



23 June 2026

APPOINTMENT OF CROWN SOLICITOR TO THE NAPIER WARRANT

The Solicitor-General Anna Adams KC today announced the appointment of Clayton Walker, supported by the incumbent firm Elvidges, as the Crown Solicitor for Napier. His appointment follows a publicly advertised and contestable process.

Mr Walker replaces Stephen Manning who has held the warrant for 13 years and decided to step down from the role earlier this year. Mr Manning plans to stay on at the firm as a partner. Mr Walker is very highly regarded by stakeholders who offered their support for his appointment. He has earned a reputation as an exceptional advocate, and intellect. He is a strong professional leader, within the office and among stakeholders, and his appointment will ensure the continued delivery of high-quality Crown prosecution services to the Napier region.

Mr Walker is a Principal Crown prosecutor (the highest Crown prosecutor classification) with 28 years of Crown prosecution experience. He has been a partner at Elvidges since 2005 and has skilfully prosecuted a wide range of cases over that time including homicides, sexual offending, and serious drug trials. In addition, Mr Walker is widely regarded as one of New Zealand's leading legal experts on human trafficking. In 2025 he attended the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Working Groups on Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants, held in person in Vienna, Austria. Mr Walker was a panellist for the trafficking working group and made an oral presentation on evidentiary issues from a New Zealand perspective.

“As the incumbent firm, that has supported the Napier warrant for the last 39 years, Elvidges is a well-run and reliable office. Supported by the firm, Mr Walker brings the consistency, legal experience, and leadership required to deliver high-quality services over the next ten years,” says Ms Adams.

“Over the past 13 years, Mr Walker has been the natural deputy to the previous Crown Solicitor, Mr Manning. I am confident that under Mr Walker's highly capable leadership Elvidges' record of providing high quality and responsive Crown legal services will continue.”

The Solicitor-General is ultimately responsible for the oversight of Crown Solicitors, and Ms Adams is pleased to support the recommendation of the Deputy Solicitor-General (Criminal) Madeleine Laracy, that Mr Walker be appointed as the Crown Solicitor for Napier.

The appointment will take effect from 1 July 2026.

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