



District Courts of New Zealand
Annual Report 2016

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District Courts of New Zealand Annual Report

This is the fourth consecutive year the District Courts have produced an annual report. There can be no doubt that the judiciary's commitment to accountability and transparency, as demonstrated by these regular updates on our work and performance, is now a permanent feature of the District Courts.

Openness is important for maintaining public confidence in the quality and value of the work carried out in the courts, and for improving public understanding about the delivery of justice. Reporting annually is also a valuable opportunity to reflect on the hard work and innovation of both the judges and support staff who keep the courts running. They continue to produce impressive results despite difficult odds and heavy workloads. The annual report exercise also helps to identify areas for further improvement.

Development of a dedicated District Courts of New Zealand website and a Publications Unit was a major project in 2016, designed primarily for publishing judicial decisions online. It is further evidence of the value we place on giving the public a clear window into the courts. The engagement this year of a Strategic Communications Advisor for my office after a two year hiatus underscores our resolve to understand and keep in touch with the public we serve.

The appetite for innovation remains a strong feature of New Zealand's justice system, no better illustrated than by the Rangatahi and Pasifika courts winning the Australasian Institute of Judicial Administration's Award for Excellence in Judicial Administration. From initiatives advancing the use of te reo Māori in court to developing a "Judge's Pack" for informing bail application hearings in family violence cases, judges have worked alongside Ministry of Justice staff to find better ways of doing business, and I pay tribute to that spirit of collaboration.

In 2016, the District Courts continued to make inroads into cases that have been in the system for a long period of time, despite a surge in new cases beyond our control. My office also developed a rostering tool allowing a more nimble system for assigning judges to jury trials, designed to smooth out disparities in timeframes between regions. There has also been much progress in reducing the age of ACC appeal cases, while at the

country's busiest criminal court in Manukau, we have assigned extra judges and resources to tackle growing demand and complexity of cases there.

Renewal of the judicial ranks continued apace, with 22 new judges appointed in 2016, mainly to replace retiring judges. This makes for a lively year ahead of new ideas and modern approaches. I am proud to lead a District Court bench whose enthusiasm, dedication and wisdom continues to serve the timely and impartial administration of justice in New Zealand.

Chief District Court Judge
Judge Jan-Marie Doogue



District Courts Jurisdiction

The District Courts make up the largest court in New Zealand and in the whole of Australasia. Most legal issues affecting New Zealanders which require judicial input are dealt with in a District Court.

In 2016, there were 58 District Courts and Hearing Centres throughout New Zealand, with 175 judges and 15 community magistrates. The courts have criminal, family, youth and civil jurisdictions.

The criminal jurisdiction deals with almost all criminal cases except murder, manslaughter and some treason-related offences. The Family Courts are a division of the District Courts and deal

with most family law issues, including adoption, custody, abduction, state care and relationship property. The Youth Court division deals with criminal offending by young people aged 12 to 16 years old. The civil jurisdiction covers disputes up to a value of \$200,000, restraining orders, and appeals from some tribunals.

Role of District Courts

In the first instance, most matters are dealt with by District Courts, making them not only the country's largest, but busiest courts.

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.

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.

If a defendant disagrees with the outcome of the case, he or she may appeal to a higher court to have the decision revisited.

District Courts Leadership Team

The Chief District Court Judge, the Principal Family Court Judge and the Principal Youth Court Judge together oversee the operation of the District Courts and the Family Court and Youth Court divisions.

These judges serve as the public face of their courts. They have a wealth of experience in dealing with challenges that arise daily in each of their respective jurisdictions. They are supported in their administrative and strategic roles by the National Executive Judge.

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.

As well as supporting the Chief Judge and Principal Judges, the National Executive Judge chairs the International Framework for Court Excellence committee and is the judicial liaison with the Christchurch Justice and Emergency Services Precinct project team.

Chief District Court Judge, Judge Jan-Marie Doogue; Principal Family Court Judge, Judge Laurence Ryan (centre); National Executive Judge, Judge Colin Doherty (right); and incoming Principal Youth Court Judge, Judge John Walker (left).



Chief District Court Judge, Judge Jan-Marie Doogue

The District Courts serve their communities best by providing access to justice in an open, timely and impartial manner. In 2016, several areas highlighted how the shared efforts and innovation among judges and support staff help further these aims.

Equity in Jury Trial Times

Open access to justice demands that one part of the country should not be routinely experiencing significantly longer timeframes for jury trial disposal than another. My office developed a dynamic tool to bring equity to these timeframes. It scores, tracks and compares "wellness" of individual courts.

This provides a sound basis for smoothing out differences in the time it takes to get a jury trial. It assigns a benchmark score to each court so that I can then deploy resources via the judicial roster to help courts achieve the score. The exercise relies on high-scoring courts sharing judicial resources to help other courts improve, so flexibility and goodwill of participants have been vital.

Relieving Pressure

As the country's busiest court serving a diverse community, the Manukau District Court faces a unique set of complex challenges. A surge in jury trials, building refurbishment and sustained, high case volumes combined to make it a pressure-cooker environment. Relieving this pressure was a priority this year.

Three extra judges were appointed to sit in Manukau. In February, a national committee was established to keep up momentum for improvement. The Manukau Steering Committee includes senior members of the Ministry of Justice, New Zealand Police, the legal profession and the judiciary, and has met regularly to review and address the multi-sector issues around the court's effective operation.

Transparent Justice

In January, a Publications Unit was established to build the first dedicated website for the District Courts. The site is primarily designed to publish judicial decisions online. The unit's small, hard-working team – with oversight from an editorial board of senior judges – spent months selecting and vetting the first tranche of the thousands of judgments destined for publication.

The project demonstrates our commitment to a modern, transparent and accessible justice system. The posting of decisions of high or particular public interest on districtcourts.govt.nz should address concerns about the previous lack of public access to decisions and their limited availability to legal publishers and lawyers.

Celebrating Innovation

Our unique approach to youth justice won recognition from the Australasian Institute of Judicial Administration (AIJA), which granted the marae-based Rangatahi and Pasifika courts its Award for Excellence in Judicial Administration in September 2015. The award was presented at a special function at Auckland's Orakei Marae in May, the first time all eight judges and the kaumātua and kuia from the 14 marae which host the courts had come together. The award recognises the contribution of the judges and court staff who developed the courts, and the communities who embraced them to help their young people access justice. The courts met award criteria for improving access to justice, demonstrating innovation and delivering real benefits for the justice system.

Fitting Farewell to Judge Becroft

The AIJA award capped off 15 years' service as Principal Youth Court Judge from Judge Andrew Becroft. During his tenure, Judge Becroft seized every opportunity to improve New Zealand's youth justice system in the interests of our most vulnerable and troubled young people.

In particular, he championed the capacity of our youth justice model to hold young people to account for their offending in a rehabilitative and restorative way. His leadership, courage and enthusiasm provided a powerful voice for the Youth Court. Judge Becroft has been an inspiration, and he passes the torch to a group of equally dedicated Youth Court judges who I am sure will do his legacy proud.

PRINCIPAL FAMILY COURT JUDGE
JUDGE LAURENCE RYAN

Over the last year, due to retirements and additional positions, eight new Family Court judges have been appointed throughout New Zealand. They are: Judge Dianne Partridge in North Shore; Judge Garry Barkle, New Plymouth; Judge Antony Mahon, Manukau; Judge Lynne Harrison, New Plymouth; Judge Sharyn Otene, Hamilton; Judge Emma Parsons, Tauranga; Judge Andrea Manuel, Auckland; and Judge Alan Goodwin, Manukau.

Due to extra rostering flexibility created by the Floating Judge initiative introduced a year ago, significant inroads have been made into cases that have been underway for over two years. Additionally, the administrative Family Court judges in each region have undertaken responsibility for calling over those cases so that each proceeding can be identified and closely case-managed to conclusion. These judges are: Judge Ian McHardy, Northern Region; Judge Anna Skellern, South Auckland; Judge Jocelyn Munro, Waikato/Bay of Plenty; Judge David Smith, Central; Judge Mary O'Dwyer, Wellington; and Judge Noel Walsh, Southern Region.

Both Wellington and Christchurch have adopted a block fixture regime for dealing with long cause fixtures, which are defended hearings lasting for at least a day. As a result, we are seeing an increase in the disposal of these lengthier cases. This is a pleasing result for litigants and Family Court registries. The Greater Auckland area continues to demand attention, both judicial and registry resource, with 36% of Family Court work in New Zealand occurring north of the Bombay Hills.

