

V.ALUM 2023















Law Alumni Magazine



VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF
WELLINGTON
TE HERENGA WAKA



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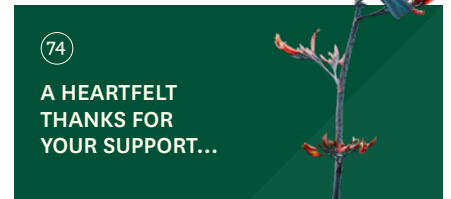
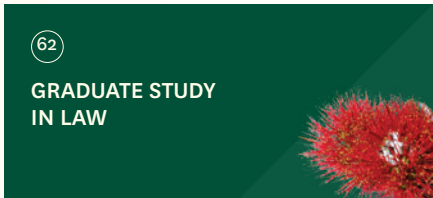
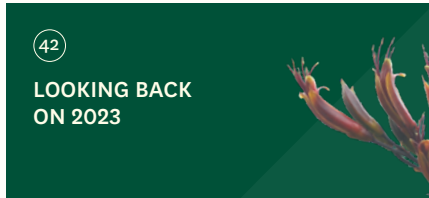
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Cover Image: Colin MacDiarmid

Kaiwhakaterere: The Navigator (2001) by Brett Graham (Ngāti Koroki Kahukura) Granite blocks, steel, cement, and foam plastic framework

Commissioned by the Wellington Sculpture Trust in honour of Henry Lang, a co-founder of the Trust.

Kaiwhakaterere: The Navigator consists of three large pieces which refer to tools of navigation. Throughout Polynesia, the navigator is exalted as a pathfinder, an innovator and a visionary – qualities necessary for discerning leadership.

Tēnā koutou katoa

Greetings to all alumni and readers of *V.alum*.

The winds of change have swept across Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington in 2023 and rattled the windows in Te Kauhanganui Tātai Ture—Faculty of Law. However, this venerable institution has withstood the adverse weather reasonably well, as necessary University financial sustainability measures came into effect mid-year. The capacity to withstand strong winds is an apt metaphor for a faculty and staff that relishes its place in a beautiful but gusty location.

That resilience reflects the passion, dedication, and sheer hard work of academic and professional staff who have gone beyond the call this year to keep the Faculty functioning well for our students, and for the many alumni and people in the legal profession who cherish the Faculty and its accomplishments.

As a result of changes, we will farewell some professional staff who have been an integral part of Faculty life, while others move to new positions in the Faculty, University, and beyond. Professor Mark Hickford is among those who left the University this year. I would like to acknowledge his significant achievements as Pro Vice-Chancellor and Dean of the Faculty of Law 2015–2021.

I also wish to acknowledge Professor Petra Butler's contributions and passion for this Faculty. She leaves us to take up the position of Amo Matua | Executive Dean Law at Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha | University of Canterbury.

In a challenging year, we are grateful to the many people and organisations, and to our emeritus staff and distinguished fellows, who have offered support to ensure the Faculty continues its traditions of teaching and research excellence.



Moreover, such winds are not without some benefit. They require a 'hard look' at things we may take for granted, while refocusing priorities. They are a source of change in established practices, as exemplified in the new online format for *V.alum* itself.

The Faculty has navigated change across many areas, holding on to its commitment to on-campus teaching and a participatory learning model while meeting student requests for equity of access. It is wonderful to see life and learning thriving again in our campus. A special thank you for the extraordinary enthusiasm and wonderful achievements of our student representative groups this year!

2023 has been a year of adjustment for the Faculty in terms of curriculum and courses. We are well advanced with planning for the integration of tikanga Māori into the LLB curriculum.

We are working with our Pasifika staff on advancing improvements in legal education. We have a graduate entry pathway to the LLB and new elective courses, and we have introduced new postgraduate offerings. We look to review the programme going forward.

2023 has been a year of adjustment

Despite the headwinds, 2023 has been a busy year: we held two successful, high-profile international conferences and a host of illustrious public lectures and fellowships.

I hope all staff will take time to refresh.

On behalf of all in the Faculty, I wish everyone well for the coming holiday season.



Professor Lee Godden



Professor Lee Godden

Reports from the Associate Deans

2023 in review.

Associate Dean of Research— Professor Joel Colón-Ríos

2023 was another excellent year for research at the Law School. The quality and number of books, book chapters, articles, and other research outputs published by a relatively small group of scholars—who are also full-time teachers—was impressive. This research is cited and discussed by scholars and courts internationally, and it has key impacts on Aotearoa New Zealand and the world. Recent examples are [Dr Mele Tupou Vaitohi's leadership in the Improving Pasifika Legal Education Project](#), Associate Professor Dean Knight's [2023 Critic and Conscience of Society Award](#), and Professor Joanna Mossop's role in the [negotiations leading to the adoption of the UN Agreement on Marine Biodiversity beyond National Jurisdiction](#).



This was also an important year for development of the research infrastructure at the Law School, with the establishment of [Te Herenga Waka Centre for Justice Innovation \(CJI\)](#), co-directed by Professor Yvette Tinsley, Judge John Walker, and Everard Halbert. The CJI will engage in research and evaluation on issues that cut across different areas of the justice system.

Together with the Faculty's other research centres, the [NZCIEL](#) and the [NZCPL](#), it promises to play an important role in disseminating our research and increasing its impact outside academia. Finally, it was great to see our new colleagues Dr Hai-Yuean Tualima and Dr Luke Fitzgerald complete their doctoral studies. Despite the challenges ahead, I believe our researchers will continue to surpass all expectations.

Professor Joel Colón-Ríos

Associate Dean of Students— Professor Catherine Iorns

There are many reasons to celebrate our students in 2023, and I am privileged to do so. We have a world-class, dedicated Faculty teaching their hearts out and serving as many students as ever. There are 1,300 students currently in the upper years of our LLB and LLB(Hons) programmes, with approximately another 30 in our Master's-level programmes. Including first-year students, we will have taught more than 1,700 Law students in 2023.

Perhaps the best part of my job is handing out degree certificates at graduation and congratulating every student who walks across the stage. This year we will have graduated 274 LLB and LLB(Hons) students and another 16 with postgraduate degrees. Education can and does change lives for the better, and we are proud to be a part of that, including through enrolling, supporting, and graduating more students from diverse backgrounds than ever.



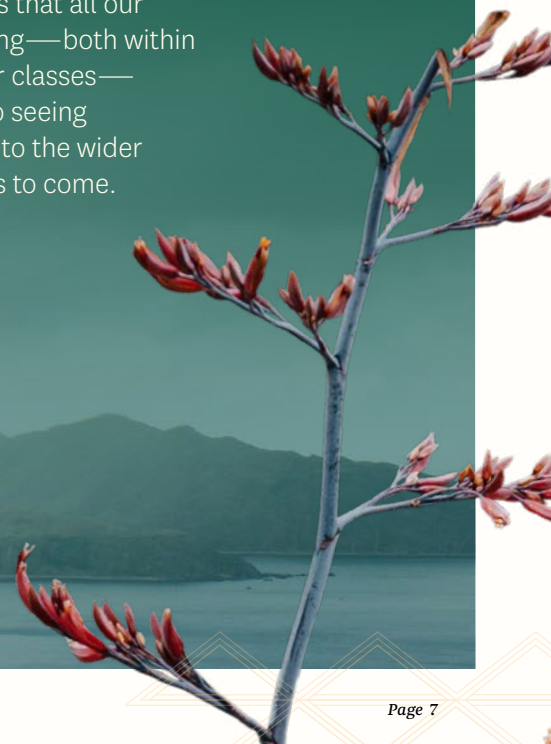
Professor Catherine Iorns

Students this year have faced immense difficulties due to the cost of living. This has forced many to take on more hours of employment than is consistent with being able to focus on study and demonstrating achievement.

As Associate Dean of Students, I try to help students achieve their potential, and it is a pleasure to see them persevere and then walk across that stage at the end.

I applaud the range of student activities and community-building that takes place in the law school, especially through the non-curricular activities and student clubs that are part of the life of the law school. Some of those have led to significant successes, such as wins in student competitions.

I celebrate the skills that all our students are learning—both within and outside of their classes—and look forward to seeing their contributions to the wider community in years to come.



Associate Dean Academic Programmes and International Engagement—Professor Petra Butler

The role of Associate Dean Academic Programmes and International Engagement was created this year with a view to developing new programmes and courses that accommodate the needs of both a diverse range of students and the legal profession.

One of my first tasks was to establish the [Graduate Entry Pathway into Law Programme](#) to allow graduate students—and students who have substantially completed an undergraduate degree—to complete all required 100-level Law courses over the summer trimester. Several other programmes are in the pipeline.



Professor Petra Butler

More generally, my aim is to facilitate the offering of an exciting and varied elective and postgraduate programme, so that students can deepen their understanding of subjects important for legal practice—such as mergers and acquisitions—and be introduced to the latest legal thinking, such as space law.

On the international engagement front, the goal is to create opportunities for our students through exchanges and cooperation agreements with other universities, such as the one signed this year with the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London.

We also this year, for the first time, fully participated in the [Themis](#) programme, a bespoke exchange programme of law faculties focusing on international business law. We welcomed students from Università Bocconi (Milan), the Freie Universität Berlin, and Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien (Vienna).



The recent exchange with Penn State Law will allow our students to combine an exchange semester with acquiring credits towards an LLM.

create opportunities for our students

Finally, our international outreach efforts have continued, with many alumni functions around the world and here at home via the Faculty's student-focused 'Bringing the World to the Law School' series. We recently hosted the Swiss ambassador — HE Viktor Vavricka — for an evening on 'Swiss Foreign Policy in Practice: A Plus for Peace'.

Professor Petra Butler to become Dean of Law at University of Canterbury

Te Kauhanganui Tātai Ture — Faculty of Law warmly congratulates Professor Petra Butler on her appointment as Amo Matua | Executive Dean Law at Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha | University of Canterbury.

During her time at Te Herenga Waka — Victoria University of Wellington, Professor Butler has left an enduring legacy both within the Faculty, with the Profession, the wider community, and of course, with our students.

[Read more about Professor Butler's many contributions](#)



Thank you to Professor Mark Hickford

Professor Mark Hickford joined Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington in May 2015 as the Pro Vice-Chancellor and Dean of Law. In October 2021, he moved to a position as Pro Vice-Chancellor of the Government, Law, and Business division. He left the University after a leadership realignment in July 2023.

Professor Hickford’s contribution to Te Kauhanganui Tātai Ture— Faculty of Law, both as Dean and as Pro Vice-Chancellor, was significant. He was committed to establishing the Faculty as a quintessential capital-city faculty with an international focus. Under his leadership, the number of international staff increased significantly, as did the active engagement with our international and domestic alumni. His initiatives were instrumental in attracting international students and exploring possibilities for articulation between our degrees and those offered in other countries, including as dual degree agreements.

Further, Professor Hickford was committed to the promotion of equity and diversity from within our region. As Dean, he led the initiative of raising the staffing levels of Māori and Pasifika legal academics in the Faculty.

An important part of Professor Hickford’s legacy is the development and contribution to [Te Ao Māmara / Le Ao Malama / First Light Māori and Pasifika Futures in Law School-Leaver Scholarship](#). The scholarship supports ‘first in family’ Māori and Pasifika new students to university. It will continue to play an important role in enhancing the diversity of law students.

Leon Bakker, Director, Strategy and Planning and long-time colleague, said “Professor Hickford’s innovative work on engagement initiatives— such as [He Waka Taukaea](#)— was key

to building connections between the University and Wellington secondary schools. Providing opportunities to socialise the University environment to school students is of great benefit—especially for students from disadvantaged backgrounds.”

