

Annual Report 2018



District Court of New Zealand
Te Kōti ā Rohe

ISBN 978-0-478-32469-3 (ONLINE)



2018 © Crown Copyright This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 Commercial Licence.

IN THIS REPORT

FOREWORD: SHARING THE KNOWLEDGE	5
ROLE AND JURISDICTION OF THE DISTRICT COURT	6
LEADERSHIP OF THE DISTRICT COURT	7
REPORTS	
CHIEF DISTRICT COURT JUDGE	8
PRINCIPAL FAMILY COURT JUDGE	13
PRINCIPAL YOUTH COURT JUDGE	17
THE INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR COURT EXCELLENCE	18
JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE MEASURES	19
MILESTONES	
DISTRICT COURT JUDGES' TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE 2018	25
CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF THE NGĀ KŌTI RANGATAHI	28
LANDMARK BUILDING NEW ERA FOR CHRISTCHURCH	31
ROLE AND STATISTICS	
TOTAL CRIMINAL	33
JURY	34
FAMILY	35
YOUTH	37
CIVIL	40
COMMUNITY MAGISTRATES	41
JUDICIAL COMMITTEE STRUCTURE	42
SITTING JUDGES	43



FOREWORD:

Sharing the knowledge

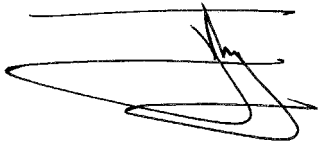
With each edition of the District Court Annual Report the opportunities to enhance public understanding of the administration of justice grow.

In this our sixth year, and second year of digital publication, we have again made the most of the flexibility that online publishing offers. The core report features significant events from our 2017/2018 calendar alongside our regular reports, annual statistics and judicial performance measures.

A complementary section of the District Court website carries rolling contributions from individual judges. Each spotlights an aspect of the law or District Court jurisdiction.

Explaining the legal steps, principles and tests that judges work through to reach decisions gives the public a clearer view of the wide variety of work in the District Court. The information reinforces our commitment to transparent and open justice.

Armed with the insights annual reporting provides into what is New Zealand's biggest court, the public is better placed to assess how the District Court is delivering justice. I hope this information provides a sound basis for constructive debate about justice matters generally.



Chief District Court Judge
Judge Jan-Marie Doogue



“Explaining the legal steps, principles and tests that judges work through to reach decisions gives the public a clearer view of the wide variety of work in the District Court”

Role and jurisdiction of the District Court

Most New Zealanders who appear in court do so in a District Court. The court deals with nearly 200,000 criminal, family, youth and civil matters every year, making it Australasia's biggest court.

In 2018, 167 District Court judges and 14 Community Magistrates were warranted to sit in 58 courthouses and hearing centres throughout New Zealand.

Since law changes last year what was previously a network of District Courts has become a unified entity with general, Family Court, Youth Court and Disputes Tribunal divisions.

Most matters brought to court are dealt with in the first instance by the District Court.

Most of the court's work falls under the criminal jurisdiction where the lead legislation is the Criminal Procedure Act 2011. Almost all criminal cases except murder, manslaughter and some treason-related offences are dealt with entirely in the District Court.

The Family Court deals with most family law issues including adoption, parenting arrangements, abduction, state care, relationship property and estates. The bulk of its workload involves the Care of Children Act 2004 and the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989.

The Youth Court division deals with criminal offending by children and young people aged 12 to 16 years old. From July 2019, this jurisdiction will extend to 17 year olds. The court's lead legislation is the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989.

The District Court's civil jurisdiction covers disputes up to \$350,000.

Criminal jurisdiction

In New Zealand's criminal jurisdiction, types of offence are distinguished by four categories. Trials of the first two categories of charges are heard in the District Court by a judicial officer sitting alone.

Defendants who deny category 3 charges can choose either a jury or judge-alone trial in the District Court.

More serious charges are referred to the High Court.

More than 100 District Court judges have warrants to conduct jury trials.

Only judges can hear trials for offences punishable by imprisonment. This means that District Court judges deal with the most serious, complex and time-consuming criminal cases within their jurisdiction.

Community Magistrates and judicial Justices of the Peace deal with less serious offending.

Criminal trial outcomes and decisions made in the District Court can be appealed to a higher court, while the District Court is the appeal court for various tribunal decisions.



The Chief Judge addresses the Criminal Jury Trials Committee chaired by Judge Michael Crosbie.

The District Court leadership

The Chief District Court Judge and Principal Judges

The Chief District Court Judge is the head of the court. Appointed by the Governor-General, she is responsible for the orderly and efficient conduct of District Court business in all its divisions.

The Chief Judge has statutory authority to determine sessions of the court and to assign judges. The role includes managing workloads, overseeing scheduling and professional development and training, and making directions and setting standards for best practice.

The Principal Family Court Judge and the Principal Youth Court Judge have similar responsibilities in the divisions they head. They discharge these in consultation with the Chief District Court Judge.

The three judges serve as the public face of their courts and, combined, have more than 70 years' experience on the bench.

They work as a cohesive team to best discharge the work before the courts, respond to resource challenges and to lead their colleagues in adapting to any law changes that affect their jurisdictions.

The Chief and Principal judges are supported in their administrative and strategic roles by the National Executive Judge.

The positions are based in Wellington but the Chief Judge, Judge Jan-Marie Doogue, the Principal Family Court Judge, Judge Laurence Ryan, and the Principal Youth Court Judge, Judge John Walker, are all sitting judges. They regularly preside at hearings around the country.

National Executive Judge

The National Executive Judge is based at the Chief Judge's Chambers in Wellington. The role is to support the Chief Judge and Principal judges in their administrative and strategic roles.

Judge Lawry Hinton stepped into the role this year following the appointment of his predecessor, Judge Colin Doherty, as chairperson of the Independent Police Conduct Authority.

Judge Hinton's role includes significant legal and policy work in chambers. He also sits at various courts around the country on specific assignments and has oversight of Community Magistrates.



National Executive Judge
Lawry Hinton



Principal Family Court Judge
Laurence Ryan



Chief District Court Judge
Jan-Marie Doogue



Principal Youth Court Judge
John Walker

Report of the Chief District Court Judge, Judge Jan-Marie Doogue

Against the odds: a time to acknowledge achievement

In an environment as relentlessly busy as the District Court, achievements can be overshadowed by the constant struggle to manage workloads.

Annual stocktakes are a valuable opportunity to pause and reflect on the bigger picture, and to consider how the skills and commitment of District Court judges serve and enhance the administration of justice.

The degree to which resource shortages hamper further improvement is often discouraging. In 2017-2018, the impact of tighter statutory rules for boosting the judicial ranks to fill gaps began to impact on rostering. The District Court started losing a judge at an average of one a month. At the same time, the Family Court in particular has been labouring under escalating work pressures and delays.

In May, I determined that judicial resource needed to be redeployed from the criminal and civil jurisdictions to the Family Court, taking effect in the new financial year. Gains in reducing timeframes for jury trials may stall and unwind as a result. However disheartening this is, making tough calls about allocating judicial resource is part of the role of Chief Judge.

It is a task made more difficult when demand for court time across all divisions is beyond judicial control.

However, I am constantly buoyed by my colleagues' dedication. District Court judges continue to adapt to constrained circumstances to deliver justice in ways relevant and effective for New Zealanders. We endeavour to "speak the law with a New Zealand accent". It was fitting that this was the theme of the 2018 Triennial Conference.

Triennial Conference

Only once every three years can judges be spared from court duties for a conference involving the whole of bench. Not a moment was wasted when we met in early June in Rotorua. We heard from 19 guest speakers over four days. We placed special emphasis on exploring the power and potential of transformative justice and understanding the perspectives of our

diverse cultures and communities.

The exchange of ideas injected new vigour into developing solutions-focused initiatives across the District Court, including taking a more comprehensive approach to inform sentencing decisions using cultural reports under s 27 of the Sentencing Act 2002.



Auckland City councillor Efeso Collins addresses the Triennial Conference.

Cultural Speakers

Judges have been working behind-the-scenes in 2018 to mainstream the Matariki Court, so as to get a greater pool of knowledge around each defendant before imposing a sentence. Drawing inspiration from the Rangatahi Courts in the Youth Court and the Matariki Court for adult offenders in Kaikohe, the approach will see greater use of s 27. This allows a court to hear from cultural speakers nominated by an offender. The speakers can inform the court about an offender's whānau, community and cultural background, both in respect of how this may have related to the offending and to what support may be relevant to potential sentences. The approach offers the court a more dimensional view of an offender, which may help a judge to find a more appropriate and effective sentence.

“I am constantly buoyed by my colleagues’ dedication. District Court judges continue to adapt to constrained circumstances to deliver justice in ways relevant and effective for New Zealanders”



AVL in Court

A law change in 2017 paved the way for greater use of audio-visual links (AVL) so that more defendants can appear in court remotely from either prison or a police cell. It raised concerns about the implications for fair trial rights and access to justice.

In October 2017, I convened a multi-agency workshop to develop a nationally consistent approach to AVL in criminal proceedings, to ensure the new technology did not degrade justice. Informed by research conducted by my office, the workshop took a collaborative approach. It has produced a set of protocols designed to ensure the experience of remote participation is as close as possible to what a defendant would experience if the court appearance were in person.

We must always remain vigilant that new technology employed in the courts works in the best interests of justice.



Respectful workplace culture

This year the New Zealand legal profession became swept up in the global #MeToo movement that has challenged bullying and sexual harassment in the workplace. Some of the accusations and survey findings made for sobering reading, and the judiciary were not immune from criticism.

