



The Right Honourable Dame Helen Winkelmann

CHIEF JUSTICE OF NEW ZEALAND | TE TUMU WHAKAWĀ O AOTEAROA

8 April 2022

MEDIA STATEMENT

Chief Justice welcomes new appointments to senior courts

The Chief Justice welcomes the Attorney General’s announcement today of four senior court appointments – with three existing members of the judiciary appointed to more senior roles, and the appointment of a new High Court Judge .

Today the Attorney-General announced that Justice Stephen Kós has been appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court. Justice Kós’s appointment to the Supreme Court follows the retirement of Justice William Young.

Justice Mark Cooper has been appointed President of the Court of Appeal, replacing Justice Kós. Justice Sarah Katz has been appointed a Judge of the Court of Appeal.

The Chief Justice said that these three appointments reflect the expertise and excellence of the three judges.

“The justice system of New Zealand has been well served by these judges and I am pleased to welcome them to their new roles.”

The Attorney-General today also announced that Justice Kiri Tahana, Te Arawa (Ngāti Pikiao, Ngāti Mākino and Tapuika) has been appointed to the High Court.

The Chief Justice said Justice Tahana has knowledge of diverse areas of the law and business gained over her 25 years in practice.

“Justice Tahana has extensive domestic and international experience in commercial, corporate (including regulatory and competition) law and litigation along with considerable expertise in advising on matters relating to te Tiriti o Waitangi. She speaks te reo and has a sound knowledge of tikanga in practice.”

Biographies

Justice Kós graduated LLB (Hons) from Victoria University in 1984 and LLM from Cambridge University in 1985. He became a partner in Russell McVeagh in 1988, before joining the independent bar in 2005 and being appointed Queen's Counsel in 2007. Justice Kós was appointed a High Court Judge in 2011, a Judge of the Court of Appeal in 2015, and President of the Court of Appeal in 2016.

Justice Cooper graduated LLB (Hons), M Jur (Dist) from the University of Auckland in 1979, and joined the firm Butler White and Hanna, which later merged into Simpson Grierson. Justice Cooper commenced practice as a barrister sole in 1997 and was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2000. He was appointed a High Court Judge in 2004, and a Judge of the Court of Appeal in 2014. Justice Cooper is of Ngāti Māhanga descent, an iwi of Waikato-Tainui.

Justice Katz graduated from the University of Otago in 1987 and went on to complete an LLM at the University of London, graduating in 1992. Justice Katz spent several years with Chapman Tripp, then worked for Herbert Smith in London before returning to New Zealand and joining Buddle Findlay, becoming a partner in 1997. Justice Katz was the senior litigation partner at Russell McVeagh before being appointed to the High Court bench in 2012. She has been instrumental in developing the courts COVID response.

Justice Tahana, Te Arawa (Ngāti Pikiao, Ngāti Mākino and Tapuika) graduated with an LLB(Hons) and a BA (in Māori and Political Science) from Victoria University of Wellington in 1995 and commenced practice the following year as a solicitor with Bell Gully in Wellington, working on Māori legal issues, including litigation concerning the distribution of Māori fisheries settlement assets.

Justice Tahana has extensive domestic and international experience in commercial, corporate (including regulatory and competition) law and litigation, along with considerable expertise in advising on matters relating to te Tiriti o Waitangi.

In 1999, Justice Tahana spent a year with Walters Williams & Co before relocating to Gilbert & Tobin in Sydney, where she worked for seven years in commercial litigation, interspersed by a year practising litigation in London at Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer and two years as Senior Legal Counsel (Enforcement) at the Commerce Commission. For a further five years, her Honour worked as Senior Director, Legal Counsel at Emirates Integrated Telecommunications Company PJSC (du) in the United Arab Emirates where she led a team of inhouse lawyers responsible for advising the commercial divisions of the company.

In 2017, Justice Tahana returned to New Zealand and joined the partnership of Kāhui Legal in Rotorua, becoming Managing Partner in 2019. She has worked closely with Māori land owning entities, post-settlement governance entities and Māori owned

businesses on a range of legal issues including new ventures, governance, structuring, commercial contracts, trusts, Māori land and litigation.

Justice Tahana has advised on te Tiriti o Waitangi compliance, the integration of tikanga Māori into constitutional documents and tikanga based dispute resolution processes.

Helen Winkelmann

Chief Justice | Te Tumu Whakawā

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