



The Right Honourable Dame Helen Winkelmann

CHIEF JUSTICE OF NEW ZEALAND | TE TUMU WHAKAWĀ O AOTEAROA

14 October 2021

MEDIA STATEMENT

I have been advised by the family of Sir Noel Anderson that Sir Noel passed away on Wednesday, 6 October. On behalf of the New Zealand judiciary, I wish to pay tribute to Sir Noel as a friend and former colleague, and to mark a life spent in service to the law, to the judiciary and in pursuit of a just society.

Sir Noel was a proud Westie (West Aucklander). He grew up in poverty and knew hardship in his early life. Although he rose to prominence in the profession as a skilled advocate (his ability acknowledged with appointment as silk in 1986) and then as a judge, he was a man of great humility, never losing his concern for the vulnerable in our society.

His judicial career spanned 27 years. He was appointed to the High Court in 1987, to the Court of Appeal in 2001, as President of the Court of Appeal in 2004, and to the Supreme Court in 2006. Although Sir Noel retired in 2008, he continued as an Acting Judge of the Supreme Court until 2014.

As a judge, Sir Noel brought intellect and a strong sense of fairness to his work. He understood the complexity of people's lives and worked hard to ensure that all who came into his courtroom were treated with dignity and respect. He believed that New Zealand needed to develop law that met its unique circumstances – its peoples, its customs and its history. These concerns and beliefs found expression in the way he conducted hearings and in the many significant judgments he delivered during his judicial career. Sir Noel presided over a number of high-profile and difficult cases in both the criminal and civil jurisdictions. His judgments were of significance to the development of New Zealand's law and New Zealand society (for instance, exploring important issues arising from the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act in cases such as *Hansen v R* [2007] NZSC 7 and *Attorney General v Chapman* [2011] NZSC 110, and deciding the judicial review of the Winebox Commission of Inquiry – *Peters v Davison* [1999] 3 NZLR 744).

Sir Noel was a devoted husband to his wife Winnie, a loving father to his children Janet and Andrew and a proud koro to his grandchildren and great grandchildren. He was 77 when he died.

Haere e te tōtara o te ture, haere atu rā.

Helen Winkelmann
Chief Justice