
CHAMBERS GLOBAL 2024

The Leading Lawyers and Law Firms Globally

New Zealand



How lawyers are ranked

Every year we carry out thousands of in-depth interviews with clients in order to assess the reputations and expertise of business lawyers worldwide. The qualities we look for (and which determine rankings) include technical legal ability, professional conduct, client service, commercial awareness/astuteness, diligence, commitment, and other qualities most valued by the client.

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Corporate/Commercial

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Alderton is based in Auckland and noted for his handling of a wide range of M&A transactions, his clients including players in the technology and energy sectors. **Strengths:** “Dean can distil information really fast and is all across the detail.” “Dean Alderton is very responsive, knowledgeable and pragmatic.” **Glenn Joblin** is based in Auckland and advises extensively on corporate transactions, being particularly well known for those he handles on behalf of insurance sector clients. He is also an experienced handler of FMCG sector-related deals. **Amon Nunns** is based in Wellington and regularly acts for clients in relation to corporate acquisitions and capital market transactions. **Toby Sharpe** is a respected Auckland-based practitioner who often acts on ECM and M&A transactions for clients in the financial services and technology sectors. **Strengths:** “He is technically strong, approachable and very easy to work with.”

Chapman Tripp

What the team is known for Chapman Tripp's elite national team is acclaimed for its ability to handle major M&A and complex capital markets mandates including IPOs and secondary capital raisings. The law firm attracts an array of New Zealand corporates and is well regarded for its multi-jurisdictional M&A capability. Its legal team is experienced on mandates spanning jurisdictions across the Asia-Pacific region, Europe and the USA. The team represents private equity investors and sovereign wealth funds and has extensive experience across a range of key market areas including telecommunications, real estate, banking and energy. Key clients include New Zealand Treasury, Northleaf Capital and Partners Life.

Foreign desks Chapman Tripp is well recognised for its extensive experience assisting clients on matters involving the Pacific Islands. The firm supports a varied clientele, including both private companies and public entities, and is noted for its work in the projects and energy sphere. The team is most prominently recognised for its work in Samoa, Tonga and the Solomon Islands.

Strengths

“They have always been excellent in the support and advice they provide to us.”

“They are really good at finding a sensible way through a deal.”

Work highlights Chapman Tripp advised New Zealand Treasury on Air New Zealand's NZD2.2 billion recapitalisation package, including the New Zealand Government's participation in Air New Zealand's NZD1.2 billion underwritten rights issue, and associated funding arrangements.

Notable practitioners

John Strowger is widely acknowledged to be one of New Zealand's pre-eminent corporate and commercial practitioners. Based in Auckland, he frequently acts for major listed corporates and private equity groups in relation to equity capital raisings and private equity transactions. **Roger Wallis** is a highly regarded, Auckland-based lawyer, noted in particular for his experience acting on corporate transactions in the insurance and financial services sectors. He also draws praise for his capital markets experience. **Rachel Dunne** is noted for her experience assisting a range of clients in relation to IPOs and M&A

transactions. She is based in Auckland and is well regarded both by clients and fellow practitioners. **Strengths:** “Rachel has fantastic legal knowledge and skills.” **Tim Tubman** is based in Auckland and is particularly well regarded as an adviser to financial services sector clients on corporate matters. **Strengths:** “Tim is simply outstanding.” **Pip England** offers rich experience in the handling of M&A transactions for both domestic and international clients, among whom major property sector players feature prominently. **Joshua Pringle** is based in Auckland and operates across the public M&A and private equity spectrum, additionally offering notable expertise concerning the regulation of corporate, securities and shareholder-related issues. **Strengths:** “He cares about the important points, doesn't waste clients' time and is very easy to deal with.” **Josh Blackmore** is reputed in the Wellington market for his experience structuring large M&A and ECM transactions including public listings, capital raisings and schemes of arrangement. **Strengths:** “We never hesitate about using Josh on transactional stuff. He's a very smart, personable, warm person and we click with him.” “Joshua Blackmore we love working with. He's always really responsive, available and solutions-focused.”

MinterEllisonRuddWatts

What the team is known for MinterEllisonRuddWatts' well-established practice offers broad capabilities across a range of M&A, joint ventures, corporate governance and ECM transactions. Its corporate team is engaged on complex matters for significant domestic and international clients, and has an established reputation advising private equity clients on acquisitions and disposals. Its experience spans multiple industry sectors, including food and beverages, manufacturing and mining. Its key clients include Fonterra, Metlife-care and Dai-ichi Life.

Strengths

“Their team demonstrated a high level of expertise, professionalism and attention to detail throughout the engagement. They provided practical and strategic advice that helped us navigate a challenging transaction and achieve our objectives.”

“They are very capable in handling complexity, with access to expertise in a wide range of practice areas to support multifaceted transactions.”

Work highlights MinterEllisonRuddWatts acted for Dai-ichi Life on its acquisition of 100% of the shares in Partners Group Holdings from its existing shareholders.

Notable practitioners

Cathy Quinn is a deeply experienced practitioner, noted not only for her stewardship of numerous major M&A transactions, but also as an adviser to key government agencies on corporate and commercial, capital markets and securities-related issues. Now acting as a consultant in the firm's Auckland office, she continues to advise on aspects of the team's more complex mandates. **Mark Forman** is based in Auckland and frequently acts as an adviser to financial services providers, private equity houses and listed companies in relation to corporate transactions. **Strengths:** “Mark is an outstanding lawyer with pragmatic and practical solutions to multifaceted,

complex commercial and legal issues.” **Neil Millar** operates across a broad corporate and commercial spectrum but is particularly well known for assisting private equity clients in relation to their acquisitions. He is based in Auckland. **Strengths:** “Neil is an excellent lawyer, and we will definitely be using him again for New Zealand transactions.” “I have worked with Neil for several years now and would not seek any alternative. He is exceptional.” **Mark Stuart** acts extensively in relation to corporate acquisitions and disposals, as well as offering noted experience in capital raisings. He is based in Auckland. **Strengths:** “Mark provides excellent legal advice and is a highly trusted individual for our business.”

Russell McVeagh

What the team is known for Russell McVeagh is a full-service firm with a commercial practice which advises an impressive cross-section of domestic and international clients. It offers a broad capability with notable expertise in high-value corporate acquisitions, joint ventures and ECM transactions. Its commercial team handles deals in a wide range of sectors, including energy, finance, insurance, healthcare and real estate. The firm is also able to assist clients with corporate restructuring procedures. Its key clients include Silver Lake, UBS and Citigroup.

Strengths

“Russell McVeagh are proactive and responsive, and the level of work they produce is to a professional and very high standard.”

“I've been in the trenches with them, and they are always focused on getting the client the best results. They're also deeply commercial.”

Work highlights Russell McVeagh advised Beijing Capital Group on the sale of Waste Management to Igneo Infrastructure Partners for NZD1.9 billion.

Notable practitioners

David Hoare is an established, Auckland-based figure in the market who regularly assists clients on private equity and public M&A transactions as well as on corporate restructuring matters.

Strengths: “David is very commercial; he understands the compromise and balance required to get a deal done.” **Joe Windmeyer** is based in Auckland and is a highly respected practitioner who is particularly well regarded for his work advising clients on M&A and equity capital markets transactions.

Ben Paterson frequently advises in relation to private equity transactions and is also active with regard to public M&A deals. He is based in Auckland. **Strengths:** “Ben is deeply methodical and walks us through the issues step by step.” **Ian Beaumont** is recognised for his strong track record advising on high-profile transactions. His practice covers takeovers, joint ventures and capital markets transactions. **Strengths:** “Ian is a pleasure to work with. He is very knowledgeable, practical and calm under pressure.” “Ian Beaumont is an excellent corporate adviser.”

Band 2

Buddle Findlay

What the team is known for Buddle Findlay's broad corporate practice offers in-depth M&A

expertise to an impressive range of both domestic and international clients. The firm advises on a variety of M&A, private equity and block trade deals, as well as transactional regulatory issues. Its team acts for a range of banks, funds, domestic and international corporates and government entities on deals in a wide range of industry sectors. Its key clients include Vodafone New Zealand, Brookfield Asset Management and Infratil.

Strengths

"They have broad and in-depth industry experience and bring a pragmatic and commercial approach to the table that allows us to assess commercial options with a good knowledge of the risks and rewards."

"Buddle Findlay delivers as and when promised across the board and to a very high standard."

Work highlights Buddle Findlay advised Brookfield on the New Zealand aspects of a transaction to acquire 50% of trans-Tasman smart meter business the Intellihub group.

Notable practitioners

Grant Dunn is based in Auckland and is active in both the public M&A and private equity spheres, offering noted experience of cross-border transactions, including those subject to Overseas Investment Office approval. **Strengths:** *"Grant is a superb lawyer who has taken the time to really get to know our business and understand where our risk appetite is on transactions."* **He is very easy to communicate with, experienced and very good at communicating issues."** **Simon Vodanovich** handles a wide range of transactional, advisory and regulatory mandates from the Auckland office and is active in both the public and private M&A fields. He is particularly experienced in the capital markets space. **David Thomson** maintains a diverse corporate and commercial practice, covering transactional, contractual and governance issues and embracing work for both private and public sector clients operating in a variety of industries and business sectors. He is based in Auckland. **Strengths:** *"David provides excellent service and advice with a commercial approach."* **Terence Ng** is a highly rated lawyer who is fluent in both Mandarin and Cantonese. He is co-leader of the Asian desk and is best known for his work advising financial institutions, corporates and property developers on inbound investments. **Strengths:** *"Terence has an in-depth understanding of Asian cultures and markets and it is exactly what we need when dealing with overseas clients."*

Harmos Horton Lusk

What the team is known for Harmos Horton Lusk is a high-quality, specialist M&A firm with a dedicated team of seasoned practitioners. Its legal team is noted for its diversity of expertise and ability to handle complex transactions, assisting clients with M&A, joint ventures, securities mandates and capital raisings. It is instructed on deals across a range of sectors, and particularly adept at advising on compliance with New Zealand's investment and finance regulations. It is also adept at advising on corporate governance. Key clients include NZX, Vontier and Whiting Holdings.

Strengths

"They are easy-going, practical and busi-

ness-minded in their approach. They just know how to get things done."

"The hours they put into servicing their clients is impressive. You feel that they are always thinking of you and coming up with new and innovative ideas to progress things along."

Work highlights Harmos Horton Lusk advised Trilogy International Partners on the sale by Trilogy, Tesbirt and Pacific Custodians (New Zealand) of 100% of the shares in 2degrees to Voyage Digital.

