

## **The Right Honourable Justice Thomas Munro Gault DCNZM**

### **1. Personal Background**

Justice Gault is a citizen of New Zealand. He was born on 31 October 1938. He is married with one son and lives in Auckland.

### **2. Education**

Justice Gault was educated in New Zealand at Wellington College. He studied law at Victoria University of Wellington (LLM degree 1963).

### **3. Legal Experience**

Justice Gault was admitted as a barrister and solicitor of the Supreme of New Zealand in 1962 and qualified as a registered Patent Attorney in 1963. He practised as a member of the firm of A J Park & Son specializing in intellectual property law until 1981. From 1981 to 1987 he practised as a barrister-sole in the fields of intellectual property law, competition law and general commercial law.

### **4. Judicial Experience**

Justice Gault was appointed a judge of the High Court of New Zealand in 1987. In 1991 he was appointed to the Court of Appeal of New Zealand where he served until the end of 2003, becoming President of that Court in 2002. He was appointed in 1992 a member of the Privy Council (the court of final appeal for certain British Commonwealth countries), and sat from time to time in London until New Zealand established its own Supreme Court and ended appeals to the Privy Council. Justice Gault was appointed to the Supreme Court of New Zealand in 2004 upon its establishment. He will retire from that Court on 5 April 2006. He was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of Fiji (a final court of appeal) in 2002 and has sat in that Court from time to time.

### **5. Services and Activities related to the Legal Field**

Justice Gault served as a member of the New Zealand Institute of Patent Attorneys and was President in 1971-1972. He presided over an Intellectual Property Advisory Committee appointed by the Minister of Justice in the 1980s. He chaired the establishment committee of the New

Zealand Institute of Judicial Studies and was the chairman the Board of that Institute over the first four years of its operations.

6. **Recognition**

Justice Gault was appointed a Member of Honour of the International Association for the Protection of Industrial Property in 1998. He was created a Distinguished Companion of the New Zealand of Order of Merit in 2002 for services to law. He was appointed an Honorary Bencher of the Inner Temple in 2003.

7. **Publications**

Justice Gault is the Consulting Editor of the multi-volume work *Gault on Commercial Law*.

8. **Activities Outside the Law**

Justice Gault has an extensive background in administration of the game of golf. He was President of the New Zealand Golf Association from 1987 to 1993. He was appointed Captain of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews (the international governing authority) for the 2005 – 2006 year.

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