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**District Courts of New Zealand**  
*Annual Report 2015*

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## District Courts' Annual Report

2015 has been a year of considerable progress for the District Courts. As Chief Judge, I am proud of what we have achieved as a judiciary, and the dedication of my colleagues to the improvement of the delivery of justice across our courts.

Thanks to the efforts of judges and Ministry of Justice staff throughout the country, we have continued to reduce the length of cases in key areas such as jury trials and ACC appeals. Judicial rostering and ACC appeals staff have been recognised with awards for this work. We have also reduced the length of time it has taken judges to issue reserved decisions.


Together with the Ministry of Justice, we continue to ensure that we have the human and physical resources necessary to meet public expectations. In 2015, 15 new judges were appointed to cover past and future retirements. A major refurbishment of the Manukau Court has been completed, and we look forward to new facilities in Waitakere and Christchurch in the coming years.

In May 2015 we held our Triennial Conference for all District Court judges. It was a rare opportunity to bring together almost all judges to receive important training. The conference focussed exclusively on judging in cases involving family violence.

We continue to take an innovative approach to the delivery of justice. Since our last annual report judges have: sentenced the first graduates from the Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Court pilot in Waitakere; instituted a protocol for the Matariki Court in Kaikohe; and established a new Rangatahi Court, Tauranga Moana. These initiatives, which are available only to defendants who have pleaded guilty, have received national and international recognition.

I am frequently reminded of the enviable international reputation enjoyed by New Zealand judges. This is apparent whenever my colleagues have been invited to present papers at overseas conferences. Our judges are frequently sought after to share their expertise in areas as diverse as Family Group Conferences in the Youth Courts, and the application of Hague Conventions in the Family Courts. Our International Framework for Court Excellence assessment process continues to attract attention from Australia and the United States.

It is a privilege to lead such an outstanding group of judges in the administration of justice throughout New Zealand.



Chief District Court Judge,  
**Judge Jan-Marie Doogue**

## *District Courts Jurisdiction*

There are 58 District Courts spread throughout New Zealand. One hundred and fifty nine full-time-equivalent judges and 16 community magistrates sit in these courts; they have jurisdiction over all criminal matters, apart from a small selection of serious offences that are reserved for the High Court. In their civil jurisdiction, the District Courts can hear general claims in tort, equity and contract for amounts up to \$200,000.

*The Family Court and Youth Court are divisions of the District Courts*

## Role of District Courts

New Zealand has a hierarchical court system. The District Courts are the primary courts where most cases are initiated. They are the principal trial courts in New Zealand. Every person charged with a criminal offence will make their first appearance in a District Court, even if their charge will ultimately be heard in the High Court. Most defendants will go through the entire justice process in a District Court from first appearance until sentencing (if they are convicted), whether they plead guilty or not guilty. If a defendant disagrees with the outcome of the case, he or she may appeal to a higher court to have the decision revisited. In their civil jurisdiction the District Courts similarly deal with claims between persons at first instance, although they also hear appeals against the decisions of various tribunals.

Because the District Courts deal with most matters at first instance, they are the busiest courts in New Zealand. They are also the largest and most numerous, sitting in nearly 60 communities around New Zealand. For most, the District Courts are the primary point of contact between the justice system and the wider public.



The purpose of the District Courts is to serve the community. I am proud of the progress we have made over the course of 2015 in meeting this challenge in three key areas.

#### **Administrative Excellence**

We aim to ensure that all cases are dealt with in a timely fashion and the most important cases are prioritised.

In late 2014, I reached agreement with the Ministry of Justice on an appropriate rostering and scheduling protocol. This protocol ensures that judges are rostered to hear the most important cases and in the most high-needs courts.

Following the appointment of a National Jury Trial Judge and National Jury Scheduling Advisor, we have made considerable progress in reducing the age of jury trials. In particular, greater judicial resources have been redeployed to Auckland where the number of jury trials on hand has halved.

My office also launched the “Microster” rostering tool. This technology will allow rostering managers to allocate sitting dates far more efficiently than the former manual process.

#### **Judicial Performance**

We have taken steps to ensure that our Judiciary is better supported. We have introduced “peer review” for judges to receive feedback from experienced colleagues, as well as a Pastoral Support Panel.

In 2015, we conducted our second International Framework for Court Excellence (IFCE) assessment. The IFCE is a three-yearly “health-check” of the District Courts’ performance, and an opportunity for judges to provide feedback. The IFCE process is discussed later in this annual report.

#### **Our Response to Family Violence**

In 2014, Police investigated 100,000 incidents of family violence: one incident every six minutes. Family violence is pervasive across all our courts, including the criminal, family and youth jurisdictions.

Our 2015 Triennial Conference dealt exclusively with family violence. This conference brought together almost all District Court judges, who received education from psychologists, community workers, academics and Police. Judges left the conference with a greater understanding of the scale of family violence and techniques to apply when encountering it.

Together with the Ministry of Justice, Police and others, we have worked hard to improve information sharing between courts and government agencies, as well as the tools used to identify high-risk family violence offenders.

I look forward to these areas of focus being developed further in 2016.

**CHIEF DISTRICT COURT JUDGE  
JUDGE JAN-MARIE DOOGUE**

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### CHIEF DISTRICT COURT JUDGE AND PRINCIPAL JUDGES

The Chief District Court Judge, the Principal Family Court Judge and the Principal Youth Court Judge together oversee the operation of the District Courts, Family Courts and Youth Courts. Each serves as the public face of their court. They have a wealth of expert experience in challenges that arise daily in each of their respective jurisdictions. The Principal Family Court Judge and the Principal Youth Court Judge have similar responsibilities to those of the Chief District Court Judge: the orderly and expeditious discharge of the business of the Family Courts and the Youth Courts. They must discharge those responsibilities in consultation with the Chief District Court Judge. In practice, the three judges work together as a cohesive team to best discharge the work before the courts while facing challenges to resources.





**PRINCIPAL FAMILY COURT JUDGE  
JUDGE LAURENCE J RYAN**

The true impact of the changes to the family law system implemented in 2014 has become apparent over the past year. Notably, the new court process to resolve disputes over care arrangements for children requires much greater judicial resource. The numbers of defended Care of Children Act 2004 cases requiring a hearing is trending upwards, which has in turn resulted in significant delays in some parts of the country. Furthermore, the number of urgent without notice applications filed has significantly increased as parties attempt to avoid the requirement to attend Family Dispute Resolution mediation before coming to court.

This past year a considerable amount of work has been done to enhance rostering and scheduling practices and develop new initiatives to help reduce backlogs caused largely by the recent changes. For example, a new judiciary-led initiative is being trialled. The Floating Judge Initiative provides for each Family Court Judge to make available one week a year, which can then be applied to a court or region where backlogs are identified by the National Resource Advisor and the National Case Management Judge. I created this latter role as part of a strategy to target aged cases and backlogs in Family Courts around the country.

Despite the high workload of the Family Court, the quality of the work undertaken by Family Court judges continues to remain high. Only 0.9% of all defended cases were successfully appealed to the High Court in the past year.

Family Court judges also continue to expand their knowledge and expertise. The Triennial Family Court Judges' Conference was held towards the end of 2014, during which time judges received three days of professional development in a range of areas, including judicial interviewing of children and cultural awareness.

Overall, despite the challenges facing the Family Court this past year, Family Court judges remain committed to making the new court system work as best it can for the families who need to use it. I am very proud to lead this group of hardworking judges. Families, and in particular children, who require the assistance of the Family Court, are (and will always be) our top priority.

**PRINCIPAL YOUTH COURT JUDGE  
JUDGE ANDREW BECROFT**

I have a challenging, absorbing and extremely rewarding job leading a court that has a significant opportunity to direct our most serious young offenders away from a pathway of adult crime.

In previous annual reports, I have explained my role and responsibilities as Principal Youth Court Judge. My role primarily involves overseeing the effective operation of the Youth Court in consultation with both the Chief District Court Judge and the Principal Family Court Judge. I ensure efficient rostering of Youth Court judges and I support these judges in their work. I provide a public face and voice for the Youth Court.

This past year, the Youth Court has continued to work with our most serious and challenging young offenders, while refining and improving our Youth Court processes. Police youth apprehension rates continue to fall while alternative non-Court interventions continue to rise, with the result that Youth Court numbers are at an historic low for the sixth successive year. Many of the young people who appear before the Youth Court have complex and inter-related issues: school

disengagement; drug and alcohol problems; family disadvantage, often including family violence and transience; previous Child, Youth and Family involvement due to abuse and neglect; neuro-developmental issues and mental health concerns; and a significant lack of community involvement and support. A multi-disciplinary approach with strong community support is required. In this respect, the Family Group Conference continues to provide the central role.

Lower numbers of young people entering the Youth Court enables a more focussed approach. The projects I reported on last year have continued to progress and evolve and some are near completion. These initiatives continue to strengthen and improve the Youth Court's response to those young people whose offending is serious enough to require Youth Court's intervention.

I conclude with a whakataukī:

*Kāore te kumara e kōrero mō tōna  
ake reka*

*The kumara does not speak of its  
own sweetness*

This Māori proverb is particularly relevant to our work in the Youth Court. In 2015, there has been significant international interest in Aotearoa New Zealand's youth justice system, which is regarded as innovative, principled and providing other jurisdictions with a potential model for a stand-alone youth justice system, albeit with necessary local adaptation. For these reasons, Youth Court judges continue to receive many invitations to present at international forums. Our ongoing challenge and obligation is to live up to, and protect, this international reputation by continuing to do better for the young people and communities we serve.