New Zealand continues to make a significant contribution to the International Hague Network of Judges. The Chief District Court Judge and I are the two Hague Network judges.

The Family Court judges' retreat for newly appointed judges has proved extremely worthwhile and continues to be an important feature in the Institute of Judicial Studies calendar each year. I want to acknowledge the work of the Family Court Education Committee chaired by Judge Alayne Wills for the input provided for the programme.

Planning is underway for the next Triennial Family Court Judges Conference to be held in October 2017. Family Court judges remain committed to providing prompt access to justice for those litigants requiring resolution of their disputes. They are, as always, focused on the welfare and best interests of the children who are the subject of proceedings under the Care of Children Act 2004 or the Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1989.

PRINCIPAL YOUTH COURT JUDGE
JUDGE ANDREW BECROFT

E ngā mana, e ngā reo, tēnā koutou katoa.

This is my last annual report, as I retire in July 2016. It has been a challenging, absorbing, yet rewarding 15 years leading a court that has a significant opportunity to direct our most serious young offenders away from a pathway to adult crime. The Youth Court has a statutory mandate not only to hold young offenders to account, but also to explore and address the underlying causes of offending and offenders' needs. In this way, the court comes up against key issues facing young people.

It has been a privilege to work with those individuals and groups committed to making a difference. My abiding memory will be their energy, passion and dedication especially of those in some of the most impoverished and disadvantaged communities, who daily take up the challenge of turning young lives around.

This year the court continued to focus on our most serious young offenders and improving our processes. Police youth apprehension rates continue to fall while alternative non-court interventions continue to rise. As a result, Youth Court numbers are for the seventh successive year at an historic low. Many who appear before the court have a constellation of inter-related issues. This requires a multi-disciplinary approach, central to which remains the Family Group Conference.

This report highlights a number of projects to improve the focus on the most serious youth offenders. In 2016, there have been significant developments dealing with young Māori who sadly appear in Youth Court on an increasingly disproportionate basis – 64% are now of Māori descent. The statutory imperative contained in the Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1989 has never been more relevant and challenging. The Award for Judicial Excellence for our Rangatahi and Pasifika courts from the Australasian Institute of Judicial Administration is a great affirmation of the progress, but there is so much more to do.

New Zealand's youth justice system is regarded as innovative and principled and a potential model for a stand-alone youth justice system. The challenge and obligation is to live up to, and protect, this reputation by continuing to do better for the young people and communities we serve.

*Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi, engari he toa takitini.
My strength is not mine alone, but the strength of many.*

The International Framework for Court Excellence

Previous annual reports have included information on the implementation and effectiveness of the International Framework for Court Excellence (IFCE), a quality management system designed to assist courts to improve performance. It helps courts identify areas capable of improvement and to develop innovative ways to address issues, improve transparency and clarity, enhance access, and reduce backlogs and overly complex procedures which detract from court quality and efficiency.

The framework provides a structured method for courts aiming to employ their limited judicial and administrative resources more efficiently. In May 2015, judicial officers of the District Courts and selected senior court managers completed the second assessment of the courts under the framework. This year, analysis of those results has been completed and a number of recommendations made and accepted including:

- Development of a comprehensive communication and community engagement strategy.
- Encouragement of a culture of continuous improvement and innovation in court registries.
- Creation of an environment to assist those litigants in our courts who are not legally represented, including comprehensive review of the effectiveness and availability of resources and information available to those litigants.

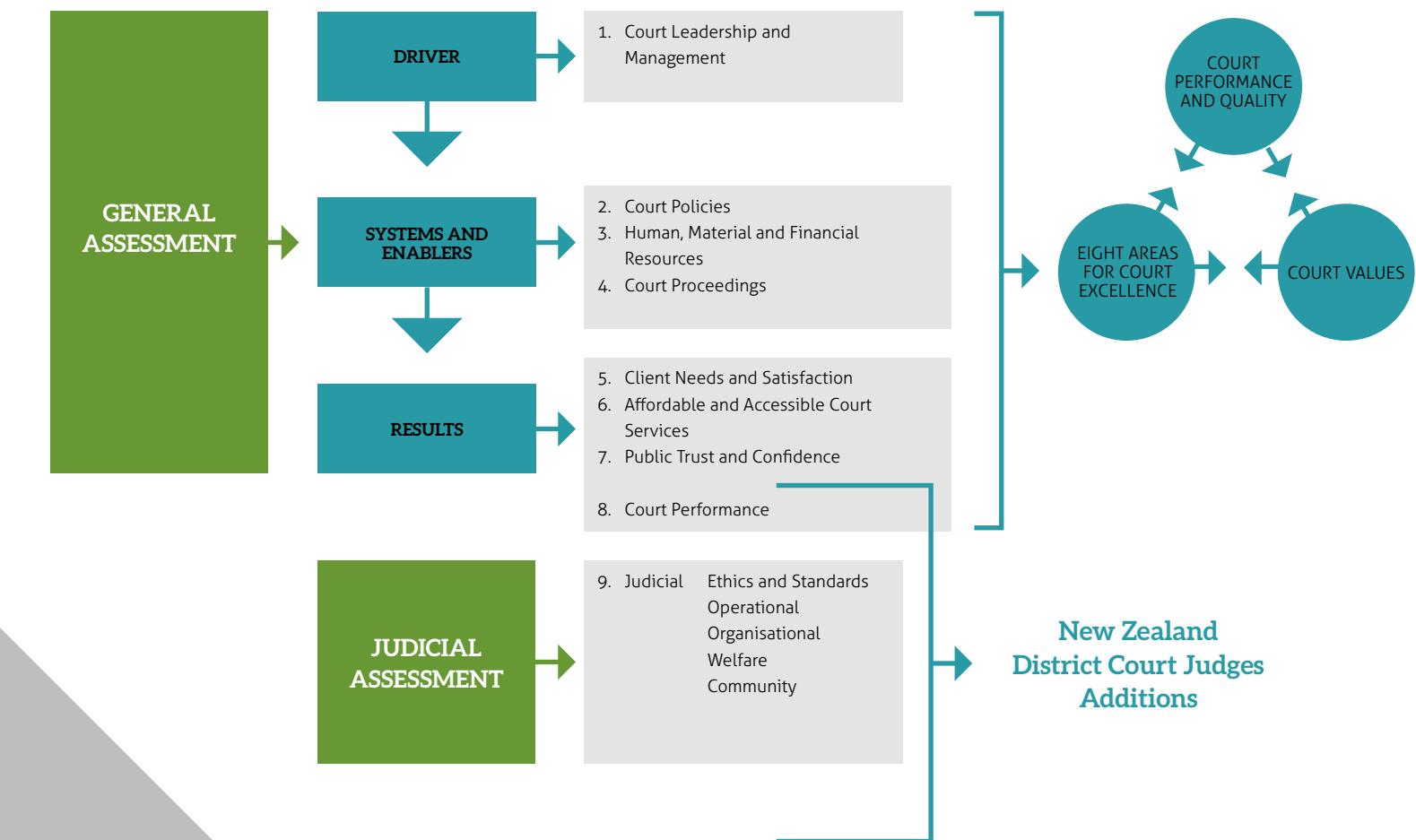
Joint work between the judiciary and the Ministry of Justice is underway to further these recommendations.

The international standing of the District Courts as innovators in this area has been maintained and was recognised by the appointment of the National Executive Judge to the Executive Committee of the International Consortium for Court Excellence, the governing body which co-ordinates implementation of the framework internationally.

The diagram on the following page lists the nine categories that are assessed under the framework.

International Framework for Court Excellence (IFCE)

As applied to District Courts of New Zealand



JUDGE CHRIS SOMERVILLE
FAMILY COURT JUDGE

In June, I retired after 20 years at the Family Court in Christchurch. Mostly I worked with families dealing with a range of difficult issues, including the consequences of broken relationships, child care or protection issues, or unfair treatment in wills.

My role also took me to thousands of mental health hearings to ensure the rights of those being treated for a mental disability were being properly respected. I also played a protective role for those unable to make proper decisions for themselves because of a disability.

I always endeavoured to fully consult those attending court. I strongly believe the best decisions for families are those they make themselves, so I encouraged this through mediation. It has been an honour to be a judge but most importantly for me, it has been a great privilege to be invited by so many families to help them resolve their difficulties.

