

Deborah Hart LLB, MInst

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Chair, Utilities Disputes Limited
Independent chair, Retirement Villages' Residents' Council
Chair, Holocaust Centre of New Zealand
NZ Delegate, International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance
Panel Member, Human Rights Review Tribunal

Former Chair, Independent Review of Aotearoa NZ's Electoral Laws
Former Chair, Consumer Advocacy Council
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

NZ Government Appointments

- Member | Electricity Authority Advisory Group June 2024 – November 2024
- Tu Tokū Ake – EQC – advisor dispute resolution scheme formation August 2023 – May 2024
- NZ Delegate | International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance August 2022 - Present
- Chair | Consumer Advocacy Council July 2021 – June 2024
- Panel Member | Human Rights Review Tribunal June 2013 - Present
(Appointed three times by Ministers of Justice)
Tribunal determines human rights, health and disability and privacy cases
- Chair | Aotearoa NZ's Independent Review of Electoral Laws May 2022 - November 2023
- Ministry of Justice - adviser dispute resolution accreditation July 2020 - September 2020
- Expert Reference Group | Family Justice Review July 2018 - May 2019
- Panel Member | Legal Aid Review July 2010 - July 2011
- Member | Government's Small Business Advisory Group January 2007 - December 2009
- Member | NZ Delegation, APEC Women in Business 1999

Governance Roles

- Chair | Utilities Disputes Limited November 2024 - Present
- Independent chair | Retirement Villages' Residents' Council August 2023 - Present
- Chair | Consumer Advocacy Council July 2021 – June 2024
- Formation Board Member | Grocery Action Group October 2023 – February 2025
- 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:
 - Aotearoa New Zealand's electoral laws May 2022 – November 2023
 - Banking Ombudsman Scheme 2019 and 2024
 - New Zealand Bar Association January 2020 – March 2020
- Adviser on dispute resolution schemes to various organisations 2018 – present
- Government relations adviser and strategist for various organisations 2019 - present
- Mentor to senior 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 operations and oversaw strategy, government relations, procurement of research, communications and stakeholder engagement. I led all media engagement.

Executive Director

Arbitrators' and Mediators' Institute of New Zealand May 2008 – August 2019

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

As Executive Director, I participated in the governing board and chaired various committees. I supported the board to strategise and ensured implementation.

In my tenure, overseeing a large team of staff and volunteers, the Institute grew its membership and became the leading voice for dispute resolution in the media and with stakeholders. It gained a stellar reputation with my representing the Institute at national and international events and forging relationships and agreements for the benefit of members. I led and ensured numerous legislative amendments. I advised on, established and administered, numerous dispute resolution schemes. I led a diversity strategy and incorporated tikanga into the organisation.

Under my leadership the Institute was highly commended in the AUT Excellence in Business Support Awards for excellent administration.

Managing Director | General Manager | Board Member

Photography by Woolf Limited August 1997 – May 2008

During my time the business was the NZ market leader in the photographic industry and a Wellington institution. By the time I left the business, I was a director and led the operations including responsibility for implementing the strategic direction of the business and human resources for approximately 25 employees plus contractors. I oversaw numerous exhibitions and the gifting of a substantial part of our archive to Te Papa Tongarewa.

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
- Constitutional and Administrative Law, Melbourne University 1986
- Admitted to the Bar, New Zealand 1985
- Law degree, Victoria University of Wellington 1985

Community Involvement

- Chair and spokesperson of the Holocaust Centre of NZ 2019 - present
- Life Patron, Adam Art Gallery, Wellington 2015 – present
- Marriage and Civil Union Celebrant 2018 – present
- Panelist on discrimination and prejudice in Aotearoa at the National Library of NZ February 2019
- Chair of Advisors, Wellington Jewish Community Centre 2016 - 2019
- Led negotiations to gift \$100,000 to the Victoria University Foundation July 2015
- 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
- MC, Chanukah in the Park 2015, 2016, 2017
- MC, United Nations International Holocaust Remembrance Ceremonies 2012 - 2025

Referees

Available on request
