



South Pacific
LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

newSPLAsh

Issue 1 • April-June 2011



The Lonely Lawyer

James Klotz on the unifying force of bar associations

Also in this issue

- ❶ **A word from...** Ross Ray QC, Chair of the SPLA Steering Committee introduces *newSPLAsh*
- ❷ **In-depth...** Reaching out to the South Pacific — the formation of the SPLA
- ❸ **In profile...** Rodney Kingmele, President of the Solomon Islands' Bar Association
- ❹ **In brief...** ABA Trial Advocacy Course scholarship recipients announced!
- ❺ **Happenings...** Events in and of interest to the South Pacific region
- ❻ **Beginnings...** A photographic history of the SPLA to date

Coming Up

SPLA Official Launch

When: 10 July 2011

Where: Sydney, Australia

Includes:

- ❶ Inaugural AGM and Executive elections
- ❷ Roundtable discussing legal profession regulation in the Pacific
- ❸ First meeting of the inaugural Executive

Introducing *newSPLAsh*

Ross Ray QC, Chair, South Pacific Lawyers' Association Steering Committee

It gives me great pleasure as the Steering Committee Chair of the South Pacific Lawyers' Association (SPLA) to welcome you to the inaugural issue of *newSPLAsh*, the SPLA's quarterly newsletter.

We have been working towards this day since the 2007 Roundtable in Brisbane at which 21 lawyers from 11 South Pacific countries voted to establish the SPLA. It was clear from that meeting that despite our many differences, the challenges facing the legal profession are shared throughout the region. Countries also differ in the relative strength of and adherence to the rule of law. What is clear is that lawyers play a vital role in maintaining the rule of law, which in turn is essential for the social, political and economic wellbeing of countries in our region. Investors will not risk development in countries if they have no confidence that commercial disputes will be fairly and independently resolved by an independent judiciary and a well-run legal system. Well-qualified and regulated practitioners are a vital component of this. Lawyers *are*

access to justice.

The SPLA has already developed a joint supportive approach to dealing with issues that confront our profession. This can only strengthen in time and will benefit the region through a stronger justice system.

A common issue is the need for ongoing legal education for practitioners. This will enable them to keep up-to-date with changes in the law and also enable

lawyers to specialise in areas of interest to them. The community is the beneficiary of well-educated lawyers.

Effective regulation is also vital for a well-administered legal system. Lawyers are in a relationship of confidence and trust when they deal with a client. That is so whether the client is a large corporation or an individual. Lawyers who breach their duties within this relationship need to be assisted to honour their duties to the client and the court. This sometimes involves education to help them to administer their practices better. Those who refuse to respect the trust and confidence of their clients should be subject to disciplinary proceedings. Such regulation gives the community confidence in the integrity of the profession.

We can work together in the region to achieve a stronger, more effective legal profession. By sharing resources and responding to the needs of each member country in the region, the work of the SPLA will benefit the legal profession and, in turn, the communities in which they practise.

As the peak legal representative body for the region, the SPLA seeks to promote a regional identity for the South Pacific legal profession and plays an important role in facilitating the exchange of ideas, information and resources among its member law societies and bar associations.

newSPLAsh will provide readers with topical and relevant updates on legal news, events and issues as a means of linking the SPLA members with each other and the legal community in the South Pacific region. Each issue will also include a feature on specific members. Ultimately, it is a publication for lawyers, by lawyers — and your contribution is key to



In Brief... Needs Evaluation Survey report

ensuring this newsletter remains current, reliable and accurate. I strongly urge all members to submit articles, content ideas and suggestions and recommendations to the SPLA Secretariat. Given the engaging issues prospering in the South Pacific region and the wealth of experience and expertise of the SPLA members, I have no doubt *newSPLash* will be both a valuable resource and a good read.

– Ross Ray QC



South Pacific
LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

Current members of the South Pacific Lawyers' Association

- ☐ Australia
- ☐ Cook Islands
- ☐ Kingdom of Tonga
- ☐ Kiribati
- ☐ New Zealand
- ☐ Niue
- ☐ Norfolk Island
- ☐ Papua New Guinea
- ☐ Republic of Nauru
- ☐ Republic of the Fiji Islands
- ☐ Samoa
- ☐ Solomon Islands
- ☐ Timor-Leste
- ☐ Tuvalu
- ☐ Vanuatu

Membership is open to peak legal professional associations, or, where none exists, a senior representative of the profession.

