

# Deborah Hart

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Director ASH NZ  
Former Executive Director Arbitrators' and Mediators' Institute of NZ  
Panel Member Human Rights Review Tribunal  
Chair of the Holocaust Centre of New Zealand  
Board Member DocEdge

Collaborative Leader

Governance • Strategy Development • Independent Reviews • Government Relations  
Analytical • Pragmatic • Politically Savvy

## NZ Government Appointed Roles / Governance Roles

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- Board, DocEdge February 2020 - Present
- Chair, Holocaust Centre of NZ August 2019 - Present
- Ministry of Justice adviser | Contract July 2020 – September 2020
- Expert Reference Group | Family Justice Review July 2018 – May 2019
- Panel Member | Human Rights Review Tribunal June 2013 - Present  
(Twice appointed by the Minister of Justice)  
The Tribunal determines human rights, health and disability and privacy cases
- Panel Member | Legal Aid Review July 2010–July 2011  
(Cabinet appointment)  
Quasi-judicial role to review legal aid decisions
- Member | Government's Small Business Advisory Group January 2007–December 2009  
(Cabinet appointment)  
The Group advised the Minister for Small Business and Government officials
- Member | Government's Workplace Productivity Reference Group 2007
- Member | Government's Work / Life Balance Advisory Group 2007
- Joint Advisory Group | Committee Member 2008-2016  
Massey University Dispute Resolution Centre and AMINZ
- Chair | Advisers, Wellington Jewish Community Centre 2016–2019
- Director | Photography by Woolf Ltd 2006-2008
- Member | NZ Delegation, APEC Women in Business 1999

## Professional Experience

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- Government relations adviser and strategist for various organisations 2020 - present
- Mentor to various executives 2019 - present
- Independent Reviewer, New Zealand Bar Association January 2020 – March 2020
- Independent Reviewer, Banking Ombudsman Scheme August – December 2019

Director  
ASH NZ (part-time)

August 2019 - Present

ASH NZ is the pre-eminent smokefree lobby group in NZ. As its director, I provide support to the board, head day-to-day operations and oversee strategy, communications and stakeholder engagement. Key to the role is being the face of the organisation and as such I provide significant amounts of media engagement.

Executive Director  
Arbitrators' and Mediators' Institute of New Zealand (AMINZ)

May 2008 – August 2019

AMINZ is New Zealand's largest professional membership organisation for people working in dispute resolution.

Governance

- Executive Director participating in the governing board
- Chaired various working groups and committees
- Provided majority of all board reports

Strategic  
Development

- Supported the Board to strategise and plan
- Responsibility to ensure Board strategies implemented
- Oversaw membership growth of over 150%
- Introduced Māori initiatives
- Led diversity and inclusion initiatives including:
  - Rebranding
  - Signing of a gender diversity pledge which instituted accountability
  - Educational initiatives including the delivery of a seminar at Parliament on the resolution of indigenous disputes
- AMINZ International – initiated a long-term strategy to make New Zealand a centre for international commercial dispute resolution, including:
  - Secured two lots of amendments to the Arbitration Act 1996 to position New Zealand as a more attractive arbitration destination
  - Investigation and promotion of climate change dispute resolution leadership
  - Numerous articles in the national and international press to promote New Zealand and New Zealanders
- Increased work for members, including:
  - Legislative reform to make arbitral appointments instead of the High Court and ensured AMINZ appointed to that role
  - Negotiated, planned and delivered an independent mediation service for EQC
  - Established new lists of dispute resolvers and successfully took them to market

Administration and  
Management

- 2015 – highly commended in the AUT Excellence in Business Support Awards for the excellent administration of the Institute
- Ensured the Institute delivered within budget
- Delivered a new database and website, within budget and time
- Appointed disputes resolvers pursuant to statutes and agreements
- Administered the AMINZ Complaints Service

Advocacy and Promotion

- Managed dispute resolution schemes, notably the EQC Mediation Service and the National Panel of Conciliators
- Successfully lobbied for the increased use of dispute resolution, including for:
  - Family disputes
  - Farm debt
  - Construction disputes
  - Consequences of disasters, especially earthquakes
  - Te Ture Whenua Māori Bill, which we opposed as unfair to Māori
- Positioned AMINZ as the voice of dispute resolution in New Zealand and as a credible voice internationally
- Regularly in the media including interviewed by [Nine to Noon, Radio NZ](#) on the Ministerial Review of the Human Rights Commission by Judge Coral Shaw, 19 May 2018
- Regularly advocated in the national press, including:
  - The non-violent resolution of disputes – [RadioLive](#), 5 December 2018
  - Negotiating neighbourhood disputes – [The Project](#), 1 August 2018
  - NZ could be an international arbitration centre – [Newsroom, 4 May 2018](#)
  - Arbitration of family disputes – [NZHerald](#), 7 March 2017
- Represented AMINZ internationally, including:
  - 14<sup>th</sup> International Federation of Commercial Arbitration Institute's Biennial Conference, Hong Kong, 15 October 2017 – invited presenter on rights of appeal in arbitration
  - Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore, 17-18 January 2017 – invited presenter on making conciliation work for international disputes
  - International Council for Commercial Arbitration (ICCA), Board of Governors' meeting, Miami, March 2014
  - International Academy of Mediators, board meeting, Paris, September 2013
- Represented AMINZ nationally, including:
  - Numerous occasions at Parliamentary Select Committees
  - AMINZ Gender Diversity Pledge, Grand Hall, Parliament, April 2018

