



LAW TOK

ISSUE 9: June 2025 - May 2026

Papua New Guinea to host the LAWASIA Environmental Law Conference



Port Moresby, get ready to host LAWASIA's Environment Law Conference!

That's right! PNG's capital will be hosting one of LAWASIA's prestigious conferences for all legal professionals across the Pacific, Asia and the Globe.

This exciting news was announced in Hanoi, Vietnam during the LAWASIA's Council Meeting held in October 2025 and shortly after PNG Law Society was formally reinstated as a full member of LAWASIA.

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SECRETARIAT OF THE SOCIETY

& THE 20TH COUNCIL MEMBERS

THE SECRETARIAT

Acting Secretary:
Mr Tauvasa Tanuvasa

Executive Officer:
Mr Gabore Kila

CPD Officer:
(vacant)

Journalist:
Brian Jemejeme

ICT Officer:
Alex Davani

Secretaries:
Steno Secretary: Linda Kopi
Admin: Naomi Peter

Office Assistant - Audits:
Viliwa Volu

Admin Clerks:
Alpheus Kaveregari (driver)
Valina Tau
Jeffery Gado

Receptionist & Assistant :
Margaret Soro
Tanya Kreitz

LAWYER'S STATUTORY COMMITTEE:

Secretary:
Roland Ababa Malauling

LS admin secretaries:
Gege Rakatani
Natasha Lahui

Office cleaner:
Nelson Mosibebe



HUBERT HANJAUSE NAMANI
PRESIDENT



TAUVASA TANUVASA



PHILLIP TABUCHI



CHRISTINE COPLAND



EMMANUEL ASIGAU



EUNICE PARUA



ANTHONY RODEN-PARU



JUSTIN WOHUINANGU
Mr Wohuinangu is also the Chairman of the
Lawyers Statutory Committee (LSC).



PAUL MAWA

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS



Dear Colleagues,

Condolences

First and foremost, I extend my deepest condolences to the immediate family of **the late Mr Robert Mellor**, who recently passed away in Australia. Mr Mellor was the longest-serving Secretary of the Papua New Guinea Law Society, dedicating 29 years of faithful service to the Society and to the legal profession. On behalf of the Council and the membership, we honour his legacy and convey our heartfelt sympathy. I also extend our sincere condolences to the families and loved ones of our members of the profession who also passed away in 2025. May their souls rest in eternal peace.

PNGLS Reinstated as Full Member of LAWASIA

I am honoured to announce that the Papua New Guinea Law Society (PNGLS) has been formally reinstated as a full member of the Law Association for Asia and the Pacific (LAWASIA). This reinstatement marks Papua New Guinea's return to the regional legal stage and reaffirms our commitment to promoting justice, strengthening the rule of law, and building meaningful collaboration across the Asia-Pacific.

PNG to Host 2026 LAWASIA Environmental Law Conference - 19-21 August 2026.

In addition, and most importantly, Papua New Guinea has been selected by the LAWASIA Council to host the 2026 LAWASIA Environmental Law Conference in Port Moresby. This conference will bring together international legal experts, judges, academics, and policymakers, and will highlight Papua New Guinea's growing role in regional legal

leadership - particularly on issues of environmental justice, sustainable development, and climate responsibility.

This is a proud and defining moment for our profession. Further updates on LAWASIA engagement opportunities and preparations for the 2026 Conference will be shared in due course. I humbly encourage members to prepare and participate actively in this renewed international chapter for the Law Society.

Welcoming the 20th Council

As President of the 20th Council of the Papua New Guinea Law Society, I warmly welcome the eight (8) councillors elected to serve alongside me. Congratulations to each of you on your election. Together, we will continue working to transform the Society through stronger governance, transparency, and renewed trust.

I also commend the Secretariat, which continues to carry a tremendous workload behind the scenes to ensure that PNGLS meets its objectives, serves the interests of members, and maintains the standing of the profession in the eyes of the public.

Law Tok Issue 9 highlights

The Law Tok publication remains an important contribution by the Society in keeping members informed and connected to developments within the profession and across the country. In this edition, you will find coverage and insights on key events and developments including:

- The Commonwealth Law Conference held in Malta;
- PNGLS reinstatement as a full member of LAWASIA;
- Port Moresby selected to host the 2026 LAWASIA Environmental Law Conference;
- The results and declarations of the 20th Council Elections;
- Pictorial highlights of the Opening of the Waigani National Court Complex;
- National Teachers Insurance Limited (NTIL) joining the panel of insurers; and

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PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

From page 1.

The Legal Training Institute (LTI) trainees' educational excursion - among other valuable updates.

Major event

Our major event, the annual Rule of Law March was successfully staged on 27 March 2026, an initiative established under my leadership since 2024. *Read more updates and pictures in our next edition - Law Tok Issue 10.*

I close by reaffirming that while the way we do business continues to evolve, with international conferences coming to PNG and renewed professional engagements on the horizon, our commitment to the immutable values of the rule

of law, justice, professional ethics, and mutual respect must remain unchanged.

With that, I assure members that the Law Society is in steady hands under the leadership of the 20th Council. I wish the Society, our membership, and the profession every success now and into the future.

