

## **JDP School of Law Staff Attend Mediation Seminar**

Academic staff and students of the Justice Devendra Pathik School of Law (JDP SoL) attended the Fiji Women Lawyers Association (FWLA) Seminar on Mediation at the Judges Common Room, Government Buildings on Monday July 16, 2018.

The JDP SoL Dean, Professor Shaista Shameem together with law staff, Ms. Fariyal Varsha Bano and Ms. Evelyn Chuang were among the various senior legal practitioners and judges from around Fiji who attended the high level seminar.

The panel comprised of Mr. George Lim of the Singapore Mediation Centre, Ms. Jenny Seato of the Fiji Mediation Centre and Justice Kamal Kumar of the High Court of Fiji.

The seminar informed legal practitioners of the benefits of mediation process and outcomes instead of the adversarial approach to legal work.

Professor Shameem said that attending the workshop had future benefits to the JDP SoL programme.

“Mediation training is part of JDP SoL's continuing legal education and will assist in alternative dispute resolution courses in our programme. Mediation also is a very important aspect of organisational management nowadays and also has the potential for sustainably resolving disputes university-wide,” she explained.

"Like any organisation the University will have internal disagreements but mediation, which involves consultation, will normally resolve disputes amicably. In our traditional Fijian societies we tend to solve disputes quite well internally and it is encouraging to see alternative dispute resolution entering the formal legal field. It is the modern and sustainable way to bring greater cohesion among people", she said.

"It is now widely recognised that the high-handed top-down approach to organisational governance can create disputes within organisations. We need a different way to resolve such disputes, and this leads to greater productivity" Professor Shameem added.

The Unifiji JDP SoL was thanked by the President of the FWLA and Chairperson of the Fiji Mediation Centre for attending the Seminar. The President of the FWLA said the Association appreciated the support of the JDP SoL at their events and seminars.