## Manukau Courthouse Refurbishment

The cover of this annual report showcases the refurbished Manukau District Courthouse. The refurbishment commenced in 2012 and was completed in late August 2015. The Manukau Court is one of the busiest in the country. The operational disruption to the refurbishment of the existing courthouse – including courtrooms and judges’ chambers and the building of an additional four jury capable courtrooms, ancillary facilities and five new judges’ chambers – significantly affected on the working lives of judges, staff and court users. Impacts included: all Manukau jury trials being held in the Auckland District Court; judges “double/triple-bunked” and “hot-desked” in makeshift chambers; and staff working in cramped, dusty conditions. The temporary unavailability of courtrooms resulted in judge-led innovations, such as the alteration of court operations to cater for “double-sessions” for certain categories of work (sentencing), with court starting at 8:30am and ending at 7:00pm.

Progressively, things have improved as the work is completed, thus enabling the business of the courts to be conducted in appropriate surroundings.





**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE JUDGE  
JUDGE COLIN DOHERTY**

The role of the National Executive Judge is to support the Chief District Court Judge and the Principal Judges of the Family and Youth Courts in their administrative and strategic roles. To fulfil that role I carry out a wide range of activities. I am a member of a number of the District Courts' committees and have primary responsibility to chair the International Framework for Court Excellence committee, to be the judicial liaison with the Christchurch Justice and Emergency Services Precinct development team and to co-ordinate innovations arising from the District Courts Judicial Strategy Plan. One of my many enjoyable tasks is to be responsible for the production of this report.

The fact that I spend much of my judicial time in this role reflects the increasing complexity of the task of administering the largest court in Australasia.

## New Christchurch Courthouse

In mid-2014 the physical above-ground building of the Christchurch Justice and Emergency Services Precinct began.

A real-time view of progress can be found at <https://ccdu.govt.nz/projects-and-precincts/justice-and-emergency-services-precinct/precinct-site-web-cam>.

The precinct, which comprises three buildings (a justice building, an emergency services building and a carpark building) is the largest multi-agency government project in New Zealand's history. An estimated 2000 people will either work at the precinct, or use services in the precinct, every day.

A significant portion of the precinct will be the new home of the Christchurch courts and particularly of the District Court and its judges. The Christchurch District Court deals with 8% of the total national District Court caseload (cases on hand) and is the court with the third largest caseload nationally.

The courthouse will comprise 19 courtrooms, the majority of which will service the District Court in all of its jurisdictions.

The courts, the judiciary and the staff to support them are expected to move into the facility in December 2016.



## International Framework for Court Excellence

The International Framework for Court Excellence (IFCE) is an internationally recognised method of assessing the health of courts.

In 2012, the first assessments of courts were completed by judges. This year they repeated the process. As part of a collaborative approach to improving the operation of the courts, a significant number of senior managers of the Ministry of Justice also participated for the first time.

In May 2015, 138 judges, 16 community magistrates and 109 senior managers of the Ministry of Justice completed the 2015 IFCE general assessment, and the judges and community magistrates completed a separate judicial assessment. Ninety-nine percent of those asked to complete the assessments, did so.

The assessments had been refined following the 2012 assessments and were delivered in an online format compatible with smart technology. The analytical tools available will enable the data collected to be analysed not only by specific court, judicial area and nationally, but also by participant cohort.

The analysis will be available to the judges and managers in the final quarter of this year. From that analysis, comparison can be made with the 2012 assessments, and judicial leaders and managers will be able to assess the performance of the courts for which they are responsible and implement improvements.

The analysis of the assessments will be particularly timely so as to inform a review of the 2012-2015 District Courts Judicial Strategy Plan.

The District Courts of New Zealand continue to be recognised internationally as innovators in this field.



## District Courts Judicial Strategy Plan

The judicial process in the District Court provides dignified, timely access to justice which optimises the use of judicial expertise nationally, has the confidence of court users and the wider community and is consistent with international standards of excellence.

Implementation of the programme of work has continued and some results are published in this annual report. The Plan will be reviewed in 2016 following analysis of the 2015 IFCE assessments.

# 2012–2015

### Strategic aim

To promote the vision of the District Courts, which is to do right to all people according to law without fear or favour, affection or ill will.

### The Programme of Work

	A	<b>Judicial leadership &amp; management</b>	1. Implement the national approach to deployment of the judicial resource.	2. Design and implement a national judicial workload model to ensure the effective and efficient deployment of judicial resources.	3. Design and implement a set of generic judicial performance measures for the District Court.			
	B	<b>Judicial capacity &amp; capability</b>	4. Design and implement improvements to judicial practice and welfare arising from the IFCE Review.	5. Design and implement practice guidelines to integrate solution focused judging concepts with the judicial process.	6. Develop strategies that enable judges to adapt to the increase in self represented litigants.	7. Design and implement a kaupapa Māori Strategy for the District Court bench.	8. Agree a judicial perspective on the use of ICT which demonstrates the desire to seek innovative technological change to improve the judicial process.	
	C	<b>Building public trust &amp; confidence</b>	9. Maintain District Court judicial contribution to the IFCE internationally.	10. Design and implement a community engagement strategy.	11. With the Ministry, design a strategy to improve the accessibility of the judicial process for people for whom English is their second or other language.	12. With the Ministry, design and implement a policy for the publication of judgments.	13. With the Ministry, design and implement a robust strategy for monitoring and reporting on court user and public satisfaction.	
	D	<b>Access to Justice</b>	14. Monitor jurisdictional rules of Court and strategise to promote access to justice by means of rules.	15. Help design a co-location model for social, education and health agencies which support the work of the District Court as a community based court.	16. Work with the Ministry on strategies to effectively respond to the impact of national demographic trends on the District Court.			

## Judicial Performance Measures

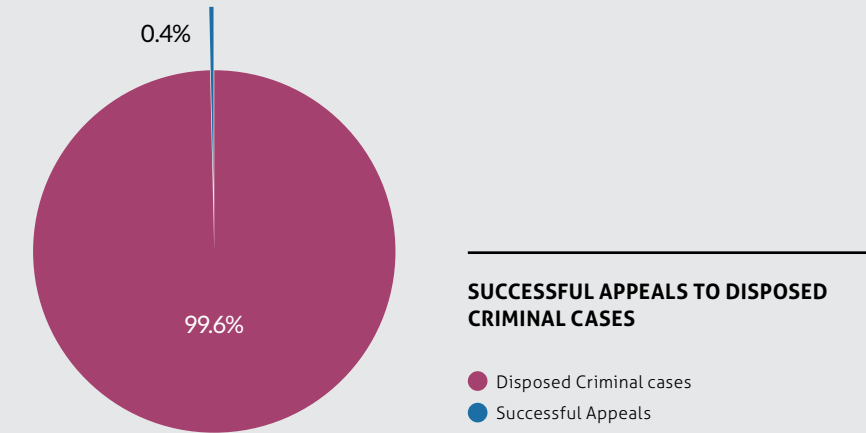
Despite the optimism expressed in the 2014 Annual Report, the District Courts have been unable to extend the scope of the reported judicial performance measures. The anticipated increase in scope is dependant in large measure upon an improvement in data collection and analysis on the part of the Ministry of Justice. That improvement remains a work in progress.

The District Court judges remain committed to reporting a full range of appropriate measures so as to enhance the public's awareness and confidence in the judiciary as a well-organised, professional, efficient and independent institution.

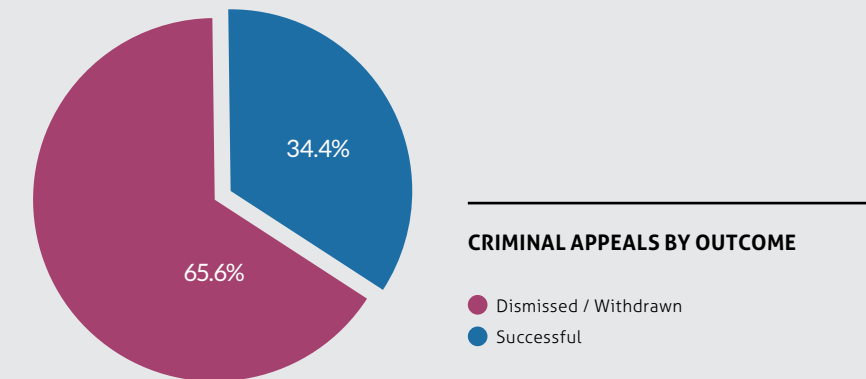
The measures reported in the 2014 Annual Report continue to be relevant and a year on year comparison can be made.

## 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 reported year that can be appealed, but provides a starting point from which comparisons can be made.



