



The Right Honourable Dame Helen Winkelmann

CHIEF JUSTICE OF NEW ZEALAND | TE TUMU WHAKAWĀ O AOTEAROA

6 April 2023

MEDIA STATEMENT

Chief Justice welcomes High Court appointments, acting warrant and IPCA chair recommendation

The Chief Justice welcomes the Attorney General's announcement today of the appointments of Wellington King's Counsel Paul Radich as a Judge of the High Court, and Wellington Barrister Andrew Skelton as an Associate Judge of the High Court.

The Chief Justice is pleased to announce the appointment of Justice Wylie, currently a judge of the High Court in Auckland, as an acting Judge of the Court of Appeal from 20 May 2023 to 17 May 2024. The Chief Justice also acknowledged the recommendation by Parliament to the Governor-General of Associate High Court Judge Kenneth Johnston as the next Chairperson of the Independent Police Conduct Authority (IPCA).

Biographies

Justice Paul Radich graduated from Victoria University of Wellington in 1986 with an LLB (Hons) and worked to senior associate level at what is now Simpson Grierson in Wellington until 1991. In 1991, Justice Radich took up a role as a solicitor at Bell Gully, joining the partnership of that firm in 1994.

In 2003, Justice Radich joined Izard Weston as a litigation partner. From 2007 to 2012 he was a litigation partner at Minter Ellison Rudd Watts.

In March 2012, Justice Radich commenced practice as a barrister sole at Clifton Chambers. He was appointed a Queen's Counsel in August 2014.

Justice Radich practised commercial litigation, specialising in public law advice and litigation. He has appeared on a number of cases dealing with issues under the Treaty. He has appeared extensively in the Courts and Tribunals, including the Waitangi Tribunal. He has represented parties before the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Pike River Mine Tragedy in 2011 and 2012, the Government inquiry into Operation Burnham and Related Matters from 2018 to 2020, and the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Attack on the Christchurch Mosques in 2019.

He was President of the New Zealand Bar Association - Ngā Ahorangi Motuhake o te Ture from 2020 to 2022 and has held positions as Chair of the Legal Aid Performance Review Committee and as a board member of Te Kura Kaiwhakawā - the Institute of Judicial Studies.

Associate Judge Andrew Skelton graduated from Canterbury University with an LLB in 1989 and joined Kensington Swan in Wellington as a solicitor. In 1991, he relocated to the United Kingdom to study at University College, London, graduating with an LLM (Merit) in 1992.

Associate Judge Skelton worked as a solicitor with London law firm Masons from 1993 to 1995. He then studied at the University of Oxford, Keble College, graduating in 1996 with a Master of Studies (MSt.), completing a thesis on the relationship between the law of restitution and the law of contract, subsequently published in 1998 by Mansfield Press, Oxford, as *Restitution and Contract*.

In 1996 he returned to Kensington Swan in Wellington as an Associate, and then a Senior Associate. He was appointed to the partnership of that firm in 1999.

Since 2013, Associate Judge Skelton has been a barrister sole practising at Capital Chambers in Wellington, working in the areas of general civil litigation and arbitration, specialising in property, construction, insurance, company, and professional disciplinary and sports matters. He has served as a faculty member on the New Zealand Law Society Advanced Litigation Skills Course and Expert Witness Programme.

The appointments of Justice Paul Radich and Associate Judge Andrew Skelton will take effect on 17 April 2023, with both judges sitting in Wellington.

Associate Judge Johnston was appointed to the High Court Bench in early 2018. He has broad experience in criminal work, as both a prosecutor and defence counsel in jury and appellate trials, and in civil work, including general civil and commercial litigation, trusts and estates, construction, employment, family and professional disciplinary litigation. He also formerly held the positions of chair of the Teachers Disciplinary Tribunal and deputy chair of the Health Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal.

Helen Winkelmann
Chief Justice | Te Tumu Whakawā

Media contact
Alix Chapman
Senior Judicial Communications Advisor
0272 860 198 alix.chapman@courts.govt.nz

