

# A SNAPSHOT OF THE NEW ZEALAND LEGAL PROFESSION

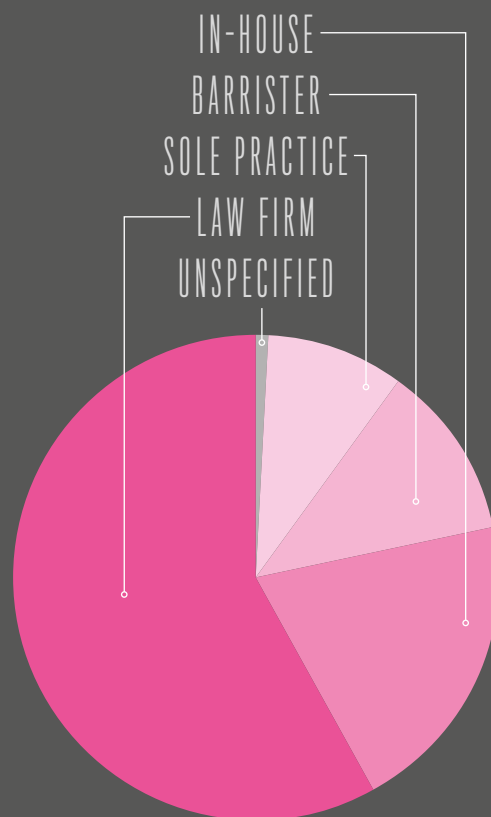
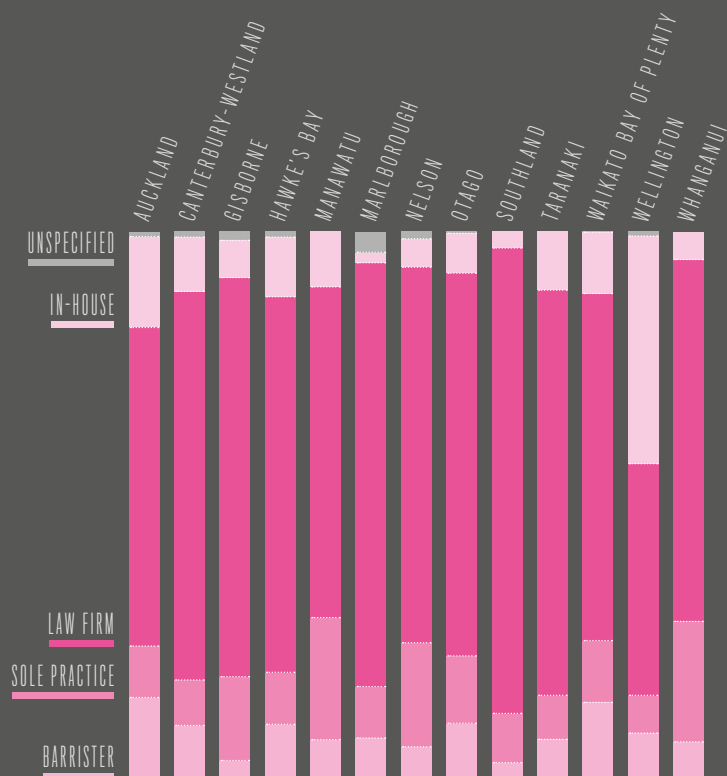
---

01 MARCH 2013

*The New Zealand Law Society regulates New Zealand's legal profession and is responsible for issuing practising certificates. Law Society information on lawyers holding a current practising certificate and data from other sources has been summarised to give a picture of the legal profession at 1 March 2013.*

# PRACTISING CERTIFICATES ON ISSUE

BRANCH	BARRISTER	SOLE PRACTICE	LAW FIRM	IN-HOUSE	UNSPECIFIED	TOTAL
AUCKLAND	786	496	3068	872	41	5263
CANTERBURY-WESTLAND	117	99	844	118	10	1188
GISBORNE	2	9	43	4	1	59
HAWKE'S BAY	22	21	151	24	2	220
MANAWATU	10	31	84	14	0	139
MARLBOROUGH	4	5	41	1	2	53
NELSON	9	29	105	8	2	153
OTAGO	43	52	295	31	1	422
SOUTHLAND	4	12	113	4	0	133
TARANAKI	11	12	111	16	0	150
WAIKATO BAY OF PLENTY	148	120	671	118	1	1058
WELLINGTON	222	182	1118	1100	22	2644
WHANGANUI	4	13	39	3	0	59
<b>TOTAL NEW ZEALAND</b>	<b>1382</b>	<b>1081</b>	<b>6683</b>	<b>2313</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>11541</b>
<b>OVERSEAS</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>464</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1414</b>	<b>1094</b>	<b>6976</b>	<b>2434</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>12005</b>



# TRENDS IN THE PROFESSION'S MAKE-UP

Like all professions, the legal profession has undergone major change in the last few decades. Demographically, there have been significant shifts in the proportion of

women practising law, the rise (and levelling out) of barristers sole and more in-house lawyers. The passage of the Lawyers and Conveyancers Act 2006 also means lawyers

