

**595 COLOMBO STREET**  
**Hearing: Monday 13 February 2012, 10am**

**Summary**

595 Colombo St was a two-storied unreinforced masonry (URM) building which was situated immediately to the north of 593 Colombo St two doors from the corner of Colombo and St Asaph Streets and connected by a party wall.

Following the September earthquake the building was green placarded.

An inspection by TH Consultants Ltd, structural engineers, on behalf of the owner on 28 January 2011 concluded that there was no evidence of significant structural damage.

On 22 February 2011 Rachel Conley had been in the Southern Ink premises (593B Colombo St) minutes before the earthquake to make an appointment. When the earthquake occurred she had exited the building and had walked several metres north along Colombo Street and was adjacent to 595 Colombo St. Ms Conley was an American citizen visiting Christchurch on a working holiday. She was travelling with a fellow American, Jessica Kinder. Ms Kinder was with Ms Conley at the time, but on the way out of 593B Colombo St Ms Kinder paused to close the heavy sliding door of the shop whilst Ms Conley was walking north along Colombo Street. It was as Ms Kinder walked to catch up with Ms Conley, who was now outside the adjoining shop, that the earthquake hit. Ms Kinder watched as a heavy concrete slab fell from above and struck Ms Conley's body, trapping her underneath and killing her.

**Proposed Witnesses:**

1. Peter Smith, Spencer Holmes Ltd, structural engineer
2. Christchurch City Council
3. Mr H Patel (Son of Mr & Ms R & P Patel, building owners)
4. Noel Hanham, TH Consultants Ltd, structural engineer.
5. Jessica Kinder (to be read)

**Likely issues:**

1. Application of the Council's earthquake prone policy to the building.
2. The assessment process of the building after the September earthquake, being a URM building.