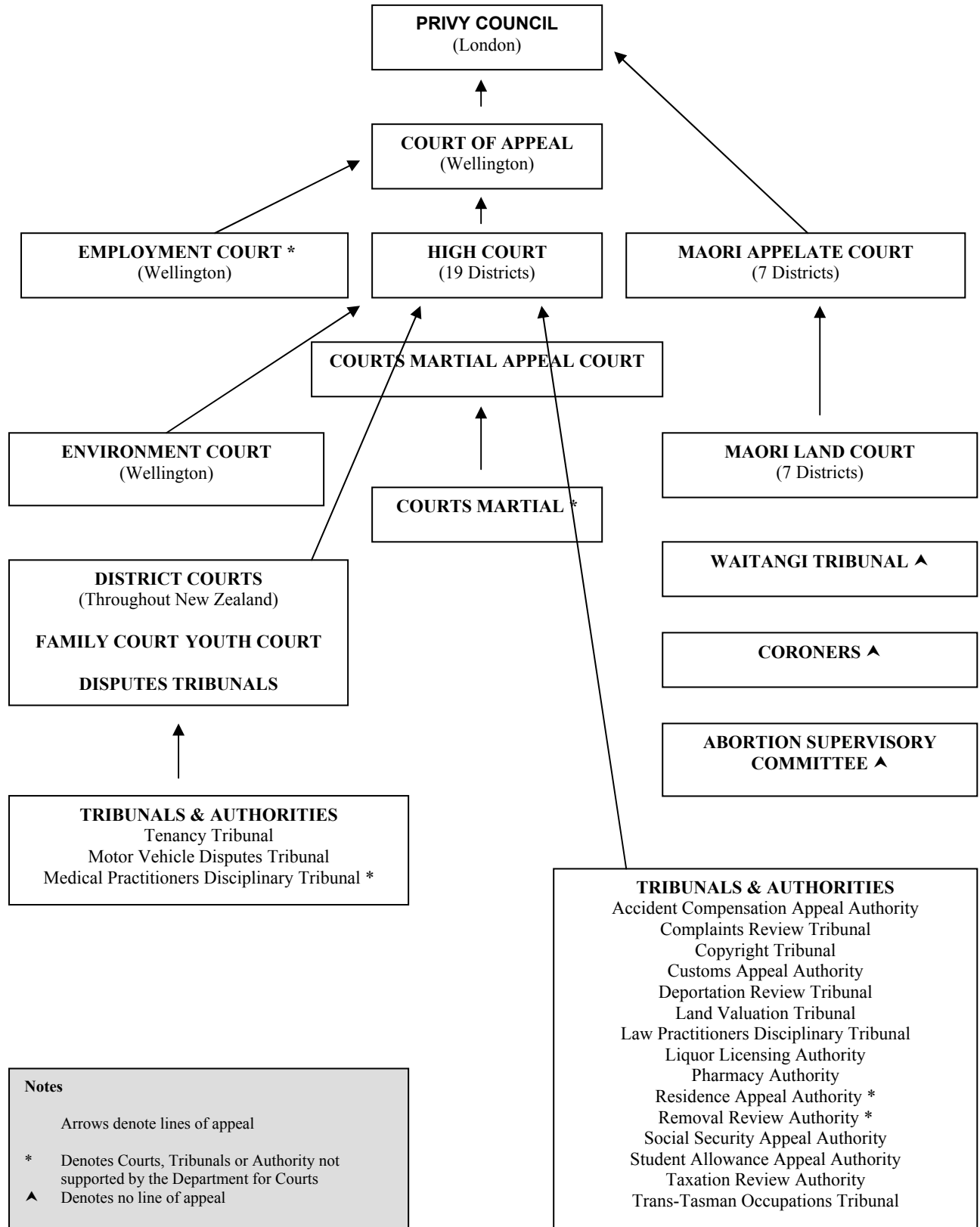


**NEW ZEALAND**

**New Zealand Court Hierarchy**



**Notes**

Arrows denote lines of appeal

\* Denotes Courts, Tribunals or Authority not supported by the Department for Courts

▲ Denotes no line of appeal

The **High Court** has jurisdiction over major crimes and civil claims. It deals with judicial reviews of administrative action and admiralty proceedings and frequently hears appeals from the **Tribunal** and Lower Courts including the **District Court**.

The Chief Justice is head of the New Zealand judiciary and sits in both the High Court and **Court of Appeal**.

It is an interesting feature that he also represents the judiciary in dealing with the Department for Courts and other government agencies and is ultimately responsible for the management of the work of the High Court judges.

**Vacation** and holiday periods for the High Court in New Zealand are fixed by the High Court Rules, thus Rule 18 states that there shall be:

- a long vacation beginning on 20 the day of December and ending at the close of the 31<sup>st</sup> day of January; and
- an Easter vacation beginning on the day before Good Friday and ending with the close of the Saturday following Easter.<sup>1</sup>

Rule 21 deals with sittings in vacations and states that the court may lawfully sit in any vacation or on any court holiday if any judge considers it desirable to do so **for the dispatch of business**.

An exception to this rule is to be found in Subsection 2, in that the court may sit on a Sunday or on Christmas Day, New Year's day or Good Friday **only** if, in the opinion of the judge, the business to be dispatched is extremely urgent.

New Zealand has an **adversarial** justice system and a **jury** system.

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<sup>1</sup> Cf1908, No 89, Second Schedule r. 601(1), (2); SR 1957/30, r 7(1); SR 1973/39, r3(1)