



Media release

3 November 2009

LEADR NZ announces new Board lineup for 2009

LEADR NZ has a new Chair, Tauranga mediator and lawyer Mark Beech, and several new faces on its 2009 Board.

Mark Beech said he was delighted with his appointment, and looked forward to a busy and challenging first term as Chair.

He said that alternative dispute resolution in New Zealand had never enjoyed such interest as now. Several government initiatives designed to promote earlier resolution of disputes were underway. These included the High Court mediation pilot, the Family Court reforms, the new District Court Rules process and the ongoing development of mediation in other areas of statutory dispute resolution.

“The next few years will, in my view, be critical to ensuring that best practice mediation models are adopted and that quality mediators are provided.

“I am committed to ensuring that LEADR takes a positive and active role in the changing landscape of mediation in our justice system.”

The 2009 Board members are:

Mark Beech: Mark is a partner in the Tauranga law firm Sharp Tudhope, where he heads the dispute resolutions team. He has been a member of LEADR NZ since 2000, and treasurer since 2005. He has undertaken considerable training in mediation, including advanced mediation training through Pepperdine University School of Law in California in 2005. He mainly works as counsel in mediations but also acts as a mediator.

Carol Powell: Carol is a highly experienced independent mediator, based in Auckland. She sits on a number of mediation panels, and coaches and trains in alternative dispute resolution (ADR). A LEADR NZ Board member for many years, she was the previous chair. She has represented New Zealand on the LEADR Board in Australia for eight years, sits on the LEADR Accreditation Committee, and was recently appointed to the International Standards Committee. She is editor of the ADR section of the NZ Law Journal and the author of the ADR section in the ADLS Legal Practice Manual.

Maria Dew: Maria is a mediator and barrister with Bankside Chambers, Auckland. She has 20 years legal experience and has been extensively involved in mediation for the past 12 years. She has been on the LEADR Board since 2006.

Nina Khouri: Nina is an associate with Gilbert Walker law firm in Auckland, and teaches the *Negotiation, Mediation and Dispute Resolution* course at the University of Auckland Faculty of Law. In 2005, Nina attended New York University as a Fulbright and Vanderbilt Scholar to complete her LLM in alternative dispute resolution and international law. She then worked in London with the Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution (CEDR, Europe’s largest commercial mediation provider). She has been a Board member since 2007.

Annabel James: Annabel is a mediator with the Department of Labour in Wellington. She has a law degree, and a postgraduate Diploma in Dispute Resolution from Massey University. She has worked previously as a lawyer, conciliator, facilitator, negotiation trainer and in human resources. She was a trustee of the Wellington Restorative Justice Trust from 2003 to 2005. Annabel is a new Board member.

Barbara McCulloch: Barbara is the principal mediator for the University of Auckland, and has worked in conflict resolution for the last 15 years. For the past three years, she has convened and facilitated Auckland LEADR monthly network meetings. She is accredited to LEADR's Advanced Panel and regularly coaches at LEADR training events and assesses applications for accreditation. Barbara is new to the Board.

Anna Quinn: Anna qualified in law in 1987 and worked in a major commercial law firm for almost 10 years before moving fulltime into ADR. She is a former Executive Officer of LEADR NZ (1996-98), and has been a trainer for LEADR at its flagship five-day workshop since 1996. She has LEADR Advanced Panel status. She currently works part-time in conflict management in Auckland doing training, active mediation, mentoring and other consultancy work. Anna is also new to the Board.

The not-for-profit LEADR NZ is a leading advocate for alternative dispute resolution in New Zealand. It undertakes the training, representation and accreditation of mediation professionals.

Mediation is increasingly recognised as a viable alternative to litigation and arbitration. It is a fast, low-cost, confidential process in which the parties to a dispute, with the help of the mediator, together identify disputed issues, develop options, consider alternatives and endeavour to reach an agreement.

For more about LEADR NZ, see www.leadr.co.nz

For more comment, please call:

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