



Te Tari Ture o te Karauna Crown Law

2 October 2024

APPOINTMENT OF CROWN SOLICITOR TO THE WHANGANUI WARRANT

The Solicitor-General, Una Jagose KC, today announced the appointment of Cherie Clarke, supported by the firm C&M Legal, as the Crown Solicitor for Whanganui.

Ms Clarke's appointment will take effect from 1 November 2024.

Ms Clarke follows Michele Wilkinson-Smith, who held the Whanganui warrant from December 2016 until she was appointed a Judge of the High Court in February 2024, and Christopher Wilkinson-Smith who is the Acting Crown Solicitor.

Ms Clarke is a Principal Crown Prosecutor with nearly 30 years' dedicated prosecution experience. As the incumbent Crown Solicitor for New Plymouth, Ms Clarke is a highly trusted prosecutor with a proven track record of delivering on the Solicitor-General's expectations of Crown Solicitors.

"I am pleased that Cherie Clarke has accepted this appointment, and we look forward to working with her and her team in this new capacity as well as in her current role. We would also like to thank Christopher Wilkinson-Smith for his service as Acting Crown Solicitor since February as well as the entire Wilkinson-Smith Harvey team for the work they have done over the last eight years supporting Michele and Chris," said the Solicitor-General.

Ms Clarke's legal career began in Christchurch where she served as a Crown prosecutor at Raymond Donnelly and Co (the office of the Crown Solicitor for Christchurch) from 1993 to 1997. She then worked as a Barrister for 16 months before returning to Crown prosecution work in 1999 at Luke Cunningham & Clere (the office of the Crown Solicitor for Wellington).

Ms Clarke has been prosecuting for the Crown in New Plymouth for nearly 20 years, including 14 years as Crown Solicitor. Ms Clarke will remain as Crown Solicitor for New Plymouth in addition to holding the Whanganui Crown Solicitor warrant. Both warrants are supported by C&M Legal and she will maintain a permanent office in both cities.

"We are confident Cherie and C&M Legal are well placed to ensure the transition to the new Crown Solicitor and her firm is efficient, providing timely, and seamless service", Ms Jagose said.

For more information see [Crown Solicitor Network » Crown Law](#).

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