



Judge Heather Simpson CNZM



1963-1967

Heather Simpson studied languages, including Latin, and history at school and played the oboe in the school orchestra. She attended Auckland University and received a BA in political studies as well as a law degree. Heather taught music to pay her expenses and graduated in 1975. Upon graduating, Heather worked in a law firm in Thames and took responsibility for the litigation side of the practice.

Appointed District Court Judge at Otahuhu Court in 1987, Heather exercised general criminal jurisdiction and held a special designation to sit in the Youth Court. Heather worked out of the Otahuhu District Court for 14 years, becoming the longest serving judge at this court. She was made a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit in 2002 for services as a District Court Judge.

Since her retirement from full time work in 2007, Heather has been granted a warrant that gives her the jurisdiction to hear cases when no one else is available. As a member of the Baha'i faith, Heather applies the lessons learned from spiritual practice to her daily life and work.

When awarded a Founder's Award from Epsom Girls Grammar School in 2016, Heather cited the huge range of career opportunities available for women now that were much harder to access in earlier years and encouraged the girls to find something they love and go for it.