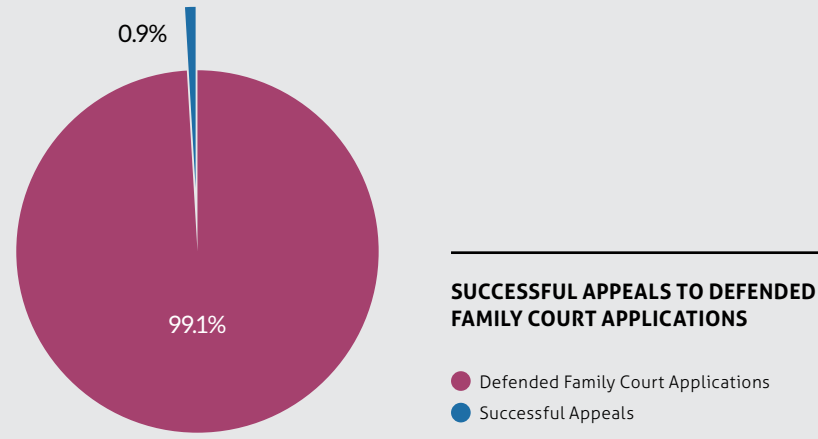
12 Month Period	Disposed Criminal Cases	Successful Appeals
<b>to end June 2015</b>	<b>134,353</b>	<b>506 (0.4%)</b>
to end June 2014	136,433	426 (0.3%)



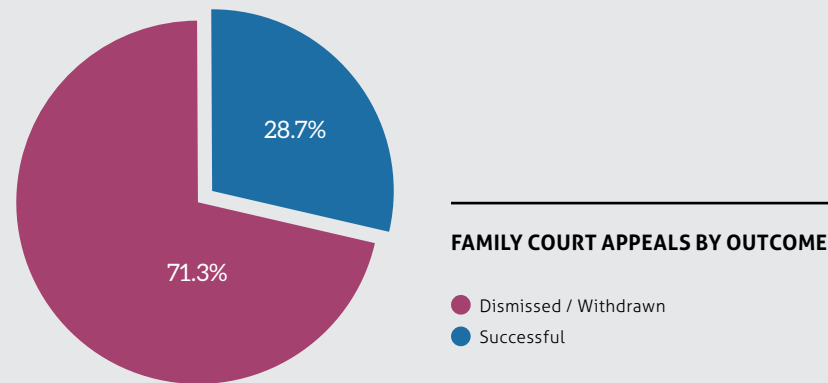
12 Month Period	Total Appeals	Successful	Dismissed / Withdrawn
<b>to end June 2015</b>	<b>1,472</b>	<b>506 (34.4%)</b>	<b>966 (65.6%)</b>
to end June 2014	1,317	426 (32%)	891 (68%)

## 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 applications 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.



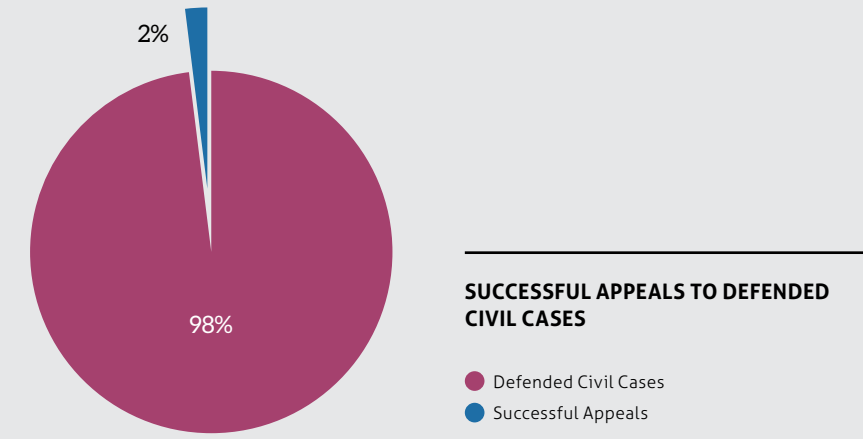
12 Month Period	Defended Family Court Applications	Successful Appeals
<b>to end June 2015</b>	<b>3,713</b>	<b>35 (0.9%)</b>
to end June 2014	3,945	25 (0.6%)



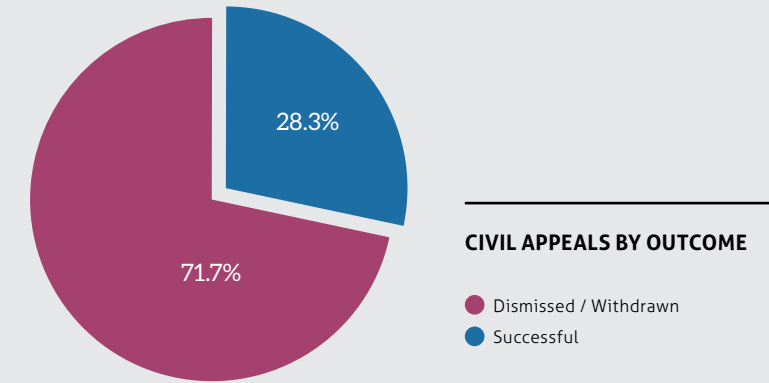
12 Month Period	Total Appeals	Successful	Dismissed / Withdrawn
<b>to end June 2015</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>35 (28.7%)</b>	<b>87 (71.3%)</b>
to end June 2014	90	25 (28%)	65 (72%)

## 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.



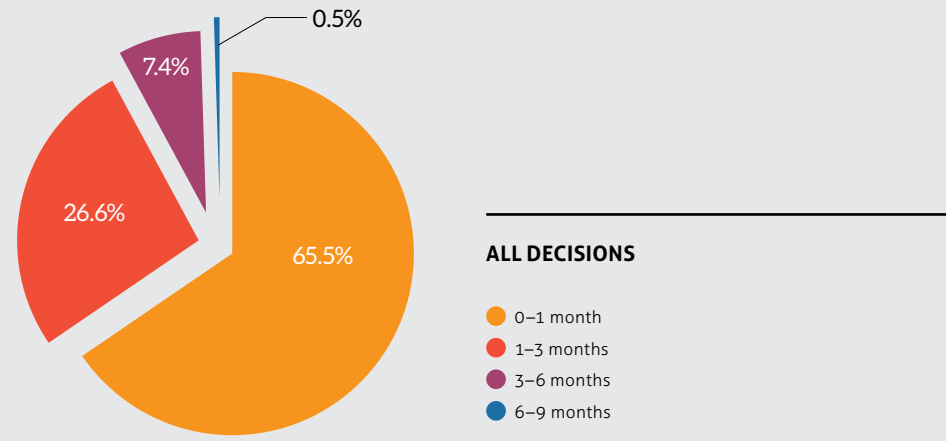
12 Month Period	Defended Civil Cases	Successful Appeals
<b>to end June 2015</b>	<b>747</b>	<b>15 (2%)</b>
to end June 2014	517	13 (2.5%)



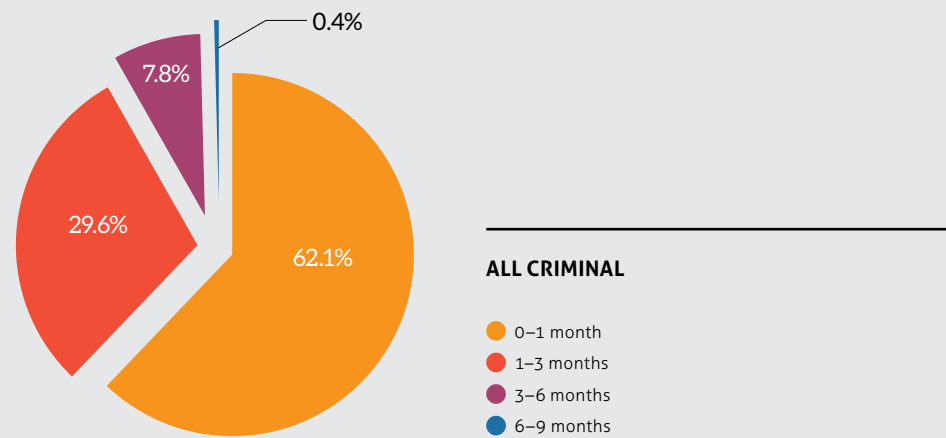
12 Month Period	Total Appeals	Successful	Dismissed / Withdrawn
<b>to end June 2015</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>15 (28.3%)</b>	<b>38 (71.7%)</b>
to end June 2014	56	13 (23%)	43 (77%)

## Timely delivery of Judgments

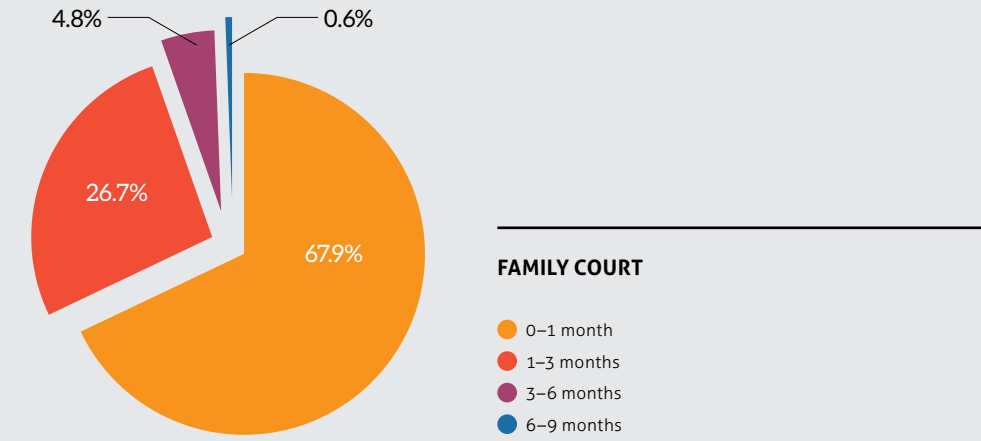
Because of the complexity of their work, judges sometimes do not announce their decisions immediately at the conclusion of a case. These decisions are “reserved” and delivered at a later time. The following charts show the numbers of decisions and amount of time taken (in months) to deliver those decisions.



