

THE 2015 NEW ZEALAND LAWYER POWER LIST

New Zealand's leading and most influential Lawyers

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INTRODUCTION

HOW THE POWER LIST WAS CREATED

"Power" has a multitude of meanings, and ranking "Power" in terms of lawyers is a job that may defeat some. However, with the assistance of an editorial panel and solicitations from a range of private and public practicing lawyers, academics, consultants, recruiters, barristers, clients, in house counsel and others, we've compiled our list of 50.

Judges and politicians are excluded. The list is drawn from those in practice or who are lawyers working in a field where their major impact may not be upon the law or clients, but rather upon commerce, public practice, policy and other matters.

What are the factors that we have used to delineate "power"? put together our list based on our knowledge of the law business combined with an informal survey of some of the most significant and knowledgeable figures in the industry – from barristers and in-house counsel to law firm managers, legal consultants, law recruiters, journalists and others.

Ranking power is a specialised business – we don't say that altogether tongue in cheek, either – because the nature of power changes, its impact varies and those who wield it alter and change. Some, for instance those exercising vast power over government agencies are, as one team member put it, are simply "seat warmers", while others truly place their mark upon their roles. Commerce Commission chair Mark Berry is a case in point so far as the latter is concerned. Similarly, in making our 'power assessment' we have weighed the relative nature of power in terms of those working directly within the law and those, such as directors and others, whose influence is measured more by their

We have placed some of the "public power" people into a short, special category, just as we have also placed some of the Mainland's major legal players into another list.

Influencer's – the academics, commentators and others who influence the way we think about and approach the law.

The Power List is not about popularity, the most voted-for or the most recent deals, but rather by possessing an influence exerted through ability, expertise, knowledge, contacts or sheer drive and a rolodex of influencing contacts. Some Power Listers may be downright unlikeable, but they all have influence or control the way in which the law may be practiced, discussed or wielded.

But, we await your feedback. Feel free to let us know at lawfuel@gmail.com.

ANDREW BRIDGMAN

Chief Executive of the Ministry of Justice with 3000 employees and over 100 offices, vast power over the way justice is dispensed, fines collected, courts organised and much more. A self confessed "recidivist" Justice Ministry mandarin, Andrew Bridgman is nonetheless



a highly effective operator who has wrought significant change to the reorganised Ministry, including the establishment of a new management and policy group to oversee the changes, which have included the establishment of the Public Defence Service, the elevation of the role of the Office of Treaty Settlements, the funding of legal aid, modernisation and reorganisation of the courts, the Criminal Procedure Act shake-up affecting the way criminal law is dispensed and the biggest such change in over half a century.

Mr Bridgman's 'customer-centric' approach to justice has displayed an astute management of the major changes he has overseen, including hiring top talent such as trade negotiator Nigel Fyfe from MFAT to oversee the establishment and deployment of the PDS as well as the controversial cuts to legal aid, as well as appointing former diplomat and defence deputy secretary Brook Barrington as his deputy chief executive.

The major changes have not been without controversy and dissent, including from the Law Society on occasion, such as with the reorganisation of the Auckland District Courts, family court changes, court closures and other matters. The increased use of technology in the delivery of justice services and fines collections, which has involved a drive for efficiencies in the interests of recovering fines in an effective manner, which has permitted the dispensing with half the bailiffs, setting up a multilingual, high-tech call centre in Auckland and other drivers designed to streamline the delivery of judicial services. Even the judges themselves have not been spared the need for increased austerity as he took a close look at their \$20 million in annual expenses. The half-million dollar man sits atop the power list as the man with the most power in the LawFuel Power List.

THE POWER LIST - THE COUNTRIES LEADING INFLUENTIAL LAWYERS



3. MICHAEL HERON

Solicitor General. The former partner at Russell McVeagh and Meredith Connell, Michael Heron QC has all the powers of office combined with a vast experience as a litigator, although his personal power is dimmed as a result of his surprise resignation.

