

Fiji Law Society – Plan for 2009 - 2010

Membership Benefits

1. Maintain a register of members with a list and full contact details on the FLS website.
2. Facilitate contact and collaboration between FLS members and also between FLS members and overseas law firms and law societies.
3. Seek contact and agreements with law libraries in Fiji and abroad so that members are able to get copies of decision and authorities both local and overseas via electronic mail or fax/post.
4. Access to FLS's representative services and the opportunity to have a say in the way the profession is regulated. The nature and extent of these services to be discussed with assistance from other law societies.
5. To provide or arrange for the provision of services and facilities for lawyers, including seminars and educational and training services and facilities
6. To publish periodicals, pamphlets, and other materials and up to date information on its website on administrative matters in relation to the practice of law in Fiji.
7. FLS is to represent member lawyers to the Chief Registrar and other person in authority appointed under the Legal Practitioners Decree (2009) [LPD] and when appropriate to the government.
8. Provide opportunities for members of the profession and the judiciary to meet.
9. Member-only access to legal websites, friendly law societies from abroad, overseas seminars and conventions at a discounted rate.
10. Developing a sense of belonging to the profession and confidence in representing their clients and members of the public despite the political situation. This can be achieved through participation on committees, delivering CLE, convening workshops and discussion forums on current difficulties faced within the legal profession in Fiji.

11. Facilitate the publishing of local decisions (with head notes) on the FLS website.
12. The FLS is to put mechanisms in place to provide representative functions to members who request it. If needed a team of lawyers can be setup who would be willing to help members who have complaints against them and to provide independent legal advice on it.

Public Functions

1. There is a shortage of judges and magistrates and as such matters in civil courts are not being heard with speed and efficiency. As our functions so far as having any input in the setup of the judiciary has been taken away, the FLS is to facilitate and implement alternative dispute resolution techniques in Fiji. We are seeking assistance from abroad.
2. We will offer to resolve disputes between FLS members and their clients who have pending complaints. Setup mediation between members and complainants and if needed make appropriate representation to the relevant authorities.
3. Legal Aid Commission has a heavy case load. To assist the legal aid commission in ensuring that their legal load is handled efficiently and properly for the benefit of the poorer members of the community. Long term plans to setup duty lawyers who provide services to members of the public who are eligible for legal aid.
4. To provide basic legal education of their rights and obligations to members of the public and to implement duty lawyer schemes if necessary.
5. To provide information, advice and assist the government in law reform and legal education.