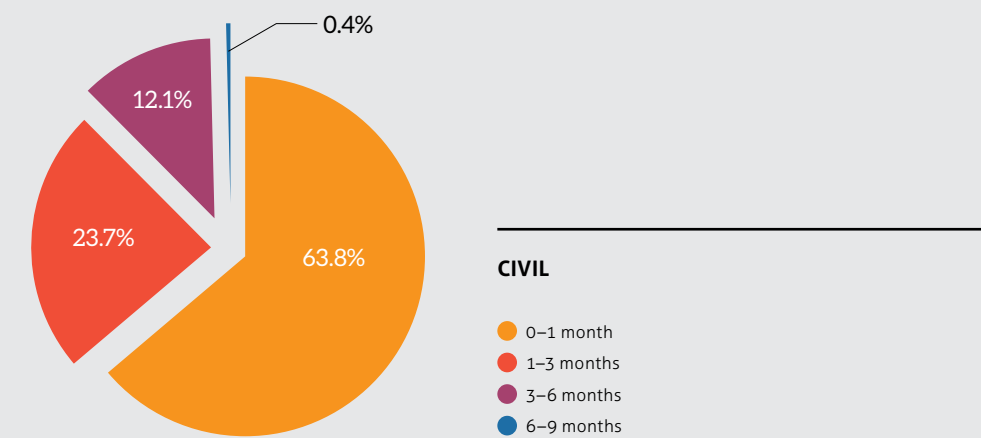
12 Month Period	Total Decisions	0-1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	12 months and above
<b>to end June 2015</b>	<b>1,002</b>	<b>656</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>5</b>		
to end June 2014	1,044	663	248	111	13	8	1



12 Month Period	Total Decisions	0-1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months
<b>to end June 2015</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>1</b>
to end June 2014	216	132	58	22	4



12 Month Period	Total Decisions	0-1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months
<b>to end June 2015</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>3</b>	
to end June 2014	547	349	124	63	7	4



12 Month Period	Total Decisions	0-1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	12 months and above
<b>to end June 2015</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>		
to end June 2014	281	182	66	26	2	4	1

## Role of Jury Courts

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 2 years' imprisonment or more. 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 or in certain circumstances by a majority of 11 to 1. Trial by jury is deeply rooted in history, but today these trials are reserved for more serious crimes.

More than 90 percent of the criminal jury trials disposed of annually in New Zealand are heard in District Courts. These trials comprise all categories of eligible offences other than the most serious, such as homicide or treason.

## Jury Trials

The outstanding success in 2014 of the work of the National Jury Trial Judge (NJTJ), Judge Geoff Rea, has meant the NJTJ position has been able to be disestablished. The gains occasioned by Judge Rea have enabled Jury Trial Administrative Judges in each judicial region to increase their focus on jury trial management.

Of particular note has been the concentrated effort of Jury Trial Administrative Judges Gus Andrée Wiltens and Nevin Dawson, of Manukau and Auckland. Despite the increase in the numbers of jury trials entering these courts, the disruption caused by the lack of jury capable courtrooms during the refurbishment of the Manukau Courthouse, and the focus this year on disposing of older cases, the numbers of trials on hand have remained at historically low levels.





#### CRIMINAL TRIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON JUDGE BRUCE DAVIDSON

I have been a District Court Judge in Wellington since 2003, a member of the District Courts' Criminal Trials Committee for over 10 years and convener of it for the last three years.

The Committee plays an important role in the management of jury and judge-alone trials and in the education and training of trial judges. Trials have become increasingly complex and the average length of a trial has been increasing.

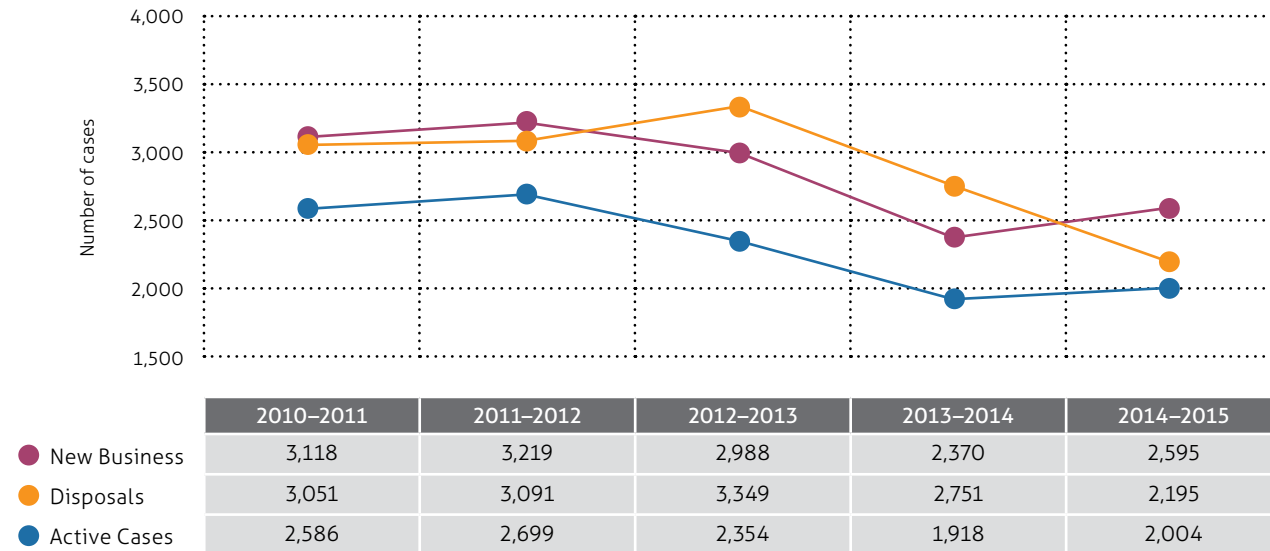
Jury trials, in particular, have a huge interface with the public. It is vital that trials be seen as efficient and understandable, but fair trial rights must always prevail.

Efficient trial management is designed to combat delay so as to ensure timely access to justice. Judge education is designed to protect the fairness of the trial. The committee has a vital responsibility in overseeing these key features.

## Jury Trial Jurisdiction – National Statistics

The jury trial jurisdiction deals with the more serious criminal cases. The District Court jury trial caseload as at 30 June 2015 is comprised of cases commenced under either the Summary Proceedings Act 1957 (7%) or the Criminal Procedure Act 2011 (93%).

### DISTRICT COURT JURY TRIAL CASES



#### This jurisdiction has seen:

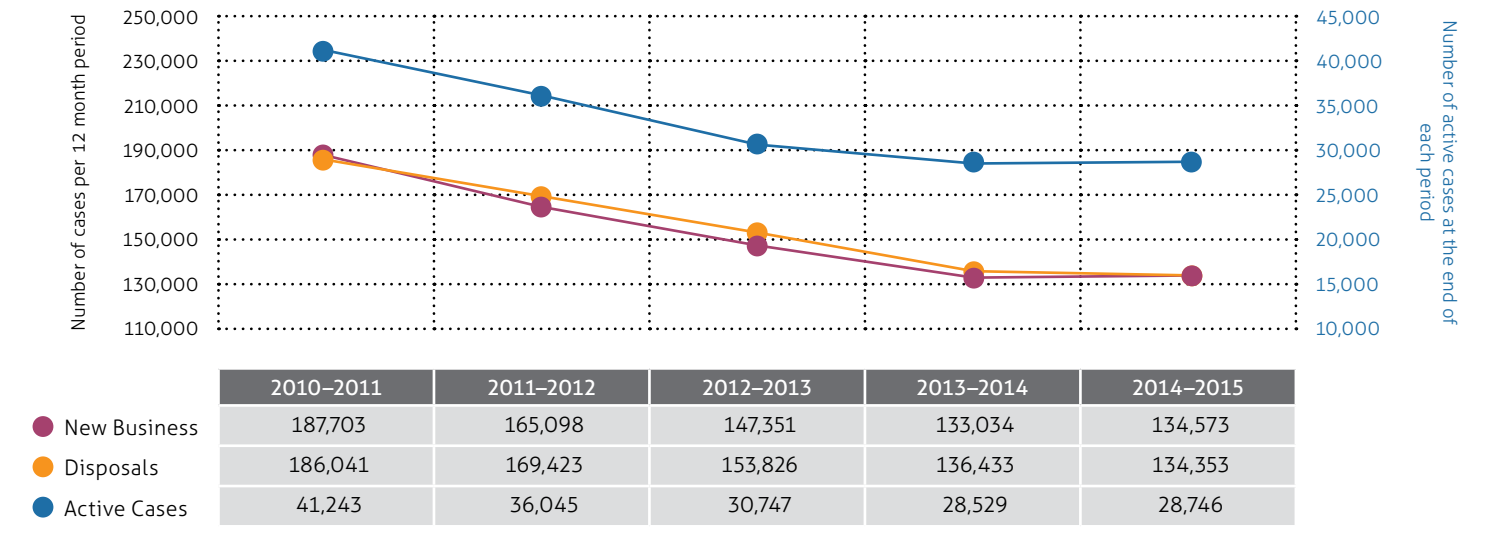
- New business increase by 225 cases (9%).
- Disposals decrease by 556 cases (20%).
- Active cases increase by 86 cases (4%).