The resignation had many scratching their heads and the reasons were speculated upon. Was it a festering issue over the aborted prosecution of John Banks, in which Mr Heron was not directly involved? Was it the appointment or the manner in which the Crown warrant in Auckland was handled? Was it a culture issue? Or was it – dare we say it – what the resignation release from the Attorney General stated: he wanted to go home to Herne Bay. Whatever the reason the short reign of Michael Heron in the Crown Solicitors' suite will continue to pass its share of power, which continues in his hands in any event until he finally closes the door to the Crown Solicitor's office in



4. CHRIS MOORE

Chris Moore's role as Law Society President has bestowed unquestioned influence over the profession but his ability to create effective communications and project the Profession's role within the wider community has added further to his influence.

Brother of former long-standing Auckland prosecutor Justice Simon Moore, Chris Moore has put a definitive stamp upon his role within the Law Society such that he has been able to As a lawyer he is highly regarded as a real estate law expert and has handled range of significant property law deals over his 35 year career, both when he was partner with Meredith Connell and now with burgeoning resource and property law firm Greenwood Roche Chisnall.

As Law Society president he has been accessible and visible, particularly in his advocacy for women in the profession and a range of other issues central to the profession. A visible and effective leader in the profession his role is one that has seen him cement his importance as a powerful law figure.

THE POWER LIST - THE COUNTRIES LEADING INFLUENTIAL LAWYERS

THE NEW ZEALAND LAW POWER LIST 2015 AND THE COUNTRIES LEADING INFLUENTIAL LAWYERS
BY DAVID AND WENDY HARRISON OF L.



7. JEREMY SALMOND

Heads The Treasury's legal department. Having handled major deals including restructuring Solid Energy, IPOs for Mighty River, Genesis and Meridian and major infrastructure funding including the Christchurch restructuring is part of the major work undertaken by his team. Apart from the legal team he also handles business services and ministerial advisory work. The team is involved in any number of projects involving government and that adds up to major work, including the legal issues arising from the GFC, the Rugby World Cup involvement, Christchurch earthquake issues and others. With a relatively small team of under 10, the group work with the all of government panel and their selection of a team for a procurement deal or anything else can have major repercussions for law firms. To get offside with Jeremy Salmond can have major consequences, as one senior lawyer told us. Most importantly however he has the capacity to effect changes to the law through policy advisory work as well as working with it.



8. ROBERT FISHER QC

Regarded as the 'go to' mediator by many in the corporate world. A former High Court judge, having retired from the bench in 2004, he has applied himself full-time to his arbitration and mediation practice, as well as serving as an appellate judge in several Pacific states and undertaking government enquiries such as the infamous inquiry into David Bain's compensation.

As a High Court Judge, a position he achieved in 1989, he was supervising judge of the commercial list, Executive Judge of the Auckland High Court and a divisional member of the NZ Court of Appeal. And chairman of the NZ Rules Committee. Academically distinguished, with a Doctor of Laws and Fulbright Scholarship, he has handled some of the most significant commercial arbitrations in New Zealand and continues to attract a wide following and busy case load, including relationship property issues

Having written widely on a range of legal issues, he also continues to provide articles on matters ranging from how to tell if a witness is lying, to the Fisher is well placed to continue his role as the... country's leading mediator and arbitrator.



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13. MARTIN SMITH

His position as Chief Tax counsel at the

IRD makes him one of the country's most powerful lawyers, conducting and assisting in the prosecution of massive tax cases.

Formerly a tax consulting partner in a major accounting practice in Sydney and Director of Taxation Research for Ernst & Young in New Zealand, he has degrees from Adelaide University and a Masters in Tax Law from Auckland.

14. MAI CHEN



Undoubtedly one of New Zealand's highest-profile lawyers, combining her public law position with writing, lecturing

and a range of other activities that see the diminutive figure of Mai Chen stride the New Zealand political and legal stage. Her accomplishments, ambition and energy have resulted in a range of significant achievements ranging from her graduating first equal with her first class honours degree to setting up her law firm with former PM Jeffery Palmer in 1994

15. ROB EVERETT



Chief Executive of the Financial Markets Authority, Rob Everett has overseen the strengthening of FMA's

powers since joining the agency in 2014. formerly a director of regulatory consultancy Promontory Financial Group and prior to that with the Bank of America Merrill Lynch, he has significant international regulatory experience.

