



# 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  
**Justice** of the Supreme and National Courts of Papua New Guinea (TBC)

# FRIDAY 27 MARCH (IN PERSON OR ONLINE)

8:00 AM	Registration opens	
8:30 AM	Opening	<b>Hone Arohaina Riwaka Thorpe</b> , Kaiārahi, UoA <b>Vernon Rive</b> , Jessica Palairet
9:00 AM - 9:45 AM	<b>The Global Picture: Trends in Climate Litigation around the World</b>  Chair: <b>Jessica Palairet</b> , Executive Director, Lawyers for Climate Action NZ 	<b>Jacqueline Peel</b> , Professor of Law and Director, Melbourne Climate Futures, University of Melbourne <b>Catherine Higham</b> , Senior Policy Fellow, Grantham Research Institute, London School of Economics
9:45 AM - 10:45 AM	<b>The ICJ Advisory Opinion on Climate Change and its implications for Aotearoa New Zealand</b>  Chair: <b>Caroline Foster</b> , Professor, University of Auckland and Director, New Zealand Centre for Environmental Law 	<b>Christina Voigt</b> , Professor of Law at University of Oslo <b>Robert Kirkness</b> , Barrister, Thorndon Chambers
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	<b>Climate Science in the Courtroom</b>  Chair: <b>Vernon Rive</b> , Associate Professor, University of Auckland 	<b>James Every-Palmer KC</b> , Barrister, Stout Street Chambers, Co-founder, LCANZI <b>David Bullock</b> , Partner, LeeSalmonLong <b>Tim Naish NZAM</b> , Climate scientist, Antarctic Research Centre and Professor, Victoria University of Wellington
12:00 PM - 1:15 PM	<b>Public Law Climate Litigation</b>  Chair: <b>Hon. Justice Jillian Mallon</b> , Judge of the New Zealand Court of Appeal 	<b>Davey Salmon KC</b> , Barrister, Mills Lane Chambers <b>Sally Gepp KC</b> , Barrister, Mills Lane Chambers <b>President Peta Stilgoe OAM</b> , President of the Land Court of Queensland
2:15 PM - 3:45 PM	<b>Private Law Climate Litigation</b>  Chair: <b>Simon Ladd KC</b> , Barrister, Shortland Chambers and Executive Director, Legal Research Foundation 	<b>Jenny Cooper KC</b> , Barrister, Shortland Chambers, President, LCANZI <b>Daniel Kalderimis KC</b> , Barrister, Thorndon Chambers <b>Nicola Swan</b> , Partner, Chapman Tripp <b>Sam Bookman</b> , Lecturer, Melbourne Law School
3:45 PM - 4:45 PM	<b>Te Tiriti o Waitangi, Tikanga, and Climate Change</b>  Chair: <b>Professor David Williams</b> , Professor Emeritus, University of Auckland and Member of the Waitangi Tribunal Climate Change Priority Inquiry 	<b>Matanuku Mahuika</b> , Barrister, Bankside Chambers <b>Horiana Irwin-Easthope</b> , Managing Director, Whāia Legal <b>Jeremy Prebble</b> , Barrister, Hawkestone Chambers
4:45 PM	<b>Closing remarks, followed by networking drinks</b>	

**Rt Hon Dame Helen Winkelmann**

Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of New Zealand

**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

**Hon. Justice Jillian Mallon**

Judge of the Court of Appeal of New Zealand

**Jacqueline Peel**

Professor of Law and Director, Melbourne Climate Futures, University of Melbourne

**Catherine Higham**

Senior Policy Fellow, Grantham Research Institute at the London School of Economics

**Caroline Foster**

Professor, University of Auckland and Director, New Zealand Centre for Environmental Law

**Christina Voigt**

Professor of Law at University of Oslo, Norway, and Chair of the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law

**Robert Kirkness**

Barrister, Thorndon Chambers

**Vernon Rive**

Associate Professor, University of Auckland

**James Every-Palmer KC**

Barrister, Stout Street Chambers and Co-Founder, LCANZI

**David Bullock**

Partner, LeeSalmonLong

**Jessica Palairat**

Executive Director, Lawyers for Climate Action

**Davey Salmon KC**

Barrister, Mills Lane Chambers

**Sally Gepp KC**

Barrister, Mills Lane Chambers

**Simon Ladd KC**

Barrister, Shortland Chambers and Executive Director, Legal Research Foundation

**Jenny Cooper KC**

Barrister, Shortland Chambers and President, LCANZI



Barrister, Thorndon Chambers

**Nicola Swan**

Partner, Chapman Tripp

**Sam Bookman**

Lecturer, Melbourne Law School and Postdoctoral Fellow, Harvard Law School

**David Williams**

Professor Emeritus, University of Auckland and Waitangi Tribunal

**Matanuku Mahuika**

Barrister, Bankside Chambers

**Horiana Irwin-Easthope**

Managing Director, Whāia Legal

**Jeremy Prebble**

Barrister, Hawkestone Chambers

**Tim Naish**

Climate Scientist, Professor, Victoria University of Wellington