It should be noted that the figures quoted relate to case volumes and not the underlying complexity and time taken to deal with Jury Trials. Although disposal rates have decreased, what is not shown is that the age of the cases on hand has decreased significantly. This is because of those cases that were disposed, there were a number of older cases that were waiting for a long period of time. Thus the delay or the time taken for any case to be finalised is *reduced*.

## Total Criminal – National Statistics

The information in this chart encompasses the total numbers of all criminal cases (including Jury Trial and Youth Court cases) throughout each reported Fiscal year.

### DISTRICT COURT TOTAL CRIMINAL CASES



#### This jurisdiction has seen:

- New business increase by 1,539 cases (1%).
- Disposals decrease by 2,080 cases (2%).
- Active cases increase by 217 cases (1%).

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*Did you know that a judge may allow a participant to appear in court via audiovisual link?*

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**EXECUTIVE JUDGE, WELLINGTON  
JUDGE JAN KELLY**

In February 2015 I became the Executive Judge for the Wellington region which includes Wellington, Porirua, the Hutt Valley, Masterton, Blenheim, Nelson and the Chatham Islands.

It is my job to support all the judges throughout the Wellington region in their daily work in all of the Courts' jurisdictions.

I have a particular interest in ensuring that courts are connected to, and reflective of, the community they serve. I am also particularly interested in endeavouring to address some of the underlying causes of offending by using the mainstream court process to assist in the delivery of effective interventions to offenders. At present we have several family violence courts and a special circumstances court operating in the region.

It is a challenging time to continue to deliver the highest standards of justice in all areas of our work balanced against the needs of efficiency and timeliness.

## Whangarei District Court – Court of the Year 2014

In 2013, the Ministry of Justice introduced an annual District Court of the Year award to recognise excellence in court administration and court performance. The award recognises improvements in leadership and management of the court registry; innovation and collaboration with the courts' communities and with other courts across the country; the quality of support provided to the judiciary; and improvements made in case disposition.

The Whangarei District Court was judged 2014 District Court of the Year. Key achievements of the court included a 30% reduction in the average age of active jury trials, a 37% reduction in the average age of active civil cases, and a 12% reduction in the average age of active Family Court applications.



## Time blocking for court appearances

Traditionally, people appearing at District Courts have been required to come to court in the morning and wait for their case to be called. This could involve a significant wait before an individual matter is heard. From 1 April 2015, most District Courts have introduced time blocks for various categories of case where the court day is arranged in two or three time blocks into which cases are scheduled. Parties involved in those cases are advised to appear at court in the relevant time block for the case.

The new approach allows court users to organise their day with greater certainty as to when their matter will be called and heard.

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*Did you know that all opening, adjournment and closing announcements in court are spoken in both te reo Māori and English?*

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*Did you know that the SPCA prosecutes animal welfare offences in the District Courts?*

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*Did you know that anyone can give evidence in court in te reo Māori?*

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**DISTRICT COURTS EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEMBER  
JUDGE KEITH DE RIDDER**

I sit in the criminal, jury, civil and youth jurisdictions in the Whangarei District Court. Following the widespread support of, and interest in, continuing education in the 2012 IFCE assessment, the Chief District Court Judge sought to change the component and practice of the education of judges, including a greater focus on the core components of judgecraft.

Judges Maree MacKenzie and David Ruth and I are members of a sub-committee of the District Court Education Committee, which was formed to meet that need and to oversee the delivery of half-day common room presentations on topical matters.

Four common room sessions were prepared and presented in 2014 and two sessions are scheduled for 2015. The sessions are presented by a resident judge with assistance from research counsel.

The topics covered have been practical ones that are regularly encountered in our day-to-day work, and the response from the common rooms across New Zealand has been very positive and constructive.



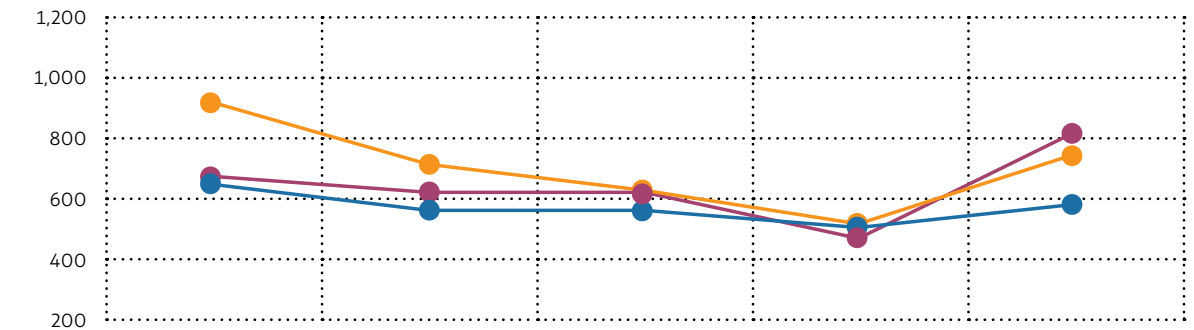
## Role of Civil Jurisdiction

The civil jurisdiction of the District Courts 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 Courts may hear claims up to a monetary value of \$200,000. The government proposes to increase this limit to \$350,000. Examples of common claims in the District Courts 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.

## Civil Jurisdiction – National Statistics

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

### DEFENDED CIVIL CASES



	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015
New Business	675	620	622	467	818
Disposals	916	715	630	517	747
Active Cases	650	564	563	505	581

### This jurisdiction has seen:

- New business increase by 351 cases (75%).
- Disposals increase by 230 cases (45%).
- Active cases increase by 76 cases (15%).

The increases in volumes for the civil jurisdiction are a result of the changes to the District Court Rules that came into effect July 2014. These changes reintroduced the ability to apply for summary judgment early on in the process and also enabled the court to identify whether a case was defended earlier on in the process. This has resulted in increased volumes of defended cases.





**CIVIL COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON  
JUDGE BROOKE GIBSON**

I am the Chairperson of the District Court Civil Committee comprising six judges. The Committee monitors civil work within the District Courts' jurisdiction.

The coming into effect of the District Courts Rules 2014, which replaced the 2009 Rules, has led to an overall increase in the civil work being undertaken in the District Court. The re-introduction of summary judgment from the commencement of claims has had a particular impact on workload. The Judicature Modernisation Bill, presently in its committee stage before Parliament, will, when passed, also mean an increase in the workload of District Courts as it is anticipated that the Courts' jurisdiction will be increased to \$350,000. With the coincidence of the new rules and the projected increase in jurisdiction, District Courts will be well placed to provide an efficient process for the just and speedy determination of the disputes before them.

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**ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG TREATMENT COURT**  
**JUDGE LISA TREMEWAN**

I have been a judge for ten years, sitting at the Waitakere District Court.

A highlight of my judicial career has been my role in the establishment of the adult Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Court (Te Whare Whakapiki Wairua), together with my colleague Judge Ema Aitken. This court is designed to “break the cycle” where offending has its origins in, or is fuelled by, serious unresolved alcohol and other drug issues. Where this is achieved, it is not only better and safer for the community, but also for offenders and their families.

Te Whare Whakapiki Wairua applies well-researched evidence-based best practices. At this early stage, the court’s outcomes are extremely encouraging. We anticipate achieving results similar to those successful overseas courts that apply best-practice principles.





**COURT OF NEW BEGINNINGS  
JUDGE TONY FITZGERALD**

Te Kooti o Timatanga Hou (The Court of New Beginnings) in Auckland deals with offenders who are homeless. It is my privilege to preside at the monthly sittings of the Court.

The Court process involves a non-adversarial, coordinated, inter-agency approach to addressing the legal, social and health-related issues that have led to the participants' offending and their homelessness. As well as holding them accountable for their offending, and ensuring that victims' issues are addressed, the Court ensures that the necessary social and health supports are provided to address the underlying causes of the offending and the homelessness.

The Court started in 2010 and evaluations have shown that taking this approach greatly reduces reoffending rates (by 66%), and saves on nights spent in prison (by 78%) and hospital admissions (by 57%). It is a great example of how the Court can work collaboratively with the community to bring about positive change.