Professor Hickford has a strong background in Māori–Crown relations law and practice, constitutional and public law, the Treaty of Waitangi, and Indigenous peoples’ rights. Accordingly, in his time as Dean and Pro Vice-Chancellor, he played a significant role in preparing the Faculty to meet its commitments under the Council of Legal Education requirements for the integration of tikanga Māori into the law curriculum. He also fostered exchange and collaboration with government, once again highlighting the importance of the Faculty as part of a capital-city university.

As Pro Vice-Chancellor of Government, Law, and Business, Professor Hickford led University strategy on ‘Governing for the Future’ and supported engagement and outreach of the Faculty on these civic democracy themes.

Together with his Honour Justice Matthew Palmer, Professor Hickford is editing a collection of symposium papers on ‘Governing for the Future’, arising from an event that celebrated the 125th anniversary of the University.

More generally, Professor Hickford is an avid legal history scholar. We hope that he will now have time to pursue the editing of a collection on the history of international law in this region.

We wish him well in this scholarship, and in his future legal professional work.

**Professor Lee Godden and
Professor Petra Butler**



Professor Mark Hickford

‘Constitutional trainspotter’ celebrated for upholding good governance

A Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington legal academic has been celebrated for the vital role he has played in turning the spotlight on the inner workings of government, drawing on his expertise to hold those in power to account.

Dean Knight, Associate Professor of Law at Te Kauhanganui Tātai Ture—Faculty of Law, was announced as the winner of the Critic and Conscience of Society Award for 2023. The Award recognises the vital role he has played in providing valuable analysis and academic expertise to areas of public interest. Administered by Universities New Zealand, the \$50,000 award is sponsored by the Gama Foundation’s Grant and Marilyn Nelson. It was established to encourage academics to speak out on important issues.

Speaking to V.Alum from Europe, where he’s on research and study leave, Dr Knight says the award is a huge honour. “I was absolutely chuffed to win this. It’s very special to have my voice and my contribution to Aotearoa’s civic discussion recognised,” he says. “Our role as critic and conscience of society has been enshrined [in the Education and Training Act 2020], and is something I’ve always taken very seriously over the 20 years I’ve been in academia.”

Throughout his career, Dr Knight has consistently provided insights on the operation of government, promoting the proper use of power and holding to account those in positions of authority. Over the last two years in particular, he has led crucial debate within areas of public law that has resulted in real shifts in government policy, most notably the legality of the government's response to the [Covid-19](#) pandemic, and the [proposed entrenchment clause](#) in the Water Services (Three Waters) legislation.

“... it’s so important that we all support and give solidarity to those academics who are acting as critic and conscience—the things they say might not be welcomed or may be unpopular, but that’s why these ideas need to be heard.”

The self-described ‘constitutional trainspotter’ says recent events have given him much to work with. “When I look at the topics that I often pick up on, there have been some very strong themes around the proper use of emergency legislative power, prudential and clear law-making, open

and transparent decision-making and meaningful accountability. Between the incredible powers wielded during the Covid pandemic, Three Waters and severe weather recovery legislation, it’s been a busy couple of years for constitutional law. And don’t forget the array of issues local democracy throws up too, like closed meetings or spats about governance.”

it’s been a busy couple of years for constitutional law

Dr Knight says in the face of pushback from some corners, it’s vitally important that academics aren’t put off entering the public discourse. “You’ve got to take incredible care when



Dr Dean Knight

commenting on important civic matters nowadays—some public intellectuals are being treated very poorly by some marginal groups when they join important public debates. It’s extremely worrying, even for me despite my area of expertise being relatively vanilla and benign. I’ve got colleagues who are engaging in public debates as critic and conscience in much more difficult spaces and I worry about their wellbeing—if they are being piled on for the views they have, then we are left with an impoverished debate because those sage voices will withdraw,” he says. “That’s why it’s so important that we all support and give solidarity to those academics who are acting as critic and conscience—the things they say might not be welcomed or may be unpopular, but that’s why these ideas need to be heard.”

we have a vision of what the ideal state should be

Dr Knight is proud of his independence and strives to be non-partisan—and his track record shows criticism and compliments across the political spectrum. But he’s quick to point out that he does not claim to be wholly neutral. “When we engage in matters of government and constitutional law, we necessarily bring some of

our own ideological baggage—we have a vision of what the ideal state should be and that ideology in part shapes our sense of what good governance looks like,” he explains. “So I can’t be neutral. But I won’t be partisan. And, be assured, I will be one hundred percent robust. Those are my rules of engagement for entering the civic fray.”

Faculty of Law dean, Professor Lee Godden, says it is fitting for Dr Knight to receive this award. “It recognises his strong commitment to advancing the ideas of civic participation, accountability and transparency of government that lie at the core of a democratic and well-functioning legal system. On behalf of all staff at Te Kauhanganui Tatai Ture, the Faculty of Law, I offer heartfelt congratulations to Dean.”

Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington’s Vice-Chancellor Professor Nic Smith says the award not only recognises Dr Knight’s expertise in engaging in public debate, it also serves as a reminder of academia’s important analytical voice. “Universities are required to act as critic and conscience of society. By holding those in power to account, academics are helping clarify and resolve issues that affect New Zealanders now and into the future,” he says. “It’s fantastic to see Dean celebrated for his achievements in this space—the University is incredibly proud of him.”

At the time of publication, the Faculty of Law congratulates Dr Dean Knight on his appointment as Professor.



*Dr Dean Knight
and Professor Pat Walsh*



Grant and Marilyn Nelson (Gama Foundation) with Dr Dean Knight

Enriching minds and honouring legacies

The role of philanthropy in our legal community.

Public lectures are at the heart of our community engagement. Central to this are a number of philanthropically funded lectures which both commemorate those who have made an outstanding contribution to

New Zealand law and bring distinguished international scholars to New Zealand.

More information on each of these events can be found by selecting the headings opposite.





Ian Borrin Lecture

The Ian Borrin Lecture is given in honour of the late Judge Ian Borrin, an alumnus and major supporter of this lecture and the *Victoria University of Wellington Law Review*.

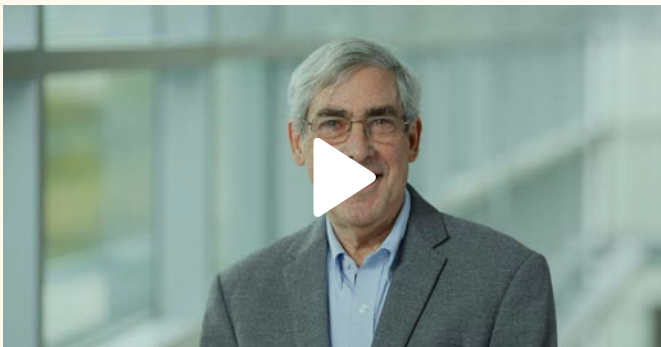
The 2023 lecture was given by Ian Borrin Fellow Professor Aileen Kavanagh, Trinity College, Dublin.



Lecretia Seales Memorial Lecture in Law Reform

Given in honour of lawyer and law reform advocate Lecretia Seales, the Lecretia Seales Memorial Lecture is generously supported by Lecretia's family and friends.

The 2023 lecture was given by Brendan Sydes, lawyer and environmental activist, Melbourne Law School.



Sir Owen Woodhouse Memorial Lecture

The Sir Owen Woodhouse Memorial Lecture commemorates the life of distinguished judge Sir Owen Woodhouse, who made a significant contribution to Aotearoa during his lifetime. The Sir Owen Woodhouse Memorial Lecture is generously supported by Sir Owen's family each year.

The 2023 lecture was given by Professor Richard Gaskins, Brandeis University, Boston.



Robin Cooke Lecture

Now a firm tradition at the Faculty of Law, the Robin Cooke lecture continues to be the pinnacle of the calendar of events and is generously supported by the Cooke family. It is given in honour of the late Lord Cooke of Thorndon, a Law School alumnus who is widely considered New Zealand's most eminent jurist.

The 2022 lecture was given by Professor Janet McLean KC FRSNZ, University of Auckland Faculty of Law.

Celebrating our Emeritus Professors

Te Kauhanganui Tātai Ture—Faculty of Law celebrates the remarkable contributions of its esteemed Emeritus Professors, who have devoted their academic careers to advancing legal knowledge, fostering intellectual curiosity, and mentoring generations of aspiring legal minds.

Fifty years at the Faculty of Law—Emeritus Professor Bill Atkin

Legal scholar and Faculty of Law lecturer Professor Bill Atkin has celebrated 50 years at Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington. He was awarded the status of Emeritus Professor in recognition of his exceptional contributions to the fields of family law and the law of torts, as well as decades of service at the Faculty.

Emeritus Professor Atkin’s research has covered the spectrum of family relationships, including relationship property, child support, domestic violence, de facto relationships, and the family justice system.



He is also known for pioneering Aotearoa New Zealand’s first elder law course.

Reflecting on his remarkable journey, Emeritus Professor Atkin acknowledges, “I never thought

I would have a long-term academic career, but it has worked out—often, I think, by accident rather than by design.”

Emeritus Professor Atkin’s legacy endures as he continues to teach Family Law and other specialised courses—such as Relationship Property and Medical and Health Law—ensuring that our students continue to benefit from his wisdom and expertise.

[Read more](#)

Emeritus Professor Bill Atkin

A Festschrift in honour of Emeritus Professor Tony Smith

The Faculty of Law and the *Victoria University of Wellington Law Review (VUWLR)* celebrated the achievements of Emeritus Professor Tony Smith with a special Festschrift edition in his honour.

Edited by Professors Graeme Austin and Nicole Moreham, this special edition of the VUWLR brought together papers by Emeritus Professor Smith's friends and colleagues—an apt celebration of his many contributions to legal thinking.

Emeritus Professor Smith served as Dean of the Faculty of Law and Pro-Vice Chancellor at Victoria University of Wellington between 2006 and 2015. This followed a distinguished career as Dean of Law at Reading and Durham Universities, and Chairman of the Faculty of Law at the University of Cambridge.



His scholarship, which includes leading books such as *The Offences Against Public Order*, *Property Offences: The Protection of Property Through the Criminal Law*, and *Harm and Culpability*, as well as numerous articles and papers, has established him as one of the common law world's preeminent criminal law scholars.

**this was a
wonderful
occasion to
celebrate**

Faculty of Law Dean Professor Lee Godden says, "This was a wonderful occasion to celebrate the renowned scholarship of Tony Smith and the contribution that he has made over many years to the Faculty of Law."

Emeritus Professor Tony Smith

Incorporating tikanga Māori into Law degree

Work began in earnest this year to prepare for the implementation of a new requirement that the LLB degree incorporate a tikanga Māori component from 2025.



Reader in Law,
Māmari Stephens

The requirement was introduced by the Council of Legal Education (CLE) in light of the growing place and recognition of tikanga Māori in the New Zealand legal system. The changes also align with a growing commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi within both Te Kauhanganui Tātai Ture—Faculty of Law and Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington more broadly.

In January we held our first staff wānanga, meeting for two days to discuss our response to the tikanga-related CLE requirements, as well as broader kaupapa Māori issues. We were welcomed on to Ngā Hau e Wha o Paparangi marae, and we acknowledge the manaakitanga extended to us by our hosts. The wānanga focused on growing our knowledge and understanding of tikanga, discussing our hopes and apprehensions relating to the changes, and the past and present experiences of taurira Māori (Māori students). The CLE-related changes complement similar ongoing work, led by Māori academics across the country and supported by the Borrin Foundation, on bicultural, bijural, bilingual legal education. We discussed how the new tikanga requirements sat alongside these broader changes.

