

Deborah Hart LLB, MInst

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Former Chair, Independent Review of NZ's Electoral Laws
Chair, Consumer Advocacy Council
Chair, Holocaust Centre of New Zealand
Chair, Retirement Villages' Residents' Council
NZ Delegate, International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance
Panel Member, Human Rights Review Tribunal
Former Executive Director, Arbitrators' and Mediators' Institute of NZ

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

Collaborative Leader

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

NZ Government Appointed Roles

- Tu Tokū Ake – EQC – advisor August 2023 - Present
- NZ Delegate | International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance August 2022 - Present
- Chair | Consumer Advocacy Council July 2021 - Present
- Chair | Aotearoa NZ's Independent Review of Electoral Laws May 2022 – November 2023
- 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
(Appointed three times by Ministers 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

- Chair | Retirement Villages' Residents' Council August 2023 - Present
- Chair | Independent Review of Electoral Laws May 2022 – November 2023
- Chair | Consumer Advocacy Council July 2021 - Present
- Board | DocEdge February 2020 – July 2022

- Chair | Holocaust Centre of NZ August 2019 - Present
- Chair | Advisers, Wellington Jewish Community Centre 2016 – 2019
- Director | Photography by Woolf Ltd 2006-2008

Professional Experience

- Independent reviewer including:
 - Independent review of Aotearoa New Zealand's electoral laws May 2022 – November 2023
 - 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
- Adviser on dispute resolution schemes to various organisations 2018 – 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 oversaw strategy, communications and stakeholder engagement. I fronted 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
- 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 and managed dispute resolution schemes
 - Administered the AMINZ Complaints Service
- Advocacy and Promotion**
 - Successfully lobbied for legislation and the increased use of dispute resolution, including for:
 - Family disputes
 - Farm debt
 - Construction disputes
 - Disasters
 - Positioned AMINZ as the voice of dispute resolution in NZ and internationally.
 - Represented AMINZ nationally and internationally, at numerous events and in media
- Employee Engagement**
 - Nurtured and mentored talent in the AMINZ team
- 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
 - Presented on mediation in New Zealand, Asia-Pacific Mediation Conference 2012, Hong Kong (published 2013)
- Forming Strategic Alliances & Partnerships**
 - 5-year collaboration with the Australian Centre of International Commercial Arbitration to co-host the world's most prestigious arbitration event, the ICCA Congress, Sydney 2018
 - 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

- Solicitor – admitted in NZ and Victoria, Australia 1985 –1990

Education

- Institute of Directors 5-day Company Directors' Course 2020
- Institute of Directors' Finance Course 2020
- Dispute resolution courses, Massey University 2004, 2005
- Admitted to the Bar, Victoria, Australia 1987
- Admitted to the Bar, New Zealand 1985
- Law degree, Victoria University of Wellington 1985

Community Involvement

- Panelist on Discrimination and Prejudice in Aotearoa at the National Library of NZ 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
- 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 including at Parliament 2012 - 2022

Referees

Available on request.