



CHIEF HIGHCOURT JUDGE TE KAIWHAKAWĀ MATUA

Commencement and operation of the Commercial Panel of the High Court 1 September 2017

Section 19 of the Senior Courts Act 2016 establishes a specialist judicial commercial panel (the Panel) in the High Court. The Commercial Panel commences today, 1 September 2017.

Two legislative instruments regulate the regime: the Senior Courts (High Court Commercial Panel) Order 2017 (the Panel Order) and the new Part 29 of the High Court Rules 2016.

The Panel Order specifies the types of proceedings which may be assigned to the Commercial Panel while the High Court Amendment Rules set the procedure for nominating and determining whether a case is a suitable one for a panel judge to hear.

The following judges are to be the initial panel judges:

- Auckland – Venning, Heath, Courtney, Wylie, Katz and Muir JJ.
- Wellington – Mallon and Dobson JJ.

The panel judges will continue to carry out the full array of the balance of High Court work.

Either the plaintiff or defendant may nominate a proceeding be heard by a panel judge. In my capacity as the Chief Judge I will decide whether to assign a panel judge to the proceeding having regard to the criteria in the Panel Order.

As a general rule, panel judges will case manage their assigned cases from their home registry, while the substantive hearing will generally be held in the filing registry.

It is intended that where practical, the assigned judge will deal with interlocutory and case management of the file as well as hearing the substantive fixture (if required).

- [Senior Courts \(High Court Commercial Panel\) Order 2017](#)
- [Part 29 of the High Court Rules 2016](#)

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