



Te Tari Ture o te Karauna Crown Law

26 February 2024

APPOINTMENT OF CROWN SOLICITOR TO THE WHANGĀREI WARRANT

The Solicitor-General Una Jagose KC today announced the appointment of Bernadette O'Connor, supported by the firm Marsden Woods Inskip Smith (MWIS), as the Crown Solicitor for Whangārei.

Ms O'Connor is currently the Acting Crown Solicitor for Whangārei, and replaces Mike Smith, who resigned as Crown Solicitor in October 2023 having held the warrant since 2008. MWIS has been the office supporting the Crown Solicitor for Whangārei for over 50 years.

Born and raised in Northland, Ms O'Connor has a deep connection to the region. She joined MWIS as a Crown Prosecutor in October 2003 and has been a partner at the firm since 2013. Ms O'Connor has prosecuted a wide range of complex and high-profile cases including multi-complainant and historical sexual violence trials, multi-defendant drug operations, and homicides.

"Hailing from Northland, Bernadette is passionate about serving her community", says Una Jagose KC, who is responsible for recommending Ms O'Connor's appointment to the Whangārei warrant.

"She is highly regarded by key stakeholders and possesses all the desirable traits of a Crown Solicitor. I am confident Bernadette has the skillset to ensure Crown prosecution services across Northland are of a high standard and know she is committed to working collaboratively with her Justice Sector partners".

The appointment took effect from 23 February 2024.

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