

A Fond Farewell and Change in Role for our Current Executive Director

On December 31, 2014, the Foundation of Administrative Justice's first Executive Director, Deborah Howes, will retire, after completing 16 years in the role (13 years official and three years unofficial). Deborah is a founding member of FOAJ and has been an FOAJ instructor since 1998.

During her tenure as FOAJ Executive Director, Deborah was a passionate visionary for what FOAJ could be and could offer. She was a vocal advocate for FOAJ and created strong governance and administrative systems. Through her leadership, FOAJ's business grew from one 2-day course offered four times per year in Alberta to a competency based Certificate program comprised of 12 public courses, and over 100 training days per year offered throughout Canada.

Deborah is also the President of High Clouds Incorporated, a dispute resolution and seminar business. She is a native Edmontonian who received her Bachelor of Arts degree in 1987 and her Bachelor of Laws in 1988. She articulated jointly with the Labour Relations Board and the law firm of Duncan & Craig where she continued as an Associate after completing her articles. In 1991, Deborah served as a part-time Vice-Chair of the Alberta Labour Relations Board and was appointed full-time in May of 1992. Deborah acquired a Certificate in Conflict Management from the Alberta Arbitration and Mediation Society and the designations of Chartered Arbitrator and Chartered Mediator.

Deborah's community and professional involvements are as varied as her work experience. She served as National president of the Canadian Condominium Institute (CCI), and President of the CCI North Alberta Chapter, and sat on the Minister's working committee to amend the Alberta Condominium Property Act since 1998. She volunteers for CCI in various roles. She is an Associate and Fellow of CCI. Deborah taught and coached in various dispute resolution courses for the Alberta Arbitration and Mediation Society (now the ADR Institute of Alberta) and served on the board of the ADR Institute of Alberta. She has been an executive member of the Canadian Bar Association, Administrative Law sub-section (Northern Alberta); member of the CBA Alberta Council, Vice-President for the Council of Canadian Administrative Tribunals; and member of the University of Alberta Senate. Deborah was also President of the Edmonton Kiwanis Club, and, as Chair of the Kiwanis Duck Race, was active with the Associated Canadian Travellers (A.C.T.) and Kids Kottage Foundation. She participated in a leadership role on Strathcona County's first affordable housing committee. She continues to volunteer, speak at conferences, and mentor in the dispute resolution community.

Deborah will continue to play an active role in the dispute resolution, administrative tribunal, condominium law, and labour law fields. Through High Clouds Incorporated, Deborah plans to continue to her work as a facilitator, arbitrator and mediator, and expand her extensive training and writing portfolios. She will also remain as an instructor with FOAJ and its curriculum development specialist.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and all members and clients of FOAJ, I thank Deborah for her exceptional service as our Executive Director and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

Barbara Evans, CTAJ™
President