Since that initial wānanga, work to understand how we can incorporate tikanga into core subjects across the curriculum continues. This has involved working with the course coordinators of each core subject to understand the fundamental

principles underpinning that area of law. The intent is to build on those principles and find areas of alignment (or tension) with principles of tikanga. We acknowledge the efforts of David Jones, whose work has been central to achieving these changes, and who facilitated our initial wānanga.

...we have been heartened by the largely enthusiastic response

We also acknowledge the wider group of friends and supporters who have helped make this happen. Te Kawa a Maui, the School of Māori Studies at Te Herenga Waka, has been instrumental in enabling this kaupapa. The Faculty of Law has also had the privilege of drawing on a network of supporters and distinguished fellows—we are grateful to all of these people, but particularly to Justice Tā Joseph Williams and Chief Judge Caren Fox.

Work will continue in 2024 to prepare us for the official implementation of these changes in 2025. Though this is a learning curve for some, we have been heartened by the largely enthusiastic response. This represents a new frontier for us as a faculty and we are looking forward to seeing this become a reality in the near future.

Reader in Law, Māmari Stephens

Creating an impact beyond our shores

**Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington
and Te Kauhanganui Tātai Ture—Faculty of Law hosted
international conferences in June and July, bringing
together academics from around the world to share their
expertise in international and public law.**

ANZSIL 2023

The [Australia New Zealand Society of International Law \(ANZSIL\)](#) 2023 conference saw distinguished guests and academics come together in plenary sessions and panel discussions to discuss ‘Is International Law Resilient?’ in the face of climate change, pandemics, and geopolitical tension.

Professor Joanna Mossop, one of the conference organisers, hailed it as “a great success. Everyone enjoyed the programme and how warm and inclusive the participants were.”

With more than 150 registrations, attendees from Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand enjoyed high-calibre panel discussions and keynote presentations from both sides of the Tasman.

A highlight was the ‘Souvenirs of International Law’ exhibition, which showcased international law memorabilia and brought some levity to the proceedings. “This was a huge hit,” said Professor Mossop.

Professor Lee Godden, Dean of the Faculty of Law, said, “Feedback on the event has been highly positive and has reinforced the significant international profile that the Faculty enjoys.”



ICON*S 2023

The conference of the International Society of Public Law (ICON*S) 2023—the world’s largest public law academic association—was held for the first time in Australasia thanks to Dr Dean Knight, Dr Guy Fiti Sinclair, and Professor Joel Colón-Ríos, who, in 2019, on behalf of the New Zealand Centre for Public Law and the Faculty of Law, presented a bid to host the event in New Zealand.

More than 500 delegates attended the conference at the Pipitea campus to discuss ‘Islands and Ocean: Public Law in a Plural World’. Speakers included academics from New Zealand and more than 60 other countries. Topics ranged from Indigenous governance to human rights, artificial intelligence, climate change, constitutional change, and reproductive rights.

The programme—a mix of plenary sessions and more than 100 parallel sessions—brought together Indigenous and non-Indigenous scholars to discuss, as Dr Knight put it, “an archipelago of issues from Aotearoa New Zealand to the South Pacific”.

Highlights included an LGBTQIA+ reception held at the Faculty of Law, and an event hosted by Chief Justice the Rt Hon. Dame Helen Winkelmann for women in the law.

“The highlight for me,” said Professor Colón-Ríos, “was the opportunity to expose hundreds of academics and practitioners to some of New Zealand’s key public debates. ICON*S provided a forum in which our academics could present their scholarship and discuss it with overseas colleagues whilst showcasing what our university and law school has to offer.”



Plural Responses to the Climate Crisis



The Ubiquity of Legal Pluralism and its Consequences



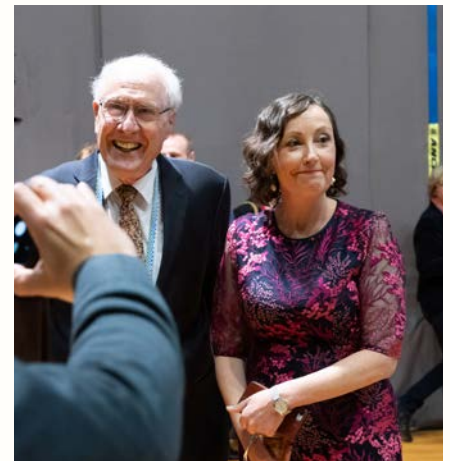
Pluralism and Change in Unwritten Constitutions



Pluralism and Indigenous Governance



- ▶ ANZSIL—Keynote speaker Professor Surabhi Ranganathan and Professor Joanna Mossop
- ▶ Sir Geoffrey Palmer and Professor Aileen Kavanagh—ANZSIL



▶ Attendees at ANZSIL





Associate Professor Dr Guy Fiti Sinclair— ANZSIL



Associate Professor Dr Dean Knight at ICON*S welcome function, Beehive
ICON*S Breakfast welcome, Wharewaka function Centre



Women in Law event—Supreme Court of New Zealand

Academic spurred to take on conservation case

The legal profession needs to step up and capitalise on its unique ability to force action to protect the environment and ensure a liveable future, according to a Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington academic who recently helped a grassroots campaign notch up a big win in the Environment Court.

Te Kauhanganui Tātai Ture— Faculty of Law Professor Catherine Iorns is celebrating her role in the decision (released in July), which has seen Te Waikoropupū Springs, near Takaka in Golden Bay, be granted the highest level of legal protection.

The springs are among the clearest in the world, with underwater visibility of up to 80 metres, but are at significant risk from human-induced pollution, especially nitrate getting into the water from surrounding farmland. The Water Conservation Order (WCO) is the first made in Aotearoa New Zealand in a

decade, and recognises the springs' environmental, recreational, and spiritual value, for both Māori and non-Māori.



Professor Iorns gained her practising certificate with the express purpose of representing the NGO Save Our Springs in its appeal of the 2020 report of a special tribunal.

Working alongside Nelson barrister Sally Gepp, Professor Iorns used her academic research in the legal submissions to the Environment Court, particularly on the precautionary principle under the Resource Management Act.

Professor Catherine Iorns

“I had wanted for ages to be able to utilise my areas of research to affect practical outcomes, and when I was approached by Save Our Springs to represent them in their appeal, the timing felt right,” she says. “In the end the Environment Court used my explanation and interpretation of precaution—including a brand new tikanga approach to interpretation—throughout their report and as a basis of their recommendations to adopt strong, precautionary water quality limits, which was a real win.”

The WCO was gazetted by then-Minister for the Environment David Parker in September 2023. The Tasman District Council will now need to make changes to its regional plan in line with the Order, which sets restrictions on permitting activities that would adversely impact water quality or flow rates.

Professor Iorns says the legal profession is uniquely placed to spearhead game-changing climate and other environmental action.

...massive changes required to save the natural world

“We don’t have time for people to slowly get their heads around the massive changes required to save the natural world. The only way to really get proper protections in a timely way is to force action legally,” she says. “We need to be the stick in the spokes of the climate change juggernaut—that has to be our focus if we want a liveable planet.”



Helping prisoners get back on their feet financially

People in Aotearoa New Zealand are leaving prison with no banking services, making it more difficult for them to reintegrate into society, according to research from Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington.

Victoria Stace, a senior lecturer at Te Kauhanganui Tātai Ture—Faculty of Law, was asked by FinCap (the umbrella organisation supporting independent financial mentoring services) to look into an issue that was repeatedly being raised by financial mentors working with prisoners.

“Financial mentors had reported that clients who were incarcerated had problems accessing and maintaining banking services. If a person had an account upon entering prison, it might be closed. If they wanted to open an account while in prison to enable receipt of money, this was difficult. And prisoners who came out of prison had problems opening an account,” says Victoria.

So she set about researching the law pertaining to prisoners’ access to banking services, and what could be done to make it easier for them.

“I’m not a criminologist—when I started this project I did not have a lot of understanding of prison systems and prisoner rights—but this issue clearly overlapped with my interest in consumer credit law,” says Victoria.

So with financial support from Te Herenga Waka, she took the project on, speaking to Corrections Ara Poutama Aotearoa, major banks, financial mentors, and other organisations working with people coming out of prison. Her research, ‘Paying the Price—A report into issues that prisoners face around access to banking’, was released in May 2023.

“It quickly became very obvious that prisoners face a range of issues around management of their financial affairs at different stages, including when they go into prison, during their incarceration, and when they’re released,” she says. “We ended up focusing on what happens when people come out of prison, when they often have real problems getting a bank account open.”

She says this problem is not unique to Aotearoa, with similar issues occurring in other countries, including the United Kingdom.

“It quickly became very obvious that prisoners face a range of issues around management of their financial affairs at different stages”

“In the UK there’s a very successful scheme whereby major banks help prisoners set up an account before they’re released—they’re assisted to get their ID sorted, their forms filled out, and their bank card ready to go, and they’re issued with it when they physically walk out the door.”

Victoria says the scheme is a relatively straightforward measure that would ensure people released from prison are set up to immediately start receiving a benefit or wages, but it’s not currently being done in New Zealand.

You can’t do anything without a bank account

“You can’t do anything without a bank account—this is an essential service, so I do feel as though the major banks have a corporate social responsibility to provide a bank account to people coming out of prison. But that’s not currently mandated by the law.”



Victoria Stace

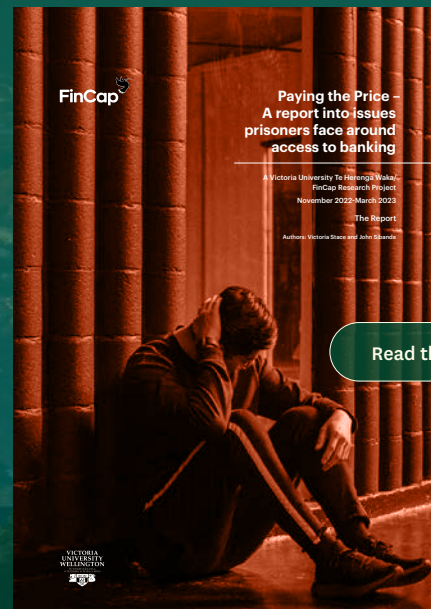
“In fact, there’s only one bank in New Zealand—Westpac—that will currently entertain an application from someone who is still in prison,” she says.

“It’s great that Westpac offers the service, but constrained resources mean it hasn’t been taken up widely by Corrections. Most financial mentors we spoke to had no knowledge of its existence,” explains Victoria. “Also, the other major banks feel that because Westpac is offering that service, then they don’t need to do it themselves. The problem with that, from a basic consumer perspective, is that it removes any choice about how these people bank their money.”

Victoria says it’s time for an overhaul of Corrections’ pre-release systems. Her report recommends that a formal programme be established that gives all prisoners who are incarcerated for six months or longer the opportunity to set up a bank account before release and have a financial health check on entry into prison with a view to lessening the financial impact of incarceration.

The next phase of the research will involve assessing the robustness of the report’s recommendations with key stakeholders, and then hopefully gaining support to help make the recommendations a reality.

“There are a whole lot of reasons why these recommendations are a good idea, not least because people who have already served their time in prison don’t deserve to be punished again,” Victoria says. “If we’re serious about helping people reintegrate back into society when they’re released from prison, it makes sense to make the process easier for them—helping them get a bank account is just one way to do that. It’s a simple service that makes a huge difference.”



[Read the report](#)

Graduation address

Manraj Singh Rahi, class of 2022.

Giving the graduate address at the May 2023 ceremony was a real honour. Summarising five years at Te Herenga Waka in a five-minute speech turned into just as large a challenge as the degree itself.

