

'Star' solicitor promoted to director

Aoraki Legal continues to grow, associate solicitor Emma Walton-Woodings having been made a director.

Mrs Walton-Woodings joins founding directors Paul Tyler and Pauline-Jean Luyten at the helm of the firm, four years after she came on board.

Mrs Luyten said Mrs Walton-Woodings' appointment to the director role secures the firm's future and reflects her skills, experience and rapport with clients that has been evident since she was appointed a staff solicitor in April 2018.

"She stood out as a star right from the start, and has always been focused on the client and meeting their needs."

Originally from Cambridge, Mrs Walton-Woodings attended high school in Invercargill and completed a bachelor of science degree at the University of Otago, before heading to the United Kingdom, where she completed her masters in law.

She also played in the Netball Superleague for Team Northumbria.

Since settling in Timaru, Mrs Walton-Woodings and her husband Andy — who works for Shore Construction — have become parents, and son Leo is now 7 months old, and in June they will move to a lifestyle block in Timaru.

She has brought to Aoraki Legal experience in insurance law,

property, estates, occupational licences — for the likes of retirement villages — relationship property and commercial law.

Mrs Walton-Woodings is a member of, and honorary solicitor for, the Timaru Rotary Club, and maintains her fitness by heading out for a run every lunchtime.

Mrs Luyten said Mrs Walton-Woodings applied the same commitment and dedication to her clients as she would have to competing in Superleague netball.

Mr Tyler said the three directors complemented each other working as a team, just as the practice worked well as a team.

Mrs Walton-Woodings said she had always enjoyed her role at Aoraki Legal and felt genuinely privileged to be able to help families through exciting and sometimes challenging periods of their lives.

"Being appointed a director at the firm is just the icing on the cake."

The practice has grown from a team of nine when Mr Tyler and Mrs Luyten first took over to 15 legal staff and support team members.

The firm has a long history in Timaru, with its roots in the formation in 1991 of Petrie Mayman Clark, which amalgamated in 2013 with Bradley West to become Aoraki Legal.

Mrs Luyten and Mr Tyler took over the reins in April 2018.



The team . . . Emma Walton-Woodings (centre) has been made a director of Aoraki Legal, joining founding directors Pauline-Jean Luyten and Paul Tyler.

PHOTO: TIMARU COURIER