

Curriculum Vitae

Rachael Woods



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Rachael Woods

Barrister

Rachael Woods practises in the areas of civil and regulatory litigation, representing clients at all levels of the court system. She brings a practical strategic approach with incisive legal analysis and an eye for detail.

Within her commercial litigation practice, Rachael has a strong background and keen interest in insurance law, having spent five years at a specialist insurance law firm, giving her a sound grasp of relevant issues, including policy interpretation and response.

She has significant experience in health and safety, both as a panel prosecutor for WorkSafe New Zealand and counsel for private clients defending proceedings. Rachael has also acted for defendants facing charges brought by the Financial Markets Authority, the Commerce Commission and Councils (under the Resource Management Act).

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Independent Barrister (2019–Present)

– Practising in civil and regulatory litigation at all levels of the court system.

Robertsons (Solicitor) (2014–2019)

– Acting on civil and regulatory proceedings, under Professional Indemnity and Statutory Liability policies. Providing policy advice.

Chambers of Paul Davison KC (employed barrister) (2008–2013)

– Junior counsel on significant criminal and regulatory proceedings.

Bell Gully (Solicitor, Litigation) 2006–2008

– Acted on various commercial disputes, including judicial review and large scale arbitral proceedings.

NOTABLE CASES

Legler v Formannojj ([2022] NZCA 607; [2023] NZSC 46) – Junior counsel for defendants in a high-profile trust dispute, securing a favourable decision in the Supreme Court.

R v Findlay (2024) – Counsel for a property owner facing charges laid under the RMA. All charges withdrawn shortly before trial.

R v John Turkington Limited (2024) – Junior counsel in successful defence of charges under the RMA.

Safe Business Solutions v WorkSafe New Zealand (2024) – Lead counsel for respondent in High Court appeal against first successful prosecution of a health and safety consultant. (Decision pending)

Pet Brands Limited v Andrea Carpenter Limited (2023) – Counsel for the defendant in District Court claims of breach of contract/misrepresentation.

R v Speedy (2021 and 2022) – Counsel for an employee facing two sets of charges under the RMA. Successfully had all charges dismissed pre-trial and obtained costs.

Arbitration – Leaky apartment claim (2023) – Junior counsel for successful claimant in a multi-week arbitral proceeding relating to a leaky apartment complex.

Arbitration – Subdivision infrastructure claims (2021–2023 Arbitration) – Junior counsel in a major commercial property and infrastructure dispute.

PRO BONO & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Trustee, Board of Trustee, Mt Albert Primary School.

The Law Association of New Zealand – Health and Safety Committee Member.