

# Pacific Islands Legal Information Institute

## Quick Guide to Using PacLII



### Topics

- Where to start?
- Browsing the PacLII Databases
  - Case Decisions
  - Legislation
- Using the PacLII Search Engine
- Sorting and Viewing Search Results

## Where to start?

If you are accessing the Internet from USP, Emalus Campus: [www.pacii.org.vu](http://www.pacii.org.vu)

If you are accessing the Internet from outside Emalus Campus: [www.pacii.org](http://www.pacii.org)

There are two options to choose when locating information on PacLII:

- browsing, or
- searching

## Browsing the PacLII Databases

A screenshot of the Pacific Islands Legal Information Institute (PacLII) homepage. The browser window shows the URL 'www.pacii.org'. The page features the PacLII logo on the left, a search bar with a 'Search' button, and a 'Tip' section. Below the search bar, there are three main sections: 'PacLII DATABASES' with a list of Pacific jurisdictions, 'News &amp; Additions' with a date of '12 July 2013', and 'PacLII Net Newsletter' with a description of the newsletter. The 'PacLII Net Newsletter' section also includes a link to 'click here' and a description of the Pacific Judicial Development Programme (PJDP) Phase 2.

On the left-hand side of the PacLII homepage, there are links to each Pacific jurisdiction. This is helpful if you are interested in just one jurisdiction. The jurisdiction link will take you to a Jurisdiction Database Page and this lists all databases available for that jurisdiction.

You can browse the cases and legislation. Browsing is useful for when you want to view recent cases or sessional legislation or you know the name of the document. There are some useful indexes to legislation published on the legislation pages.

# Browsing Case Decisions

## Jurisdiction Database Page:

The screenshot shows the 'Vanuatu Laws' page on PaclII. It is divided into two main columns: 'Vanuatu Cases' and 'Vanuatu Legislation'. Under 'Vanuatu Cases', there are links to various courts including the Court of Appeal of Vanuatu, Supreme Court of Vanuatu, Magistrates Court of Vanuatu, Island Court of Vanuatu (with English and Bislama options), Supreme Court of New Hebrides, Court of Appeal of Fiji, Tribunal Mixte des Nouvelles Hébrides, Election Dispute Committee of Vanuatu, and Vanuatu Community Parole Board. Under 'Vanuatu Legislation', there are links to the Constitution of the Republic of Vanuatu, Consolidated Legislation (2006 and 1988 editions), Sessional Legislation (1985 and 1998), and Subsidiary Legislation. A 'Law Reports and Collections' section at the bottom lists Vanuatu Law Reports (1980-1994) and Unreported Judgments (1911-1994).

- Both reported & unreported decisions published on PaclII
- Index to Law Reports with links to cases
- Separate database for each level of court

## Court Database Page:

The screenshot shows the 'Court of Appeal of Vanuatu' database page. It features a navigation bar with 'Home | Databases | WorldLII | Search | Feedback'. Below the header, it states 'You are here: PaclII >> Databases >> Court of Appeal of Vanuatu'. The main content area includes 'Database last updated: 16 May 2013', 'Most recent decision: 26 April 2013', and 'Number of decisions: 500'. There are two primary navigation options: 'Browse by title of decision' (with a link to 'ABCDEFGHIJKLMN O PQRSTU VWXYZ') and 'Browse by year of decision' (with a link to '1982 1983 1984 1986 1988 1989 1990 1991 1993 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013'). A note at the bottom states 'This database contains electronic versions of selected decisions of the Court of Appeal of Vanuatu.'

## Case decision on PaclII:

The screenshot shows a specific case decision on PaclII: 'Wilco Hardware Holdings Ltd v Attorney General [2013] VUCA 12; Civil Appeal 54-12 (26 April 2013)'. The page title is 'Court of Appeal of Vanu: Medium Neutral Citation'. The case name is 'Wilco Hardware Holdings Ltd v Attorney General [2013] VUCA 12; Civil Appeal 54-12 (26 April 2013)'. The court is 'IN THE COURT OF APPEAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF VANUATU (Civil Jurisdiction)'. The case number is 'CIVIL APPEAL CASE No. 54 of 2012'. The subject matter is 'IN THE MATTER OF THE EMPLOYMENT ACT [CAP 160]'. The parties are 'WILCO HARDWARE HOLDINGS LIMITED (Appellant)' and 'ATTORNEY GENERAL'. Annotations include: 'Name of decision' pointing to the case name, 'Medium Neutral Citation' pointing to the citation '[2013] VUCA 12', 'Parallel Citation' pointing to 'Civil Appeal 54-12 (26 April 2013)', and 'Date of decision' pointing to '(26 April 2013)'. A 'Download original PDF' link is also visible.

