



AUCKLAND  
NEW ZEALAND LAW SOCIETY

NZLS EST 1869

The NZLS Auckland Branch cordially invites you to  
attend a Cocktail Function to celebrate  
120 Years of Women in Law

120 years ago the New Zealand Parliament passed a law allowing women lawyers. The Female Practitioners Act 1896 undid 15 years of direct legislative action cementing the law against women lawyers. Supported by the colonial law societies, the exclusion was based on moral and economic grounds - women were paid less and were potential competitors. A 'flood' of women was predicted.

Ethel Benjamin was the first woman admitted as a barrister and solicitor in 1897 but the number of women who entered the legal profession over the next decades was small:

by 1960 fewer than 50 women were admitted. The story of women in law is outlined in Gill Gatfield's landmark study *Without Prejudice: Women in the Law (Brooker's, 1996)*.



**Guest Speaker:** Professor Margaret Wilson, DCNZM

**Date:** Thursday, 15 September 2016

**Time:** 6pm - 9pm

**Venue:** Northern Club, 19 Princess Street, Auckland CBD

**Cost:** \$45 per person, Canapés and Drinks

To RSVP: Please contact Glenda Macdonald

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