I now commend Law Tok Issue 9 to you all.
Happy reading and God bless.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Hubert Namani
PRESIDENT



Right: Hubert Namani, the President of the Papua New Guinea Law Society (PNGLS)

Left: Jean M. Dyer MCI Arb, the President of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)

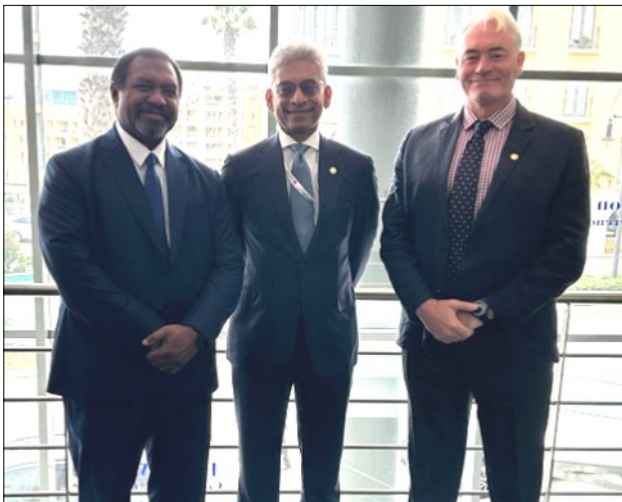
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National Court Complex Opening in pictorials

Presentations of UPC to new successful applicants



BY BRIAN JEMEJEME

In 2025, several lawyers applied for their first **Unrestricted Practicing Certificates (UPC)**. As per standard procedure, all applications underwent a rigorous review and scrutiny before receiving approval from the Council.

The Acting Secretary of the Law Society Mr Tauvasa Tanuvasa took the privilege of presenting the Certificates to the successful applicants. The presentation highlighted the commitment of the legal fraternity to uphold professional standards and ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.



Among some recipients are five individual lawyers (pictured left from top down to 5th) who archived this important credentials - **GENO ILA'AVA, THOMAS COOK, TUMUN KUMA, REBECCA NORUM & ARNOLD DAUGL**



When presenting the certificates Tanuvasa congratulated the recipients and emphasized the importance of professionalism in the legal field:

“Obtaining an Unrestricted Practicing Certificate (UPC) is not just a formality, it is a testament to your competence, integrity, and commitment to the rule of law.

“We expect all our members to uphold the highest ethical standards and continue to serve the people of Papua New Guinea with diligence and respect,” he said.

He further encouraged the new UPC holders to embrace continuous learning and contribute positively to the legal profession adding the journey does not stop here.

“The legal landscape is evolving, and as practitioners, you must remain informed and adaptable,” he said.

The presentation of UPC certificates is a vital step in enabling lawyers to practice law without restrictions, reflecting their readiness to take on greater responsibilities within the profession.



LAWASIA REINSTATES PNG LAW SOCIETY

BY BRIAN JEMEJEME

Papua New Guinea Law Society (PNGLS) has been formally reinstated as full member of the Law Association for Asia (LAWASIA) and the Pacific.

This full membership announcement was made by the President of the LAWASIA Mr Shyam Divan following a very successful address delivered by the President of the PNG Law Society Mr Hubert Namani during the 38th LAWASIA Conference held from the 11th to the 13th of October, 2025, in Hanoi, Vietnam.

While confirming PNG Law Society's full membership to LAWASIA, President Divan gladly informed the conference attendees that Port Moresby will be the next country to host the 2026 LAWASIA Environmental Law Conference.



L: PNGLS President - Hubert Namani
M: LAWASIA President - Mr Shyam Divan &
R: PNGLS Acting Secretary - Mr Tauvasa Tanuvasa

“reinstatement marks
 PNG’s return to the
 regional legal stage”

In welcoming the announcement, the President of the 20th Council of the Papua New Guinea Law Society Mr Namani said the reinstatement marks PNG’s return to the regional legal stage.

He said this full membership reaffirms the commitment to the promotion of justice and strengthening of the rule of law and to have meaningful collaboration with legal communities across the Asia-Pacific.

Namani said: “Our readmission to LAWASIA opens new pathway for PNG lawyers to engage

in international legal dialogue, access high-level professional development, and contribute to critical regional discussions affecting the rule of law and fundamental rights.”



Port Moresby to host: LAWASIA Environmental Law Conference

BY BRIAN JEMEJEME

Port Moresby, the capital city of Papua New Guinea has been chosen amongst the Pacific nations to host the LAWASIA Environment Law Conference this year, 2026.

In a development of great national significance, LAWASIA Council announced this wonderful news during its Council Meeting in October last year (2025).

In welcoming the news, the PNG Law Society President Mr Hubert Namani said the conference would provide a platform for PNG to showcase our legal perspectives on environmental governance, climate justice, and indigenous land rights. He said the conference would not only engage with international legal experts, judges,

academics, policy makers and leaders but would highlight PNG's growing role in the regional legal leadership and discourse.

"This is a proud and defining moment for the legal profession in PNG. We look forward to welcoming our regional colleagues to Port Moresby," Namani said.

Meanwhile, the LAWASIA Environment Law Conference is now confirmed and will be staged at the Apec Haus from 19-21 August 2026. Members are encouraged to actively participate in this renewed international chapter.

**"this is a proud and
defining moment"**

Trainees visit law firms as part of educational excursion

As part of educational excursion, the Legal Training Institute (LTI) trainees visited various law firms just to get familiar on how it is run & learn the operational status among others.

Those who visited Namani & Associate Lawyers were not only welcomed there but the Principal, Mr Hubert Namani who is also the President of PNG Law Society took the trainees to the Law Society office and were given a brief run down on the Society's operational status.



