

CHAIR



The Honourable Justice Mathew Downs, High Court, Auckland

Justice Downs graduated from Otago University in 1993 with an LLB (Hons). He later completed an LLM (Hons, 1st class) at Cambridge University and a PhD at Otago University; his doctoral thesis was recognised by the Division of Humanities as exceptional. Justice Downs worked as a junior solicitor at Brewer Mazengarb in 1994, and then Assistant Crown Counsel at Crown Law between 1994-96. From 1996-2005 he worked at Ben Vanderkolk & Associates and then Meredith Connell, then re-joined Crown Law in 2005, later becoming Senior Crown Counsel, during which time he appeared regularly in the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court. Justice Downs is the editor of *Cross on Evidence* and a co-author of its 2017 edition. He was appointed a High Court Judge on 11 August 2016.

SPEAKERS



Kerry Cook, Bridgeside Chambers, Christchurch

Kerry has a wide-ranging practice, has appeared as lead counsel in the High Court, Court of Appeal and Supreme Court, and has also been appointed as an amicus curiae and independent counsel in various matters in all courts. He is a contributing author of the *Ethics, Professional Responsibility and the Lawyer* textbook as well as the sentencing chapter in the *Brookers Law of Transportation* resource.



Mark Harborow, Meredith Connell, Auckland

Mark acts for the Commissioner of Police in applications brought under the Criminal Proceeds (Recovery) Act 2009. He regularly appears in the High Court to restrain and forfeit criminal proceeds. Mark is also a Crown Prosecutor in the District and High Courts. He has acted for numerous public bodies in prosecutions and civil litigation.



Dr Anna High, University of Otago, Dunedin

Anna High (LLB, BA (UQ); BCL, MPhil, DPhil (Oxon); Rhodes Scholar Qld & Magdalen 2008) is senior lecturer in law at the University of Otago, where she teaches evidence, jurisprudence and Chinese law. She holds current research grants from the Royal Society Marsden Fund and the New Zealand Law Foundation, and is co-founder/director of the Otago Centre for Law and Society. Anna is a regular faculty member at Te Kura Kaiwhakawā Evidence and Procedure Programme. Prior to joining Otago University in 2017, she was Distinguished Scholar-in-Residence at Loyola University Chicago School of Law.

SPEAKERS



Katie Hogan, City Chambers, Auckland

Katie specialises in financial offending, referencing the Crimes, Criminal Proceeds (Recovery), AML/CFT and SFO Acts. She worked in civil litigation before switching to criminal and in 2009 becoming a Senior Prosecutor at Meredith Connell followed by Kayes Fletcher Walker. In 2015 Katie was engaged as legal consultant to the Samoan Attorney-General. She joined the independent bar in 2018.



Zannah Johnston, Crown Law, Auckland

Zannah is Crown Counsel in the Criminal Team, where she has conducted appeals on behalf of the Crown since 2015. Prior to that she worked at Meredith Connell in Auckland and Raymond Donnelly in Christchurch, and undertook a short stint working in sexual violence in West Africa.



Dr Brigit Mirfin-Veitch, Donald Beasley Institute and Centre for Postgraduate Nursing Studies, University of Otago, Dunedin

Over almost three decades as a disability researcher Brigit has been committed to inclusive and transformative work, with the overarching goal of promoting access to justice for disabled people. Her most recent research has informed the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care. Brigit is the Director of the Donald Beasley Institute, and Research Associate Professor at the Centre for Postgraduate Nursing Studies.



Emma Priest, Blackstone Chambers, Auckland

Emma is a criminal barrister undertaking jury trial, appellate and parole work. She was previously a senior Crown Prosecutor for 11 years. Emma presents the NZLS CLE “How to Run a Jury Trial” workshop, the “Barristers” section of Stepping Up and is on the Litigation Skills faculty. She is a board member for Variety NZ and founded The Good Lawyer, a not-for-profit supporting prisoners.



Iain Smith, Keegan Smith, Livingston, Scotland

Iain is actively involved in the creating a fairer criminal justice system and is the leading trauma informed lawyer in Scotland. He is a core group member of West Lothian Adverse Childhood Experiences Hub and a Trustee of the charity Aid & Abet, who try to assist people get out of the cycle of offending.

SPEAKERS



Ruth Thomas, Barrister, Christchurch

Ruth is an independent barrister, and currently a lead Counsel Assisting the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care, on the Disability, Deaf and Mental Health institutional care investigation. She has 17 years of legal experience and has previously worked as a Crown Prosecutor, Police prosecutor and advocacy trainer.



Sir Ron Young, Parole Board, Wellington

Sir Ron was appointed chair of the New Zealand Parole Board in August 2018. He retired as a Judge of the High Court in 2015 after a total of more than 27 years as a judge including 14 years' service on the High Court Bench. Before that Sir Ron had been the Chief District Court Judge, the List Judge for many years in the High Court Wellington, and President of the Electoral Commission from 2000 to 2003.



The Honourable Justice William Young, Supreme Court, Wellington

Justice William Young (LLB (Hons) (Canterbury), PhD (Cantab)) was appointed to the High Court in 1997, and to the Court of Appeal in 2004, becoming President of the Court of Appeal in 2006. He was appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court in 2010, retiring in 2022 and now sitting as required as an Acting Judge of the Supreme Court. Justice Young chaired the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the terrorist attack on Christchurch masjidain on 15 March 2019, is an honorary Bencher of the Middle Temple and an honorary Fellow of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge. He holds an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Canterbury.

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