



Fitolagi Faanunu is a Lawyer/Partner at the Faanunu & Afu Professional Services Limited since 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022. Prior to her return to private practice, she was the Director for the Family Protection Legal Aid Centre (FPLAC) under the Ministry of Justice in Tonga since 27 February 2019 and the only Legal officer since 2018.

Fitolagi graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (in Geography) and a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) from the University of the South Pacific in 2011. She then pursued her Professional Diploma in Legal Practice in the same year (2011) and later her Professional Diploma in Legislative Drafting in 2012. She completed her Masters in Environmental Law from USP in 2015 and joined the USP team in November 2015 to the 21<sup>st</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Paris and was attached to the Tonga delegation to negotiate the Paris Agreement. Fitolagi also contributed as an author and co-edited the Special Issue on Human Rights Law and Climate Change published in the USP Law School Journal 2015.

Fitolagi is passionate about the law with her special interest in environmental law. During her time with the FPLAC she developed an interest to become an advocate for survivors of domestic violence/gender based violence (whoever they maybe) and she continues to advocate for them by providing legal assistance to them and supporting NGO's in the same space.

Prior to joining the FPLAC in 2018 she ran her own private law firm since 2015 and dealt with a range of civil, commercial, family and criminal law matters in the Supreme Court in Tonga. Fitolagi recognizes opportunities for support to those who are impacted by Climate Change. In her current role as a private law practitioner and consultant, she hopes to explore opportunities to advance rights of women and children who are affected by climate change.