

Sports Tribunal Legal Assistance Panel

Note: The following lawyers have expressed an interest in providing legal advice to those involved in sports disputes. Sometimes their services are provided at a reduced rate, or even free. The fee or hourly rate negotiated for such services should be negotiated before engaging any legal advice, and the Tribunal ultimately has no bearing on what these lawyers charge.

If you require legal support for an anti-doping case, Drug Free Sport New Zealand has established a fund to assist with legal fees. Further details are available [here](#).

AUCKLAND

Aaron Lloyd

Minter Ellison Rudd Watts

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- Aaron is a Partner at Minter Ellison Rudd Watts, based in Auckland, NZ but working throughout NZ and in Australia, and is recognised by Chambers & Partners Legal Directory as a Band 1 Sports Lawyer
- Aaron leads a team of lawyers in the sports law space, meaning junior lawyers are available under supervision to work on Tribunal cases also
- Aaron has appeared as counsel in over 100 Disciplinary Tribunal and Sports Tribunal cases, including on-field and off-field misconduct cases, anti-doping cases, and in Court matters involving match-fixing and other criminal offending
- Aaron sits as the Judicial Officer for NZ Rugby League and Netball
- Aaron and his team are available to do work on fixed fee arrangements and a reduced fee basis, and may in appropriate cases take work on *pro bono* (without fee)

Chris Patterson

Phone: (09) 300 6007

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- Chris is a barrister with over 20 years' experience in general litigation and dispute resolution. He has been a panel member since 2013
- He is:
 - former deputy chair of Basketball New Zealand
 - a FIBA legal commissioner
 - a board member of Softball New Zealand.
- Chris offers his services at a reduced rate

Don Mackinnon

SBM Legal

Phone: (09) 520 8700

Email: don@sbmlegal.co.nz

- Don is an experienced employment and sports lawyer and has appeared a number of times before the Sports Tribunal including in anti-doping proceedings and selection disputes
- He is also a very experienced sports director. He currently is a director of NZ Cricket and chairs its High Performance Sub Committee. He is also a member of the IAAF's 3 Person Integrity Vetting Panel. Previous board roles include with Sport NZ, High Performance Sport NZ and Netball NZ (which he chaired)
- In 2015 Don was commissioned by the Government to carry out a review of the workings of the Tribunal. He has also conducted investigations/written reports for a number of sports
- Don is prepared to offer concessional rates or low-cost fixed fee arrangements

Michael J Smyth

Phone: (09) 358 2725

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- Michael is a solicitor specialising in sports and employment law and the owner and Director of ApproachableLawyer.com
- He is legal counsel for Swimming New Zealand and Squash New Zealand. He has represented athletes and sporting organisations before the Sports Tribunal since 2006, including selection appeals, anti-doping infringements, and other sporting disputes. He is currently Club Captain of the Auckland Rowing Club and a rowing coach
- Michael represents athletes on a reduced fee basis

Paul David QC

Phone: (09) 379 5589

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- Paul has a wide range of experience in representing athletes and sporting organisations before the Sports Tribunal
- He has appeared in many of the cases heard by the Tribunal since it was established in 2002 across the full range of work within its jurisdiction
- While Paul charges for his work before the Tribunal, unless there are exceptional circumstances, he is concerned to see that athletes and sporting organisations are effectively represented and provides his services at concessional rates

Sarah Wroe

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- Sarah is available for all the work within the Tribunal's jurisdiction. She has experience in anti-doping rule violation proceedings having appeared as junior counsel for Drug Free Sport New Zealand in anti-doping proceedings. Sarah is very familiar with the Sports Anti-Doping Rules and their interpretation and application. She is available to represent athletes in anti-doping proceedings. Sarah has worked with senior counsel in sports law cases concerning challenges to the decision of a judicial committee and advice on appealing selection
- She is a keen sportswoman with particular interest in hockey, football and cycling
- Sarah is prepared to offer concessional rates or low-cost fixed fee arrangements

