SPORTS TRIBUNAL
of New Zealand

Email: info@sportstribunal.org.nz
Phone: 0800 55 66 80
Address: PO Box 3338, Wellington
Website: www.sportstribunal.org.nz

Legal Assistance Panel List

The mission of the Sports Tribunal is to ensure that those involved in a sports dispute have access to a fair, objective and just means of resolving their disputes in a way that is also affordable, timely and efficient.

The lawyers in this Legal Assistance Panel list (**Panel Lawyers**) have expressed an interest in providing legal advice to those involved in sports disputes.

Fees

To support the Tribunal's mission, many Panel Lawyers have provided their services to people at a reduced fee or pro bono (free/no cost). However, there is no obligation on them to do this.

You should discuss your situation and agree with your lawyer a fee that is acceptable to you (e.g., a maximum amount, an hourly rate, at no cost) before you engage them to provide legal advice. You should also make sure that anything you do agree with them about the fee is recorded in writing (e.g., in an email).

The Tribunal ultimately has no bearing on what Panel Lawyers charge.

Legal Support Fund for Anti-doping Rule Violation (ADRV)

If you need legal support for an anti-doping rule violation (**ADRV**) case, the Sport Integrity Commission (formerly Drug Free Sport New Zealand) has established a fund to assist with legal fees.

Further details are available at: Legal Support Fund | Sport Integrity Commission | Sport Integrity Commission Te Kahu Raunui

List of Panel Lawyers by Region

This list of Panel Lawyers (below) is organised by region.

However, Tribunal processes are flexible and can often be conducted virtually (i.e., online by email, Teams or teleconference). This means a Panel Lawyer outside of your region might still be able to assist you – again, you should discuss this with them.

- Auckland
- Hamilton
- Wellington
- Nelson
- Christchurch

Email: info@sportstribunal.org.nz
Phone: 0800 55 66 80
Address: PO Box 3338, Wellington
Website: www.sportstribunal.org.nz

AUCKLAND

Paul David KC
Eldon Chambers
Phone: (09) 379 5589
Mobile: 021 421 423
Email: paul@pauldavid.co.nz
Web: www.pauldavid.co.nz

Aaron Lloyd
Minter Ellison Rudd Watts
Phone: (09) 353 9971
Email: aaron.lloyd@minterellison.co.nz
Web: www.minterellison.co.nz

- Aaron is a Partner at MinterEllisonRuddWatts, based in Auckland, but works throughout NZ and in Australia. He is recognised by Chambers & Partners Legal Directory as a Band 1 Sports Lawyer.
- Aaron has appeared as counsel in numerous sports disciplinary tribunal hearings, and before the Sports Tribunal of New Zealand and the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).
- Aaron is the Independent Judicial Chair for New Zealand Rugby League (NZRL) and NZ Netball (and so cannot take on cases involving those sports).
- Aaron and his team may be available to do work on fixed fee arrangements, or a reduced fee basis, and may in appropriate cases take work on pro bono (without fee).

Chris Patterson
Phone: (09) 300 6007
Mobile: 029 300 6007
Email: chris@patterson.co.nz
Web: www.patterson.co.nz

- Chris specialises in general litigation and dispute resolution. He has been a panel lawyer since 2013.
- He is a former deputy chair of Basketball New Zealand and a former Softball New Zealand board member. Chris has served as FIBA Legal Commissioner since 2014 and FIBA Disciplinary Panel member since 2024.
- Chris offers his services at a reduced rate.

Michael Smyth
Phone: (09) 358 2725
Mobile: 021 320 171
Email: michael@approachablelawyer.com
Web: www.approachablelawyer.com

- Michael is a solicitor specialising in sports and employment law and is the owner of ApproachableLaywer.com and Sportscounsel.com (life coaching for athletes).
- He is legal counsel for Swimming New Zealand, Squash New Zealand, Canoe Racing, Canoe Slalom, and Canoe Polo and so cannot accept instructions from athletes involved in those sports.
- He has represented athletes and sporting organisations before the Sports Tribunal since 2006, including selection appeals, anti-doping infringements, and other sporting disputes. He has been involved in a number of significant decisions.
- He is currently Chair of the Auckland Rowing Association and a rowing coach.
- Michael represents athletes on a reduced fee basis.

