

4 Fundamental obligations of lawyers

Every lawyer who provides regulated services must, in the course of his or her practice, comply with the following fundamental obligations:

(a) the obligation to uphold the rule of law and to facilitate the administration of justice in New Zealand:

(b) the obligation to be independent in providing regulated services to his or her clients:

(c) the obligation to act in accordance with all fiduciary duties and duties of care owed by lawyers to their clients:

(d) the obligation to protect, subject to his or her overriding duties as an officer of the High Court and to his or her duties under any enactment, the interests of his or her clients.

Drugs [Marc Cropper suspended for three months](#)

30 March 2017

Former Auckland lawyer Marc Cropper has been suspended for three months from 24 March 2017 by the New Zealand Lawyers...

Forgery [Stephen Joseph Woulfe suspended from practice](#)

29 March 2017

Former Hokitika lawyer Stephen Joseph Woulfe has been suspended for two months by the New Zealand Lawyers and Conveyancers Disciplinary...

A signature on an authority and instruction form prepared and executed by Mr Woulfe was a forgery.

Warren Richard McFie struck off roll

23 February 2017

Former Auckland lawyer Warren Richard McFie has been struck off the roll of barristers and solicitors by the New Zealand... Mr McFie admitted misappropriating \$237,014.24 He also admitted overcharging a client in 23 invoices he rendered over a 17-month period where the total amount of overcharging was \$42,417.

Gary Horne suspended from practice for three months

20 January 2017

Christchurch lawyer Gary Horne has been suspended from practice for a period of three months effective from 1 February 2017. Mr... admitted one charge of misconduct and two charges of unsatisfactory conduct. Two of the charges related to his actions when acting for different clients in the purchase of properties. The third charge concerned the operations of Mr Horne's nominee company and a number of breaches of the Lawyers and Conveyancers Act.

Francisc Catalin Deliu suspended from practice for 15 months

20 January 2017

The New Zealand Lawyers and Conveyancers Disciplinary Tribunal has ordered Auckland barrister Francisc Catalin Deliu to be suspended from practice... six charges of professional misconduct, one charge of unprofessional conduct, one charge of unsatisfactory conduct, and one charge of conduct unbecoming a practitioner.

Christopher Twigley struck off

21 December 2016

Former Gisborne and Tauranga lawyer Christopher Twigley has been struck off by the New Zealand Lawyers and Conveyances Disciplinary Tribunal. Mr Twigley admitted six charges of misconduct on the basis he committed reckless contraventions of his obligations under the legislation and rules regulating legal practice.

Cho Weon Yoo fined after admitting charge

8 December 2016

Auckland lawyer Cho Weon "Matthew" Yoo has been fined \$3,500 by the New Zealand Lawyers and Conveyancers Disciplinary Tribunal after admitting a charge of negligence or incompetence in his professional capacity.

Neil Wells ! Name suppression granted to censured lawyer

28 November 2016

The New Zealand Lawyers and Conveyancers Disciplinary Tribunal has found a lawyer guilty of negligence or incompetence of such a degree as to reflect on his fitness to practise or as to bring the profession into disrepute. The lawyer has been granted permanent name suppression

Richard Austin censured for unsatisfactory conduct

28 November 2016

Whanganui lawyer Richard Geoffrey Warren Austin has been censured and fined \$3,000 after admitting a charge of unsatisfactory conduct in... His unsatisfactory conduct arose when he falsely certified signatures on declarations which were submitted to Land Information New Zealand (LINZ). Mr Austin did not inform LINZ that the declarations either were not in his possession when the e-dealing was certified or were not retained on the client file or that the new declarations were backdated and not properly witnessed.

Richard Zhao suspended for four months

28 November 2016

Auckland lawyer Richard Zhao has been censured and suspended from practice for four months from 1 December 2016 by the... At his request she paid an initial deposit of \$50,000 for fees, expenses and other payments to be used on her behalf. In breach of the Lawyers and Conveyancers Act 2006 he failed to pay the money into his firm's trust account until more than six weeks after receipt.