As the SPLA's member associations will know, a *Needs Evaluation Survey* has been conducted for the region's law societies and bar associations. This Survey, the initiative of the Bar Issues Commission of the International Bar Association, has received funding to enable the Secretariat to determine the needs of the legal professional bodies in the South Pacific region. The objective of the Survey is to step towards improving the quality of services that law societies and bar associations provide to members and the general community.

The response to the Survey has been excellent. Thirteen countries within the SPLA have been requested to complete the Survey and a 100 per cent response rate is anticipated. This Survey is one of the first conducted through the South Pacific region directed to identifying shortfalls within the legal profession.

The SPLA Secretariat wishes to thank all the members who have given valuable time and resources to respond to the Survey. A report is currently being prepared identifying the key recommendations from the responses, which will be presented to the Bar Issues Commission at its meeting in May. This outcomes report will then be used to develop proposals in partnership with each member association for sustainable assistance from international legal professional bodies and international aid organisations, which are specifically tailored to the needs of the respective law society or bar association.



Reaching out to the South Pacific

The formation of the South Pacific Lawyers' Association

Comprising mostly fledgling democratic states, the South Pacific region represents the opportunities and challenges of developing nations as they move forward in a rapidly-paced global milieu. While Papua New Guinea and Fiji have substantial populations, the smaller island nations are more sparsely inhabited and geographically isolated. Some, like Tuvalu and Kiribati, are the first to experience vulnerability to a phenomenon the rest of the

world may soon have to face with adverse climate change causing rising sea levels.

As the region strives to uphold the rule of law amid political instabilities, ethnic conflicts and economic hardships, representatives from legal professional bodies in the Pacific have called on the international community to do more to support small, developing legal professional associations.

In response, the International Bar Association (IBA) is reaching out to the South Pacific region through its Bar Cooperation Program. Coordinated by the IBA's Bar Issues Commission, the Program aims to give bar associations and law societies the

facility to seek out mutual support from each other and through the Bar Issues Commission.

In 2002, at the initiative of then Chair of the Law Council of Australia's International Law Section Russell Miller AM, the Law Council with the generous support of AusAID, helped coordinate the IBA's Pacific Leaders' Forum in Fiji in partnership with the Fiji Law Society. This meeting brought together bar leaders from 15 South Pacific countries and helped to set out the range of support being provided to the profession in the region and to identify the need for better coordination in the delivery of that support.

In the lead up to the South Pacific Legal Forum and Roundtable held in Brisbane in September 2007, the IBA's Education Trust awarded a start-up grant of \$15,000 to establish a Secretariat for the South Pacific Lawyers' Association (SPLA) within the Law Council of Australia Secretariat in Canberra and in cooperation with the New Zealand Law Society.

To oversee the development of the SPLA, including identifying its key functions and objectives, representatives from legal professional bodies in the region who participated at a South Pacific roundtable in September 2007 agreed to establish a Steering Committee. The SPLA Steering Committee comprises representatives from the Law Council of Australia, the New Zealand Law Society, the Papua New Guinea Law Society, the Fiji Law Society and two delegates from smaller South Pacific law societies. The Committee will disband when the Executive of the SPLA is elected at the SPLA's first AGM this July.

Steering Ahead

Members of the SPLA Steering Committee will make way for the new Executive to be elected at the inaugural AGM in July this year.

Members of the Steering Committee are:

- Ross Ray QC, Former President, Law Council of Australia (*Chair*)
- Dorsami Naidu, President, Fiji Law Society
- John Marshall QC, Former President, New Zealand Law Society
- Kerenga Kua, President, Papua New Guinea Law Society
- Raymond Schuster, President, Samoa Law Society (*since September 2010*)
- Rodney Kingmele, President, Solomon Islands Bar Association

Milestones

Though still in its infancy, the SPLA has already achieved a number of key milestones:

Surveying needs

Most SPLA member associations have already responded to the 'Needs Evaluation Survey', which seeks to gather information on the needs of South Pacific legal professional associations to support their legal profession and improve the quality of services provided to their members and the community. Information from the survey will be compiled into a report, which will be used to develop proposals for sustainable assistance from international legal professional bodies and international aid organisations.

