



NEW ZEALAND

Women's

Law Journal

Te Aho Kawe Kaupapa

Ture a ngā Wāhine

Quarterly
Newsletter

Q3 / Q4

2020

WELCOME

Tēnā tātou katoa

We are so close to saying e noho rā to 2020! Hopefully this newsletter gives you a little to distract yourself from the holiday rush!

We – like probably everyone this year – are a bit behind where we would like to be. Nonetheless, we are looking forward to getting the third edition of the Journal ready for its launch early next year, so watch this space.

As always, a massive thank you to everyone who has contributed so far. And, for good measure, a massive congratulations to everyone who has managed to get through this year vaguely intact – i whakapau kaha tātou. We hope you all have a well-earned and restful break, with friends, family, and good cheer.

Ka kite anō, me a māua mihi nui

Tariqa and Monique

APPLY TO BE A CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Applications are open for one of two Editor-in-Chief positions. The position commences in early 2021 for a minimum of one year, and a maximum of two years.

The role is voluntary. It involves approximately five to ten hours of work per week across the year, with some weeks requiring more or less work. The Editors-in-Chief are responsible for managing all Journal operations, including, but not limited to:

Team – selecting the staff each year, and allocating and managing their work;

Boards – working with Advisory Board members;

Submissions – advertising for and selecting submissions, including working with authors to brainstorm and draft content where there are gaps in the Journal's spread for the year;

Editing process – selecting and liaising with peer reviewers, managing the internal editing process involving two editing rounds, communicating with authors throughout and at the end of the editing process, completing the final edits to the Journal, and working with a typesetter to get the Journal ready for publication;

Marketing – working with the marketing managers to: market content; build connections and networks; manage the Journal's Social Media; and to organise the Journal's launches;

Business – working with the trustees on: current and future sponsorship; Journal sales; the annual budget; and tax and organisational structure matters; and

Events and other promotional / advocacy activities – engaging in and organising events, dealing with the media around relevant gender issues in the law and legal profession, and undertaking advocacy work as appropriate.

If you are interested in this role, please contact the Trustees, Ana Lenard and Allanah Colley, to express your interest: trustees.nzwlj@gmail.com. The Trustees will give you further information about the remaining steps in the application process. There is also further information available on our website. Applications close at **5pm on 28 January 2021**.

WHAT HAS BEEN IN THE NEWS?

NEW ZEALAND ELECTS HISTORICALLY DIVERSE PARLIAMENT

The 2020 general election has elected a record high representation of women and minority groups into New Zealand's Parliament. We are thrilled to see that more than half of Labour's 64 seats, and seven of the Green Party's 10 seats, are held by women. The Labour Party now sits on 55 percent women, and National is at 31 percent bringing the total number of women in Parliament to 48 percent, a historic first. It is also the most queer Parliament in the world with 11 members of the Rainbow community.

There are also new women lawyers entering Parliament. Arena Williams (Te Aitanga-a-Māhaki, Ngāi Tahu, and Ngāi Tūhoe), who has a criminal law background, won Manurewa in south Auckland for Labour, and Vanushi Walters, a human rights lawyer, won Auckland's Upper Harbour for Labour. Vanushi Walters is also the first Sri Lankan MP.

PASIFIKA WOMEN WORKING 'FOR FREE' FOR END OF THE YEAR

Since 30 September, Pasifika women have been effectively working with no pay for the rest of the year when compared with the pay of Pākehā men. In 2020, Pasifika women earned an average of 25.4 percent less than Pākehā men. The Public Service Association has said this means that by the end of September the average Pākehā man had already earned the average income of a Pasifika woman.

Labour's manifesto for the 2020 general election acknowledged that Māori and Pasifika women are underrepresented in many areas where women in general are making progress and included a commitment to make it easier for women to gain pay equity in their organisation or across their industry, by ensuring there are better records of pay equity across New Zealand, including by ethnicity and age as well as gender.

TE WIKI O TE REO MĀORI

Te Wiki o te reo Māori was celebrated from 14 September 2020 to 20 September 2020. Māori language week is an opportunity for concentrated celebration, promotion and encouragement. As the movement states, “every minute of every hour of every day is a Māori language moment – we can choose to use te reo – every time we do, even just a ‘Kia ora!’ contributes to revitalisation”.

Kia Kākano Rua te Ture: A te reo Māori Handbook for the Law is a book authored by Alana Thomas and Corin Merrick that to equip legal practitioners, law students, government departments and the judiciary with the tools they need to take a step towards a more equitable justice system. With a practical focus on Māori language and protocol to be used in different professional and Court settings, this book is a necessary foundation to help users not only expand their skill sets but will also work to improve the legal access Māori have by ensuring they have an understanding of te reo Māori and Māori issues.

In an interview with New Zealand Lawyer Magazine, Alana Thomas said “[t]he words ‘kākano rua’, are used to describe biculturalism in te reo Māori. The name of this book, ‘Kia Kākano Rua te Ture,’ stems from our aspiration to see biculturalism in our legal system. We see te reo Māori as the waka which can take us to that destination.” She said that normalising te reo Māori will not only benefit practitioners, but also benefit people around practitioners: “[t]e reo Māori is not just a transfer of words, it is also a transfer of customs and traditions, and in turn the Māori worldview. The benefits, then, of learning te reo Māori extend far beyond just learning new words, and into alternative ways of thinking and problem solving,”

Kia Kākano Rua te Ture: A te reo Māori Handbook for the Law is available for purchase from the LexisNexis website.



RUTH BADER GINSBURG

Ruth Bader Ginsburg, lifelong advocate of gender equality, passed away in September 2020 having forged a formidable legal career in the United States.

During her time as an advocate she presented a number of cases to the Supreme Court challenging the differential treatment of men and women. Cases which she argued before the Supreme Court included a challenge to a law that gave men preference over women to be chosen to administer estates (*Reed v. Reed*, 1971), a military regulation that denied husbands of women in the military some of the benefits to which wives of male soldiers were entitled (*Frontiero v. Richardson*, 1973) and a Social Security provision that assumed wives were secondary breadwinners whose incomes were unimportant to the family and therefore deprived widowers of survivor benefits (*Weinberger v. Wiesenfeld*, 1975).

She was the second woman appointed to the Supreme Court of the United States. In her time at the Supreme Court, she sat on a number of decisions important for rights surrounding gender, sex and sexual orientation. These included:

- In *United States v. Virginia*, she wrote the majority opinion that would serve as a milestone moment for women's rights and university admission policies. The case challenged a policy by the Virginia Military Institute that barred women from being admitted to the institution.
- The outcome of *Obergefell v. Hodges* involved a challenge to bans against same-sex marriages and not recognizing their legal marriages. Justice Ginsburg's vote helped legalise same-sex marriage in every state in the United States.
- In *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt*, the Supreme Court's decision struck down the HB2 law in Texas that imposed a number of regulations on abortion clinics. Justice Ginsburg said that "it is beyond rational belief that HB2 could genuinely protect the health of women, and certain that the law 'would simply make it more difficult for them to obtain abortions.'"

In the words of Justice Ginsburg, "Women's rights are an essential part of the overall human rights agenda, trained on the equal dignity and ability to live in freedom all people should enjoy." Her presence on the Supreme Court bench will be missed, and it will be interesting to watch developments in terms of Justice Ginsburg's replacement.



ALUMNI NETWORK

Have you been a previous author or staff member for the New Zealand Women's Law Journal — Te Aho Kawe Kaupapa Ture a Ngā Wāhine??

Get in touch with our Managing Editor at marketing@womenslawjournal.co.nz to join our alumni network.



Meri Kirihimete
and Happy
New Year