Notable practitioners

Greg Horton is a well-established, Auckland-based figure in the market, noted for his experience acting for domestic and international clients in relation to both public M&A and private equity transactions. **Andrew Harmos** is based in Auckland and has a wealth of experience assisting clients in relation to substantial M&A transactions, in addition to complex corporate governance advice. **Strengths:** *"Andrew is exceptionally insightful and pragmatic. He is keenly aware of the practical ramifications of legal strategies."* *"Andrew Harmos is a leading and trusted adviser."*

Nathanael Starrenburg is an experienced figure in the market, noted for his work assisting clients on both M&A and capital markets transactions. He is based in Auckland. **Strengths:** *"Nathanael is a clear and calm communicator. He provides excellent legal advice with commercial overtones."* *"Nat is a strong operator who understands the complexities of financial markets and data."* **Tim Mitchelson** is a well-regarded Auckland-based lawyer who acts for clients in relation to mergers and acquisitions, equity capital markets and joint venture transactions. **Strengths:** *"Tim is a very strong M&A and commercial lawyer. He has an ability to see the big picture and execute on strategy."*

Simpson Grierson

What the team is known for Simpson Grierson's strong practice handles the full range of corporate matters on behalf of leading international and domestic companies. The firm is home to a substantial offering of IPO, M&A, private equity and corporate restructuring knowledge, with experience in high-profile transactions across a wide range of industries. It is often instructed by prominent funds, private equity firms and international corporates on inbound investment into New Zealand. Its key clients include New Zealand Rugby, Auckland City BMW and Lodestone Energy.

Strengths

"The Simpson Grierson team proved themselves to be extremely competent, trusted advisers in this space, explaining the process to us step by step, unpacking the complexity and offering extremely useful advice."

"It is clear that Simpson Grierson has the depth of knowledge and experience to handle a wide range of areas of the law."

Work highlights Simpson Grierson acted for Orcon on its merger with 2degrees.

Notable practitioners

Michael Pollard is based in Auckland and regularly acts for clients on both corporate transactions and equity capital market matters. He is an experienced handler of trans-Tasman mandates and frequently acts on behalf of clubs formed by

investment banks and brokers to underwrite specific capital markets transactions. **Strengths:** *"He is a very solid and experienced commercial lawyer. You feel like you are in safe hands."* *"Michael is very knowledgeable, very pragmatic, and is not afraid to make a call on something. He is excellent to deal with."* **James Hawes** is a well-regarded Auckland-based practitioner who acts for clients on a variety of transactions, including capital raisings, corporate takeovers and M&A deals.

Strengths: *"James provided solid and considered advice throughout the project."* **Andrew Matthews** advises across a wide range of issues, including corporate takeovers and acquisitions as well as compliance and governance matters. He is based in Auckland.

Band 3

DLA Piper New Zealand

What the team is known for DLA Piper New Zealand's broad corporate practice advises domestic and international clients on foreign investments, capital markets and joint ventures. Its team possesses strong cross-border capabilities, utilising expertise from around the globe through the DLA Piper international network. It provides particular expertise on deals in the agriculture, finance and insurance sectors. The team handles work on behalf of a diverse clientele, spanning multinational and listed companies, private equity firms and financial institutions. Its clients include Aquila Capital, Prolife Foods and UBS.

Strengths

"They deliver an outstanding professional service. The legal insight, expertise and drive of the team makes the client experience extremely positive. Our lawyers go above and beyond to ensure that we always get the best possible outcome for our transactions."

"They provided excellent advice and support."

Work highlights DLA Piper New Zealand advised BlackRock on the acquisition by GRP III NZ Bidco of 100% of the shares in solarZero by way of a scheme of arrangement.

Notable practitioners

Martin Wiseman is based in Auckland and is a highly experienced handler of M&A transactions, which often incorporate international dimensions, for leading New Zealand corporates. **Strengths:** *"Martin is a senior partner with a wealth of experience and is able to get to the heart of the matter quickly."* **Martin Thomson** maintains a highly active practice from the Auckland office, assisting clients on M&A and venture capital transactions, and is particularly active in the forestry and agribusiness sectors. Clients appreciate his ability to advise on cross-border issues impacting on their transactions. **Strengths:** *"He navigates the legal process with ease and guides the client with care, skill and agility. Having Martin as our lawyer gives us confidence, clarity and comfort. He has grasped our company culture, values and philosophy from the start and tailored the legal advice and service to our specific needs."* **Reuben Woods** is based in Auckland and acts frequently on public M&A, private equity and venture capital transactions, many of which have cross-jurisdictional aspects.

Strengths: “Reuben is genuinely interested in the success of our business and is very aware of where we are in the market. He has his finger on the pulse.” “Reuben was superb. He was commercially pragmatic, very responsive and results-driven.”

Webb Henderson

What the team is known for Webb Henderson’s solid corporate team advises a range of domestic and international clients on M&A, divestments, joint ventures and IPOs. The team also advises on foreign investment regulations, and often handles deals in the infrastructure, energy, insurance, food and drink, and technology sectors. Its clientele includes both listed companies and private equity investors. Notable clients include Allegro Funds, Anchorage Capital Partners and Fonterra Co-operative Group.

Strengths

“Webb Henderson has deep commercial experience, but more importantly they invest in understanding their clients’ businesses and drivers, which makes their advice more efficient and focused.”

“The firm has provided a simply exceptional level of service and responsiveness.”

Work highlights Webb Henderson advised Spark New Zealand on its sale of a 70% interest in Spark TowerCo to the Ontario Teachers’ Pension Plan Board.

Notable practitioners

Graeme Quigley is based in Auckland and acts on M&A and other transactions, as well as complex corporate governance issues. **Strengths:** “He has a calm and considered approach and provides commercially focused advice.” “He has navigated some tricky issues for us and is very well respected around our organisation as a result.” **Garth Sinclair** is a well-regarded Auckland-based practitioner, noted for his work advising clients on public M&A and private equity transactions. **Strengths:** “He is an extraordinary lawyer.” **Michael Gartshore** conducts a comprehensive corporate and commercial practice covering transactional, contractual and governance issues and embracing both public and private equity deals. He is based in Auckland. **Strengths:** “He is very commercial and able to work effectively with difficult counterparties.”

Band 4

Anderson Lloyd

What the team is known for Anderson Lloyd’s well-established national practice advises clients on a variety of corporate and M&A matters. Its commercial team is active on public M&A and private equity transactions, as well as equity capital markets matters. Clients of the firm include American Tower Corporation, New Forests and Southern Lamb Investments.

Strengths

“In terms of executing guidance and being fairly autonomous with legal matters, Anderson Lloyd were very efficient in understanding our needs.”

“Anderson Lloyd provided commercial advice during the acquisition and their dealing with a number of contractual issues has been commercially very sound indeed.”

Work highlights Anderson Lloyd acted for Amer-

ican Tower Corporation on its acquisition of Clearspan Property.

Notable practitioners

Chris Bargery is based in Auckland and maintains a comprehensive corporate and commercial practice, acting on both regular M&A and private equity transactions, on a variety of contractual arrangements, including joint venture agreements, and on general corporate issues. **Strengths:** “I love working with Chris. He is always welcoming, has a positive demeanour and provides excellent advice.” “He is very practical and focuses on the key issues.”

Dentons New Zealand

What the team is known for Dentons is a full-service firm with significant expertise in advising international clients – notably including Chinese and other Asian businesses – on their investments in New Zealand. The corporate/commercial team advises on M&A, corporate restructuring, joint ventures and equity transactions. Its team represents clients in a variety of areas including infrastructure, transportation, manufacturing and finance. The firm is noted for advising Māori businesses with regard to the full range of issues impacting the development of their operations, as well as fielding a full suite of strategic corporate governance advice. Its key clients include Warner Music, CBRE and Unison Networks.

Strengths

“They are always extremely pleasant to deal with and I also really appreciate that they are quick in turning around advice. Their advice is very pragmatic and succinct.”

“The service level is high – super responsive!”

Work highlights Dentons New Zealand advised Ngāti Toa on the recent funding and acquisition structure to enable the acquisition of Crown assets as part of Ngāti Toa’s Treaty settlement under the Ngāti Toa Rangitira Claims Settlement Act 2014.

Notable practitioners

Chris Parke is based in Auckland and advises both foreign and domestic clients on a comprehensive range of practice area issues, including M&A transactions, contractual arrangements and regulatory questions. **Strengths:** “Chris is an exceptional corporate lawyer. He does a masterful job at drafting deal documents and he understands the commercial issues related to transactions.” “Chris Parke is very commercial and pragmatic. He is great with clients and understanding their needs.”

Flacks & Wong

What the team is known for Flacks & Wong’s well-regarded Auckland-based corporate team offers comprehensive M&A and ECM expertise, handling the full range of acquisitions, joint ventures, IPOs and capital raisings, especially for domestic corporates. Its team is active on deals across a range of industries including agriculture, technology and real estate. The firm is also able to advise on corporate compliance and governance mandates. Its key clients include Tesbitt, Lamont & Co and Greenfern Industries.

Strengths

“Responsiveness is clearly a top priority for the Flacks & Wong team.”

“They make complex matters seem simple.”

Work highlights Flacks & Wong advised the shareholders of Hobson Leavy on the sale of 100% of the shares in the company to Accordant.

Notable practitioners

Daniel Wong regularly acts for clients on public M&A and private equity transactions, as well as equity capital markets matters. **Strengths:** “He is prompt, efficient and puts me at ease on matters that I am unfamiliar with.” “Daniel was very skilled and responsive and a pleasure to deal with.” **David Flacks** is noted for his extensive experience assisting clients on public takeovers and M&A transactions and is also well equipped to advise on regulatory and corporate governance issues.

Mayne Wetherell

What the team is known for Mayne Wetherell’s respected corporate team is proficient in advising on capital markets, foreign investments and general commercial matters. The firm is well placed to handle cross-border M&A, with in-depth knowledge of New Zealand’s foreign investment regulations. It acts on behalf of a range of corporates, shareholders, institutional investors and private equity houses. Notable clients include 2degrees, Kantar and ZIWI.

Strengths

“Their excellent service levels and responsiveness are key reasons for us continuing to engage their services.”

“The Mayne Wetherell team were excellent. They were extremely competent and commercial.”

Work highlights Mayne Wetherell acted for KKR on its acquisition of 100% of the ordinary shares in Ritchies Transport.

Notable practitioners

Matthew Olsen is based in Auckland and acts on a variety of corporate matters, including public acquisitions and venture capital transactions. **Strengths:** “He is exceptional in terms of his technical ability and client service approach.”

Band 5

Anthony Harper

What the team is known for Anthony Harper is noted for its broad corporate and commercial practice and frequently acts for clients on public M&A, private equity transactions, corporate structuring, joint ventures and capital raisings. Able to assist clients on cross-border mandates and counts private equity firms and listed companies among its clientele. Key clients include Javelin, Merivale-Willowlea and the New Zealand government’s Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment.

Strengths

“They take a very pragmatic approach with strong commercial acumen in their recommendations and counsel.”

“Anthony Harper’s responsiveness and service levels were excellent.”

Work highlights Anthony Harper advised Scales Corporation on the acquisition of a 50% interest in the Australian and New Zealand operations of Fayman International and a 42% interest in ANZ Exports.

Notable practitioners

David Gould is based in Christchurch and acts for clients on a range of transactional mandates, including corporate acquisitions and sales, private equity investments and equity capital raisings. **Strengths:** “David is a highly competent and commercial lawyer who is well placed to assist his clients through the M&A process.” “He is astute, thorough and responsive.”