Complaints and discipline

A proposal has been developed to conduct a feasibility study into the development of model legal professional rules for South Pacific countries. The proposal has been endorsed by the Pacific Island Law Officers Network (PILON).

The SPLA has commenced projects with the Papua New Guinea Law Society and the Solomon Islands Bar Association to assess and prosecute outstanding complaints against legal practitioners and to develop complaints procedures. Through its website and on request, the SPLA also provides resources for member lawyer associations to assist them to develop effective complaints and discipline handling procedures.

Professional development

Most SPLA member associations will have received a package of Continuing Legal Education DVDs, which were compiled in cooperation with the Law Council of Australia, the Queensland Law Society and the Law Society of New South Wales Young Lawyers' Committee. The seminars are on a diverse range of topics and include advocacy, criminal law, ethics, intellectual property and many others. Please contact the SPLA Secretariat if your organisation hasn't received its package.

Under an agreement negotiated by the SPLA, lawyers from South Pacific countries



are eligible for members' rates to participate in CLE events conducted by the New Zealand Law Society, Law Society of New South Wales, Queensland Law Society and the Law Institute of Victoria.

Information sharing

The revamped SPLA website has been online since 2009 and is now being regularly updated and maintained by the SPLA Secretariat. It provides news, information and resources targeted to lawyers in the South Pacific as a means of linking South Pacific Island law societies, the IBA, the Law Council of Australia, and the New Zealand Law Society.

This edition of *newSPLAsh* is the first of a regular publication distributed on a quarterly basis to all SPLA members, law practitioners in the South Pacific and the wider international legal community.

Feedback is most welcome, and can be sent to the SPLA Administrator at info@southpacificbars.org

Potential

If law societies and bar associations from the South Pacific and surrounding region can achieve a balanced and secure legal profession with support from the IBA and the SPLA, it will have an impact beyond this region. This model could be followed by developing bars around the world, creating a truly global success story.

Coming Up

In the next issue of *newSPLAsh*, we will look at the hopeful future in store for the SPLA and some of its key strategic goals.

The lonely lawyer and the unifying force of bar associations

James Klotz, Chair of the International Bar Association's Bar Issues Commission

The lawyer's role is a fundamental need of any civilised and decent society. Whether it is assisting in a house purchase, preparing a will, claiming against someone for damages or defending rights of liberty against the state; without lawyers acting as the safeguard, society and its citizens will suffer gravely from the application of arbitrary power.

However, the role of the lawyer is a lonely one. Our clients expect us to know the law and to apply it correctly. But doing so is not an easy matter. The law changes, the existing laws require amendments, developments in technology and in society require improvements to the thinking of surrounding laws. We are bombarded with an ever-changing world, with threats and issues that are new. Twenty years ago, we didn't have the internet. Fifteen years ago, we didn't have email, and five years ago, we didn't have Twitter, Facebook and the other viral social media that are beginning to have global impact on society, and direct impact on lawyers. As we try to understand, cope with, and

conquer these challenges, we have the competing interests of the public, who want easy access to well-qualified, affordable lawyers and protection from those that are unscrupulous, negligent, or dishonest; and the interests of the profession, which wants to ensure that lawyers are competent, fairly regulated, and committed to the fundamental values of society such as human dignity and equality; and are free to perform their role without

intimidation, harassment or improper interference from the government.

Within the framework of this lonely role, lawyers have recognised that to advance the profession, they must do so in concert, both by forming local bar associations in cities, regions and countries, and by forming international associations of lawyers and bar associations. The goals of these associations are fundamentally the same — to speak with one voice on matters and issues of concern to the profession as a whole, issues which transcend the artificial boundaries of nations, but which unite this profession with its lofty ideals and its hefty burden.