## Role of Family Court

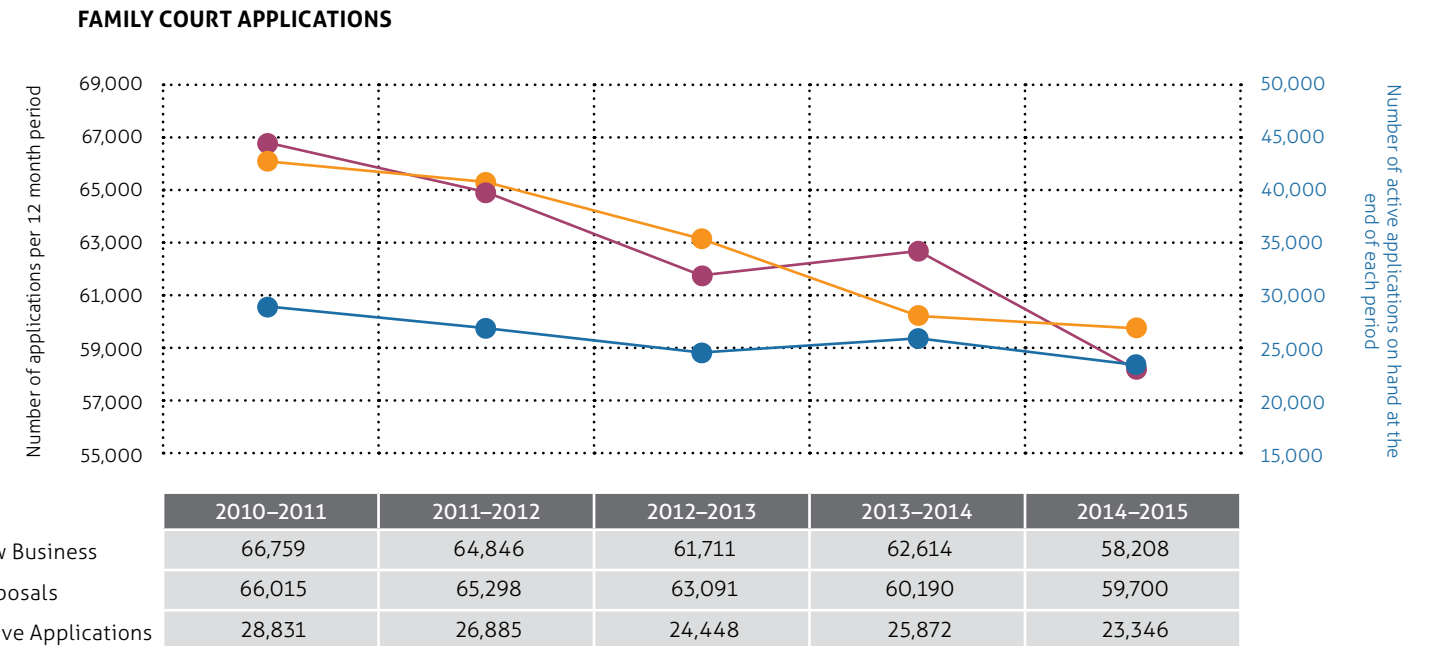
The Family Court is a division of the District Court. It was established under the Family Courts Act 1980 as a place where New Zealanders could get help with family problems.

Many New Zealanders use the Family Court. The court deals with a wide range of "family" relationships, from children not yet born through to older people who are in need of care and protection. The variety of cases that come before the court is considerable. For example, the Family Court hears cases concerning adoption, child abduction, separation, relationship property, wills, domestic violence, mental health, surrogacy and child support. However, wherever possible, the court aims to help people resolve their own problems by way of counselling, conciliation and mediation.

Although the Family Court is essentially a private forum, in that it deals with deeply personal and sensitive matters, the court is nevertheless a part of our justice system – thus the work that is done in the court must be as open as possible and the decisions and processes accountable to the public.

## Family Court Jurisdiction – National Statistics

The number of individual applications is recorded by the Family Court as opposed to the number of cases. This is due to the fact that each case may involve several applications.



### This jurisdiction has seen:

- New business decrease by 4,406 applications (7%).
- Disposals decrease by 490 applications (1%).
- Active applications decrease by 2,526 applications (10%).

The reduction in new business to end of June 2015 is a direct result of the implementation of the Family Justice system that came into effect after 31 March 2014.

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**EXECUTIVE JUDGE, SOUTHERN  
JUDGE PAUL KELLAR**

In October 2014 I assumed the role of Executive Judge for the Southern Region, which is a very large one geographically. It covers all of Canterbury, Otago and Southland, in which (following the recent appointments of Judge Christine Cook, Judges Bernadette Farnan and Mark Callaghan) there are 23 judges.

The judges and court staff in Christchurch have continued to manage the administration of justice in the city post-quake with remarkable efficiency. The next challenge for Christchurch is the move into the \$330 million Christchurch Justice and Emergency Services Precinct, which is expected by the end of 2016. It will be a landmark building and can be expected to inspire even further re-development in central city Christchurch over the next five years.

The judges in Dunedin have adapted to the difficult life of operating from three "homes" following a decision to close the beautiful court building in Stuart Street for earthquake strengthening.

It is a pleasure to be part of a team of hard-working judges who are all driven by the passion to overcome any obstacles in a practical and positive way.





#### SMALLER COURTS JUDGE MAX COURTNEY

I am one of three judges based in New Plymouth who sit in the New Plymouth and Hawera courts.

I have warrants to sit in the Family, Youth and Criminal Courts. Most of my work is in the Family Court where I deal with applications ranging from adoptions through to claims against estates of deceased people.

The mix of work is very demanding, but some of the outcomes are extremely satisfying. This is particularly so in the Youth Court when I see that the process a youth has gone through in the Court has had the effect of ensuring they will not offend again.

In all cases I strive to ensure the parties understand and can accept the reasons for my decision, even if it is one that is not in their favour.

It is a privilege to serve the community through my work as a District Court Judge.

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**HUTT VALLEY COMMUNITY COURT  
JUDGE MARY O'DWYER**

Family violence is one of the most serious issues in our communities today. I am reminded of that daily, not only through my work leading the Family Violence Court in the Hutt Valley District Court, but also through sitting in the Family and Youth Courts. Familiar pressures and patterns appear in each, and remind us that violence within our families is not an isolated experience, but a pervasive problem.

The desire to make a difference underpins the working lives of most District Court judges, and I am no different. In the Hutt Valley District Court, making a difference in communities blighted by family violence means we strive to support those people who want to make changes in their lives. While we work hard to hold people to account when they can't or won't change, our primary focus is on the safety of the victims of family violence, including the children who suffer because of it.





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*Did you know that the District Courts  
can hear almost all criminal cases other  
than murder, manslaughter and treason?*

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## Role of Youth Court

The Youth Court is a division of the District Courts. It deals with offending by young people (aged 14-16 years) and may deal with some children (aged 12-13 years) in certain serious circumstances. Approximately 25% of offences by children and young people come to court. The rest are managed by Police Youth Aid and Child, Youth and Family. With a few exceptions, the Youth Court can hear and determine all charges against young people.

A feature of the Youth Court process is a family group conference (FGC), which brings together the young person, his or her family, the victim and others who work with the young person. At the conference, the young person will be asked to admit the offending and the conference will come up with a plan to repair harm and address the offending. The plan will then be put to the Youth Court judge for approval, and sometimes the young person will appear in court on a regular basis afterwards for monitoring of the plan.

Not all young people are subject to FGC plans. If the offending is too serious, an FGC cannot agree or if there is non-compliance with the FGC plan, there are a variety of orders the Youth Court can impose, including a custodial sentence in a youth justice residence or a conviction and transfer to the District Court for a sentence of imprisonment.

The Youth Court is closed to the public. However, media can attend (provided they do not publish any details which could identify the young person).

## The Youth Court – Projects This Year

The projects reported upon in the 2014 Annual Report (Expansion of Youth Forensic Services, Cross-over List, Redesign of Youth Courtrooms, Education Officers and Lay Advocates) continue in their development under the auspices of the Principal Youth Court Judge or sitting Youth Court judges.

## Improved Youth Court Services – Therapeutic Approach

The primary emphasis in 2015 has been on ensuring the comprehensive provision of services, to the same standard, in all Youth Courts in Aotearoa New Zealand. There has been a renewed commitment to ensure equal access to justice for all young people, irrespective of the size of a particular Youth Court. By 2016, all Youth Courts should be operating to the same standard and equipped with the same resources, so that all Youth Courts can become truly “therapeutic” and multi-disciplinary courts. To assist in attaining those goals, the Ministry of Justice and the Office of the Principal Youth Court Judge have settled upon a list of “Agreed Responsibilities” for Ministry staff.

## Christchurch Youth Drug Court and Therapeutic Youth Courts of the Future

This pioneering initiative, which was launched in 2002 as the first Drug Court in New Zealand, continues to grow under the leadership of Judge Jane McMeeken. The lessons learned from this model continue to be incorporated into mainstream Youth Courts. Rather than establishing new Youth Drug Courts, drug dependent young offenders will be dealt with as a sub-group of offenders within current Youth Court sitting schedules and therapeutic jurisprudence principles will be explicitly adopted in such cases.

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*Did you know that in 2014 the number of children and young people charged in the Youth Court was the lowest in over a decade?*

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### International Interest

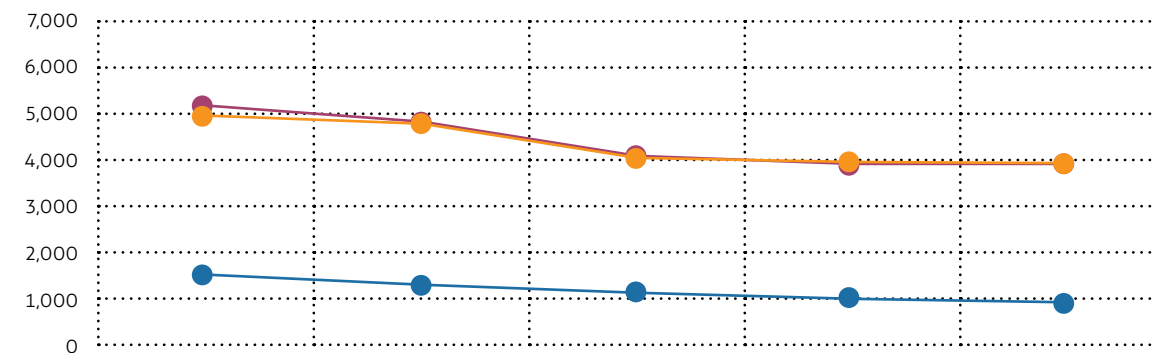
We continue to host many overseas delegations who wish to observe our youth justice system in action. In 2015, there have also been many invitations to Youth Court judges to attend and speak at overseas conferences and symposia, at no financial cost to New Zealand. These have included: the first Indigenous Courts Conference in Vancouver; the first World Congress on Juvenile Justice in Geneva; the AIJA Pacific Council for Juvenile Justice in Thailand, which is a growing organisation that supports the Asia and Pacific regions to develop their own specialist youth justice system; a juvenile justice training programme in Barbados; a National Youth Justice Symposium in Cambodia; youth justice and restorative justice conferences in New York and New Haven; and a Queensland Youth Justice Symposium. These invitations are testament to the regard in which the Aotearoa New Zealand youth justice system continues to be held.