Wynn Williams Lawyers

What the team is known for Wynn Williams Lawyers’ well-regarded practice is often engaged to advise in relation to substantial corporate transactions. The firm acts for corporate clients and private equity outfits on matters in a variety of sectors, demonstrating expertise on issues relating to joint ventures, equity raisings and corporate restructuring. Key clients include BGH, Kiwa and Silver Shadow.

Strengths

“They are an important part of our team and we receive a faultless level of service and responsiveness.”

“The team comprises lawyers at every level that add value in all of our more complex situations.”

Work highlights Wynn Williams Lawyers represented BGH in respect of all aspects of the sale of its New Zealand and Australian business operations to Motion New Zealand and CBC Australia.

Notable practitioners

Ash Hill is based in Auckland and acts regularly on a variety of domestic and cross-border mandates, including mergers and acquisitions, private equity investments and joint venture arrangements. **Strengths:** “Ash’s service is second to none. He understands exactly what we’re able to achieve and goes about it in a way that is perfectly suited to our situation.”

Other Ranked Lawyers

Mark Lowndes of Tompkins Wake in Auckland is particularly well regarded for his experience in the handling of public M&A, private equity and capital markets transactions. Interviewees regularly testify to his in-depth understanding of business realities and strong commitment to helping clients meet their objectives.

Strengths:

“Mark’s strength is his natural ability to understand the company’s issues and provide measured advice.”

Dispute Resolution

Dispute Resolution
Leading Firms
Band 1
Bell Gully
Chapman Tripp
Band 2
Gilbert Walker
MinterEllisonRuddWatts
Russell McVeagh
Simpson Grierson
Wilson Harle
Band 3
Buddle Findlay
LeeSalmonLong
Band 4
Anthony Harper
Dentons New Zealand
DLA Piper New Zealand
Lindsay & Francis
Meredith Connell
Tompkins Wake
Wynn Williams Lawyers
◊ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

Band 1

Bell Gully

What the team is known for Bell Gully’s committed team advises on high-profile and complex cases in New Zealand, and is a distinguished leader in defence of class action proceedings. The firm works with a prestigious clientele, including financial institutions and government bodies as well as corporations. Other areas of impressive capability include contentious insolvency proceedings, defective product claims, tax disputes

Dispute Resolution	Senior Statespeople	Leading Individuals
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners	McKay John Chapman Tripp	
Lange Richard Simpson Grierson		
Leading Individuals		
Band 1	MacGillivray James Tompkins Wake	
Ferguson Allison Wilson Harle	Rosic Iva Gilbert Walker	
Shortall Stacey MinterEllisonRuddWatts	Thain Iain DLA Piper New Zealand	
Band 2	Wilson Hayden Dentons New Zealand	
Browne Chris Wilson Harle	Band 4	
Cuncannon Fionnghuala Meredith Connell	Broadmore David Buddle Findlay	
Denton Ian Wilson Harle	Campbell Shane Wynn Williams Lawyers	
Friar David Bell Gully	Eastwick-Field Marika Russell McVeagh	
Harris Matthew Gilbert Walker	Fitzgerald Tim Bell Gully	
Mullins Tim LeeSalmonLong	Francis Kim Lindsay & Francis	
Pope Polly Bankside Chambers (ORL) ◊	Heard Michael LeeSalmonLong	
Smith Martin Gilbert Walker	Monteiro Felicity Wilson Harle	
Smith Tim Chapman Tripp	Palmer Willie Buddle Findlay	
Stevens Jenny Bell Gully	Wilson Jesse Bell Gully	
Band 3	Woods Peter Anthony Harper	
Arthur Michael Chapman Tripp	Up-and-coming individuals	
Baigent Jania Simpson Grierson	Standage Jane MinterEllisonRuddWatts	
East Sophie Bell Gully	Swan Nicola Chapman Tripp	
Horne Andrew MinterEllisonRuddWatts	Van Lynne Anthony Harper	
Lindsay Timothy Lindsay & Francis		

and regulatory investigations and litigation. Bell Gully offers further proficiency in such ADR proceedings as arbitration and expert determinations. Its key clients include ANZ Bank, the Electricity Authority and Carter Holt Harvey.

Strengths

“Bell Gully really understand our business.”

“The firm’s lawyers are highly skilled and offer a good blend of client protection with commercial realism.”

Work highlights Bell Gully acted for the Fletcher

Construction Company on insurance arbitration and court proceedings concerning a fire in the New Zealand International Convention Centre.

Notable practitioners

David Friar is based in Auckland and offers over 20 years’ experience as a commercial litigator in a variety of complex commercial cases, including notable insolvency and insurance-related disputes. **Strengths:** “David is really good at understanding what we need as a business.” **Jenny Stevens** is based in Wellington, and in addition

**Foreign Desks
Dispute Resolution****Based in New Zealand
with expertise in countries listed below****Pacific Islands** Simpson Grierson**Foreign Experts
Dispute Resolution****Based in New Zealand
with expertise in countries listed below****Pacific Islands** Hikaka Isaac Mills Lane (ORL) ◇**Pacific Islands** Upton Ben Simpson Grierson

◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.

to being particularly well known for her competition-related expertise, she is active across a wide range of commercial matters, including consumer issues and potentially contentious matters in the banking and energy sectors. **Sophie East** exercises a wide-ranging commercial disputes capability from the Auckland office. Her areas of particular expertise include class actions, banking and finance disputes and arbitrations. **Tim Fitzgerald** has a wide-ranging commercial litigation practice out of Auckland. He specialises in class actions, investment reviews and compensation claims. **Strengths:** “He is exceptionally pragmatic and highly experienced. He is strong, direct but people-aware.” **Jesse Wilson** acts particularly prominently on corporate and construction disputes and is also an experienced handler of product liability and securities-related issues. **Strengths:** “Jesse has a good commercial understanding of the business.”

Chapman Tripp

What the team is known for Chapman Tripp fields an admired team of skilled litigators experienced in a range of contentious commercial matters, with leading expertise in construction, insurance and intellectual property disputes. The firm is also highlighted for its representation of clients in proceedings brought by regulatory bodies, including the Inland Revenue and the Financial Markets Authority. The team offers dedicated arbitration expertise, with experience acting as arbitration counsel and as arbitrators on domestic and international disputes. Chapman Tripp often acts on behalf of both New Zealand entities and multinational corporations in multi-jurisdictional cases, and is prominent in the handling of cases addressing novel questions of law in such areas as climate change or the interaction of modern legislation with indigenous custom. Its key clients include Chorus New Zealand, Fonterra and the Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei Trust.

Strengths

“On a range of matters Chapman Tripp has provided timely, accurate and nuanced advice.”

“Chapman Tripp knows our business and is well connected.”

“With Chapman Tripp, you always get clear, practical and high-quality advice.”

Work highlights Chapman Tripp advised the Solomon Islands Electricity Authority on a dispute with contractor Tina Hydropower in relation to a USD60 million claim for delay of construction of the Tina River Hydropower Plant.

Notable practitioners

John McKay has practised as a commercial litigator for over 30 years, being particularly well known for his handling of high-profile construction and media-related disputes. **Tim Smith** maintains a notably varied commercial practice in which matters for major players in the energy and telecommunications spheres feature significantly. He is based in Wellington and experienced in handling matters heard by the High Court, Court of Appeal and Supreme Court. **Michael Arthur** is well reputed for his litigation skills. He advises large companies and finance companies on commercial, contractual and property disputes. **Nicola Swan** is based in Wellington and stands out for her extensive experience of cross-jurisdictional litigation and arbitration and for a strong focus on contentious climate risk-related issues.

Band 2**Gilbert Walker**

What the team is known for Gilbert Walker's Auckland-based boutique litigation and arbitration practice provides both advisory expertise and advocacy in complex commercial matters. Its impressive clientele includes financial institutions and leading domestic and international corporations. Its litigation team is particularly noted for its handling of class action and other litigation relating to insurance, professional liability and financial matters, and it is also highlighted for advising on environmental protection cases and construction disputes. Its key clients include AFT Pharmaceuticals, ANZ Bank and Kiwi Property.

Strengths

“Gilbert Walker has a tight, effective and experienced team.”

Work highlights Gilbert Walker acted for AFT Pharmaceuticals in defending a High Court claim by PBL Solutions.

Notable practitioners

Matthew Harris conducts his practice across a wide commercial range, but is particularly experienced in the construction and insurance fields and in the handling of class actions and professional liability issues. **Strengths:** “Matthew is commercially astute and client-focused.” **Martin Smith** is a notably experienced handler of commercial, insurance, professional liability and property-related disputes and acts for a clientele which includes leading banks, insurers and commercial landlords. **Strengths:** “Martin is very polished in court.” **Iva Rosic** is particularly experienced in the handling of large-scale commercial and insurance-related disputes and of regulatory issues. **Strengths:** “Iva is a very affective operator who gets to the heart of the matter.”

MinterEllisonRuddWatts

What the team is known for MinterEllisonRuddWatts' well-resourced group is known for the depth and diversity of its practice, and it maintains an impressive client base embracing high-profile domestic and multinational corporations, leading financial services providers, public sector bodies and prominent individuals. The firm offers significant expertise across a range of commercial litigation matters, including construction, envi-

ronmental, insolvency and insurance-related disputes, and is well equipped to advise on cross-border mandates both within and beyond the Asia-Pacific region. The group is frequently instructed in connection with regulatory investigations and related court proceedings and on High Court, Court of Appeal and Supreme Court litigation. Key clients include Bathurst Resources, Beach Energy and PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Strengths

“Minter is very client-focused and tries to understand the client's goal.”

“MinterEllisonRuddWatts is extremely commercial.”

Work highlights MinterEllisonRuddWatts represented the trustee of the Mt. Gox Cyber-Exchange in relation to the seizure of NZD140 million of cryptocurrency allegedly stolen from the exchange by Alexander Vinnik.

Notable practitioners

Stacey Shortall is based in Wellington and, in addition to being active across a broad spectrum of contentious matters, covering environmental, insurance and white-collar criminal issues, she is particularly well known for her handling of health and safety-related litigation. **Andrew Horne** is based in Auckland and offers over 25 years of experience in the disputes space, where he focuses closely on matters arising from the financial services, technology and telecommunications sectors. **Strengths:** “I have really appreciated Andrew's sharp legal mind and constructive advice this year. He is gentle and calm but always seems to get to the nub of the matter.” **Jane Standage** is based in Auckland and offers extensive experience of large-scale domestic and international disputes. Her impressive commercial range covers such areas as class actions, financial services and insurance matters, and questions of alleged professional negligence.

Russell McVeagh

What the team is known for Russell McVeagh's deep resources include specialists across all major industries to act on litigation and alternative dispute resolution mandates. The firm boasts a well-staffed bench across the Auckland and Wellington offices, supplemented where appropriate by expertise from other practice groups, servicing a broad base of private and public sector clients. Its disputes team has a noted track record of defending representative actions and appearing in large-scale insolvency and construction-related litigation. The team is also prominent in advising financial institutions on regulatory investigations. Key clients include Bank of New Zealand, KPMG and Tiger Brokers.

