

Hon. Kit Toogood QC

Education

Victoria University of Wellington: LLB (1972)

In July 2019, Kit Toogood QC refined his skills as a mediator at a week-long training course in *Mediating the Litigated Case*, conducted by the Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution, Pepperdine University, Malibu, CA.

Professional career

- August 2019 –** Mediator, arbitrator, investigator and consultant/advisor on legal and governance issues
- 2011 – 2019** Judge of the High Court of New Zealand and member of the Divisional Court of Appeal of New Zealand
- May 1999** Appointed Queen’s Counsel
- March 1973** Admitted as barrister and solicitor of High Court of New Zealand

After 18 years as a litigation lawyer in Wellington firms, Kit Toogood QC joined the Independent Bar in 1990. Following a move to Auckland in 1992, he specialised in civil and commercial litigation; employment, sports, and criminal law; and arbitration and mediation.

Kit Toogood QC took Silk in May 1999. In March 2011, he was appointed a Judge of the High Court of New Zealand and served also as a member of the Divisional Court of the New Zealand Court of Appeal. During his judicial term of nearly nine years, he exercised a full range of the courts’ jurisdiction in criminal, civil, commercial and other cases at first instance and appellate level.

Since his statutory retirement as a judge on 4 August 2019, Kit Toogood QC has returned to practice as a mediator, arbitrator, investigator and consultant/advisor on legal and governance issues.

Areas of Specialisation

Before his appointment as a judge, Kit Toogood QC conducted civil and commercial litigation in all New Zealand courts; appeared as senior counsel in major criminal trials for both the prosecution and defence in the High Court and District Courts; and had substantial appellate experience in the Supreme Court, Court of Appeal and High Court (in civil and criminal matters). His litigation experience included frequent appearances in the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal, the Labour and Employment Courts and the Employment Tribunal and Employment Relations Authority on behalf of employees, employers, employer organisations and unions. He provided strategic advice to major corporations and government departments on employment issues, including contract negotiation; restructuring; termination of employment; and legislative compliance, and advised commercial and not-for-profit organisations on governance and organisational issues.

Appointments

Kit Toogood QC was a member of the Prosecutor Panel for the Serious Fraud Office. He is a former member of the Police Tribunal and was a member of the panel appointed to investigate and report on Police disciplinary charges.

Kit was a foundation Deputy Chair of the New Zealand Sports Tribunal. Upon his appointment to the High Court, he was required to resign as a member of the panel of arbitrators of the Court of Arbitration for Sport, Lausanne, Switzerland.

In 2019/2020, he investigated and reported on the delay in discovering the death of a student in a hall of residence at the University of Canterbury.

Kit Toogood QC is a former Treasurer and Vice-President of the New Zealand Bar Association. His arts governance experience includes chairing the boards of Downstage Theatre (Wellington), the Royal New Zealand Ballet and the Auckland Theatre Company.