Nathan Batts
Tel: 09 869 8982
Mobile: 021 260 5368
Email: nathan@mhlegal.nz

- Nathan is the litigation partner at Molloy Hucker in Auckland.
- Nathan regularly deals with professional disciplinary bodies and regulators across a broad range of practice areas. His work in this regard involves him representing and defending clients across a variety of different courts and tribunals throughout New Zealand.
- Nathan is a Judicial Officer with the Auckland Rugby Football Union and in that capacity is responsible for determining liability and penalty for alleged misconduct committed by senior rugby players across the Auckland region.
- Nathan is willing to offer his services to athletes involved with the Tribunal at a reduced or concessional rate.

Kathryn Lydiard
Mobile: 027 368 69 22
Email: kathryn@lydiard.co.nz
Web: https://www.fortyeightshortland.co.nz/barristers/kathryn-lydiard

- Kathryn is a barrister with over 10 years' experience in litigation and dispute resolution.
- Kathryn is available to assist athletes and sporting organisations with matters that fall within the Tribunal's jurisdiction.
- Kathryn has previously appeared in the Sports Tribunal. She has also assisted lead counsel representing athletes and provided advice relating to alleged breaches of sport regulations and guidelines, disciplinary matters and appeals.
- Kathryn is willing to offer concessional rates or low-cost fixed fee arrangements.

Email: info@sportstribunal.org.nz
Phone: 0800 55 66 80
Address: PO Box 3338, Wellington
Website: www.sportstribunal.org.nz

CHRISTCHURCH

Ian Hunt
Left Bank Chambers
Phone: 027 562 9743
Email: ian@leftbank.nz
Website: https://www.leftbank.nz/barristers

- Ian is an experienced sports lawyer and since 1999 has represented athletes in proceedings before the Sports Tribunal and the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in anti-doping, selection, disciplinary, and other sport-related issues.
- He has acted for numerous different sports, athletes and organisations including athletics, cricket, road cycling, mountain bike, gymnastics, ice speed skating, lawn bowls, motorsport, netball, rugby, rugby league, tennis, shooting, skiing, swimming, surfing, triathlon, wrestling and weightlifting and yachting.
- Ian is a CAS arbitrator and is a member of the World Athletics Disciplinary Tribunal, the FIA Anti-Doping Disciplinary Committee, Sport Resolutions International Panel and the FIS Ethics Committee. He has also chaired or been a member of numerous national and international ad hoc sporting tribunals.
- Previous sports governance/director roles have included High Performance Sport NZ, Snow Sports New Zealand (SSNZ). Swimming New Zealand, Canterbury Netball Limited, and Broken River Ski Club Inc.
- Ian is prepared to offer concessional rates or low-cost fixed fee arrangements, depending on the circumstances and type of case.

Willie Hamilton
Dentons
Phone: (03) 963 3370
Mobile: 021 314 658
Email: willie.hamilton@dentons.com

- Willie is a partner in the litigation and dispute resolution team of Dentons.
- Willie is an experienced litigator specialising in commercial litigation and dispute resolution. He has appeared as lead counsel in the High Court and the Court of Appeal, and in specialist tribunals including the Sports Tribunal and before New Zealand Rugby's Judicial Committee. He has broad experience in a variety of commercial litigation and sports law. He has acted for both athletes and national and international sporting organisations.
- He has given advice to athletes in a range of matters including anti-doping proceedings, selection disputes and disputes with national sporting organisations. He has also represented a professional rugby league player in High Court proceedings against his former manager for fraud and misappropriation of funds, and has experience with judicial review proceedings in a sporting context.
- Willie has served as a board member of the Templeton Golf Club.
- Willie has taken a number of instructions on a fixed-fee or no charge basis and is willing to discuss providing services on a concessional or no charge basis.