Did you know the Family Court jurisdiction covers 36 different statutes?





**JUDGE DAVID WILSON QC
DISTRICT COURT JUDGE**

After nearly 13 years on the Bench, I retired from judging fulltime in May but remain able to sit in courts around the country for the next two years if required.

As a lawyer, I conducted hundreds of criminal jury trials for both the Crown and Defence and found family and sexual violence cases the most difficult. As a judge, I have found that in family violence cases restorative justice can be helpful because it deals holistically with wider issues, with a view to healing and a lasting outcome. In my experience, this is less likely after an adversarial trial.

As a judge, I have the responsibility to balance ensuring complainants are treated with respect while upholding defendants' right to a fair trial. It is not an easy task but the work has been a privilege.

Did you know that judges in New Zealand do not use gavels?

District Courts Judicial Strategy Plan

The judicial process in the District Courts 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 planned for 2012–2015 has continued and was extended into this year to be reviewed following analysis of the 2015 IFCE assessment, which has been completed.

Twelve of the 16 work-programme categories have been completed and are marked in the table.

Did you know that under the District Court Rules a person can apply to have a document he or she is served translated into te reo Māori?

2012–2016

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

Judicial Performance Measures

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.

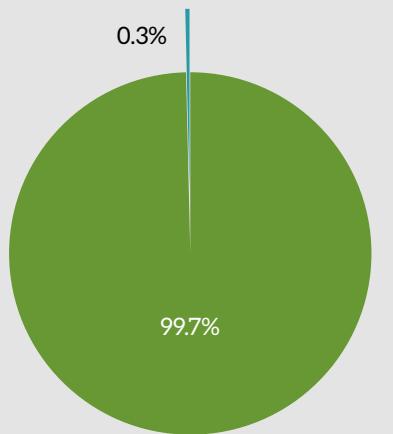
Regrettably the judges are not yet able to extend the scope of the judicial performance measures reported to date. While data collection and analysis on the part of the Ministry of Justice has improved, it is not yet of a standard that enables the scope to be increased.

Appeals

Of the more than 138,000 judgments delivered across all jurisdictions, 1621 were appealed and 429 of these were successful, which is 0.3% of all judgments.

Criminal Appeals

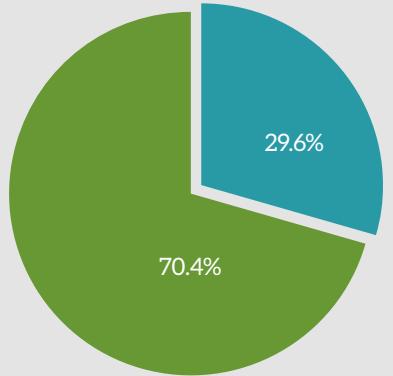
This is the number of appeal applications made in relation to the number of disposed criminal cases which includes jury trial and Youth Court cases. The number of cases does not reflect the actual number of decisions made in the criminal jurisdiction during the fiscal year that can be appealed, but provides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



SUCCESSFUL APPEALS TO DISPOSED CRIMINAL CASES

- Disposed Criminal Cases
- Successful Appeals

12 Month Period	Disposed Criminal Cases	Successful Appeals
to end June 2016	133,470 (99.7%)	429 (0.3%)
to end June 2015	134,353 (99.6%)	506 (0.4%)



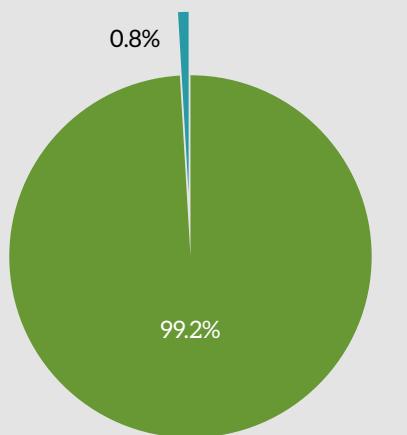
CRIMINAL APPEALS BY OUTCOME

- Dismissed / Withdrawn
- Successful

12 Month Period	Total Appeals	Successful	Dismissed / Withdrawn
to end June 2016	1,451	429 (29.6%)	1,022 (70.4%)
to end June 2015	1,472	506 (34.4%)	966 (65.6%)

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



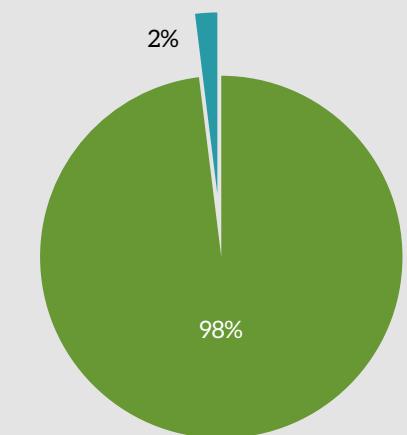
SUCCESSFUL APPEALS TO DEFENDED FAMILY COURT APPLICATIONS

- Defended Family Court Applications
- Successful Appeals

12 Month Period	Defended Family Court Applications	Successful Appeals
to end June 2016	3,680 (99.2%)	31 (0.8%)
to end June 2015	3,713 (99.1%)	35 (0.9%)

Civil Appeals

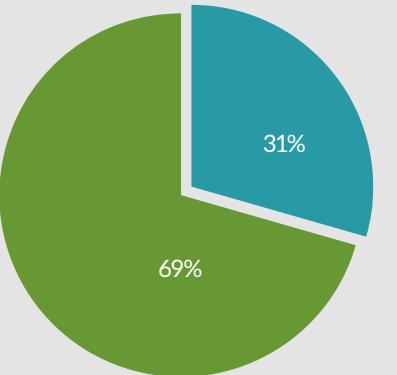
This is the number of appeal applications made in relation to the number of disposed civil defended cases. The number of cases does not reflect the actual number of civil decisions made during the fiscal year that can be appealed, but provides a starting point from which comparisons can be made.



SUCCESSFUL APPEALS TO DEFENDED CIVIL CASES

- Defended Civil Cases
- Successful Appeals

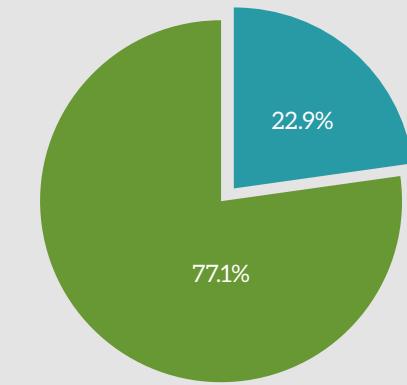
12 Month Period	Defended Civil Cases	Successful Appeals
to end June 2016	778 (98%)	16 (2%)
to end June 2015	747 (98%)	15 (2%)



FAMILY COURT APPEALS BY OUTCOME

- Dismissed / Withdrawn
- Successful

12 Month Period	Total Appeals	Successful	Dismissed / Withdrawn
to end June 2016	100	31 (31%)	69 (69%)
to end June 2015	122	35 (28.7%)	87 (71.3%)



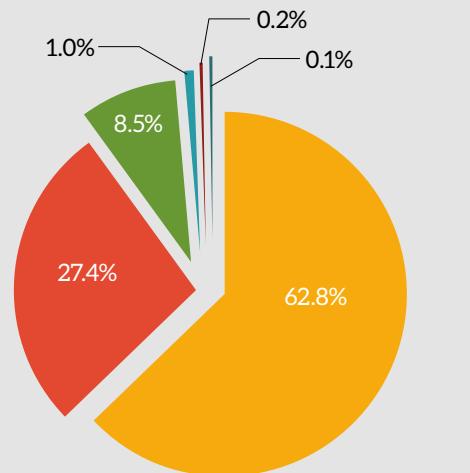
CIVIL APPEALS BY OUTCOME

- Dismissed / Withdrawn
- Successful

12 Month Period	Total Appeals	Successful	Dismissed / Withdrawn
to end June 2016	70	16 (22.9%)	54 (77.1%)
to end June 2015	53	15 (28.3%)	38 (71.7%)

