



FAMILY LAW  
SECTION  
NEW ZEALAND LAW SOCIETY

NZLS EST 1869

Family Law Section Bulletin - Issue 386, 22 January 2020

Attorney-General David Parker [announced](#) yesterday the appointment of 21 new District Court judges to improve access to justice and boost diversity on the bench. Yesterday's announcement named 14 of the new judges, including nine with a Family Court warrant with the remainder to be announced later this year:

**Turitea Bolstad**, barrister of New Plymouth, has been appointed a District Court Judge with a jury jurisdiction and will sit in Gisborne. Judge Bolstad will be sworn in on 27 February in New Plymouth

**Michelle Duggan** of Nelson, has been appointed a District Court Judge with a Family Court warrant and will sit in Christchurch. Judge Duggan will be sworn in on 10 February in Nelson.

**Hana Ellis**, Auckland barrister, has been appointed a District Court Judge with a Family Court warrant and will sit in Whangarei. Judge Ellis will be sworn in on 4 March in Manukau.

**Tony Greig**, Rangiora barrister, has been appointed a District Court Judge with a jury and Family Court warrant and will sit in New Plymouth. Judge Greig will be sworn in on 11 February in Christchurch.

**Nicky Grimes**, barrister and solicitor from Nelson, has been appointed a District Court Judge with a Family Court warrant and will sit in Hamilton. Judge Grimes will be sworn in on 10 February in Nelson.

**Quentin Hix**, barrister and solicitor from Timaru, has been appointed as a District Court Judge and will sit in Christchurch. Judge Hix will be sworn in on 29 February at Arowhenua marae near Temuka.

**Michelle Howard-Sager**, barrister and solicitor from Whanganui, has been appointed a District Court Judge with a Family Court warrant and will sit in Kaikohe. Judge Howard-Segar will be sworn in on 13 February in Whanganui.

**Gordon Matenga**, coroner of Hamilton, has been appointed a District Court Judge with a jury warrant and will sit in Hastings. Judge Matenga will be sworn in on 19 March in Hamilton.

**Alison McLeod**, barrister and solicitor of Havelock North, has been appointed a District Court Judge with a Family Court warrant and will sit in Invercargill. Judge McLeod will be sworn in on 20 March in Hastings.

**Bruce Northwood**, barrister and solicitor of Auckland, has been appointed a District Court Judge with a jury warrant and will sit in Palmerston North. Judge Northwood will be sworn in on 21 February in Auckland.

**Rachel Paul**, barrister and solicitor of Ohope, has been appointed a District Court Judge with a Family Court warrant and will sit in Hamilton. Judge Paul will be sworn in on 17 February in Whakatane.

**Brandt Shortland**, coroner for Te Tai Tokerau, has been appointed as a District Court Judge with a jury warrant and will sit in Kaikohe. Judge Shortland will be sworn in on 18 March in Whangarei.

**Kirana Tan**, barrister of Hamilton, has been appointed a District Court Judge with a Family Court warrant and will sit in Manukau. Judge Tan will be sworn in on 18 February in Hamilton.

**Robyn von Keisenberg**, barrister of Auckland, has been appointed a District Court Judge with a Family Court warrant and will sit in Auckland. Judge von Keisenberg will be sworn in on 12 March in Auckland.

The Family Law Section warmly congratulate all the new judges and wish them well in their new roles.

*Kirsty Swadling*  
*FLS Chair*