

JEREMY JOHNSON

BAR RISTER

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Summary

Jeremy is a leading barrister with expertise in commercial, insolvency, relationship property, equity and trust law. Jeremy can quickly grasp a legal situation and provide accurate, commercially realistic advice at short notice. He is frequently instructed to appear as counsel in the courts and before arbitral tribunals and he is recognised as a leading senior junior with considerable experience in leading multi-week trials against senior counsel. As part of his practice he also often undertakes discreet work for high profile individuals and families.

Jeremy has previously appeared in significant tax cases including acting in *Cullen Group Ltd v Commissioner of Inland Revenue* (2018) 28 NZTC 23-058, (2019) NZTC 24-003.

Since joining the Bar Jeremy has been recognised by the Chambers Asia-Pacific every year since 2022 being ranked as Band 2 for 2023 and 2024, and Band 1 for 2025 and 2026. Jeremy is recommended for his "outstanding service" with "the client-handling skills to make a top-class litigator". One client describes him as an "excellent strategic litigator and thinker. He is very responsive and well regarded by other practitioners, which makes negotiations more streamlined". Another client said he was "arguably the smartest lawyer with whom I have engaged". Previous directories said that Jeremy is "in a league of his own", "an excellent young lawyer who has a sharp intellect, and is a good tactician and a very good communicator. His approach in court is courteous and disarming".

Jeremy is ranked as a Leading Barrister Sole in the Legal 500 Asia Pacific Rankings 2024 for commercial disputes: "Jeremy's fierce intellect and ability to understand people makes him a formidable litigator"; "Jeremy is a confident and effective advocate in court and is not afraid of taking on difficult points".

Jeremy works on cases across New Zealand and in the wider Asia-Pacific Region. He is a member of Bankside Chambers in Singapore and he is registered with the Singapore International Commercial Court. He is also a member of the Singapore International Arbitration Centre Panel of Reserve Arbitrators.

Jeremy is a member of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP) and holds a STEP Advanced Certificate in Trust Disputes, placing first in his global class. He was the youngest person to become a Fellow of the Arbitrators' and Mediators' Institute of New Zealand and he received the Ronald Davison Award for excellence in arbitral award writing. Jeremy is a member of the International Trust Arbitration Organisation Advisory Board and a Fellow of the International Academy of Family Lawyers.

Academic Qualifications

- University of Canterbury, **Bachelor of Laws with First Class Honours and Bachelor of Arts** (2008)
- University of Cambridge, **Master of Laws with First Class Honours** (2012)
- **STEP Advanced Certificate** in Trust Disputes (2017)
- Australian Bar Association **Advanced Trial Advocacy Course** (2020)

Admission

- Admitted as a Barrister and Solicitor of the **High Court of New Zealand** (2008)
- Admitted as a Legal Practitioner of the **Supreme Court of New South Wales** (2019)
- Admitted as a Foreign Lawyer with the **Singapore International Commercial Court** (2023)

Memberships

- New Zealand Law Society
- New Zealand Bar Association
- Arbitrators' and Mediators' Institute of New Zealand (**Fellow**)
- Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (**Fellow**)
- Ecclesiastical Law Society
- Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners
- International Trust Arbitration Organisation Advisory Board
- International Academy of Family Lawyers (**Fellow**)

Prizes

- New Zealand Law Awards Young Private Practice Lawyer of the Year (2017)
- FAMINZ (Arb) (2016)
- FCIArb (2016)
- Sir Ronald Davison Prize for Excellence in Arbitral Award Writing (2016)
- Cleary Memorial Prize (2009)
- Life Member, New Zealand Schools' Debating Council (2008)

Community

- Awarded **King's Service Medal** in the 2025 New Year Honours for his service in the community
- Chancellor, **Anglican Diocese of Waipapu**, 2021-present
- Chancellor, **Anglican Diocese of Christchurch**, 2015-2020
- Vice-Chancellor, **Anglican Diocese of Christchurch**, 2008-2015
- Chair, **New Zealand String Quartet Trust**, 2019-2024
- Trustee, **New Zealand String Quartet Trust**, 2018-2019
- Trustee, **Auckland Art Gallery Foundation**, 2022 – present
- Trustee, **Royal New Zealand Ballet**, 2025 - present
- Chair, Board of Governors, **Christ's College**, Canterbury, 2024 - present
- Member, Board of Governors, **Christ's College**, Canterbury, 2017- 2024
- President, **Christ's College Old Boys' Association**, 2016-2018
- Member of Board of Governors, **College of St John the Evangelist**, 2014-2018
- Member, **Legislation Advisory Committee**, 2011-2018
- Member, **Legal Aid Review Panel**, 2011-2012