



Talauega Eleasalo “Salo” Va’alele Ale

is the Lt. Governor of American Samoa and was inaugurated with Governor Lemanu Peleti Palepoi Sialega Mauga on January 3, 2021. He is the son of the late Va’alele Togia Tuiolosega La’apui Ale of Fitiuta, Ofu and Olosega, Manu’a, and the late Aiga Leutele Talauega Taveuveu Ale of Nua & Se’etaga, Tutuila and Falefa, Samoa. Talauega serves as General Counsel of the Congregational Christian Church of American Samoa (CCCAS) General Assembly, and Vice President of the Marist Brothers Crusaders Alumni Association. He is Treasurer of the Nua & Se’etaga CCCAS, where he is also an ordained Deacon, and a life-long member of the Lotofuataiaifo Choir. Talauega is also active in the community through his responsibilities as a matai – he holds the chiefly orator title “Talauega” from the village of Nua & Se’etaga, District of Lealataua. He was born and raised in the village

of Nua & Se’etaga.

Spouse & Children

Lieutenant Governor Talauega is married to Marian Tiare McGuire of the Aulava family in Lau’i. They have 3 children and reside in Nua & Se’etaga. Marian is also an attorney, practicing law at a locally owned law firm. Prior to returning to private practice, Marian served the American Samoa Government as Legal Counsel for the American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency and as a Chief Assistant Attorney General for the Office of the Attorney General.

Education

A product of our local education system, Talauega graduated from the Marist Brothers’ Elementary School in Atu’u (1982), and High School in Malaeloa where he was elected student body president (1986). He went on to receive a bachelor of arts degree in political science from Truman State University in 1990, and earned his juris doctor degree from Drake University Law School, graduating with honors in 1994.

Professional Career

Between college and law school, Talauega worked as a Legislative Assistant to the Honorable Daniel K. Inouye, United States Senator of Hawaii (May 1990-June 1991). After law school, he served as Judicial Law Clerk to the Honorable James S. Burns, Chief Judge of the Hawaii Intermediate Court of Appeals (July 1994 – June 1995).

Talauega spent the next seventeen years practicing law in Minneapolis, Minnesota at the international law firm of Faegre & Benson (now Faegre Drinker), where he made partner in 2003. At Faegre, Talauega developed a successful law practice representing, among others, Fortune 500 companies, non-profits, and public entities. He is one of the first Samoans to earn partner status in a major U.S. and international law firm.

In 2012, Talauega returned home to care for his elderly mother and fulfill his goal of serving the people of American Samoa. He joined the Attorney General’s Office serving as a Deputy Attorney

General for Attorney General Fepulea'i Arthur Ripley, and continued his service as Deputy with Attorney General Afoa Leulumoega Lutu.

In January 2014, Talauega was appointed by Governor Lolo Moliga and confirmed by the Fono as the 7th locally appointed Attorney General of American Samoa. In January 2017, he was reappointed and re-confirmed to continue serving as Attorney General. Some of the most significant and historical constitutional cases brought on behalf of the government have been undertaken during Talauega's time as AG-including the Large Vessel Protected Area and US citizenship cases.

As required by law, Talauega resigned as AG on February 16, 2020 to enter the gubernatorial race with Lt. Governor Lemanu Mauga. He recently opened his private law practice – Ale Law – serving business and public entity clients in complex legal matters.

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Personal Interests

Talauega enjoys spending quality time with his children and family, listening to and performing music, reading and gardening.