I have been reassured by the level of concern among my colleagues about the issues raised and their openness to improving the culture within the District Court. As judicial officers, we all understand we have a duty to engender a respectful work environment and to act appropriately to uphold and promote respect for the law and the dignity of the court. At the same time, we must retain and maintain control over proceedings in our courtrooms and continue to hold others properly to account.

Through a recent initiative led by the Chief Justice, I look forward to clearer channels of communication with members of the Bar should any wish to raise concerns in future about courtroom culture.

More accolades for the District Court website

For the third time in five years, the District Court won the Award for Excellence from the Australasian Institute for Judicial Administration. Taking the bow this year was the District Court website and its Director of Publications, Karen Harvey, and the former General Manager of District Courts (now Director of Māori Strategy) at the Ministry of Justice, Tony Fisher, who was instrumental in the website's establishment.



Karen Harvey (left) the Chief Judge and Tony Fisher accepting the AIJA Award.

The award recognises initiatives that improve access to justice, demonstrate innovation and deliver real benefits. It is richly deserved. Developing an online publishing system capable of managing the volume and diversity of decisions in the District Court, along with a reliable method for vetting the sensitive nature of some material, was a huge challenge. In only its

second year, the website is giving unprecedented public and professional access to significant judicial decisions.

Ringling in change in the South

Judges in the South Island's two biggest court regions were on the move this year as two major construction projects were completed. Christchurch's 18 District Court judges moved in to the new courthouse complex in late 2017.

The modern lines and bright open spaces of the new building contrast with the more traditional but no less impressive surroundings of the historic Dunedin Law Courts, where four District Court judges are based. After a meticulous refurbishment, the Dunedin court building reopened in January, marked by a gala event which included a memorable parade of judges and members of the local Bar through the heart of the city.

Tribute to Judge Laurence Ryan

Principal Family Court Judge Laurence Ryan is beginning a well-earned retirement after five years leading the Family Court and 22 years on the Bench. He steered the court through the turbulence of major legislative change in 2014 which placed intense pressure on the court.

I want to pay tribute to his forbearance in trying new approaches to alleviate the delays and fundamental shifts in workload and demand which the law change inadvertently produced. Judge Ryan has always approached the task with patience, good humour and collegiality. He has kept families and children, many of them vulnerable, his number one priority, and there could be no better legacy for the court.

Top Dunedin District Court judges (L-R) Judge Kevin Phillips, Judge Dominic Flatley, Judge Michael Crosbie and Judge Michael Turner join the Chief Judge and the Chief Justice, Dame Sian Elias, in the refurbished judicial library.

Middle Dunedin judges and local barristers gather for the opening of the refurbished Dunedin Law Courts building.

Bottom The Chief Judge with Principal Family Court Judge, Judge Laurence Ryan.





“It is very telling that the issues before the Family Court are some of the most emotional, personal and sensitive issues that come into the justice system”

Report of the Principal Family Court Judge, Judge Laurence Ryan

Children paramount in a court negotiating change

This is my last contribution as Principal Family Court Judge to the Annual Report. In the five years I have led the Family Court bench, family law underwent a review which culminated in a number of legislative reforms in 2014. Most significant were the processes around cases to do with care arrangements for children.

Given the focus in the last few years on vulnerable children, there were significant changes in the area of care and protection as well. This led to the establishment of a new government department, Oranga Tamariki, followed by the introduction of legislation intended to better identify and support vulnerable children and their caregivers.

Also, there has been increased attention given to New Zealand's appalling family violence statistics. Greater support has been, and continues to be, made available for victims of family violence and their children. Now we are about to see a further review of family law, examining among other things, the impact of the 2014 reforms. Undoubtedly, there will be further changes ahead.

Family Court judges have to constantly keep abreast of new laws and processes, while continuing to ensure that the welfare and best interests of children remain the paramount consideration. All Family Court judges are aware of this mandate, having been experienced family lawyers prior to appointment.

It is very telling that the issues before the Family Court are some of the most emotional, personal and sensitive issues that come into the justice system. The court's work directly affects everyday aspects of a person's life. For that reason, Family Court judges will encourage people as much as possible to resolve their matters outside the court process, to try and reduce the emotional burden of litigation.

The scope of what Family Court judges see day-to-day differs significantly to what I think are general misconceptions about the Family Court. Often people think of adult problems such as relationship breakups when they think of the Family Court. In fact, the breadth of the Family Court's jurisdiction is much wider, and it deals with many different "family" matters.

Because the jurisdiction is wide, the work is varied. Family Court judges must be skilled in a variety of legal areas and must also be able to comprehend the unique complexities of individual families.

All Family Court judges continue to receive Continuing Legal Education and training in, among other things, child-focused dispute resolution and the dynamics of family violence, with its impact on victims and children who have witnessed family violence.

"New Zealand's Family Court compares most favourably with other Family Courts internationally in the timely disposal of cases"

Family Court proceedings often concern children. More than half the applications it receives relate to care arrangements while the second biggest part of its work relates to children in need of care and protection.

Despite what else is going on in a proceeding, the welfare and best interests of the child are the court's paramount consideration. When a court is deciding parenting arrangements for a child after their parents have separated, it is not the interests of the parents that the court will prioritise. It will decide what arrangements are best for the child, and will take into account the child's views in doing so. In care and protection proceedings children must have a lawyer represent them, and in Care of Children Act proceedings, children can have their own legal representation if the court determines it necessary.

Section 5 of the Family Court Act 1980 provides that a person shall not be appointed a Family Court judge unless he or she is, or is eligible to be, a District Court judge and he or she is by reason of his or her training, experience and personality suitable to deal with matters of family law.

All Family Court judges undertake their role assiduously and conscientiously, always endeavouring to do justice in an objective even-handed way with children's safety and wellbeing at the forefront of the decision-making.

Notwithstanding this commitment, Family Court judges continue to come under unfair and unacceptable personal attacks from pressure groups and individuals to the extent that some have been subjected to physical violence and their homes have been picketed. This unwarranted intrusion into the private lives of judges, and into the lives of their families, is absolutely unjustified from any viewpoint.

New Zealand's Family Court compares most favourably with other Family Courts internationally in the timely disposal of cases. As at May of this year the median age of defended applications under the Care of Children Act at disposal was 40 weeks, and applications under the Domestic Violence Act for protection orders averaged 24 weeks to disposal.

The Family Court judiciary continue to look at new initiatives to assist in management of an increasing workload. Some examples are making better use of

cultural report writers and lay advocates in cases to do with the care and protection and care arrangements for children.

The judges have always been enthusiastic about adopting new and improved processes, such as single-judge case management of complex Property (Relationships) Act cases.

During my time as Principal Judge, I have witnessed progressive changes to the Family Court bench. In the past five years there has been a significant shift in the gender balance with a notable increase in women judges. In November 2012, 22 Family warranted judges were women and 31 were men. As at June 2018, 27 were women and 32 men.

Family Court judges continue to remain committed to serving the community in the best way possible. I have been extremely proud to be their leader over the past five and-a-half years.







“... the key to working more effectively is to ensure our Youth Courts are a part of the communities they serve. This requires true community engagement at a local level, for each individual court”

Report of the Principal Youth Court Judge, Judge John Walker

Community engagement key to finding lasting solutions

As we move into the second half of 2018, there is a sense of positivity about the innovation in the Youth Justice sphere.

Recent Youth Justice Indicators have provided a solid grounding for recognising positive advances in the system, as well as highlighting those areas where most attention is needed.

We continue to be presented with serious challenges by the young people who come into conflict with the law. The causes of offending are complex and multi-faceted, with factors such as family violence, neuro-disability, alcohol and drug addictions and mental illness playing a part. With young people usually entering the Youth Court at age 14 or 15, and generally on very serious charges, the causes are often well entrenched. They are difficult to pinpoint and very difficult to address.

We have also seen an increase in serious offending by girls, and inter-agency work is taking place so we can better understand and address this.

The Youth Justice Indicators and annual statistics continue to highlight the disproportionate rates of offending by young Māori, which is reflected in statistics in the adult courts. As we mark the 10th anniversary of the Rangatahi Court this year we have an opportunity to reflect on the lessons learned from this important initiative.

Despite the challenges, the Youth Court remains a place of great hope. The engagement of so many agencies — Police Youth Aid, forensic clinicians, youth-justice social workers, education officers, and lay and youth advocates — all coming together in the courtroom, presents the best chance of achieving lasting solutions for young people who are on destructive and damaging paths.

Outside of the agencies, the key to working more effectively is to ensure our Youth Courts are a part of the communities they serve. This requires true community engagement at a local level, for each individual court. It means bringing the community

into the court, and vice versa. Local representation through the multi-agency team is one significant step towards this. The challenge for 2018 is to continue this kaupapa in a meaningful way, while preparing for the significant legislative changes coming into force in July 2019.



Principal Youth Court Judge John Walker speaking at the opening of the 15th Rangatahi Court in Whangārei

It is important that our incoming group of 17-year-olds, who will be encompassed within the Youth Court jurisdiction from that date, are treated in the same manner as any other young person in the youth justice system. They too must have the same principles of diversion and rehabilitation open to them, if we are to effect change for them.



The International Framework for Court Excellence: Delivering on an aim to be excellent

A court should be excellent. The District Court strives to be that. We always aim to use available resources in a way that best promotes that goal.

There are always elements of the court that are working well, and others which can be better. The key lies in identifying changes that will be effective, and being able to make those changes.

Improvements should happen as quickly as possible, but should also be done in a way that makes them last a long time. We cannot make every change. Resources simply do not allow it.

