



## EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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### Young lawyers to attend Women's Rights Program



Young lawyers Joe Apo and Helen Roalakona from the Public Prosecutors Office, Department of Justice and Attorney General pose for a picture with US Ambassador Teddy. B. Taylor before their departure to the United States.

Three lawyers will undergo a six week fellowship program in the United States as part of the Pacific Fellows Women's Rights Program under the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI), and supported by the U.S Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs Professional Fellows Program.

Mr. Apo (Family & Sexual Offences Unit), Miss Roalakona (General Prosecutions Unit) and Miss Keene (Office of the Solicitor General) will travel to the U.S to experience and gain a better understanding of international legal standards with regards to women's issues. The exposure aims at equipping participants with;

- the ability develop stronger legal protections,
- provide better legal advices,
- assist and spearhead innovative responses to violence against women

- Strengthen existing networks of legal advocates in the Pacific working to advance women's rights
- Foster linkages between American and Pacific women's communities to leverage the effectiveness and impact of the impact of exchange to strengthen legal responses and frameworks in the Pacific.

In a brief meet with Ambassador Taylor, the lawyers - first timers to the United States, expressed how they were honored to have the opportunity to be part of this prestigious fellowship.

Ambassador Taylor encouraged both participants to make use of the opportunity and gain more in terms of the experience and understanding. He also wished them well in their program and believes that with the exposure, the three lawyers will come back equipped with new ideas to contribute to the Department and the country as a whole.

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