To illustrate this point, let us explore the activities undertaken by the International Bar Association (IBA). The Association was formed in 1947 with 34 bar associations as members. It now has a membership of more than 40,000 individual lawyers and 200 bar associations and law societies spanning 150 countries. It is independent and non-political. Its motto is to be the "voice of the global legal profession." In addition to promoting the sharing of ideas, knowledge and networking amongst members, the Association's principal aims are to support the independence of the judiciary and the right of lawyers to practise their profession without interference, to support human rights for lawyers worldwide through the IBA Human Rights Institute, and to be committed to the development of international law reform.

Over recent years, the IBA's work has broadly expanded, reflecting a growing recognition around the world of the importance of justice to economic growth and stability, and the right of each of us to seek a fulfilled and free life. As the prac-

James Klotz is a practitioner and co-chair of the International Business Transactions Group at Miller Thomson in Toronto, Canada.





tice of law outgrows national frameworks, there is an ever-increasing demand for international awareness, dialogue and facilitation, and in some areas, for rules and guidelines. The IBA seeks to play a role in these endeavours by, for example, developing and leading human rights training programs, designed to make judges and lawyers more aware of international human rights law, and the obligations of states under those laws. The IBA does this through recommendations to governments and national institutions about ways to improve national justice systems. We support the independence of judges, and the right of all lawyers to represent their clients without interference or persecution, as essential pillars of the free and fair exercise of justice in any jurisdiction. We work with legislative bodies and their elected representatives to increase their awareness of the human rights perspective when drafting and considering new laws, and we work with international courts of justice, including the International Criminal Court, to enhance understanding of its work and provide advice and suggestions on its methods and practices.

In the aftermath of the financial crisis,

the IBA's task force on the Global Financial Crisis is currently considering the financial safeguards and new rules that will come into force as well as social issues that have a global impact and affect people's lives — especially those from poorer countries. The task force think tank will also consider what role the legal profession should or could play in this new environment.

The IBA proposes new standards or practices in areas such as anti-corruption, anti-money-laundering or international arbitration, often working in partnership with other global bodies to do so. For example, the Association's *Guidelines for Drafting International Arbitration Clauses*, or the joint project on anti-corruption with the Organisation for Economic Development and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime is extending to many jurisdictions around the world, educating and guiding lawyers on international anti-corruption instruments and on their role in combating corruption.

The Association suggests ways to harmonise law across borders in order to make the international economy more productive and efficient, sometimes by

bringing together regulators and practitioners to identify unnecessary variations, blockages and impracticalities, or to disseminate best practice. Examples include the IBA *Rules on the Taking of Evidence in International Arbitration*, or the IBA Anti-Money-laundering website which assists lawyers in complying with the various money-laundering rules when identifying their client or knowing their reporting requirements for suspicious transactions.

Lawyers are brought together in different corners of the globe to debate and discuss their specialty areas of law, and through the Bar Issues Commission, the IBA brings bar associations together to discuss best practices, and the issues and challenges facing the profession. The Bar Issues Commission (BIC) is the specific body within the IBA that is the forum for individual bar associations to participate in. In addition to dialogue, the BIC also works on specific projects and initiatives to further benefit its members as a whole. The IBA has created a model *Guide to Complaints and Discipline Procedures*, and an international Code of Ethics for the legal profession. Another project we are working on is a *Guide to Training of Lawyers*. Outreach programs to developing bars, such as those in the South Pacific through the South Pacific Lawyers' Association, assist in setting up functioning and sustainable bar associations.

To ensure that this global organisation listens carefully to its members before taking action, the BIC works through its policy

committee, which addresses issues of concern to bar associations around the world by creating and recommending policies for adoption by the IBA Council and by ensuring that proposed IBA policies affecting member organisations are reviewed to be certain that such policies have the support of member organisations before being recommended. The policy committee comprises 20 representatives from a cross-section of member organisations.

The IBA's aspirations are to be the voice of the legal profession, not just in professional development, but in being the lawyers' voice for an independent judiciary, for the right of lawyers to practise their profession without interference, for human rights for lawyers worldwide, and for international law reform.

These are lofty aspirations. Lawyers who devote their spare time to advancing the good works of the IBA are motivated by the noble ambition of the legal profession. While we are all interested in earning a livelihood, the profession of law also gives us a tremendous opportunity to make this world a better place. I invite you, your Bar Association and the SPLA to help me in advancing these ambitions of the legal profession.

