



# THE REFORMER

The Official Six-Monthly Newsletter of the Samoa Law Reform Commission

## IN THIS ISSUE

### Main Article

Review of the Public Trust Office Act 1975

-1

### Message from the Executive Director

#### Project Updates

#### Legal Review Assistance

-2

### Conferences, Workshops & Trainings

#### Farewells

#### Promotions

-3

### Conferences, Workshops & Training Cont'd

**NEW** Partnership Formed with the Fiji Law

#### Reform Commission)

#### Farewell to our Interns, UQ Australia

-4

### Office and Staff Achievements

-5

### SLRC Corner / Contacts

#### What's Next

-6

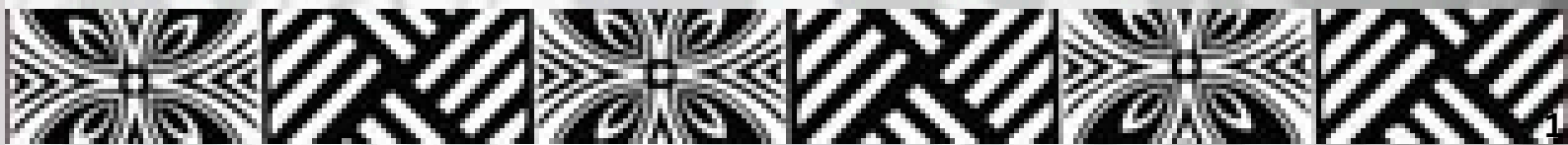


## REVIEW OF THE PUBLIC TRUST OFFICE ACT 1975

The Public Trust Office (PTO) requested a review of the Public Trust Office Act 1975 in March 2024 to clarify its functions in managing estates under this Act and other relevant laws. The Act, modeled after the repealed Public Trust Office Act 1957 (NZ), has remained largely unchanged since its enactment during the New Zealand Administration.

With the Act reaching its 50th anniversary in December 2025, this review aims to ensure its alignment with the PTO's current vision, mission, and Samoa's legal and administrative framework.

On 18 September 2024, the Samoa Law Reform Commission and PTO held preliminary discussions to identify key issues and define the review's scope. Based on these discussions, the Commission developed a Draft Terms of Reference (TOR), which was submitted to PTO on 21 November 2024 for confirmation before seeking approval from the Attorney General.





Afioga Tufuga Fagaloa Tufuga Fatu  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
\*\*\*\*\*

Welcome to your Law Reform Commission  
Newsletter for the first six months of the  
current Financial Year 2024/2025.

This issue informs you of the Commission's  
work of July - December 2024. It was  
indeed a busy second half of the year for  
the Commission. Ae faafetai tele lava i le  
Atua mo lona agalelei ma lona alofa mo  
Samoa ma ona tagatanuu.

Since the official commencement of my  
duties at the end of March 2024, the next  
few months has been busy, challenging yet  
rewarding for SLRC.

Two ongoing reviews by the Commission  
namely the Review of the Traffic Laws of  
Samoa and the Review of the Arms  
Ordinance 1960 are now in their Final  
Report Stages (last stage of the law reform  
process). The Review of the Arms  
Ordinance 1960 is of particular urgency  
given the rise of criminal offences  
involving the use of guns.

2 Projects are currently in their initial  
review stages namely the Review of the  
Fabric of Laws of Samoa No. 2 and the  
Review of the Public Trust Office Act 1975.

Details on the progress of these projects  
are summarized in this Issue of our  
Newsletter.

The Commission wishes to acknowledge  
the continuous support of the public,  
village communities as well as Government  
agencies in the work of the Commission.

Faamalo foi le galulue i le mamalu o le  
tatou ofisa nei i le Komisi. Faamanuia tele  
le Atua!

Enjoy reading!

Faafetai tele!

PROJECT UPDATES

(1) REVIEW OF THE FABRIC OF LAWS OF SAMOA No.2

Building on Issue 2 (January–June 2024), the Commission continues its preliminary  
research and stakeholder engagement.

From September to October 2024, letters were sent to 35 key stakeholders—five  
Constitutional Offices, 14 Ministries, and 16 Public Bodies—outlining preliminary  
findings on the administration of relevant laws. Stakeholders were asked to confirm their  
roles and provide initial input as to the laws listed to be under their administration.

By December 2024, all 35 stakeholders had responded. Momoli atu le faafetai tele i a  
matou paaga mo le lagolago i lenei lloiloga taua.

The Commission now prepares for one-on-one consultations, scheduled for February to  
March 2025.