The International Framework for Court Excellence (IFCE) is a quality management system designed to help courts improve performance. It is built on several core values: Equality before the law, fairness, impartiality, independence of decision-making, competence, integrity, transparency, accessibility, timeliness and certainty.

“Improvements should happen as quickly as possible, but should also be done in a way that makes them last a long time”

These core values guarantee justice and equal protection to all who appear in the District Court.

The IFCE provides a framework for the District Court judiciary, together with the Ministry of Justice, to assess how well we are delivering on those core values. Every few years this is assessed through an in-depth survey of judges and ministry officials. This assessment pinpoints areas for improvement. It also helps identify whether improvement is needed at a local, regional or national level. It identifies processes that are working well, and why they are working well, so they can be applied to other areas.

From that assessment, we can establish potential ways to make things better in areas needing improvement. The judiciary and Ministry of Justice then work together to try to deliver as many of those changes as possible. It is a constant process. There have been assessments in 2012 and 2015. The next one is scheduled for 2019.

Since the original assessment in 2012, we have identified necessary changes to how the court operates. Together with the ministry, we have made improvements and are still working on others. Some examples include:

- Developing protocols for the rostering and scheduling of court work, to ensure a more effective way to deal with large workloads
- Identifying daily workloads that balance the need to complete as much work as possible with allowing high-quality decision-making
- Improving strategic planning
- Producing an annual report containing court performance data and other material relevant to the functioning of the court
- Building a District Court website, and publishing decisions online
- Improving what the community knows about the work of the courts
- Improving assistance to people who represent themselves in court
- Providing nationally-consistent staff training.
- Creating a strong environment for judges and ministry personnel to work together at local, regional and national levels.

There is always more work to be done. There are always ways to improve. It is our challenge to keep finding and implementing them ... to aim to be excellent.

—**Judge Barney Thomas**
IFCE Committee Member



Judicial performance measures

District Court judges are committed to reporting a range of appropriate measures to enhance public awareness of, and confidence in, the judiciary as a well-organised, professional, efficient and independent institution. Performance measures presented are: appeals and reserved judgments.

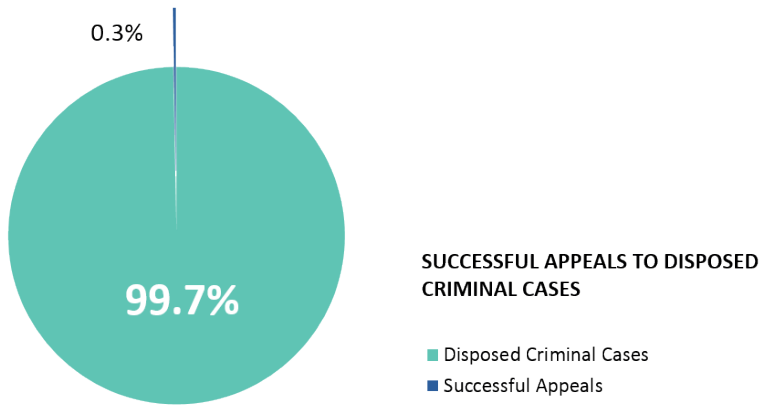
Appeals

Decisions that are successfully appealed to the senior courts are a common measure of judicial performance. In 2017/2018 there were 432 successful appeals from the total 1,541 appeals lodged following District Court decisions (404 were criminal proceedings, 15 Family Court and 13 civil). This is against a backdrop of 135,617 matters disposed of across all jurisdictions during this period: 131,516 criminal cases, 3,491 defended Family Court applications and 610 defended civil cases. Successful appeals represent 0.3% of this total.

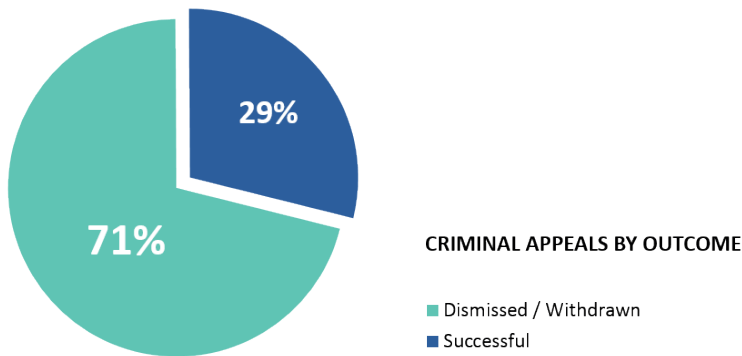


Criminal Appeals

This is the number of appeal applications made in relation to the number of disposed criminal cases which includes jury trial and Youth Court cases. The number of cases does not reflect the actual number of decisions made in the criminal jurisdiction during the year that can be appealed, but provides a starting point from which comparisons can be made.



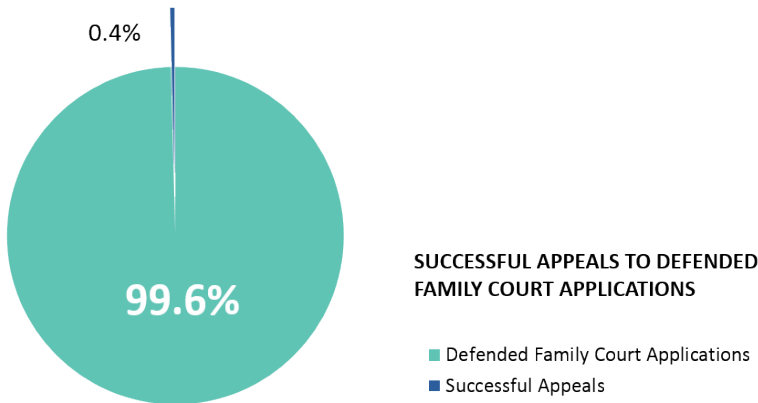
12 Month Period	Disposed Criminal Cases	Successful Appeals
to end June 2018	(99.7%) 131,516	(0.3%) 404
to end June 2017	(99.7%) 131,153	(0.3%) 382



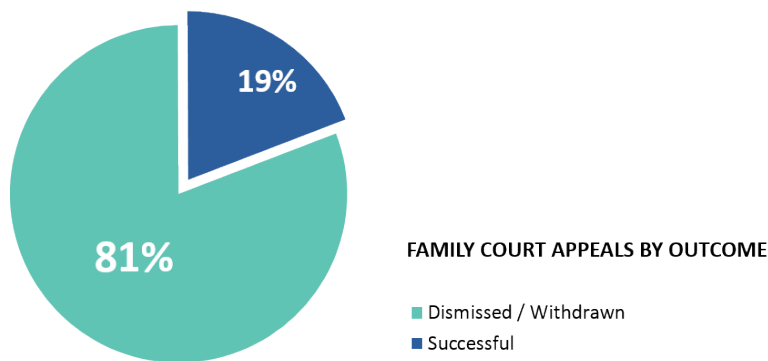
12 Month Period	Total Appeals	Successful	Dismissed / Withdrawn
to end June 2018	1,394	(29%) 404	(71%) 990
to end June 2017	1,432	(26.7%) 382	(73.3%) 1,050

Family Court Appeals

This is the number of appeal applications made in relation to the number of disposed Family Court defended applications, where a hearing was held. The number of cases does not reflect the actual number of Family Court decisions made during the reported year that can be appealed, but provides a starting point from which comparisons can be made.



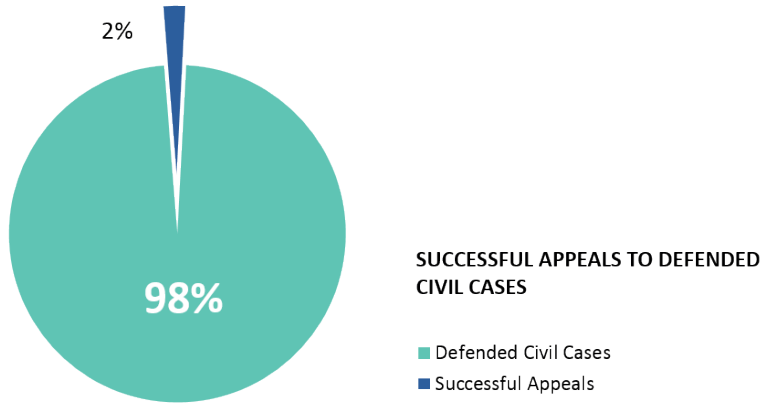
12 Month Period	Defended Family Court Applications	Successful Appeals
to end June 2018	(99.6%) 3,491	(0.4%) 15
to end June 2017	(99.6%) 4,128	(0.4%) 15



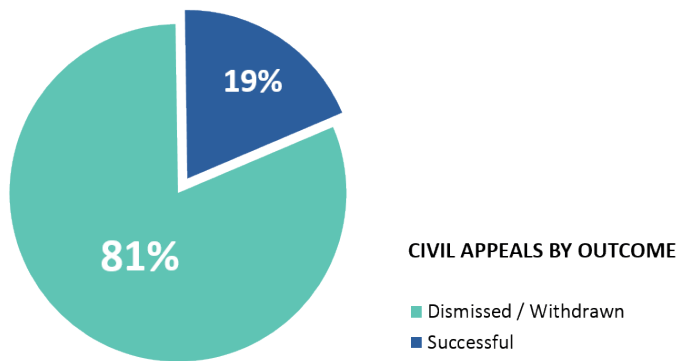
12 Month Period	Total Appeals	Successful	Dismissed / Withdrawn
to end June 2018	78	(19%) 15	(81%) 63
to end June 2017	101	(15%) 15	(85%) 86

Civil Appeals

This is the number of appeal applications made in relation to the number of disposed civil defended cases. The number of cases does not reflect the actual number of civil decisions made during the reported year that can be appealed, but provides a starting point from which comparisons can be made.