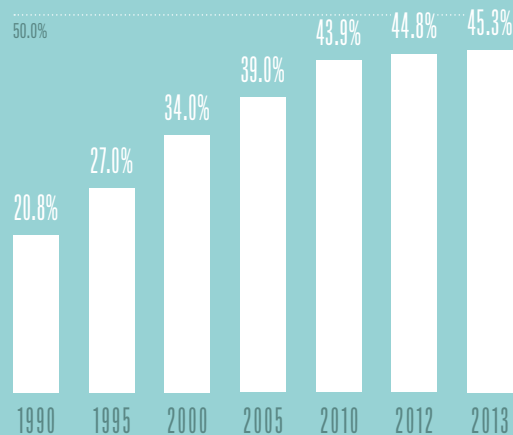
based overseas are able to hold a New Zealand practising certificate and a growing number of lawyers are now based overseas. Trends since 1990 can be shown as follows:

## GENDER BALANCE

A majority of new entrants to the legal profession are female and the proportion of female lawyers continues to increase.

**45%**  
OF LAWYERS ARE FEMALE

**↑ 0.5%**  
SINCE 2012

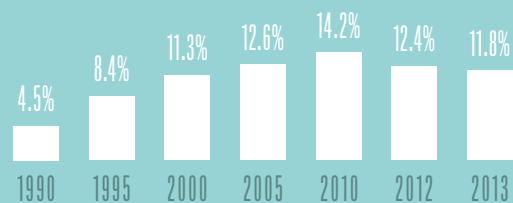


## BARRISTERS

During the 1990s there was rapid growth in the number of barristers practising in New Zealand. The proportion of lawyers practising as barristers is now declining.

**12%**  
OF LAWYERS ARE BARRISTERS

**↓ 0.6%**  
SINCE 2012

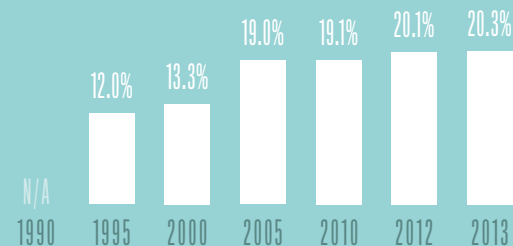


## IN-HOUSE LAWYERS

The proportion of lawyers employed in-house continues to rise. CLANZ, the Law Society's section for in-house lawyers was established in 1987.

**20%**  
OF LAWYERS PRACTICE IN-HOUSE

**↑ 0.2%**  
SINCE 2012



# PRACTICE IN NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand's lawyers can be grouped into three areas of practice: barristers sole, barristers and solicitors and in-house lawyers. This analysis divides barristers and

solicitors into two different groups: sole practitioners and lawyers who practice in a law firm with two or more lawyers. The information in this section excludes lawyers

who are based outside New Zealand. All lawyers practising in New Zealand have an average of 18.1 years in practice.

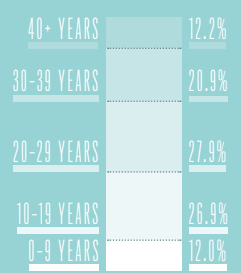
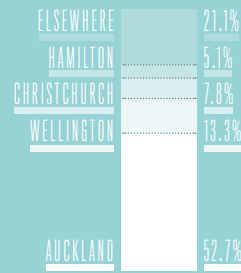
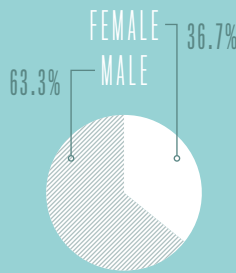
## BARRISTERS



Since 2012 barristers have been required to complete *Stepping Up* and this (along with changes in legal aid) may be partly responsible for the slight drop in the number of barristers over the last two years.

# 24.3

AVERAGE YEARS IN PRACTICE



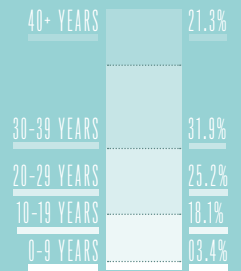
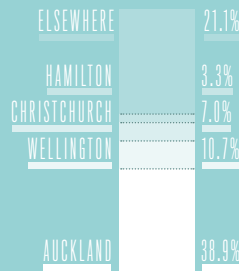
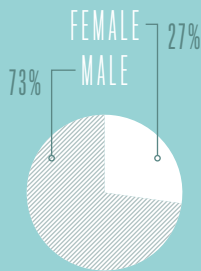
## SOLE PRACTITIONERS



Lawyers in sole practice comprise 9.4% of New Zealand-based lawyers.