Keith Ian Jefferies suspended for six months

3 October 2016

Wellington solicitor Keith Ian Jefferies has been suspended by the New Zealand Lawyers and Conveyancers Disciplinary Tribunal for six months from 10 October 2016 after being convicted on drug charges.

Former lawyer Greg Stewart suspended for 18 months

20 September 2016

Former Otago lawyer Greg Roderick Stewart has admitted two charges in the New Zealand Lawyers and Conveyancers Disciplinary Tribunal and...

The first charge was one of negligence in his professional capacity of such a degree as to reflect on his fitness to practise or as to bring his profession into disrepute.

This resulted from trust account irregularities which included a failure to keep adequate records, having client balances overdrawn, failing to reconcile trust bank accounts with the trust ledger, and incorrectly certifying compliance with the Lawyers and Conveyancers Act 2006 and the Lawyers and Conveyancers Act (Trust Account Regulations) 2008.

The second charge was one of misconduct for breaching Rule 5.5.1 of the Conduct and Client Care Rules by providing banking services. The rule prevents a lawyer from operating a business which provides services to a client, unconnected with regulated services.

Interim suspension of Richard Henry Hill

11 August 2016

Mr Hill was found guilty on 11 July 2016 in the Hastings District Court of a charge of criminal breach of trust. This related to offending in his capacity as a lawyer and trust account partner in his previous law firm McKay Hill.

Former Dunedin barrister struck off

22 July 2016

A former Dunedin barrister who fled to Australia has been struck off by the New Zealand Lawyers and Conveyancers Disciplinary Tribunal over tax evasion offences, totalling more than \$180,000.

Raeline Marine Kelly did not appear at the criminal trial to face 46 charges despite signalling her intention to do so. She also did not appear at the Tribunal hearing.

Auckland lawyer struck off for taking \$10,000 trust money

8 July 2016

An Auckland lawyer who has been practising for nearly 30 years has been struck off the roll after being found...

Mary Hackshaw failed to respond to disciplinary charges and appeared before the New Zealand Lawyers and Conveyancers Disciplinary Tribunal.

Namlee Kim censured

9 June 2016

Former Auckland lawyer Namlee Kim has been censured by the New Zealand Lawyers and Conveyancers Disciplinary Tribunal after admitting a charge of negligence or incompetence reflecting on his fitness to practise or as to bring his profession into disrepute.

Timaru lawyer Kenneth Selwyn Grave censured

9 June 2016

Timaru barrister and solicitor Kenneth Selwyn Grave has been censured by the New Zealand Lawyers and Conveyancers Disciplinary Tribunal. Mr Grave admitted a charge of negligence in his professional capacity, that negligence being of such a degree as to bring his profession into disrepute.

Bharat Parshotam suspended for nine months

2 June 2016

Auckland lawyer Bharat Parshotam has been suspended from practising for nine months from 1 June 2016 after admitting two charges before the New Zealand Lawyers and Conveyancers Disciplinary Tribunal.

Mr Parshotam admitted charges of negligence or incompetence of such a degree as to reflect on his fitness to practise or as to bring his profession into disrepute.

Former solicitor suspended from practising law for three years

16 May 2016

A former Timaru solicitor has been suspended from practising law for three years, censured and ordered to pay costs of...

Edward Oral Sullivan admitted charges in two prosecutions heard by the New Zealand Lawyers and Conveyancers Disciplinary Tribunal, on 29 April and 13 May.

The first case related to the administration of a family trust and the estates of a married couple. Mr Sullivan admitted charges of negligence or incompetence of such a degree 'as to reflect on his fitness to practise or as to tend to bring the profession into disrepute'.

Angela Heather Bean censured and suspended

27 April 2016

Former lawyer Angela Heather Bean has admitted two charges of misconduct before the New Zealand Lawyers and Conveyancers Disciplinary Tribunal.

Ms Bean accepted a cash payment of \$2,500 from a client without the knowledge or authorisation of her law firm. She took \$2,000 of the \$2,500 for herself and raised an invoice for the remaining \$500. The invoice was false and was created to disguise her misappropriation of \$2,000.