– James Klotz

For more information on the IBA, please visit www.ibanet.org

What is the Bar Issues Commission?

The Bar Issues Commission (BIC) falls within the International Bar Association's Public and Professional Interest Division and aims to provide its member organisations with a platform to discuss and work together on issues of common interest.

The BIC exists primarily to coordinate activities and projects in the interest of IBA member organisations. Its role is to organise conferences and events, address issues facing the legal profession through the development of procedures and guidelines, and strengthen ties with current member organisations.

The BIC comprises five principal officers: the chair, two vice-chairs, and two officers at large. One of the current vice-chairs of the BIC, Margery Nicoll, is the Deputy Secretary-General of the Law Council of Australia and is closely affiliated with the establishment of the SPLA. Margery may be contacted by email on margery.nicoll@lawcouncil.asn.au or telephone +61 2 6246 3723 and looks forward to hearing from the lawyers in her region.

In Brief...

Congratulations to Trial Advocacy Course scholarship recipients

The two recipients of the Australian Bar Association's scholarship to attend the prestigious Trial Advocacy Course from 4-8 July in Perth have been announced. Congratulations to Barina Waqa from Nauru and Solomon Kalu of the Solomon Islands, who will both be flying to Western Australia to refine their advocacy skills.

Barina Waqa is a lawyer in Nauru. She is the civil and criminal legal officer at the secretariat of the Justice and Border Control Department, and the public prosecutor of the Department's Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. As Nauru's first and only female lawyer, Barina wants to set an example for young women in the Pacific Island nation. The 31-year old says that on-the-job training is limited in Nauru and that the scholarship will allow her to develop her advocacy skills in a competitive, developed professional environment.

Meanwhile, 33-year old Solomon Kalu is a junior lawyer at the Public Solicitor's Office of the Solomon Islands. The Office provides free legal representation in criminal matters as well as environmental, family, gender and other civil law cases. Solomon mostly works in the criminal team and has been described by his seniors as a young lawyer who's committed to the study and practice of law and who "possesses the courage and application to make an excellent advocate." Solomon himself says he is of the firm view that good advocacy skills will be reflected in a passion for quality legal representation.

Ross Ray, Chair of the Steering Committee and former Law Council of Australia President, Rodney Kingmele, President of the Solomon Islands Bar

Association, and Kerenga Kua, President of the Papua New Guinea Law Society, formed the SPLA subcommittee to determine the recipients of the scholarship. The judges commented that they were very impressed with the number and quality of applications received.

The ABA's advocacy course is targeted at junior barristers in their first two years of practice who wish to improve or refine their advocacy skills. The course involves a combination of lectures, demonstrations, performances by participants, group reviews and individual coaching sessions.

A report from the scholarship winners will follow in the next edition of *newSPLash*.

ABA's Trial Advocacy Course scholarship winners Solomon Kalu (top) and Barina Waqa (bottom)



In Profile

Rodney Kingmele, President, Solomon Islands' Bar Association

What are the chief responsibilities in your current role(s)?

As a partner/legal practitioner, I represent clients both in court and in commercial transactions, and I also provide advice to clients on litigious and non-litigious matters. As the Solomon Islands Bar Association (SIBA) President, I am responsible for looking after the interests of members of the Solomon Islands legal profession.

Recently, I have had to speak out when the judiciary has been criticised and the independence of the judiciary attacked. I also represent the profession on the Judicial and Legal Services Commission — the body responsible for making appointments for legal positions within the government legal agencies and is also responsible for recommending persons it deems suitable to be judges of the High Court and the Court of Appeal, to the Governor General for appointment.

I also represent the profession on various other committees such as the Business Law and Administration Reform Committee.



As a member of the South Pacific Lawyers' Association Steering Committee, I represent the interests of SIBA and its members. I am one of two members representing the interests of smaller jurisdictions on the SPLA, the other member being Raymond Schuster of the Samoa Law Society. I'm also currently part of a three-man subcom-

mittee working on a strategic plan for the SPLA, and I am on the SPLA sub-committee responsible for choosing recipients from the South Pacific to receive the ABA's trial advocacy course scholarship.

What professional achievement are you most proud of?