# 29.7

AVERAGE YEARS IN PRACTICE



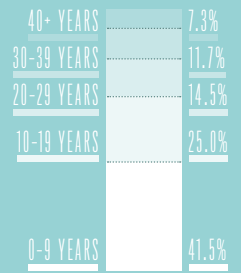
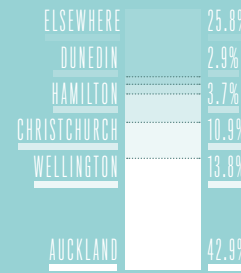
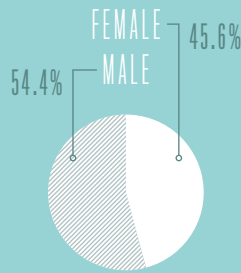
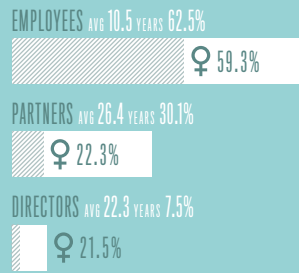
## LAWYERS IN FIRMS



Lawyers in firms with more than one lawyer make up 57.9% of New Zealand-based lawyers.

# 16.2

AVERAGE YEARS IN PRACTICE



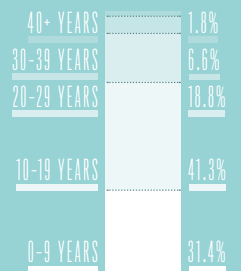
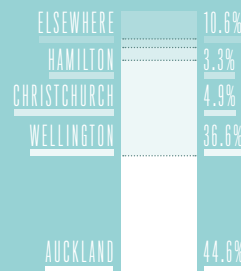
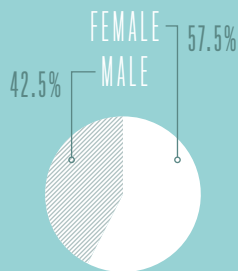
## IN-HOUSE LAWYERS



In-house lawyers comprise 20% of New Zealand-based lawyers.

# 14.9

AVERAGE YEARS IN PRACTICE



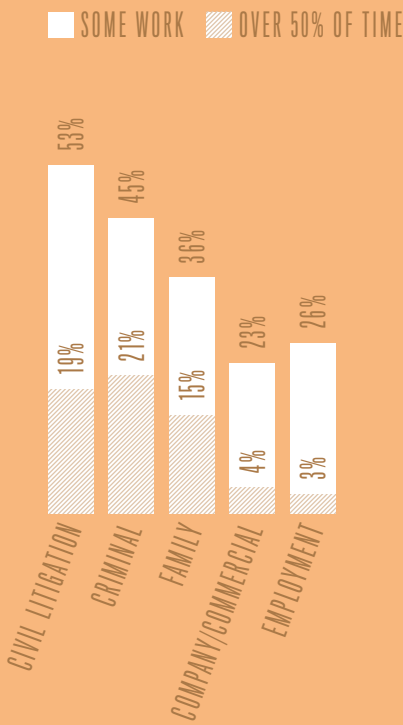
# AREAS OF PRACTICE

Company and commercial and property law are the two most commonly practised areas of law, with 49% of New Zealand-based

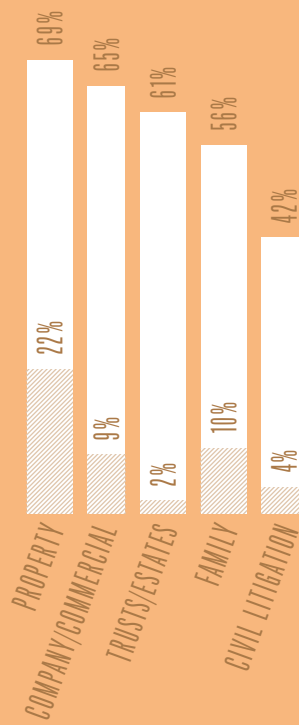
lawyers doing some work in company/commercial. While the picture changes according to the type of law practice, the

three most important areas are company/commercial, property and civil litigation.