Strengths

“They are strong from top to bottom, and there has been no issue they have not been able to handle immediately.”

“Russell McVeagh were very responsive in very tight timeframes and offered sound, complete advice and very good drafting.”

Work highlights Russell McVeagh advised the plaintiff building owners on a product liability claim against manufacturers of Alucobond core cladding products.

Notable practitioners

Marika Eastwick-Field offers experience across the commercial spectrum, including the handling of major transactional disputes, financial services matters and insurance-related issues. She is based in Auckland. **Strengths:** “*Marika is incredibly intelligent and surrounds herself with a very good team that has depth and breadth.*”

Simpson Grierson

What the team is known for Simpson Grierson has a comprehensive litigation offering, with a noteworthy capability for acting on cross-border disputes for New Zealand companies and overseas businesses active in New Zealand markets. The firm is active across a range of areas including competition and regulatory, public, insurance, construction and privacy law. Simpson Grierson also provides specialist expertise in ADR processes such as arbitration and mediation, and is a popular choice for government and publicly owned entities. Its clients include Marlborough Lines, Auckland Council and the Financial Markets Authority.

Foreign desks Simpson Grierson fields a well-regarded group of practitioners offering advice on a wide range of matters. The team regularly provides commercial dispute resolution expertise on trusts, insolvency, environmental law matters as well as regulatory investigations in Samoa and the Cook Islands. Ben Upton is a key contact.

Strengths

“*Simpson Grierson offer pragmatic advice on very complex matters.*”

“*The firm’s advice is always clear even when the issue is complex.*”

Work highlights Simpson Grierson represented New Zealand Rugby Union in defence of a claim brought in the High Court alleging breach of duty of care towards an individual allegedly injured whilst playing rugby.

Notable practitioners

Richard Lange is a highly respected, Auckland-based former practice head who continues to play a leading role on key mandates, notably including those concerning complex contractual disputes. He also advises extensively on banking, insurance, and professional liability and negligence issues. **Jania Baigent** is based in Auckland and acts on a wide variety of commercial litigation issues, notably including complex contractual, insurance, defamation and privacy-related matters. **Ben Upton** is based in Auckland and is particularly active on contentious matters in Samoa and the Cook Islands. He focuses on banking litigation, with further expertise in employment and trust-related disputes.

Wilson Harle

What the team is known for Wilson Harle’s Auckland-based boutique litigation practice offers a high-end capability spanning commercial, regulatory and public law disputes. The firm maintains a high-calibre team of advocates who represent a distinguished client base from the energy, financial services, healthcare, media and telecommunications, and property sectors. The team is notably experienced in the handling of corporate governance disputes and active on behalf of regional public sector bodies. Its key clients include Napier

City Council, New Zealand Retail Property Group and Winton Land.

Strengths

“*Wilson Harle are practical and pragmatic, and always keep in mind the commercial aspects of a dispute.*”

“*Wilson is well aware of the desirability of achieving a favourable commercial outcome by negotiation rather than taking a case to trial for the sake of it.*”

Work highlights Wilson Harle represented the former directors of Intueri Education Group in a class action brought by purchasers of shares in the company during its IPO.

Notable practitioners

Allison Ferguson is an experienced handler of litigation at all court levels and of alternative dispute resolution procedures, and commands widespread market respect for a practice which covers a broad spectrum of contentious commercial issues, arising in fields which include construction, insurance and the media. **Strengths:**

“*Allison is a very experienced litigation lawyer with an exceptional mind. She is a real problem solver and a very good communicator.*”

Chris Browne brings to the table over 30 years’ experience of handling commercial and public law litigation at all court levels and maintains a broad-ranging practice which includes frequent involvement in contractual, shareholding and product liability matters. **Ian Denton** is active in a variety of areas of commercial litigation, enjoying a particularly high reputation for his handling of competition and insurance-related disputes. He also advises on product liability and contentious contractual matters. **Strengths:** “*Ian is an expert commercial litigator, capable of handling complex multi-faceted disputes and providing strategic and commercial guidance.*” **Felicity Monteiro** offers extensive and varied litigation experience embracing, among others, contractual, insolvency and trust-related issues and matters arising from the insurance, shipping and telecommunications sectors.

Band 3

Buddle Findlay

What the team is known for Buddle Findlay’s respected litigation practice regularly appears in courts and specialist tribunals up to and including Supreme Court level, acting for leading corporates, financial services providers and government bodies on a range of complex litigation matters including debt recovery cases and contract disputes. The firm maintains a strong Christchurch presence, handling earthquake-related disputes and offering specialist expertise concerning contentious environment and resource management issues. Additionally, Buddle Findlay is recognised for its advice on contentious IP and competition matters. Its key clients include Ashley Trust, New Zealand Steel and Southern Response Earthquake Services.

Strengths

“*Buddle Findlay offers very much practical and considered advice.*”

“*I have always found Buddle Findlay to be commercially focused, seeking to achieve the best result for the client in the circumstances.*”

“*Buddle Findlay has a broader appreciation of the commercial environment, which helps us anticipate risks we might not have considered.*”

Work highlights Buddle Findlay acted for Grant Thornton New Zealand in proceedings arising from the liquidation of Cryptopia.

Notable practitioners

David Broadmore has extensive experience advising on commercial and contractual disputes and is particularly noted for his track record in the banking, insolvency, property and energy sectors.

Strengths: “*David is responsive, sophisticated, savvy and very commercial.*” “*David has great strategic insight and analytical skills, and is extremely persuasive in written submissions and oral advocacy.*” **Willie Palmer** commands substantial respect as one of Christchurch’s foremost litigators, and his wide-ranging expertise covers fields such as construction, insolvency and insurance.

LeeSalmonLong

What the team is known for LeeSalmonLong maintains a busy Auckland-based team of expert litigators with noteworthy experience of advocacy in superior courts in both New Zealand and the Cook Islands, active in such areas as breach of contract, representative actions, allegations of defamation, and contentious insolvency and financial markets matters. Its litigation team acts on behalf of a clientele which includes leading companies, political organisations and NGOs. The team also handles public law matters and judicial reviews. Its key clients include Orbis Blockchain Technologies and TVNZ.

Strengths

“*LeeSalmonLong has excellent strategic thinkers in an overall commercial context.*”

Work highlights LeeSalmonLong advised TVNZ and one of its investigative reporters on a defamation proceeding brought by the Talley’s Group of companies.

Notable practitioners

Tim Mullins’s litigation practice spans both the commercial and regulatory spheres and includes experience acting for clients from the entertainment, financial services and IT sectors. **Michael Heard** advises across a wide range of commercial and contractual disputes, with expertise in the insolvency, construction, environmental and maritime sectors. **Strengths:** “*Michael has a calm clear head as well as a very strategic approach.*” “*Michael is a strategic thinker.*”

Band 4

Anthony Harper

What the team is known for Anthony Harper fields a noted litigation team with a high-quality practice in commercial, construction and insurance litigation matters. The firm has a growing specialism in the public law sector, working for central government and public entities on the exercise of regulatory powers, development of legislation and judicial reviews. The litigation team is active across New Zealand and frequently handles high-profile work arising out of natural disasters. It also acts in defamation actions, injunctions and appeals in multiple courts across the country.

The team is regularly engaged on insolvency and restructuring disputes and increasingly active in the field of health and safety-related litigation. Key clients include McGrathNicol, Pitcher Partners and Southbase Construction.

Strengths

"They are an excellent firm and very highly regarded by their clients."

Work highlights Anthony Harper advised the liquidators of CBL Insurance in a claim against the directors and advisers of the company concerning claimed losses of around USD320 million.

Notable practitioners

Peter Woods is a highly experienced commercial litigator with a particularly extensive track record in the handling of construction, insurance and property-related disputes. He is based in Christchurch and is particularly well known for his work on cases generated by the Canterbury and Christchurch earthquakes. **Lynne Van** maintains a broad practice within which contentious insolvency, property and securities enforcement issues feature particularly prominently and which has seen her appear at all levels of the New Zealand court system.

Dentons New Zealand

What the team is known for Dentons New Zealand's specialist disputes practice is highly experienced in courtroom advocacy and fully conversant with a range of alternative dispute resolution processes. The firm is prominently active on behalf of government ministries and other bodies, various national professional or business associations, and substantially multinational corporate and financial services clientele. Its disputes team is regularly instructed by both organisations and individuals on issues of high reputational significance, including defamation or matters of professional discipline or indemnity. The team is also frequently engaged on construction and insolvency-related disputes, in addition to a broad range of commercial cases. Its key clients include ANZ, Deloitte and the Medical Council of New Zealand.

Strengths

"For the difficult jobs they were very reliable and responsive, with the answers or advice provided always meeting my needs."

"Dentons provide fantastic value for money. Their pricing is very reasonable."

Work highlights Dentons was instructed by the liquidators on all matters in the voluntary administration and following liquidation of STA Travel, IEP New Zealand Limited and NNS New Zealand, all part of the wider global STA Travel Group.

Notable practitioners

Hayden Wilson is noted for the diversity of his practice, which not only covers a broad range of commercial and public law litigation but also embraces a significant alternative dispute resolution component. He is based in Wellington.

DLA Piper New Zealand

What the team is known for DLA Piper New Zealand's commercial litigation team offers significant experience in large-scale matters, notably representing both government bodies and domestic and international corporate entities in contentious commercial, insurance and real estate cases. Its

team is active in the arena of regulatory litigation as well as on banking and securities issues. The litigation team is experienced in the advocacy of cases at all levels of the national court system and before specialist tribunals, and additionally adept in the resolution of disputes through arbitration, mediation and expert determination processes. The firm is further noted for high-profile work on litigation and claims resulting from the damage caused by the Christchurch earthquakes. Key clients of the firm include Cornwall Park Trust Board and Yashili New Zealand Dairy.

Strengths

"DLA Piper offer pragmatic and commercially focused advice."

"DLA has a practical approach which suits our business very well."

Work highlights DLA Piper New Zealand acted for Cornwall Park Trust Board on litigation about the use of the former Auckland Showgrounds site, following the collapse of the Auckland Shows Board due to COVID-19.

Notable practitioners

Iain Thain is based in Auckland and has more than 30 years' experience in the commercial litigation field, much of it dedicated to the resolution of complex contractual, construction, consumer and property-related disputes. **Strengths:** *"Iain is highly valued. He's one of best litigators in New Zealand, easy to deal with and highly intelligent."*

Lindsay & Francis

What the team is known for Lindsay & Francis is an Auckland-based litigation and arbitration boutique, handling a broad range of contentious or potentially contentious matters, including intellectual property and insolvency-related issues, but maintaining a particularly close focus on high-profile corporate and commercial disputes and regulatory litigation. The firm's extensive in-house international experience facilitates the handling of cross-jurisdictional disputes and the representation of foreign corporates. It regularly handles matters arising from the real estate, resources, retail and technology sectors, and is prominent in the representation of individual corporate directors and officers.

Notable practitioners

Timothy Lindsay acts for both domestic and international clients across a broad range of commercial and regulatory issues, bringing to his work valuable and extensive experience of both the litigation and arbitration of cross-border disputes.