Timely Delivery of Judgments

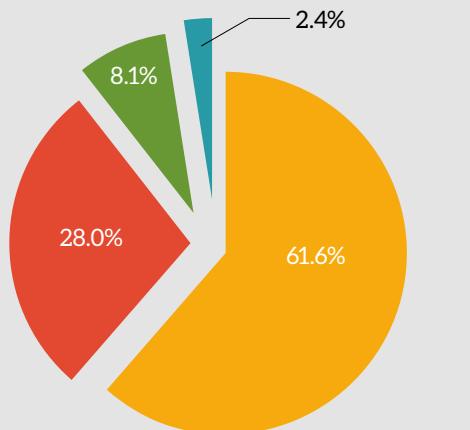
Because of the complexity of their work, judges sometimes do not announce their decisions immediately at the conclusion of a case. These decisions are "reserved" and delivered at a later time. The following charts show the number of reserved decisions and amount of time taken (in months) to deliver those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



ALL DECISIONS

- 0-1 month
- 1-3 months
- 3-6 months
- 6-9 months
- 9-12 months
- 12 months and above

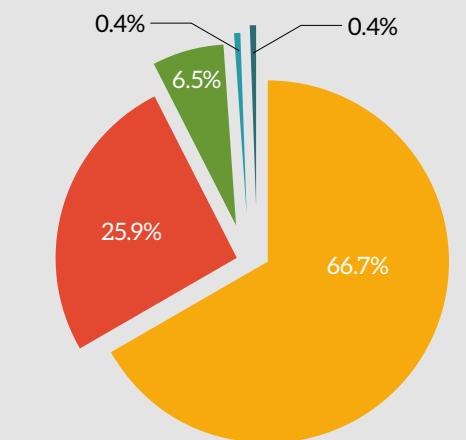
12 Month Period	Total Decisions	0-1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	12 months and above
to end June 2016	942	592	258	80	9	2	1
to end June 2015	1,002	656	267	74	5		



CRIMINAL

- 0-1 month
- 1-3 months
- 3-6 months
- 6-9 months

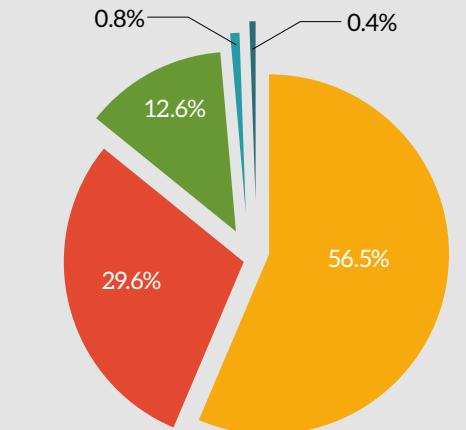
12 Month Period	Total Decisions	0-1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months
to end June 2016	211	130	59	17	5
to end June 2015	243	151	72	19	1



FAMILY COURT

- 0-1 month
- 1-3 months
- 3-6 months
- 6-9 months
- 9-12 months

12 Month Period	Total Decisions	0-1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months
to end June 2016	478	319	124	31	2	2
to end June 2015	502	341	134	24	3	



CIVIL

- 0-1 month
- 1-3 months
- 3-6 months
- 6-9 months
- 9-12 months

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 2016	253	143	75	32	2		1
to end June 2015	257	164	61	31	1		

District Court Judges in the South Pacific

The District Court judiciary has close ties with our Pacific neighbours, built through judges' contribution to government-to-government assistance in administering justice in the region. Limited resources mean these small island nations call on New Zealand judges to help in their courts, and New Zealand judges who work in the South Pacific report lasting and mutual benefits from the experience of working in a different culture.

Did you know that a District Court judge travels to the Chatham Islands to hear cases four times a year?



Rarotonga Courthouse

Judge Ema Aitken in Samoa

A presentation I gave in Samoa in 2014 on New Zealand's Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Courts led to an invitation to sit on Samoa's Supreme Court. It was the rainy season when I arrived in January 2015 to what seemed to be an endless wet. But I found Samoa warm, lush and colourful. The work was interesting and varied – from assessor trials (where four lay judges are chosen from a list of 250), to judicial settlement conferences, and most things in between. Legal argument is mainly in English but decisions and evidence are given in Samoan, so I had an interpreter. My judicial colleagues were particularly helpful on cultural matters where oratory and hospitality are hallmarks. My partner and I have rarely felt so welcome, valued and looked after.

The decision to work in Samoa ranks as one of the best of my career. Just before I left in February, Samoa launched its own Alcohol and Drugs Court. I remain involved in its development, and have hosted six Samoan observers in Auckland.

Judge Colin Doherty in the Cook Islands

I sit as a Justice of the High Court of the Cook Islands for up to three weeks a year. The Cook Islands government appoints judges to the High Court from outside because the country is small. All the judges are New Zealanders but currently I am the only one from the District Court. A number of others are retired New Zealand High Court judges. The court is based in Avarua, the chief town of Rarotonga, but occasionally it sits in the outer islands when dealing with electoral petitions. The Avarua courthouse was built with Chinese aid in 2004 and sits in a beautiful location overlooking the atoll and ocean. The court has an unlimited jurisdiction and hears a large range of criminal and civil (including family) cases. Apart from the wider jurisdiction, the experience of sitting in the High Court system is similar to that of the District Court, and it is a delight to sit in another jurisdiction and experience its particular cultural overlay.

The decision to work in Samoa ranks as one of the best of my career. Just before I left in February, Samoa launched its own Alcohol and Drugs Court. I remain involved in its development, and have hosted six Samoan observers in Auckland.

On Rotation in Vanuatu

Since 2003, the District Courts have been sending judges on secondment to the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal of Vanuatu. They usually stay two to three years. The arrangement is a collaboration between the New Zealand Chief District Court Judge, the Ministries of Justice and Foreign Affairs and Trade, and the Government and Chief Justice of Vanuatu. Those who have served there are Judges Pat Treston, Chris Tuohy, Nevin Dawson, Lee Spear, Stephen Harrop and currently Paul Geoghegan. Several others have served three-month stints.

The main aim is to enhance the rule of law in Vanuatu by providing a judge with experience in a larger jurisdiction and to share ideas with the local judges. However, the benefits have flowed both ways and our judges have been challenged and extended by the breadth of the work, by applying local laws in the context of international jurisprudence and by sitting under sometimes difficult conditions.

Judge Stephen Harrop



Judge Lee Spear

Judge Chris Tuohy



Judge Charles Blackie in Pitcairn Island

I am a judge of the District Court at Manukau. In 2000, I was appointed by the British Government as Chief Justice of remote Pitcairn Island and its outer islands. I was the island's first judicial officer since Pitcairn was first inhabited by mutineers from HMS Bounty in 1790.

A British territory, it must be the smallest judicial jurisdiction in the world, serving a population of fewer than 50.

Initially I thought there would be little to do, but all that changed with revelations of sexual offending that led to Supreme Court trials over the last decade, attracting world headlines. Fourteen men were accused. The Supreme Court was increased by the appointment of two further judges from the District Courts, the late Judge Russell Johnson and Judge Jane Lovell-Smith. Our decisions on jurisdictional, constitutional and factual issues were appealed to the Privy Council in London. All appeals were dismissed.

The island continues to generate judicial work. This year, Judge Arthur Tompkins presided over a trial. There is a constant flow of semi-judicial work, such as the appointment of Island officials and the oversight of ordinances designed to create a 21st century mini-state out of what many regarded as a colonial relic.

Trips to Pitcairn Island are adventures in themselves – recommended only for those with the strongest seafaring constitutions.

Chief Justice of the Pitcairn Supreme Court, Judge Charles Blackie (centre) with fellow Judges of the Supreme Court, Judge Arthur Tompkins and Judge Jane Lovell-Smith.





New Zealanders in a Commonwealth of Judges

Many New Zealand judges belong to the UK-based Commonwealth Magistrates' and Judges' Association, founded in 1970. Membership is a valuable way for New Zealand judges to exchange ideas with judges working in jurisdictions which share their foundations in English common law. The Chief Magistrate of Australia's Northern Territory, John Lowndes, is the current president. Auckland District Court Judge Mary-Beth Sharp is a vice-president for the Pacific Ocean Region, one of six regions within the association which each have three representatives on an elected council.

The association aims to advance the administration of the law by promoting the independence of the judiciary. It also aims to advance education in the law, the administration of justice, the treatment of offenders and the prevention of crime, and to disseminate information on the legal process within Commonwealth countries. In 2015, spearheaded by Supreme Court Justice Sir William Young and the Right Hon Chief Justice, Dame Sian Elias, the association's triennial conference was held in New Zealand for the first time.