Andrew McCormick
Barrister
Phone: 021 036 3965
Email: andrew@mccormickbarrister.co.nz

- Andrew has a general private client practice with a focus on dispute resolution both in the areas of criminal defence trial work and sports law.
- He has given advice to sporting organisations both regionally and nationally and also represented athletes in disciplinary, anti-doping, selection and other sports-related cases before the Sports Tribunal and various sports judicial tribunals.
- Andrew is happy to discuss providing advice on a concessional or no charge basis.

Todd Nicholls
Mobile: 021 206 5104
Email: trnichollsbarrister@gmail.com

- Todd is an experienced litigator, specialising in criminal law and sports law. He has represented clients in a number of sports in a range of areas and different fora (most often anti-doping proceedings).
- He is also a sports journalist and writer, and has published on a variety of sports law topics, both in New Zealand and internationally.
- He has an LLM (First Class Honours) from the University of Auckland and has studied sports law at the University of Auckland and the University of Canterbury.
- Todd is also a member of the Australia and New Zealand Sports Law Association.
- He is happy to discuss providing services on a concessional or no charge basis.

Josh Taylor
Wynn Williams
Phone: (03) 379 7622
Mobile: 027 378 8857
Email: josh.taylor@wynnwilliams.co.nz

- Josh is a Partner in the litigation and dispute resolution team at Wynn Williams.
- Josh has acted for a number of sporting organisations across a range of disputed and advisory issues. He has represented athletes in a range of issues including disciplinary proceedings, selection issues, anti-doping proceedings and other matters.
- Josh is on the Judicial Committee for the Canterbury Rugby Football Union.
- He is available to represent athletes and sporting bodies on selection, disciplinary, anti-doping and general sporting disputes.
- He is happy to discuss providing services on a concessional or no charge basis.

Richard Hearn
Corcoran French
Phone: (03) 371 1019
Email: richard@cflaw.co.nz

- Richard is a partner in Corcoran French's litigation and employment teams, with extensive experience in commercial litigation and employment/disciplinary matters, and also has experience in administrative law and judicial review.
- He acts for both athletes and sports bodies, and can assist with disciplinary, selection and general sporting disputes.
- He was formerly a national representative athlete and has sat on the board of an amateur sporting body. He is accordingly familiar with issues arising from both an athlete's and an administrator's perspective.
- Richard is happy to discuss providing services on a concessional or no charge basis.

Matthew Rhodes
Phone: +64 3 379 7622
Mobile: +64 27 393 1536
Email: Matthew.Rhodes@wynnwilliams.co.nz
Web: Matthew Rhodes - Wynn Williams

- Matthew is a Senior Associate in the litigation and dispute resolution team at Wynn Williams.
- Matthew has acted for a number of sporting organisations and athletes across New Zealand in all manner of sporting disputes. He has defended athletes in anti-doping proceedings and selection disputes before the Sports Tribunal of New Zealand. He has also defended and prosecuted matters before various disciplinary panels, including the NZRU Appeals Committee.
- He has previously chaired the Mainland Football Disciplinary Committee and acted as a Designated Disciplinary Officer for the Canterbury Rugby Football Union.
- He is available to represent athletes and sporting bodies on selection, disciplinary, anti-doping and general sporting disputes.
- He is happy to discuss providing services on a concessional or no charge basis.

HAMILTON

Phillip Cornegé
Phone: (07) 282 0572
Mobile: 021 333 439
Email: phillip@riverbank.co.nz
Web: www.phillipcornege.com

- Phillip has experience advising both sporting organisations and athletes. He has appeared as counsel in the Sports Tribunal and before the Judicial Control Authority for racing.
- He is a member of the International Equestrian Federation Judicial Tribunal, and a former member of the Board of Equestrian Sports New Zealand. Phillip was previously the Judicial Officer for Waikato/Bay Netball and Chair of the Judicial Committee for Basketball New Zealand.
- Phillip is happy to discuss providing services on a concessional or no charge basis.

Nick Elsmore
Hollister-Jones Lellman
Phone: (07) 928 6201
Mobile: 027 556 2343
Email: nick@nickelsmore.nz

- Nick has represented athletes on anti-doping violations both in competition and outside of competition and on selection matters. He has advised sports organisations in relation to coach and athlete disputes and has mediated between parties on behalf of sports organisations.
- He is an active ocean swimmer and member of the Omanu Surf Lifesaving Club. He is currently engaged by Triathlon NZ as part of their High Performance Review Committee.
- Nick is happy to discuss providing advice on a concessional or no charge basis depending on the circumstances and issues involved.