Kim Francis has both national and international experience, advising on complex commercial and regulatory litigation.

Meredith Connell

What the team is known for Well known as the longstanding holder of the Crown Solicitor warrant for Auckland and for its prominence in criminal cases, Meredith Connell is attracting increasing attention for the growing body of work it does in the commercial litigation sphere. The firm acts not only on behalf of public sector bodies, but also for a broader clientele, including domestic and foreign companies, fund managers, liquidators and private individuals, and covers a comprehensive range of dispute types, including

contractual and professional negligence issues. Its commercially relevant criminal work includes corruption cases, GFC-related litigation and Financial Markets Authority prosecutions.

Notable practitioners

Fionnghuala Cuncannon is an established practitioner in the fields of public and criminal law who is building an increasingly prominent market profile in the commercial disputes sphere.

Tompkins Wake

What the team is known for Tompkins Wake's North Island-based team maintains particularly strong connections to the Hamilton region and is notably active on behalf of local government bodies and key players from the agribusiness, dairy and property sectors. The team is also prominent in the handling of regulatory cases, including those governed by the provisions of the Resource Management and Health and Safety at Work Acts, and those overseen by the Overseas Investment Office or Te Uru Rākau. Tompkins Wake acts regularly on behalf of multinational companies facing contentious issues within its areas of expertise. Notable clients include IBC Japan, New Zealand College of Midwives and the South Waikato District Council.

Strengths

"The Tompkins Wake team provide sound and concise advice, while demonstrating an excellent understanding of our organisation and the law."

Work highlights Tompkins Wake advised solicitors for Robert Kirkness and a team of barristers on a class action by the New Zealand College of Midwives and over 1300 midwives against the Ministry of Health.

Notable practitioners

James MacGillivray brings over 25 years' commercial litigation experience to the table and operates across the broadest range of dispute types, handling matters for clients from a similarly varied spectrum of industries and business sectors. He is based in Hamilton.

Wynn Williams Lawyers

What the team is known for Wynn Williams Lawyers' wide-ranging offering embraces particularly noted expertise in the fields of employment, insurance, and trusts and estates-related litigation, and also includes acknowledged proficiency regarding environmental prosecutions and enforcement actions under the Resource Management Act. The firm is principally reliant upon its own in-house advocacy resources. It acts for a clientele which includes private businesses, government entities, high net worth families and charitable trusts. Key clients include Auto Net, Claridges Organics New Zealand and the Anglican Church of Aotearoa.

Strengths

"The team has a high level of appreciation for what matters mean to us both commercially as well as legally."

Work highlights Wynn Williams Lawyers acted for the Anglican Church in relation to the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care.

Notable practitioners

Shane Campbell is based in Christchurch and both advises and advocates in complex commercial

cial disputes considered by various tribunals. His experience extends up to Court of Appeal level and his caseload often features contentious insolvency, contractual or trust-related matters, or issues of alleged professional negligence. **Strengths:** “Shane is excellent in dealing with serious commercial matters.” “Shane gives us good practical advice.”

Other Ranked Lawyers

Polly Pope is a highly experienced, Auckland-based disputes practitioner with an impressively varied track record of work in fields as diverse as agribusiness, construction and financial services.

Foreign Experts

Isaac Hikaka offers notably rich cross-jurisdictional litigation experience, covering both the New Zealand courts and those of a number of Pacific Islands states, his Cook Islands-related expertise being particularly strong.

Strengths:

“Isaac Hikaka is an excellent all-round lawyer with exceptional advocacy skills.”

Dispute Resolution The Bar

Dispute Resolution: The Bar
Leading Sets
Band 1
Bankside Chambers
Shortland Chambers
Band 2
Richmond Chambers
Stout Street Chambers
Thorndon Chambers
Band 3
Mills Lane Chambers
Sangro Chambers
◊ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

Band 1

Bankside Chambers

Bankside Chambers is generally acknowledged to be both one of the largest and one of the most prestigious sets in Auckland, with a source noting that as “one of Auckland’s top sets; it is huge and is full of high-quality barristers.” Another similarly maintains: “Barristers of the set are extremely competent.” The chambers is also acknowledged for upholding a tradition of eminence in the alternative dispute resolution sphere, housing leading arbitrators and mediators and maintaining a permanent presence in the arbitration hub of Singapore. Eleni Balmer is the chambers manager and recommended contact.

SILKS

Christine Meechan KC is known for her adept management of large and complex pieces of litigation in general, and for expert handling of construction and insurance-related disputes in particular.

Strengths:

“Christine Meechan KC is one of the real go-to silks in New Zealand.”

Tom Weston KC enjoys a strong reputation for his broad and highly varied commercial litigation practice which incorporates a particularly strong construction and trust-related component.

Strengths:

“He is a wonderful leader and strategist, and is incredibly responsive.”

Simon Foote KC focuses closely on disputes

Dispute Resolution: The Bar
Leading Silks
Band 1
Dean Miriam Miriam Dean KC (ORL) ◊
Farmer James A James A Farmer KC (ORL) ◊
Galbraith Alan R Shortland Chambers
Hodder Jack Thorndon Chambers
Hunter Stephen Shortland Chambers
Meechan Christine Bankside Chambers
Miles Julian Richmond Chambers
Ring Michael Michael Ring KC (ORL) ◊
Ross Adam Shortland Chambers
Smith Justin Stout Street Chambers
Weston Tom Bankside Chambers
Band 2
Colson Mike Stout Street Chambers
Cooper Jenny Shortland Chambers
Coumbe Gillian O’Connell Street Barristers (ORL) ◊
Foote Simon Bankside Chambers
Gray Bruce Shortland Chambers
Hollyman Bob Shortland Chambers
O’Brien Mark Richmond Chambers
Band 3
Barker Andrew Shortland Chambers
Billington John Shortland Chambers
Butler Andrew Thorndon Chambers
Cooper David Shortland Chambers
David Paul Eldon Chambers (ORL) ◊
Dew Maria Britomart Chambers (ORL) ◊
Dixon John Shortland Chambers
Every-Palmer James Stout Street Chambers
Goodall Jason Bankside Chambers
Heine Victoria Thorndon Chambers
McLellan Daniel Shortland Chambers
O’Gorman Laura Bankside Chambers
Robertson Suzanne Suzanne Robertson KC (ORL) ◊
Salmon Davey Mills Lane Chambers
Scholtens Mary Stout Street Chambers
Taylor Les Stout Street Chambers
New Silks
Carruthers Bronwyn Shortland Chambers

arising in the construction and engineering spheres, offering extensive experience in the fields of both litigation and international arbitration, and is additionally noted as an accomplished handler of certain classes of criminal case and complex commercial disputes.

Strengths:

Dispute Resolution: The Bar
Leading Juniors
Band 1
Armstrong Sarah Shortland Chambers
Band 2
Casey Victoria Clifton Chambers (ORL) ◊
Johnson Jeremy Bankside Chambers
Kalderimis Daniel Thorndon Chambers
Kennedy Zane Mills Lane Chambers
Band 3
Christie Graeme Bankside Chambers
Jerebine Sarah Bankside Chambers
Kirkness Robert Thorndon Chambers
Ladd Simon Shortland Chambers
Lindsay Lauren Bankside Chambers
McBride Josh Richmond Chambers
Skelton Philip Bankside Chambers
Stewart Robert Shortland Chambers
Watt Esther Stout Street Chambers

“He is very perceptive, he listens intently when being briefed, cleverly ties threads together and identifies issues and ways to address them.”

“Simon is incredibly personable. He is a superb lawyer.”

Jason Goodall KC maintains a varied commercial litigation practice which embraces a significant body of financial services-related work and significant experience at the High Court and Court of Appeal levels.

Strengths:

“As an advocate he is persuasive and unflappable in court.”

“Jason has an outstanding legal mind and superb judgement.”

Laura O’Gorman KC brings impressive litigation experience to her career at the Bar, having previously practised at a leading law firm for over 20 years. She maintains a broad commercial practice within which contractual, competition and insolvency-related matters feature particularly prominently.

Strengths:

“She prepares extremely thoroughly and is one of the best intellects at the Bar.”

Deborah Chambers KC is widely recognised for her handling of relationship property and trust litigation matters generally, and of high-profile divorce cases in particular, with her handling of

Intellectual Property: The Bar
Leading Silks
Arthur Greg Clifton Chambers (ORL) ◇
Elliott Clive Shortland Chambers
Miles Julian Richmond Chambers
Leading Juniors
Glover Jane Sangro Chambers
Glover Kevin Shortland Chambers
Gray Earl Sangro Chambers
Williams Garry Richmond Chambers
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

such matters when they involve multi-jurisdictional aspects attracting especially favourable notice.

JUNIORS

Jeremy Johnson is active in a variety of areas of commercial litigation and arbitration, with expertise across trusts, relationship property and company law.

Strengths:

"Jeremy is a consummate professional. He is meticulous in his preparation and presents a great case. One thing that really impressed me was Jeremy's ability to cross-examine expert witnesses."

Graeme Christie specialises in construction law disputes, bringing to the table over 40 years' experience in the space, acquired largely with leading solicitors' firms in both New Zealand and London.

Sarah Jerebine is well reputed for disputes in the public law sphere, with significant experience advising the Crown.

Strengths:

"Sarah is very thorough, with a wealth of experience in judicial review cases."

Lauren Lindsay is noted for simultaneously maintaining busy domestic litigation and international arbitration practices, acting on matters arising from an impressively varied range of business sectors and addressing both complex contractual disputes and criminal cases with significant commercial components.

Rebecca Rose conducts a varied practice, spanning civil, commercial and public law issues, but is particularly well known for her handling of high-stakes cases involving private clients and disputes involving trusts and estates.

Strengths:

"She is an extremely competent lawyer who provides us with not only sound legal advice but also walks us through the implications of the available options, and offers pragmatic and practical solutions."

Philip Skelton KC is a vastly experienced barrister who brings over a decade of experience as a partner at a prominent law firm. He is well known for representing clients in sizeable class actions as well as employment disputes.

Shortland Chambers

Shortland Chambers is widely identified by interviewees as "a first-class set of barristers." Commentators have also praised the chambers for its impressive client service, with one observing: "I find the set to be very professional and welcoming. Whenever I visited the chambers I was

Tax: The Bar
Leading Juniors
Band 1
McKay Lindsay Lindsay McKay (ORL) ◇
Band 2
Clews Geoffrey Old South British Chambers (ORL) ◇
Lennard Mike Stout Street Chambers
Band 3
Harley Geoff Harleys Chambers (ORL) ◇
Rose Rebecca Bankside Chambers

always greeted in a very timely and pleasant manner and all the interactions I had with the various members went very well." Alison Van Wyk is the chambers manager and first point of contact.

SILKS

Alan Galbraith KC is a veteran barrister of over 40 years' standing and experience across the broadest range of civil and commercial issues, with noted strengths in the competition, financial services and insurance spaces.

Stephen Hunter KC continues to attract high praise for his management of a broad corporate and commercial caseload within which high-stakes business disputes and financial services-related matters feature particularly prominently.