## Investigating the Case History

In the list of links at the top of the page, there is a link called 'Noteup' and a link called 'LawCite'. Noteup was the original feature on PaCLII that allows you to view a listing of documents published on PaCLII that refer to this case.

The LawCite link directs the user to the LawCite citator, which provides a record of the case history including cases, legislation and articles referred to within the case and any articles and cases that have since referred to this case.

Swanson v Public Prosecutor [1998] VUCA 9; Criminal Appeal Case 06 & 11 of 1997 (26 June 1998)

IN THE COURT OF APPEAL OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

APPELLATE JURISDICTION  
CRIMINAL APPEAL NO. 6 OF 1997

PETER HAROLD SWANSON  
APPELLANT  
AND:  
THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR  
RESPONDENT

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CRIMINAL APPEAL NO 11 OF 1997

MATTIE ROSE SWANSON  
APPELLANT  
AND:  
THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR  
RESPONDENT

Swanson v Public Prosecutor 7  
[1998] VUCA 9  
Court of Appeal of Vanuatu  
Vanuatu  
26th June, 1998

Cases Referring to this Case

Case Name	Citation(s)	Court	Jurisdiction	Date	Full Text	Citation Index
<a href="#">Public Prosecutor v Nalau</a>	[2010] VUSC 181	Supreme Court of Vanuatu	Vanuatu	18 Oct 2010	<a href="#">PaCLII</a>	1
<a href="#">Dawson v Public Prosecutor</a>	[2010] VUCA 10	Court of Appeal of Vanuatu	Vanuatu	30 Apr 2010	<a href="#">PaCLII</a>	1
<a href="#">Public Prosecutor v Koroka - Judgment</a>	[2006] VUSC 82	Supreme Court of Vanuatu	Vanuatu	8 Dec 2006	<a href="#">PaCLII</a>	1
<a href="#">Public Prosecutor v Emelex</a>	[2005] VUCA 31	Court of Appeal of Vanuatu	Vanuatu	6 Jun 2005	<a href="#">PaCLII</a>	1
<a href="#">Public Prosecutor v Emelex</a>	[2005] VUCA 11	Court of Appeal of Vanuatu	Vanuatu	6 Jun 2005	<a href="#">PaCLII</a>	1
<a href="#">Public Prosecutor v Benari</a>	[2005] VUSC 153	Supreme Court of Vanuatu	Vanuatu	1 May 2005	<a href="#">PaCLII</a>	1
<a href="#">Public Prosecutor v Benari</a>	[2005] VUSC 61	Supreme Court of Vanuatu	Vanuatu	1 May 2005	<a href="#">PaCLII</a>	1

