



Hon. Dame Judith Potter DNZM CBE



1956-1959

Dame Judith Potter has had an inspiring life to say the least. Leaving school at 6th form (Year 12), Judith decided to pursue a law degree, after her English teacher, Mrs Harkness, said to her *“Judith Potter, you have a remarkable ability to sort the wood from the trees. You should do law.”* Being virtually the only woman at law school, Justice Potter didn’t have an easy 5 years and was even told *“You’re a woman, you’ll fail.”*

Despite the tough environment, Judith went on to finish her law degree, gain a job at a leading law firm, become a partner at the same firm and finally become the 4th female High Court Judge of New Zealand. Judith is glad to have been able to make this stunning contribution to society during a male dominated era. She believes we as women are *“terribly important”* as we can see things differently from our male counterparts and can thus contribute to good decision making.

“Have confidence in yourselves. If you’re prepared to work hard, you can do it.”