*Did you know that the Youth Court automatically and permanently suppresses the names of every young person, his or her parents, school and the victim?*

## Youth Court Jurisdiction – National Statistics

The Youth Court increasingly deals with and can now focus upon the most serious and persistent youth offending, as *only* approximately 25% of *all* offences committed by children and young people come before a judge. The youth offenders that do not come to Court are managed by Police Youth Aid (who can offer community-based diversion) and Child, Youth and Family. The majority of these cases are dealt with via a Family Group Conference and are disposed of without formal orders being made.

### YOUTH COURT CASES



	2010–2011	2011–2012	2012–2013	2013–2014	2014–2015
New Business	5,188	4,808	4,094	3,915	3,931
Disposals	4,961	4,797	4,065	3,969	3,931
Active Cases	1,517	1,292	1,137	1,015	934

### This jurisdiction has seen:

- New business increase by 16 cases (0.4%).
- Disposals decrease by 38 cases (1%).
- Active cases decrease by 81 cases (8%).



**KAUPAPA MĀORI ADVISORY GROUP  
JUDGE DENISE CLARK**

Ko Rangikawarawara te maunga,  
Ko Hokianga te moana,  
Ko Ngātokimatawhaorua te waka,  
Ko Ngāpuhi te iwi,  
Ko Te Ihutai te hapū,  
Ko Tauteihiihi te marae,  
Ko Denise Clark ahau.

The primary function of the Kaupapa Māori Advisory Group (KMAG) is to provide information and guidance to the Chief Judge about kaupapa Māori issues in the District Courts.

KMAG has been responsible for, or assisted with, the establishment of Rangatahi Courts, a Matariki Court, te reo intensive programmes, judicial marae visits and the increased use of the Māori language and tikanga within the District Courts. The latter includes the commencement and adjournment of

all Court sittings, in both English and te reo Māori, and pōhiri at swearing-in ceremonies for new judges and other important occasions. These exciting developments made at the direction of Chief Judge Jan-Marie Doogue have added a special dimension to those events.

Other goals of KMAG are the development of processes to promote increased confidence in, and respect for, the District Court and its judges among Māori and to enable and encourage access to programmes and material that support District Court judges to engage confidently with iwi Māori and kaupapa Māori. The work is ongoing and is rewarding.

Being part of KMAG is a privilege which gives me an opportunity to promote constructive change to the delivery of justice. Mauri ora.



## Ngā Kōti Rangatahi – Rangatahi Courts

2015 has been a year of growth and consolidation for the Kōti Rangatahi Movement. In March 2015, a new Rangatahi Court was launched in Tauranga Moana. This brings the total of Rangatahi Courts held on marae around the country to 13, with an additional number of local Māori communities asserting strong support for the establishment of a Rangatahi Court in their region. Internationally, Rangatahi Courts are regarded as ground-breaking, and even revolutionary, due to their operation at a culturally appropriate venue (the marae), the incorporation of the indigenous language, and the use of culturally adapted processes with the participation of kaumātua and kuia (elders) and community lay advocates. The Rangatahi Court is designed to monitor a young offender's progress of his or her Family Group Conference plan. Marae social services and tikanga wānanga (cultural programmes) are enlisted, with an emphasis on using whānau, hapū and iwi resources to help guide the young person from a life of crime.

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*Did you know that in the Rangatahi Courts, kuia and kaumātua (respected elders) sit alongside the presiding judge and provide valuable cultural insights and advice to the rangatahi and his or her whānau?*

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Previous annual reports have explained the rationale, process and evaluated outcomes of Ngā Kōti Rangatahi. This is now encapsulated in a comprehensive Background and Operating Protocols document, available from the Office of the Principal Youth Court Judge, which details the history, kaupapa and evolving operational principles of the Rangatahi Courts.

The positive findings of the qualitative evaluation carried out in 2012, and mentioned in the 2013 Annual Report, have continued as Ngā Kōti Rangatahi have expanded throughout the country. In 2014, the Ministry of Justice undertook a preliminary analysis of uptake and reoffending rates in Rangatahi Courts. This quantitative evaluation estimated that young people who appeared in the Rangatahi Court were 11% less likely to reoffend.

Since the launch of the first Rangatahi Court in Gisborne in 2008, 1337 young people have undergone, or are currently undergoing, the Rangatahi Court process.

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**ALCOHOL REGULATORY AND LICENSING AUTHORITY  
JUDGE JIM WEIR**

I have recently been appointed as Chairperson of the Alcohol Regulatory and Licensing Authority for a period of five years. I am enjoying the fresh challenge my appointment has brought.

As its name suggests, the Authority regulates the sale and supply of liquor. This includes licensing premises that supply liquor – from sports clubs to supermarkets.

While the Authority has its head office in Wellington, it is required to travel to all areas in New Zealand to hear cases. In other words, you do not travel to the Authority – it travels to you!

Inevitably this involves a lot of travel away from my home in Rotorua where I have sat as a Jury warranted and Civil Judge for the last 15 years.

However, I am still able to enjoy the company of my colleagues in the Rotorua common room – legendary for its conviviality, good humour and hospitality to all and sundry, including visiting judges.





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**ENVIRONMENT COURT/DISTRICT COURT JUDGE  
JUDGE CRAIG THOMPSON**

I have been an Environment Court judge for 12 years of my total 23 years as a judge and am based in Wellington. Environment Court judges are also District Court judges and deal with prosecutions under the Resource Management Act 1991 in the District Courts. In the year ended 30 June 2015, the Court disposed of 189 prosecutions brought by District and Regional Councils, involving 550 separate charges and 221 defendants. The largest single cause of these prosecutions was effluent disposal issues on dairy farms. However, others arose from varied issues such as overcrowded rental housing, odour and air discharges from industrial plants and fires, sediment in streams and rivers from badly done earthmoving, un-consented brothels, and more. Of the cases which were defended, four were dealt with by trials before a jury (two of the nine Environment Court judges hold warrants to preside over trials by jury).

**ACCIDENT COMPENSATION CORPORATION  
JUDGE DENESE HENARE**

E ngā mana  
E ngā reo, tena koutou katoa.

Ko Motatau te maunga  
Ko Taumarere te awa tapu  
Ko Ngātokimatawhaorua te waka  
Ko Hineamaru te tupuna whaea  
Ko Ngāti Hine me Ngāpuhi e ngā iwi  
Tena koutou, tena koutou, tena koutou katoa.

I am based in Auckland and travel on circuit throughout the country to carry out my primary role in the Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC) Appeals jurisdiction.

In New Zealand, access to core entitlements of treatment and rehabilitation of people who suffer injury as a result of an accident is enshrined in the ACC regime. It is of immense importance that the right of New Zealanders to entitlements is subject to judicial oversight.

Claimants can challenge ACC at review and on appeal to the District Court, the High Court and the Court of Appeal. The majority of the litigation involves appeals in the District Court and therefore constitutes a core role for this court.

Two other judges (Judge Grant Powell and Judge Neil MacLean) and I who carry out this work are committed to playing a significant role as judges in meeting the goals of the scheme for the benefit of all New Zealanders.





**NEW ZEALAND ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN JUDGES  
JUDGE NICOLA MATHERS**

I am the President of the New Zealand Association of Women Judges (NZAWJ), which was formed in 2006 as a non-profit unincorporated society affiliated with the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ). The IAWJ has approximately 4000 members from 87 countries.

At least two-thirds of the New Zealand women judges are members of the NZAWJ. Its objectives are to promote greater understanding and better resolution of legal issues facing women, and particularly women judges, both nationally and within the Pacific region. Funds raised have been used to sponsor Pacific Island judges to attend the biennial conferences of the IAWJ.

The NZAWJ organised a very successful Asia and Pacific Regional Conference in May 2013, which was attended by 154 delegates from 20 countries from as far afield as Afghanistan.

Current projects include establishing a scholarship for law students, developing a mentoring programme for women judges, continuing its oral history project of women judges and a "women in prison" project.



**JUDICIAL RESOURCE ANALYST  
MIKE HENDERSON**

As Judicial Resource Analyst to the Chief District Court Judge, I provide her and other judges with analytical and technical data support. My role requires the interpretation of District Courts' data, collation, translation and the writing of business reports. The reports I create provide the Judiciary with information and statistical overviews, from which informed decisions can be made to more efficiently discharge the business of the District Courts. My reports are interactive and published on an internal website for access by the Judiciary and Ministry staff.

I also analyse data to determine the reasons for statistical performance and build online surveys that are used to collect specific information for the Judiciary. The latter included the 2015 International Framework for Court Excellence (IFCE) assessments recently undertaken by District Court judges and Ministry staff. But best of all, I provide the analysis and graphics for this annual report.