Cases and Articles Cited

Case Name	Citation(s)	Court	Jurisdiction	Date	Full Text	Citation Index
<a href="#">Auckland Casino Ltd v Casino Control Authority</a>	[1995] 1 NZLR 142		New Zealand	circa 1995	LexisNexis	77
<a href="#">R v Brough</a>	[1995] 1 NZLR 419		New Zealand	circa 1995	LexisNexis	26
<a href="#">Webb v R</a>	[1994] HCA 39; (1994) 181 CLR 41; (1994) 122 ALR 41; (1994) 68 ALJR 52; 73 A Crim R 258	High Court of Australia	Australia - Commonwealth	30 Jun 1994	<a href="#">AustLI</a>	776
<a href="#">Weissensteiner v R</a>	[1993] HCA 65; (1993) 178 CLR 217; (1993) 117 ALR 546; (1993) 68 ALJR 23; 68 A Crim R 251	High Court of Australia	Australia - Commonwealth	17 Nov 1993	<a href="#">AustLI</a>	381
<a href="#">R v Laugalis</a>	(1993) 10 CRNZ 350		New Zealand	circa 1993		22
<a href="#">R v Moira</a>	[1992] 1 SCR 771; (1992) 71 CCC (3d) 1; (1992) 12 CR (3d) 1	Supreme Court of Canada	Canada	circa 1992		47
<a href="#">Shaphard v R</a>	[1990] HCA 55; (1990) 170 CLR 673; 97 ALR 161; (1990) 65 ALJR 132; 51 A Crim R 181	High Court of Australia	Australia - Commonwealth	19 Dec 1990	<a href="#">AustLI</a>	679
<a href="#">R v Connell</a>	[1985] NZLR 233		New Zealand	circa 1985	LexisNexis	1
<a href="#">R v Puffick</a>	(1985) 1 CRNZ 644		New Zealand	circa 1985		27
<a href="#">Tromper v Police</a>	[1985] 1 NZLR 357		New Zealand	circa 1985	LexisNexis	16
<a href="#">R v Maher</a>	[1983] 1 QB 794		United Kingdom	circa 1983	LexisNexis / Westlaw	3
<a href="#">R v Minto</a>	[1982] NZCA 42; (1982) 1 NZLR 606	Court of Appeal of New Zealand	New Zealand	1 Jul 1982	<a href="#">NZLI</a>	9
<a href="#">Haw Tua Tau v Public Prosecutor</a>	[1982] AC 136; [1981] 3 All ER 14; [1981] 3 WLR 395		United Kingdom	circa 1982	LexisNexis / Westlaw	60

# Browsing Legislation

## Jurisdiction Database Page:



## Types of Legislation on PaclII:

**Constitution:** the supreme written law of a country.

**Consolidated Legislation:** versions of acts that include amendments made after their original enactment and which are currently in operation unless amended by an Act passed after the consolidated date. Check the last date of consolidation.

**Sessional Legislation:** individual acts enacted by the legislature of the country since independence.

**Subsidiary Legislation:** laws made by a person or body authorised to do so by enacted legislation, eg orders, rules, etc.

**Other legislation:** introduced laws enacted by the legislature of the administering jurisdiction prior to a country's independence and that may still apply, eg United Kingdom Legislation in Tonga.

## Sessional Legislation Database Page:



# Using the PaCLII Search Engine

There are two search boxes on PaCLII: the Basic which is on the PaCLII homepage and the Advanced ('Full Search Form'). There is a link to the Full Search Form under the Basic search box.

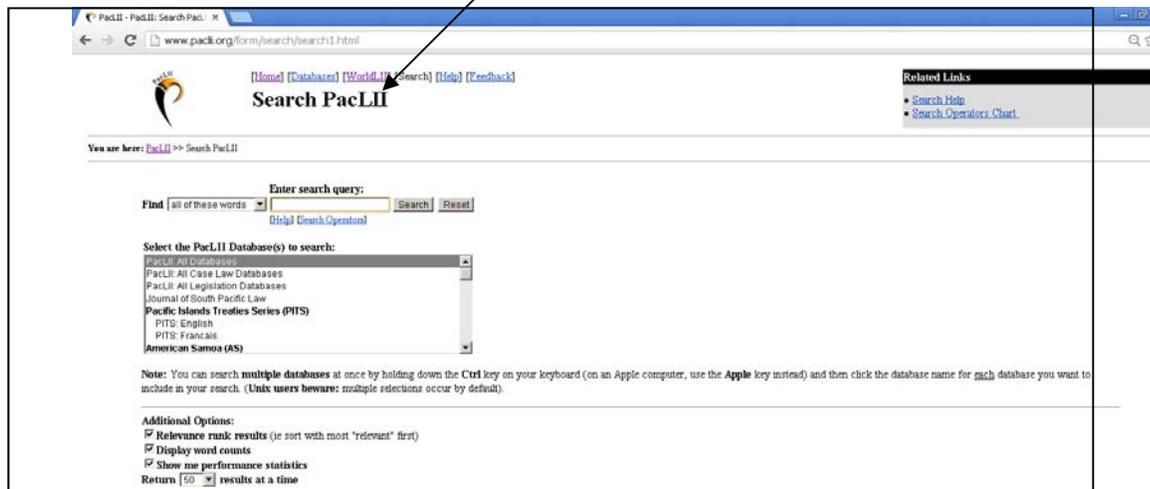
The PaCLII search engine is called SINO (Size is No Object) and was developed by Professor Andrew Mowbray, AustLII. Many of the LII systems use SINO, including CommonLII and WorldLII. SINO is a full text search engine, meaning it searches every word of each document.