Having the chance to reflect on this experience, I realise that I have taken not only skills for life, but incredible memories as well. I thoroughly enjoyed my time studying for my LLB degree at

Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington, and graduation was an incredible opportunity to celebrate the achievements of our entire cohort.

As for me, I have started work in a large commercial firm and am excited to put my knowledge to work and continue to learn.

[Watch the address here](#)



Manraj Sing Rahi

New scholarship provides opportunity of a lifetime

First-year law student and the recipient of Te Ao Mārama/Le Ao Malama/First Light Māori and Pasifika Futures in Law School-Leaver Scholarship, Eliseo John Davis, says without the scholarship he may not have been able to attend university at all.

He is the inaugural recipient of the one-of-a-kind scholarship, which aims to address inequity in the legal system by reducing barriers faced by Māori and Pasifika students considering undertaking a Law degree.

Born and raised in the south of Auckland, Eliseo made the move to Wellington to pursue Law at the beginning of the year—a significant move for him and his family, who he says are incredibly close.

A portrait of Eliseo Davis, a young man with dark, curly hair and a goatee, wearing a grey hoodie. He is smiling slightly and looking directly at the camera. The background is a soft, out-of-focus landscape with warm, golden light, possibly a sunset or sunrise over water.

Eliseo Davis

“I’ve lived my whole life with my Mum and my younger brother and grandparents, so I was a bit nervous to leave them, but I know how proud they are for me to be here.”

He credits his mother for his academic success, saying she pushed him from a young age to always do his best. And his grandparents for their unwavering support and care.

“She encouraged me to study hard and put in the work because she wanted the very best opportunities for me. For my mothers’ family, I’m the first to attend university and it’s in a large way thanks to her.”

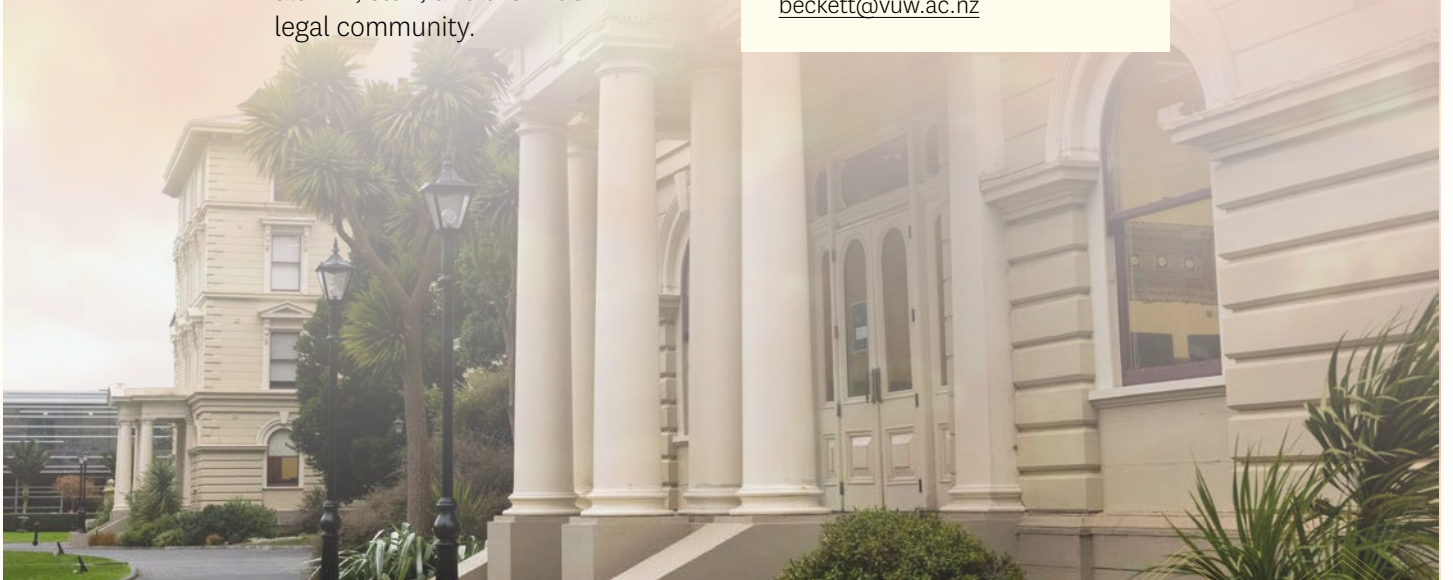
As Eliseo further pursues his Law degree, internship and mentorship opportunities are on hand to support him, thanks to the generosity and manaakitanga behind the kaupapa of this scholarship programme, which includes supporters who are alumni, staff, and the wider legal community.

By covering tuition costs for first-in-family Māori and Pasifika students to study Law, and providing them with social and professional support, the scholarship aims to help more young people fulfil their true potential through access to a university education.

I’m the first in my family to attend university

How to support this scholarship

We would be delighted to work with you to help us reach our goal of a more diverse and inclusive legal community. For information about how you can support [Te Ao Mārama / Le Ao Malama / First Light Māori and Pasifika Futures in Law School-Leaver Scholarship](#), please contact Victoria Beckett, senior development manager Faculty of Law at victoria.beckett@vuw.ac.nz



Leading thinking in international climate law

It's a hot-button topic of critical importance to the liveability of the planet, and a Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington doctoral student is at the forefront of potentially world-changing research into the laws around carbon credits and international net zero ambitions.

Injy Johnstone has just handed in her PhD in International Environmental Law, focusing on net zero-aligned offsetting. Her research conceives net zero as a source of new legal norms and delves into their substance, including how they can promote the environmental integrity of carbon markets. Injy gained an LLM in Environmental and Energy Law as a Fulbright scholar from the University of Colorado Boulder, and also holds an LLB(Hons) from Te Herenga Waka and a BSc in Physical Geography and Economics from the University of Otago.

Currently based in the United Kingdom, Injy is working to establish a new research programme within the [Oxford Sustainable Finance Group](#), focused on the emerging area of net zero regulation. “This is a spin-out from one aspect of my PhD, which looked at the environmental integrity of carbon

markets—specifically, it seeks to operationalise net zero-aligned offsetting out in the wider world. This involves talking to corporates as well as governments and carbon-credit platforms, to design the institutional rules and regulations around appropriate offsetting strategies, and ensure they have environmental integrity.”

Injy has worked with and advised a range of public, private, and third-sector entities, including Oxford Net Zero, the Global Center on Adaptation, UNESCO, and the UN Major Group for Children and Youth. While at New Zealand’s Ministry for the Environment, she was the project administrator for New Zealand’s Zero Carbon Act. In 2022, she ran a project entitled ‘[Net-Zero New Zealand](#)’ to conceive net zero norm development on a community level with help from a [Jeremy Bloomfield Scholarship from Te Herenga Waka](#).

She believes her background in geography has given her PhD research a solid scientific base. “During my time studying physical geography I was really interested in environmental law and the nexus between science and law, in that law can be informed by science. Net zero is a really great example of that because it came out of scientific research—it’s a physical target that’s measurable. But it’s more than that too: it’s a much broader suite of societal changes that need to occur,” she says. “In my thesis, I try to unwrap that and look at net zero as a whole, and at its specific components to show the extent to which each component has developed a legal nature and what that means for its practice in the real world.”

Injy says net zero is a constantly evolving topic, but she’s confident her research could be helpful to the first global stocktake of progress towards the Paris Agreement, which is currently being undertaken by the United Nations. The stocktake is occurring alongside the development of advisory opinions on climate change from the International Court of Justice, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, and the International Tribunal of the Law of the Sea.

It’s all very high-profile and potentially world-changing work, and there have been more than a few pinch-yourself moments for Injy, who had the opportunity to witness international climate negotiations up close at COP26 in Glasgow and COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh. She will also be attending COP28 in Dubai later this year.

...net zero is a constantly evolving topic

Injy is currently focused on her post-doctoral project, helping establish a net zero research programme at Oxford. “I’m hoping my research can help ensure this new programme is focusing on the right things and is able to better connect offsetting strategies back to this broader framework of international law and the impact that net zero regulations can and will have in future,” she says. “Once that’s wrapped up, I’m keen to take some time out to write my monograph, and then see what happens next—it’s such a fast-moving, dynamic space and I’m excited to see where it takes me.”



Injy Johnstone

Developing the law of the sea

Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington’s Professor Joanna Mossop is an international authority on the law of the sea. For over 20 years, she has researched, taught, and written about this topic. She is now weaving together the separate strands of her scholarship to help shape an international body of law that meets the needs of people, the ocean, and the environment.

2023 has been exciting for Professor Mossop. Not only was this the year of her inaugural lecture— ‘Reimagining the law of the sea—evolution or revolution’—she was an independent adviser to the New Zealand delegation negotiating a new treaty on the high seas and saw the conclusion of the Agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biodiversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, or BBNJ (Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction) Agreement.

The BBNJ Agreement provides a legal framework for dealing with the parts of the ocean that sit outside national boundaries—around two-thirds of the world’s oceans. More than 80 countries have signed the Agreement, but 60 ratifications are required for it to enter into force, so Professor Mossop does not expect it to come into effect for another three to five years.

“During that time, there will be a lot of work needed to implement the agreement into national laws before countries can ratify it and it gets up and running,” she says.

Much academic activity has arisen from the negotiations of this new Agreement. Oxford University Press has commissioned Professor Mossop to co-edit a reference book about the Agreement to help practitioners, officials, and scholars understand what the Agreement means and how it can be implemented.

Although the Agreement is a fantastic achievement, there is still a lot of work to do to ensure oceans are managed sustainably. “The Agreement will address certain problems, but it doesn’t fundamentally change the way the law is structured.”

She hopes her research on the Marsden-funded project ‘Reimagining ocean law to achieve equitable and sustainable use of marine ecosystems’ will provide much-needed scholarship around ‘big picture’ legal questions, such as

the theoretical underpinnings of the law of the sea, and whether these can be restructured in creative and sustainable ways.

Professor Mossop is excited the theoretical and practical strands of her scholarship are weaving together and contributing to a wider body of knowledge.

equitable and sustainable use of marine ecosystems

“It’s one of those exciting moments right now, in international law, where there’s a lot of interest and energy around the law of the sea. I hope this inspires governments to do things differently for the future of our oceans.”

[Watch the full lecture here](#)

*Professor Lee Godden,
Professor Joanna Mossop
and Professor Nic Smith*



Community, accessibility, and participation— life at Law School

I am extremely grateful to have been elected Victoria University of Wellington Law Students' Society (VUWLSS) president for 2024 and can't wait to see what next year brings.

Valentyn Santhara



I was born in Malaysia and moved to Auckland for boarding school at age 15.

I chose to move to Wellington, as the opportunity to pursue an LLB in the heart of the capital was something I just couldn't miss out on! Next year will be my fifth year at Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington, studying an LLB and BCom majoring in Finance.

Outside of my studies, I enjoy exploring Wellington's food scene, cooking, and spending time with friends on the weekend. I have loved my experience at Law School and have made many great memories and friends in the Old Government Buildings (OGB).

I want to say a big mihi to Tom Simmonds, the VUWLSS President for 2023, who has succeeded in bringing life back to Law School and increasing engagement after the interruptions of the last few years. As president next year, my goal is to continue to foster an environment that is inclusive, welcoming, and supportive of all law students. Being comfortable in the Law School environment is such a big contributor to the health and wellbeing of students, and being able to connect with peers in person has made a huge difference for me as I've worked through my Law degree. Next year, a key priority for VUWLSS will be to facilitate accessible events and initiatives that create a sense of community.