Above: Law Society Acting Secretary Tauvasa Tanuvasa (left) & President Mr Namani (right) in preparation for a photo shoot and trainees, seated, facing the camera.



Conference charts future of legal profession



From 6-10 April 2025, Hilto Portomaso, St Julian's

BY BRIAN JEMEJEME

Papua New Guinea was invited as one of the distinguished guests at the Commonwealth Law Conference held in Malta.

The 24th Commonwealth Law Conference theme *"Commonwealth Lawyers – Fit for the Future,"* brought together judges, lawyers, academics, and policymakers to address pressing challenges in justice, technology, and governance.

Amongst many key topics presented at the conference includes:

- **Judicial Independence and Rule of Law**
Speakers reaffirmed judicial independence as the cornerstone of democracy and economic stability. Calls for stronger judicial integrity and accountability resonated throughout the sessions, highlighting the need for robust framework to safeguard the rule of law.

- **Human Rights and Access to Justice**
Delegates debated balancing sanctions with the right to defense, stressing harmonized approaches to cross-border enforcement and recognition of judgments to ensure

approaches to cross-border enforcement and recognition of judgments to ensure fairness in global legal practice and

- **Regulation and Professional Standards**
Bar leaders examined fair regulation of lawyers and law firms, advocating for global cooperation to tackle common challenges in ethics and compliance.

Meanwhile, during the course of the event, the participants shared experiences and discussed important issues surrounding the legal profession and provide pathways for best practices. This biannual event was supported by the Law Council of Australia (LCA) and featured a faculty of international speakers covering various legal streams.

And representing the PNG lawyers membership, the President of the Papua New Guinea Law Society Mr Hubert Namani and Acting Secretary Mr Tauvasa Tanuvasa, upon invitation, attended the conference.

..continued page 8..

News: Conference charts future of legal profession

From page 7.

Mr Namani as one of the guests' speakers also delivered his speech on the importance of the rule of law, conducting professionalism in the noble profession and urged for proactive regulation to maintain fairness.

In our (PNG) judicial representation, Chief Justice Sir Gibbs Salika, Deputy Chief Justice Ambeng Kandakasi, and Justice Panuel Mogish also attended the conference and contributed in discussions and presentations.

The conference is one of the premier legal forums recognized globally for examining emerging legal trends and fostering international cooperation within the judicial process.



Photo captions:

Top right: PNG's Chief Justice Sir Gibbs Salika

Bottom right: PNG's Deputy Chief Justice Ambeng Kandakasi

Left top: Standing together with other senior international legal professionals is PNG Law Society President Hubert Namani (left) & CLA PNG Council member David Denniston (right)

Left: Deputy Chief Justice Ambeng Kandakasi & CLA President Steven Thiru

NTIL becomes second insurer to offer PI cover

BY BRIAN JEMEJEME

The National Teachers Insurance Limited (NTIL) has officially become the second insurance provider to offer Professional Indemnity (PI) coverage for members of the Papua New Guinea Law Society.

With NTIL now onboard, lawyers across the legal fraternity can choose between Alpha Insurance and NTIL when paying for their PI cover. Alpha Insurance has been the traditional insurer for lawyers over many years.

However, thanks to the initiative of the Council of the Law Society, NTIL has now joined as an insurance partner to provide PI cover alongside additional benefits. The partnership agreement was formally signed at the Law Society office in August 2025 between the Law Society's Acting Secretary, Tauvasa Tanuvasa, and NTIL's Chief Executive Officer, Dipayan De.

The signing was witnessed by Council member Justin Wohuinangu and staff from both the Law Society and NTIL.

Speaking during the announcement, Tanuvasa said: "It gives me great honor to announce to the PNG Law Society membership the partnership that has now become a reality with our new insurer, NTIL.

"We are proud to partner with NTIL. There are great benefits for lawyers within the legal fraternity.

"NTIL will now be part of the panel of insurers to meet the needs of our membership, offering not only PI cover but also Life and Medical Insurance.

"This is the first time the PNG Law Society has been given the opportunity to partner with NTIL."

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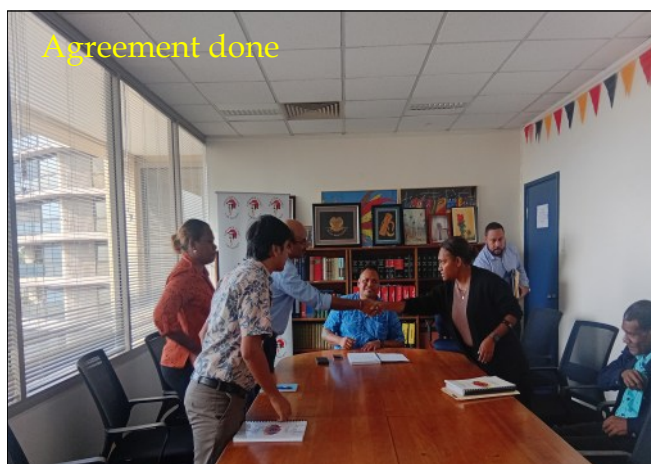
Signing of agreement



Press briefing



Brief meeting



Agreement done

Alpha Insurance or NTIL - lawyers choice

From page 9.

Meanwhile, in a Press Statement, NTIL said the PI coverage is essential and compulsory for all lawyers to maintain their practicing and operating license

The statement said under this agreement, NTIL will provide PI cover effective 1 January 2026 at the same premium levels as 2025.