Being made a partner in Sol-Law, the pre-eminent law firm in the Solomon Islands. Sol-Law is a firm considered to have some of the best practitioners in the country.

What is great about working in law in the Solomon Islands?

Being in a small, relatively new jurisdiction, you get to help in developing the jurisprudence when you are involved in complex legal cases which go before the courts. You also get to do interesting cases all the time where you see how traditional law and customary law interface in the courts.

What would you like to see improved in the legal profession in this region?

I would like to see two things in particular:

- Quality and professionalism of the profession.
- More interaction and cooperation between the professions in the different countries.

What would you like to achieve in your career in the next year?

Just to continually strive to become a better lawyer.

Who or what has been your biggest influence in your career?

John Sullivan QC — the other three partners in Sol-Law might not be happy to read this, but he has taught me most of what I now know about the practical side of the law, advocacy etc.

Conversely, there are other lawyers who shall remain anonymous, who have provided me with examples of what not to do as a lawyer. Obviously, I do not intend to follow their example.

What has been the most valuable lesson in this job?

It pays to be prepared.

What profession other than yours would you like to attempt?

A doctor, a pilot or maybe an engineer.

What's the first thing you think of when you wake up in the morning?

Where's Simon (my one year old son)? What's the most urgent pressing thing that I need to do today? And generally juggling family and work priorities.

What qualities do you think a lawyer should have?

A lawyer should first and foremost be honest and trustworthy. A lawyer should be hardworking and diligent, and be committed to the legal profession.

Why did you put your name forward for the SPLA Steering Committee?

I became a member of the SPLA Steering Committee more by default. Representatives from Solomon Islands, Cook Islands and Samoa were nominated to fill two spaces on the Committee representing the smaller jurisdictions. The Cook Islands candidate was not going to be available for the first meeting of the

“A lawyer should first and foremost be honest and trustworthy. A lawyer should be hardworking and diligent, and be committed to the legal profession.”

Steering Committee so he declined the nomination — and I got on the Committee. In any event, I saw this as an opportunity to contribute towards the development of the legal profession in the region.

What value do you see coming from the SPLA for you, SIBA and the South Pacific region?

The SPLA opens up more opportunities for improvement of the legal profession in the region. Many of the professions are small and do not have the resources of the bigger jurisdictions. With the SPLA however, resources can be pooled and small jurisdictions can benefit. One of the initiatives taken by the SPLA recently has been to conduct a survey of the needs required by its members. Once the results of that survey are in, the SPLA can then attempt to find ways of addressing those needs.

— Rodney Kingmele

Mr Kingmele was admitted as a Barrister and Solicitor of the High Court of Fiji in 1999 and as a Barrister and Solicitor of the High Court of the Solomon Islands in 2000. He graduated from the University of the South Pacific with a Bachelor of Laws in 1998 and completed his Professional Diploma in Legal Practice in 1999.

He has served as President of the Solomon Islands Bar Association and has been an active representative for Solomon Islands lawyers at international conferences and forums.

In March 2008, Mr Kingmele was appointed as a representative member for smaller lawyer associations on the Steering Committee of the South Pacific Lawyers' Association.

Mr Kingmele is a Partner of Sol-Law Barristers, Solicitors and Notaries, which was established in 1996 to provide commercial legal services within the Solomon Islands and to overseas clients.

In Brief...

Preparing for take-off

The South Pacific Lawyers' Association (SPLA) has been busy gearing up for its official launch on Sunday 10 July, 2011, prior to the Commonwealth Law Ministers' Meeting in Sydney from 11-14 July.

Attorney-General The Hon Robert McClelland MP, has been invited to preside over the launch before a lunch reception with representatives from each of the member law societies and bar associations.

The SPLA's inaugural Annual General Meeting will be held the following day, during which the South Pacific Lawyers' Association Executive will be elected.

Later that day, a Roundtable will be conducted, which will focus discussion around how the profession can act at a regional level to meet needs identified by member associations, including CLE, legal profession regulatory reform, creation and enforcement of ethics rules and support/mentoring for junior lawyers.

The newly elected Executive will then meet on Tuesday 12 July.

A formal invitation will be sent to member associations in the coming weeks.



