

Alan Fletcher Pilditch QC
Barrister

Introduction

I am an advocate with over 20 years' experience conducting many trials and hearings before Judges and juries in the High Court, District Court, Court of appeal, Supreme Court and other tribunals.

I joined the independent bar in 2014 following my tenure as Crown Solicitor for Rotorua. I have appeared as junior and lead counsel in many of the New Zealand's most significant criminal and regulatory cases, as both prosecuting and defence counsel. I was appointed Queens Counsel in 2021.

I act in cases requiring committed and compelling advocacy in all aspects of criminal, regulatory, and public law.

Qualifications: LLB BA, Victoria, 1994, 1995
Barrister and Solicitor of the High Court of New Zealand (admitted December 1995)
Barrister and Solicitor of the Pitcairn Islands (admitted March 2003)

Membership: New Zealand Law Society
New Zealand Bar Association

Professional: Chair, Psychoactive Substances Appeal Committee 2014 - 2016
Panel, Serious Fraud Office 2009 - 2013
Faculty, NZLS Litigation Skills 2009 - Present
Convenor of Auckland District Law Society Health and Safety Committee 2015
Senior Magistrate of the Pitcairn Islands 2019 - Present

Experience

2014 – Present: Barrister – Richmond Chambers

- Founding member of Chambers and current Chair of Chambers
- Notable Recent Cases: *Lindsay v Director of Civil Aviation* CIV 2018-085-000453 Wellington District Court – appeal against conditions imposed on airline pilot medical certificate; *New Zealand First v Director of Serious Fraud Office* [2020] NZHC 2502, 25528 – acting for New Zealand First Political Party seeking urgent injunction; *Commerce Commission v Vodafone* CRI 2018-004-3125 District Court Auckland, November 2020 – acting for defendant in Fair Trading Act prosecution; *Jones v Maihi* CIV 2018-485-000391 Wellington High Court – acting for Sir Robert in defamation proceedings; *Jane v R* [2019] NZCA 384 – successful conviction appeal on trial counsel competence.

2006 – 2013: Crown Solicitor / Partner, Rotorua:

- Following appointment I established *Gordon.Pilditch Barristers and Solicitors* to support my role as Crown Solicitor for the Rotorua/Western Bay of Plenty region. Leading a team I conducted the prosecution of all serious crime in the High Court and District Court, in addition to a wide range of regulatory and public law litigation.
- Notable cases: *R v Te Hiko* (2007) (murder of Tokoroa School Teacher Lois Dear); *R v Curtis & Ors* (2008) (Murder and ill treatment of Nia Glassie); *R v Broughton* (2009) (youth murder of Scottish Tourist Karen Aim); *R v Pukeroa & Ors* (2010) (prosecution of Kawerau chapter of Mongrel Mob for murder and organised crime); *CAA v Gunn* (2012) (5 week prosecution of airline pilot for careless operation of a passenger jet aircraft departing from Queenstown); *R v Gao and Hurring* (2012) (prosecution for theft and offshore money laundering of two offenders known as 'runaway millionaires'); *R v Hallet* (2013) (prosecution for murder of Turangi petrol station attendant committed in 1973).

2001 – 2006: Associate / Senior Crown Counsel, Meredith Connell, Auckland:

- Responsible for the conduct of criminal jury trials in the High Court and District Court; regulatory litigation for diverse Government agencies; one of 5 prosecutors selected to conduct historic sexual assault cases against offenders on Pitcairn Island.

1998 – 2001: Associate / Intermediate Crown Counsel, Davys Burton, Rotorua:

- Assisting the Crown Solicitor in the conduct of criminal jury trials in the High Court and District Court, in addition to regulatory litigation.

1996 – 1998: Litigation Assistant, Ashurst Morris Crisp, London:

- Assisting PLC client in preparation of defence against class action product liability claims.

Practise Areas

Criminal / Regulatory

Fraud / Financial Crime and Enforcement Actions

Administrative / Public Law

Bill of Rights / Human Rights

Media

Aviation Law

Resource Management (enforcement)

Animal Welfare

Coronial / medico-legal

Professional / Disciplinary proceedings