In effect of the above statement, some lawyers had filled out NTIL forms and got themselves PI cover while applying for renewal of their respective certificates.

Some benefits as outlined by NTIL includes:

- **Cover levels offered K500, 000 up to K10 million** - depends on the members category and requirements, consistent with prior years.
- **A complimentary Life Insurance of K25, 000 with no age limit and no pre-existing illness exclusions** – offering broader and more flexible protection.
- **Under life insurance**, in the event of a member's death, K25, 000 benefit will be paid directly to the declared nominated beneficiary
- **Optional Medical Cover (OMP)** offered to those under 60 years of age and also increases the Life Coverage to K50, 000.

The statement says the life cover provides protection and allows members to access medical insurance at an additional premium per member under a group negotiating package which is good for the smaller firms seeking affordable health for their staff.



20TH COUNCIL GENERAL ELECTIONS

BY BRIAN JEMEJEME

The 20th Council General Elections took a new twist with Principal of Namani & Associates Lawyers Mr Hubert Namani been declared elected unopposed for the position of President.

This is first of its kind and goes down the elections history books of the Law Society. Mr Namani is the first and the only candidate to win and become President of the 20th Council of the Law Society on an unopposed declaration result in August 2025 while for the Council, it proceeded until declaration in October 2025.

Unlike the membership of other Associations and Boards, the President and Councillors receive **NO** remuneration for their services rendered to the Law Society. They all give their time freely for the Society.

On 30th October 2025, the terms of the 19th Council expired hence an advertisement calling for nominations were published in both Dailies in July 2025.

In terms of conducting the elections, all the Council General elections and By-elections are conducted by a Returning Officer (RO) from the Electoral Commission (EC) who is appointed by the Secretary of the Law Society.

The preparations for the 19th Council General Election took off in July 2025 and ended with the declarations on 23rd October 2025. President and Councillors assume office on 31st October 2025.

election result, page 12

The staff of the Law Society continue to provide reliable logistical support to the RO, ensuring smooth coordination and delivery of the its election activities



Photo captions: **Top right:** RO (in vest) gives briefing on counting

Centre: Law Society staff Linda Kopi and Gabore Kila giving assistance & Statcom Secretary Roland Ababa Malauling (right) in observation

20TH COUNCIL GENERAL ELECTIONS

PRESIDENT POSITION: According to election laws, any candidate who is nominated unopposed at the close of nominations is immediately declared elected to the contested position. Therefore, Mr. Hubert Namani was declared elected unopposed by Returning Officer (RO) Desmond Timiyaso, who had been appointed to conduct the election of the President and Councillors of the Twentieth Council of the Papua New Guinea Law Society in August 2025.

COUNCIL ELECTION AND DECLARATIONS: For the Council elections, the process proceeded as scheduled and continued through to the official declarations in October 2025. At the Close of Nominations on July 28, 2025, a total of 1,499 lawyers were registered as eligible voters, based on the distribution of Practising Certificates (PCs). Lawyers who received their PCs after the Close of Nominations were not eligible to participate in the election. Of the 1,499 eligible voters, 21 lawyers were nominated to contest the Council elections.

RESULTS & DECLARATION TABLE:

NAMES:	FINAL TALLY AFTER COUNT 21	DECLARED ELECTED
Anthony Roden-Paru	227	3
Athaliah Makanuey	58	
Christine Copland	167	8
Emmanuel Kasi	39	
Emmanuel Asigau	202	5
Emmanuel Auru	139	
Erica Kaumi	149	
Eunice Parua	234	2
George Kult	95	
Jeanale Nigs	161	
Jessy Biar	139	
Jonathan Holingu	157	
Justin Wohuinangu	191	6
Mathew Kik	49	
Myron Ipape	30	
Oala Moi	93	
Paul Mawa	180	7
Philip Tabuchi	247	1
Steward Thoke	71	
Tauvasa Tanuvasa	204	4
Terry Injia	139	



Tally board

ANTHONY RODEN-PARU	227	3	JESSY BIAR	139	x
ATHALIAH MAKANUEY	58	x	JONATHAN HOLINGU	157	x
CHRISTINE COPLAND	167	8	JUSTIN WOHUINANGU	191	6
EMMANUEL KASI	39	x	MATHEW KIK	49	x
EMMANUEL ASIGAU	202	5	MYRON IPAPE	30	x
EMMANUEL AURU	139	x	OALA MOI	93	x
ERICA KAUMI	149	x	PAUL MAWA	180	7
EUNICE PARUA	234	2	PHILIP TABUCHI	247	1
GEORGE KULT	95	x	STEWART THOKE	71	x
JEANALE NIGS	161	x	TAUVASA TANUVASA	204	4
			TERRY INJIA	139	x

Waigani National Court Complex opening in pictures



Waigani National Court Complex opening in pictures



MR ROBERT BOB MELLOR PASSES ON

February 25, 2025, was one of the saddest days for the legal fraternity in Papua New Guinea as one of its senior legal professionals passed on to the other side of life.

Mr Robert Bob Mellor or Bob, who, many knew him by middle name, served the Papua New Guinea Law Society as a Secretary for 29-years (1996-2025) – making him the longest serving Secretary of the Law Society.