Happenings

Events in and of interest to the South Pacific region

IBA Bar Leaders' Conference — 25-26 May 2011

Presented by the Bar Issues Commission of the International Bar Association, the 6th Annual Bar Leaders' Conference in Warsaw welcomes bar presidents, senior officers, bar executives and law firm and individual practitioners. Hosted by the Polish Bar Association and the National Council of Legal Advisors, this year's program presents new developments and often thorny issues affecting the profession of law. Sessions will feature expert panels and encourage interaction between delegates in discussions on topics such as the cost of electronic communication with the Courts and the influence of the internet and press on court proceedings. For more information, visit the [conference page](#).

SPLA Launch — 10 July 2011

The South Pacific Lawyers' Association will be officially launched in Sydney, Australia on Sunday 10 July, 2011 as part of activities taking place around the Commonwealth Law Ministers' Meeting on 11-14 July, 2011.

The Attorney-General of Australia, the Hon Robert McClelland MP, will speak at the launch,

which will take place during a lunch reception directly before the Pacific Young Lawyers' Forum at Sydney University.

Other activities to take place around the Launch include the inaugural Annual General Meeting (including election of the Executive), a Roundtable to discuss legal profession regulation in the Pacific and the first meeting of the new Executive. A social event and a closing dinner will also be held.



Beginnings

A photographic history of the South Pacific Lawyers' Association



First South Pacific Roundtable, Brisbane, Australia, September 2007.

Representatives from the Cook Islands, Kiribati, Vanuatu, Tuvalu, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Fiji, Tonga, Solomon Islands, Noumea, French Polynesia, East Timor and Norfolk Island with representatives from the Law Council of Australia, LAWASIA, the New Zealand Law Society, AusAID, and the Queensland Bar Association.



The first face-to-face meeting of the Steering Committee at the South Pacific Law Conference, Denarau Island, Fiji, July 2008.

L-R: Ross Ray QC, Law Council of Australia; Isireli Fa, Fiji Law Society; Rodney Kingmele, Solomon Islands Bar Association; Jerry Brunt, Samoa Law Society; Ere Kariko (on behalf of Mr Kerenga Kua), Papua New Guinea Law Society.

Kerenga Kua, President of the Papua New Guinea Law Society, at the official launch of a CLE program in Papua New Guinea, June 2008.



The second face-to-face meeting of the SPLA Steering Committee, at the 36th Australian Legal Convention, Perth, Australia, September 2009.

Back Row, L-R: David Naylor, Law Council of Australia; Ross Ray QC (Chair); John Marshall QC, President, Law Society of New Zealand; Rodney Kingmele, President, Solomon Islands Bar Association; Hugh Stubbs, Bar Issues Commission, International Bar Association; Margery Nicoll, Law Council of Australia; Akira Kawamura, Vice President, International Bar Association.

Front Row, L-R: Leilani Tuala-Warren, Samoa Law Society; Fernando Peláez-Pier, President, International Bar Association; Kerenga Kua, President, Papua New Guinea Law Society; Dorsami Naidu, President, Fiji Law Society.



SPLA members at the National Access to Justice and Pro Bono Conference, Brisbane, Australia, August 2010.

L-R: Ross Ray QC; Dorsami Naidu, Fiji Law Society; Mirriam Lidimani, Solomon Islands Bar Association; Sir Kina Bona, Papua New Guinea; Alexander Ward, Law Council of Australia; Rodney Kingmele, Solomon Islands Bar Association; Raymond Schuster, Samoa Law Society.





Kerenga Kua, President, Papua New Guinea Law Society, with Fernando Peláez-Pier, President, International Bar Association, at the IBA Asia-Pacific Regional Conference in Tokyo, November 2010.



Law Council President Alexander Ward with CLE materials ready to be sent to the South Pacific, March 2011.



Law Council
OF AUSTRALIA



NEW ZEALAND
LAW SOCIETY

The South Pacific Lawyers' Association was established in 2007 by the International Bar Association in partnership with the Law Council of Australia and the New Zealand Law Society. The South Pacific Lawyers' Association exists to assist developing law societies and bar associations in the South Pacific and to promote the interests of the legal profession in the South Pacific. Please visit www.southpacificbars.org for more information.

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