

Attorney General Appoints Himself Queen's Counsel

Christopher Finlayson, formerly legal counsel for Ngai Tahu in their repeated treaty claims, and currently on the other side of the fence as Minister of Treaty Settlements and Attorney General, has finally managed to persuade parliament to pass his bill restoring the ability to confer on lawyers the antiquated title of Queen's Counsel.

Finlayson lobbied intensively behind-the-scenes for three years to promote the bill. Parliament passed the bill in early December of 2012. The first appointment to the title in late December was, unsurprisingly, Christopher Finlayson.

In the words of his press secretary;

...the Minister responsible for the Lawyers and Conveyancers Amendment Bill was the Justice Minister (although the Attorney did introduce the bill in 2009). The recommendation for the appointments to Queen's Counsel of the Attorney General and the Solicitor General were made by the PM under the prerogative powers preserved by the Act, not by the Attorney General.

Yeah right!

We predict that Finlayson will prove a liability for the National Party, and be unceremoniously dumped.

That \$Queen's Counsel appointment will come in handy back in private practice!



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