



Te Tari Ture o te Karauna Crown Law

28 April 2026

APPOINTMENT OF CROWN SOLICITOR TO THE MANUKAU WARRANT

The Acting Solicitor-General Aaron Martin today announced the appointment of Gareth Kayes, supported by the firm Kayes Fletcher Walker (KFW), as the Crown Solicitor for Manukau.

Mr Kayes is currently the Acting Crown Solicitor for Manukau, and replaces Natalie Walker, who held the Manukau warrant from May 2015 until she was appointed to the High Court in March 2026. His appointment will ensure the continued delivery of high-quality Crown prosecution services to the Manukau region.

Mr Kayes is a Principal Crown prosecutor who has been practising law for over 25 years. He completed two Master's degrees at the University of Oxford and has prosecuted a wide range of complex and high-profile cases including organised crime offending, the most serious sexual offending, and homicides.

"Gareth has the skills to ensure Crown prosecution services in Manukau remain at the highest standard. He is highly regarded by his colleagues in the legal community, including Police, Court staff, judges, and defence lawyers and I know he is committed to working collaboratively with all those in the Justice Sector," says Mr Martin. The Solicitor-General is ultimately responsible for the oversight of Crown Solicitors, and Mr Martin is pleased to support the recommendation of the Deputy Solicitor-General (Criminal), following a contestable appointment process, that Mr Kayes be appointed to the Manukau warrant.

"Over the past 10 years, Gareth has worked closely with the previous Crown Solicitor Natalie Walker and has served in the role of Acting Crown Solicitor several times. Manukau is a multi-cultural hub and the team of KFW directors have always understood the importance of reflecting that diversity within the firm as well as providing excellent legal services. I am confident that will continue under Gareth's highly capable leadership".

The appointment will take effect from 1 May 2026.

Contact: Elizabeth Underhill, Media Advisor
elizabeth.underhill@crownlaw.govt.nz