



The Right Honourable Dame Helen Winkelmann

CHIEF JUSTICE OF NEW ZEALAND | TE TUMU WHAKAWĀ O AOTEAROA

16 MAY 2025

## MEDIA STATEMENT

# Chief Justice welcomes judicial appointment

The Chief Justice welcomes the Attorney-General's announcement today of the appointment of Waikato Barrister James MacGillivray as a Judge of the High Court.

Justice MacGillivray will take up his appointment on 1 August 2025, and will sit in Auckland. His appointment follows the appointment of Justice Whata to the Court of Appeal, which takes effect on 1 August 2025. Justice MacGillivray will be sworn in on Friday 15 August 2025 at the Auckland High Court.

## BIOGRAPHY

### **Justice James MacGillivray**

Justice MacGillivray graduated from the University of Auckland with an LLB and a BA in History in 1995.

He was a Litigation Solicitor, then an Associate, with Bell Gully in Auckland until 2000. He then relocated to London and worked as a Litigation Senior Associate with law firm Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer until 2003.

In 2004, Justice MacGillivray joined Tompkins Wake as a Litigation Senior Associate. He became a partner in 2006, specialising in civil and commercial litigation.

In 2020, he obtained a Master of Laws (First Class Honours) from the University of Auckland.

In 2024, he was awarded the University of Waikato Medal in recognition of his contribution to the University and the broader Waikato community.

Justice MacGillivray joined Mills Lane Chambers in Auckland in January 2025, practising as a barrister in the areas of contract and commercial, corporate and insolvency, aviation liability, insurance, professional negligence, and local government disputes.

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

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