## Basic search form on PaCLII homepage:



Basic search form searches every database in PaCLII at the same time using the auto-search option

## Full search form:



Full search form allows you to change your search options and select individual databases in which to search

## Search Options:

There are five search type options to choose from:

- **Find: any of these words** to find documents that contain one or more of the words that you type in
- **Find: all of these words** to find documents that contain every word that you type in
- **Find: this phrase** to find documents that contain the exact phrase that you type in
- **Find: this document title** to only search across the titles of documents
- **Find: this Boolean phrase** to do a more complex search using terms and connectors

## Easy to follow steps to use the PacLII Full Search Form:

1. **Select Search Type:** In the box next to the word 'Find:', click on drop-down menu and a select search type option.
2. **Select PacLII Database(s) to Search:** use the scroll bar to select a database (if you want to search all jurisdictions, all cases & all legislation, leave as 'PacLII: All Databases'. To select multiple databases by holding down the control key and clicking on as many databases as you want.
3. **Enter search query:** enter appropriate keywords for the search type being used. If using the search type 'This Boolean query', use the Boolean Search Operators and Connectors' table attached to this guide to combine multiple keywords  
*Eg. constitution AND amend\**

### SEARCH HINTS:

- Check your spelling – what you put in is what you get out
- Only use distinctive keywords and phrases – think about how your topic will be addressed in the document as the search engine only picks up exact words and phrases
- Try different searches to get as many relevant results as possible
- Avoid using punctuation marks like apostrophes, hyphens and commas

## Search Results

Click on the tabs at the top of the results list to change the sorting of your results:

- By Relevance – lists results most relevant to your search (default view)
- By Citation Frequency – lists results by how often they are cited
- By Date – lists results with the most recent document first
- By Database – lists results by database if the search was across more than one database
- By Title – lists the results alphabetically by the title of the document

The screenshot shows the PacLII search results page for the query "court near jurisdiction". The browser address bar shows the URL: [www.pacii.org/cgi-bin/sinosrch.cgi?method=boolean&query=court+near+jurisdiction&meta=%2Fpacii&mask\\_path=8&rank=on&callback=on&stats=on&results=50](http://www.pacii.org/cgi-bin/sinosrch.cgi?method=boolean&query=court+near+jurisdiction&meta=%2Fpacii&mask_path=8&rank=on&callback=on&stats=on&results=50). The search bar contains the query "court near jurisdiction". Below the search bar, the text reads "PacLII Databases - Documents found: 24772 for (court /-50\_50/jurisdiction)". There are five sorting tabs: "By Citation Frequency", "By Database", "By Date", "By Relevance", and "By Title". The "By Relevance" tab is circled in red. Below the tabs, there is a pagination bar showing "Page 1 of 1" and a list of results. The first result is "District Courts Act 1969 [100%]" (From Consolidated Acts of Samoa 2002; 1 January 1969; 239 KB). The second result is "District Courts Act 1969 [99%]" (From Samoa Consolidated Legislation 2008; 1 January 2009; 166 KB). The third result is "Magistrates' Court Act [Cap 20] [95%]" (From Solomon Islands Consolidated Legislation; 216 KB). The fourth result is "Local Courts Act [Cap 10] [94%]" (From Solomon Islands Consolidated Legislation; 133 KB). The results per page are set to 10, 20, 50, 100.