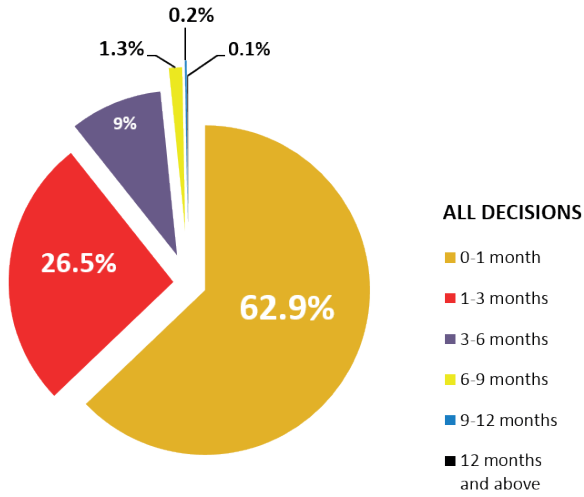
12 Month Period	Defended Civil Cases	Successful Appeals
to end June 2018	(98%) 610	(2%) 13
to end June 2017	(98%) 671	(2%) 17



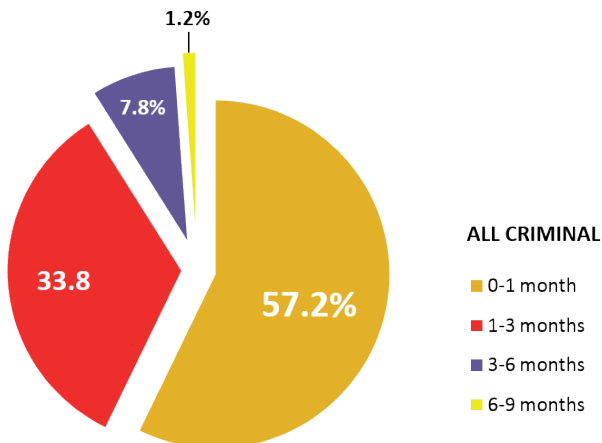
12 Month Period	Total Appeals	Successful	Dismissed / Withdrawn
to end June 2018	69	(19%) 13	(81%) 56
to end June 2017	64	(27%) 17	(73%) 47

Timely delivery of judgments

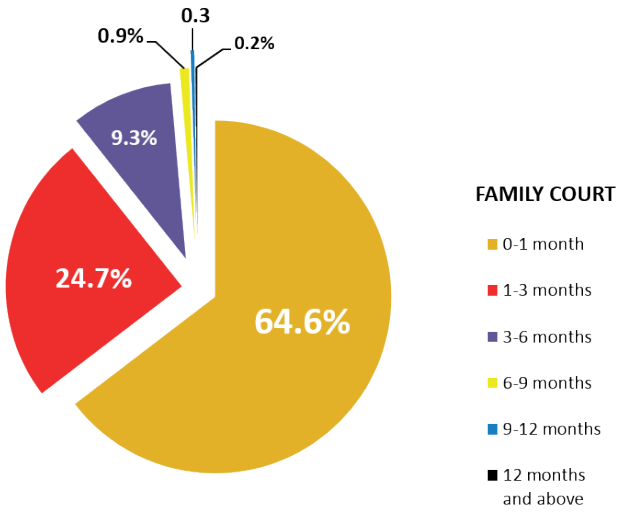
Judges sometimes defer announcing their decisions at the end of a hearing because of the complexity of their work and matters they must consider. These decisions are “reserved” and delivered at a later time, usually in writing. The following charts show the number of reserved decisions and amount of time taken (in months) to deliver these.



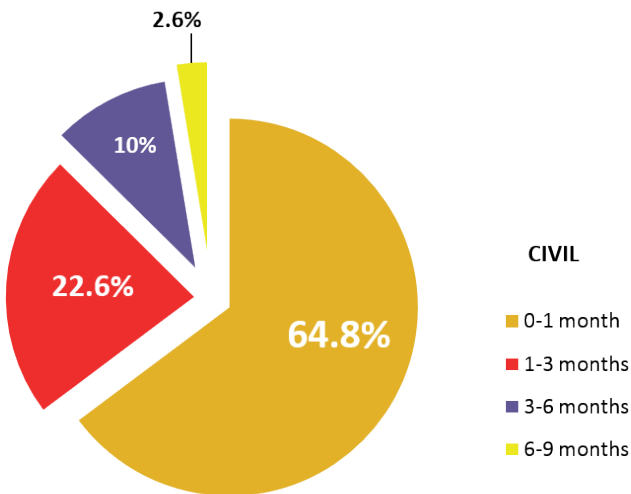
12 Month Period	Total Decisions	0-1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	12 Months and above
to end June 2018	1,058	665	280	96	14	2	1
to end June 2017	992	601	270	102	15	2	2



12 Month Period	Total Decisions	0-1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months
to end June 2018	257	147	87	20	3
to end June 2017	197	105	64	25	3



12 Month Period	Total Decisions	0-1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	12 Months and above
to end June 2018	571	369	141	53	5	2	1
to end June 2017	569	355	149	53	8	2	2



12 Month Period	Total Decisions	0-1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months
to end June 2018	230	149	52	23	6
to end June 2017	226	141	57	24	4

Milestones

2018 District Court Judges' Triennial Conference

Speaking with a New Zealand accent

District Court judges constantly try to keep abreast of the latest research and initiatives across the array of social areas that intersect with the delivery of justice. Once every three years these continuing education efforts culminate in the whole District Court bench meeting for a national conference.

The conference allows judges to hear and draw inspiration from fresh ideas, experiences and perspectives, and to consider how to apply those new insights in their courtrooms.

"The law speaking with a New Zealand accent" was the kaupapa of the 2018 Triennial Conference in Rotorua. The four-day forum heard from a diverse range of speakers on topics acutely relevant to modern judging, particularly transformative justice.

The Chief Justice, Dame Sian Elias, opened the conference and the theme was developed by 18 other speakers. Sessions focused on both judicial and community leadership in the justice system, and on better understanding the dimensions of the complex lives of those who appear before the courts. Speakers included tangata whenua and Pasifika academics in law, demography and business, and champions of te reo Māori and te ao Māori, as well as the Chief District Court Judge, Jan-Marie Doogue, Senior Courts judges and District Court judicial colleagues involved in developing transformative justice.

Transformative Justice in Action The Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Court

The work of the Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Court (AODTC) was featured for its achievements in transformative justice. Judge Ema Aitken (pictured above right) and Judge Lisa Tremewan founded the AODTC in 2012 in Waitakere and Auckland. Both judges spoke about the court's work tackling

the pervasiveness of alcohol or drug addiction as a driver of offending. The rehabilitative pathway through the AODTC is intensively judicially monitored, and enabled by existing Sentencing Act 2002 processes.



As part of the same session, judges heard from four graduates of the court (pictured below). Each recounted how going through the AODTC process was not easy, but by working through the court-ordered programmes they all graduated from the court sober and drug free, and have not offended since. This particularly inspiring session demonstrated the power of transformative justice.



Strength and leadership in Māori and Pasifika Communities

Personal journeys

Community Magistrate Lavinia Nathan (pictured right) has a background in offender treatment. She spoke about the concepts of acculturation – the extent to which a person is comfortable in a culture that is not their own; and deculturation – the extent to which a person is alienated from their culture and the associated effects. Community Magistrate Nathan emphasised the importance of judges understanding a defendant’s personal journey and appreciating to what extent that journey may be one of acculturation and deculturation.



The philosophy of wayfinders

Dr Chellie Spiller (centre right), Associate Professor at the University of Auckland Business School, spoke on the philosophy of Māori and Pasifika “wayfinders”, and how their experiences create valuable lessons for leadership in the 21st Century. She discussed ways to leverage diversity and reach the demands of leadership, and the meaning of true, as opposed to assumed, mana.



Strengthening the collective

Best known for their work as broadcasters, Scotty and Stacey Morrison (bottom right) spoke about the transformative effect of te reo and tikanga Māori. Scotty recounted his personal journey of learning te reo and understanding its value, and how he has seen the transformative effect on so many others who learn te reo. Stacey focused on how tikanga Māori strengthens the collective. Her message was that when tikanga is not respected, Māori are weakened both individually and collectively.



a defendant not merely as an individual, but also recognising the cultural background and context of a person.

Setting a vision

The Chief Treaty Negotiator for Ngāi Tūhoe, Tamati Kruger, (opposite top) explained his role setting the vision for Tūhoe in the post-settlement context. A key message was the importance of being seen and recognised. In the courtroom, this means seeing

Advocacy and activism

Singer, song-writer, musician and film-maker Moana Maniapoto (opposite centre) related the story of her



advocacy and activism for te reo Māori, particularly through her music as well as documentary film making. Her own experience of court has inspired her work to convey the importance of engaging Māori in the courtroom, and how the use of te reo can further such engagement.



Rāwiri Pene, the Pou Oranga of the Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Court, addresses the Triennial Conference.



Whakanuia Tekau Tau – Celebrating 10 Years of Ngā Kōti Rangatahi

Ō tātou mate tūātini, i takoto mai ai i runga i ō tātou marae maha, i runga i ō tātou papa kāinga, i roto i ō tātou whare, kua uhia rātou ki ngā taumata kōrero e tika ana hei poroporoaki i a rātou. Nā reira, me kī pēnei ake te kōrero, tukuna rātou kia okioki i runga i te moenga roa. Āpiti hono, tātai hono, ko te akaaka o te rangi ki a rātou; āpiti hono tātai hono, ko te akaaka o te whenua ki a tātou te hunga ora.

