



the global voice of
the legal profession*

William Wylie Clark
President
Fiji Law Society
Private Mail Bag
Government Buildings
Suva, Fiji
Email: flssecfiji@gmail.com

18 February 2021

Dear President,

I am writing to you as Chair of the Bar Issues Commission (“BIC”) of the International Bar Association (“IBA”). In response to your letter dated February 10, 2021, we would like to express our concern regarding certain matters related to Bill No.1 (Anti-Corruption Division) and Bill No. 2 (Abolition of Assessors) in your country.

The IBA, established in 1947, is the world’s leading organisation of international legal practitioners, bar associations and law societies. It has a membership of more than 80,000 individual lawyers and 190 bar associations and law societies spanning over 160 countries. The BIC supports the interests of the IBA’s member organisations, which includes Fiji Law Society. This involves arranging events to discuss issues that affect the legal profession globally, working groups that develop resources and guidelines for bar associations and a Policy Committee advising IBA Council on key IBA resolutions and statements.

The BIC is committed to promoting, protecting and enforcing the rule of law and fair and transparent procedures in legislating new bills of interest to its bar association members worldwide. We, the BIC, have been informed about the aforementioned two bills pending in the Parliament of your country, and have concerns in the light of our commitment as mentioned above.

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4th Floor, 10 St Bride Street, London EC4A 4AD, United Kingdom Tel: +44 (0)20 7842 0090 Fax: +44 (0)20 7842 0091 www.ibanet.org

International Bar Association is incorporated as a Not-for-Profit Corporation under the laws of the State of New York in the United States of America and is registered with the Department of State of the State of New York with registration number 071114000655 - and the liability of its members is limited. Its registered address in New York is c/o Capitol Services Inc, 1218 Central Avenue, Suite 100, Albany, New York 12205.

The London office of International Bar Association is registered in England and Wales as a branch with registration number FC028342



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On behalf of the BIC, we extend our support to the Fiji Law Society's efforts to uphold respect for the legal profession and the rule of law. Please feel free to distribute this letter among your members and other parties as you see fit.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kimitoshi Yabuki".

Kimitoshi Yabuki

Chair

Bar Issues Commission

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