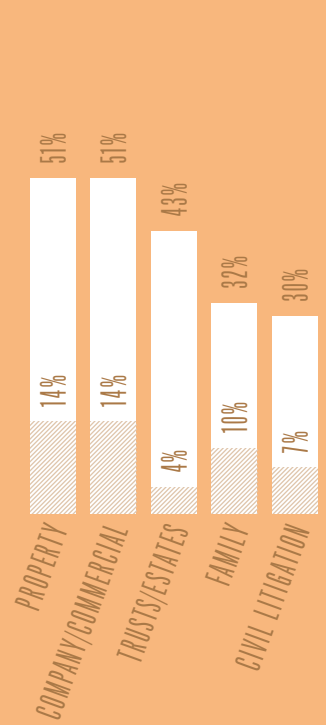
## BARRISTERS



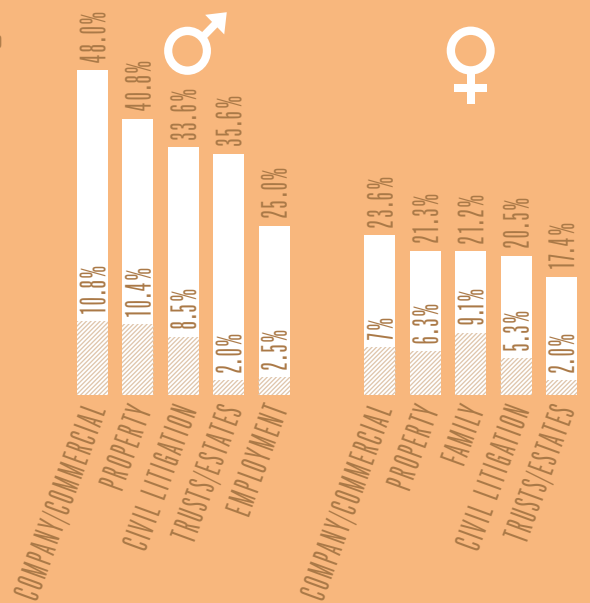
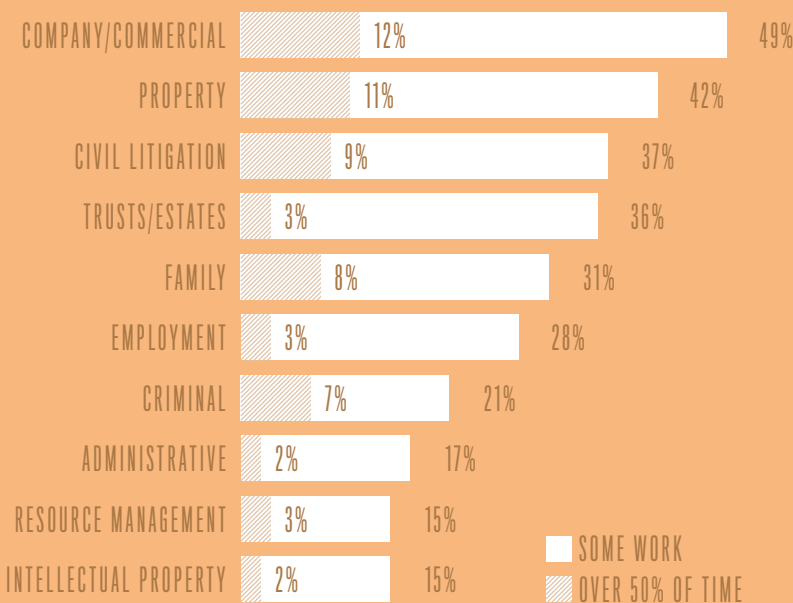
## SOLE PRACTITIONERS



