

### **New FLS regional representative – North Shore**

Rebecca Holm has been appointed as the new FLS regional representative for the North Shore. Based as a family lawyer in the North Shore area for the past 16 years, Rebecca is looking forward to keeping the North Shore bar collegial and supportive. Rebecca will take on the role from Chrissy Armstrong (Montague) who was sworn in as a District Court Judge on 20 October.

### **New Family Advocate editor appointed**

Dr Allan Cooke will be stepping down as the editor for *Family Advocate* at the end of June next year. We are pleased to advise that Emily Stannard has been appointed to the role and will work with Allan on the next two editions of the magazine when she will take up the position of sole editor in June. Emily is currently an associate at Willis Legal in Hastings where she practises in family and mental health law. She has recently completed an LLM from the University of Otago on therapeutic jurisprudence in Aotearoa New Zealand's family justice system. Prior to her current role, Emily has been a VSA volunteer in Samoa, a judge's clerk in the District Court and a practising solicitor in Whakatāne.

### **Reminder – Auckland Christmas function – Thursday 26 November**

The central Auckland FLS regional representatives have organised Christmas drinks at the The Cav in Ponsonby on Thursday 26 November, from 6.00 to 9.00pm. This is a popular event and has been well attended by FLS members over past years. Numbers are limited this year so we do encourage you to RSVP early to avoid missing out on attending.

Click [here](#) for the full invitation and [here](#) to RSVP **by Friday 20 November**. Payment must accompany your RSVP in order to confirm your attendance. Unfortunately no refunds are able to be issued after 20 November as final confirmation with the venue is required by this date.

### **Specialist report writers in court**

An issue was raised with the FLS when we last met with Principal Family Court Judge Jackie Moran. In some regions, specialist report writers have been attending entire court hearings at the request of lawyer for child. A reminder to members that this situation should only arise in exceptional cases and after seeking leave of the Judge well in advance of the hearing. Having a report writer present throughout a hearing also has significant cost implications to the Court and the parties.

### **Electronic file and pay now available in courts**

Lawyers and court participants are now able to file documents and pay associated filing fees online for the Court of Appeal and the High Court (and in some District Court applications). The service was introduced on 28 October and can be accessed through the [Courts of New Zealand website](#).

The service is a simple online form that allows lawyers and court participants to upload documents and pay associated filing fees using a credit or debit card. Those using the service will be sent a GST receipt to the email address they enter with their submission. Following a File and Pay submission, the lawyer/court participant will continue to interact with the court as they do currently. If the submission is refused or rejected by the court, they will be contacted as usual by email, phone or by post. District Court applications will also offer the service for **dissolution of marriage, civil enforcement and civil proceedings**, although the paper application will still need to be sent to the court. The service will only be available for other jurisdictions when there is a need to ensure business continuity, for example, a change in pandemic alert levels or during a natural disaster.

*Caroline Hickman*  
*FLS Chair*