

Deputy Chief Judge of the Māori Land Court

Position Description

The role of the Deputy Chief Judge

The Role

The role of the Deputy Chief Judge of the Māori Land Court encompasses judicial, representative, administrative, relationship management, and strategic functions. A key demand of the role is supporting the Chief Judge in his/her leadership of the Court.

Core Responsibilities

The core responsibilities of the Deputy Chief Judge are set out below:

Role	Description
Judicial	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Key functions for the Deputy Chief Judge under Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993 include:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ acting as Chief Judge of the Māori Land Court, either when under delegation or direction by the Chief Judge (under Section 8A), or where, by reason of illness, absence from New Zealand, or any other cause, the Chief Judge is prevented from exercising the duties of office (under section 8(4)); and▪ participating in the Māori Land Court's Rules Committee under section 92.▪ Acting as a deputy member of the Electoral Commission to the Chief Judge of the Māori Land Court under section 11A of the Electoral Act 1993.▪ Performing judicial functions under Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993, the Fisheries Act 1996, the Foreshore and Seabed Act 2004, the Māori Fisheries Act 2004, and the Māori Commercial Aquaculture Claims Settlement Act 2004 as delegated by the Chief Judge. The role may also involve the following roles and responsibilities, as set out below.
Public Representation and Leadership	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Supporting the Chief Judge in maintaining a high public profile.▪ Where required, acting as Chief Judge, including (among other things):<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ undertaking public speaking engagements;▪ liaising with Māori communities, governance bodies, and land

	<p>owners; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ representing the Māori Land Court at official functions.
Administrative	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Providing guidance and support to the bench of the Māori Land Court, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ managing day-to-day judicial deployment, leave, and sabbaticals; ▪ managing judicial complaints; ▪ managing judges' conferences; and ▪ managing the Māori Land Court's Judicial Education programme. ▪ Administering applications relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ powers of correction under sections 44 – 48 of Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993. ▪ Where required, performing the Chief Judge's administrative duties as acting Chief Judge.
Relationship Management	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supporting the Chief Judge in maintaining the confidence of Māori communities in the institution of the Māori Land Court. ▪ Supporting the Chief Judge in managing relationships with the Māori Land Court on operational and technical matters. ▪ Supporting the Chief Judge in maintaining relationships with key government bodies, including Ministers (e.g. Minister of Māori Affairs, Minister for Courts), the Ministry of Justice, and Te Puni Kōkiri. ▪ Supporting the Chief Judge in managing relationships with the Chief Justice, other Heads of Benches, the legal profession, and the academic community. ▪ Where required, performing the Chief Judge's relationship management duties as acting Chief Judge.
Strategic	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supporting the Chief Judge in his/her strategic focus.

Criteria for appointment as Deputy Chief Judge

The following criteria will be used to assess candidates for the role of Deputy Chief Judge of the Māori Land Court:

Statutory Criteria

Candidates must be eligible for appointment as a Māori Land Court judge under section 7 of Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993. Under section 7, judges must be 'fit and proper' for the position, and must:

- be deemed suitable, having regard to their knowledge and experience of te reo Māori, tikanga Māori and the Treaty of Waitangi;
- have held a practicing certificate as a barrister or solicitor for at least 7 years;
- be under the age of 70 years; and
- stop practising as a barrister or solicitor.

General Criteria

Successful candidates should display the following skills and attributes:

- legal ability, including:
 - excellence in the practise and/or theory of law, in particular knowledge of and experience with Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993, the Treaty of Waitangi Act 1975, the Māori Fisheries Act 2004, the Māori Aquaculture Claims Settlement Act 2004, and the Foreshore and Seabed Act 2004; and
 - extensive experience in the Māori Land Court and the Waitangi Tribunal.
- technical skills, including:
 - administrative and organisational skills;
 - the ability to manage a courtroom;
 - high capability in te reo and tikanga Māori;
 - a good understanding of tribal structures, history, and culture; and
 - high-level communication skills.
- qualities of character, including:
 - honesty and integrity;
 - open-mindedness and impartiality;
 - courtesy, patience and social sensitivity;
 - good judgment and common sense;
 - the ability to work hard, to listen, and to concentrate;
 - breadth of vision, independence, and acceptance of public scrutiny;
 - collegiality and leadership qualities; and
 - standing and good reputation within the community.
- an awareness of society and involvement in the Māori community.

