PRESENTERS



Nicholas Chisnall, Criminal and Employment Barrister, Blackstone Chambers, Auckland

Nicholas is a barrister at Blackstone Chambers. Before joining the bar, he was the Public Defence Service's General Counsel and oversaw the PDS's appeal practice. Before that, Nicholas was Crown Counsel at the Crown Law Office, where he undertook appeals on behalf of the Solicitor-General. He has appeared many times on behalf of both defendants and the Crown in the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court. Nicholas is an experienced jury trial advocate, both as a senior Crown prosecutor and defence lawyer and has defended and prosecuted all types of serious criminal cases.



Susan Gray, Criminal Barrister, Blackstone Chambers, Auckland

Susan is a senior criminal barrister with 25 years' experience. She is able to appear on all criminal matters, CYFS care and protection cases and at inquests and parole hearings.

Between 1990 and 2013, Susan worked as a prosecutor at the Auckland Crown Solicitors office. For the last 11 years, she was a partner and regularly conducted serious criminal cases on behalf of the Crown.

Since 2014, Susan has worked as a defence lawyer, undertaking a full range of criminal cases including appeals against sentence and conviction in the Court of Appeal. She is able to take direct instructions. Susan is an approved legal aid provider.



Philip Hamlin, Criminal Defence Barrister, Hamlin Law, Auckland

Philip is an experienced Criminal Barrister with extensive involvement across a wide range of criminal trials, appeals and related civil hearings. He is a former Crown Prosecutor with over 35 years' of experience.

Philip is recognised for his expertise in a number of important areas including sex crimes, child abuse and homicides, expert evidence cases, appeals, pornography and computer-internet crime. He has appeared in a number of significant trials including murder, attempted murder, serious assaults, drugs, fraud and sex crimes.

Philip is an expert in defending his clients at trial, advising them on practical options in relation to each step in the process, engaging a range of experts to assist in their defence, and dealing with the many issues that arise when appearing in Court as a defendant.

He is able to take instructions privately and is an approved criminal legal aid provider.

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