



The Right Honourable Dame Helen Winkelmann

CHIEF JUSTICE OF NEW ZEALAND | TE TUMU WHAKAWĀ O AOTEAROA

25 October 2024

MEDIA STATEMENT

Chief Justice welcomes new appointments to senior courts

The Chief Justice welcomes the Attorney-General's announcement today of judicial appointments to the Court of Appeal and High Court.

The four appointments will take effect on 21 November 2024.

APPOINTMENT OF PRESIDENT OF THE COURT OF APPEAL

The Chief Justice welcomes the appointment of Justice Christine French as President of the Court of Appeal.

Justice French's appointment follows the retirement of current President, Justice Mark Cooper.

FURTHER APPOINTMENTS TO COURT OF APPEAL AND HIGH COURT

The Chief Justice also welcomes the appointments of Justice Neil Campbell as a Judge of the Court of Appeal, Associate Judge Dani Gardiner as a Judge of the High Court, and Auckland Barrister Paul Cogswell as an Associate Judge of the High Court.

Justice Gardiner and Associate Judge Cogswell will sit in Auckland.

Biographies

Justice French graduated LLB (Hons) from the University of Otago in 1981 and went on to attend Oxford University on a Rhodes Scholarship, graduating BCL in 1983. In 1984 she commenced practice with Invercargill law firm French Burt Partners specialising in general civil litigation and employment law. Justice French became a partner in French Burt Partners in 1988. She was appointed a Judge of the High Court in 2008, and a Judge of the Court of Appeal in 2012. She received an honorary doctorate from Otago University in 2014.

Justice Campbell graduated with a BCom and LLB (Hons) from the University of Auckland in 1992. He spent two years with Bell Gully Buddle Weir in Auckland before travelling to the United Kingdom, where he obtained an LLM (First) from the University of Cambridge and lectured at the University of Nottingham. Justice Campbell returned to New Zealand in 1995 and took up a position as a Lecturer, becoming an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Law at the University of Auckland. From 1998 Justice Campbell mixed his

academic career with part-time practice at the bar, moving to full-time practice in 2008. He was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2013, and a Judge of the High Court in 2020.

Justice Gardiner graduated from the University of Otago with an LLB (Hons) (First Class) in 1995 and began her career as a solicitor at DLA Piper New Zealand. In 1997 she relocated to London and took up a position with Herbert Smith Freehills. She was admitted as a solicitor of England and Wales and practised in commercial litigation. She returned to New Zealand and joined Chapman Tripp in Auckland in 2002, where she practised in insurance and commercial litigation. In 2013 Justice Gardiner obtained an LLM (Hons) from the University of Auckland.

In 2015 Justice Gardiner took up a position with Auckland Council, where she managed the Public Law team and from 2018 to 2020 was General Counsel, heading Auckland Council's in-house legal, risk and insurance department. Justice Gardiner has held corporate governance roles in the financial services sector. She acted as an independent director of boutique fund and wealth managers from 2014 to 2020. Justice Gardiner was appointed an Associate Judge of the High Court in 2020.

Associate Judge Cogswell graduated from the University of Auckland with an LLB in 1992 and joined Auckland law firm Hesketh Henry Lawyers, becoming a partner in the litigation and dispute resolution team in 2001. In 2006 he formed the firm cogswell+jaduram Lawyers, and was a partner at that firm until 2013. He was then principal of Cogswell Law until 2022, providing litigation and dispute resolution advice.

Associate Judge Cogswell has held a judicial warrant as an Adjudicator for the Weathertight Homes Tribunal since 2010, and has been Chair of the Tribunal since 2022. He also held a judicial warrant as a foundation member of the Canterbury Earthquakes Insurance Tribunal, a specialist Tribunal established to resolve long standing earthquake claims in the Canterbury region. Since 2022 Associate Judge Cogswell has been a Barrister Sole at FortyEight Shortland Barristers, practising in litigation and dispute resolution with particular expertise in building and construction law.

Helen Winkelmann

Chief Justice | Te Tumu Whakawā

Media contact

Reweti Kohere

Senior Communications Advisor

027 224 8857 reweti.kohere@justice.govt.nz