Strengths:

"He has a tremendous ability to see the wider commercial implications of a dispute and focus on what really matters."

Adam Ross KC brings three decades of litigation experience to an extremely varied civil and commercial practice which incorporates a strong regulatory component.

Jenny Cooper KC is a versatile commercial litigator with particularly strong suits where competition, insolvency and regulatory issues are concerned and an increasingly noted capability in the public interest litigation sphere.

Strengths:

"Jenny is good on her feet and is a clear communicator."

Bruce Gray KC operates across a broad range of civil and public law issues, attracting particularly high praise for his work on insurance, media law and tort-related mandates. He is further noted for his highly accomplished advocacy and reassuring manner with clients.

Bob Hollyman KC focuses closely, within the context of a company and commercial practice, on contractual, insolvency and tort-related issues, being particularly noted for his expertise in the law of misrepresentation and breach of contract.

Strengths:

"He is very good at communicating his proposed strategy, seeking feedback on it and being agile in adjusting the agreed strategy if the evidence so requires."

Andrew Barker KC centres his practice on commercial litigation, often representing clients in contract and tort as well as shareholder disputes. He also contributes to the profession from an academic standpoint, regularly hosting national seminars and presentations.

Strengths:

"He gets the job done with a high level of skill and autonomy and identifies the issues that matter at

White-Collar Crime: The Bar
Leading Silks
Billington John Shortland Chambers
Dixon John Shortland Chambers
Wicks Paul City Chambers (ORL) ◇
Leading Juniors
McDonald Kristy Hawkestone Chambers (ORL) ◇
Pilditch Fletcher Richmond Chambers
Reed Rachael City Chambers (ORL) ◇

High Net Worth: The Bar

Leading Silks

Bruton Vanessa O'Connell Chambers (ORL) ◇

Chambers Deborah Bankside Chambers

Leading Juniors

Rose Rebecca Bankside Chambers

an early stage."

John Billington KC combines broad commercial and regulatory litigation experience with a noted criminal practice and a similarly strong track record in the handling of health and safety-related cases.

David Cooper KC focuses on complex, business-related litigation, acting frequently on disputes arising out of contractual provisions, takeovers, securities-related questions and regulatory investigations.

Strengths:

"He is a strong tactician whilst having command of all the detail."

"If we had a really high-profile matter, he'd be our first point of call."

John Dixon KC combines commercial and criminal litigation expertise and experience, the latter including prosecutorial assignments in both New Zealand and the USA. He often acts on behalf of such bodies as the Commerce Commission, FMA and SFO, but is also active in defence roles.

Strengths:

"He is one of the pre-eminent prosecutors of white-collar crime matters in New Zealand, and has extremely strong advocacy skills in court. His client care is excellent, and his ability to distil complex legal issues is extremely impressive."

Daniel McLellan KC is instructed across a broad range of commercial litigation mandates, winning particular praise for his expert handling of defamation and insurance issues.

Bronwyn Carruthers KC relies upon her considerable experience in environmental law and resource management litigation to represent corporate clients and local authorities, among others. She has appeared in the High Court, the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court.

Strengths:

"She is highly organised, very calm and is a very nice advocate. She does a really good job."

Clive Elliott KC is considered to be one of New Zealand's pre-eminent IP silks and is regularly noted for displaying particular flair when it comes to handling especially complex matters, those involving trans-Tasman elements, or those arising from the IT sector.

Strengths:

"He is also very competent at IP litigation and is particularly good at providing strategic advice related to IP litigation and settlement possibilities."

JUNIORS

Sarah Armstrong enjoys an established reputation as a highly effective litigator, developed in over 25 years of private practice. She is active across an impressively broad range of, among others, company, financial services and securities-related disputes.

Strengths:

"She is very practical and commercial and has a really good understanding of the particular parts of our business."

Simon Ladd is an expert in commercial and regulatory litigation. He is regularly instructed on insurance, tort and construction disputes and has provided counsel in various regulatory investigations.

Robert Stewart is a specialist in defamation disputes and advises many of New Zealand's most prominent digital, broadcast and print media outlets. Disputes often centre on issues of freedom of expression, suppression and privacy.

Strengths:

"He has a great practice and does a lot of defamation and media law. Very well respected."

Kevin Glover is widely acknowledged for his intellectual property expertise, being both a published authority in the field and a much sought-after advocate who covers the full spectrum of copyright, patent, trade mark and associated issues.

Strengths:

"Kevin is calm under pressure and methodical. He is also down to earth, approachable and responsive to client needs."

Band 2

Richmond Chambers

Richmond Chambers was founded in 2014 with the declared intention of establishing a concentration of expertise particularly well suited to the handling of complex disputes. This compact Auckland set is home to 15 barristers with expertise in a number of specialist areas and experience of civil, commercial and regulatory litigation at all levels.

SILKS

Julian Miles KC is a veteran practitioner with over 50 years' experience in the disputes space and a widely acknowledged reputation as one of New Zealand's premier litigators, adept at the handling of commercial matters generally, but particularly sought after where intellectual property or defamation issues are concerned.

Strengths:

"Julian is unparalleled in media and defamation matters and has a wonderful courtroom manner and style."

Mark O'Brien KC offers decades of commercial litigation experience, acquired both at the independent Bar and in private practice, and is particularly noted for his handling of significant briefs in the contractual, competition and insolvency fields, and of matters arising from the insurance, oil and gas and technology sectors.

Strengths:

"A good choice for a difficult commercial dispute."

JUNIORS

Josh McBride stands out for his expertise in the construction, media, real estate and technology spheres.

Strengths:

"He is knowledgeable, professional and very easy-going to deal with."

Fletcher Pilditch has a practice that spans a range of high-profile criminal and public law litigation. He is particularly proficient in representing corporations and individuals in contentious enforcement proceedings brought forward by leading regulatory bodies.

"Fletcher is very, very good. He has a criminal law background and works on high-profile cases."

Garry Williams focuses particularly closely on the frequently overlapping spheres of intellectual property and technology, media and telecommunications-related disputes, and is particularly well regarded for his expertise concerning trade marks.

Stout Street Chambers

Home to some 27 barristers, Stout Street Chambers is the largest chambers in Wellington, bringing together advocates with expertise covering an exhaustive range of civil, commercial and public law issues, including noted specialists in construction, energy, insolvency, regulatory and tax matters. It is principally focused upon court or tribunal-based litigation, though set members also act on advisory matters and are, in several instances, able to act in arbitrations or mediations.

SILKS

Justin Smith KC offers some 40 years' experience of the commercial scene, his recent work having included noteworthy briefs in the construction, directors' duties and trust litigation spheres.

Strengths:

"He has a very good commercial practice, he is probably in my view one of the best cross-examiners at the Commercial Bar that you will see."

Mike Colson KC conducts a wide-ranging practice which incorporates particularly significant expertise and experience where insolvency-related issues or those arising from the energy or property sectors are concerned.

Strengths:

"He is a very good advocate and good operator."

James Every-Palmer KC is well reputed for complex competition and commercial disputes, in addition to being noted for his public sector experience.

Strengths:

"James has a very good practice. He is a very capable, well prepared and clever advocate."

Mary Scholtens KC operates principally in the commercial public law space and offers particularly extensive experience of handling contract, tort and equity-related cases, matters being pursued by the Commerce Commission or Inland Revenue, and judicial reviews at both local and national government levels.

Les Taylor KC has litigated matters in courts at all levels for over 30 years, maintaining a varied practice within which construction, energy, employment and environmental issues feature prominently. He is particularly well known for his insurance-related expertise and his representa-

tion both of leading insurers, and of insureds facing professional indemnity, public liability and statutory liability claims.

Strengths:

"He is excellent – a true insurance silk."

JUNIORS

Mike Lennard is particularly well qualified to advise and advocate on taxation-related issues, his career including not only extensive experience in private practice but also an eight-year stint as the Inland Revenue's director of litigation. Active across the full spectrum of contentious tax work, he is particularly well known for his representation of taxpayers charged with serious tax evasion offences.

Esther Watt is acknowledged by several peers as a promising junior and is well placed to act for private and public clients in commercial disputes. She regularly appears before all levels of the New Zealand courts and is deputy convenor of the New Zealand Law Society's Law Reform Committee.

Strengths:

"Esther is fantastic. She is a real rising star."

Thorndon Chambers

Thorndon Chambers is an established Wellington set whose 20 barristers collectively cover a broad spectrum of public, commercial and international issues, appearing not only in proceedings before New Zealand courts and tribunals, but also in cross-border arbitrations and in high-profile official inquiries. One source observes that those at the chambers are "always very responsive." Manager Lynn Jamieson is a key contact.

SILKS

Jack Hodder KC is one of New Zealand's most respected litigators and a veteran of over 600 superior court cases, including regulatory and constitutional as well as commercial issues. He has also appeared frequently as an arbitration counsel.

Andrew Butler KC is praised for his expertise across complex public law, equity and trusts disputes. He also has a notable track record advising on real estate and commercial disputes.

Strengths:

"Andrew is at ease in providing concise and accessible advice to clients, as well as to his instructing solicitors. He works collaboratively whether in a small or larger team. All in all, he is an excellent choice of counsel."

"Andrew has an encyclopaedic knowledge in the areas of trust, estate and real property law and maintains a great rapport with clients."

Victoria Heine KC is an experienced litigator and a highly respected advocate of nearly 30 years' standing who acts across a varied range of contractual, equity and infrastructure-related issues for both public and private sector entities, and for individual litigants.

Strengths:

"She is an intellectually powerful and thoughtful litigator, capable of communicating complex ideas in a simple and compelling way in court."

JUNIORS

Daniel Kalderimis brings to the table extensive superior court litigation experience, much of it

acquired while serving as a senior partner at a leading New Zealand law firm. He is also noted for combining a broad commercial capability with focused strengths in such areas as climate change, insolvency and sports law, and with a particularly deep acquaintanceship with the international arbitration scene.

Strengths:

"He has a very sharp mind and is one of the best advocates that I have worked with."

"An excellent advocate and a real pleasure to work."

Robert Kirkness boasts an impressive practice across commercial and public disputes. He has carved out a particular expertise in representing clients in international arbitration and class action claims.

Strengths:

"Robert has a remarkable brain and very strong strategic instincts. He has an approach to legal analysis that is both very intellectual and very creative."

Band 3

Mills Lane Chambers

Mills Lane Chambers is a recent addition to the Auckland legal scene, having been established in October 2019, and is home to 17 barristers, several of whom are seasoned litigators with many years' experience in private practice, covering a comprehensive spectrum of disciplines, behind them. Chambers manager Nicole Brothers is a key contact.

SILKS

Davey Salmon KC is highly regarded in the New Zealand market for both trial and appellate matters.

Strengths:

"Davey is irrepressible. He is a very strategic, natural orator."

JUNIORS

Zane Kennedy joined the independent Bar in 2019 as an experienced litigator of many years' standing in private practice whose versatile commercial range incorporates particularly well-developed expertise in the areas of insurance, intellectual property and contractual disputes.

