

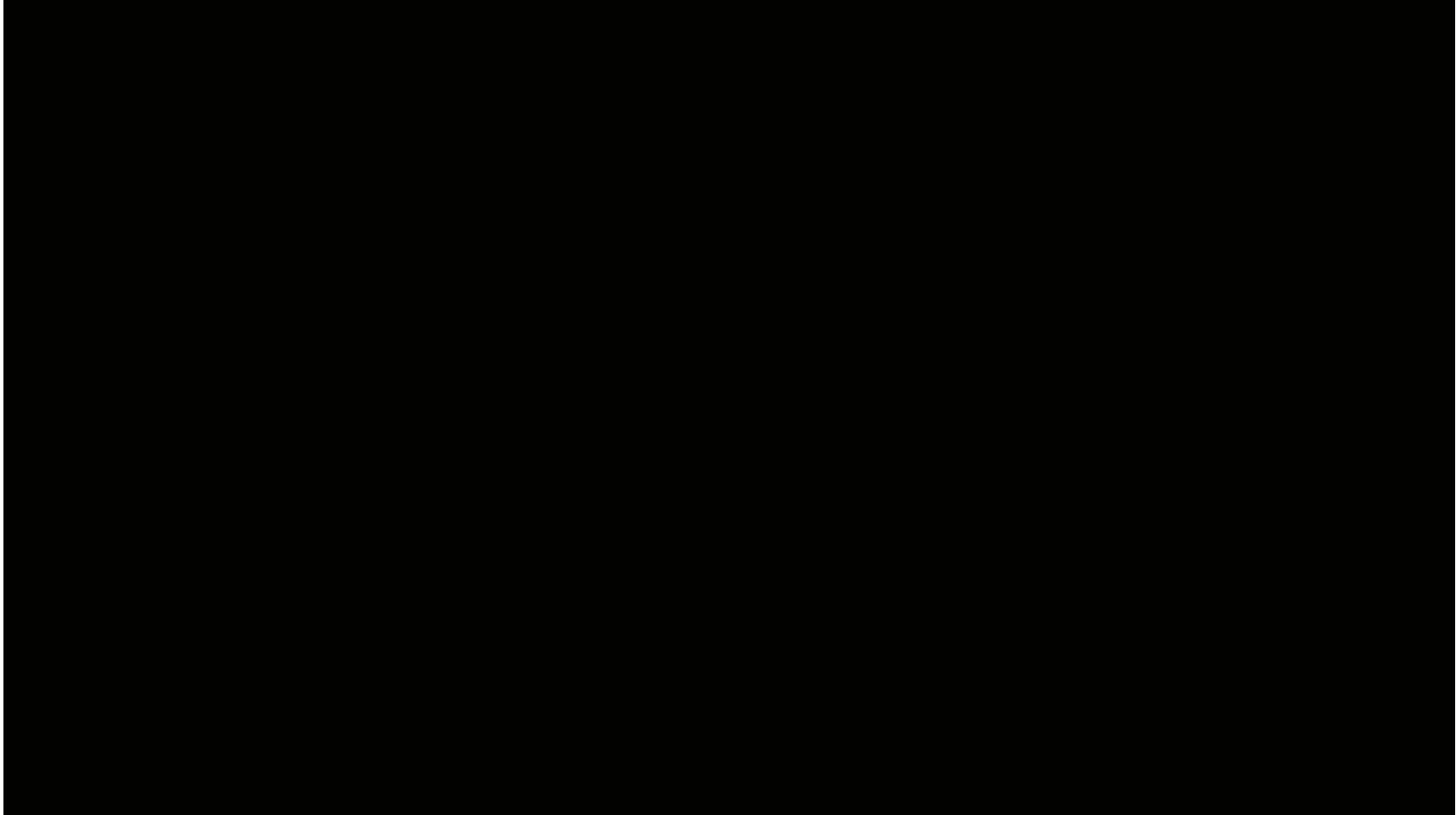


American Samoa

Talauega Eleasalo V. Ale “SALO”

