

## **Changes to High Court procedures for considering applications for special leave**

The Court is introducing changes to the procedures that govern the filing and determination of applications for special leave. The intention is to streamline processes overall, reduce the time between filing and determination and reduce the costs to parties.

While some of the changes (relating to the introduction of new forms of application) will involve changes to the *High Court Rules 2004*, other procedures do not require changes to the Rules and have therefore commenced.

In represented applications, a Panel of Justices will determine in the first place whether an oral hearing is warranted. If the Panel considers that no oral hearing is required, the application will be granted or refused special leave on the papers. If an oral hearing is required, the application will be listed for hearing as soon as practicable.

Adoption of these changes is expected to reduce the interval between the filing of an application and the oral hearing, or the pronouncement of the grant or refusal of special leave, as the case may be. It is anticipated that there will be fewer oral hearings in applications for special leave, with consequent savings in costs to litigants.

Andrew Phelan  
Chief Executive and Principal Registrar