

# Deborah Hart LLB, MInst

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Chair, Independent Review of Electoral Laws  
Chair, Consumer Advocacy Council  
Chair, Holocaust Centre of New Zealand  
NZ delegate, International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance  
Panel Member, Human Rights Review Tribunal  
Board Member, DocEdge  
Former Executive Director, Arbitrators' and Mediators' Institute of NZ

Named one of the 100 top diverse board-ready directors by the Super Diversity Institute for Law, Policy and Business & Ministry of Ethnic Affairs - 2021

Collaborative Leader

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

## NZ Government Appointed Roles

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- NZ Delegate | International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance August 2022 - Present
- Chair | Independent Review of Electoral Laws May 2022 - Present
- Chair | Consumer Advocacy Council July 2021 - 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 | NZ Delegation, APEC Women in Business 1999

## Governance Roles

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- Chair | Independent Review of Electoral Laws May 2022 - Present
- Chair | Consumer Advocacy Council July 2021 - Present
- Board | DocEdge February 2020 - Present
- Chair | Holocaust Centre of NZ August 2019 - Present
- 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

## Professional Experience

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- Independent reviewer including:
  - Independent review of Aotearoa New Zealand's electoral laws May 2022 – present
  - New Zealand Bar Association January 2020 – March 2020
  - Independent review of the Banking Ombudsman Scheme August – December 2019
- Government relations adviser and strategist for various organisations 2019 - present
- Mentor to various executives 2019 - present

Director  
ASH NZ (part-time) August 2019 – 10 June 2022

ASH NZ is the pre-eminent smokefree lobby group in NZ. As its director, I provided support to the board, headed 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 provided 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

Strategic  
Development

- Supported the Board to strategise and ensure implementation
- Oversaw membership growth of over 150%
- Introduced te ao Māori initiatives
- Led diversity and inclusion initiatives including:
  - Rebranding
  - Gender diversity pledge which instituted accountability
  - Educational initiatives
- 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
  - Numerous articles in the national and international press to promote NZ
- Increased work for members, including:

- Legislative reform to make arbitral appointments instead of the High Court and ensured AMINZ appointed to that role
  - Negotiated and delivered an independent mediation service for EQC
- 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 its business plan within budget
  - Appointed disputes resolvers pursuant to statutes and agreements
  - Administered the AMINZ Complaints Service
  - Managed dispute resolution schemes, notably the EQC Mediation Service and the National Panel of Conciliators
- Advocacy and Promotion
- Successfully lobbied for legislation and the increased use of dispute resolution, including for:
    - Family disputes
    - Farm debt
    - Construction disputes
    - Consequences of disasters, especially earthquakes
  - Positioned AMINZ as the voice of dispute resolution in NZ and internationally
  - Regularly in the media. Examples included:
    - Ministerial Review of the Human Rights Commission - [Nine to Noon, Radio NZ](#), 19 May 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
- Relationship Management
- Worked with dispute resolution suppliers, law firms and other stakeholders, including competitors, on various projects nationally and internationally

- Promoting New Zealand Internationally
  - Secured AMINZ as the country representative at the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) working group on arbitration and mediation
  - Organised an event to promote NZ arbitration, co-hosted by New Zealand's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, in New York.
  - Presented on mediation in New Zealand, Asia-Pacific Mediation Conference 2012, Hong Kong (published 2013)
- Forming Strategic Alliances & Partnerships
  - Managed 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 and hosted an add-on day in Queenstown
  - 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
  - Leadership of the business
  - Responsible for human resources for up to 25 employees plus contractors

## 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

## 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

*Other Jewish Community Participation*

- MC, Chanukah in the Park 2015, 2016, 2017
- MC at United Nations Holocaust Remembrance Ceremonies, Parliament 2012, 2015, 2019

## Referees

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Available on request.