



The Right Honourable Dame Helen Winkelmann

CHIEF JUSTICE OF NEW ZEALAND | TE TUMU WHAKAWĀ O AOTEAROA

2 December 2022

MEDIA STATEMENT

Chief Justice welcomes new High Court appointment

The Chief Justice welcomes the Attorney General's announcement today of the appointment of Auckland barrister David Gary Johnstone as a Judge of the High Court.

Biography

Justice Johnstone graduated from the University of Auckland in 1991 with a BCom/LLB(Hons), and joined Bell Gully as a solicitor, practising in general commercial litigation. During 1993 and 1994 he undertook study at the University of Cambridge, graduating with an LLM(Hons) in 1994. He left Bell Gully in 1996.

In 1998, Justice Johnstone took up a role as a solicitor with the Auckland Crown Solicitor's firm, Meredith Connell, conducting District Court and then High Court jury trials and regulatory prosecutions, and civil proceedings under the Proceeds of Crime Act 1991. He joined the Meredith Connell partnership in 2005. His main focus has been upon criminal prosecutions and appeals at all levels in the criminal justice arena, with a particular speciality in cases involving organised crime, corruption, serious fraud and national security. He has been a member of the Serious Fraud Office's prosecutors' panel since 2014.

In early 2022, Justice Johnstone left Meredith Connell to join the independent Bar. As a barrister, he has specialised in criminal law and commercial compliance, investigations and proceedings.

Justice Johnstone will take up his appointment on 22 February 2023, sitting in Auckland.

Helen Winkelmann
Chief Justice | Te Tumu Whakawā

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