(2) REVIEW OF THE ARMS ORDINANCE 1960

As highlighted in Issue 2 (January–June 2024), the Commission compiled all data and  
submissions from the public and stakeholders, identifying key issues for potential  
reform.

Following data collection, the Commission conducted further research and analysis  
(Stage 5 of the law reform process) to examine new issues raised during  
consultations.

The following provides an update on the review's progress for this reporting period  
(July–December 2024).

STAGE OF THE LAW REFORM PROCESS	DATE	DETAILS OF PROGRESS
Stage 5: Further Research and Anlysis	9 Oct 2024	Completed Further Research and Analysis & presented to the team
Stage 6: Final Report	10 Oct 2024	In progress

(3) REVIEW OF THE TRAFFIC OF LAWS OF SAMOA

Following The Reformer Issue 2 (January–June 2024), the Commission is finalizing its  
review by preparing the Final Report with recommendations for potential law reforms.

The penultimate draft was completed in December 2024, and the Final Report is  
expected to be submitted to Cabinet for endorsement between January and March  
2025.

LEGAL REVIEW ASSISTANCE

From July to December 2024, the Commission has undertaken legal and doctrinal  
research on a few matters referred (in table below). These references usually require  
that the Commission carries out required research, make analysis and provide input  
and comments to requesting Ministries/SOEs and others. The Commission continues to  
strive to provide high-quality research-based responses in a timely manner to assist  
the requesting agencies.

NAME OF REQUEST	DATE RECEIVED	DATE OF COMPLETION
Remuneration of the Civil List & salaries, allowances and other benefits for Judiciary and LTC Judges	June 2024	27 September 2024
Samoa Law Reform Commission Comments on Draft Bills: 1. Constitutional Amendment Bill 2024; and 2. Land and Titles Amendment Bill 2024	25 July 2024	31 July 2024
Consultation on National Digital identification Regulations Draft 2024	27 August 224	9 September 224
Consultation on the Draft "Short Term Release' Regulations (Ministry of Police, Prisons and Correctional Services)	25 November 2024	25 November 2024



# CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS & TRAININGS

## ALL STAFF

Training/Course Title	Provider	Date	Location	SLRC Employee
Performance Review and Strategic Planning Seminar	Samoa Law Reform Commission	13 - 14 Aug 2024	Samoa Culture and Arts Centre, Malifa	All Staff
Project Manual Discussion	Florita Tupai, Project Coordinator	23 Aug 2024	Samoa Law Reform Commission Conference Room	All Staff



# FAREWELLS



**Philia Leleimalefaga**  
**Principal Accounts/Administration Officer**

Ms. Leleimalefaga concluded her employment with the Commission on 5th July 2025 to pursue a new position with a Government Ministry. The Commission appreciates her valuable contributions during her time with us and wishes her all the best in her new role.

# PROMOTIONS



**Fugalaau Siaki**  
**Principal Finance & Administration Officer**

Fugalaau Siaki served as the Senior Accounts/Administration Clerk at the Commission for 8 years. On 29 July 2024, she was promoted to Principal Finance and Administration Officer. We congratulate Ms. Siaki on her well-deserved promotion and look forward to continuing our collaboration in the future.



**Tovale Filipo**  
**Senior Human Resource Officer**

Ms. Filipo served as the Executive Assistant at the Commission for 6 years. On 27 August 2024, she was promoted to Senior Human Resource Officer. A big faamalo to Ms. Filipo on her well-deserved promotion.



**Hope Crichton**  
**Executive Legal Officer**

Ms. Crichton held the position of Senior Legal Analyst from March 2023 to August 2024 at the Commission. On 2 September 2024, she was promoted to Executive Legal Officer. Congratulations to Ms. Crichton on this milestone achieved.

## LEGAL DIVISION

Training/Course Title	Provider	Date	Location	SLRC Employee
Legal Policy Development Training	Office of the Attorney General with Australian Attorney General	1 - 2 Jul 2024	Tanoa Tusitala Hotel Conference Room	Tapuai Sheliza Tapuai Hope Crichton Aunua Uele
National Digital Identification Regulation Consultation	Samoa Bureau of Statistics	9 Sept 2024	DBS Conference Room	Tapuai Sheliza Tapuai Lizatalei Hakai Stanley Hope Crichton
JICA KCCP on Improving Access to Justice to Realise SDG16	Japanese Embassy	20 Oct - 02 Nov 2024	Japan	Tapuai Leauanae Sheliza Tapuai
43rd Annual Meeting of the Pacific Islands' Law Officers' Network - PILON	Office of the Attorney General - Fiji	28 - 31 Oct 2024	Denarau, Fiji	Tufuga Fagaloa Tufuga Fatu Lizatalei Hakai Stanley
Symposium to commemorate the International Anti-Corruption Day 2024	Public Service Commission	9 Dec 2024	TATTE Building	Hope Crichton Tovale Filipo
Workshop on Advancing the Right to Information in the Pacific	Office of the Attorney General, Fiji	9 - 11 Dec 2024	Suva, Fiji	Tufuga Fagaloa Tufuga Fatu
Samoa Law Reform Commission - Legal Capacity Training	Samoa Law Reform Commission	16 - 20 Dec 2024	Millenia Conference Room	All Legal Staff

