

CAPACITY BUILDING

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions ('ODPP') is committed to supporting continuing legal education for its Officers. To that end, the ODPP holds monthly day-long Work-shops for State Counsel in areas as diverse as criminal advocacy, legal drafting, victim protection mechanisms, gender justice and appeals.

Through the ODPP, State Counsel have been able to undertake Postgraduate Certificate in Corruption studies at the University of Hong Kong (2011 and 2013).

Additionally, State Counsel are encouraged to submit expressions of interest for International Conferences and to date have attended criminal law Conferences in interesting localities around the world.

The ODPP firmly believes in excellence through capacity building for all its staff.



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS

INFORMATION BROCHURE
(EMPLOYMENT)



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC
PROSECUTIONS

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Vision: To uphold the rule of law through professional and independent prosecution service

Constitutional Role of the ODPP

The Director of Public Prosecutions ('DPP') is constitutionally empowered pursuant to Section 117 of the Constitution of the Republic of Fiji, 2013 to:

- (i) institute;
- (ii) take-over; or
- (iii) terminate,

criminal proceedings in Fiji. However, these powers do not extend to prosecutions conducted by the Fiji Independent Commission against Corruption ('FICAC'). The DPP may also intervene in proceedings that raise a question of public interest that may affect the conduct of criminal proceedings or criminal investigations.

The Constitution also empowers the DPP to appoint any legal practitioner whether from Fiji or from another country to be a public prosecutor for the purposes of any criminal proceeding.

Section 51(2) of the Criminal Procedure Act, 2009, also empowers the DPP to appoint police officers to be police prosecutors for the purpose of conducting prosecutions in the Magistrates' Courts of Fiji.

The DPP also has the authority to appoint, remove and institute disciplinary action against all staff (including administrative staff) of the ODPP.

In summary, the Constitution authorizes the DPP to independently govern all matters concerning public prosecutions and ensures its independence not only for prosecution matters but also authorizes the Director, alone, to determine all matters pertaining to the employment of all staff and administrative matters concerning the ODPP.

State Counsel

The DPP may appoint any legal practitioner whether from Fiji or from another country to be a public prosecutor for the purposes of any criminal proceeding. Also, the DPP may delegate any or all of his powers to other persons acting on the DPP's instructions. For example, the DPP may by written notice authorize any lawyer to be a State Counsel and may authorize any such lawyer to exercise all or any of the functions vested in the DPP, in accordance with law.

Salaries

Counsel within the ODPP are paid competitive salaries.

Criteria for Appointment

The ODPP is an equal opportunities, merit based employer and to that end, is constantly seeking to recruit and promote Counsel with an aptitude for excellence in forensic trial and appellate advocacy, litigation drafting, legal analysis and research. Academic legal qualifications and extensive experience in the areas just cited are key advantages.



Prospective employees must meet the minimum qualification requirements for each advertised post applied for. While the DPP has the discretion to waive minimum qualification requirements, this will only be done in very exceptional circumstances, and only in respect of candidates whom the DPP feels have exceptional potential. All members of staff must be people of impeccable character. A Government agency, and the premier law office in Fiji charged with prosecuting cases before Fiji's courts, it is important that all members of staff conduct themselves in a manner that is both professional and above reproach.

Corporate Services

The Corporate Services Division is comprised of the following sections:

Administration

(The Human Resources Director, the Senior Administrative Officer, Administrative Officers, Executive Officers, Clerical Officers, Senior Secretary, Secretaries, Typists, Clerical Officers, Drivers, Messengers, Cleaners).

Accounts

(The Accounts Officer, the Assistant Accounts Officer, the Accounts Clerk).

Registry

(The Senior Administrative Officer Litigation, the Administrative Officer-Litigation, Executive Officers-Litigation, Litigation Clerks, Paralegals).

Information Technology

(The Senior Systems Analyst, Computer Operator).

Library

(The Law Librarian).

Media

(The Media Liaison Officer).

The Corporate Services Division, of which the DPP is the ultimate head, is supervised by the Director Human Resources. This Division supports and facilitates the work of the DPP and his State Counsel in fulfilling the Constitutional requirements of his office.