We remember those who have passed on, those who have been mourned, acknowledged, and bid farewell on our many marae and throughout the many districts of our country. Therefore, it is customary to say, release those who have been joined in the long sleep of death, let them remain together, and those of us who remain, let us remain together in the world of the living.

On 30 May 2008, the first Rangatahi Court was convened at Te Poho o Rāwiri Marae in Gisborne. It was a watershed in youth justice in Aotearoa.

Youth Court judges led the initiative to offer rangatahi and their whānau, hapū and iwi a restorative option that integrates tikanga Māori into the court process, in a marae setting.

Scroll forward 10 years to February 2018 and a 15th Rangatahi Court opened at Terenga Parāoa marae in Whangārei. In the intervening years, the concept of Ngā Kōti Rangatahi – Rangatahi Courts has flourished. Māori communities have generously embraced the opportunity to contribute to holding their rangatahi to account, and to guide them in drawing strength from their culture to turn away from a path of crime.

Rangatahi Courts also operate at three marae around the Auckland region and in Hamilton, Huntly,

Rotorua, Taupo, Whakatāne, Tauranga, Gisborne, New Plymouth and Christchurch. Two Pasifika Courts have adapted the model for Pasifika communities in Auckland.

The kaupapa of the court is derived from the traditional whakataukī (proverb):

Ka pū te ruha, ka hao te rangatahi – the old net is cast aside, the new net goes fishing. In this proverb, “rangatahi” means both “the new net” and also, “the youth”, reflecting the ability of young people to redeem themselves from past behaviours and turn to healthier futures.

“The rule of law will be enhanced if the same law is applied but it speaks in the language of the Māori people it serves and it acts in accordance with their protocols”

A key aim is to connect young offenders to a better sense of who they are and where they are from. In turn, this encourages greater respect for themselves, their heritage, and for others in the community.

Kaumātua and kuia are closely involved in the court’s monitoring of a young person’s Family Group Conference plan to address the rangatahi’s offending. They sit alongside the judge to provide cultural insight and advice to young people and their whānau. While the focus is on young Māori who have offended, the opportunity of referral to the court is open to non-Māori.



Judge Heemi Taumaunu has led the Rangatahi Court movement with a vision to draw on the healing spirit of the marae. He believes that the rule of law will be enhanced if the same law is applied but it speaks in the language of the Māori people it serves and it acts in accordance with their protocols. He is now National Rangatahi Court Liaison Judge.

Ngā Kōti Rangatahi are a response to the disproportionate numbers of young Māori appearing in the Youth Court. Reaching the 10-year milestone provides an opportunity to reflect on the courts' impact. During these 10 years, more than 2,600 rangatahi have chosen to be dealt with in a marae setting, and the high levels of attendance by both rangatahi and whānau indicate the option is seen as valuable.

While improved access to justice is an important consideration, evidence suggests that those who have taken part are 11 percent less likely to commit new serious offences in the following 12 months than those in the mainstream Youth Court.

These positive outcomes have resulted in support for the further establishment of Ngā Kōti Rangatahi, and also for the principles to be extended into the adult jurisdiction in the form of the Matariki Court.



Judge Heemi Taumaunu addresses kaumātua at Orakei Marae during AIJA award celebrations in 2016.



Judge Louis Bidois and Principal Youth Court Judge John Walker preside at a Rangatahi Court hearing in Whakatane.



Kaumātua lead participants on to Te Poho o Rāwiri Marae in 2008, for the first Rangatahi Court sitting.

Over the decade the initiative has gained international accolades, including the Australasian Institute of Judicial Administration's Award for Excellence in 2015.

Judge Taumaunu and the judges of Ngā Kōti Rangatahi thank all those who helped develop the courts.

Nō reira, ka nui ngā mihi maioha ki a koutou ko ngā kaumātua, ngā kuia me ngā kaitautoko o Ngā Kōti Rangatahi o Aotearoa. Tēnā koutou katoa.



Judge Greg Davis and Judge Denise Clark, the presiding judges at the 15th Rangatahi Court at Terenga Parāoa Marae.



People are greeted on to the Terenga Parāoa marae in Whangārei for the opening of the 15th Rangatahi Court.



A young person appears before a Rangatahi Court

Landmark building heralds new era

The year heralded a new era for the work of the District Court in Christchurch. After more than 150 years of justice being delivered from Durham Street, a new court complex officially opened on 12 September 2017.

Over the following two months court services progressively shifted into the Justice and Emergency Services Precinct. By 20 November the move across the central city to Tuam Street was complete and the first jury trial under way.

The precinct itself has attracted much media attention partly because of significant cost over-runs. But the outcome is a landmark building and a symbol of rejuvenation in the centre of a city regenerating from the 2011 earthquake.

As well as the courts, as the name suggests the precinct also houses various emergency services.

Every day about 1,100 people come to work in the precinct, and a further 900 visit in some capacity or other. This has had a positive spinoff for the

neighbourhood, with new restaurants, cafes and other businesses opening in what is fast becoming a vibrant part of Christchurch.

In many ways, the new facilities are a huge step up from the old courthouse. The public areas and office spaces are light and airy with a feeling of calm relative to the old building.

“The public areas and office spaces are light and airy, with a feeling of calm relative to the old building”

The feel of the main atrium has been likened to a modern museum rather than a courthouse. As a result, local court security officers report a drop-off in security incidents.

There are better facilities for lawyers to meet their clients, and victims have their own dedicated areas. There are quality mediation rooms for judicially-led settlement conferences. The registry staffroom is magnificent, enjoying the best views in the house, to the Port Hills and beyond. The judges’ chambers and common room are a pleasure to work and relax in.





The courtrooms themselves are equipped with the latest technology. This allows, for example, audio visual links into prisons, other courthouses, and to the rest of the world. The new technology also assists with the sharing of documents during hearings, and for hearing impaired people to participate properly.

The change from old to new has not been without controversy, and there have certainly been some teething issues. That was to be expected given the magnitude of the shift, and the strong attachments formed to the old building in which many of us had worked for decades.

Issues that arose in the early months are being worked through. While some are irresolvable, in my view, on balance the new facility is a quantum leap forward and will be a fantastic home for the District Court in Christchurch for decades to come.

— Judge Tom Gilbert



Roles and Statistics

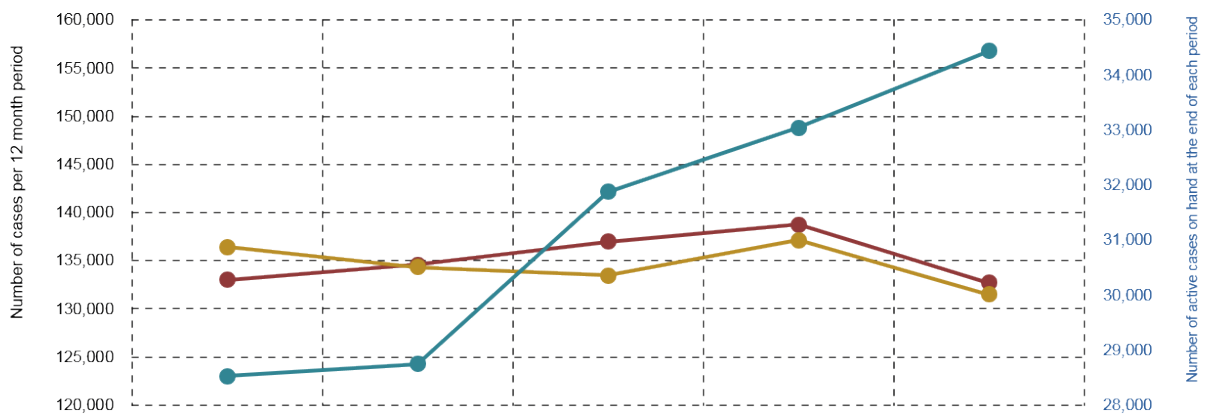
Total Criminal

The criminal jurisdiction makes up the largest proportion of the District Court’s work.

For the purposes of reporting at the total level, Jury Trial and Youth Court matters are included in the data. The increase in active case numbers is representative of the District Court’s workload which has become more complex and serious.

Criminal statistics are recorded by number of cases rather than people because each case may involve several

TOTAL CRIMINAL CASES



	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
● New Business	133,034	134,573	136,989	138,735	132,705
● Disposals	136,433	134,353	133,470	137,153	131,516
● Active Cases	28,529	28,746	31,874	33,038	34,434

Comparing the current year to the previous year has seen:

- New business decrease by 6,030 cases (-4%)
- Disposals decrease by 5,637 cases (-4%)
- Active cases increase by 1,396 cases (+4%)

Jury Trials

The right to trial by jury is protected in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990. A defendant has the right to elect a jury trial where he or she is charged with an offence punishable by a maximum sentence of two years' imprisonment or more.



More than 90% of jury trials in New Zealand are dealt with in the District Court where 100 judges hold jury trial warrants.