VUWLSS is very lucky to work alongside the other student representative groups—Ngā Rangahautira, Pasifika Law Students' Society, Asian Law Students' Association, VUW Feminist Law Society, and Rainbow Law. They are an integral part of our Law School community and carry the duty of advocating and creating inclusive environments for their respective students. In 2024, VUWLSS will continue to support and celebrate the valuable work they do to enrich the experiences of students.

As in-person teaching continues in 2024, supporting students — especially those who can't attend classes — is extremely important. VUWLSS will continue to advocate on behalf of students and work with the Faculty and the equity-based lecture recordings policy to ensure students' concerns are met. Additionally, I know that OGB can appear daunting at first, particularly for younger students who are coming down to Pipitea campus for the first time. I want to ensure that they, and every student who is eager to, have an opportunity to get involved.

I look forward to working with the VUWLSS Executive team and can't wait to see what we can achieve for all Law students.

Valentyn Santhara

Making meaningful changes to improve Pasifika legal education

A landmark report into improving legal education for Pasifika students is providing a solid foundation for important changes to be made and has had funding secured from the Michael and Suzanne Borrin Foundation to ensure work can continue on reducing barriers and improving the experiences and success of Pasifika studying and practising law.



Project Committee Professor Mark Hickford, Tupe Solomon-Tanoa'I, Wiliame Gucake, Dr Mele Tupou Vaitohi, and Dr Guy Fiti Sinclair

Launched at the end of 2022, ‘Fofola na ibe—Improving Pasifika Legal Education in Aotearoa Report on Talanoa Research Findings and Recommendations’ summarised the experiences of 130 Pasifika law practitioners—both students and professionals—within their chosen career, and was conducted through Talanoa, a traditional, inclusive, and participatory dialogue process.

Lead researcher Dr Mele Tupou Vaitohi, who is a senior lecturer of Law at Te Kauhanganui Tātai Ture—Faculty of Law and a leading scholar on Tongan constitutional law, says the report found that many Pasifika law students and legal professionals were disadvantaged.

“In Aotearoa we have essentially a monocultural legal profession, entrenched with systemic disadvantages for those wanting to enter the profession,” she says. “Our research also uncovered the inequity, racism, and harassment suffered by Pasifika in law schools and the legal profession across Aotearoa.”

The report—which is part of the [Improving Pasifika Legal Education](#) project—made a raft of recommendations for law schools in Aotearoa New Zealand, the legal profession, and government, which included practical steps that needed be taken to ensure long-term educational and professional equity for Pasifika students and lawyers.

Approval has recently been granted to re-purpose some original Borrin Foundation funding to further develop the [Pasifika Legal Education Research Hub](#). The hub is a multidisciplinary online research space that aims at connecting Pasifika law students, graduates, and lawyers with academics and policy-makers, to advance the delivery of the recommendations of the ‘Fofola na ibe’ project report.

“This research hub is important for the implementation of the recommendations because a lot of the issues we identified stem from systemic problems—while changes needed to address those will require a long-term approach, it’s important that we get the foundations for the strategies in place as soon as possible,” says Dr Tupou Vaitohi.



[Read the report](#)



Looking back on 2023

▶ Professor Emerita Margaret Carr unveils the doorplate in honour of her brother, Professor Peter Hogg CC, QC, LLD



▶ Associate Professor Mele Tupou Vaitohi, Professor Rawinia Higgins, Justice Joe Williams, Justice Michelle O'Bonsawin, Professor Mark Hickford, and Professor Lee Godden



▶ Judges' Dinner— Dr Danica McGovern, Sir John Stephen Kós KNZM KC, and Professor Yvette Tinsley

▶ Start of the year VUWLSS sausage sizzle



▶ Life and Learning at the Law School event for Law students new to the Pipitea Campus



▶ Law Graduation—
May 2023 graduates
▼ Triplets Cale,
Max, and Jackson
Tu'inukuafe graduated
in May with their
Law degrees



▶ Award winners at
the Dean's reception
▼ Charanjit Kaur Rahi,
Manraj Singh Rahi, and
Gurjit Singh Rahi

▶ Ivor Richardson Lecture—Justice
David Collins, Professor Geoff McLay,
Justice Mark Cooper, Professor
Lee Godden, Sarah Grimmer, Dr Dean
Knight, and Professor Graeme Austin



▶ Lecretia Seales Memorial Lecture in Law— Shirley, Jeremy and Larry Seales, Brendan Sydes, and Professor Lee Godden

▶ Pasifika Law Students' Society (PLSS) Moot participants and judges



▶ Sir Owen Woodhouse Memorial Lecture 2023— Professor Emeritus Richard Gaskins



▶ Consumer Data Right event with Dr Scott Farrell, Victoria Stace, and Dr Marcin Betkier





◀ Swiss Ambassador, Viktor Vavricka, presents to Law students about Swiss foreign policy

◀ Changing of the guard: Valentyn Santhara and Tom Simmonds—future and past presidents of VUWLSS



◀ 2023 National Law Students' Association Conference success

◀ Student *Victoria University of Wellington Law Review* (VUWLR) event



◀ Welcome to the VUWLSS Executive 2024. Back row (left to right): Adam Newey, Ashi Gupta, Valentyn Santhara, Kristen Beattie, Isla Clarkson, Danielle Rayner, Emma Mason, Hannah Bautista, Olivia Overfield

Front row (left to right): Katie Donald, Amelia Bryant, Helena Palmer

In Absentia: Tanumia Matega and Pepetoga Tauilili

▶ Faculty of Law hui—
Dr Hai-Yuean Tualima,
Associate Professor
Mark Bennett,
Professor Petra Butler,
and Dr Mele
Tupou Vaitohi



▶ 'Corruption and
human rights in
megaspports' lecture—
Professor Andy
Spalding, Faculty,
and students



▶ Faculty of Law
hui lunch with
Professor Rawinia
Higgins, Faculty, and
professional staff



▶ 'Private law—year
in review' Panel
discussion—Victoria
Stace, Ruiping Ye,
and Professor
Nicole Moreham





🕒 'Life and Learning at the Law School' event—staff waiata



🕒 Cooke Lecture 2022— Professor Janet McLean, Honourable Justice Susan Glazebrook, and Professor Lee Godden



🕒 'Government Law—Year in Review 2023'— Sir Geoffrey Palmer's opening address



🕒 Judges' dinner— Dr Eddie Clark, Justice Peter Churchman, Justice Susan Thomas, and Dr Hai-Yuean Tualima

Looking underneath the scar tissue

**Why lawyer wellbeing matters—
Professor Yvette Tinsley and Dr Nichola Tyler.**

It is no secret the legal profession has higher than average levels of stress and wellbeing problems. Reports in Aotearoa New Zealand and overseas consistently document that lawyers are an occupational group at one of the highest risks of poor mental health, stress, and burnout. The potential for negative outcomes for individuals, firms, and the profession are beginning to be acknowledged.

It is widely accepted that those in caring professions who are exposed to other people's grief and trauma experience detrimental effects on their own wellbeing. Lawyers working in areas such as criminal and family law therefore experience a 'double whammy' of occupational stress and exposure to potentially traumatic material.

Our research team spoke to 90 criminal lawyers working in both prosecution and defence, finding that they struggled to maintain wellbeing. Our criminal courts are places steeped in emotion, where the worst of human experiences play out in a purposely objective manner.

There is a professional expectation that lawyers and judges will suppress displays of emotion, resulting in an occupational cultural belief that building scar tissue—a 'thick skin'—is both an aspiration and a necessity. Unfortunately, this building of scar tissue does not attend to the wounds underneath or prevent further cuts.

The responsibility of caring for those who are vulnerable is felt intensely by criminal lawyers, and the complex set of interpersonal, legal, and communication skills required to do their job can take an emotional toll when dealing with the experiences and emotions of victims, defendants, and witnesses. Lawyers work long, often irregular, hours, making it difficult to maintain personal relationships.

Not only this, but many reported their job had changed their world view in ways that limited how they lived their life and the decisions they made about their children. Most criminal lawyers we spoke to felt less trusting of others as a consequence of their job, becoming hypervigilant and sometimes fearing being home alone.

The profession is aware of the problem and has responded: for example, the New Zealand Law Society provides some access to counselling and peer support, some firms have put wellbeing supports in place, and earlier this year the Chief High Court Judge and Chief District Court Judge wrote to the Bench, drawing attention to the wellbeing concerns of the profession.

Their wellbeing should matter to us all

Despite some changes to policy and practice, lawyers told us that barriers to help-seeking remained, and many reported that current assistance with stress and burnout was inadequate. There is the potential for serious ramifications if we do not succeed in providing adequate support, for both individuals and employers: in September, the Coroners Court of Victoria, Australia, [admitted failing](#) to protect staff from vicarious trauma, bullying, and burnout. Wellbeing risks had been reported by senior staff and in staff surveys, but inaction by the court service ultimately led to its prosecution, following the suicide of a senior in-house lawyer in 2018.

Dr Nichola Tyler

Criminal lawyers told us they keenly felt the community's lack of empathy for them. Despite this, their wellbeing should concern everyone. Criminal lawyers are essential to the function of democratic society: they ensure that the interests of society, in addressing harms, are represented via the Crown and that each citizen accused of a crime has an adequate defence. They need to be supported to assist court participants to navigate legal processes with accuracy, sound judgment, and creativity. We need them to be high performers in performing this vital community service. Their wellbeing should matter to us all.

Alongside the positive changes already being made by firms and professional bodies, our research has suggested some possible ways to approach criminal legal work in a more trauma-informed way, acknowledging the impacts and offering profession, employer, and individual options to

support wellbeing and encourage help-seeking. For the next stage of our research, we hope to develop some of these options further. In helping others, criminal lawyers can be harmed themselves, and it is important that we help lawyers to continue their role by making it safer and better supported.

Professor Yvette Tinsley is the Academic Director for [Te Herenga Waka Centre for Justice Innovation](#) and a Criminal Law lecturer and Dr Nichola Tyler is a senior lecturer in Forensic Psychology at the Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science, Swinburne University of Technology. Together, they presented their findings in September at a [public lecture](#) hosted by Te Herenga Waka Centre for Justice Innovation and the Faculty of Law.

Find out more about the
Centre for Justice Innovation



Professor Yvette Tinsley

Early career academics

We are delighted to welcome two new academic staff to Te Kauhanganui Tātai Ture—Faculty of Law.

Dr Nikita Melaschenko (LLB, LLM, PhD) was appointed a postdoctoral fellow in Te Kauhanganui Tātai Ture—Faculty of Law and is working with the New Zealand Centre of International Economic Law (NZCIEL). He obtained his doctoral degree from the Faculty with the dissertation ‘Data Barriers to International Trade’.

This year Nikita has been teaching professional development courses for policy specialists concerning trade in services and intellectual property (IP). His areas of research include the law of the World Trade Organization and international IP, with a special focus on digital trade and data governance.

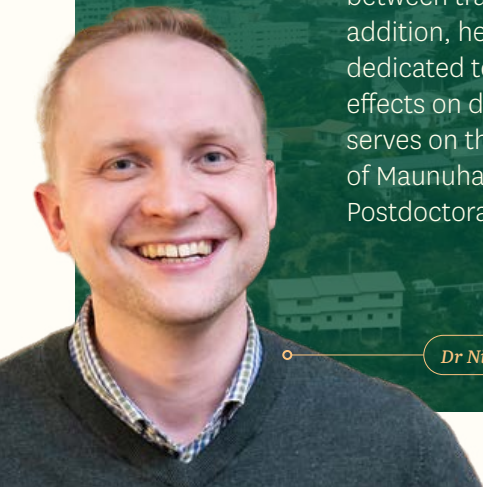
Together with Professor Susy Frankel FRSNZ, Nikita is currently working on mapping the linkages between trade in services and IP. In addition, he is working on a book dedicated to data barriers and their effects on digital trade. Nikita also serves on the executive committee of Maunuhanga—Wellington Postdoctoral Society.

