

WARREN SOWERBY

Publications and Positions

Warren Sowerby has a firmly established reputation in New Zealand in dispute resolution. His experience in international dispute resolution is also significant with participants from the United States, Australia and Asia and from other parts of the world.

Warren's background as a barrister and his international interest in societies and their values led to his growing awareness of the critical need for dispute resolution processes that enable the development of consensus based agreements.

He trained in mediation with CDR Associates and attended a Harvard University Mediation Workshop. Additionally he completed further training in international and cross-cultural dispute resolution at Boulder, Colorado, facilitated by Dr Christopher Moore of CDR Associates.

In New Zealand, he has drawn upon his experience and training to publish articles on mediation, present guest lectures to members of the legal profession, university and MBA students and graduates, and to coach and train at mediation courses. As a member of LEADR's advanced Panel of Mediators, a former member of the Law Society's Dispute Resolution Committee and Associate of the Arbitrators' and Mediators' Institute of New Zealand, he contributes his knowledge and expertise to the development of facilitative dispute resolution processes.

Internationally, he has met in New York with an Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations and with the in-house legal team, discussing the use of facilitative mediation in international cross-cultural dispute resolution.

Warren is considered to be one of the most experienced mediators in Australasia. To date he has:

- been involved, as mediator, in more than 1,700 mediations
- worked with in excess of 15,000 participants
- of the first 1,000 commercial disputes brought to him, 902 were resolved

Typically these have involved significant commercial and at times national and international issues, often with multi-party involvement. In all cases parties have attended with legal representatives and often with other experts. A significant number were from outside New Zealand. By adopting a strategic approach to problem solving which in addition to the legal issues also focuses upon identifying and meeting the parties' commercial and other needs, Warren has been particularly successful in bringing about consensus based agreements. Often this has involved large and diverse groups of stakeholders.

Some of Warren's work has included:

- Commercial disputes involving international parties
- Treaty issues (pre-Crown negotiation) with large groups of claimants and post-settlement implementation
- National employment issues
- Construction, aviation, intellectual property, contract, franchise, defamation, joint ventures, maritime, negligence, company, insurance, administrative, local body, environmental, health, succession and partnership disputes.

Warren continues to focus on the resolution of national and international commercial disputes with an increasing interest in international political disputes.

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