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BILLS AND LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

LEGAL PROFESSION BILL 2017

Call for Submissions

The National Parliament of Solomon Islands **Bills and Legislation Committee** is calling for written submissions from individuals, Legal professionals, legal practitioners, law firms, resource owners, Business houses or consumers of legal services who wish to express their views, knowledge or experiences on the **Legal Profession Bill 2017** that is now before Parliament.

The objects of this Bill are to regulate the legal profession, to facilitate the fair and efficient administration of justice and to provide for the protection of consumers of legal services and the public. It establishes two new legal entities to jointly regulate the profession, the Legal Profession Authority (LPA) and the Solomon Islands Law Society (SILS). Further the Bill:-

- Sets out the requirements for admission to legal practice and the minimum standard of professional conduct expected from legal practitioners.
- Creates a Disciplinary Committee of SILS and a Disciplinary Tribunal to effectively deal with complaints about unsatisfactory professional conduct and professional misconduct
- Provides for the issue and annual renewal of practicing certificates dependent upon compliance with the Act and Rules, and compliance with the requirements to undertake continuing legal education.
- Sets out strict requirements for dealing with trust money for the protection of clients.
- It also has strict requirements in relation to the costs legal professionals can charge their clients.
- It further provides for the appointment of supervisors of trust accounts, managers and receivers in certain specified circumstances where such intervention is necessary.

The Committee hopes to collect these submissions as evidences of its inquiry into the Bill and present them in a report to Parliament. The closing date for submissions is at the close of business (4:30pm) **8 August 2017**.

Copies of the Bill or the TOR of the Committee can be accessed under "*what's new in parliament*" on the National Parliament website ([www.parliament.gov.sb](http://www.parliament.gov.sb)) or through request to the Committee Secretariat. Submissions should be sent to: **The Chairman, Bills and Legislation Committee, National Parliament of Solomon Islands, P.O. Box G19, Honiara**; or alternatively, submissions can be sent by email to the Committee Secretariat at [ComSec@parliament.gov.sb](mailto:ComSec@parliament.gov.sb)

If you would like further information about the inquiry or making a submission, please contact the Committee Secretariat by email or phone 24323/28473.

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Hon. Connelly Sandakabatu

**Chairman**  
Bills and Legislation Committee  
National Parliament of Solomon Islands