Kelly Mitchell (BA, LLB) began as assistant lecturer this year, teaching LAWS 122 (and LAWS 121 in 2024).

Kelly is concurrently pursuing an LLM degree, under the guidance of Dr Luke Fitzmaurice-Brown. Her thesis will focus on understanding Indigenous legal theory and how it has developed, and identifying the unique contributions of Māori legal research—with a particular focus on Moana Jackson’s work—to Indigenous legal theory.

Kelly’s research interests lie in the interactions between the Crown’s law and tikanga, Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and criminal justice. She is currently developing a paper on the interaction between tax law and tikanga-based exchanges.

Kelly sits on the University Council as one of two student representatives.



Dr Nikita Melaschenko



Kelly Mitchell

Proudly celebrating our exceptional alumni

A highlight of the year for the University was celebrating our Distinguished Alumni Awards winners for 2023.

Honoured this year were two of Te Kauhanganui Tātai Ture— Faculty of Law’s very own alumni, each of whom displays leadership, creativity, and entrepreneurship, whether social, cultural, scientific, or commercial, that reflect our core values and purpose.

In fields ranging from finance and agritech to justice and public service, they have been recognised for the outstanding contributions to their professions, their communities, and Aotearoa New Zealand.

Read more about [Arama Kukutai](#), and how he is revolutionising agriculture with indoor farming technology, and [Una Jagose KC](#), New Zealand’s first woman Solicitor-General— one of the most influential and important legal positions in the country.



“You’re nothing without the ability to grow people around you.”

Arama Kukutai



“When someone tells you you’re not good enough, ignore it if you can.”

Una Jagose KC

Internship course provides valuable experience

An internship course is providing international LLM students at Te Kauhanganui Tātai Ture—Faculty of Law with valuable ‘real world’ work experience.



Associate Professor Kate Tokeley

The Faculty is seeking to increase its internship courses in line with Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington’s promotion of ‘work-integrated learning’. Held in Trimester 2, the 20-point course provides students with a unique opportunity to experience the day-to-day goings-on of a New Zealand legal workplace.

The faculty internship coordinator, Associate Professor Kate Tokeley, works to find each student an individual placement that is a good fit for that student’s legal interests.

“Students are placed in private law firms, government departments, the courts, community law centres, and other suitable organisations,” she says. “In 2023 we’ve had students from Germany, Austria, Hong Kong, and India doing internships in places as varied as the Intellectual Property Office of New Zealand, the criminal prosecution team at Luke Cunningham Clere, and the independent consumer rights organisation Consumer NZ.”

The course includes a component of legal/policy research and analytical writing, and students are assessed based on the work they produce at the workplace, an internship journal, and a presentation to fellow intern students about the internship experience.

“They share their thoughts on why they decided to do an internship, what the day-to-day work of the organisation involves, the kind of work they have been doing, how the New Zealand law and work environment is different from their home country, and whether the internship has influenced the kind of work they would like to pursue in their careers,” says Associate Professor Tokeley.


...we’ve had students from Germany, Austria, Hong Kong, and India...

Professor Petra Butler, Associate Dean Academic Programmes and International Engagement, adds that the Faculty is seeking to offer an internship course and/or a clinical experience for its undergraduate students, too. “This is in line with Te Herenga Waka’s promotion of ‘work-integrated learning,’” she explains. “Being able to apply what has been learnt in the classroom will enhance the students’ understanding of the law and its social context.”



Māori and Pasifika mooting and engagement success

2023 was another busy year for taura Māori and Pasifika. With six successful legal competitions under their belts, our student representative groups are going from strength to strength.



In May, the annual Ngā Rangahautira—Māori Law Students' Association Kaupapa Māori Moot Competition took place at the Old High Court.

The evening began with tikanga formalities before proceeding to the moot, which concerned resource consents and was loosely based on *Trans-Tasman Resources Limited v The Taranaki-Whanganui Conservation Board*.

Mooters deftly handled the fiery questions from a full 'Supreme Court' bench, which included the Honourable Justice Sir Joe Williams,

Judge Damian Stone, Matanuku Mahuika (Kāhui Legal co-founder), Tara Hauraki (Kāhui Legal partner), and Te Kauhanganui Tātai Ture—Faculty of Law's Māmari Stephens.

The second legal competition—held at Kāhui Legal's offices—was the Kaupapa Māori Negotiation. Negotiators acted as legal representation for different sides of a family discussing the will, burial, and ōhākī of a kaumātua.

The third competition saw Ngā Rangahautira join forces with the Pasifika Law Students' Society (PLSS) to host the inaugural Māori and Pacific Island Negotiation Competition. The negotiation was between a local iwi and a pan-Pasifika group looking to build a fale on iwi land.

The fourth competition was the annual PLSS Moot held at the Old High Court. Mooters dealt with constitutional and customary matters during a land dispute in the High Court of Tokelau. The Honourable Justice Rebecca Edwards presided, alongside alumni Wiliame Gucake and Toli Sagaga.

“Mooters deftly handled the fiery questions from a full ‘Supreme Court’ bench”

The final competitions were hosted by Te Hunga Roia Māori o Aotearoa (The Māori Law Society) in Hamilton. Ngā Rangahautira representatives competed against each law school across the motu and won the national Kaupapa Māori Best Negotiator award and the Manukura Trophy for the Best Mooting Team, which we have proudly brought back to Te Whanganui-ā-Tara Wellington.

We extend a big mihi to all the winners and winning teams. We also thank the many judging panels and sponsors for supporting and coaching our students this year.

...we will continue to see tauira Māori and Pasifika excellence on display...

We look forward to 2024, when we will continue to see tauira Māori and Pasifika excellence on display in our legal competitions.

*Top row, left to right: Matanuku Mahuika, Justice Joe Williams, Māmari Stephens, Tara Hauraki, and Judge Damian Stone
Bottom row, left to right: Tamati Durie-McGrath, Ella Young, Kaea Hudson, Kelly Mitchell, Katie Wells, and Israel Elkington*



Closing trusts' equity loopholes

Trusts are popular in Aotearoa New Zealand, but research at Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington's Te Kauhanganui Tātai Ture—Faculty of Law is focusing on how one problematic loophole can be tightened without forgoing their wider benefits.

Trusts are a legal mechanism that enable one person (the settlor) to give the benefits of property to a group of individuals (the beneficiaries), while legal ownership, control, and decisions about the administration of the assets lie with others (trustees). Common examples are pension schemes, like KiwiSaver, and family trusts, which often hold a home or other assets for the benefit of a family.

Associate Professor Mark Bennett says family trusts are often used to protect people from creditors, minimise tax liabilities, access government benefits, and avoid the Property (Relationships) Act 1976 in the event of a domestic partnership breakdown. While these are simply the consequences of the transfer of property into the trust, this is problematic when the settlor—the party that creates a trust—does not give up a significant amount of their control over and benefits from the property.

“Trusts serve many useful purposes in commercial practice, investment and pensions, and managing family assets. But the settlor can retain so much control through powers and roles within the trust that the property effectively remains under their control and available for their benefit. This means that although the property ‘formally’ no longer belongs to them and cannot be claimed by creditors or former relationship partners, in ‘substance’ the property is theirs,” says Dr Bennett.

But ‘look-through’ mechanisms — which attribute property ownership to individuals who have such excessive control—can catch the inequitable use of settlor-controlled trusts, while allowing the beneficial uses of trusts to remain.

“I have compared New Zealand’s rules with stronger ‘look-through’ mechanisms in other jurisdictions—Australia, Canada, England, and the United States—where if a settlor retains significant control or benefit from trust property, it may be regarded as theirs. What’s important is to calibrate ‘look-through’ mechanisms so that the purposes of, for example, relationship property law, are upheld, but you have not prevented appropriate trust use.”

“...the settlor can retain so much control through powers and roles within the trust that the property effectively remains under their control and available for their benefit.”

Dr Bennett says it is possible to tighten the loophole, but it would be a question for the legislature. “There’s a reluctance in New Zealand to make big changes to trusts because of their popularity. That makes it a controversial topic—as does the complexity of getting the calibration right. But I don’t think that justifies our current weak approach to ‘look-through’.”

With his recent work on illusory trusts being cited in the New Zealand Court of Appeal, and his normative arguments against settlor-controlled trusts discussed in academic journals, Dr Bennett is looking forward to publishing his work on ‘look-through’, and the debates it might generate. He’s eager to talk to trust lawyers about the issue, so get in touch with him if you’re interested.

[Get in touch](#)



Associate Professor Mark Bennett

In the Spotlight

**Te Herenga Waka Centre for Justice Innovation—
an independent, impartial, and trusted voice.**

Te Herenga Waka Centre for Justice Innovation was launched earlier this year with the support of the Michael and Suzanne Borrin Foundation. Its co-directors, Professor Yvette Tinsley, Judge John Walker, and Everard Halbert, provide the academic, judicial, and Māori leadership to guide its work to create an independent, impartial, and trusted voice on justice issues in Aotearoa New Zealand.

The Centre's focus is to address calls for change in the way that justice is delivered and to improve the outcomes and experiences for all court and justice system participants.

**The Centre's
focus is to
address calls
for change**

With many projects already underway, the Centre is providing an evidence base for informed debate through research, evaluation, and education.

It aims to provide guidance to legal professionals, judges, public sector workers, and the public, and to deliver innovations in both specific justice reforms and broader innovations in thinking and practice.

To celebrate the launch of the Centre for Justice Innovation, three public events were held at Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington, outlining the Centre's three key areas of innovation.

More recently, the Centre announced the successful funding, by the Michael and Suzanne Borrin Foundation, of a new law reform project focusing on bail and custodial remand practices in Aotearoa. The project will be led by the Centre's co-directors, with a multidisciplinary team of researchers from Te Herenga Waka.

Read more about the
'Custodial Remand before
Trial or Sentence' project [here](#)

Te Ao Mārama

‘Te Ao Mārama—the vision for the District Court’—a public address by Chief District Court Judge Heemi Taumaunu to mark the launch of the Centre.

[Read more](#)



Top to bottom, left to right: Prof. Mark Hickford, Jane Warren, (middle) Chief Judge Heemi Taumaunu, Chief Justice the Right Honourable Dame Helen Winkelmann, Justice David Goddard, Professor Lee Godden (bottom row) Mike Ross, Judge John Walker, Everard Halbert, Tupe Solomon-Tanoa'I, Professor Yvette Tinsley



Justice David Goddard, Chief Judge Heemi Taumaunu, Tupe Solomon-Tanoa'I

Sexual violence reform

'Innovative justice responses to sexual offending'—A panel discussion exploring alternatives to using jury trials in dealing with sexual violence offences.

[Read more](#)



*Reader Māmari Stephens, Dr Kay Stuart, Dr Jane Bolitho,
Dr Danica McGovern, Dr Claire Baylis, and Professor Yvette Tinsley*

The wellbeing impacts of working in the criminal courts

‘Scar tissue that I wish you saw—understanding and addressing the wellbeing impacts of working in criminal law’—A dissemination lecture about the findings from new research into wellbeing in the law.

Read more



Professor Yvette Tinsley, Judge John Walker



Poster exhibition by Project research assistants

Graduate study in Law

The Faculty of Law now offers two study pathways for graduates, whether you wish to enhance your expertise across a range of current and emerging issues in law, or change careers and embark on an undergraduate Law degree.

Postgraduate law courses

Our courses offer a flexible approach to study and include relevant career development opportunities for working professionals, allowing you to reflect on your experiences as a scholar, practitioner, and/or working professional in government, law, and business.

