



FAMILY LAW  
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There are currently two casual vacancies on the FLS executive due to the appointment of Michelle Duggan (Nelson) and Tony Greig (Christchurch) to the bench.

Rule 6.4.3 of the FLS rules gives the executive power to fill any casual vacancy. Any member appointed will hold office until the end of the term of office of the replaced member.

The executive met by teleconference on 31 January and 5 February to consider the possibility of appointing members to fill the two casual vacancies. It agreed that it was both desirable and necessary to retain a full membership of the executive and discussed a number of considerations including the workload of the FLS, gender, areas of practice and regional diversity. Given the particular timing of these appointments and the forthcoming loss of further experienced executive members it was considered important that these vacancies be filled as soon as possible. If an election is required following a call for nominations this Friday, the next meeting of the new executive will not take place until 15 May.

The executive agreed to appoint the following members to the executive to fill the two casual vacancies:

Richard Smith (Invercargill) – appointed until 31 March 2021 to complete Tony Greig's term

Johan Niemand (Hamilton) – appointed until 31 March 2022 to complete Michelle Duggan's term

On 31 March, there will be three vacancies on the executive **Kirsty Swadling** (Auckland), **Susie Houghton** (Auckland) and **Kathryn Crooks** (Whanganui) will retire on rotation. Kirsty and Kathryn have advised they will not be re-standing for election. A call for nominations will be made on 14 February and will close on 2 March. If more than three nominations are received, an electronic election will be held between 9 March and 3 April.

I encourage you to seriously consider putting your name forward if you are interested in contributing to the FLS in this way. If you would like to know more about what is involved in being on the executive, please do not hesitate to give me a call.

*Kirsty Swadling*  
*FLS Chair*