



THE HIGH COURT OF NEW ZEALAND TE KŌTI MATUA O AOTEAROA

9 March 2026

Notification of changes to the commercial panel

The Chief High Court Judge has undertaken a review of membership of the commercial panel.

The full list of Judges assigned to the commercial panel is: Justices Fitzgerald, Peters, Dunningham, Jagose, Gault, Walker, Isac, Tahana, Radich, Anderson, O’Gorman, Blanchard, MacGillivray, Arthur and Heine.

The commercial panel was established by s 19 of the Senior Courts Act 2016. Clause 5 of the Senior Courts (High Court Commercial Panel) Order 2017 lists the types of commercial proceedings to which a commercial panel judge may be assigned. They cover high-value disputes (over \$2 million), complex and difficult matters of commercial law as well as proceedings brought by public authorities to enforce regulatory standards of commercial behaviour.

Either the plaintiff or defendant may nominate a case to be heard by a commercial panel judge. The Chief High Court Judge considers these applications and, if they meet the criteria in the Commercial Panel Order, a judge is assigned from the commercial panel to hear the case.

As a general rule, the commercial panel judge will case manage the case and hear any interlocutory matters. Commercial cases will generally be heard in the registry in which they were filed.

Commercial panel judges continue to carry out the full range of High Court work (other civil work, criminal work and appeals) in addition to their assigned cases.

Hon Justice Sally Fitzgerald | Te Hōnore Kaiwhakawā Mātāmua Sally Fitzgerald
Chief High Court Judge | Te Kaiwhakawā Matua o Te Kōti Matua o Aotearoa