Before his passing, he had some health issues and was flown down to one of the hospitals in Brisbane, Australia, for treatment but unfortunately, he passed on. He was 91 years of age and is originally from Coolamnon, a country town, approximately 506 kilometres south-west of Sydney in New South Wales, Australia.

Like many Australians in the colonial era who wished and set foot on the shores of Papua New Guinea (PNG) to get some glimpse of PNG's natural beauty and follow other career path, Mr Robert Mellor, straight out of Sydney Grammar School, set foot in Port Moresby at the age of 18 to serve as a Patrol Officer in the Department of District Services (DDS) under the old colonial administration.

The young energetic youth continued to work in PNG not only as Patrol Officer but served in various roles as time goes by. These include 17 years as patrol/field officer or "kiap" under the DDS serving in Simbu (Kundiawa), Eastern Highlands Province (Goroka), Gulf (Kikori, Kerema, Kukipi), Central (Abau and Kupiano) and National Capital District (1951-1968).

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MR ROBERT BOB MELLOR PASSES ON

From page 15.

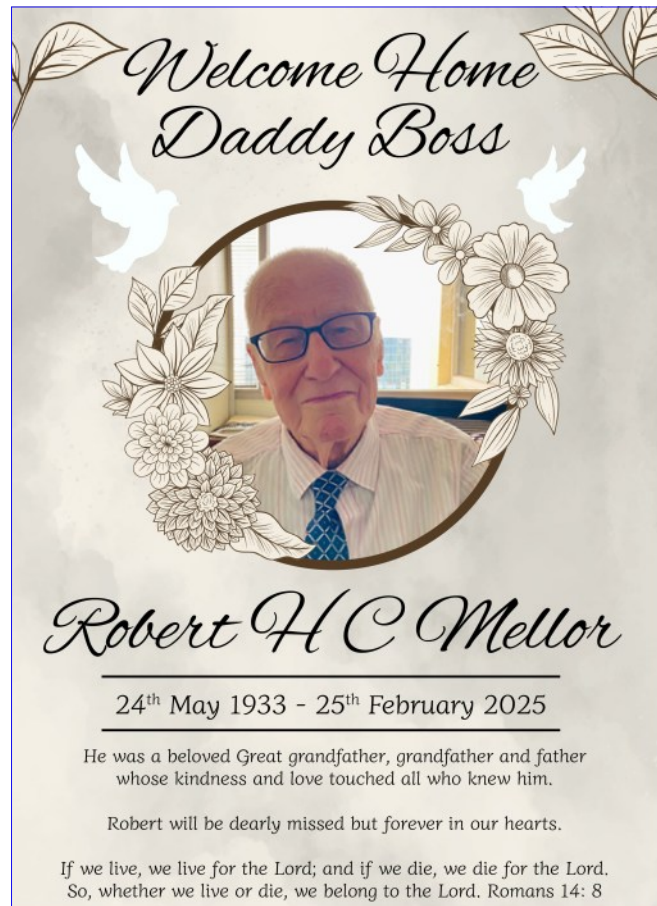
He was a senior lecturer in Law and Head of the Legal Studies Branch at the Administrative College of PNG for eight years (1969-1976), specializing in training magistrates for Local and District Courts. He served as Principal Legal Advisor in the Magisterial Service for 17 years (1976-1993), and held the position of Principal Magistrate, and on two occasions, as Acting Deputy Chief Magistrate.

He had brief stints as Director of the Legal Training Institute (1993-1994) and a lawyer with the then Constitutional Commission (1995-1996) before becoming the Law Society's Secretary, a position he loved serving until to the time of his passing.

He was one of the first six graduates of the School of Law at the University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG) in February 1972, three of whom were the likes of Sir Anthony Siaguru, Sir Kubulan Los and Sir Bernard Sakora.

Mr Mellor's dedication and service to the Law Society will be fondly remembered by all lawyers and members of the legal fraternity who had the privilege of knowing him and or working alone side him.

During the period of mourning, the President, on behalf of the Council and its membership, sends out a heartfelt condolence to his immediate family and friends in both Australia and PNG.



Heartfelt condolences also pours out to the families of the following good membership who also passed on in 2025.

Agu Klewaki

Benjamin Hetra

Hon. Luther Wenge

Luke Siminji

Seth Daniels

Tania Alofa Mele Tupou &

Ruth Kokiva Gelu

REST WELL

Women in legal profession shift towards balance



BY BRIAN JEMEJEME

The presence of women demonstrates ongoing equality in the legal profession says the Australian High Commissioner to Papua New Guinea, Ewen McDonald.

He said balance representation in the legal profession does not only strengthen decision-making but contributes to a fairer legal system.

Emphasizing on the gender balance, the High Commissioner McDonald echoed these sentiments at the opening of the second phase of the 26th Civil & Criminal Advocacy workshop at the Legal Training Institute (LTI) in November 2025.

He also praised the Australia-PNG partnership in the law and justice sector, highlighting opportunities for participants to develop their professional career going forward. He said these would strengthen the trust and collaboration within the justice sector.

The workshop is an annual event and is always held after the completion of the Local Bar advocacy.

The workshop is usually run by the senior barristers and legal delegation of the Victorian

Bar. They freely give their time and share their legal expertise via teaching and interaction.

Meanwhile, at the close of the workshop, Acting Secretary of the PNG Law Society Tauvasa Tanuvasa thanked the Victorian Bar for always committing their time and resources to come and teach our up-and-coming lawyers.

