

To attend

Please RSVP to the Committee's Clerk

with your contact details and which forum you would like to attend to:

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To be sure of a place, you should make sure you RSVP at least five days before the forum.

This brochure and information about the Case Management Presentations can be downloaded from the Rules Committee's webpage via the Courts of New Zealand website:

www.courtsofnz.govt.nz

THE PRESENTATIONS

The forums are to enable discussion between the profession and the Judiciary on case management procedures and introduce a series of proposals aimed at reforming the current system.

A forum will take place in each of the following locations:

Christchurch: Tuesday 23 August at 5.30 pm
Sudima Hotel, 550 Memorial Ave, Christchurch

Dunedin: Wednesday 24 August at 5.30 pm
Dunedin Art Gallery, 30 The Octagon, Dunedin

Hamilton: Tuesday 30 August at 5.30 pm
Le Grand Hotel, 237 Victoria Street, Hamilton

Wellington: Wednesday 14 September at 5.30pm
NZLS Building, 26 Waring Taylor St, Wellington

Auckland: Thursday 15 September at 5.45 pm
The Langham Hotel, 83 Symonds St, Auckland

Light refreshments will be served at all venues.

Rules Committee



Proposals for managing the High Court's civil caseload: a forum for Judges and the Profession

23 August 2011 - 15 September 2011



Case Management

The Rules Committee is pleased to present a series of free forums around New Zealand on the issue of case management. Trial delay, or the perception of it, is a serious problem for civil justice systems worldwide. It discourages litigation and creates a risk that cases will settle on terms that favour the stronger party, regardless of merit.

The forums will address concerns about delay and discuss proposed reforms aimed at providing practical solutions to it. They will provide an opportunity for High Court Judges and members of the Committee to consult the profession about the proposed reforms, and gather feedback before any detailed rule changes are formulated. Each forum will also offer a unique insight into how judges view the case management process.

Reforms should be founded on evidence, so each forum builds on a survey of closed files in Auckland and Wellington. This evidence will be used to help set the Court's civil work in context and note the complex relationship between non-trial adjudication (summary judgment and strikeout) and settlement processes and trial. The forums will discuss what actually happens to cases set down for trial and identify a group of possible changes collectively designed to reduce delays and trial duration, with the object of making trial viable for as many litigants as possible.

Changes already made, with significant success, to reduce delay will be explained and proposals to adopt and report against new time standards for case processing will be introduced.

Delays are not merely a function of demand and the rules of Court. They result in part from a professional legal culture which has adapted to a given pace and set of practices. As reform is likely to mean change for the profession, all civil litigators are urged to attend.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

The forums will be invaluable for lawyers who specialise in civil litigation, but will also be of relevance to anyone interested in how civil cases are progressed.

MATERIALS

Any necessary materials will be distributed at each forum. Copies will also be available afterwards on request.

COST

Each forum is **free** to all interested practitioners. Please RSVP as requested.

Presenters

The forums will be chaired by Winkelmann CHCJ and led by judges and representatives of the Rules Committee. Miller J will be present throughout. Also attending in some locations will be Venning J and one or more members of the Rules Committee (Fogarty J, Asher J, Stephen Mills QC and Andrew Beck).

LOCATIONS & DATES

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