CHRISTCHURCH

Ian Hunt

Young Hunter

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- Ian has acted as a sports lawyer since 1999 and represented athletes in proceedings before the Sports Tribunal and the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in anti-doping, selection and other sport related issues
- He has had associations with many different sports, athletes and organisations including athletics, cricket, cycling, gymnastics, ice speed skating, motor sport, netball, rugby, rugby league, shooting, skiing, swimming, triathlon and weightlifting. He is currently a High Performance Sport NZ board member and a CAS arbitrator
- Ian is prepared to discuss acting on a concessional rate or no charge basis, depending on the circumstances and the type of case

Willie Hamilton

Chapman Tripp

Phone: (03) 353 0027

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- Willie is experienced in selection matters, anti-doping proceedings and general disputes within a sporting context. He has also appeared before NZ Rugby's Judicial Committee
- He is associated with golf in the Canterbury region and is a member of the Harewood Golf Club
- Willie is willing to discuss providing services on a concessional or no charge basis

Andrew McCormick

BGM Lawyers

Phone: (03) 313 4010

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- 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

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- 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 forum (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

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- 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.

Matt Rhodes

Wynn Williams

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- Matt is an Associate in the dispute resolution team of the law firm Wynn Williams, based in Christchurch.
- Matt has acted for a number of regional and local sporting organisations in the South Island, and also represented athletes in disciplinary, selection and anti-doping cases before the Sports Tribunal and a number of other sports judicial tribunals. He is a sitting member of the Mainland Football disciplinary committee.
- 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

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- 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 on the Board of Equestrian Sports New Zealand, 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

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- 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

Holland Beckett

Phone: (07) 927 2750 (DDI)

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- David has appeared in the Sports Tribunal and related tribunals. He has also undertaken sports and regulatory litigation in the wider courts
- He appears from time to time as a judiciary member of the Upper Central Zone of the New Zealand Rugby League
- David is happy to remain on a pro bono or concessional charge basis

Mark Hammond

Tompkins Wake

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- Mark is a litigation (disputes resolution) partner at Tompkins Wake, based in Hamilton
- He has practised as a litigator for over 38 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

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- Kirsty is part of the Commercial Team 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

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- 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'Automobile (FIA) and professional footballers, to advising local unincorporated organisations and amateur sportsmen and women

Michelle Byczkow

Isherwood Le Gros Law

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- Michelle holds degrees in Law and Science (Genetics and Biochemistry), as well as a Masters of Bioethics and Health Law
- Her dissertation focussed on the scientific, bioethical and legal issues around genetic enhancement
- She has a wide range of litigation experience, having appeared in the District Court, Family Court and High Court, as well as attending mediations and settlement conferences

WELLINGTON**Andrew Skelton**

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- Andrew appears as counsel for athletes and National Sporting Organisations (NSOs) before the Sports Tribunal and the New Zealand Rugby Union Judicial Committee in anti-doping proceedings and in appeals against decisions made by NSOs or the New Zealand Olympic Committee, particularly non-selection. Andrew has been on the Sports Tribunal Legal Assistance Panel since 2014 and has appeared in a number of the anti-doping proceedings relating to the activities of the website *NZ Clenbuterol*
- Andrew is the Rowing New Zealand Selection Ombudsman, hearing appeals by athletes against non-selection. He undertakes a similar role for Triathlon New Zealand and Surf Life Saving New Zealand
- Andrew is prepared to discuss providing services on a concessional or no charge basis depending on the circumstances and the nature of the case

Tenille Burnside

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- Tenille is an Associate in the Commercial and Sports Law practice at Gibson Sheat, based in Wellington. 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 a former rep hockey player and now coaches hockey in Wellington. She is on the board of Badminton Wellington and was previously the treasurer of Achilles New Zealand.
- Tenille is prepared to adjust her fees based on the needs of the athlete.