



The Right Honourable Dame Helen Winkelmann

CHIEF JUSTICE OF NEW ZEALAND | TE TUMU WHAKAWĀ O AOTEAROA

19 April 2024

## MEDIA STATEMENT

# Chief Justice announces judicial appointments and retirement

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

The Chief Justice welcomes the Attorney General's announcement today of the appointments of Justice Matthew Palmer as a Judge of the Court of Appeal, and Wellington Barrister David Boldt as a Judge of the High Court.

Justice Palmer will take up his appointment on 1 June 2024. His appointment follows the retirement of Justice Murray Gilbert from the Court of Appeal.

Justice Boldt will take up his appointment on 1 May 2024, and will sit in Wellington.

### Retirement of Justice Gilbert

Justice Gilbert retires early, after 12 years of judicial service, to pursue other interests. Justice Gilbert was appointed to the High Court in February 2012 and to the Court of Appeal in June 2017. The Chief Justice acknowledges and thanks Justice Gilbert for his outstanding contribution to the judiciary and to the administration of justice over the last 12 years.

### Biographies

#### **Justice Matthew Palmer**

Justice Palmer graduated with an LLB (Hons) (First Class) in 1987. He holds degrees in economics and political science from the University of Canterbury and a Masters and Doctorate in Law from Yale Law School.

Prior to his appointment as a Judge, Justice Palmer held positions at the Treasury and as Deputy Secretary for Justice (Public Law), Pro Vice Chancellor and Dean of Law at Victoria University and Deputy Solicitor-General (Public Law).

Justice Palmer joined the independent bar in 2012, specialising in litigation and advice challenging or defending decisions of government, Crown entities and public bodies and leading argument in over 50 public law cases in the Supreme Court, Court

of Appeal, High Court and Waitangi Tribunal. He was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2014.

Justice Palmer was appointed a Judge of the High Court in 2015, and is currently the Chair of Te Kura Kaiwhakawā | Institute of Judicial Studies.

### **Justice David Boldt**

Justice Boldt graduated with an LLB from Victoria University of Wellington in 1990, and also holds a BA (English and History). He spent two years at the Wellington High Court as Clerk to Chief Justice Sir Thomas Eichelbaum before joining Crown Law's Criminal Team in 1992.

Justice Boldt became a barrister sole in 2002, practising in criminal and public law. He returned to Crown Law in 2012 as a Senior Crown Counsel in the Criminal Team.

In 2015 Justice Boldt returned to the bar. He has had a broad public law practice, with particular emphasis on criminal and crime-related matters. He has appeared regularly in coronial inquiries and has led more than 400 criminal and civil cases in the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court over the last 30 years.

### **Justice Murray Gilbert**

Justice Gilbert graduated LLB from Auckland University in 1977. He was appointed a High Court Judge, sitting in Auckland, in 2012. He was a partner at Kensington Swan from 1985 to 1996, Chapman Tripp from 1996 to 2004 and Gilbert Walker from 2004 to 2012. He was appointed Senior Counsel in 2008 and a High Court Judge in February 2012. Justice Gilbert was appointed to the Court of Appeal in June 2017.

Helen Winkelmann

**Chief Justice | Te Tumu Whakawā**

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