## How to find information quickly within a document:

1. Click on the **Context** button at the top of the Page (if the document was found through a search). View the search words in the document by clicking on the left and right green arrows. To remove the green arrows for printing, click on **No Context**.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL [www.pacii.org/cgi-bin/disp.pl/ws/legis/consol\\_act\\_2009/dca1969205/dca1969205.html?stem=0&synonyms=0&query=court%20near%20jurisdiction](http://www.pacii.org/cgi-bin/disp.pl/ws/legis/consol_act_2009/dca1969205/dca1969205.html?stem=0&synonyms=0&query=court%20near%20jurisdiction). The page title is "Consolidated Acts of Samoa 2009". Below the title, there is a navigation menu with links: Home, Databases, WorldLII, Search, Feedback. A breadcrumb trail reads: "You are here: PacLII >> Databases >> Consolidated Acts of Samoa 2009 >> District Courts Act 1969". Below this, there is another set of links: Database Search, Name Search, Noteup, Download, Context, No Context, Help. The "Context" link is circled in red. The main content area displays "District Courts Act 1969" and "CONSOLIDATED ACTS OF SAMOA 2009". Below that, it says "DISTRICT COURTS ACT 1969" and "Arrangement of Provisions". The current section is "PART I PRELIMINARY". A list of provisions is shown: "1. Short title and commencement", "2. Interpretation".

2. **Find** option. Use the 'Find' option available on the web browser being used to view the document to find a word within the document. Type the word or phrase in the search box provided.

The screenshot shows the same web browser window as above, but with the browser's menu open. The "Find..." option is highlighted, and an arrow points to it from the text above. The main content area of the page is partially visible, showing "District Courts Act 1969" and "CONSOLIDATED ACTS OF SAMOA 2009". Below that, it says "DISTRICT COURTS ACT 1969" and "Arrangement of Provisions". The current section is "PART I PRELIMINARY". Below that, it says "PART II CONSTITUTION" and "District Courts". A list of provisions is shown: "3. Courts constituted", "4. Exercise of civil or criminal jurisdiction in Courts appointed", "District Judges and Fa'amasino Fesoasoani", "5. Appointment and qualifications of Magistrates", "6. Appointment of Fa'amasino Fesoasoani", "7. Salaries and allowances", "8. Tenure of office", "9. Magistrates to be Coroners", "10. Acting Magistrates and Fa'amasino Fesoasoani", "10A. Oath of Office".

## Summary of Boolean Search Operators and Connectors

Operator	Example(s)
<p><b>AND</b> Returns all documents that contain <b>both</b> the first term <b>and</b> the second term.</p> <p>Can be written "AND" or "and"</p>	land <b>AND</b> custom
<p><b>OR</b> Returns all documents that contain <b>either</b> the first term <b>or</b> the second term <b>or both</b>.</p> <p>Can be written "OR" or "or"</p>	murder <b>OR</b> manslaughter
<p><b>" PHRASE "</b> Enclose the phrase that you are looking for in quotes Returns all documents that contain your search terms directly next to each other in a phrase</p>	"customary land"
<p><b>NOT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finds documents that contain the first word, but do <b>not</b> contain the second.</li> <li>Can be written "NOT" or "not"</li> </ul>	transparency <b>NOT</b> money
<p><b>NEAR</b> Returns all documents where the first term appears nearby the second term.</p> <p>Words or phrases must be within 50 words of each other Order of terms not important</p>	customary <b>NEAR</b> land
<p><b>W/n</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Returns all documents where the first term appears within <b>n</b> words of the second term, where <b>n</b> is a number you specify Can use any number after slash (1 to 1000)</li> </ul> <p>Order of terms not important (ie "a w/5 b" same as "b w/5 a")</p>	customary W/5 land
<p><b>* (Wildcard)</b> An asterisk * matches any string (including none)</p> <p>Per the example: returns all documents containing a word beginning with tax - this would include: <b>tax, taxes, taxi, taxicab, taxation, taxable, taxing, taxidermy</b></p>	tax *
<p><b>TITLE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finds documents where the search term located in the bracket is in the document title</li> <li>Per the example: returns documents that contain either 'health' or 'medical' or both in the title – for example: <i>Medical and Dental Practitioners Act, Health and Safety at Work Act</i></li> </ul>	title(health or medical)