The Recognition of Māori Custom & Values in New Zealand’s General Law: Lessons for Hawai‘i and Kānaka Maoli?

The Honorable Justice Joe Williams
Court of Appeal of New Zealand

Justice Williams, one of Aotearoa’s leading specialists on Māori land rights law, language, and resource management, was appointed a permanent Judge of the Court of Appeal of New Zealand in February 2018. He is the first te reo Māori speaker appointed to the Court of Appeal.

In December 1999, after some time in private practice, Justice Williams was appointed Chief Judge of the Māori Land Court. Shortly thereafter, he was appointed Deputy Chairperson of the Waitangi Tribunal, and in 2004, was appointed as Chairperson. In September 2008, Justice Williams was made a Judge of the High Court of New Zealand.

Justice Williams is a fellow of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers, a fellow of the Law Faculty at Victoria University of Wellington, an Honorary Lecturer, Faculty of Law at Waikato University and an adjunct professor at the Ngāi Tahu Research Centre at Canterbury University. His tribal affiliations are Ngāti Pūkenga and Te Arawa (Waitaha, Tapuika).

Moderated by Professor Melody Kapilialoha MacKenzie

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