## LAWYERS IN FIRMS WITH 1+ PRINCIPALS



## ALL NEW ZEALAND BASED LAWYERS

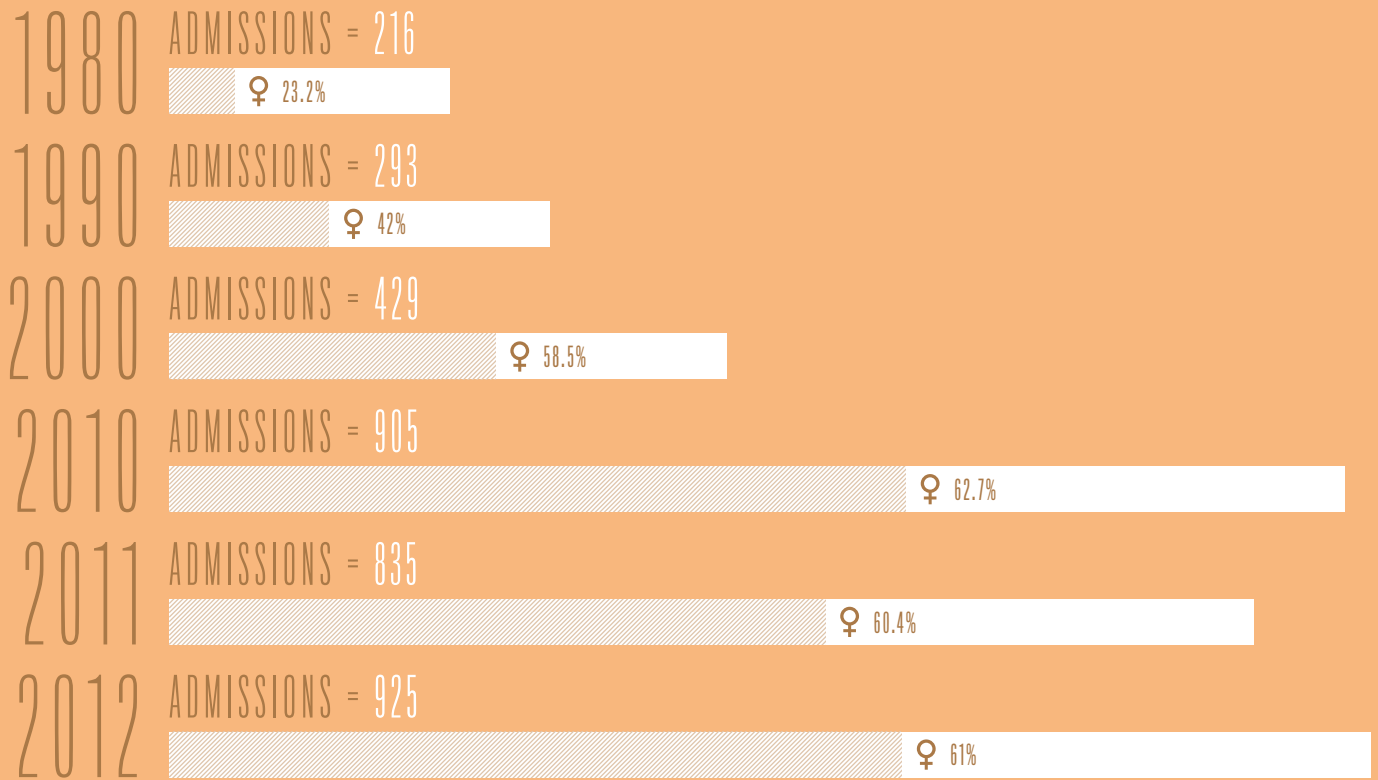


# ADMISSION TO THE LEGAL PROFESSION

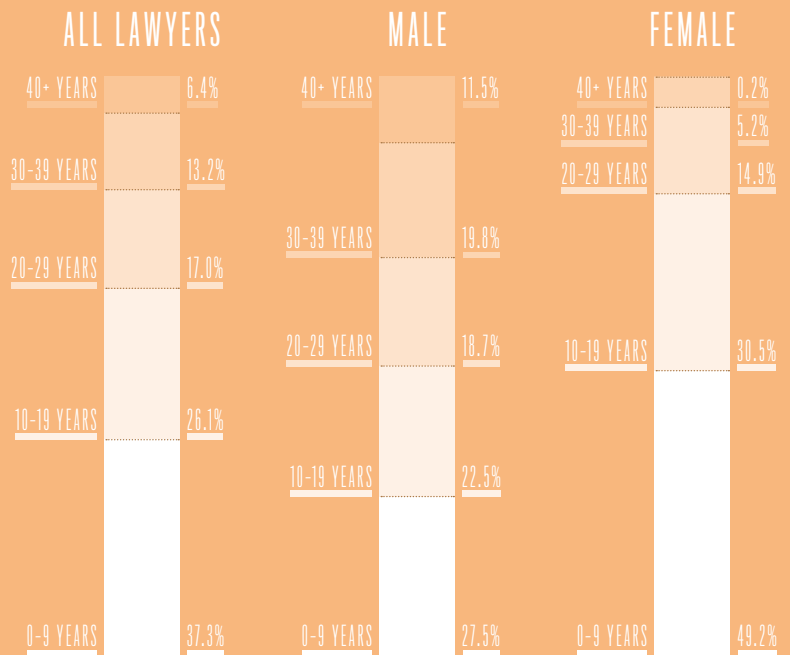
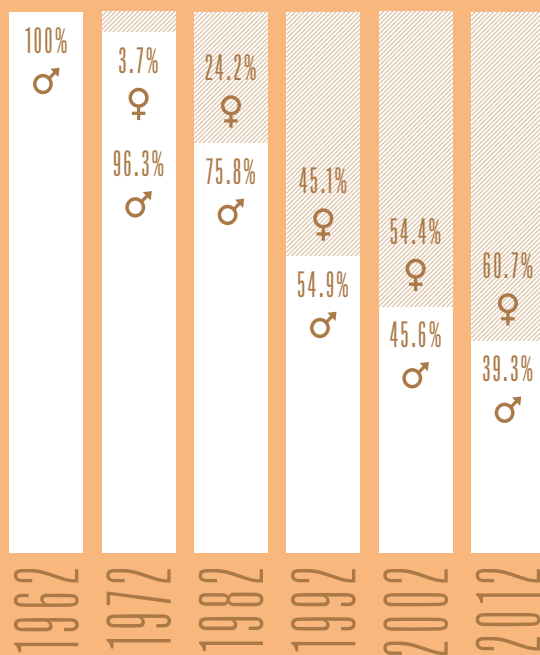
New Lawyers are admitted to the profession throughout the year. As noted in our Snapshot last year, two clear trends are

apparent: the number of new entrants as a proportion of the number of lawyers in practice is declining, and the proportion

