



The Right Honourable Dame Helen Winkelmann

CHIEF JUSTICE OF NEW ZEALAND | TE TUMU WHAKAWĀ O AOTEAROA

26 JANUARY 2024

## MEDIA STATEMENT

### Chief Justice welcomes High Court appointment

The Chief Justice welcomes the Attorney-General's announcement today of the appointment of Whanganui Crown Solicitor Michele Wilkinson-Smith as a Judge of the High Court.

Justice Wilkinson-Smith will take up her appointment as a judge of the High Court on 1 February 2024, and will sit at the Auckland High Court. She will be sworn in on Wednesday 14 February 2024.

#### Biography

**Justice Wilkinson-Smith** graduated with an LLB (Hons) from Auckland University School of Law in 1993 and commenced practice as a staff solicitor with Brewer Mazengarb in New Plymouth. In 1998 she became a partner of Auld Brewer Mazengarb and McEwen.

In 2004 Justice Wilkinson-Smith joined the independent bar, practising as both a defence barrister in Auckland and Crown panel prosecutor in Palmerston North until 2016. She was a member of the Legal Aid Review Panel from 2008 to 2011 and a Visiting Justice at Whanganui Prison from 2011 to 2016.

Justice Wilkinson-Smith has been a member of the Legal Aid Performance Review Committee assessing the performance of legal aid providers since 2015.

She was appointed Crown Solicitor for Whanganui in 2016.

Helen Winkelmann  
**Chief Justice | Te Tumu Whakawā**

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