

Partner Profile



Alex Summerlee, Partner, Parry Field Lawyers

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Alex Summerlee

Alex specialises in civil litigation and dispute resolution, with experience resolving complex legal issues for clients both in and outside of the Courts.

He has particular expertise acting in disputes involving insurance, construction, insolvency, commercial leases, trusts & estates and family law disputes. He has represented clients in arbitrations, a variety of tribunals, and at all levels of the New Zealand Courts.

He first joined Parry Field in 2015, was promoted to Senior Associate and joined as partner in April 2022.

Alex is active in the community, serving on the Board of Proprietors of St Mark's School. He also currently holds office as the Vice Chancellor to the Anglican Bishop of Christchurch. Alex supports the Board of Hagar (UK), a charity working to support the rehabilitation of victims of human trafficking. He is fluent in French and conversant in Spanish.

Alex holds an LLB(Hons) and BA (French & political science majors) from the University of Canterbury. In 2020, Alex completed further study in international politics, trade & finance and international law, graduating with an MSt from the University of Oxford.

Case samples:

Hortiventure Ltd v Alpine Sun Ltd [2016] NZHC 2130: A successful strike out application against a landlord arising out of commercial lease dispute.

Gull v Smart[2016] NZHC 2566: In this custody proceeding, the father successfully opposed the mother's application to relocate the parties' son to Australia. The result was upheld on appeal in the High Court.

Lee v IAG New Zealand Ltd [2017] NZHC 2626; [2018] Lloyd's Rep. IR 345: Litigation concerning the interpretation of an insurance policy, and an insurer's liability for interest on a payment obligation in an insurance contract.

Black Rock Administration Ltd v IAG New Zealand Ltd [2018] NZHC 3450: The insured obtained costs against IAG in litigation relating to its material damage claims caused by the 2010-2011 Canterbury earthquakes, after Black Rock was able to successfully settle its claims.

Redline NZ Ltd v Conveyor Technology Ltd[2016] NZHC 1083: The respondent company succeeded in opposing an application to set aside a statutory demand, and had the debtor company immediately placed into liquidation by deploying a rarely used procedure in the Companies Act.

Moore v IAG New Zealand Ltd [2019] NZHC 1549; IAG New Zealand Ltd v Moore [2020] NZCA 319; IAG New Zealand Ltd v Moore [2020] NZSC 122:

Successful appeal from the High Court, overturning a decision that aggregated two different losses (from two different earthquakes) for the purposes of an insurance policy. Successful opposition to IAG's application for leave to appeal to the Supreme Court.

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