



The Right Honourable Dame Helen Winkelmann

CHIEF JUSTICE OF NEW ZEALAND | TE TUMU WHAKAWĀ O AOTEAROA

17 March 2023

## MEDIA STATEMENT

# Chief Justice announces Court of Appeal judge retirement, new appointments

### Retirement of Justice Simon France from the Court of Appeal

The Chief Justice has announced the retirement of Justice Simon France as a judge of the Court of Appeal. Justice Simon France retires for health reasons.

The Chief Justice said, “I acknowledge Justice Simon France’s dedicated service to the judiciary and to the law in New Zealand over 18 years. His has been an outstanding contribution.”

Justice Simon France was appointed to the High Court in 2005. In June last year he was appointed to the Court of Appeal, an appointment which at the time the Chief Justice said reflected his excellence and expertise as a judge.

### New appointments to Court of Appeal and High Court

The Chief Justice welcomes the Attorney General’s announcement today of the appointments of High Court Judge Jillian (Jill) Mallon as a Judge of the Court of Appeal, and District Court Judge Andrew John Becroft as a Judge of the High Court.

Justice Mallon will take up her appointment on 20 March 2023.

Justice Becroft will take up his appointment on 2 May 2023, and will sit in Auckland.

### Biographies for new appointments

#### Biographies

#### **Justice Jill Mallon appointed to the Court of Appeal**

Justice Jill Mallon graduated from Otago University in 1988 with an LLB (Hons), and later obtained an LLM from Cornell University in New York in 1993.

She joined Bell Gully in Wellington in 1988 as a solicitor in the litigation department, and became a partner in 1998, specialising in general commercial litigation, principally in the areas of competition, media and public law.

Justice Mallon taught competition law at Victoria University from 1999 to 2005 and was appointed an Honorary Fellow of the University in 2005.

She was appointed a Judge of the High Court in July 2006.

### **Justice Andrew Becroft**

Justice Becroft graduated from the University of Auckland in 1981 with a BA/LLB(Hons) and joined Auckland law firm Fortune Manning as a solicitor.

In 1986 he co-founded the Mangere Community Law Centre and practised there until he became a barrister sole in 1993, specialising in criminal and traffic law.

In 1996 Justice Becroft was appointed a District Court Judge, sitting in Whanganui.

From 2001 to 2016 he was the Principal Youth Court Judge, focusing on youth justice law and practice, but continued to sit on criminal jury trials, sentencing and list courts.

From 2016 to 2021 Justice Becroft was the Children's Commissioner of New Zealand.

In the 2022 Queen's Birthday and Platinum Jubilee Honours, Justice Becroft was appointed a Companion of the Queen's Service Order, for services to the judiciary, children and youth.

Helen Winkelmann

**Chief Justice | Te Tumu Whakawā**

### **Media contact**

Alix Chapman

Senior Judicial Communications Advisor

0272 860 198 [alix.chapman@courts.govt.nz](mailto:alix.chapman@courts.govt.nz)