Choose from advanced degrees of international reputation, to short courses for busy professionals.

Visit the [postgraduate study page](#) on our website for more information.

For a full list of what is on offer in 2024, visit our [website course finder here](#).

[Postgraduate study page](#)

[Website course finder](#)

If you are interested in experiencing a Master of Laws, register here to view a short taster lecture by Associate Professor Grant Morris on negotiation and mediation in the legal environment.

[Register here](#)

Graduate entry pathway into Law

For graduates who already hold a degree—and who wish to study Law—the graduate entry pathway into Law offers an optimised way to acquire a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree. You will start your study journey with LAWS 111 and complete your first year of Law in a single (summer) trimester.

[Find out more](#)

Snapshots on alumni

**From Aotearoa New Zealand to the world,
Te Kauhanganui Tātai Ture—Faculty of Law alumni
continue to make a global impact.**

A legal career full of twists and turns (Spain)

Alumnus John Peterson has been shaking up the world of international tax, as the head of division at the OECD's tax directorate.

[Read more](#)

An ethos of public service (UK)

We caught up with alumna Constance Minett earlier this year—she is part of the Blavatnik School of Government at the University of Oxford, pursuing a Master of Public Policy (MPP).

[Read more](#)



John Peterson



Constance Minett

Dice—Literature and a visceral response to the Law (New Zealand)

Author and alumna Dr Claire Baylis recounts her amazing journey from academic to novelist.

[Read more](#)

Law talent—to the power of three (New Zealand)

Identical triplets Cale, Max, and Jackson Tu'inukuafe created a buzz at graduation as they donned their Law graduation robes and crossed the stage, together, to receive their degrees.

[Read more](#)



Dr Claire Baylis



Cale, Max, and Jackson Tu'inukuafe



In Memoriam

Te Kauhanganui Tātai Ture—Faculty of Law honours and remembers past alumni and colleagues.

Professor Peter Hogg honoured

Te Kauhanganui Tātai Ture—Faculty of Law celebrated the life of alumnus and former staff member, Professor Peter Hogg CC, QC, LL.D (1939-2020) earlier this year, with the unveiling of a door plate on the ground floor of the Faculty of Law's Government Buildings.



[Read more](#)

Faculty of Law remembered Justice Simon France

Te Kauhanganui Tātai Ture—Faculty of Law remembered Justice Simon France, who passed away this year at the age of 64, as an esteemed and respected colleague.



Justice Simon France

[Read more](#)

Remembering Dame Alison Quentin-Baxter, DNZM QSO

The Faculty of Law, Victoria University of Wellington was deeply saddened by the passing of former Faculty member Dame Alison Quentin-Baxter, DNZM QSO, aged 93 years.



Dame Alison Quentin-Baxter,
DNZM QSO

[Read more](#)

Awards, honours, and appointments

**Congratulations to all those in our community—
students, staff, and alumni—who have been recognised
with awards, honours, and appointments this year.**

Alumni

Ana Baide (LLB 2004, LLM 2009) was made head of regulatory affairs at Vodafone UK.

Amelia Cina (LLB(Hons) 2018) received the Young ICCA scholarship to do a Master in International Dispute Settlement programme.

Paul Comrie-Thomson (LLB 2015) was made a partner at Wynn Williams.

Honourable Judge Katie Elkin (PLEGST 2003) was appointed to Christchurch District Court, based in Wellington for the remainder of 2023. Judge Elkin was sworn in at Wellington's District Court on Friday 12 May 2023.

Honourable Judge Caren Fox (Ngāti Porou, Rongowhakaata) (LLB 1989, LLM 1997) was appointed Chief Judge of the Māori Land Court.

Honourable Judge Caroline Hickman (LLB 1991, PLEGST 1991, LLM 2017) was appointed to Palmerston North District Court.

Professor Peter Hogg CC, QC, LLD (LLB 1962, Hon LLD 2006) was posthumously honoured with a special door plate unveiling ceremony.

Una Jagose KC (LLM 1995) received the Distinguished Alumni Award.

Honourable Justice Stephen Kós KC (LLB(Hons) 1981) was appointed as Knight in this year's King's Honours List.

Arama Kukutai (BCA 1989, LLB 1994) received the Distinguished Alumni Award.

Honourable Justice Dale La Hood (LLB 1994) was sworn appointed as a judge of the High Court.

Pete McKenzie (LLB(Hons) 2021) won two categories at the 2023 Voyager Media Awards event: 'Best Reporter of the Year' and 'Best Junior Feature Writer of the Year'.

Genevieve Poirier (LLB(Hons) 2003) was appointed partner at LALIVE (London).

Honourable Justice Lisa Preston KC (LLB(Hons) 1991) was appointed as a judge of the High Court.

Honourable Justice Paul Radich KC (LLB(Hons) 1986) was appointed as a judge of the High Court.

Audley Sheppard KC (LLB(Hons) 1984) was elected as ICCA vice-president.

Professor David Williams (BA/LLB 1969) was appointed to the Waitangi Tribunal.

Faculty

Professor Bill Atkin was conferred the status and title of Emeritus Professor by the University by Vice-Chancellor Professor Nic Smith.

Professor Petra Butler was made a Fellow of the Arbitrators' and Mediators' Institute of New Zealand.

Professor Joel Colón-Ríos was appointed by the Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne as visiting professor.

Dr Luke Fitzmaurice-Brown was awarded the Academic Writing Award by Te Hunga Rōia Māori (the Māori Law Society).

Dr Susy Frankel was elected Deputy Chair of the Academy Executive Committee and appointed to the Royal Society Te Apārangi Council.

Professor Lee Godden was awarded the Eminent Environmental Lawyer, Legal Practice Division from the Law Council of Australia.

Professor Catherine Iorns was appointed as Chair of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's Taskforce on Antarctica and the Southern Ocean.

Dr Dean Knight was awarded the 2023 Critic and Conscience of Society Award for the vital role he has played in contributing analysis and academic expertise to areas of public interest. This award was conferred by Universities New Zealand and sponsored by the philanthropic trust the Gama Foundation.

Dr Dean Knight was awarded a Highly Commended, JF Northey Memorial Book Award, Legal Research Foundation Writing Awards 2022 for his book *The Constitution of New Zealand: A Contextual Analysis*.

Dr Dean Knight was appointed to the Integrity and Ethics Advisory Board, Te Kawa Mataaho—Public Service Commission.

Associate Professor Meredith Kolsky Lewis was named to the editorial board of the *Journal of World Investment and Trade*. She was also appointed as co-director of the APEC Study Center at the University at Buffalo, The State University of New York, as the co-chair of the United States APEC Study Centers Consortium, and as a member of the US branch of the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (US PECC).

Dr Marnie Lloyd was appointed a research associate of Te Herenga Waka's Centre for Justice Innovation, and of He Whenua Taurikura, an independent national centre of research, established in response to the Royal Commission of Inquiry report into the terrorist attack on Christchurch masjidain.

Dr Marnie Lloyd was awarded a funded visiting fellowship to the Peter McMullin Centre on Statelessness, Melbourne Law School.

Dr Marnie Lloyd was a finalist for Best Doctoral Thesis in the Field of Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism Studies 2023, awarded by the Terrorism Research Initiative, Vienna.

Professor Campbell McLachlan KC was the first New Zealander to be invited to give the General Course at The Hague Academy of International Law, which will be delivered in January 2024 on the theme 'On the interface between public and private international law'.

Professor Campbell McLachlan KC was elected to the Professorship in Law (1973), specialising in International Dispute Resolution, in the University of Cambridge, with effect from 1 July 2024.

Professor Nicole Moreham was appointed as co-editor of the UK-based *Journal of Media Law*.

Professor Nicole Moreham was appointed to the editorial board of the *Tort Law Review*.

Dr Ruiping Ye was awarded the Dan Chen Fellowship grant in 2023 for research in Chinese law.

Students

Sophie Brokenshire was awarded the Kate Sheppard Chambers Scholarship to pursue postgraduate study that relates to women and the law.

Isla Clarkson won the National Client Interviewing Competition at the 2023 annual New Zealand Law Association Conference.

George Curzon-Hobson won the National Mooting Competition at the 2023 annual New Zealand Law Association Conference.

Jamal Fiso won the National Client Interviewing Competition at the 2023 annual New Zealand Law Association Conference.

Zinzan Goertzen was awarded the Fleur Knowsley Law Scholarship 2023.

Riley Hoet was awarded the Victoria University of Wellington Law School Leaver Scholarship 2023.

Harmony Kinloch was awarded the Frank Healy Scholarship in Law 2023.

Evo Malifa was awarded the Wellington Women Lawyers' Association Scholarship 2023.

Thomas Pope-Kerr won the National Mooting Competition at the 2023 annual New Zealand Law Association Conference.

Olivia Robertson-Reiri was awarded the Victoria University of Wellington Law School Leaver Scholarship 2023.

Cornelia Sartie won the Colin Aikman Award 2023.

Hatamara Shaw was awarded the Wellington Women Lawyers' Association Scholarship 2023.

Tom Simmonds was elected president of the New Zealand Law Students' Association.

Ete Sooalo was awarded the Quentin Baxter Memorial Scholarship 2023.

Christie Wallace was awarded the Kāhui Legal Excellence Scholarship 2023.

Israel Elkington, Katie Wells, and Ella Young were the winning team for the Kaupapa Māori Moot Competition 2023.

Hēmi Daly, Lauren Tidswell, and Christie Wallace were the winning team for the Kaupapa Māori Negotiation Competition 2023.

Prize winners for 2022

A.H. Johnstone Scholarship in Law—**Florence Oakley** and **Megan Ritchie**

A.L. Hollings Trust Award—**Jimmy Mack**

Archibald Francis McCallum Scholarship in Law—**Anna Dombroski**

Bernard Randall Prize in Family Law—**Alexandra Briscoe**

Chris Highfield Memorial Prize in Judicial Review—**Jack Apperley**

Chris Highfield Memorial Prize in Public Law—**Sameer Mandhan**

Coleman-Brown Memorial Award—**Gaby Burns**

Colin Patterson Memorial Prize—**Lucille Reece**

Dan Winfield Memorial Prize in Intellectual Property—**Ella Wells**

Faculty of Law Prize in Legal System—**Sally Coughlan**

Flacks & Wong Prize in Company Law—**Rebecca Kimpton**

Gordon Orr Prize—**Katie Wells**

I.L.M. Richardson Prize in Private Law—**Anna Dombroski** and **Antonia Smith**

Jacob Joseph Award—**Rebecca Kimpton**

John Miller Award in Social Justice & Community Development (Undergraduate)—**Safari Hynes** and **George Curzon-Hobson**

Lord Cooke of Thorndon Prize—**Florence Oakley**

New Zealand Law Review Prize—**Florence Oakley**, **Megan Ritchie**, and **Emerald Bendall**

Quentin Baxter Prize in International Law—**Jacob Pritchard**

Quentin Baxter Prize in Public and International Law—**Anna Schoonees**

Robert Orr McGechan Memorial Prize—**Lydia Whyte**

Sir John McGrath Distinguished Prize in Public Law—**Maisy Bentley**

Thomas Prize in Mooting (Winner)—**Thomas Pope-Kerr**

Thomas Prize in Mooting (Runner-up)—**Patrick Ye**

Thomson Reuters Prize in Jurisprudence—**George Shirtcliffe**

Thomson Reuters Prize in the Law of Contract—**Emerald Bendall**

Val Gormly Memorial Prize—**Anna Dombroski**

Dean's List 2022

Congratulations go to the following students, who are included on the Dean's List for academic excellence in 2022.