Employee Engagement

- Nurtured and mentored talent in the AMINZ team and ensured that they had opportunities for professional development
- Drafted office policies and procedures

Relationship Management

- Collaborated with the Holocaust Centre of New Zealand, Victoria University Law School, NZ Law Foundation on an event with Prof. Lucy Reed on the Holocaust Claims Tribunal, Parliament, NZ
- Worked over a three-year period with the International Academy of Mediators to bring their biannual conference to New Zealand
- Worked with dispute resolution suppliers, law firms and other stakeholders, including competitors, on various projects

Promoting New

- Secured AMINZ as the country representative at the United Nations Commission on

- Zealand Internationally
- International Trade Law (UNICTRAL) working group on arbitration and mediation
  - Organised an event to promote arbitration in New Zealand, co-hosted by New Zealand's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, New York, at a time when NZ chaired the Security Council
  - Presented on mediation in New Zealand, Asia-Pacific Mediation Conference 2012, Hong Kong (published 2013)
  - Organised publication of AMINZ conference papers in the Comparative Law Journal of the Pacific, 2013 and 2015
  - Obtained funding for delegates from the Cook Islands, Kiribati, Fiji, Tonga, Papua New Guinea and Samoa to attend the AMINZ Conference, 2015
- Forming Strategic Alliances & Partnerships
- A 5-year collaboration with the Australian Centre of International Commercial Arbitration (ACICA) to host the World's largest and most prestigious arbitration event, the ICCA Congress, Sydney 2018. AMINZ and ACICA won the right to co-host the Congress (850 delegates) and hosted the add-on day in Queenstown (160 delegates)
  - Collaborated with the International Chamber of Commerce for education
  - Twice negotiated agreement with the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators ensuring continued reciprocal rights of membership with this prestigious international body, including negotiations in London

### General Manager | Managing Director | Board Member

Photography by Woolf Limited

August 1997 – May 2008

Market leader in the photographic industry and a Wellington institution

- Key Accomplishments
- Board Director
  - General Management of the business
  - Responsible for human resources for up to 25 employees plus contractors
  - In-house legal counsel

### Previous Experience

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- Solicitor – Nunan & Bloom, Melbourne, Australia January 1988-December 1990
- Solicitor – Dessau Millstein, Melbourne, Australia February 1986 – June 1987
- Solicitor – Craig, Bell & Bond, Wellington, New Zealand January 1985 – January 1986

### Education

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- Institute of Directors Company Directors' Course 2020
- Institute of Directors' Finance Course 2020
- Introduction to Dispute Resolution, Massey University 2005

- Evidence and Advocacy, Massey University 2004
- Admitted to the Bar, Victoria, Australia 1987
- Admitted to the Bar, New Zealand 1985
- LLB, Victoria University of Wellington 1985

## Community Involvement

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- Panelist on Discrimination and Prejudice in Aotearoa at the National Library of NZ 20 February 2019
- Led negotiations to gift \$100,000 to the Victoria University Foundation July 2015
- Chair of Advisors, Wellington Jewish Community Centre 2016 to 2019
- Life Patron, Adam Art Gallery, Wellington
- Marriage and Civil Union Celebrant

### *Past involvement:*

- Trustee, Ronald Woolf Memorial Trust 2002 – 2015
- Committee Member, Crohns and Colitis New Zealand 2009 – 2010
- Editorial Board Member, NZ Jewish Chronicle 2002 – 2009
- Board Member, Wellington Regional Jewish Council 2005 – 2007
- Board Member, Wellington Hebrew Congregation 2003 – 2007
- Chairperson, Moriah College Trust Board 1999 – 2001
- Trustee, Moriah College Trust Board 1998 – 1999

### *Other Jewish Community Participation*

- MC, Chanukah in the Park 2015, 2016, 2017
- Interviewer of the US Ambassador at Limmud (NZ's Jewish education conference) 2016
- MC at UN Holocaust Remembrance Ceremonies, Parliament 2012, 2015, 2019
- Facilitated the community meeting after the Makara Cemetery desecrations 2004

## Referees

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Available on request.