Judge Mary-Beth Sharp.

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 two 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% of 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 District Courts continue to reap the rewards of the intensive efforts in 2014–2015 which combined better jury trial management with the focusing of judicial resources to concentrate on disposing older cases. The age of cases on hand has decreased significantly this year, despite jury trial judges facing more work from an influx of new cases.

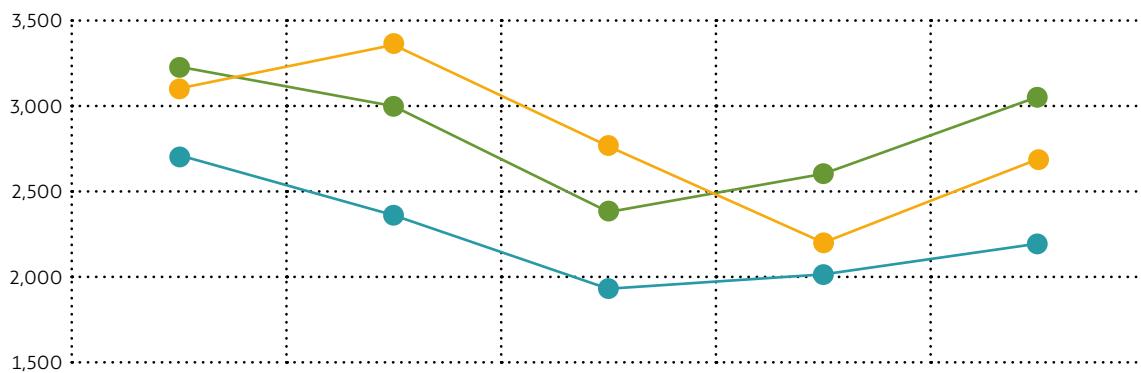
However, the rise in new business and the application of fewer judges to jury trials this year, has meant an increase in active cases.

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

Jury Trial – National Statistics

The jury trial jurisdiction deals with the more serious criminal cases. The District Court jury trial caseload as at 30 June 2016 comprises cases commenced under either the Summary Proceedings Act 1957 (1%) or the Criminal Procedure Act 2011 (99%).

DISTRICT COURT JURY TRIAL CASES



- New Business
- Disposals
- Active Cases

This jurisdiction has seen:

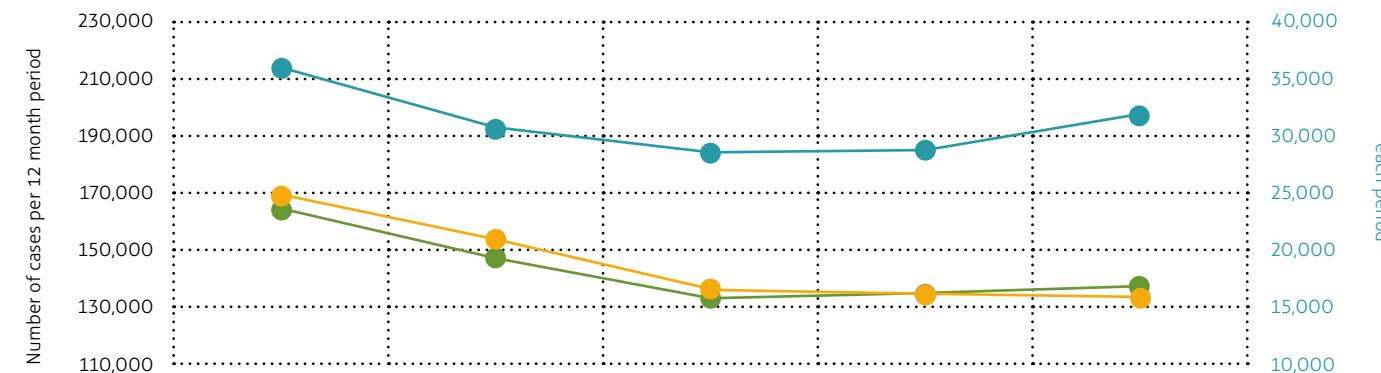
- New business increase by 447 cases (17%)
- Disposals increase by 481 cases (22%)
- Active cases increase by 180 cases (9%)

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. What is not shown is that the age of the cases on hand has decreased significantly, because a number of older cases have been disposed of.

Total Criminal – National Statistics

The information in this chart encompasses the total numbers of all criminal cases (including jury trial and Youth Court cases) through each reported fiscal year.

DISTRICT COURT TOTAL CRIMINAL CASES



- New Business
- Disposals
- Active Cases

This jurisdiction has seen:

- New business increase by 2,416 cases (2%)
- Disposals decrease by 883 cases (1%)
- Active cases increase by 3,128 (11%)



JUDGE JANE FARISH
JURY LIAISON JUDGE

I was appointed in 2007 to sit predominantly in Christchurch. Since 2011 I have been the Jury Liaison Judge for the Canterbury and Greymouth region. This role entails the administration and organisation of all the region's jury trials.

A team of dedicated judges, local court staff and a willing profession have worked hard to halve the backlog of jury trials over this time. We targeted the oldest trials while managing incoming work, which is not always easy given the complexity of jury trials and vagaries of participants.

I am extremely proud of the progress made in the timely and efficient disposition of these trials. I hope the move next year to a new courthouse in the Christchurch Justice and Emergency Services Precinct will provide further opportunities to continue the excellent progress we have made collectively. Although it has been nine years since I became a judge, I still consider myself a "new" judge. When not in court, I can be found riding a quad bike while tending a flock of Angora goats.

Role of Civil Jurisdiction

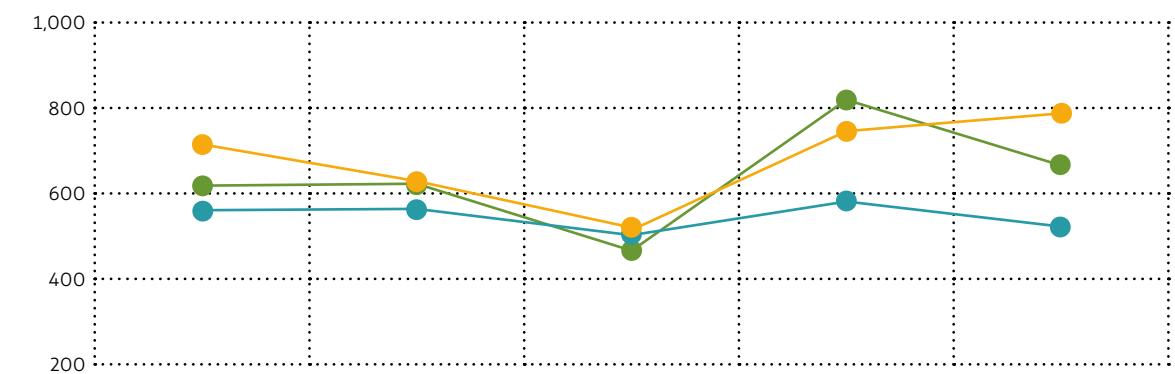
The civil jurisdiction of the District Courts resolves disputes between individuals or organisations. A person who feels they have been wronged may bring a claim and, if successful, be awarded a remedy such as compensation. The District Courts may hear claims up to a monetary value of \$200,000. The 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.

This year the courts have seen a continued decrease in the number of claims filed in the District Courts. At the same time, the number of defended cases heard and disposed of has increased.

Civil – National Statistics

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

DEFENDED CIVIL CASES



	2011–2012	2012–2013	2013–2014	2014–2015	2015–2016
New Business	620	622	467	818	666
Disposals	715	630	517	747	788
Active Cases	564	563	505	581	523

This jurisdiction has seen:

- New business decrease by 152 cases (19%)
- Disposals increase by 41 cases (5%)
- Active cases decrease by 58 cases (10%)

JUDGE GARY HARRISON
CIVIL JUDGE

I am based at the Auckland District Court working in the busy and varied civil jurisdiction. Civil judges handle appeals from the Disputes, Tenancy and Motor Vehicle Disputes tribunals, statutory authorities and disciplinary bodies. We also hear applications for restraining orders under the Harassment Act 1997 and, importantly, orders sought under the new Harmful Digital Communications Act 2015.

Civil judges are trained and skilled in dispute resolution and are mindful of the cost and stress of litigation. Therefore we aim for just, speedy and inexpensive determinations by focusing on case management, identification of issues, timetabling, prompt scheduling and achieving resolution through Judicial Settlement Conferences. We try to keep the same judge on a case through to conclusion.

