

PRACTICE DIRECTION 1 OF 2015: ATTIRE FOR THE SUPREME COURT, LAND COURT AND COURT OF APPEAL OF TONGA

This Practice Direction has been prepared in consultation with the Tonga Law Society, the Attorney-General's office and the Judges of the Supreme Court. It is to be effective immediately.

1. Whenever appearing before the Court (whether in open Court or in Chambers) formal dress is expected at all times. The following is a reference for lawyers on what is considered acceptable dress in the Supreme Court, Land Court and Court of Appeal.

2. For lawyers who have qualified with an LL.B degree overseas

a) In open Court, for men this is:

- a dark (black, blue or dark grey) suit or alternatively a dark coloured tupenu with ta'ovala;
- white shirt or black shirt;
- black or dark shoes with a suit or sandals and slippers with tupenu and ta'ovala;
- a gown;
- a wig;
- bands or jabot (if wearing a jabot it may be necessary to also have a black bar jacket).

b) In open Court, for women this is:

- a dark dress or skirt;
- if wearing a blouse a white blouse or black blouse;
- black or dark shoes;
- a gown;
- a wig;
- bands or jabot (if wearing a jabot it may be necessary to also have a black bar jacket).

3. It is understood that some Counsel may not have a wig, gown and bands or consider that they are prohibitively expensive. There is now a cost effective option for purchasing court attire in New Zealand and details have been provided to the Law Society. In cases where any lawyer cannot afford to purchase their own formal attire then they should make arrangements to borrow it from other Counsel, if at all possible. If such arrangements cannot be made or Counsel has good reasons for not being able to wear formal attire then they may raise the matter privately with a Judge of the Supreme Court and with their consent may then appear in Court as if for Chambers.

4. In Chambers, as above for men and women but without:

- a gown;

- a wig;
- bands or jabot (men will be expected to wear a tie).

5. For local practitioners who have not qualified with an LLB overseas

a) In both open Court and Chambers local practitioners will be expected to dress as follows:


(i) For men:

- a dark (black, blue or dark grey) suit or alternatively a dark coloured tupenu with ta'ovala;
- white shirt or black shirt;
- tie;
- black or dark shoes or sandals and slippers with tupenu and ta'ovala.

(ii) For women:

- a dark dress or skirt;
- if wearing a blouse a white blouse or black blouse;
- black or dark shoes.

DATED: 9 June 2015



O. G. Paulsen
**O. G. Paulsen
Chief Justice**