

THE HONOURABLE NICHOLAS DAVIDSON QC

Fellow (Arbitration) AMINZ

Profile

Nicholas was a solicitor with Duncan Cotterill and Co in Christchurch before moving to R A Young Hunter & Co where he was a partner until going to the separate Bar in 1988, taking Silk in 1996. He established Clarendon Chambers with WGGA Young and later Canterbury Chambers with D M Lester and R A Osborne. He is an associate member of Bankside Chambers in Auckland, and has Chambers in Christchurch. He was appointed to the High Court in June 2015 and retired in December 2018.

Professional history

He has a wide range of experience including criminal defence work and later prosecution for the Serious Fraud Office and the Crown in multiple fraud prosecutions. For many years he was a solicitor for lead underwriters at Lloyds specialising in professional liability and practise in matrimonial law, Estate and trust litigation, and resource management for local authorities and private clients. He was lead counsel for the families of the men who died at Pike River Coalmine in the Royal Commission of Inquiry in 2011/12, and was counsel for the Serious Fraud Office in the Wine Box, Commission of Inquiry.

He was counsel for one of the pilots in the investigation into the fatal air accident involving the Dash 8 aircraft before the Transport Accident Investigation Commission, and represented a private pilot on a manslaughter prosecution in the Timaru High Court. He was counsel for business owners in claims arising out of the wreck of the MV Rena on Astrolabe Reef.

He has extensive involvement in infrastructure and resource consent projects including the Rangitata Diversion Race Management Ltd – through the conservation order process, resource consent renewal, and appeal processes. He represented Might River Power before the Board of Inquiry at Palmerston North on an application to establish the windfarm Turitea.

He has extensive involvement in valuation related matters including representation of dairy farm leaseholders in rent setting before Hon Sir Ian Barker QC. He was counsel for Minaret Station in the test case for pastoral lease rent setting before the Land Valuation Tribunal in Otago/Southland, and earlier was counsel for Forest Range Ltd in the rent determination before the same Tribunal. He represented the lessees in proceedings brought by the Fish & Game Council as to public access to leasehold land and has been counsel for other lessees and pastoral licence holders. He was counsel for property owners and lessees in commercial rent setting arbitration.

He is a Fellow of the Arbitrators' Institute of New Zealand in arbitration and before appointment to the High Court Bench was sole arbitrator in multiple domestic arbitrations, and mediator in others.

He was a Council member of the Canterbury District Law Society from 1986–1992 and held various positions including Chair of the Canterbury-Westland District Disciplinary Tribunal. He lectured part-time and tutored at the University of Canterbury, in law and commerce and was a Fellow of College House and former House member.

He held disciplinary related positions including Deputy Chair to the Inaugural New Zealand Sports Tribunal, SANZAR, New Zealand Rugby Union and IRB judicial officer, and Rugby

World Cup Appeal Committee. He was appointed to the International Cricket Council Code of Conduct Commission in Dubai, and was President of New Zealand Football from 2005–2015. He was National Councillor for New Zealand Cricket for 20 years and a member of the Committee of Inquiry into allegations of corruption in Cricket with the Hon Sir Ian Barker QC. He was a member of FIFA's Investigatory Panel.

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