A change to the District Court Rules in 2014 has produced more applications for summary judgments, which do not involve a full hearing.

The country's 53 civil designated judges are headed by a national committee which aims to achieve consistency while preserving individual independence.

Did you know that the District Courts hear appeals from the Disputes Tribunal and Tenancy Tribunal?



Role of Family Court

Each Family Court is a division of a District Court, and established under the Family Courts Act 1980 as a place where New Zealanders can get help with family problems.

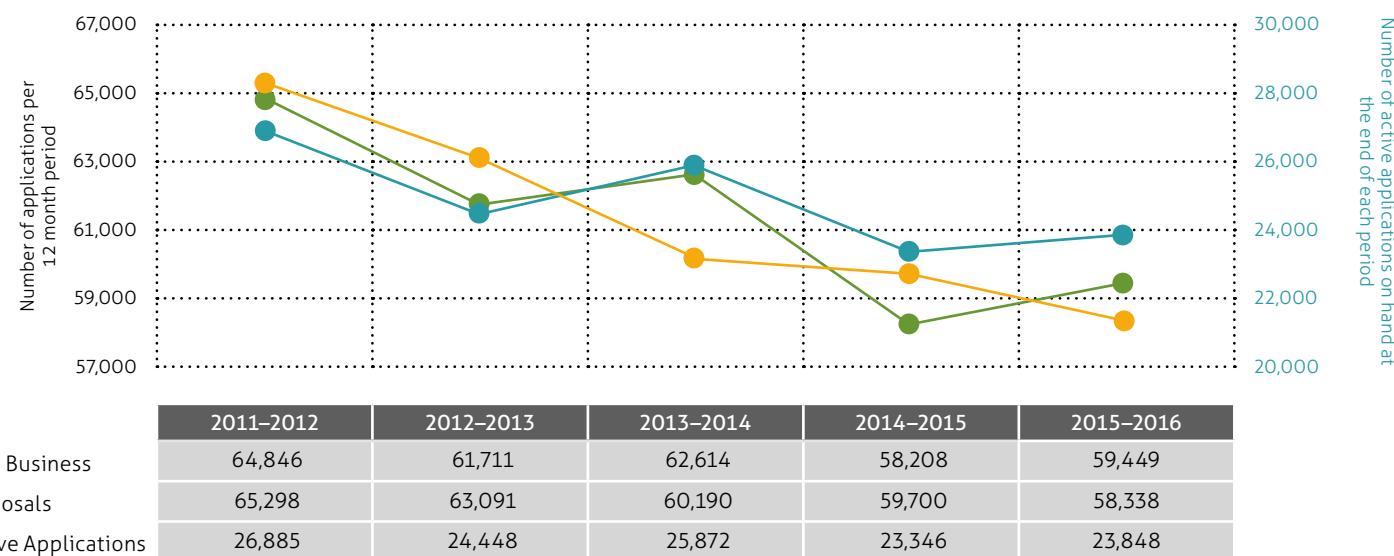
New Zealanders lodge about 60,000 applications a year in the Family Court, making it the second biggest jurisdiction by volume after the criminal jurisdiction. The court deals with a wide range of family relationships, from children not yet born through to older people who are in need of care and protection. The variety of cases that come before the court is considerable. For example, it hears cases concerning adoption, child abduction, separation, relationship property, wills, domestic violence, mental health, surrogacy and child support. 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, it 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 - National Statistics

Family Courts record the number of individual applications, as opposed to the number of cases. This is because each case may involve several applications.

FAMILY COURT APPLICATIONS



This jurisdiction has seen:

- New business increase by 1,241 applications (2%)
- Disposals decrease by 1,362 applications (2%)
- Active applications increase by 502 applications (2%)

JUDGE JOCELYN MUNRO
ADMINISTRATIVE FAMILY COURT JUDGE

I have recently been appointed as the administrative Family Court judge for the Waikato-Bay of Plenty region covering Hamilton, Tauranga and Rotorua. Based in Rotorua since my appointment to the Bench in 2007, I sit mainly in the Family Court but also in the Youth Court.

It is challenging to work in an area where intergenerational family violence, child abuse and substance addiction are factors in a significant proportion of the work of both courts. This adds to the complexity of the cases that come before us. Unfortunately there is little sign that these issues are abating.

Over the past year or so, three new Family Court judges have been appointed to our region. Their enthusiasm, competence and dedication are a welcome addition to our Bench.



JUDGE DAVID SMITH
ADMINISTRATIVE FAMILY COURT JUDGE

As an administrative Family Court judge based in Palmerston North, I lead and support a team of eight Family Court judges who sit in courts from Gisborne, Napier and Hastings in the east, to Palmerston North and across to Whanganui and New Plymouth on the other coast. The Central Region includes associated courts and hearing centres such as Wairoa, Taihape, Levin and Hawera.

It is part of my job to ensure workflows, if practicable, are within statutory guidelines and that workloads are consistent throughout the region. Bi-monthly reports are received from each court and also go to the Principal Family Court Judge. I chair our bi-monthly regional meetings which currently are combined with the judges of the Wellington region.

Every second month I join other administrative Family Court judges in a meeting chaired by the Principal Family Court Judge. This group acts as a sounding board. We discuss matters of both regional and national interest and report back to all Family Court judges.

JUDGE BELINDA PIDWELL
FAMILY COURT JUDGE

I am the resident Family Court judge in the busy Waitakere Court in West Auckland. I also sit in the criminal court. Waitakere district is one of New Zealand's fastest growing areas and home to a diverse ethnic mix of families.

In all Family Courts, judges and lawyers do a significant amount of work outside the courtroom, often dealing with orders and directions "on the papers". Where once we used to read printed documents, handwrite directions and orders, and the court registrar would then issue them formally, now we use technology. These decisions are produced electronically, through a system we call "eBox", an electronic version of its paper-based predecessor "Boxwork". The judge types decisions and saves them to a drive shared with the registrar. Registrars no longer have to waste time deciphering judges' handwriting. eBox is being implemented nationwide and, as a bonus, a significant number of trees will be saved in the process.

Did you know a Family Court Judge can adjourn a hearing in order to ascertain the wishes or views of a child within the proceedings?



Role of Youth Court

Each Youth Court is a division of a District Court. It deals with offending by young people aged 14-16 years and may deal with younger children, aged 12-13 years, in certain serious circumstances. About 20% 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 (where the charge is not denied or is denied and subsequently proved) is a mandatory Family Group Conference (FGC). The FGC 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 be required to return to court regularly for monitoring of the plan.

About 72% of all young people are subject to FGC plans. However, if the offending is too serious, an FGC cannot agree on a plan or if there is non-compliance with the 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 a District Court for a sentence of imprisonment.

The Youth Court is closed to the public. However, media can attend and report on proceedings with the court's leave, provided they do not publish any details which could identify the young person.

The Youth Court – Projects This Year

The projects featured in previous annual reports relating to the expansion of Youth Forensic Services, the Cross-over List, Re-design of Youth Courtrooms, and Education Officers and Lay Advocates continue to be developed. This year we have also focused on updating the database of Youth Court cases searchable by subject matter and section number, and available through the Youth Court website at youthcourt.govt.nz. Content on the website has been comprehensively updated.

Improved Youth Court Services – Therapeutic Approach

Our emphasis in 2016 has been on ensuring the provision of comprehensive services, to the same standard, in all Youth Courts. This includes the presence of Youth Forensic Nurses, Education Officers, Drug and Alcohol Clinicians, and Lay Advocates. There has been a renewed commitment to avoid a "two-tier" system whereby larger Youth Courts enjoy better access to services than others. By 2017, all Youth Courts should be operating to the same standard with the same resources, so they all become truly "therapeutic" and multi-disciplinary. The projects detailed elsewhere in this report are all being completed with this aim in mind. As part of this, the Ministry of Justice and this office finalised a list of "Agreed Responsibilities" for Ministry staff, which should promote a standardised national approach.

Involving Whānau, Hapū and Iwi in the Youth Justice Process

The proportion of Māori appearing in the Youth Court has increased from 44% in 2006 to 64% in 2016 as the numbers of Māori appearing fall at a slower rate than for non-Māori. This trend of indigenous over-representation is not reversing or even stabilising. The groundbreaking Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1989 provided clear principles in respect of the justice system's response to Māori youth offending.

