



The Right Honourable Dame Helen Winkelmann

CHIEF JUSTICE OF NEW ZEALAND | TE TUMU WHAKAWĀ O AOTEAROA

28 February 2024

MEDIA STATEMENT

Supreme Court to sit in Christchurch

The Supreme Court will sit in the Christchurch High Court on 11-12 March, the Chief Justice announced today. This will be the fourth time that New Zealand's highest court has sat outside its Wellington home base.

The Supreme Court began its programme of conducting hearings away from its Wellington home base in 2022.

“Accessible justice matters to everyone. The opportunity to see the Supreme Court in action and hear the arguments as they are made, helps promote a better understanding of the role that the courts play in our society, and in particular the role the Supreme Court plays in hearing cases of public importance,” the Chief Justice said.

The Court will sit between 11- 12 March 2024 in Courtroom 12 of the Christchurch High Court. The case being heard is *Philip William Routhan and Julie Veronica Routhan as Trustees of the Kanieri Family Trust v PGG Wrightson Real Estate Limited*, concerning the proper measure of damages in a claim against a real estate agent for negligent misrepresentation about the production levels of a dairy farm, and the application of the so-called SAAMCO damages principle¹.

Livestream details will be available on the Courts of New Zealand website ahead of the hearing.

Background

The Supreme Court was established in 2004 to recognise New Zealand as an independent nation with its own history and traditions, and to improve access to justice and enable important legal matters, including those relating to the Treaty of Waitangi, to be resolved with an understanding of New Zealand conditions, history, and traditions.

The criteria that the Supreme Court applies when granting leave to appeal are whether:

- the appeal involves a matter of general public importance (which includes a

¹ *South Australia Asset Management Corp v York Montague Ltd* [1997] AC 191 (HL). This principle is said to limit liability in cases concerning negligent provision of information to a ceiling based on a difference in value.

significant issue relating to the Treaty of Waitangi);

- a substantial miscarriage of justice may occur, unless the appeal is heard; or
- the appeal involves a matter of general commercial significance.

Media contact:

Alix Chapman

Senior Judicial Communications Advisor

Alix.Chapman@courts.govt.nz 0272 860 198