He said this program is a life changing program where it drives one to become a better person in the legal profession. "I came through this program. It's beneficial in terms of legal expertise," he said.

His advise to the trainees was simply improvise what they've learnt and serve the people with good knowledge.

Legal Training Institute (LTI) intake 2025

Total intake: 82

Men: 45

Women: 37

The rising number of females LTI takes each year reflects a steady and positive shift toward greater gender equality.

News: Civil & Criminal advocacy workshop in pictures



DISCOUNT SERVICES PROVIDERS

In 2025, the Law Society wrote to various companies requesting that they provide discount services for our membership.

While some companies did not respond, several others replied indicating that economic pressures at the time prevented them from offering discounted services.

Fortunately, we also received positive feedback from a number of supportive and reputable companies that agreed to extend discount benefits to our members throughout 2025.

The Law Society will again reach out to these companies—and others—to renew partnerships and continue providing discount services for our members in 2026.

Below is the list of companies that offered discount services to our membership in 2025, and continue to do so in 2026.

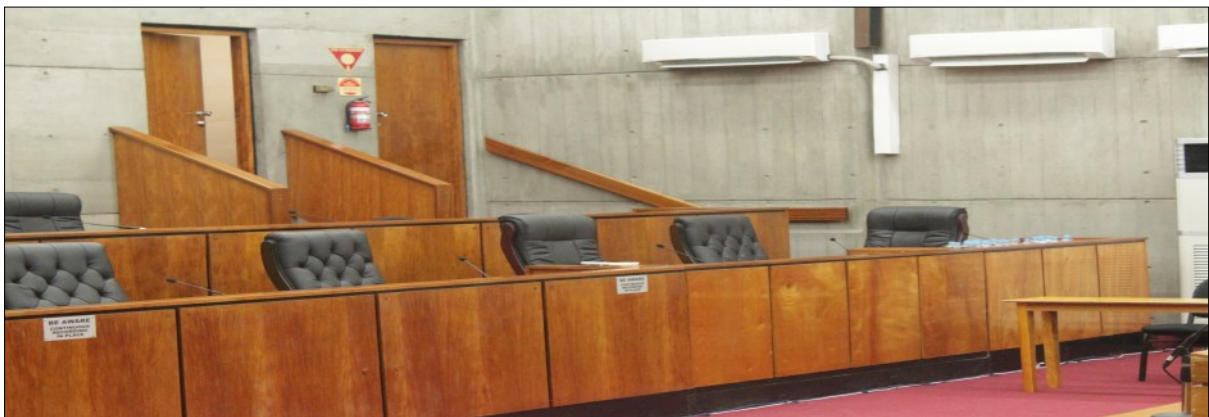
Company	Discounted Percentage	Good & Services for which discounts are offered
Blue Sky Medical & Dentist Services	30%	On all treatments: Medical, Lab & Dental
Avis Rent a Car	20%	On all cars
Wisdom Travel Services	10%	For: Air Tickets, Tour packages - domestic & International, Inbound Visa & Work Permit
Pro Pest Control	10%	On all Pest Control & Tints
Brian Bell	10%	On all energy items
PNG Sports Foundation Gyms: 1 - Aquatic Centre 2 - Sir John Guise Stadium	Membership fee K1, 100	Cut down to K600

**Law Society will further inform the membership
of any new additional discount partners as time goes by this year, 2026.**

Lawyers Check List

Rules of Court Etiquette - Courtesy to an Opponent:

- Rule 1.** Inform your opponent if you are going to be late or unable to attend
- Rule 2.** Advise your opponent in advance if the time estimate for a matter materially changes
- Rule 3.** Respect the procedure adopted by the particular Judge or Court
- Rule 4.** Do not insult or verbally intimidate your opponent
- Rule 5.** Be courteous in correspondence if sending communications to your opponent. Courtesy to the Court Administration and Witnesses.
- Rule 6.** Dress properly
- Rule 7.** Do not attend the Judge's Chambers without opposing Counsel being present
- Rule 8.** Avoid improper ex parte emails or other communications with a Judge
- Rule 9.** Time estimates given should be as accurate as possible
- Rule 10.** Always inform the Court promptly on settlement of a case
- Rule 11.** Lists of authorities and copies of cases should be filed and served
- Rule 12.** Speak to your opponent prior to the hearing
- Rule 13.** No mobile phones in the Court
- Rule 14.** Always have a list of material to be relied upon available for the Court
- Rule 15.** Do not take coffee, tea or food into Court
- Rule 16.** Provide your name to the Court officials
- Rule 17.** Observe the etiquette of the Bar table
- Rule 18.** The Bar table should never be left unoccupied whilst the Judge is still sitting
- Rule 19.** Speak from the Bar table
- Rule 20.** Announce your appearance



Check List

Rules of Court Etiquette - Courtesy to an Opponent:

- Rule 21.** Do not interrupt Counsel
- Rule 22.** Address your opponent as “learned friend”
- Rule 23.** Address the Court properly
- Rule 24.** Never address a Judge in the second person
- Rule 25.** Address witnesses properly
- Rule 26.** Never argue with a Judge
- Rule 27.** Cite authorities and references to Judges properly
- Rule 28.** Have draft orders prepared
- Rule 29.** Be absolutely punctual
- Rule 30.** Stand when the Judge enters the Court
- Rule 31.** Always bow when entering or leaving a Court which is in session
- Rule 32.** Always stand when addressing a Judge
- Rule 33.** Never interrupt a Judge from speaking
- Rule 34.** Do not patronize the Judge
- Rule 35.** Do not disparage or put down the Judge
- Rule 36.** Help the Judge
- Rule 37.** Remain silent during a ruling or judgement of the Court
- Rule 38.** Avoid the Judge out of the Court
- Rule 39.** Do not communicate with the Judge out of Court
- Rule 40.** Be gracious in defeat



CLA continues to run professional development programs

By BRIAN JEMEJEME

The Commonwealth Lawyers Association (CLA) continues to host educational programs for the legal fraternity in Papua New Guinea thanks to David Denniston.