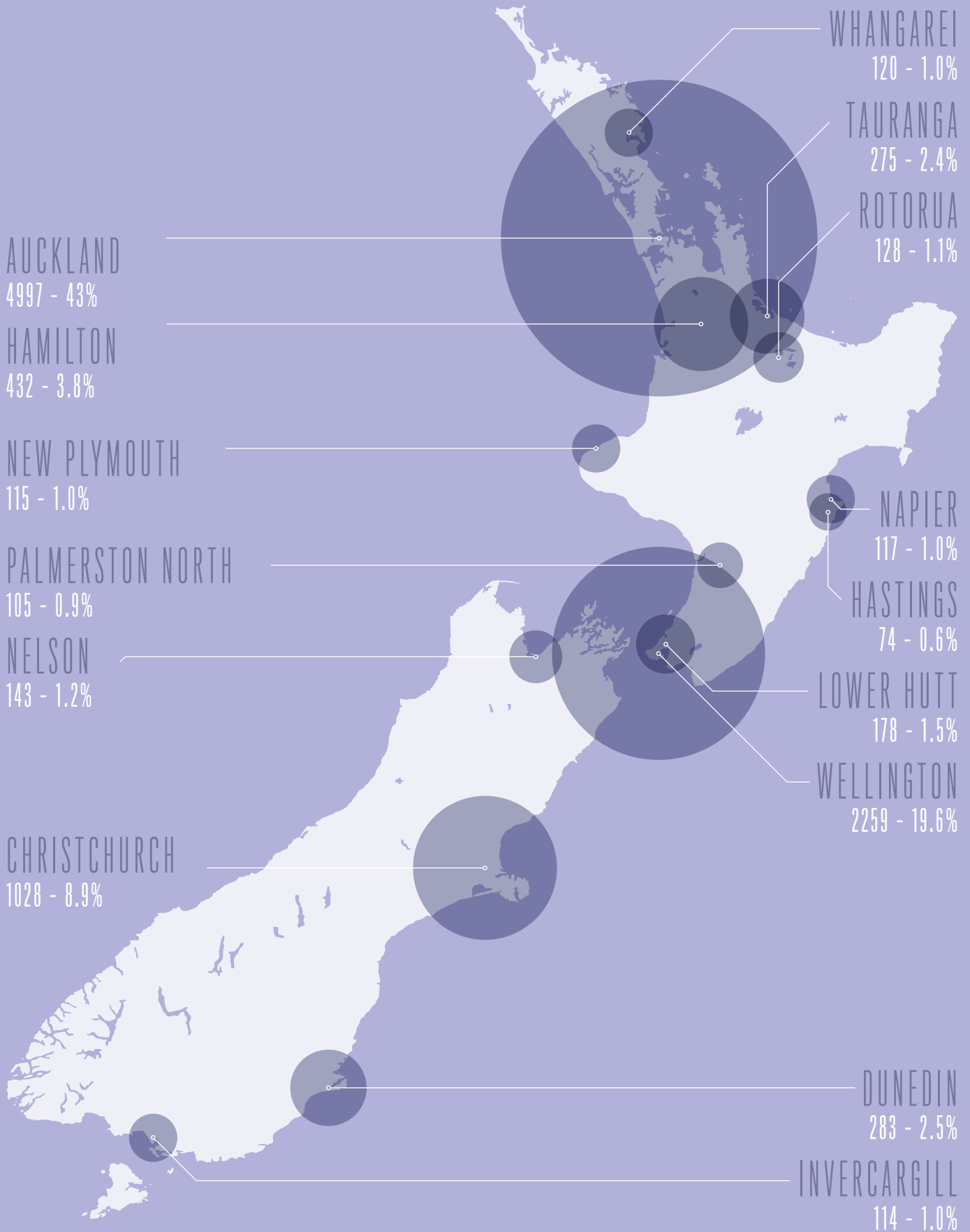
of women admitted as lawyers continues to increase (although the 2011 and 2012 statistics indicate this could be plateauing).



## LAWYERS CURRENTLY PRACTISING BY ADMISSION YEAR



# LAWYERS BY LOCATION - NUMBERS



# LAWYERS BY LOCATION - PER CAPITA

## HIGHEST PROPORTION OF LAWYERS

- KERIKERI - 1 PER 205
- WELLSFORD - 1 PER 340
- WARKWORTH - 1 PER 194
- AUCKLAND - 1 PER 300
- HAMILTON - 1 PER 397
- MATAMATA - 1 PER 400

WELLINGTON - 1 PER 89

CHRISTCHURCH - 1 PER 388

QUEENSTOWN - 1 PER 344

ALEXANDRA - 1 PER 300

## LOWEST PROPORTION OF LAWYERS

1 PER 1500 - PUTARURU

1 PER 1914 - TOKOROA

1 PER 6940 - KAWERAU

1 PER 1350 - OTOROHANGA

1 PER 4300 - WAIROA

1 PER 2000 - TAIHAPE

1 PER 1289 - HAVELOCK NORTH

1 PER 1804 - UPPER HUTT

1 PER 1440 - MOTUEKA

1 PER 1400 - WAIMATE



## MOST EXPERIENCED CENTRES

Excluding centres with fewer than 10 lawyers, the locations with the highest proportion of lawyers who have been in practice for 40 years or more are Hawera (33.3% of all lawyers), Feilding (33.3%), Wanaka (31.3%), Levin (29.4%), Warkworth (27.8%) and Masterton (25.0%).

## FRESHEST FACES

Again excluding centres with fewer than 10 lawyers, the locations with the highest proportion of lawyers who have been in practice for 5 years or less are Hawera (40.0% – and interestingly also topping the table for highest proportion with 40 years or more experience), Morrinsville (30.0%), Whakatane (27.8%), Wellington (26.8%) and Orewa (25.0%).