Strengths:

"I rate him highly for the sharpness of his legal analysis, and very concise and clear writing style."

Sangro Chambers

Sangro Chambers is one of Auckland's newer sets, having been founded in 2018, and is home to nine barristers who accept instructions on a variety of issues, but who collectively offer a particularly strong concentration of intellectual property, media and public law-related expertise and experience.

JUNIORS

Jane Glover brings exceptional qualifications to her work at the New Zealand intellectual property Bar, having not only practised in the sphere

for over 20 years, but having also spent six of those years as an assistant commissioner of trade marks and patents at the Intellectual Property Office of New Zealand.

Strengths:

"Jane is excellent to work with, she is very efficient and thorough, and I have total trust and confidence in Jane's advice and ability."

"She provides sound commercial and strategic litigation advice."

Earl Gray has practised in the intellectual property field for some 30 years, more than 20 of which were spent as a partner at a leading New Zealand law firm. He advises across all branches of the discipline, offering litigation experience which reaches to the highest levels of the New Zealand court system and additionally covers a variety of specialist tribunals.

Other Ranked Lawyers

Greg Arthur KC (Clifton Chambers) of Clifton Chambers is a highly respected intellectual property silk who operates across the practice area spectrum and offers experience of litigation at High Court, Supreme Court and Court of Appeal level.

Strengths:

"Greg Arthur has an excellent reputation."

Vanessa Bruton KC (O'Connell Chambers) of O'Connell Chambers practises exclusively in the trust, estate and relationship property spheres, advising, advocating and negotiating across a comprehensive range of issues in those areas.

Victoria Casey KC (Clifton Chambers) of Clifton Chambers acts prominently in the area where issues of commercial and public law intersect, offering extensive experience in the field of regulatory investigations and prosecutions.

Strengths:

"She is a good and thoughtful public lawyer who is widely called on for public law cases."

Geoffrey Clews (Old South British Chambers) of Old South British Chambers is active across a comprehensive range of advisory and representational mandates in the taxation sphere, being particularly well known for his work on behalf of clients facing especially serious tax-related issues in both the civil and criminal spheres.

Gillian Coumbe KC (O'Connell Street Barristers) of O'Connell Street Barristers maintains a broad and versatile commercial and civil practice in which contractual, equity and trusts and tax-related issues feature particularly notably.

Paul David KC (Eldon Chambers) of Eldon Chambers is noted both for his broad commercial and contractual range and for particular expertise in two specialist areas – shipping and sports – in which he is at once an experienced litigator and a published authority.

Miriam Dean KC (Miriam Dean KC) commands an excellent reputation as one of New Zealand's pioneering female litigators with an impressive commercial litigation track record in which competition issues feature particularly prominently. Much of her practice is now dedicated to work on official inquiries, which she is regularly appointed

to chair by the relevant government bodies, and in relation to which she also regularly advises parties subject to investigation. She also conducts internal reviews for private sector clients.

Maria Dew KC (Britomart Chambers) of Britomart Chambers specialises in the handling of disputes arising in the fields of employment, health and safety, and human rights, and in relation to sensitive professional misconduct issues across a comprehensive range of public and private sector organisations.

Strengths:

"Maria is a superb advocate and fights tirelessly for clients. Her advice comes with gravitas. She is technically proficient and grasps the key issues in a heartbeat. A particular strength of hers is finding a solution to an issue when there seems to be none."

James Farmer KC (James A Farmer KC) is widely regarded as one of New Zealand's pre-eminent commercial litigators. He is vastly experienced in superior court litigation, not only in New Zealand, but also in Australia and Hong Kong. He maintains an impressively broad practice, but is particularly well known for his expertise in the competition sphere.

Geoff Harley (Harleys Chambers) of Harleys Chambers stands out at the New Zealand tax Bar for his expertise in the area of tax fraud.

Kristy McDonald KC (Hawkestone Chambers) of Hawkestone Chambers is a renowned barrister in New Zealand due to her considerable expertise in public law, as well as civil and criminal litigation. She has led many ministerial inquiries and royal commissions.

Lindsay McKay (Lindsay McKay) is renowned for his tax expertise. He is noted for his flair for tackling complex issues generally, and those involving tax avoidance in particular. He is also regularly praised for his powerful advocacy.

Strengths:

"Everyone likes him, he has a good reputation. If you are a tax lawyer with a tax problem against the commissioner you go to him."

Rachael Reed KC (City Chambers) of City Chambers operates in both the civil and criminal law fields, maintaining a particularly strong focus on fraud issues, and has both prosecuted on behalf of the Crown and represented defendants.

Michael Ring KC (Michael Ring KC) is best known for his close focus on a comprehensive range of insurance-related issues, notably including matters arising from the Canterbury earthquakes.

Suzanne Robertson KC (Suzanne Robertson KC) attracts praise for her handling of a variety of issues, being regularly instructed on contractual, insolvency and property-related disputes and being further noted for her activity in the breach of duty and trust and competition spheres.

Paul Wicks KC (City Chambers) of City Chambers specialises in criminal and employment law and regularly represents clients in professional misconduct and regulatory disputes.

Energy & Natural Resources

Energy & Natural Resources
Leading Firms
Band 1
Bell Gully
MinterEllisonRuddWatts
Band 2
Chapman Tripp
Greenwood Roche
Russell McVeagh
Band 3
Anderson Lloyd
Buddle Findlay
Simpson Grierson
Senior Statespeople
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners
Foley Paul MinterEllisonRuddWatts
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Coull David Bell Gully
McArthur Brigid Greenwood Roche
Band 2
Johnson Mei Fern Russell McVeagh
Sinclair Sarah MinterEllisonRuddWatts
Trixl Anton Anderson Lloyd
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

The editorial is in alphabetical order by firm name.

Anderson Lloyd

What the team is known for Anderson Lloyd is noted for its strong handling of renewable energy and infrastructure projects. The team is adept at advising on a host of matters including consenting, project development and transactions. The firm boasts a strong presence across the country, with offices in Auckland, Christchurch, Dunedin and Queenstown, offering clients a seamless, integrated service. Notable clients include Manawa Energy, OceanaGold New Zealand and Ranui Generation.

Strengths

"The lawyers are very responsive, easy to communicate with and go the extra mile."

"The team has good local knowledge and a well-experienced team. They understand our needs and risk appetite well."

"The firm provides a high level of service and advice."

Work highlights Anderson Lloyd advised Mercury New Zealand on all aspects of the Kaiwera Downs Wind Farm project, including procurement of wind turbines.

Notable practitioners

Anton Trixl of Anderson Lloyd is based in Auckland where he is well respected for his track record advising energy companies on the development of large renewable and hydrogen projects. **Strengths:** "Anton has significant experience in the New Zealand renewables market and brings his experience and industry knowledge to bear on the matters he works on."

Environment & Resource Management
Leading Firms
Band 1
Buddle Findlay
Simpson Grierson
Band 2
Bell Gully
Chapman Tripp
Dentons New Zealand
DLA Piper New Zealand
Russell McVeagh
Band 3
ChanceryGreen
MinterEllisonRuddWatts
Wynn Williams Lawyers
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Appleyard Jo Chapman Tripp
Beverley Paul Buddle Findlay
McIndoe Nicky Dentons New Zealand
Quinn Stephen DLA Piper New Zealand
Band 2
Allen David Buddle Findlay
Anderson Kerry DLA Piper New Zealand
Caldwell Jennifer Buddle Findlay
Loutit Bill Simpson Grierson
Randal David Buddle Findlay
Band 3
Arthur-Young Allison Russell McVeagh
Conway Matthew Simpson Grierson
de Latour Lucy Wynn Williams Lawyers
Maw Philip Wynn Williams Lawyers
Minhinnick Daniel Russell McVeagh
Scott Sarah Simpson Grierson
Sheard Christina Dentons New Zealand
Up-and-coming individuals
Doesburg Mike Wynn Williams Lawyers

Bell Gully

What the team is known for Bell Gully has a distinguished legal team with a strong focus across the resources sector, providing excellent water and electricity advice to leading corporations. The team has substantial expertise across a range of matters in the oil and gas sector, and is adept at handling M&A transactions and disputes in relation to the energy sector. It has strong capabilities in the environment and resource management sector, including advice on consents and designations for large infrastructure and property developments. Notable clients include the Waikato-Tainui and Transpower New Zealand.

Strengths

"They are pragmatic and good at explaining legal issues to people from a non-legal background."

"Bell Gully was able to turn around detailed and extremely helpful advice in a very short timeframe."

"The lawyers are very responsive and the firm is well resourced."

Work highlights Bell Gully advised Contact Energy on its joint venture with UK-based solar power developer Lightsource bp for the development of a series of grid-scale solar energy projects.

Notable practitioners

David Coull garners praise for his expertise in oil and gas law as well as his experience handling major transactions within the sector. **Strengths:** "He is very pragmatic and understands the risks."

Buddle Findlay

What the team is known for Buddle Findlay boasts a high-quality resource management practice, with notable strength in both Auckland and Wellington. It is acknowledged for its expertise in the electricity industry and its in-depth knowledge of Māori law. The firm has a significant presence in the environmental law space, advising clients on large infrastructure projects, particularly within the transport sector, and on national and local government policy development. Buddle Findlay acts on behalf of several regional and district councils, as well as advising companies from the water, power and energy sectors. Notable clients include Auckland Council, Westpower and Transpower New Zealand.

Strengths

"They are extremely responsive, responding in a timely manner with detailed and helpful advice."

"Its lawyers are quickly able to grasp the complexity of legislation context and offer sound strategic advice."

"From juniors to the board level, they have incredible skill and knowledge across every critical area our project requires."

Work highlights Buddle Findlay advised Genesis on the consenting of its existing Tekapo A and B hydro-electric power stations.

Notable practitioners

Paul Beverley is highly regarded for his extensive knowledge of the Resource Management Act. He is also singled out by sources for his impressive expertise in Māori law as well as consenting processes and conservation law. **Strengths:** "Paul Beverley is good to deal with." **David Allen** is recognised for advising local governments on the environmental and resource management aspects of major infrastructure and energy projects. **Jennifer Caldwell** is Buddle Findlay's national chairperson. Based in Auckland, she enjoys a strong reputation for her expertise concerning resource management approvals, planning processes and approvals and related litigation. **Strengths:** "She is exceptional in every way. A very safe pair of hands." "Jennifer Caldwell is at the top of her field and I have complete trust in her abilities and professional advice." **David Randal** is well reputed for his specialist knowledge of resource management and regulatory issues and of consent approvals.

ChanceryGreen

What the team is known for ChanceryGreen is a distinguished Auckland-based, specialist firm providing extensive experience in significant energy infrastructure projects and residential developments. It advises on consent applications in respect of mining and large renewable projects, and is particularly noted for its experience in the oil and gas and resources sectors.

Notable practitioners

Chris Simmons, Jason Welsh and Steve Mutch are

key practice contacts.

