



David Fraundorfer
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Sports Law experience

I am considered one of New Zealand's premier sports lawyers and arbitrators. I hold an LLB/BCom and am also a qualified solicitor in England and Wales. I act for both athletes and sporting organisations as both a representative/advocate and as a mediator/arbitrator.

Recent sports litigation decisions include:

- *Cowper v Ice Gymsports North Canterbury Inc* [2025] NZCA 652;
- *Thompson v New Zealand Olympic Committee* — ST 03/24
- *Eden Shirley v Artistic Swim New Zealand* — ST 13/23
- *Thompson v Canoe Racing New Zealand Inc* [2023] NZHC 1533
- *Drug Free Sport New Zealand v Jason Anderson* — ST 08/19
- *Drug Free Sport New Zealand v Paul Clout* — ST 01/19
- *Drug Free Sport New Zealand v Stacey Mikara* — ST 16/16
- *Drug Free Sport New Zealand v Travell Ngatoko* — ST 17/16
- *Andrew Roy v Canoe Racing New Zealand* — ST 05/15111

My key sports law achievements include:

- Counsel for Cycling New Zealand
- FIFA Oceania arbitrator representative
- Sports Tribunal Assistant Panel member
- Lecturer: Sports law arbitration component, Waikato University Law School, 2023 – present
- Speaker: AMINZ Annual Conference, *Bullying and Harassment in Sport*, 2021 and *Selection in Olympic Year*, NZ LawTalk, July 2016
- Counsel for numerous sports over the years

Wider trial law and arbitration experience

I have well over twenty years litigation experience. My focus is civil and commercial trials and arbitrations. I regularly appear in Court, at all levels, as well as assisting clients with alternative dispute resolution including mediation and arbitration; I am also a qualified mediator. Principally, I focus on complex civil, commercial and trust matters. A sample of recent major Court of Appeal commercial and trust matters I have acted as legal counsel include:

- *Zhou v Watson* [2025] NZSC 89 – precedent setting case on the law of mistake

- *Kingsbeer Transport Limited v Martin Brower New Zealand* [2023] NZCA 385 – successful appeal over commercial contract with Mac Donald’s
- *Pollock v Pollock* [2022] NZCA – case regarding the current law on estate and trusts
- *Kwok v Rainey* [2021] NZCA 199, [2021] NZFLR 406 –solicitor negligence for relationship property and costs as damages;
- *About Image Ltd v Advaro Ltd* [2019] NZCA 337 – decision regarding class action on a Fair-Trading Act.

Otherwise, I have acted on a range of litigation and regulatory matters and am considered Bay of Plenty, New Zealand’s most premier litigator.

Fraudorfer Ltd, Trial Counsel/Director

In 2023, I commenced practice as a barrister sole, managing a full caseload independently from initial instruction through to resolution or court issued judgment. Following strong demand and continued engagement from former colleagues, I transitioned to a specialist litigation firm structure. By mid-2025, the practice had grown to a team of 12 full-time staff, including 7 lawyers and law clerks, reflecting both the scale and success of the practice, all focused on disputes (including sports law).

In my current role, some of the work I undertake includes:

- Lead and manage complex litigation matters across civil, commercial and sports law jurisdictions. I also provide advice on and appear in the Family and District Courts from time to time.
- Mentor a growing legal team with particular emphasis on ensuring professional development.

Holland Beckett, Partner, Head of litigation

Holland Beckett Law is a law partnership of 15 partners and over 120 staff. It is considered one of New Zealand’s biggest provincial law firms. The firm has a commitment to the local community.

I began as a staff solicitor in 2014. I was quickly promoted and by 2017, I was the head of Bay of Plenty’s largest dispute resolution team, made up of over 15 lawyers. In my role, I was responsible for substantial growth as the team tripled in size from 2017 to 2023, becoming one of New Zealand’s leading and largest litigation teams. This was not just commercial growth: I developed a successful pro-bono and legal aid stream of work.

Other aspects of my role included:

- Overseeing 25 staff;
- Various committee responsibility including people committee, training and recruitment; and
- Running the law firm as a business.

Other Recent Decision-Making/Arbitration Experience

- 2018 to 2024: New Zealand Law Society Standards Committee – Ruling on complaints against lawyers
- Arbitrator/decision maker appointment (2014 to present for disputes such as hospital, engineer and medical businesses

- Complaints Handling Unit, UBS AG, London, 2009 to 2011

Recent Board and Governance Experience

- Chairman, Pathology Associates Limited, one of Bay of Plenty and Waikato's largest employers.
- Equity partner at Holland Beckett, which includes chairing several sub-committees.
- Board member of Justitia.
- Board adviser to Asclepius Surgical.
- Board adviser to Elysian Holdings Limited.
- Current trustee of Whare Manaakitia Trust – Trust dedicated to building new community centre in Merivale.
- Board member for Merivale Community Centre (2015 – 2018).
- Note: I routinely provide advice to running of boards, including community boards, and have been a board member of the Marlborough Community Law Centre between 2004 to 2006. Recent board community assistance includes AIMS Games and CCS Disability Action.

Employment History

2023 – current: Fraundorfer Limited – Trial Counsel/Director

2014 – 2023 Holland Beckett Law – Partner

2009 – 2013 UBS AG, London – Financial and regulatory litigation (including fraud)

2008 – 2009 Memory Crystal LLP, London – Commercial litigation

2007 – 2008 Hogan Lovells LLP, London – Product liability litigation

2006 – 2007 Pritchard Joyce Hinds LLP, London – Civil and criminal litigation

2004 – 2006 Gascoigne Wicks, Blenheim – Civil and criminal litigation

Other Community and Pro-Bono Involvement.

- I have overseen a large pro-bono case load and personally maintain provider status for Legal Aid clients.
- I am on the Sports Tribunal Legal Assistance Tribunal and provide pro-bono cover for athletes
- I assist Tauranga Yacht Club.
- Baywide Community Law Service, Tauranga – Providing and managing junior lawyers volunteering every week.
- As an employer, I am an active supporter of a number community groups, schools and other organisations.

Relevant recent Publications, speaking Invitations and other qualifications

- Guest Lecturer, University of Waikato, *Arbitration*, 2023, 2024, and 2025
- Speaker, AMINZ Annual Conference, *Access to Justice*, 2023
- Speaker, Resolution Institute International Conference Sydney, *Green Shoots: Emerging Trends in Dispute Resolution* 2022
- (Presenter) Estate Dispute Resolution: Changing Landscapes, 2022

- (Presenter) *Trusts Under Attack*, NZLS Seminar, August 2021
- Resolution Institute Mediation Accreditation since February 2021
- *Trade Better* NZLJ June 2019
- (Speaker) *Airbnb and short-term rentals*, New Zealand Property Law Conference 2019