16. CATHY QUINN



Chair of Minter Ellison Rudd Watts is a passionate advocate for women succeeding in business as well as for the firm

she chairs. An experienced M&A partner, her leadership at MERW has seen the development of the firm's Corporate Social Responsibility programme that merges pro bono and community partnerships with sustainability initiatives in a programme that sees young lawyers working in the community.

17. PROF. PETER WATTS QC



Highly regarded and one of the few academic lawyers to have become a silk. Appointed in the 'catch up'

round in 2013, Professor Watts is recognised internationally as an expert on commercial law matters, particularly agency and company law, equity, restitution and insolvency.

18. KEVIN JAFFE



Chairman of Simpson Grier-son since 2009, he has achieved considerable rankings internationally for his M&A and corpo-

rate law work via various publications, including Chambers Global Corporate Commercial listings, the IFLR1000 M&A list and others, but he has also shown himself to be an astute law firm manager and one who has helped position Simpson Grierson as a firm that is thrusting its.....at the Holy Legal Trinity of Chapman Tripp, Russell McVeagh and Bell Gully.



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29. MARK HENAGHAN

Dean of Otago Law School has achieved near legendary status as a mentor and leader, as well as a passionate advocate for using law for the benefit of the under privileged and abused. Apart from his teaching however, the charismatic academic is also a regular commentator and participant in legal queries, as well as being a long time



rugby and on-stage performer creating a persona larger than just about any academic.

Having a strong interest in family law issues, including child abuse, relationship property and also the Judiciary, he has written on many issues, including on human genome law. A spirited and accessible commentator on law issues, particularly family law, he has also served on the editorial boards of the leading UK journal on children's issues and on the leading journal on human rights.

He collaborates with UK and Australian researchers on the study of family relocation cases, a matter of increasing importance, as well as playing a vital leadership role in the university, including active involvement with rugby, student theatrics, debating and other roles that see his larger-than-life personality generate a near cult-following for a dean. In a well reported debate with fellow power lister Mai Chen, an Otago alumni and current Justice Simon Moore, formerly an Otago Law School guest lecturer, he shed his clothes to reveal fake tatts, fish-net tights and all the accouterments of an AC/DC rocker. As someone who shuns the pomp of academia for real-life involvement and a passion for making the law deliver justice for every sector of the community.



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30. GRANT CAMERON

One of the original class action lawsuit innovators, Grant



Cameron has developed a reputation for his success running back to the Cave Creek and Lake Alice settlements

last century, quite apart from his most recent action in the class action against Southern Response. His ability to leverage his media and political influence to achieve positive outcomes is a key factor in his achieving success for his clients.

MAINLAND POWER



6. URSULA CHEER

Law professor and now dean of the University of Canterbury law school, has spent two decades working at the school, as well as having a prominent role as a government and practicing lawyer.

Perhaps best known as a media law expert where she has written, lectured and regularly consulted by media on defamation and media law experts. She was appointed as the school's dean in October but has previously worked as a speech writer for the Minister of Justice and been a legal adviser in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet last century. She has worked at UC since 1994.



7. HAMISH GRENFELL

Maori interests.

Nelson based partner with Duncan Cotterill but with both a local and national practice including companies like Sealord Group, HNZ New Zealand, Crown Asset Management, the Nelson City Council, Port Nelson and significant



8. SARAH SIMMERS

Anderson Lloyd, is a commercial lawyer carrying considerable clout and handling work for a variety of major Mainland players including acting on the CRT Cooperative merger with Farmlands in a move that created a \$2 billion turnover business, Skeggs Group and a range of other compliance and commercial deals. She also guest lectures for the Otago Law School's Advanced Company Law and Banking Law classes.



