

PRESENTERS



Donna-Maree Cross, Barrister, Lorne Street Chambers, Auckland

Maree is experienced in criminal and civil litigation. In addition to her LLB(Hons)/BA from the University of Auckland (graduating with a Senior Prize and Senior Scholarship respectively), she holds an LLM (graduating as a Scholar) from Columbia University in the City of New York, where she specialised in trial and appellate practice.

Maree was previously a Senior Associate at MinterEllisonRuddWatts as well as full-time junior counsel to David PH Jones QC. She has acted for a number of high profile individuals and appears regularly in court, including in the jury-trial jurisdiction. Maree has built up particular expertise representing clients in concurrent proceedings and parallel forums.

She has been a member of the New Zealand Bar Association Law Reform Committee since 2016. Maree is also Deputy Convenor of one of the Auckland Standards Committees. She is the author of the chapter on “Surveillance” in the Thomson Reuters’ publication, Privacy Law in New Zealand. Maree joined the Independent Bar in February 2016.



Todd Simmonds, Barrister, Lorne Street Chambers, Auckland

Todd was admitted to the bar in 1990 and specialises in criminal and regulatory litigation. He has extensive trial experience in the High and District Courts, and has appeared many times as lead counsel in the Court of Appeal.

Prior to becoming a barrister sole in 2004, Todd was a senior prosecutor with Meredith Connell, the office of the Auckland Crown Solicitor. He has been a member of the Auckland Crown Solicitor’s panel since 2004 and was appointed to the Manukau Crown Solicitor’s panel upon its inception in 2015.

In 2006, Todd was appointed as senior counsel to the New Zealand Defence Force Courts-Martial panel. In 2010, he was appointed to the Serious Fraud Office prosecution panel.

Between 2011 and 2018, Todd served as a member of the New Zealand Lawyers and Conveyancers Disciplinary Tribunal. Between 2010 and 2019, he served as a member of the New Zealand Law Society’s Criminal Law Committee.

Todd is a past convenor of the ADLS’ Criminal Law Committee and is currently the Deputy Chair of the New Zealand Bar Association’s Criminal Law Committee. He is also a member of the pro-bono prosecution panel for the Auckland SPCA.

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