## HOW DO WE SHAPE AGAINST OTHER COUNTRIES?

Putting together an accurate global list of lawyers per head of population is difficult. Israel appears to lead the world, with a 2010 Israel Court Administration report giving the country one lawyer for every 171 people. Figures from the American Bar Association show that the 1,225,452 lawyers in the United States in 2011 gave a ratio of one lawyer to 256 people. Brazil was also ahead of New Zealand, with Bar Association of Brazil data showing 1 lawyer for 316 people.

## OTHER PROFESSIONS

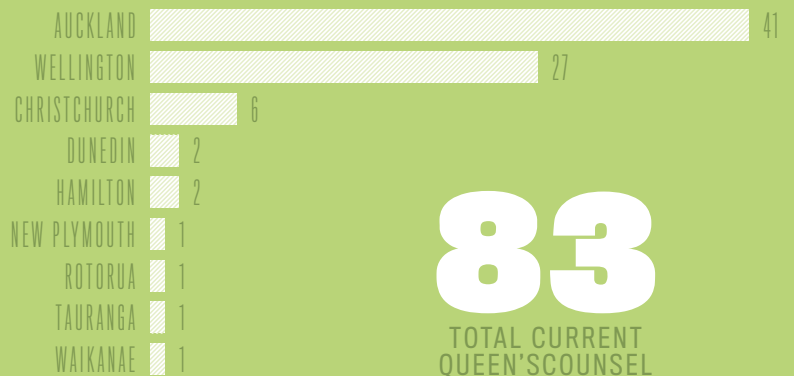
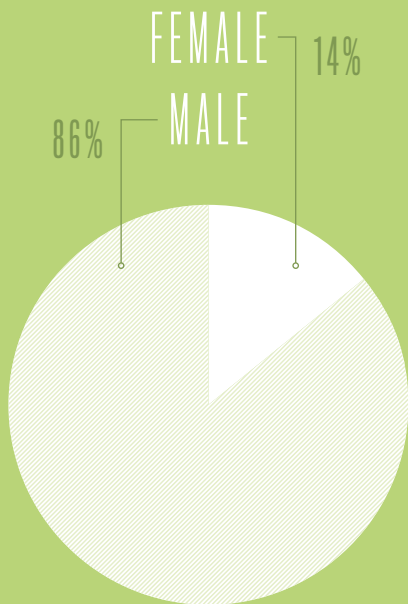
To give some context to the number of lawyers per New Zealander, the following information shows numbers in some other professions. Information has been extracted from the latest annual report of the appropriate regulating body and shows fully practising professionals (excludes associates, graduates and others).

PROFESSION (NZ AND ABROAD)	NUMBER	PER CAPITA
ARCHITECTS	1,621	2751
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS	24,640	181
DENTISTS	2,619	1702
DOCTORS	13,874	321
NURSES	46,284	96
SURVEYORS	722	6177
TEACHERS	98,000	46
LAWYERS	12,005	372



# QUEEN'S COUNSEL

In general a Queen's Counsel will have held the honour for an average of 14 years. For the record the longest practising Queen's Counsel, according to our research is Anthony Molloy, who was granted the title 29 years ago. The next round of appointments is expected shortly



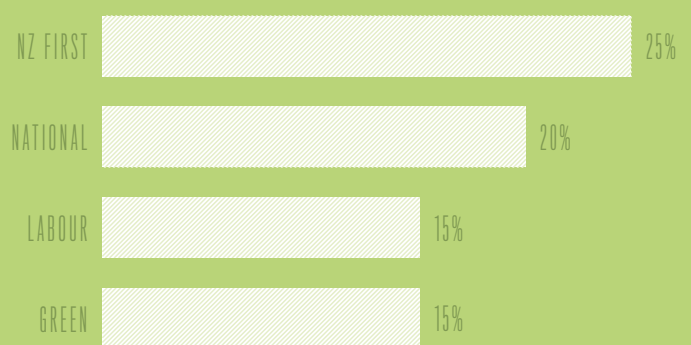
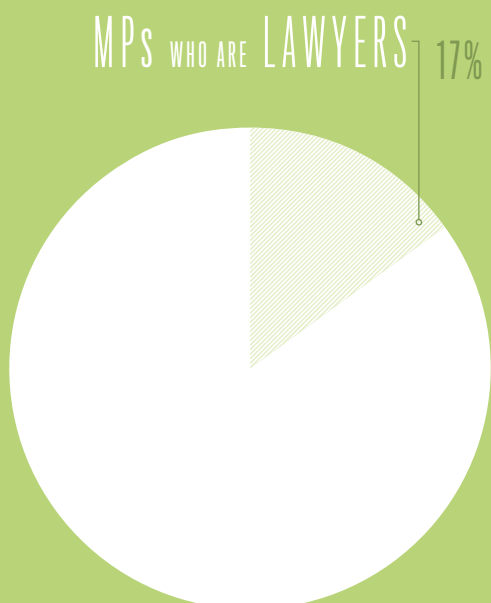
**83**  
TOTAL CURRENT  
QUEEN'S COUNSEL

**14** YEARS  
AVERAGE TIME QC

**29** YEARS  
LONGEST SERVING QC -  
ANTHONY PATRICK MOLLOY

# LAWYERS IN PARLIAMENT

For this year's snapshot we decided to look at how many Members of Parliament had a legal background. The information has been gathered from parliamentary and party websites.