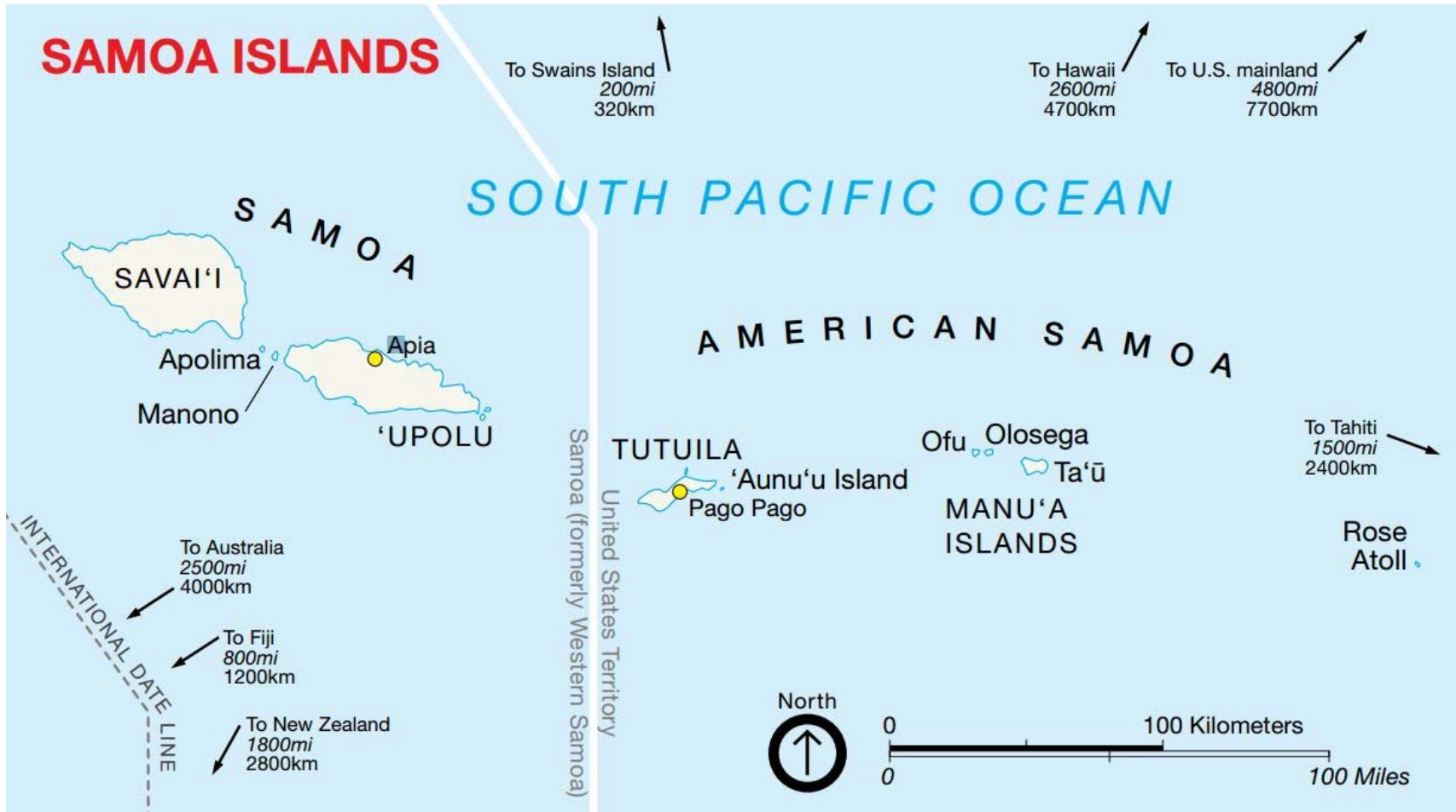
Attorney General

Amerika Samoa Video





Samoa Islands Group



Basics

Territory of the United States since April 1900

Unincorporated

Unorganized

Under Jurisdiction of the Department of Interior

Nationals not Citizens – *Tuaua v. U.S.*, 788 F.3d 300

Not All Provisions of the US Constitution Applies

Listed as a Non-Self-Governing Territory by the

United Nations – Considered a Colony of the US

Deeds of Cession Test

Federal Policies Impacting American Samoa Must Satisfy the Deeds of Cession Test.

Deeds contain the primary agreement between the US and the people of American Samoa

Deed of Cession: Tutuila and Aunu'u

April 17, 1900

All these the islands of Tutuila and Aunu'u and all other islands, rocks, reefs, foreshores and waters lying between the 13th degree and the 15th degree of south latitude and between the 171st degree and 167th degree of west longitude from the meridian of Greenwich, together with all sovereign rights thereunto belonging and possessed by us, to hold the said ceded territory unto the Government of the United States of America; to erect the same into a separate District to be annexed to the said Government, to be known and designated as the District of "Tutuila".

respect and protect the individual rights of all people dwelling in Tutuila to their lands and other property in said District

Deed of Cession: Manu'a

July 14, 1904

All Those, The Islands of the Manu'a Group, being the whole of eastern portion of the Samoan Islands lying east of Longitude 171 degrees west of Greenwich and known as Tau, Olosega, Ofu, and Rose Islands, and all other, the waters and property and adjacent thereto, together with all sovereign rights thereunto belonging and possessed by us.

the rights of the Chiefs in each village and of all people concerning their property according to their customs shall be recognized.

Congress Accepts Terms of Deeds of Cession in 1929:

“The cessions by certain chiefs of the islands of Tutuila and Manu'a and certain other islands of the Samoan group lying between the thirteenth and fifteenth degrees of latitude south of the Equator and between the one hundred and sixty-seventh and one hundred and seventy-first degrees of longitude west of Greenwich, herein referred to as the islands of eastern Samoa, are accepted, ratified, and confirmed, as of April 10, 1900, and July 16, 1904, respectively.

“Until Congress shall provide for the government of such islands, all civil, judicial, and military powers shall be vested in such person or persons and shall be exercised in such manner as the President of the United States shall direct; and the President shall have power to remove said officers and fill the vacancies so occasioned.

- Title 48 U.S.C. §§ 1661, 1662





QUESTIONS