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36. PIP GREENWOOD

A key member of the Russell McVeagh management team and a leading figure in the New Zealand business community through her role both in the firm, but also in their move towards greater diversity, her speaking and seminar involvement and as a mentor for women in the professional and business community, she is also a highly proficient lawyer. As a deal maker with the firm she has also been involved in a range of major transactions including for clients Fonterra, Telecom's de-merger and working on the Meridian and Mighty River Power IPOs. A force to be reckoned with on the business and law front, an adherent to the principle of 'disobedient thinking' (ie pushing the envelope) her role as a leader, in particular for women professionals, sees her well placed to continue her involvement as a powerful influence in the years

37. LYNDA HAGEN

Executive Director of the New Zealand Law Foundation has played a major role in "teasing out issues" (in her own words) that have led to important changes in the laws covering a variety of areas from human reproductive technologies to prompting changes in the ability for children to provide court testimony and handling youth offenders among a wide variety of other studies. Lynda Hagen's work with the Foundation has carried massive influence for many lawyers, legal researchers and others who have gone on to stimulate legal changes. A spirited leader in education and sport (netball), her earlier influence arose through the leadership of the LawLink group during the period 1986 until 1995, assisting member firms with management and strategic issues.

38. WHAIMUTU DEWES



Has developed a significant and influential role playing a part in the governance of entities such as Contact Energy, Aotearoa Fisheries, Housing New Zealand, TVNZ and Ngai Porou Holdings as well as serving on the board of The Treasury. Holding degrees from Victoria University and Harvard he has played a central role in Maori economic development and continues to play a prominent leadership role generally and for Maori development in particular.

39. JACK HODDER QC



Has launched one of the best power shots of the year with his long-awaited entrance to the Bar. He didn't move far either professionally or personally, given his long-standing reputation as a go-to barrister and his move to Thorndon Chambers, together with David Goddard QC, Francis Cooke QC, Matthew Palmer QC and other and as the capital's hottest Chambers. Mr Hodder's reputation as a major force in commercial litigation has been long-standing with his work ranging from representing Spark in its defence against Commerce Commission claims of a misuse of power to acting for Mastercard in a civil case brought by its member banks, acting in the action between former ACT MPs Donna Huata and Richard Prebble, Fonterra in their botulism scare where the report he authored lambasted Fonterra.

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The most powerful legal advisors and leaders who shape the way we think about the law in New Zealand.

46. TIM CLARKE

A low key, high level operator who has better access to the corridors of power than just about any other lawyer in the land. He may not hold the profile of such public law practitioners as Mai Chen, but who holds an influential network of public and private contacts that serve his powerful clients well. An effective lobbyist and lawyer, as well as advisor on regulatory matters over some of New Zealand's most significant industries and infrastructure

47. BILL HOOGE

A professor of law at Auckland University and an arbitrator and mediator, as well as a well-respected media commentator on legal issues. Having authored Criminal Procedure in New Zealand and co-authored Torts in New Zealand among other texts his observations and work continue to play a key part in New Zealand legal life.

48. PATSY REDDY

As cut a major role in business and politics. Well connected within Wellington political and business circles, she is a frequent attendee at important events and handles a range of key jobs as an effective 'fixer'. A former Minter Ellison Rudd Watts partner she is currently leading the first review of the New Zealand security and intelligence agencies by appointment of Justice Minister Amy Adams.

49. CECILIA TARRANT



Returning to New Zealand

she has used her business and legal clout as Executive-in-Residence at the

University of Auckland Business School and as an independent non executive director of Fletcher Building a director of Fletcher Building Industries Ltd and FB Industries, as well as a board member of the Government Superannuation Fund Authority. Admitted to the bar in California as well as New Zealand she obtained a law degree from UC Berkeley.

50. JANE KELSEY

Best known as the key anti Trans-Pacific Partnership activist, and given the TPP's importance to the country, the Auckland law school lecturer has become a Power List entrant. A frequently quoted critic of globalisation, Jane Kelsey has articulated opposition to globalisation more than anyone else, certainly anyone else in the legal profession, and is a well known left-of-centre proponent of issues relating to NGOs, social movements and social justice.

Author of the so-called "neoliberal restructuring of New Zealand", 'The New Zealand Experiment. A World Model for Structural Adjustment?', As well as other books and articles relating to her areas of interest, she has become an increasingly visible voice railing against globalisation and related agreements and law.