Mr Denniston, as member of CLA in PNG, has taken the task to host various educational programs and conferences for the legal fraternity in PNG. And just recently in September 2025, CLA hosted the PNG Continuing Legal Education program at the Crown Hotel in Port Moresby.

The legal membership of the judiciary, Papua New Guinea Law Society (PNGLS) membership and the Legal Training Institute (LTI) trainees participated in this vital educational program. The program started at 3pm with registration and ended at 8:45pm with light refreshments and networking.

The topics presented and discussed during the intervals were Mining & Resources (Sharon Haihavu & Sarah Kuman), Courtroom Advice (Gertrude Tamade & Martyna Kispe), Natural Resources Law (Deputy Chief Justice Ambeng Kandakasi & Ethel Heagi), An Independent Referral Bar in PNG (Hon Justice J A Logan RFD & Jessy Biar), AI – its role in the judiciary and legal practice (Alison Holt, Anthony Roden-Paru & Kenneth Imako), The Commonwealth Latimer House Principles (Justice Vergil Narakobi & Chief Justice, Sir Gibbs Salika) and Law Society Update & Compulsory Legal Education in PNG (Tauvasa Tanuvasa, Hubert Namani, Andrew Crowe of the QLD Bar & CJ Salika). The program includes questions and answers time which gave every attendee a



chance to stand in a packed auditorium to comment and express views relevant to each subject matters respectively.

RPC APPLICATION CHECK-LIST

Application - Form PCA 1

Applicant should:

- 1 – Provided accurate business/home addresses and contact details (phone and fax numbers, email address)
- 2 – Indicate place and date of admission
 - in PNG
 - in countries other than PNG
 - if Australia, state where admitted
- 3 – Indicate citizenship (*Section 2*)
- 4 – Indicate exact nature of employment (*section 4*)
- 5 – State actual physical location of place of employment:

Example: Ramendi & Co. Lawyers, Justice Building Level 1, Atlas Street, Hohola 4, Section 81, Lot 14, National capital District
- 6 – Date and sign the application form (*Section 7*)

Application - Form PCA 3

Applicant should:

- 1 – State name and full address
- 2 – State whether a citizen of PNG or non-citizen intending to reside in PNG for not less than 12 months from the Date of Application
- 3 – Date and sign this form before a Commissioner for Oaths

TRUST MONIES STATUTORY DECLARATION

In the Statutory Declaration on Trust Monies, state his/her occupation:

*Example: "... I, Anton Ramendi, a lawyer of Ramendi & Co. Lawyers
PO Box 030, Boroko, National Capital District..."*

UPC APPLICATION CHECK-LIST

APPLICATION – FORM PCA 2

The applicant has:

Part 1 – provided proper business/home addresses and contacts (phone and fax numbers, email addresses), including place/date of admission

Part 2 – Circle only one of the parts that apply to him/her i.e, 2 (a), (b), (c), (d) or (e)

Part 3 – Indicated whether he/she is a sole practitioner, partner, employed by a law firm, or employed by the State

Part 4 – Stated the actual physical location of practice.

Example: Ramendi & Co. lawyers,
Justice Building Level 1, Atlas Street, Hohola 4,
Section 81, Lot 14, National capital District.

Part 5 – (Same as Part 4)

Part 6 – Indicated by circling whether he/she is a citizen of PNG

Dated and sign the application form

In his/her Statutory Declaration on Trust Monies, state his/her occupation.

Example: ...” ... I. Anton Ramendi, a lawyer, of Ramendi & Co. Lawyers,
PO Box 030, Boroko, National Capital District...”

Provide supporting references from UPC holders who have employed them and under whom they have practised.



As part of its ongoing service improvement efforts, the PNG Law Society has taken a significant step forward in upgrading the production of its membership identification cards. In previous years, membership cards were printed on hardcover paper and distributed without lamination.

In 2026, the Society introduced a new and enhanced format: laminated ID cards featuring member photographs. Although the production process was slow due to the new requirements, it progressed well, and members have begun receiving their laminated ID cards along with their practising certificates.