## Samoa Law Reform Commission - Legal Capacity Training Apia, Samoa (16 - 20 December 2024)







# !! NEW PARTNERSHIP FORMED!!

The Commission held a virtual session with its counterpart, the Fiji Law Reform Commission, on 8 July 2024. The initial discussion focused on exploring opportunities for collaboration and sharing experiences in law reform. Vinaka and we look forward to continuing this partnership in the future.



**Workshop on Advancing the Right on Information in the Pacific, Suva Fiji, (9-11 December 2024)**

**Law & Justice Sector Faigalotu 14 August 2025**



# FAREWELL TO OUR INTERNS

On 19 July 2024, we bid farewell to two of our interns who worked with the Commission for 4 weeks (June - July 2024). We acknowledged their valuable contributions in research and analysis for the ongoing Review of the Arms Ordinance. We wish Lilian and Holly all the best in the remainder of their studies.



## CORPORATE SERVICE DIVISION

Training/Course Title	Provider	Date	Location	SLRC Employee
Chief Accountants Meeting	Ministry of Finance	3 Sept 2024	Tanoa Tusitala Hotel Conference Room	Leaumoana Salima Lasalo Salima Fugalaau Siaki
Community Sector Plan Forum	Ministry of Women, Community & Social Development	12 Sept 2024	Taumeasina Upolu Conference Room	Fugalaau Siaki
National Records Task Force Meeting #12024	Ministry of Education and Culture	24 Sept 2024	Samoa Culture and Arts Centre	Tovale Filipo
Key User Refresher sessions for People One System	Public Service Commission	7 Nov 2024	SLRC Conference Room	Tufuga Fagaloa Tufuga Fatu Leaumoana Salima Lasalo Salima Fugalaau Siaki Tovale Filipo
Human Resource Coordinators Forum	Public Service Commission	28 Nov 2024	Samoa Shipping Services Conference Room	Leaumoana Salima Lasalo Salima Fugalaau Siaki Tovale Filipo
Workshop on Government Public Procurement Guidelines and Processes	Ministry of Finance	20-21 Nov 2024	TATTE Conference Center	Fugalaau Siaki



# OFFICE AND STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

## PUBLIC SERVICE DAY 2024

22 November 2024

On 22 November 2024, the Commission took part in the PS Day march, a celebration honoring the public servants of Samoa.

The SLRC was among the ministries recognized with an award for excellence in customer service. Public Service Commission Secretary Aootumua Kolone Tikeri highlighted during the ceremony that the awards serve as recognition for ministries and public bodies that have demonstrated significant improvement in their front office services, in line with the Commission's "Talofa with a Smile" Campaign.

The Executive Director and management of SLRC commended the dedication and hard work of all staff involved, who continue to uphold excellent customer service at the front counter.

Following the ceremony, SLRC joined in various indoor activities to further celebrate Public Service Day.



## HOPE CRICHTON'S ADMISSION TO THE HIGH COURT OF NEW ZEALAND

On 20 September 2024, Ms. Hope Crichton was admitted as a barrister of the High Court of New Zealand! The Commission congratulated Ms. Crichton on this remarkable achievement.



*Congratulations!*





# SLRC CORNER

## WELCOME AND FAREWELL TO OUR NEW INTERNS

On the 18th November 2024, the Commission was excited to welcome another two final year law students from the University of Queensland, Australia.

They are Ms. Chloe Turner and Samuel Vecchi. They worked for the Commission for 4 weeks (18 Nov - 13 Dec 2024). They were working on research of the current Review of the Public Trust Act 1975.

The Commission commended their contribution to the work of the Commission and wished them well with the rest of their studies!



### Volunteering for CHOGM Meeting



### End of the Year Function



### Legal Team in their Gowns



## HAVE YOUR SAY

Q -

How to give the Commission my Feedback?

A -

Send us through letter, email, facebook message or join us at our public consultations in Upolu or Savaii.



## CONTACT US

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## What's Next



Find out any latest news about the Commission on our Facebook page and website :)