



Supreme Court of New Zealand

11 September 2006

MEDIA RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

Chamberlains v Sun Poi Lai and Hilda Lorraine Lai
SC 19/2005 [2006] NZSC 70

PRESS SUMMARY

This summary is provided to assist in the understanding of the Court's judgment. It does not comprise part of the reasons for that judgment. The full judgment with reasons is the only authoritative document. The full text of the judgment and reasons can be found at www.courtsofnz.govt.nz.

The Supreme Court has upheld the decision of the Court of Appeal to abolish the longstanding common law rule that barristers cannot be sued for work they do in Court and other work intimately connected with in-court work.

In reaching its decision the Supreme Court has not followed a recent decision of the High Court of Australia to retain the immunity for that country, preferring to follow an earlier decision of the House of Lords which abolished barristers' immunity in England.

Contact person: Gordon Thatcher, Supreme Court Registrar (04) 914 3545