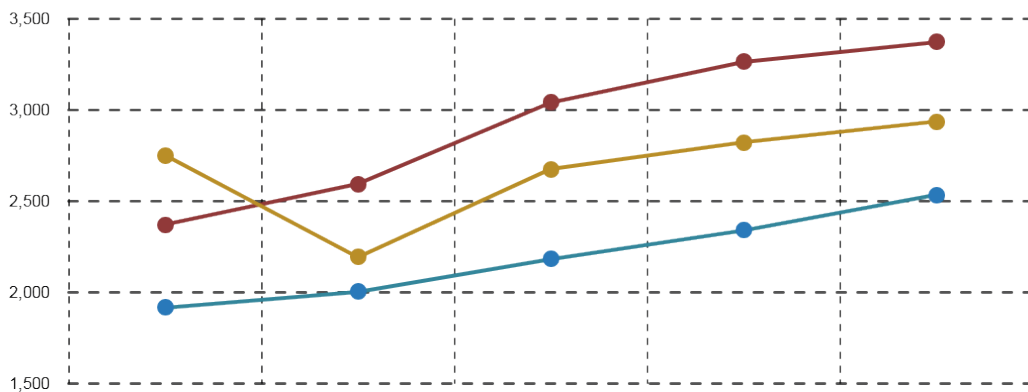
Trial by jury is deeply rooted in history but today these trials are reserved for more serious crimes. The trials comprise all categories of eligible offences other than the most serious, such as murder, manslaughter or treason.

In a jury trial, findings of fact are made by 12 members of the community rather than by a judge. The jury decides whether the defendant is guilty or not guilty and must reach that decision either unanimously, in certain circumstances, by a majority of 11 to 1.

National Statistics

The jury trial caseload is made up almost entirely of cases commenced under the Criminal Procedure Act 2011. The jury trial statistics are recorded by number of cases rather than people because each case may involve several charges or people. Some cases may be managed together. It should also be noted that the figures quoted relate to case volumes and not the underlying complexity and time taken to deal with jury trials.

JURY TRIAL CASES



	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
● New Trial Cases	2,370	2,595	3,042	3,267	3,374
● Disposals	2,751	2,195	2,676	2,824	2,936
● Active Cases	1,918	2,004	2,184	2,342	2,534

Comparing the current year to the previous year has seen:

- New trial cases increase by 107 cases (+3%)
- Disposals increase by 112 cases (+4%)
- Active cases increase by 192 cases (+8%)

Family Court

Family law can touch on all stages of life. The Family Court is the forum where thousands of people every year seek a judge's help to deal with their family problems: from cradle to the grave and sometimes beyond.

It has a wide jurisdiction involving multiple laws. New Zealanders lodge about 60,000 applications a year in the Family Court, making it the second biggest division of the District Court.

Established under the Family Court Act 1980, the court is mandated to make orders in respect of unborn children, has jurisdiction in adoption matters, and is the forum for relationship matters involving marriage and civil unions, as well as separation and relationship property disputes.

The Family Court is where people come to seek protection orders from violent family members, unless the police have made application to the criminal court. The Family Court considers hundreds of these applications every month. When matters are urgent, a judge can sometimes make a temporary protection order from their chambers the same day an application is filed.

The Family Court can make orders regarding the protection of elderly people, and is the forum for resolving disputes over the will and estate of a deceased person.

“The Family Court continues to be given more and more jurisdiction in differing areas of the law”

There are some other lesser known aspects of the court's jurisdiction which do not necessarily fit within a simple construct of the idea of “family” matters. For example, it can determine a mental health patient's compulsory treatment status, as well as decide if a person needs to undertake assessment and treatment for a substance addiction.

Family Court proceedings often concern children. Over half the applications made to the Family Court are made under the Care of Children Act 2004. This includes applications for parenting orders about how a child will be cared for after parents have separated



and they cannot agree on shared care arrangements. It also allows other people, such as grandparents, to be appointed guardians.

Guardianship entails many things, such as the authority to choose which school a child attends, where a child lives, and the cultural and religious denomination a child belongs to.

The second largest body of the court's work deals with applications brought under the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989. These applications are made when a child or young person needs care and protection. The court can make orders, such as determining who a child is to live with, to ensure children are protected from harm.

In care and protection proceedings children must have a lawyer represent them, and in Care of Children Act proceedings, children can have their own legal representation if the court determines it necessary.

Wherever possible in family disputes, the Family Court aims to help people resolve their own problems by way of counselling, conciliation and mediation. A number of Family Court judges specialise in convening judicial settlement conferences where they guide people in a less formal setting to find a solution, avoiding the cost and emotional drain of court hearings.

The Family Court continues to be given more and more jurisdiction in differing areas of the law. For instance, there has been an international trend, reflected also in New Zealand, of more people entering into international surrogacy arrangements and inter-country adoptions.

The Law Commission recently recommended that the Family Court have jurisdiction to determine disputes over possession and burial of deceased persons. This year the Substance Addiction (Compulsory Assessment and Treatment) Act 2017 came into force and provides for Family Court judges to make the necessary decisions about treatment at a treatment centre. An amendment to the Health Act 1956 provides that the Family Court is to deal with appeals and applications for public health orders.

Although it is essentially a private forum in that it deals with deeply personal and sensitive matters, the Family

Court is nevertheless a part of our justice system and must be as open and transparent as possible to be accountable to the public. Media are entitled to cover many Family Court proceedings, and increasing numbers of full decisions are being published online.

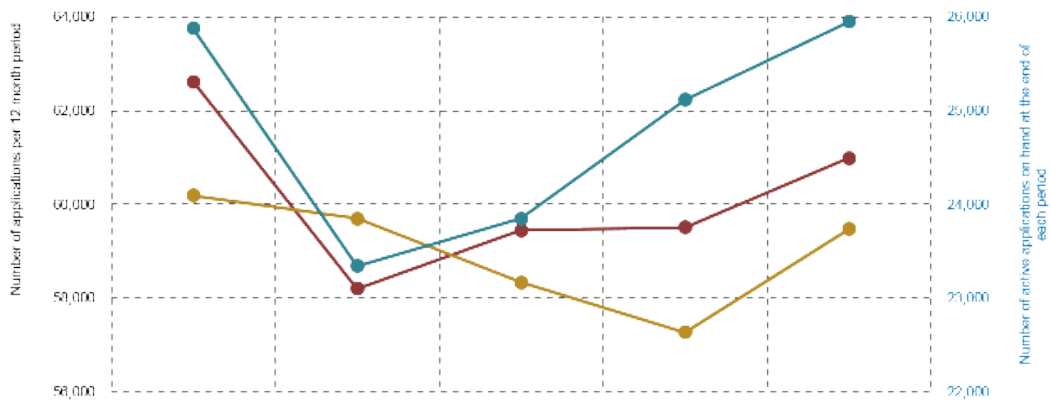
New Zealand's Family Court is part of an international community of courts that share a framework and values about parental responsibilities for when family disputes cross borders. These are under the Hague Conventions on international family law.

Both the Principal Family Court Judge and Chief District Court Judge are members of the International Hague Network of Judges. The Chief District Court Judge also serves on an Experts' Group on Cross-Border Recognition and Enforcement of Agreements in Family Matters Involving Children established by the Hague Conference on Private International Law.

National Statistics

Family Court statistics are recorded by number of applications rather than cases or people because each case may involve several applications or people. Some applications may be managed together. Increases in active caseloads over the three most recent fiscal years were due to implementation of the family justice reforms in 2014.

FAMILY COURT APPLICATIONS



	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
● New Business	62,614	58,206	59,449	59,507	60,985
● Disposals	60,190	59,700	58,338	57,279	59,472
● Active Applications	25,872	23,346	23,848	25,116	25,946

Comparing the current year to the previous year has seen:

- New business increase by 1,478 applications (+2%)
- Disposals increase by 2,193 applications (+4%)
- Active applications increase by 830 applications (+3%)

Youth Court

The Youth Court is a division of the District Court and is overseen by the Principal Youth Court Judge. Fifty-four District Court judges are designated Youth Court judges.

The Youth Court deals with offending by young people aged 14–16 years and in certain serious circumstances with offending by children aged 12–13 years. From July 2019, the jurisdiction of the Youth Court will be extended to include offending by 17-year-olds (except for some serious offending, which will still be transferred automatically to the District Court or High Court).

This is an important development for youth justice, which reflects the understanding that young people are still learning and developing, and should be treated in a manner distinguished from that of the adult population. It also aligns New Zealand with international standards.

The central difference in the youth justice system from adult courts is a focus on police diversion. Only 20% – 30% of police apprehensions come to the Youth Court. This allows the Court to devote its time to addressing the most serious offending by our young people, who often have grown up exposed to a number of complex contributing factors.

The Family Group Conference (FGC) is an important feature of the Youth Court process. Following a young person's first appearance (unless the young person denies the offending and there is a defended trial), the FGC enables the young person, their family, any victims, Police Youth Aid, the young person's Youth Advocate (lawyer), and other professionals such as social workers or service providers to come together. The parties at the conference will try to establish a



plan to both address the offending, understand its underlying causes, provide for victims' interests and help the young person to take responsibility for their actions.

Once the FGC has concluded, the plan will be put to the Youth Court judge for approval. Often the young person is required to return to court for regular monitoring of the plan. The monitoring feature is important for ensuring the plan remains on track. The role of the judge in this also provides the young person with a consistent authority figure to whom they are accountable.

Since 2008, 15 Rangatahi Courts have been developed to provide the option of Youth Court monitoring in a kaupapa Māori context. The most recent Rangatahi Court opened in February in Whangārei. Marae protocols are followed and the young person is required to deliver a pepeha, introducing their identity and heritage.

“The central difference in the youth justice system from adult courts is a focus on police diversion. Only 20%-30% of police apprehensions come to the Youth Court”

Rangatahi Courts are a response to the over-representation of Māori in the youth justice system, and aim to reconnect young Māori with their whakapapa (heritage) and with positive cultural structures and influences. There are also two Pasifika Courts in Auckland which use Pasifika cultural practices.