**NATIONAL JUDICIAL RESOURCE ADVISOR  
PETER BATCHELOR**

My primary function is to provide advice to the Chief District Court Judge, and to assist her discharge her statutory obligations for ensuring the orderly and expeditious discharge of the business of District Courts throughout New Zealand.

Able assisted by a team of six regional Judicial Resource Managers, I oversee the rosters for all judges of the District Courts. We allocate judges to all the District Court locations, and across the wide range of case types that are heard within the courts, so as to enable fair and timely opportunity for cases to be determined.

Managing time for judicial leave, and continuing legal education and judges' participation in judicial and joint judicial and justice sector governance, all add to the complexity involved in developing judicial rosters.

I am variously referred to as anything from strategist to magician. In reality, I need to be both and most things in-between.

## Disputes Tribunal

The Disputes Tribunal is a division of the District Court. It provides an inexpensive, informal and private way to help resolve a wide range of civil disputes. The Disputes Tribunal has jurisdiction over claims up to \$15,000, and only for claims based on contract, or torts in respect of property.

The jurisdiction can be extended to \$20,000 if both parties agree.

As at 30 June 2015 there were 63 Dispute Tribunal Referees, including a Principal Dispute Tribunal Referee.

## Justices of the Peace

Judicial Justices of the Peace deal with specific offences over which they are given jurisdiction by statute. These are mostly less serious criminal offences and certain land transport offences. Most are punishable by fine only, but justices of the peace may impose certain driving penalties such as licence disqualification.

Justices of the Peace sit in most courts throughout the country.

As at 30 June 2015, there were 254 Judicial Justices of the Peace.

## Community Magistrates

Community Magistrates are judicial officers who sit in the District Court. They preside over a wide range of less serious cases in the criminal jurisdiction of the District Court.

Community Magistrates may deal with offences punishable by a fine of up to \$40,000. They may also sentence offenders if they plead guilty to an offence punishable by up to 3 months' imprisonment. Community Magistrates may impose a wide range of sentences other than imprisonment or home detention. In doing so they free up District Court judges to deal with the more complex cases.

There are currently 16 Community Magistrates who sit in Northland, Auckland, South Auckland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Hawkes Bay, Gisborne, Wairoa, New Plymouth and Whanganui courts.

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*Did you know that District Court sentencing must follow principles set by legislation and higher courts?*

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**COMMUNITY MAGISTRATE  
JAN HOLMES**

My role as a Community Magistrate is a busy one. A Community Magistrate deals with many defendants for low-level offending who are sentenced on the day. Others need to have their bail determined and future appearances set. Every case is different, everyone must be treated with respect and a careful decision has to be made in each case.

The Community Magistrates are assisted in this decision making with input and teamwork from a wide range of people: prosecutors, counsel, probation staff, victim advisors, interpreters, restorative justice providers, forensic and security staff. Most important for the smooth running of the Court are the skills of the Court staff who carefully prepare the files and manage the daunting scheduling process.

Every day is different and challenging and the Court only finishes when all defendants have been seen.

# Judicial Committee Structure

As at 30 June 2015



*Did you know that in all cases, a defendant's first appearance will be in the District Court?*

*Did you know that there are approximately 20 Research Counsel throughout the country who provide research assistance to District Court judges?*

## Sitting Judges

*Judge J Adams	Waitakere
Judge A Adeane	Napier
Judge E Aitken	Auckland (Samoa)
Judge G Andrée Wiltens	Manukau
Judge L Atkins, QC	Palmerston North
Judge D Barry	Wellington
Principal Youth Court Judge A Becroft	Wellington
Judge J Bergseng	Waitakere
Judge L Bidois	Tauranga
Judge J Binns	Wellington
Judge T Black	Palmerston North
Judge C Blackie	Manukau
Judge J Borthwick	Christchurch
*Judge T Broadmore	Wellington
Judge D Brown	Hamilton
Judge M Burnett	Hamilton
Judge D Burns	Auckland
Judge P Butler	Hutt Valley

Judge B Callaghan	Christchurch
Judge M Callaghan	Invercargill
Judge P Callinicos	Napier
Judge D Cameron	Whanganui
Judge D Clark	Hamilton
Judge N Cocurullo	Hamilton
Judge G Collin	Hamilton
Judge R Collins	Auckland
Judge P Connell	Hamilton
Judge C Cook	Invercargill
Judge P Cooper	Rotorua
Judge A Couch	Christchurch
Judge M Courtney	New Plymouth
Judge S Coyle	Tauranga
Judge M Crosbie	Dunedin
Judge P Cunningham	Auckland
Judge B Davidson	Wellington
Judge G Davis	Whangarei
Judge N Dawson	Auckland

\* indicates retired during year ending 30 June 2015

Judge L de Jong	Auckland
Judge K de Ridder	Whangarei
Judge C Doherty	Christchurch
Chief District Court Judge J-M Doogue	Wellington
Judge J Down	North Shore
Judge T Druce	Auckland
Judge B Dwyer	Wellington
Judge S Edwards	Palmerston North
Judge F Eivers	Manukau
Judge J Farish	Christchurch
Judge B Farnan	Invercargill
Judge C Field	Auckland
Judge A Fitzgerald	Auckland
Judge D Flatley	Dunedin
Judge S Fleming	Auckland
Judge G Fraser	Auckland
Judge A Garland	Christchurch
Judge P Geoghegan	Tauranga

Judge B Gibson	Auckland
Judge K Glubb	Waitakere
Judge P Grace	Wellington
Judge C Harding	Tauranga
Judge M Harland	Auckland
Judge G Harrison	Auckland
Judge S Harrop	Wellington (Vanuatu)
Judge DG Harvey	Whangarei
Judge DJ Harvey	Auckland
Judge J Hassan	Christchurch
Judge W Hastings	Wellington
Judge D Henare	Auckland
Judge G Hikaka	Manukau
Judge L Hinton	North Shore
Judge P Hobbs	Wellington
Judge M Hunt	Whangarei
Judge T Ingram	Tauranga
Judge J Jackson	Christchurch
Judge A Johns	Manukau

Judge J Johnston	Wellington
Judge P Kellar	Christchurch
Judge J Kelly	Wellington
Judge A Kiernan	Auckland
Judge D Kirkpatrick	Auckland
Judge A Lendrum	Hastings
Judge S Lindsay	Whangarei
Judge J Lovell-Smith	Manukau
Judge G Lynch	Palmerston North
Judge G MacAskill	Christchurch
Judge B Mackintosh	Napier
*Judge N MacLean	Auckland
Judge I Malosi	Manukau
Judge D Marshall, Chief Coroner	Auckland
Judge D Mather	Waitakere
Judge D Matheson	Whanganui
Judge N Mathers	Auckland
Judge R Marshall	Hamilton
Judge S Maude	North Shore

Judge J Maze	Timaru
Judge S McAuslan	Manukau
Judge D McDonald	Whangarei
Judge C McGuire	Rotorua
Judge I McHardy	Auckland
Judge M MacKenzie	Rotorua
Judge J McMeeken	Christchurch
Judge D McNaughton	Manukau
Judge A Menzies	Hamilton
Judge I Mill	Wellington
Judge J Moran	Christchurch
Judge B Morris	Wellington
Judge J Moses	Manukau
Judge J Moss	Wellington
Judge J Munro	Rotorua
Judge R Murfitt	Christchurch
Judge R Neave	Christchurch
Principal Environment Judge L Newhook	Auckland

Judge S O'Driscoll	Christchurch
Judge M O'Dwyer	Wellington
Judge E Paul	Auckland
Judge K Phillips	Dunedin
Judge B Pidwell	Waitakere
Judge K Powell	Auckland
Judge G Rea	Napier
Judge P Recordon	Manukau
Judge R Riddell	Hamilton
Judge A Roberts	New Plymouth
Judge M Rogers	Manukau
Judge P Rollo	Tauranga
Judge R Ronayne	Auckland
Judge G Ross	Palmerston North
Judge R Russell	Nelson
Judge D Ruth	Nelson
Judge C Ryan	Auckland
Principal Family Court Judge L Ryan	Wellington

Judge D Saunders	Christchurch
Judge D Sharp	Auckland
Judge M Sharp	Auckland
Judge A Sinclair	Auckland
Judge P Sinclair	North Shore
Judge A Singh	Auckland
Judge A Skellern	Manukau
Judge D Smith	Palmerston North
Judge E Smith	Christchurch
Judge J Smith	Auckland
Judge A Somerville	Tauranga
Judge C Somerville	Christchurch
Judge M Southwick, QC	Manukau
Judge L Spear	Hamilton
Judge P Spiller	Hamilton
*Judge J Strettell	Christchurch
Judge C Sygrove	New Plymouth
Judge H Taumaunu	Waitakere
Judge EM Thomas	Auckland

Judge C Thompson	Wellington
Judge A Tompkins	Wellington
Judge C Tuohy	Wellington
Judge MBT Turner	Dunedin
Judge L Tremewan	Waitakere
*Judge V Ullrich, QC	Wellington
*Judge R Wade	North Shore
Judge C Wainwright Waitangi Tribunal	
Judge A Walsh	Wellington
Judge N Walsh	Christchurch
Judge JA Walker	Wellington
Judge JH Walker	North Shore
Judge J Weir	Rotorua
Judge A Wills	Rotorua
Judge D Wilson, QC	Auckland
Judge G Winter	Manukau
Judge R Wolff	Tauranga
Judge A Zohrab	Nelson

The District Courts of New Zealand

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