



Climate in the Courtroom: New Zealand Climate Litigation Conference 2026

THURSDAY 26 MARCH (Evening Judicial Panel, in person only, hosted by LRF and NZCEL)

FRIDAY 27 MARCH (One-Day Conference, in person or online)

Location: Fale Pasifika, University of Auckland

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

THURSDAY 26 MARCH (IN PERSON ONLY)

6:30 PM -
9:00 PM



**Adjudicating Climate Litigation
around the World**

Chair: Rt Hon Dame Helen Winkelmann
Chief Justice of the Supreme Court
of New Zealand

Tickets include drinks and nibbles

Andreas Paulus, Professor, Georg-August
University of Göttingen; former Justice, First
Senate, German Federal Constitutional Court
President Peta Stilgoe OAM, President of the
Land Court of Queensland

FRIDAY 27 MARCH (IN PERSON OR ONLINE)

8:00 AM

Registration opens

8:30 AM

Opening

Hone Arohaina Riwaka Thorpe, Kaiārahi, UoA
Vernon Rive, **Jessica Palairet**
Vishal Prasad, Director, Pacific Island Students
Fighting Climate Change

9:00 AM -
9:45 AM

**The Global Picture: Trends in Climate
Litigation around the World**

Chair: **Jessica Palairet**, Executive Director,
Lawyers for Climate Action NZ



Jacqueline Peel, Professor of Law and Director,
Melbourne Climate Futures, University of
Melbourne
Catherine Higham, Senior Policy Fellow,
Grantham Research Institute, London School of
Economics

9:45 AM -
10:45 AM

**The ICJ Advisory Opinion on Climate
Change and its implications for
Aotearoa New Zealand**

Chair: **Justin Sobion**, Lecturer, University of
Auckland



Christina Voigt, Professor of Law at University
of Oslo
Robert Kirkness, Barrister, Thorndon
Chambers
Caroline Foster, Professor, UoA and Director,
New Zealand Centre for Environmental Law

11:00 AM -
12:00 PM

Climate Science in the Courtroom

Chair: **Vernon Rive**, Associate Professor,
University of Auckland



James Every-Palmer KC, Barrister, Stout
Street Chambers, Co-founder, LCA NZ
David Bullock, Partner, LeeSalmonLong
Tim Naish NZAM, Climate scientist, Antarctic
Research Centre and Professor, Victoria
University of Wellington
Luke Harrington, Senior Lecturer, University
of Waikato

12:00 PM -
1:15 PM

Public Law Climate Litigation

Chair: **Hon. Justice Jillian Mallon**, Judge of
the New Zealand Court of Appeal



Davey Salmon KC, Barrister, Mills Lane
Chambers
Sally Gepp KC, Barrister, Mills Lane Chambers
President Peta Stilgoe OAM, President of the
Land Court of Queensland

2:15 PM -
3:45 PM

Private Law Climate Litigation

Chair: **Simon Ladd KC**, Barrister, Shortland
Chambers and Executive Director, Legal
Research Foundation



Jenny Cooper KC, Barrister, Shortland
Chambers, President, LCA NZ
Daniel Kalderimis KC, Barrister, Thorndon
Chambers
Nicola Swan, Partner, Chapman Tripp
Sam Bookman, Lecturer, Melbourne Law
School

3:45 PM -
4:45 PM

**Te Tiriti o Waitangi, Tikanga, and
Climate Change**

Chair: **Professor David Williams**, Professor
Emeritus, University of Auckland and
Member of the Waitangi Tribunal Climate
Change Priority Inquiry



Matanuku Mahuika, Barrister, Bankside
Chambers
Horiana Irwin-Easthope, Managing Director,
Whāia Legal
Jeremy Prebble, Barrister, Hawkestone
Chambers

4:45 PM

Closing remarks, followed by networking drinks