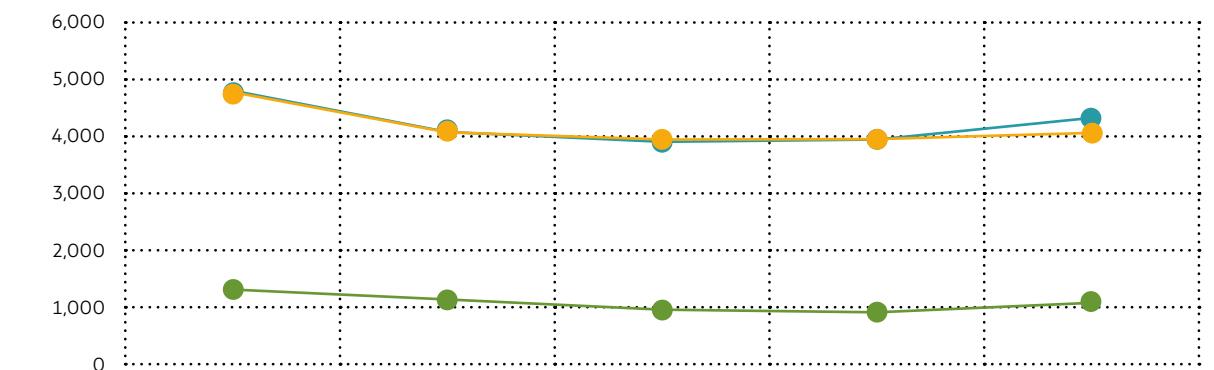
The most pressing and significant challenge facing the Youth Court is to deliver on the legislative mandate. We cannot afford to linger! Kua taka te kapa! (The penny has dropped!)



Youth Court – National Statistics

Except for murder and manslaughter, all serious charges relating to young people, and certain charges against children aged 12 and 13, must be heard and determined in the Youth Court.

YOUTH COURT CASES



	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016
New Business	4,808	4,094	3,915	3,931	4,321
Disposals	4,797	4,065	3,969	3,931	4,077
Active Cases	1,292	1,137	1,015	934	1,095

This jurisdiction has seen:

- New business increase by 390 cases (10%)
- Disposals increase by 146 cases (4%)
- Active cases increase by 161 cases (17%)

JUDGE SARAH LINDSAY
FAMILY COURT JUDGE/YOUTH COURT JUDGE

I sit in the Family Court and the Youth Courts of Tai Tokerau. The two Family Court judges based in Whangarei also work in Kaikohe, Kaitaia and Dargaville.

There is a geographical and social distance between this part of New Zealand and the rest of the country. I believe social and economic adversity, but also drug abuse, is a feature of serious domestic violence in the North.

Some of our children and young people are our most vulnerable. I believe the Family Court is most effective once children or adult victims of domestic violence feel safe, regain their mana and begin to explore and engage with confidence in the world around them. The availability of resources to help those in crisis is a constant concern. Yet every day we see the resilience of parents, children and whānau, reminding us that people need people.

He aha te mea nui o te ao.

What is the most important thing in the world?

He tangata, he tangata, he tangata.

It is the people, it is the people, it is the people.

*Did you know that by law, if you are under the age of 10, you are considered incapable of committing a crime?
(If you do something bad, it's a "care and protection" issue)*



JUDGE SARAH FLEMING
EXECUTIVE JUDGE NORTHERN REGION

The Northern Region's 45 judges represent a big proportion of New Zealand's tally of judges. I have been Executive Judge for the region since December 2015. The area includes resident judges in Auckland, North Shore and Waitakere, plus Whangarei which services the Far North.

We also have several specialist courts: the Family Violence Courts; the Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Court pilot; the Court of New Beginnings; and Matariki, Rangatahi and Pasifika courts.

My role includes discussing judges' concerns and acting as a conduit to the Chief Judge. I am also consulted about initiatives to better serve our community. We have regular common room meetings where judges can raise issues more formally, and I also meet regularly with the Judicial Resource Manager and the Lead Service Delivery Manager.

Did you know a District Court judge can transfer criminal proceedings to a different location in the interests of justice?

I am very grateful for the leadership of Liaison Judges Russell Collins (Judge-Alone criminal work), Nevin Dawson (Juries) and Ian McHardy (Family). Resident Liaison Judges Pippa Sinclair in North Shore, Kevin Glubb in Waitakere and John McDonald in Northland ably take primary responsibility for the day-to-day running of those courts.



Accident Compensation Appeals in District Courts

The Accident Compensation Corporation has a broad jurisdiction dealing with all manner of disputes which arise in respect of the accident compensation regime. Decisions of the Corporation can be appealed to the District Courts.

The three specialist judges who hear appeals fulltime and the five who assist have since 2013 implemented an integrated and flexible case-management approach which has produced a 70% fall in cases waiting to be heard and also reduced the average age of appeals. This year, a conscious targeting of old appeals reduced the average age of appeals on hand by nearly 20%, to 507 days.

Each month the number of cases disposed of continues to exceed the number of new cases filed, and over the past two years, the number of appeals on hand has more than halved to 658.

Overall, as well as achieving a more timely disposal of appeals, the improvements in case management ensure all parties are able to participate in an active way in the appeal process. They have also ensured that the substantive issues raised, whether by claimants, the Corporation or employers, are appropriately addressed.



JUDGE GRANT POWELL
ACCIDENT COMPENSATION APPEALS

For three years I have been privileged to be part of a small team of District Court judges determining appeals against decisions made under accident compensation legislation. Since 1972, New Zealand's unique accident compensation regime has provided a framework for statutory compensation for injuries suffered by accident, replacing the common law right to sue for personal injury. As the final arbiter of fact on disputes between the Accident Compensation Corporation and claimants, the District Courts have a critical role to play in making sure people get what they are entitled to under the legislation.

In recent years the District Courts have focused on reducing the number of outstanding appeals and improving the process generally. More recently the court has engaged with counsel, the Corporation and claimant groups to develop new practice guidelines to ensure these often technically complex cases continue to be dealt with comprehensively and in a timely manner.



JUDGE MELANIE HARLAND
ENVIRONMENT JUDGE

For six of my nine years as a judge, I have been an Environment judge based in the Auckland Environment Court. As well as hearing Environment Court cases, Environment judges sit as District Court judges dealing with prosecutions for alleged breaches of the Resource Management Act 1991. These can include jury trials, and I am one of two Environment judges who can preside over these trials.

Last year, 13 local bodies brought prosecutions under the Act. The Otago Regional Council was most active, bringing 11 cases, followed by regional councils in Southland and Waikato, and the Auckland Council. In the District Courts we hear a variety of cases including allegations of water, land and air pollution, unauthorised tree removal, demolition of heritage buildings, and breaches of abatement notices, to name a few. Most prosecutions still concern dairy effluent disposal issues.

*Did you know a third of
District Court judges are women?*

JUDGE PHILIP RECORDON
DISTRICT COURT JUDGE/MENTAL HEALTH HEARINGS

I sit often in Mental Health Act hearings, held in hospitals and the community. The Mental Health Act 1992 provides a mixture of rights, powers to treat, and safeguards for the mentally unwell. The judge's role is to consider if there are grounds to detain and/or treat against a person's wishes. This independent oversight ensures patients are given the chance to understand why they are being assessed and treated, and to challenge the process. Tricky issues arise in this area of law. "Why can't I leave here, there is nothing wrong with me?" or "why do I have to see a judge when I have done nothing wrong?" are not uncommon expressions of concern.

As judges, we try to be empathetic and ensure people are respected and get a fair and thorough hearing, where rights to be free from compulsion are balanced against the need to treat, so that people can live well and productively. Patients are represented free of charge by an outstanding group of lawyers, and court staff are specialised. I am privileged to have an ongoing involvement with mental health work, helping so many wonderful yet vulnerable characters from every part of society.

Did you know that during mental health hearings patients are represented free of charge by experienced lawyers?

JUDGE WARREN CATHCART
SOLE CHARGE JUDGE

When I was appointed to the Bench in August 2015, I became Gisborne's first resident judge in 15 years. As the District Courts' only sole charge position, it is demanding but highly rewarding. Coming from hectic Auckland, I was immediately attracted by the rugged natural beauty of this area and feel at home, notwithstanding the challenges of isolation and tough economic conditions confronting the East Coast. Criminal cases in Gisborne tend to the serious end of the spectrum given the high presence of gangs in the region, but I find the people are friendly and modest and have a strong community spirit.

