



JUSTICE MATA KELI TUATAGALOA
Supreme Court of Samoa

A graduate of the University of Waikato (BA) and the University of New South Wales (LLB), Justice Tuatagaloa is the first woman to be sworn in as a Judge in Samoa initially in the District Court from 2011 and in August 2015 was sworn in as a Supreme Court Judge. With the launch of the Alcohol and Drugs Court (ADC) in February 2016, she has presided over this specialized Court since its establishment.

With a passion to reduce offending prompted by alcohol and drug abuse by way of therapeutic means a lot of groundwork has taken place in the last year venturing into unfamiliar territory for the ADC Team as a first Court of its kind in Samoa. To achieve this, aspects of *FaaSamoa* (culture) has been incorporated to help shape programs suited to implement the vision advocating for safer communities coupled with educating individuals to be responsible citizens and role models within their families and the community. The active role of community leaders in consultation with the ADC Court has contributed to the treatment programs.

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