## UNIVERSITY ATTENDED

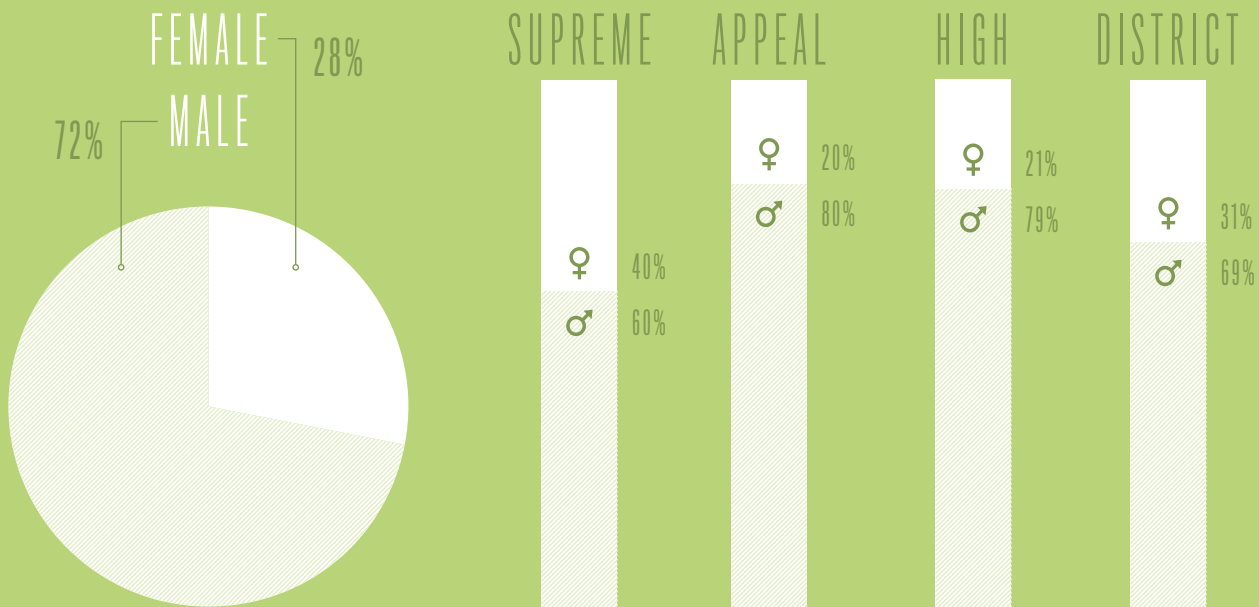
AUCKLAND	WAIKATO	VICTORIA	CANTERBURY	OTAGO	NOT SURE
8	1	4	4	2	2

# THE JUDICIARY

To round off last year's Snapshot we included judiciary information collected from the Ministry of Justice websites. This year we have updated that information and note any changes.

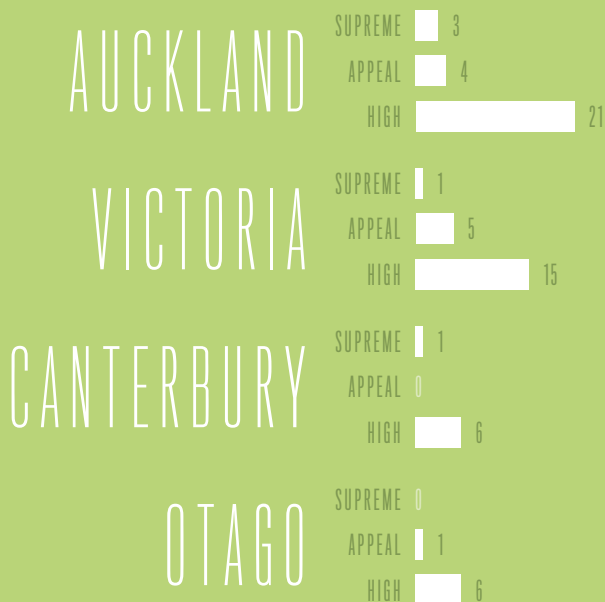
## GENDER

There has been a slight increase in the representation of women in most courts with the exception of the High Court (which decreased slightly). Female representation in the Supreme Court increased 23%.



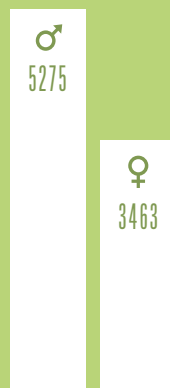
## UNIVERSITY ATTENDED

Information is not available for all District Court judges and they have been excluded.



## ELIGIBLE FOR APPOINTMENT

This data has been adjusted to exclude all lawyers who have been admitted for less than 7 years (the minimum time a lawyer must be eligible for appointment to the judiciary).



## TIME AS JUDGE

For the record New Zealand's longest serving members of the judiciary (at March 2013) are Keane J (26 years), Ronald Young J (25 years) and Judge Harvey (24 years).