In the Youth Court if it is not possible for a FGC to agree on a plan, where there is non-compliance with a plan or the offending is particularly serious, the court may elect to impose one of a number of orders. These include a custodial sentence in a youth justice residence or conviction and transfer to the District Court. In the District Court the full range of adult sentencing options (including imprisonment) will be available.

While the Youth Court is closed to the public, accredited news media are legally entitled to attend. However, leave must be granted by the court before any report of proceedings can be published. Identifying details of the young person such as their name, school, or parents' details can never be published.

Youth Court projects this year

This year marks a time for preparing for changes to the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989 which from July 2019 will extend the Youth Court's jurisdiction to include 17-year-olds.

While this may present some additional pressure in certain areas, the provision of additional judge-days and current capacity in some areas will ensure a smooth transition.

In December, the Principal Youth Court Judge chaired the first multi-agency group meeting responding to the issue of increasingly violent young female offenders. Representatives from Oranga Tamariki, Police, academia, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry for Women were among those involved. The purpose of this meeting was to bring the matter to the fore and begin discussions on what can be done to better address it.

In May this year, a second meeting was held to consider progress and the perspectives of the

respective agencies on the best way forward. The receptiveness of the agencies and their willingness to come together to ensure the best possible outcomes was heartening. It is a continuing issue and important to address.

Publication of the *Lay Advocate Handbook* involved notification of key changes for existing Lay Advocates, and should greatly assist new Lay Advocates.

This year Oranga Tamariki has been undertaking a "Residence Refresh", updating and improving the youth justice residential facilities around the country. This has sparked positive change, and staff and residents report having an increased sense of pride in their space. It has been an ongoing challenge for the youth justice sector to ensure sufficient secure custodial options for young people, and the Residence Refresh did challenge this further.

However, with careful management these risks were able to be mitigated. It continues to be a deep



The new Christchurch Youth Court

concern that young people are held in police cells, and we continue to engage closely with the relevant agencies to address this issue. The wider provision of community-based alternatives to custody will be part of the solution.

The Remand Option Investigation Tool (ROIT) has been piloted in three parts of the country. The ROIT ensures that a range of options for the young person have been considered before appearing in court.

“It continues to be a deep concern that young people are held in police cells, and we continue to engage closely with the relevant agencies to address this issue. The wider provision of community-based alternatives to custody will be part of the solution”

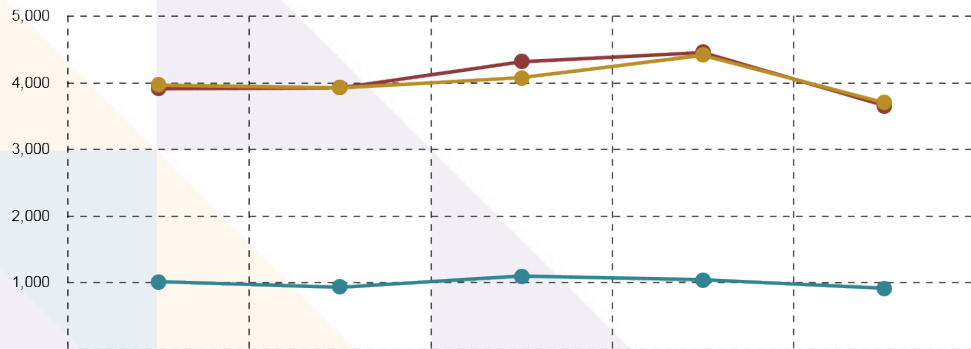
This has resulted in fewer opposed bails and better clarity for the judge. The ROIT now enters a stage of evaluation, and it is hoped it will then be rolled out nationwide.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the first Rangatahi Court at Gisborne. In October, the South Pacific Council of Youth and Children’s Courts Conference took place in Wellington.

As we move into 2019, the Youth Court will continue to strive to be innovative. 2019 promises to be an exciting year, as we embark on projects to benefit all the rangatahi and tamariki who come into conflict with the law. There is much work to be done, but we are confident we can meet the challenge.

National Statistics

YOUTH COURT CASES



	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
● New Business	3,915	3,931	4,321	4,457	3,653
● Disposals	3,969	3,931	4,077	4,421	3,703
● Active Cases	1,015	934	1,095	1,039	918

The Youth Court statistics are recorded by number of cases rather than young people because each case may involve several charges or young people. Some cases may be managed together.

Comparing the current year to the previous year has seen:

- New business decrease by 804 cases (-18%)
- Disposals decrease by 718 cases (-16%)
- Active cases decrease by 121 cases (-12%)

Civil

The civil jurisdiction of the District Court resolves disputes between individuals or organisations. A person who feels they have been wronged may bring a claim and, if successful, be awarded a remedy such as compensation.

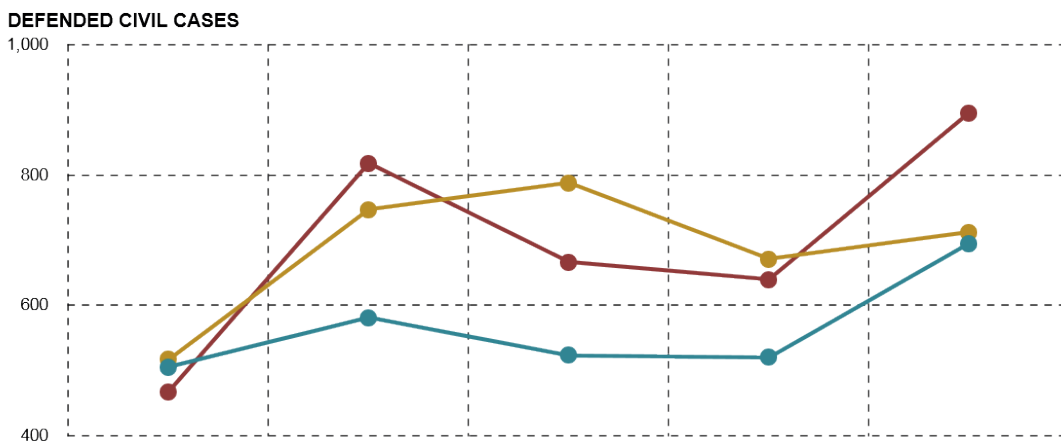
The District Court may hear claims up to a monetary value of \$350,000. A change to the District Court Rules in 2014 has produced more applications for summary judgments, which do not involve a full hearing.

Examples of common claims in the District Court include contractual disputes, where one party has not performed their obligations under an agreement, and claims in negligence where services have not been provided with a reasonable level of skill.

The majority of cases in the civil jurisdiction are resolved without proceeding to trial and are not included in the figures below.

There was a sharp increase in newly defended cases in 2018, a product both of an uplift in the number of summary judgment applications being brought in the District Court, and (in Christchurch) a rise in the number of earthquake claims. There was a similar rise in the number of newly defended cases in 2015 when the District Court Rules allowed summary judgment applications to be brought in the District Court as of right.

National Statistics



	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
● Newly Defended Cases	467	818	666	639	895
● Disposals	517	747	788	671	712
● Active Cases	505	581	523	520	695

Comparing the current year to the previous year has seen:

- New defended cases increase by 256 cases (+40%)
- Disposals increase by 41 cases (+6%)
- Active cases increase by 175 cases (+34%)

Community Magistrates

The judicial work of the District Court is undertaken not only by judges, but also by Community Magistrates. They have an important role in dealing with the court's criminal work in the communities where they serve.

In all there are 14 Community Magistrates who sit in nine regions: Northland; Auckland; Manukau; Waikato; Bay of Plenty; Hawke's Bay; Gisborne; Taranaki and Whanganui. As well, Community Magistrates from Auckland sit in Christchurch from time to time under a pilot which has been underway since October 2016.

Community Magistrates are lay judicial officers recruited to represent their communities based on their skills and experience. The role itself was designed to increase community involvement in the justice system and to reduce delays by freeing up judges to deal with more complex matters.

Community Magistrates work part-time and have a jurisdiction wider than that of judicial Justices of the Peace. They deal with a wide-ranging body of work which would otherwise be allocated to judges.

They can sentence offenders for offences punishable by up to three months' imprisonment, though they cannot themselves impose sentences of imprisonment. They may preside over trials for

offences carrying a maximum penalty of a fine up to \$40,000.