Logo upgrades Law Society image



Law Society staff embraces the new logo thanks to Acting Secretary Tauvasa Tanuvasa



Miscellaneous



PNG Law Society Office Location

Level Two (2)
NEWMONT HAUS
Hunters Street, Down Town
PO Box 2004
Port Moresby, NCD
Papua New Guinea.
Ph: 321 7344 / 321 7348
Email: admin@pnglawsociety.org.pg



The **Law Tok** warmly invites all members of the legal profession - practitioners, in-house counsel, academics, and trainees - to contribute to our official publication. This platform is designed to highlight the knowledge, experience, and perspectives within our legal fraternity, and we believe that every member has something valuable to share. We welcome submissions on any topic of professional interest, including but not limited to:

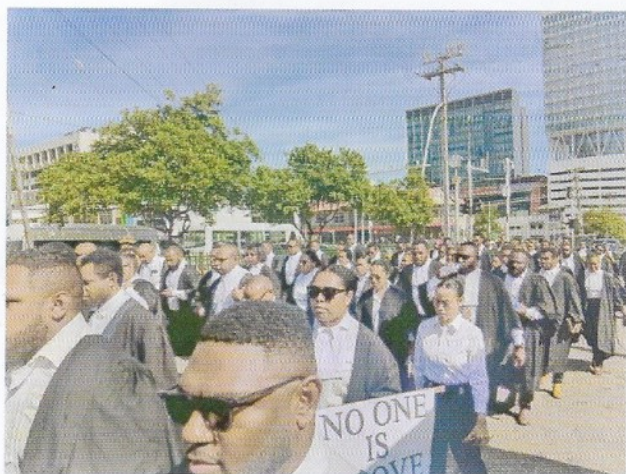
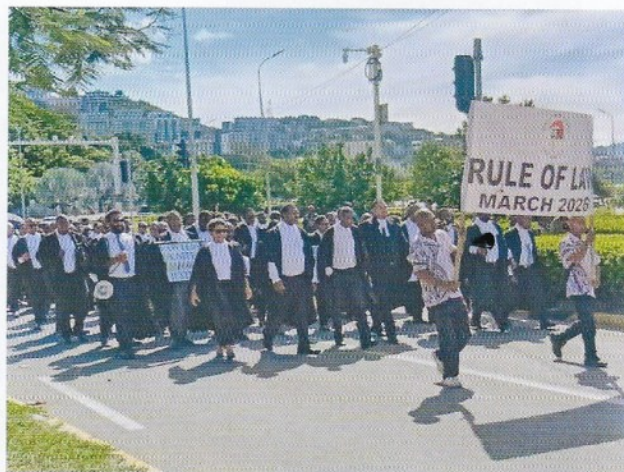
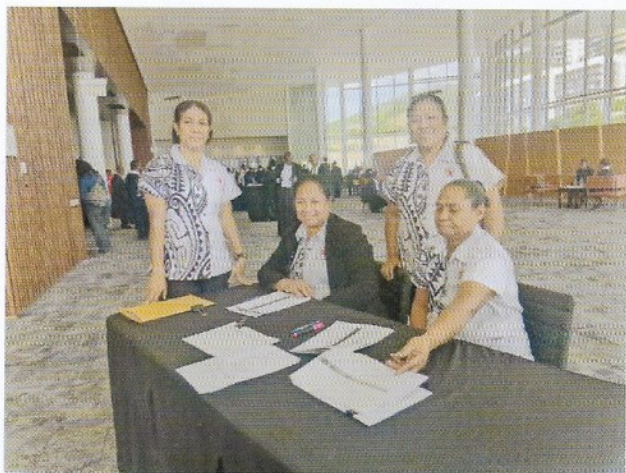
- Legal commentary and analysis
- Case reviews and summaries
- Legislative updates and reforms
- Ethics and professional practice
- Reflections on legal education or training
- Opinion pieces on emerging issues
- Practical tips for young lawyers and trainees
- Updates or insights from your area of specialization
- Human-interest stories related to the profession

Your contribution does not need to be formal or academic - clear, thoughtful writing is encouraged.

Why Contribute?

- **Promote knowledge-sharing** across the legal community
- **Support ongoing** professional development
- **Showcase your expertise** and raise your professional profile
- **Encourage dialogue** on issues affecting the justice sector
- **Inspire younger members** entering the profession

2026 Rule of Law March



A historic moment captured.



A treasurable moment with Chief Momis and Mrs Momis (seated centre)

The Rule of Law march in March this year, 2026, was more than an event. It was history in making simply because of the presence of one of the founding fathers of our Constitution.

To have the architect of our Constitution, the Grand Chief Dr John Momis, stand before the legal profession and speak directly to the origins, intent, and vision of Papua New Guinea's constitutional framework was both humbling and profound. This was not theory, this was lived history, shared with those entrusted to defend it.

Following the Rule of Law March, the Forum grounded the purpose: that the Constitution is not just a document, but a living covenant, built on integrity, accountability, and the enduring responsibility of lawyers and leaders to uphold it.

Our Founders never built our Constitution for convenience, but for courage, for moments when it would be tested and we would be called to rise.

We owe it to them to stand firm for democracy and the rule of law.

The rule of law will only endure if those entrusted with it are prepared to defend it, protect it, and carry it forward, no matter the cost.

FEES FOR PRACTISING CERTIFICATES – 2026

Fees, which include GST, for Practising Certificates are fixed under the PNG Law Society Practising Certificate Rules 1990 as amended, and for 2026 are as follows: -

	Restricted	Unrestricted
Citizens	2174.00	4675.00
Non-Citizens Resident in PNG	2891.00	5663.00
Non-Citizens Resident Overseas		8018.00

Practising Certificate Fees

The Practising Certificate Fee to be paid by a **Direct Deposit** into the PNG Law Society's bank account number 805324 with the ANZ Bank Corporate Centre, Waigani, BSB# 018801 / Swift Code – ANZBPGPX.

A copy of the Bank Deposit slip **must** be enclosed with the application form

Only Government Cheques with an account with the Bank of PNG, will be accepted.



Law Tok Publication

The Law Tok

Is the official journal of the

