



NEW ZEALAND COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS
Te Kauae Kaimahi

**Submission of the
New Zealand Council of Trade Unions
Te Kauae Kaimahi**

**to the
Justice Committee**

on the

**Administration of Justice
(Reform of Contempt of Court)
Bill**

**P O Box 6645
Wellington
14 June 2018**

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Committee Secretariat
Justice Select Committee
Via electronic submission

Dear Justice Select Committee

Re: Submission on Administration of Justice (Reform of Contempt of Court) Bill

This submission is made on behalf of the 30 unions affiliated to the New Zealand Council of Trade Unions Te Kauae Kaimahi (CTU). With 320,000 members, the CTU is one of the largest democratic organisations in New Zealand.

The CTU acknowledges Te Tiriti o Waitangi as the founding document of Aotearoa New Zealand and formally acknowledges this through Te Rūnanga o Ngā Kaimahi Māori o Aotearoa (Te Rūnanga) the Māori arm of Te Kauae Kaimahi (CTU) which represents approximately 60,000 Māori workers.

All of the CTU affiliates have a strong interest in the operation of the employment law system.

The proposed replacement s 196 of the Employment Relations Act 2000 in Schedule 2 to the Administration of Justice (Reform of Contempt of Court) Bill seeks to categorise the status of the Employment Court as consistent with the District Court. The CTU submits it is totally inappropriate to recognise the Employment Court as a division of the District Court.

The Employment Court has the status of the High Court. The Employment Court's status is clear within the judicial hierarchy and its jurisdiction is properly defined by the Employment Relations Act 2000 and case law made under it. The Employment Court should have its administration returned to MBIE.

The proposed replacement s 196 of the Employment Relations Act 2000 in Schedule 2 to the Administration of Justice (Reform of Contempt of Court) Bill must be amended to recognise the Employment Court's status equivalent to the High Court.

The NZCTU does not wish to appear before the Select Committee to present its submission.

Kind Regards,



Richard Wagstaff
President