

Phone (Office): +685 28493/ 28494  
Mobile: +658 7586580  
E-mail:  
[leilani.tuala@samoalawreform.gov.ws](mailto:leilani.tuala@samoalawreform.gov.ws)

Vaivase-Tai  
P.O Box 2378  
APIA, SAMOA

LELANITUALA-WARREN

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## **CURRICULUM VITAE**

### **1. PERSONAL INFORMATION**

NAME: **Leilani Sina Naireen Tuala-Warren**  
DOB: 28/11/72  
PLACE OF BIRTH: Motootua Hospital, Apia, Samoa  
GENDER: Female  
NATIONALITY: Samoan  
MARITAL STATUS: Married  
HOBBIES: Reading, hiking, netball  
OCCUPATION: Executive Director, Samoa Law Reform Commission

### **2. EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND**

#### **1991-1998**

##### **Tertiary:**

1998 – (3 months) – Institute of Professional Legal Studies,  
University of Waikato

1997 – University of Waikato, LLM (with Distinction)

1994-1997- University of Waikato, LLB

1991-1993- University of Sydney, Australia, B. Economics.

**1988-1990**

Secondary:

1987-1988- (Form 3 & 4), Leifiifi Junior Secondary School, Malifa, Samoa.

1989-1990 (Years 11 & 12), Tintern Church of England Girl's Grammar School, Melbourne, Australia.

**3. ACHIEVEMENTS**

- a) Recipient of AusAid Scholarship to Sydney University (1991-1993)
- b) Recipient of NZODA Scholarship to Waikato University (1995-1998)
- c) Recipient of Page Travel Award funded by University of Waikato Foundation, 1997.

**4. PUBLICATIONS**

- a) A Study into the Ifoga: Samoa's answer to dispute healing: Te Matahauariki Institute, University of Waikato, 2002
- b) To what extent are Samoan characteristics, customs and traditions taken into account in New Zealand courts, particularly in the determination of murder cases where the statutory defence of provocation has been pleaded. University of Waikato, 1998.

**5. EMPLOYMENT HISTORY**

- a) November 2008-current - Executive Director, Samoa Law Reform Commission

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Provide advice to the Prime Minister, Cabinet and Attorney General in relation to areas of law which require reform;
- Provide advice to Ministries and Government agencies in

relation to law reform and law reform processes;

- Perform the statutory functions as prescribed by the Samoa Law Reform Commission Act;
- Ensure that law reform assignments undertaken by the SLRC at the request of the PM, Cabinet and the AG are based upon;
- broad based stakeholder and community consultation, proper research in relevant areas and a realistic assessment of the needs of Samoa and the effectiveness of the proposed reform;
- Engage consultants;
- Lead, manage and constantly review the daily operations and internal controls of the SLRC in relation to human resources, financial resources and budget, physical resources and systems and processes;
- Prepare and submit within the statutory timeframe the following; Annual Report, mid-year and annual reviews, and periodic reports as required by the PM and AG.

**b) June 2005- November 2008-Tuala & Tuala Lawyers, Samoa, Partner, Litigation**

*DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:*

- Conduct of Litigation, in criminal, family, commercial, and civil law;
- Preparing case files;
- Interviewing witnesses;
- Preparing legal opinions for clients;
- Debt collection for commercial clients.

**c) 2003-2005- University of Waikato, School of Law, Law Lecturer**

*DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:*

- Teaching in the following Papers:
- Legal Method, Dispute Resolution, Corporate Securities and Finance Law(course convener), Commercial Transactions,

Consumer Protection and Fair Trading Act.

**d) 2001-2003- University of Waikato, School of Law, Tutor**

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Tutoring a stream of Dispute Resolution.

**e) 2002-2003-University of Waikato, School of Management,  
Teaching Fellow in Commercial Law**

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

Teaching in the following papers:

- Legal Issues in E-Commerce (course convener), Commercial Law, Law of Business Enterprises (course convener), Business, Law, Ethics, Sustainability and the Treaty of Waikato.

**f) 1998-2000- Office of the Attorney General, Samoa, State Solicitor**

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Conducting criminal and civil litigation;
- Preparing legal opinions for government
- Conducting debt collection proceedings on behalf of government owned enterprises
- Drafting contracts and negotiating on behalf of government
- Attending meetings on behalf of government
- Meeting with Ministers and ministries in preparation of litigation
- Working closely with senior State Solicitors for particular cases

**g) 1997-1998- Office of the Attorney General, Samoa, Law Clerk**

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Conducting research for senior state solicitors

- Preparing case files for litigation
- Interviewing witnesses for litigation
- Liaising with the Police in preparation for trial, e.g. ensuring exhibits are complete, prisoners in custody are brought to Court, and witnesses for the prosecution appear.

