

Employment Law Team

Ford Sumner's focus on building strong relationships is what makes us special. Our clients trust us to get it right; because we do, many of them have worked with us since we began. Our team collaborates to provide expert, personal and individualised service. We're responsive, with a can-do attitude, and we always bring our 'A' game.

Jaesen Sumner Partner

Jaesen leads Ford Sumner's employment team, having practised in this area for over 24 years. Jaesen is highly experienced in all areas of employment, dispute resolution and health and safety law. Jaesen works with a broad range of clients across several industry sectors, including hospitality, education, aviation, and trade.

Jaesen has advised clients on a range of employment matters from personal grievances, restructurings, medical incapacity, incompatibility, performance management and more lately COVID-19. Jaesen also undertakes workplace investigations on a broad range of matters. He regularly advises clients on health and safety matters under the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015.

Jaesen is an experienced litigator across the New Zealand Court system. As a qualified Resolution Institute mediator he brings a valued skill set to mediations, the preferred forum for resolution of employment disputes.



Jaesen Sumner - Partner
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Ruth Williams Senior Lawyer



Ruth is a senior lawyer at Ford Sumner. Ruth has practiced as an in-house litigation solicitor for a government department and prior to that, was clerk to the Principal Family Court Judge of New Zealand. Ruth holds a Master's degree in International Law and Politics and in 2017 obtained first-hand experience at an internship with an International Criminal Tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands.

Ruth practices in all areas of employment and health and safety law advising Ford Sumner's clients in matters ranging from personal grievances, restructurings, performance management, workplace investigations and COVID-19 matters. Ruth regularly advises clients on their obligations under the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015.

Ruth is a strong advocate for her clients and always endeavours to ensure their expectations are exceeded.

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Lucy Aitken Lawyer



Lucy is involved in a wide range of employment and health and safety work at Ford Sumner, including employment and independent contractor agreements, personal grievances, restructuring and COVID-19 workplace issues.

Lucy enjoys working in Ford Sumner's collaborative team environment and providing strong legal support to our clients.

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Jordan Todd Senior Lawyer



Jordan, as a senior lawyer at Ford Sumner has broad employment law expertise. He advises clients on a range of matters including personal grievances, discrimination, restructuring, health and safety, workplace investigations, disciplinary processes and privacy issues.

Jordan is an experienced litigator, having represented clients in the Employment Relations Authority and Human Rights Review Tribunal. He also attends mediation and participates in settlement negotiations on a regular basis.

Jordan understands the balance between employment law principles and commercial reality. He takes a solution-focused approach to issues and his advice to clients is straightforward and pragmatic.

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Caylee Wood Lawyer



Caylee is involved in a wide range of Ford Sumner's employment work, including employment and independent contractor agreements, personal grievances, restructuring and redundancy, mediations, health and safety matters and COVID-19 workplace issues.

With a background in commercial, medico-legal and Treaty of Waitangi matters, Caylee brings a broader perspective to the employment team. Caylee is dedicated to advancing her clients' interests and providing sound, pragmatic advice.

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