



Climate in the Courtroom: New Zealand Climate Litigation Conference 2026

THURSDAY 26 MARCH (Evening Judicial Panel, in person only, hosted by LRF and NZCEL)

FRIDAY 27 MARCH (One-Day Conference, in person or online)

Location: Fale Pasifika, University of Auckland

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

THURSDAY 26 MARCH (IN PERSON ONLY)

6:30 PM -
9:00 PM



**Adjudicating Climate Litigation
around the World**

Chair: Rt Hon Dame Helen Winkelmann
Chief Justice of the Supreme Court
of New Zealand

Tickets include drinks and nibbles

Andreas Paulus, Professor, Georg-August
University of Göttingen; former Justice, First
Senate, German Federal Constitutional Court
President Peta Stilgoe OAM, President of the
Land Court of Queensland

FRIDAY 27 MARCH (IN PERSON OR ONLINE)

8:00 AM	Registration opens	
8:30 AM	Opening	Hone Arohaina Riwaka Thorpe , Kaiārahi, UoA Vernon Rive , Jessica Palairet Vishal Prasad , Director, Pacific Island Students Fighting Climate Change
9:00 AM - 9:45 AM	The Global Picture: Trends in Climate Litigation around the World Chair: Jessica Palairet , Executive Director, Lawyers for Climate Action NZ	Jacqueline Peel , Professor of Law and Director, Melbourne Climate Futures, University of Melbourne Catherine Higham , Senior Policy Fellow, Grantham Research Institute, London School of Economics
9:45 AM - 10:45 AM	The ICJ Advisory Opinion on Climate Change and its implications for Aotearoa New Zealand Chair: Justin Sobion , Lecturer, University of Auckland	Christina Voigt , Professor of Law at University of Oslo Robert Kirkness , Barrister, Thorndon Chambers Caroline Foster , Professor, UoA and Director, New Zealand Centre for Environmental Law
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Climate Science in the Courtroom Chair: Vernon Rive , Associate Professor, University of Auckland	James Every-Palmer KC , Barrister, Stout Street Chambers, Co-founder, LCA NZI David Bullock , Partner, LeeSalmonLong Tim Naish NZAM , Climate scientist, Antarctic Research Centre and Professor, Victoria University of Wellington Luke Harrington , Senior Lecturer, University of Waikato
12:00 PM - 1:15 PM	Public Law Climate Litigation Chair: Hon. Justice Jillian Mallon , Judge of the New Zealand Court of Appeal	Davey Salmon KC , Barrister, Mills Lane Chambers Sally Gepp KC , Barrister, Mills Lane Chambers President Peta Stilgoe OAM , President of the Land Court of Queensland
2:15 PM - 3:45 PM	Private Law Climate Litigation Chair: Simon Ladd KC , Barrister, Shortland Chambers and Executive Director, Legal Research Foundation	Jenny Cooper KC , Barrister, Shortland Chambers, President, LCA NZI Daniel Kalderimis KC , Barrister, Thorndon Chambers Nicola Swan , Partner, Chapman Tripp Sam Bookman , Lecturer, Melbourne Law School
3:45 PM - 4:45 PM	Te Tiriti o Waitangi, Tikanga, and Climate Change Chair: Professor David Williams , Professor Emeritus, University of Auckland and Member of the Waitangi Tribunal Climate Change Priority Inquiry	Matanuku Mahuika , Barrister, Bankside Chambers Horiana Irwin-Easthope , Managing Director, Whāia Legal Jeremy Prebble , Barrister, Hawkestone Chambers
4:45 PM	Closing remarks, followed by networking drinks	