David Fraundorfer
Barrister
Phone: 027 530 7803
Email: david@fraundorfer.co.nz

- David is a barrister. He is a trial lawyer and a mediator. He has appeared in the Sports Tribunal and other tribunals. He has been successful acting for a wide range of sports people and athletes including Olympic and international selection matters as well as doping and drug allegations.
- He has also undertaken sports and regulatory litigation in the wider courts, including judicial review.
- He has been appointed to the list of arbitrators for the international Court of Arbitration in Sport.
- David was the former head of Holland Beckett litigation and managed several lawyers involved in sports litigation.
- David takes Sports Tribunal matters on either a pro bono or concessional charge basis.

Mark Hammond
Tompkins Wake
Phone: (07) 838 6014
Email: mark.hammond@tompkinswake.co.nz
Web: www.tompkinswake.co.nz

- Mark is a litigation (disputes resolution) partner at Tompkins Wake, based in Hamilton.
- He has practised as a litigator for over 40 years in the civil, criminal and employment jurisdictions. He has extensive experience in arbitrations, negotiations and mediations.
- He has appeared before the Sports Tribunal in a range of anti-doping proceedings and selection disputes.
- Mark was a founding trustee of Sport Waikato, has held governance and management roles at Waikato Tennis, and has served as a board member for the Waikato Rugby Union for 11 years and as a director for the Chiefs franchise for seven years.
- He is prepared to adjust his rates in accordance with the needs of the athlete.

NELSON

Kirsty Thompson
Hamish Fletcher Lawyers
Phone: (03) 539 0210
Email: kirsty@hflaw.co.nz

- Kirsty is a principal and head of Property at Hamish Fletcher Lawyers and has been a member of the Australia and New Zealand Sports Law Association since 2015.
- She is a successful sportswoman in her own right, having achieved in a variety of different sports including international rowing achievements, and national and regional success in basketball, netball and rugby sevens.
- Kirsty is able to engage with a wide range of sporting organisations, having represented New Zealand internationally and being the Secretary for the University of Otago Rowing Club and more recently the Jack's Netball Club.

Fran McDonald
Hamish Fletcher Lawyers
Phone: (03) 539 0210
Email: fran@hflaw.co.nz

- Fran worked for many years in London for firms with strong reputations in the field of sports law, and was a Leading junior in the UK (being part of the current Legal 500, she retains an English practising certificate).
- She has experience in working on cross-border matters.
- Her past work has included appearing at trial for the British Motocross Association and its insurers, acting for the Federation Internationale De L'Áutomobile (FIA) and professional footballers, to advising local unincorporated organisations and amateur sportsmen and women.

Email: info@sportstribunal.org.nz
Phone: 0800 55 66 80
Address: PO Box 3338, Wellington
Website: www.sportstribunal.org.nz

WELLINGTON

Tenille Burnside
Phone:(04) 916 7464
Email: tenille.burnside@gibsonsheat.com

- Tenille is a Senior Associate in the Commercial and Sports Law practice at Gibson Sheat, working between Wellington and Christchurch. She has acted for national and regional sporting organisations on governance, rules and policy matters. She has experience on the commercial side of sport working for IMG, a sports agency in London, on staging major sporting events and exploiting sponsorship and media rights.
- Tenille has a Master of Laws in Sports Law from De Monfort University in the UK, with her dissertation on the maternity rights of elite athletes, and a Bachelor of Laws (Hons) from the University of Canterbury, completing her honours dissertation on the revisions to the 2015 World Anti-Doping Code.
- Tenille is currently on the boards of Golf New Zealand and Canterbury Cricket. She is a former board member of Badminton Wellington and Achilles New Zealand. She is a former Canterbury representative hockey player.
- Tenille is available to do work on fixed fee arrangements, or a reduced fee basis, and may in appropriate cases take work on pro bono (without fee).