

CRIMINAL BAR ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND INC.

PO Box 135
Shortland Street
Auckland
Phone (09) 379 8330
Email: president@criminalbar.org.nz
Website: criminalbar.org.nz

18 July 2024

Notice of Special General Meeting

Notice is hereby given of the Criminal Bar Associations Special General Meeting (SGM) to be held at the University of Auckland Business School and via Zoom on Saturday 3 August 2024 at 4.15pm. The Zoom link will be provided on the day.

This Special General Meeting is being held for members of the Criminal Bar Association to vote on the resolutions below about taking part in industrial action. Voting will take place by way of show of hands for both in-person and virtual attendees.

Resolution 1 – call upon the government

The Criminal Bar Association of NZ (“CBA”) calls upon the Government to address the crisis in the provision of criminal legal aid and duty lawyer services in NZ with urgency. The CBA calls for the following immediate changes to be made:

- 1) Increase the 1999 guideline hourly criminal legal aid rates and duty lawyer rates to their 2024 equivalent on a wage inflation – adjusted basis;
- 2) Commit to inflation – adjust all legal aid rates every second year in accordance with the previous two years’ wage inflation.

For/Against/Abstain

Resolution 2 – blanket industrial action

The CBA calls upon all criminal legal aid and duty lawyers to make themselves unavailable both to receive new assignments or be on the duty lawyer roster for the entire week beginning with the first Sunday of every month starting in the first week of December 2024; and authorises the committee of the CBA to assist with the coordination of this withdrawal of services.

For/Against/Abstain

Resolution 3 – no industrial action

The CBA does not authorise the committee of the CBA to assist with the coordination of any withdrawal of duty lawyer and/or criminal legal aid services. The CBA instructs the CBA committee to continue to lobby Government and engage in a media campaign for increased hourly criminal legal aid and duty lawyer rates.

For/Against/Abstain