future endeavours!

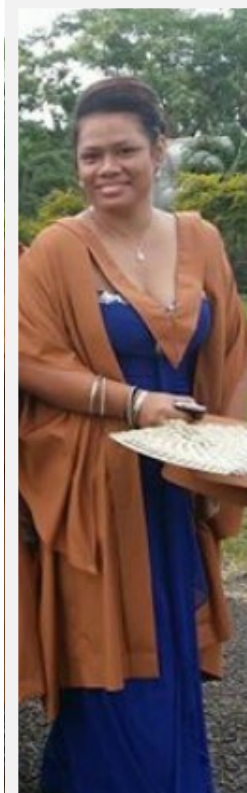
"Alofa le Atua ma foai atu le mau tele aua le feagai ai o oulua ma galuega ua valaauina ai".

END OF YEAR PRAYER SERVICE

The Office of the Attorney General ("OAG") conducted an end of year prayer service to finish off the year by giving thanks to the Lord.

The theme of the Service was to give thanks and praise to the Lord for his guidance and blessings upon the staff throughout the year. The Attorney General Ming C. Leung Wai led the Service by giving a spiritual message and Assistant Attorney General Loretta Teueli offered a prayer of thanks. The Service was attended by the staff of the OAG.

The University of the South Pacific held its graduation on December 12th 2014 at the Congregational Christian Church of Samoa Youth Hall, Sogi. The graduation ceremony saw five members from the Office of the Attorney General graduate with Bachelor of Laws Degrees, namely Terina Sefo and Faalau Lagaia from our Legislative Drafting Division, Hana Gauta and Angeline Seiuli of the Civil Division and Luaipou Matalasi of the Criminal Division. The ceremony was made special by the presence of families and friends who attended to witness and to congratulate the graduands for all the hard work that has been well paid off. It was truly a memorable day with a lot to be thankful for as years of law studies had finally come to an end. The graduation ceremony was also seen as a mark of a new chapter, where the graduands move from being students to becoming servants, serving the Government with honesty, integrity and compassion. Congratulations and all the best!!



Christmas



OTHER EVENTS OF OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2014 (CONT'D)

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: CHRISTMAS DECORATION & CAROL COMPETITION & OFFICE CHRISTMAS PARTY 12 December 2014



The Office of the Attorney General ended the year in festive style with its end of year Christmas party, and a decoration and carol competition between the four divisions. The theme for the competition and party was “*Naughty or Nice*” and the divisions were given the task of decorating their side of the Office to reflect the theme. Although all teams showed creativity and eye-catching decorations, the Legislative Drafting Division walked away with the 1st prize by impressing the Judge with their simple and elegant blue nativity decorations and also for singing beautiful carols on the night of the Christmas party. The Civil Division won second prize, third prize went to the Corporate Services Division, Criminal Division claimed the fourth prize and the Law and Justice Sector took the fifth prize. During the night of the Christmas Party the Attorney General expressed his gratitude to all the staff for all the hard work done throughout the year. The Social Committee also provided more prizes for best and uprising staff member within each division. A special gift and trophy was also presented to the Attorney General to commend all that he has done for the Office and for continuing to be a great leader.



Other prizes:

Best legislative drafter – Leitu Moananu

Best Civil litigators – Sosefina Faamausili & Ane Iati

Best Prosecutors – Brigitta Lo-Tam

Rising star prosecutor—Ofisa Tagaloa

Best Corporate Servants—Jason Iputi & Naomi Fa’amanatu

Congratulations to all who won or received prizes on the night and may you all have a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous new year!

Members of the Legislative Drafting Division

Ming C. Leung Wai, Attorney General

Loretta Teueli, Assistant Attorney General—Legislative Drafting

Rupeni Nawaqakuta, Legislative Drafting Advisor

Constance Tafua-Rivers, Legal Consultant

Leitu Moananu, State Solicitor

Steffany Meredith, State Solicitor

Siovia Florina Liu, Law Clerk

Lizatalei Hakai, Law Clerk

Kylie Wilson, Law Clerk

Titilua Aiono, Part-Time Law clerk

Terina Sefo, Part-Time Law clerk

Faalau Lagaaia, Volunteer

Jacek Tuala, Volunteer

Losa Kelekolio, Senior Legal Secretary

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **PARLIAMENT SITTING 20 JANUARY 2014**
- **RESUME WORK ON 5 JANUARY 2014**

Merry Christmas

DISCLAIMER

Please note that the information contained in this Newsletter is not intended to be taken as legal advice and therefore should not be relied upon as such. Any fault in the accuracy of the information in this Newsletter is ours alone.