**h) November 1993-February 1994- Central Bank of Samoa, Offshore Banking Division, Summer internship**

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Registering of foreign companies

**6. PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE(S)**

**Contractual Work/Trainings/Workshops/Conferences**

- a) Participated in the Samoa Law Society Continuing Legal Education Programme (CLE) workshop from 29 November-1 December 2011. Presented a paper on behalf of the Samoa Law Reform Commission.
- b) Selected as one of two representatives from Pacific Island Countries to attend the Australian Research Management Society (ARMS) Conference in Sydney, Australia, 13-16 September 2011.
- c) Attended and presented at 2<sup>nd</sup> Women's Health Symposium, on Women and the Law, from 11-12 August 2011, Apia, Samoa.
- d) Participated and delivered the summation at Samoa Conference 2, hosted by the National University of Samoa, for the session on Law, Ethics & Social Justice, 11 July 2011.
- e) Conference Dinner Speaker at Te Hunga Roia Hui a Tau, Hamilton, New Zealand, 2 July 2011.
- f) Attended a Seminar on Judicial Construction for Developing Countries from 12-27 June 2011, at Peking University, Beijing, China.

- g) Presented on behalf of Samoa at the World Congress on Adult Guardianship Laws, in Yokohama, Japan, October 2010.
- h) Presented at the Australasian Law Reform Agencies Conference (ALRAC) in Brisbane, Australia, September 2010.
- i) Participated as representative of Samoa in the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) Regional Seminar on Traditional Knowledge, Genetic Resources and Traditional Cultural Expressions, in Bangkok, Thailand, 16-17 December 2009.
- j) Participated in the Samoa Law Society Continuing Legal Education Programme (CLE) workshop from the 9 – 11 December 2009. Presented a paper on behalf of the Samoa Law Reform Commission.
- k) Completed a special programme on Changing the Law: Successful Reform, held by Public Administration International, from 26-30 October 2009, in London.
- l) Participated as the representative of the Samoa Law Society at the Bar Leaders' Forum held as part of the 36<sup>th</sup> Australian Legal Convention, held in Perth, Australia, 17-19 September 2009.
- m) Information Exchange Visit for one week to the Australian Law Reform Commission, in Sydney, Australia, May 2009.
- n) One week attachment to the New Zealand Law Commission, Wellington, May 2009.
- o) Two weeks attachment to the British Columbia Law Institute in Vancouver, Canada, March 2009.
- p) One week attachment to Alberta Law Reform Institute, in Edmonton, Alberta, March 2009.
- q) Participated and was a panelist at the Fiji Law Society Annual Convention and South Pacific Law Conference from 17-19 July 2008, in Fiji.

- r) Attended the Samoa Law Society Continuing Legal Education Programme (CLE) held in Apia, Samoa from 12-15 December 2007.
- s) Drafting of Fiji Penal Code, Criminal Procedure Bill and Corrections Bill as part of a group of three consultants attached to the Fiji Law Reform Commission in 2006 for two weeks.
- t) Legislation drafted: Daylight Savings Act 2009 and International Date Line Act 2010.

**7. PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

- a) Member of the Samoa Law Society.
- b) Admitted to the High Court of New Zealand, 1998.
- c) Hold a practicing certificate as a Barrister & Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Samoa (1998-2000, 2005-2012)
- d) Member of the International Guardianship Network.
- e) Member of Women in Leadership Advocacy (WINLA), Samoa. This group is made up of women Chief Executive Officers of all government Ministries and Statutory Corporations and Bodies.

**8. LANGUAGES**

English and Samoan

## **9. REFEREES**

### **1. Ming C. Leung Wai**

Attorney General,

Attorney General's Office, Samoa

P.O Box 27, Apia, Samoa

Ph: (685) 20295/20296

Email: [mingleungwai@ag.gov.ws](mailto:mingleungwai@ag.gov.ws)

### **2. His Honour Patu Falefatu Maka Sapolu**

Chief Justice of Samoa,

Ministry of Justice and Courts Administration

Mulinuu, Samoa

Ph: (685) 22671

Email: [cj@samoa.ws](mailto:cj@samoa.ws)