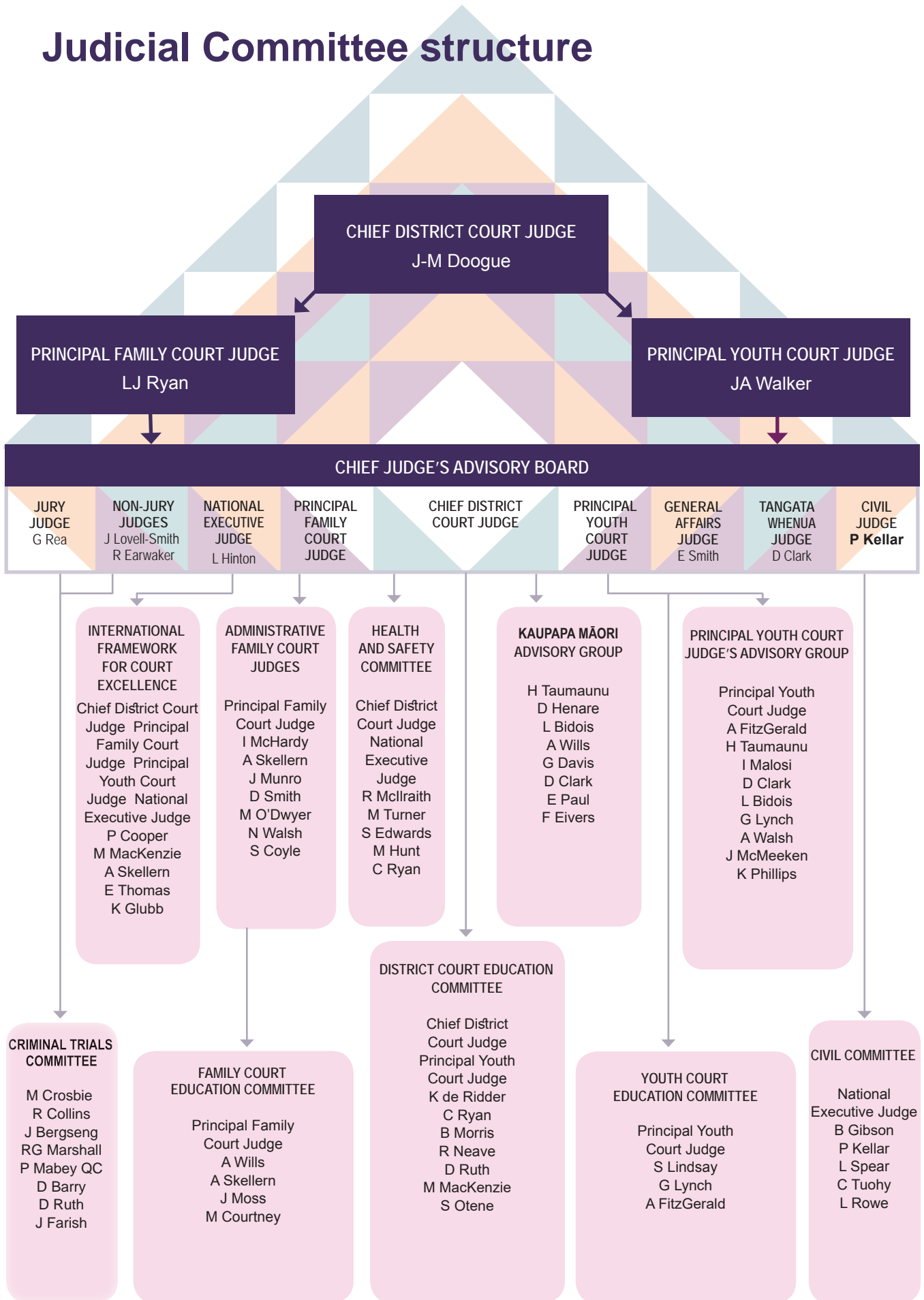
Community Magistrates mainly sit in busy "list" courts. This may involve: sentencing offenders who plead guilty on the day; dealing with opposed bail applications; taking pleas and jury trial elections; making and renewing interim suppression or other non-publication orders; and remanding defendants in anticipation of probation, forensic or restorative justice reports and voluntary alcohol, drug or rehabilitative programmes.

"Community Magistrates work part-time and have a jurisdiction wider than that of judicial Justices of the Peace"

The Chief District Court Judge is responsible for the rostering, training and professional development of Community Magistrates, which is done with the assistance of the National Executive Judge.



Judicial Committee structure



Sitting Judges

*indicates retired during year ending 30 June 2018

Judge A Adeane	Napier	Judge A Couch	Christchurch
Judge E Aitken	Auckland	Judge M Courtney	Hastings
Judge G Andrée Wiltens	Manukau	Judge S Coyle	Tauranga
Judge G Barkle	New Plymouth	Judge P Crayton	Whanganui
Judge D Barry	Wellington	Judge M Crosbie	Dunedin
Judge A Becroft	Children's Commissioner	Judge P Cunningham	Auckland
Judge J Bergseng	Manukau	Judge B Davidson	Wellington
Judge L Bidois	Tauranga	Judge G Davis	Whangārei
Judge J Binns	Wellington	Judge N Dawson	Auckland
Judge T Black	Wellington	Judge L de Jong	Auckland
Judge J Borthwick	Christchurch	Judge K de Ridder	Whangārei
Judge J Brandts-Giesen	Invercargill	Judge C Doherty	Chair IPCA
Judge D Brown*	Hamilton	Chief District Court Judge J-M Doogue	Wellington
Judge M Burnett	Hamilton	Judge J Down	North Shore
Judge D Burns	Auckland	Judge C Doyle	Wellington
Judge P Butler	Wellington	Judge T Druce	Auckland
Judge B Callaghan	Christchurch	Judge B Dwyer	Wellington
Judge M Callaghan	Invercargill	Judge R Earwaker	Manukau
Judge P Callinicos	Napier	Judge S Edwards	Palmerston North
Judge D Cameron	Tauranga	Judge F Eivers	Manukau
Judge W Cathcart	Gisborne	Judge J Farish	Christchurch
Judge D Clark	Hamilton	Judge B Farnan	Invercargill
Judge N Cocurullo	Hamilton	Judge C Field	Auckland
Judge G Collin	Hamilton	Judge A FitzGerald	Auckland
Judge R Collins	Auckland	Judge D Flatley	Dunedin
Judge P Connell	Hamilton	Judge S Fleming	Auckland
Judge C Cook	Tauranga	Judge G Fraser	Auckland
Judge P Cooper	Rotorua	Judge A Garland	Christchurch

Judge P Geoghegan	Tauranga	Judge A Lendrum*	Hastings
Judge B Gibson	Auckland	Judge S Lindsay	Whangārei
Judge T Gilbert	Christchurch	Judge J Lovell-Smith	Manukau
Judge K Glubb	Waitakere	Judge G Lynch	Palmerston North
Judge A Goodwin	Manukau	Judge P Mabey QC	Tauranga
Judge P Grace*	Wellington	Judge G MacAskill	Christchurch
Judge C Harding	Tauranga	Judge M MacKenzie	Rotorua
Judge M Harland	Auckland	Judge B Mackintosh	Napier
Judge L Harrison	New Plymouth	Judge A Mahon	Manukau
Judge S Harrop	Wellington	Judge I Malosi	Manukau
Judge DG Harvey	Whangārei	Judge A Manuel	Auckland
Judge J Hassan	Christchurch	Chief Coroner Judge D Marshall	Auckland
Judge W Hastings	Wellington	Judge R Marshall	Hamilton
Judge D Henare	Auckland	Judge N Mathers	Auckland
Judge G Hikaka	Manukau	Judge D Matheson	Whanganui
Judge L Hinton	Wellington	Judge S Maude	North Shore
Judge P Hobbs	Wellington	Judge J Maze	Timaru
Judge G Hollister-Jones	Rotorua	Judge D McDonald	Whangārei
Judge M Hunt	Whangārei	Judge C McGuire	Papakura
Judge T Ingram	Tauranga	Judge I McHardy	Auckland
Judge J Jackson	Christchurch	Judge R McIlraith	Manukau
Judge J Jelas	Waitakere	Judge J McMeeken	Christchurch
Judge A Johns	Manukau	Judge D McNaughton	Manukau
Judge J Johnston	Porirua	Judge A Menzies	Hamilton
Judge P Kellar	Christchurch	Judge I Mill	Wellington
Judge J Kelly	Wellington	Judge S Moala	Manukau
Judge K Kelly	Wellington	Judge J Moran	Christchurch
Judge A Kiernan*	Auckland	Judge B Morris	Wellington
Judge D Kirkpatrick	Auckland	Judge J Moses	Manukau
Judge J Large	Palmerston North	Judge J Moss	Palmerston North

Judge J Munro	Rotorua	Judge M-B Sharp	Auckland
Judge R Murfitt	Christchurch	Judge A Sinclair	Auckland
Judge R Neave	Christchurch	Judge P Sinclair	North Shore
Principal Environment Judge L Newhook	Auckland	Judge A Singh	Auckland
Judge S O'Driscoll	Christchurch	Judge A Skellern	Manukau
Judge M O'Dwyer	Wellington	Judge D Smith	Palmerston North
Judge D Orchard	Whangārei	Judge E Smith	Christchurch
Judge S Otene	Hamilton	Judge J Smith	Auckland
Judge E Paul	Auckland	Judge A Snell	Rotorua
Judge E Parsons	Waitakere	Judge M Southwick QC	Manukau
Judge D Partridge	North Shore	Judge L Spear	Hamilton
Judge S Patel	Manukau	Judge P Spiller	Hamilton
Judge K Phillips	Dunedin	Judge C Sygrove	New Plymouth
Judge B Pidwell	Waitakere	Judge H Taumaunu	Auckland
Judge H Raumati	Gisborne	Judge E Thomas	Auckland
Judge G Rea	Napier	Judge C Thompson	Wellington
Judge P Recordon*	Manukau	Judge A Tompkins	Hutt Valley
Judge R Riddell	Hamilton	Judge C Tuohy	Wellington
Judge M Rogers	Manukau	Judge M Turner	Dunedin
Judge R Ronayne	Auckland	Judge L Tremewan	Waitakere
Judge L Rowe	Palmerston North	Principal Youth Court Judge JA Walker	Wellington
Judge R Russell	Nelson	Judge A Walsh	Wellington
Judge D Ruth	Nelson	Judge N Walsh	Christchurch
Judge C Ryan	Auckland	Judge M Wharepouri	Manukau
Principal Family Court Judge L Ryan	Wellington	Judge A Wills	Rotorua
Judge N Sainsbury	Waitakere	Judge G Winter	Papakura
Judge D Saunders	Christchurch	Judge R Wolff (Deceased)	Tauranga
Judge K Saunders	Hamilton	Judge A Zohrab	Nelson
Judge D Sharp	Auckland		

A stylised kākahu feather cloak (Ngāi Tahu design) forms a facade for part of the new Christchurch court complex