Chapman Tripp

What the team is known for Chapman Tripp is a highly respected full-service firm with an extensive blue-chip client base of leading domestic and international companies within the energy and natural resources market. It boasts a national team with particular strength in Christchurch and Auckland, and has notable experience in key public sector infrastructure matters, advising government agencies on development projects. The practice's multidisciplinary offering includes advising energy companies on a range of matters including negotiating supply agreements, power purchase agreements and M&A transactions. Notable clients include Vector, Powerco and First Gas.

Strengths

"Fast turnaround times from a very personable team with strong interpersonal communication skills."

"They know who we are, what we do and they understand the sector we work in. They are great people to deal with."

"They are proactive, work hard and deal with uncertainty very well."

Work highlights Chapman Tripp advised Vector on the sale of a 50% interest in its New Zealand and Australian metering business, Vector Metering, to investment vehicles managed and advised by QIC.

Notable practitioners

Jo Appleyard is a partner in the Christchurch office, where she is renowned for her litigation skills, particularly in the area of climate change. She shows particularly high capability in the handling of consent applications for key infrastructure projects.

Dentons New Zealand

What the team is known for Dentons New Zealand is noted for its legal team's specialist expertise in resource management issues, with particular experience in the coastal marine area and water infrastructure. Its diverse practice provides a strong offering for heritage and conservation projects, advising on Māori legal issues. The team frequently assists clients in obtaining consent applications for major infrastructure and construction projects. It also advises a range of public sector organisations, government agencies, district councils and companies from the utilities and construction sectors. Notable clients include Airbnb Australia, DB Breweries and KiwiRail.

Strengths

"The firm is a safe pair of hands. Its lawyers work through matters efficiently and with expertise."

"Dentons New Zealand always go the extra mile, are available to meet at short timeframes and consistently meet agreed timeframes."

"The advice provided has been highly valuable in that it is strategic, forward-thinking and pragmatic."

Work highlights Dentons New Zealand advised Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency on all matters relating to environmental and planning approvals, and land acquisition, in connection to the SH58 safety improvement project.

Notable practitioners

Nicky McIndoe is well regarded for her handling

of resource management consent and planning authorisation mandates, and noted for her specialist expertise concerning matters with significant heritage issues. **Christina Sheard** is a partner in the Auckland office, where she handles resource and planning consents as well as designations for infrastructure projects. **Strengths:** *"Christina provides us with a strong level of service and experience."*

DLA Piper New Zealand

What the team is known for DLA Piper New Zealand has a talented legal team that acts on a variety of resource management, planning and environmental matters. It has a substantial client base of public entities which it advises on local and national planning matters, including Auckland Council and Greater Wellington Regional Council. The practice is able to act on consenting strategy and associated litigation as well as regulatory compliance mandates, including enforcement and prosecutions. Notable clients include Maungaharuru-Tangitū Trust and Foodstuffs North Island.

Strengths

"The firm provides excellent advice on complex issues."

"They have a very good understanding of New Zealand environmental law and have very good project management skills."

"The team is always responsive and thinking about what we need to do to move forward."

Work highlights DLA Piper New Zealand advised Auckland Council on judicial review proceedings challenging alleged decisions made by the Council and the other respondents in relation to the proposed location of the Drury West Train Station in Drury, South Auckland.

Notable practitioners

Stephen Quinn is based in the Wellington office, where he advises public sector clients on a wide range of environment and planning approvals, and is particularly renowned for his resource management expertise. **Kerry Anderson** has a wide-ranging practice advising government departments and local councils on resource consents, designations and contentious issues. **Strengths:** *"Kerry Anderson is excellent to deal with; she is reliable and always delivers."*

Greenwood Roche

What the team is known for Greenwood Roche is well known for its work in the energy and electricity sectors, with considerable expertise in major urban development and infrastructure projects. It has a strong presence in Christchurch and Wellington, advising various government departments on plan reviews, change processes and consenting strategy. The practice also acts for forestry companies and landowners on wide-ranging resource management matters. Notable clients include New Zealand Aluminium Smelters, Zedex Gold and Transpower New Zealand.

Strengths

"They have very good knowledge of the energy industry as well as an understanding of key risk issues for our business."

"Response times are always prompt or within agreed timeframes."

Work highlights Greenwood Roche advised Transpower New Zealand on a range of matters related to a new grid exit point within a switchyard being constructed at a new geothermal power station at Tauhara.

Notable practitioners

Brigid McArthur is a partner in Greenwood Roche's Wellington office. She is highly regarded for her excellent track record handling regulatory and transactional matters across the oil and gas and electricity sectors. **Strengths:** *"Brigid has been excellent to work with." "She has excellent knowledge of the industry and our own business, which leads to a very high-quality provision of legal services provided."*

MinterEllisonRuddWatts

What the team is known for MinterEllisonRuddWatts has a diverse and multidisciplinary practice across the energy market, including oil and gas, electricity and renewable energy. The practice is developing its offering in the forestry sector and assists public and private sector clients on resource and planning consents for a broad range of large-scale projects. It also provides a comprehensive offering on climate change and emissions trading, and is adept at representing clients in environmental disputes. Notable clients include Heritage New Zealand, Southern Cross Healthcare and First Gas.

Strengths

"The firm has very good knowledge, experience and good depth across the team."

"We were impressed by MinterEllisonRuddWatts' ability to manage a massive project, pull multiple strands together and keep on top of the detail, while assisting with strategic direction."

"They were excellent on the technical legal side, but also able to bring very good, pragmatic strategic thinking to matters."

Work highlights MinterEllisonRuddWatts advised Channel Infrastructure on the decommissioning of the Marsden Point Oil refinery and conversion into an import terminal for the import, storage, testing and distribution of refined transport fuels.

Notable practitioners

Paul Foley is a consultant in MinterEllisonRuddWatts' Wellington office. He enjoys a strong reputation in the market for his impressive track record of handling major transactions and regulatory issues in the electricity sector. **Strengths:** *"Paul is one of the most accomplished lawyers I have had the pleasure of working with. He has the ability to identify options that no one else can see."*

Sarah Sinclair is based in Auckland, where she chairs MinterEllisonRuddWatts. She is renowned for her considerable experience advising major energy infrastructure projects, particularly within the upstream oil and gas and hydrogen sectors. **Strengths:** *"Sarah Sinclair is as good as it gets – she grasps complex commercial drivers effortlessly and provides really insightful and robust advice that you know you can 100% rely on." "She is an expert in infrastructure advice and an exceptional strategist."*

Russell McVeagh

What the team is known for Russell McVeagh's commercial and collaborative resource management team specialises in resource consents, envi-

ronmental law reform, and energy projects. It is a multidisciplinary practice with corporate capability, addressing a range of issues throughout the energy sector, as well as being widely acknowledged in infrastructure and land development matters. The team is able to represent clients in local and district council hearings and Environment Court appeals. Notable clients include KiwiRail, Infratec and Woolworths.

Strengths

"It is a great team. The lawyers are committed, technically excellent and really take the time to understand their client's business."

"They are always efficient and responsive."

"Their work is always of a high standard."

Work highlights Russell McVeagh assisted Woolworths with successfully obtaining land use and subdivision consent for a commercial and residential development in Halswell, Christchurch.

Notable practitioners

Mei Fern Johnson is well regarded for her handling of large transactions, restructures and joint ventures, as well as procurements and contractual issues within the energy sector. **Allison Arthur-Young** garners praise for her expertise in resource management and planning matters for large infrastructure and residential projects. She is based in the Auckland office and is the board chair of Russell McVeagh. **Strengths:** *"She is commercial, results-focused and a pragmatic, trusted adviser."* **Daniel Minhinnick** advises on resource consents and environmental litigation for a wide range of developments and projects. **Strengths:** *"Daniel is always competent, professional, responsive and reassuring. When I need something urgently he makes himself available, which I hugely value."* *"He is always informative and understands our business and drivers, and therefore what is necessary."*

Simpson Grierson

What the team is known for Simpson Grierson maintains a full-service Auckland-based offering with an established reputation in the energy market. It is well regarded for its strength in the area of upstream oil and gas, advising on regulatory and consent applications. The team acts on

many of the major water and wastewater projects in Auckland, and has a broad range of expertise across all aspects of environmental law. The practice is noted for excellent government work as well as handling projects on behalf of significant private sector clients, and is also able to represent clients in environmental appeals before the Environment Court. Notable clients include Transpower New Zealand, New Zealand Oil & Gas and Auckland Transport.

Strengths

"The team provide a very high level of service – they always respond promptly and give sound, considered answers."

"The lawyers are very attentive and responsive."

"They have a good understanding of the client and commercial drivers."

Work highlights Simpson Grierson assisted New Zealand's Parliamentary Service with an application for resource consent to carry out a significant redevelopment of the buildings in the Parliamentary Precinct, which houses New Zealand's executive and legislative arms of government.

Notable practitioners

Bill Loutit is well regarded in the market for his litigation skills within the resource management and environment space. He has a notable track record acting for both developers and local government in disputes concerning large infrastructure projects. **Strengths:** *"He is commercial and has a very deep understanding of environmental law."* **Matthew Conway** is a well-regarded partner at the firm's office in Wellington. He advises regularly on environmental and regulatory matters for both public and private sector clients. **Strengths:** *"He is a top operator."* *"Matthew Conway provided an excellent service across all areas."* **Sarah Scott** is a partner in Simpson Grierson's Christchurch office. She focuses on planning and policy matters within the resource management area.

Wynn Williams Lawyers

What the team is known for Wynn Williams has a notable presence in Christchurch and Auckland, where the legal team regularly acts for regional and district councils. The practice is well known for its work in the water sector, with considerable

expertise advising on freshwater management and land plan issues. It also assists with development projects and advises on resource consents, appeals and enforcement actions. The team is adept at handling matters in relation to the Resource Management Act 1991 and earthquake recovery legislation. Notable clients include The Adare Company and Taranaki Regional Council.

Work highlights Wynn Williams advised Southland Regional Council throughout the Environment Court hearing process of its proposed Southland Water and Land Plan.

Notable practitioners

Lucy de Latour is a partner in Wynn Williams' Christchurch office and particularly well reputed for her handling of such contentious issues as planning appeals, resource consent appeals and compulsory acquisitions. **Strengths:** *"Lucy is exceptional in the level of service and knowledge of our requirements. She is aware of the political environment within which we work and has an excellent knowledge of resource management law."* *"She is amazing – she has a very strong legal brain."* **Philip Maw** is based in the firm's Christchurch office and is the national managing partner of Wynn Williams. He often advises local councils and other governmental clients on consents, appeals and regional plan changes, offering particular expertise on freshwater management issues.

Strengths: *"Philip is a fantastic lawyer and overall a great person to work with."* *"Philip provides an excellent level of service. He is always happy to add value and also has excellent knowledge across natural resources law in New Zealand."* *"He takes little time to come up to speed, he knows where challenges will come from, and fiercely defends the outcome you are seeking."* **Mike Doesburg** is an up-and-coming practitioner in the resource management space. His expertise covers advising on consent applications, among other matters.

Strengths: *"Mike is very professional and service-oriented. He provides quality representation and advice, all the while being very personable in his approach."* *"He is highly responsive, with strong legal and commercial attributes."*