The volume of work can be demanding for one judge. However, I am rarely on my own. Other judges visit regularly to sit in the Family Court or to handle general criminal work when I am presiding over jury trials. I am supported by a strong local legal fraternity led by some very experienced practitioners whose oversight is reflected in the high-quality advocacy among the young lawyers.



Gisborne District Court

JO SIHAMU
COMMUNITY MAGISTRATE

When I became a community magistrate nearly seven years ago, I was looking for something people-oriented. The early part of my legal career was in banking, and although I later moved into the area of corporate social responsibility and did voluntary work with refugees and migrants, the community magistrate role looked to be the perfect job. It represented an intersection of legal skills with people risk assessment and the potential to contribute to the community. I knew from the start I had made the right decision.

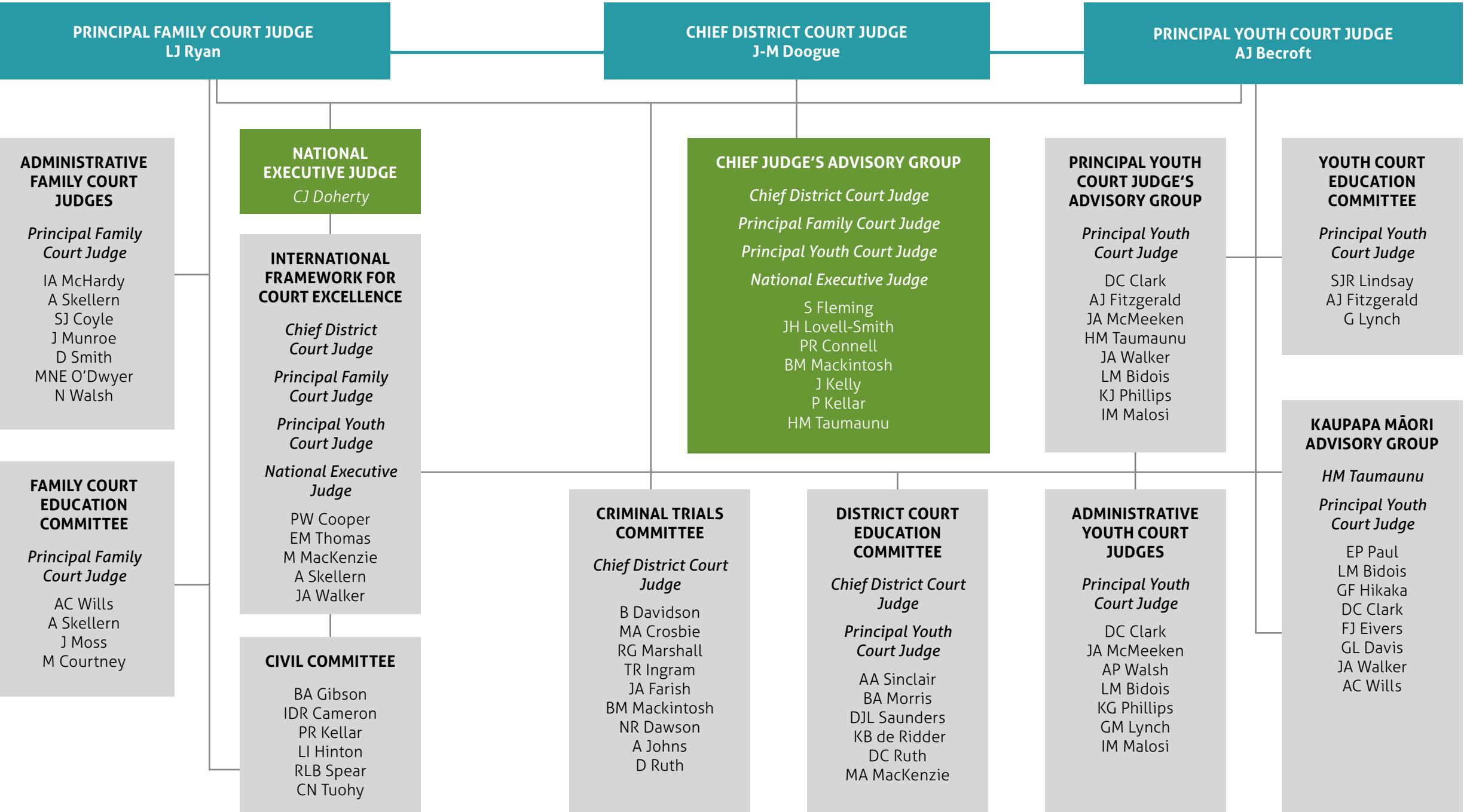
As part-time judicial officers, community magistrates represent the wider community and bring a diverse range of skills, experience and perspectives to the Bench. We work mostly in the busy list court, where a typical day might involve sentencing offenders pleading guilty on the day and hearing opposed bail applications. As well, we might remand people for probation, forensic or restorative justice reports as well as alcohol, drug or rehabilitative programmes.

The courtroom team works collegially, in keeping with community justice philosophy.



Judicial Committee Structure

As at 30 June 2016



Sitting Judges

* indicates retired during year ending 30 June 2016

Judge A Adeane	Napier
Judge E Aitken	Auckland
Judge G Andrée Wiltens	Manukau
*Judge L Atkins, QC (Deceased)	Palmerston North
Judge G Barkle	New Plymouth
Judge D Barry	Wellington
Principal Youth Court	
Judge A Becroft	Wellington
Judge J Bergseng	Manukau
Judge L Bidois	Tauranga
Judge J Binns	Wellington
Judge T Black	Wellington
Judge C Blackie	Manukau
Judge J Borthwick	Christchurch
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 W Cathcart	Gisborne
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	Hastings
Judge S Coyle	Tauranga
Judge P Crayton	Whanganui
Judge M Crosbie	Dunedin
Judge P Cunningham	Auckland
Judge B Davidson	Wellington
Judge G Davis	Whangarei
Judge N Dawson	Auckland
Judge L de Jong	Auckland
Judge K de Ridder	Whangarei
Judge C Doherty	Christchurch
Chief District Court	
Judge J-M Doogue	Wellington
Judge G Harrison	Auckland
Judge J Down	North Shore
Judge L Harrison	New Plymouth

Judge S Harrop	Wellington
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 J Jelas	Waitakere
Judge A Johns	Manukau
Judge J Johnston	Wellington
Judge JAR Johnston	Porirua
Judge P Kellar	Christchurch
Judge J Kelly	Wellington
Judge K Kelly	Wellington
Judge A Kiernan	Auckland
Judge D Kirkpatrick	Auckland
Judge J Large	Palmerston North
Judge A Lendrum	Hastings
Judge S Lindsay	Whangarei
Judge J Lovell-Smith	Manukau
Judge G Lynch	Palmerston North
Judge P Mabey QC	Tauranga
Judge G MacAskill	Christchurch
Judge B Mackintosh	Napier
Judge A Mahon	Manukau
Judge I Malosi	Manukau
Judge A Manuel	Auckland
Chief Coroner	
Judge D Marshall	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 R McIlraith	Manukau
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	Palmerston North
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 S Otene	Hamilton
Judge E Paul	Auckland
Judge E Parsons	Tauranga
Judge D Partridge	North Shore
Judge S Patel	Manukau
Judge K Phillips	Dunedin
Judge B Pidwell	Waitakere
Judge L 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 L Rowe	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 K Saunders	Hamilton
Judge D Sharp	Auckland
Judge M-B 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 Snell	Rotorua
Judge A Somerville	Tauranga
*Judge C Somerville	Christchurch
Judge M Southwick, QC	Manukau
Judge L Spear	Hamilton
Judge P Spiller	Hamilton
Judge C Sygrave	New Plymouth
Judge H Taumaunu	Auckland
Judge E Thomas	Auckland
Judge C Thompson	Wellington
Judge A Tompkins	Wellington
Judge C Tuohy	Wellington
Judge M Turner	Dunedin
Judge L Tremewan	Waitakere
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 (Deceased)	Rotorua

Judge M Wharepouri	Manukau
Judge A Wills	Rotorua
*Judge D Wilson, QC	Hamilton
Judge G Winter	Papakura
Judge R Wolff	Tauranga
Judge A Zohrab	Nelson

The District Courts of New Zealand

