

Tikanga and the Law

6 Hours CPD | In-Person Programme

This practical programme explores the intersection of tikanga and the law through expert-led presentations, case studies, workshops, and practitioner perspectives.

Participants will develop a deeper understanding of tikanga Māori, its application in legal contexts, and the confidence to identify, analyse, and engage with tikanga-related issues arising in their practice.

9.00am – 9.30am

Pōwhiri

Begin the day with a pōwhiri, setting the foundation for learning together and establishing the kaupapa for the programme.

Participants will:

- Experience a pōwhiri and learn about its purpose and significance.
- Build connections with fellow attendees through whakawhanaungatanga.
- Gain context for understanding tikanga within legal and professional settings.
- Begin the day in a respectful and culturally grounded learning environment.

To ensure all participants feel comfortable and prepared, detailed information about the pōwhiri process, including what to expect on arrival, will be provided before the workshop. No prior knowledge or experience of tikanga Māori or te reo Māori is required.

9.30am – 9.50am

Kai | Morning Tea

Join fellow participants, presenters, and facilitators for refreshments and meaningful conversation in a relaxed networking setting.

9.50am – 11.00am

Understanding Tikanga: Origins, Nature and Foundational Principles

Participants will:

- Explore key concepts including mana, tapu, whanaungatanga, manaakitanga, utu and ea, rangatiratanga, and kaitiakitanga.
- Develop a foundational understanding of tikanga within te ao Māori.
- Build confidence engaging with tikanga concepts in legal practice.

11.00am – 12.00pm

Applying Tikanga in Practice: Criminal and Whānau-Focused Scenarios

Participants will work in small groups to apply tikanga Māori concepts and principles to realistic legal fact scenarios. Two scenarios will be provided, one arising from a criminal law context and one from a family law context.

Each group will:

- Identify the tikanga values and principles that may be relevant to the situation.
- Consider how those principles might influence decision-making, processes, relationships, or outcomes.
- Discuss any tensions that may arise between tikanga and legal obligations or procedures.
- Explore practical ways tikanga could be recognised or incorporated within the circumstances of the scenario.

Groups will then report back to the wider workshop, sharing their analysis and reflections. This exercise is designed to build confidence in identifying tikanga issues and applying tikanga-informed thinking to real-world legal situations.

12.00pm – 1.00pm

Tina | Lunch

A chance to recharge, network with peers, and reflect on the morning's discussions.

1.00pm – 2.00pm

Applying Tikanga in Practice: Civil Law and Professional Responsibility

Continue the practical application of tikanga through case studies focused on torts and legal ethics.

Participants will:

- Explore tikanga perspectives within civil disputes.
 - Consider the relationship between tikanga and professional responsibilities.
 - Discuss ethical decision-making through a tikanga lens.
 - Strengthen confidence applying tikanga-informed analysis.
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2.00pm – 3.00pm

Tikanga and the Law: Frameworks, Jurisprudence and Emerging Developments

Examine how courts and legal institutions are engaging with tikanga and consider the implications for legal practice.

Participants will:

- Explore frameworks for understanding the relationship between tikanga and state law.
 - Review significant jurisprudential and case law developments.
 - Consider emerging judicial approaches to tikanga.
 - Understand the practical implications for legal practitioners.
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3.00pm – 3.20pm

Paramanawa | Afternoon Tea

Refreshments and an opportunity to continue discussions with colleagues and presenters.

3.20pm – 4.20pm

Panel Discussion: Applying Tikanga in Contemporary Legal Practice

This panel session will bring together experienced practitioners and a member of the judiciary to share their perspectives on how tikanga is being applied in legal practice and considered within the courts. Drawing on their professional experiences, panellists will discuss both the opportunities and challenges that arise when engaging with tikanga in a range of legal settings.

The conversation will move beyond theory and case law to focus on practical considerations for lawyers, including how tikanga issues arise in day-to-day practice, how practitioners can approach those issues with confidence and cultural humility, and how tikanga can meaningfully inform legal processes and outcomes.

The session will include a facilitated discussion followed by an audience Q&A, providing participants with an opportunity to engage directly with the panel and seek practical guidance on issues relevant to their own practice.

4.20pm – 4.30pm

Closing Reflections and Karakia Whakamutunga

The programme concludes with reflections on key themes and learning from the day.

Participants will leave with:

- A stronger understanding of tikanga Māori and its relevance within legal practice.
- Practical tools to identify, analyse, and respond to tikanga-related legal issues.
- Greater confidence in applying tikanga-informed approaches in professional and legal contexts.
- A deeper appreciation of tikanga Māori's role in shaping Aotearoa New Zealand's evolving legal framework and jurisprudence.

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