Nikki Anderson	Finlay Dempster	Sophie James	Claire Rees
Luke Andrews	Anna Dombroski	Grace Jeong	Megan Ritchie
Jack Apperley	Liv Donovan-Grammer	Lucy Jessep	Jasmine Robinson
Angelica Araboglos	Jack Douglas	Tessa Keenan	Carys Robson
Caitlin Ashby	William Ferris	Carissa Khushal	Samantha Romijn
Emma Barnes-Wetere	Hunter Flanagan-Connors	Rebecca Kimpton	Anna Schoonees
Hannah Bautista	Jack Fogarty	Ruby Lange	Leander Schubert
Sophie Beasley	Michelle Gauler	Catharina Lee	Hugo Schwarz
Stella Beattie	Hannah Giles	James Macey	Rita Shasha
Isabelle Beconsall-Ryan	Xandi Gobbi	Alice Mander	Ella Shirtcliffe
William Bell-Purchas	Zinzan Goertzen	Sameer Mandhan	George Shirtcliffe
Emerald Bendall	Kezra Gonzalez	Holly Manning	Eleesha Silva
Jack Blackman	Laura Goodman	Cristina McCormick	Anna Smart
Alexandra Briscoe	Louise Goodwin	Tayla McKenzie Bethell	Antonia Smith
Elisabeth Brown	Shivaansh Gounder	Aranga Molijn	Nick Stevens
India Bulman	Claire Graham	Ruby Moore	Emily Thom
Lucy Campbell	Olivia Greiner	Noah Moores	Courtney Thomas
Vijay Chand	Joy Guo	Charlie Mudgway	Amiria Tikao
Ben Clark	Eve Hagenson	Hannah Nathan	Freya Turnbull-Kelly
Jamie Clumpas	Paddy Hansen	Olivia Overfield	Alisha Wathen
Eva Cochrane	Emma Hardy	Helena Palmer	Grace Windhager
Will Collins	Cait Hollywood	Lucy Poole	Ryona Winwood
Hattie Compton-Moen	Lara Hopkinson	Thomas Pope-Kerr	Holly Woolston
Brendan Courtney	Lia Horsley	Ben Power	Philia Yeo
George Curzon-Hobson	Darcy Houston	Jiya Raj	
Cody Dalton	Alister Hughes	Chantal Rapley	
Finn Davenport	Morgan Jakob	Lucille Reece	

Published in 2023

Authored books

Bill Atkin, Mark Henaghan, Shonagh Burnhill and Anna Chapman *Family Law in New Zealand* (21st ed, LexisNexis, 2023). [View](#)

Bill Atkin, Stephen Todd, Cynthia Hawes, Ursula Cheer and Andru Isac *Todd on Torts* (9th ed, Thomson Reuters, 2023). [View](#)

Petra Butler, Kristin Hausler, Alina Holzhausen and Berenika Drazewska with Eva U Wagner (ed) *Intangible Cultural Heritage within the Laws and Policies of South Pacific Small Island States in the Climate Crisis: Towards a More Resilient and Inclusive Approach* (Periscope Policy Paper, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (Australia), 2023). [View](#)

Bjorn-Oliver Magsig, Johannes Schiller, Arnold Sauter and Silke Beck *Der gesellschaftliche Umgang mit Nichtwissen bei wissenschaftlichen explorativen Experimenten* (Büro für Technikfolgen-Abschätzung beim Deutschen Bundestag, 2023).

Edited books

Susy Frankel, Margaret Chon, Graeme B Dinwoodie, Jens Schovsbo and Barbara Lauriat (eds) *Improving Intellectual Property: A Global Project* (Edward Elgar Publishing, 2023). [View](#)

Lee Godden, Nicole Graham and Margaret Davies (eds) *The Routledge Handbook of Property, Law and Society* (Routledge, 2022). [View](#)

Lee Godden, Giuseppe Bellantuono, Hanri Mostert, Hannah Wiseman and Hao Zhang (eds) *Handbook of Energy Law in the Low-Carbon Transition* (De Gruyter, 2023). [View](#)

Kate Tokeley and **Victoria Stace** (eds) *Consumer Law in New Zealand* (3rd ed, LexisNexis, 2022). [View](#)

Edited journals

Graeme Austin and **Nicole Moreham** (2023) 54(2) *Victoria University of Wellington Law Review: Special Issue in honour of Professor ATH Smith*. [View](#)

Dean Knight (2022) 20(1) *New Zealand Journal of Public and International Law, Special Issue: Public Law—Institutions, Norms, Culture*.

Chapters

Bill Atkin “Teaching Parenting Law and Culture in Aotearoa New Zealand” in H Kha and M Henaghan (eds) *Teaching Family Law—Reflections on Pedagogy and Practice* (Routledge, 2023).

Petra Butler “Human Rights in International Commercial and Investment Arbitration” in S Kröll, A Bjorklund and F Ferrari (eds) *Cambridge Compendium of International Commercial and Investment Arbitration* (Cambridge University Press, 2022).

Petra Butler and Georgia Whelan “Does the Dispute Resolution Regime in Europe Really Serve MSMEs?” in B Beaumont, A Foucard and F Brodlija (eds) *International Arbitration: Quo Vadis?* (Wolters Kluwer, 2022).

Joel Colón-Ríos “Constituent Assemblies” in Jeff King and Richard Bellamy (eds) *Cambridge Handbook of Constitutional Theory* (Cambridge University Press, 2023).

Joel Colón-Ríos and Mariana Velasco-Rivera “The Material Constitution in Latin American Courts” in Marco Goldoni and Michael Wilkinson (eds) *Cambridge Handbook of the Material Constitution* (Cambridge University Press, 2023).

Luke Fitzmaurice and Kelsey Brown “Children’s participation in Aotearoa New Zealand: changes, challenges, and indigenous critiques” in B Percy-Smith, NP Thomas, C O’Kane and A Twum-Danso Imoh (eds) *A Handbook of Children and Young People’s Participation: Conversations for Transformational Change* (2nd ed, Routledge, 2023).

Susy Frankel and Graeme Dinwoodie “Introduction” in Susy Frankel, Margaret Chon, Graeme B Dinwoodie, Jens Schovsbo and Barbara Lauriat (eds) *Improving Intellectual Property: A Global Project* (Edward Elgar Publishing, 2023) pp 1–6.

Susy Frankel “Discriminatory non-discrimination” in Susy Frankel, Margaret Chon, Graeme B Dinwoodie, Jens Schovsbo and Barbara Lauriat (eds) *Improving Intellectual Property: A Global Project* (Edward Elgar Publishing, 2023) pp 364–373.

Susy Frankel “The Overlap of Intellectual Property and Traditional Knowledge” in Neil Wilkof, Shamnad Basheer and Irene Calboli (eds) *Overlapping Intellectual Property Rights* (2nd ed, Oxford University Press, 2023) pp 553–572.

Susy Frankel “Moral Rights and the Protection of Traditional Knowledge” in Ysolde Gendreau (ed) *Research Handbook on Intellectual Property and Moral Rights* (Edward Elgar, 2023) pp 370–383. [View](#)

Lee Godden, Nicole Graham and Margaret Davies “Introduction” in Nicole Graham, Margaret Davies and Lee Godden (eds) *The Routledge Handbook of Property, Law and Society* (Routledge, 2022) pp 1–15.

Lee Godden “Property, Acquisition, and Compensation: Environmental Regulation and Cultural Loss” in Nicole Graham, Margaret Davies and Lee Godden (eds) *The Routledge Handbook of Property, Law and Society* (Routledge, 2022) pp 374–388.

Lee Godden “Energy Law and Regulation in Australia” in G Bellantuono et al (eds) *Handbook of Energy Law in the Low-Carbon Transition* (De Gruyter, 2023) pp 369–386.

Lee Godden “Environmental Law and Public Health Law” in B Bennett and I Freckelton (eds) *Australian Public Health Law—Contemporary Issues and Challenges* (Federation Press, 2023) pp 438–456.

Lee Godden “Fragmentation in Urban Water Governance: Navigating Legal and Normative Modalities” in T Bolognesi, M Farrelly and F Silva Pinto (eds) *Routledge Handbook of Urban Water Governance* (Routledge, 2022) ch 12.

Dean Knight “The Lyrics and Rhythm of Judicial Review’s Supervisory Jurisdiction” in *Administrative Law Intensive* (New Zealand Law Society, Continuing Legal Education, Wellington, 2022) pp 93–111.

Marnie Lloyd “Fair Trial Matters and Disqualification of Judges” in A Klip and S Freeland (eds) *Annotated Leading Cases of International Criminal Tribunals—Volume 69: The International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia / International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals 2016–2017* (Intersentia, 2022).

Nicole Moreham “A v B & C (2002)” in Paul Wragg and Peter Coe (eds) *Landmark Cases in Privacy Law* (Bloomsbury, 2023).

Joanna Mossop “Implications of a New Treaty for Marine Biodiversity for the Asia-Pacific Region” in James Kraska, Ronan Long and Myron H Nordquist (eds) *Peaceful Maritime Engagement in East Asia and the Pacific Region* (Brill, 2023) pp 387–400. [View](#)

Matteo Solinas “Company Charges I: Introduction, Restrictions on Granting Security, and Nature of Charges” *Tolley’s Company Law Service* (Lexis Nexis, 2023).

Matteo Solinas “Company Charges III: Registration of Charges, Overseas Companies, and Scotland” *Tolley’s Company Law Service* (Lexis Nexis, 2023).

Victoria Stace “Unconscionable Conduct” in Kate Tokeley and Victoria Stace (eds) *Consumer Law in New Zealand* (3rd ed, LexisNexis, 2022).

Victoria Stace “Introduction to Financial Consumer Protection Law” in Kate Tokeley and Victoria Stace (eds) *Consumer Law in New Zealand* (3rd ed, LexisNexis, 2022).

Victoria Stace “Financial Consumer Protection Law in Relation to Retail Investors, Financial Adviser Services, and Conduct Financial Market Participants” in Kate Tokeley and Victoria Stace (eds) *Consumer Law in New Zealand* (3rd ed, LexisNexis, 2022).

Kate Tokeley “Introduction and general themes” in Kate Tokeley and Victoria Stace (eds) *Consumer Law in New Zealand* (3rd ed, LexisNexis, 2022).

Kate Tokeley “Rationales for consumer law” in Kate Tokeley and Victoria Stace (eds) *Consumer Law in New Zealand* (3rd ed, LexisNexis, 2022).

Kate Tokeley “Pre-sale product safety rules” in Kate Tokeley and Victoria Stace (eds) *Consumer Law in New Zealand* (3rd ed, LexisNexis, 2022).

Kate Tokeley “Consumer Guarantees Act 1993: Overview and coverage” in Kate Tokeley and Victoria Stace (eds) *Consumer Law in New Zealand* (3rd ed, LexisNexis, 2022).

Kate Tokeley “Consumer Guarantees Act 1993: The guarantees” in Kate Tokeley and Victoria Stace (eds) *Consumer Law in New Zealand* (3rd ed, LexisNexis, 2022).

Kate Tokeley “Consumer Guarantees Act 1993: Remedies” in Kate Tokeley and Victoria Stace (eds) *Consumer Law in New Zealand* (3rd ed, LexisNexis, 2022).

Journal articles

Bill Atkin “The Family Court—Contempt and Inherent Powers” (2023) 54(1) *Victoria University of Wellington Law Review: Special Issue in honour of Professor ATH Smith* pp 25–38. [View](#)

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The Colin Aikman Award, first awarded in 2006 to commemorate the life of Dr Colin Aikman, will come to an end in 2025. The scholarship was set up to continue until what would have been Colin’s 100th year. 2025 will mark six years past that date, which is a testament to the amazing support this award has received.

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