**Ainsley Simmonds**

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**Governance overview**

I have acted as Chief Legal Advisor in ACC and the Treasury, and have a strategic approach to legal and operations risks and opportunities. I have worked closely with the ACC Board over several years, including with the specialist Investment Board Sub-Committee. I learned first-hand from experienced board members providing direction on strategy, risk and reputational mattes, as well as management performance and accountability. I have often advised on governance matters, including delegations, proper process and exercise of powers, and on reputational issues.

I am committed to Te Tiriti, and to doing what I can to contribute to meaningful and beneficial relationships between government, iwi, hapū and whanau, and overall to better outcomes for Māori. I do on-going training and self-guided reading to deepen my understanding, and present on Te Tiriti history and current issues in the workplace. Current issues for boards include establishing strong relationships and exchange of ideas as part of policy development and delivery design to provide options for Māori.

My senior legal experience covers advice on strategy, risk and commercial matters. I have been involved in many volunteer organisations at both a management and governance level. These include Rainbow, sporting, and early childhood groups.

**Work Experience**

**Principal, Te Tai Ōhanga the Treasury**

**Acting Treasury Solicitor / Chief Legal / Tumu Whakarae – ā – Ture** May 2022-December 2022

**Strategic Legal Advisor, ACC** 2021 – December 2022

**Acting General Counsel, ACC 12 months** 2019-2021

**Manager, Investments Legal Services,** ACC 2016-2021

**NZ Green Investment Finance Chief** **Legal** 3 months secondment

**Senior Tax Manager,** Inland Revenue 20 years

**Qualifications**

**Education and Training**

LLB and B.A majoring in psychology - Otago University (1980-1985)

Evidence law – additional paper (1989)

Professional studies completed (1992)

Information management stage 3 paper in **Innovative Digital Business**, Victoria University (2016)

Many Te Reo courses

Institute of Directors Governance Essentials (2021)

Stepping Up – NZ Law Society prerequisite course to run a law business either as a sole practitioner or a partner in a firm (2021)

Institute of Directors Residential Course (2022)

Studying to be a chartered member of the Institute of Directors

**Work Experience**

**Principal, Te Tai Ohanga / Treasury** Current

Deployed on projects as needed. Currently working on Treasury’s response to the COVID Royal Commission into Lessons Learned and advising on iwi / Māori investors

**Treasury Solicitor / Tumu Whakarae - ā - Ture (Chief Legal Advisor) Te Tai Ohanga** May 2022 – December 2022 (8 months)

Responsible for the legal strategy, risk and compliance at Te Tai Ohanga The Treasury, advice to the Executive team and on behalf of Ministers, System-wide stewardship role ­ linking with other Chief Legal Advisors and Crown Law.

Leading public and commercial law teams – range of issues from public finance to entity structuring, insurance, climate change and Te Tiriti issues.

**ACC** September 2019 – June 2020, November 2020 – March 2021 (12 months)

**Acting General Counsel**

The role has overall responsibility for advising the Board, ensuring Board processes and supports run well, identifying significant legal risk and ensuring ACC is taking appropriate action.

**Governance, legal and risk responsibilities**

* Overall responsibility for managing legal risk to ACC
* Leading the approach to issues that have the potential to significantly impact the Corporation, including clarity on the legal position, coordination within ACC, linking with the Board and Executive team, identifying and contribution to the management of political and reputational risk
* Ensuring internal processes and controls are adequate to manage legal risk and that legal advice is of appropriate quality and robustness.
* Governance - assisting the Board and its committees with advice on appropriate governance, and putting in place measures in ACC to provide for good processes and controls eg conflict of interest management and committee processes.

Other governance advice includes:

* Delegations
* Terms of reference
* Strategic themes
* Risk and compliance
* Health and safety
* Reputational issues.
* Managing a team of 25. The teams covered litigation, the Investments function, the Board secretariat, all other legal issues, and a paralegal support team.
* Advising on a range of law, including public law, finance and commercial law in Investments, from multi-million dollar health contracts, 600 disputes annually, Treaty issues and financial markets law. Oversee the legal function in ACC’s $50b investment fund.
* I have experience in technology transformation and been both a leader and a participant in several change processes.

**Strategic Legal Advisor ACC**  March 2021 – December 2022

Deployed on significant issues, including programmes of work for Māori, a proposed income insurance scheme, ACC’s investment fund, and levies.

**NZ Green Investment Finance Ltd** July – September 2019

**Chief Legal Advisor (secondment)**

NZ Green Investment Finance is a government company set up to in 2019 to invest in green initiatives. Three month role setting up a legal function and processes to be compliant with applicable law. The secondment included advising the newly formed Board on applicable law, identifying and prioritising legal risks to manage, and implementing compliance processes.

**Manager, Legal Services Investments**

October 2016 - 2019

**Responsibilities**

* In-house counsel to ACC’s $50b investment fund
* Identify and manage legal risk
* Attendance and advice at Board Investment Committee meetings
* Provide a wide range of legal services, including advice on finance, commercial deals, investment and procurement contracts, securities law, derivatives, government-related law including the Official Information Act, procurement, and Crown Entities issues as well as implementing improved compliance processes and controls.
* Liaising with stakeholders, including the Board, the Executive team and regulatory agencies such as the FMA, NZX and Treasury.
* Working with the General Counsel and external counsel on significant litigation
* Networking with other sovereign wealth funds.

**Financial Markets Authority** June 2015 to August 2016

Senior legal and policy role. Gained knowledge of a regulatory system that was in the stage of going live. The government’s intention was to regulate the sector more comprehensively and not to repeat the loss of much public money with failed finance companies. This experience gave me policy and risk perspectives in the context of the use of public investment money.

**Contractor, Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand** April 2015-June 2015

* Updated tax training and examination resources

**Inland Revenue** 1993 - 2015

**Manager, Public Rulings, Office of the Chief Tax Counsel** Dec 2006–March 2015

**Responsibilities**

Management, tax legal advice, collaboration with policy and operations and involved in consultation processes. Recognised national expert on tax avoidance and complex finance structures. Acted as Director of Public Rulings for 6 months.

**Analyst, Senior Analyst and Senior Advisor, Public Rulings** 1993–2006

**Other earlier roles**

**KPMG Peat Marwick, Wellington** 1989–1993

Five years as a Tax Consultant then Senior Tax Consultant

**Mallesons Stephen Jacques, Sydney** 1988–1989

Litigation clerk (9 months)

**Governance in the Voluntary Sector**

**Karori Football club (Volunteer)** 2000-2015

* Initiated and ran a Coach Academy for teenagers to help coach junior teams
* Initiated, developed and ran extra programmes for young female footballers, including joint club development squads, and summer programmes for girls.
* Coached teams for 15 years
* Took part in all aspects of running a voluntary organisation, including management and financial decisions.

**Wilton Playcentre** 1996–2006

**Volunteer, President in 2002**

* Worked with a wide range of people as part of a team running an early childhood centre.
* Leadership role as president and senior member.
* Completed Course 4 training level over 5 years. Training included Te Tiriti, re reo and early childhood pedagogy
* Significant role with others in undertaking research on early childhood education. Worked with senior professional researchers and the Ministry of Education.
* Invited to present research at an international conference in the renowned Pen Green Early Childhood Centre in Corby in the United Kingdom. Also presented research at early childhood conferences and events around New Zealand.

**Founder and committee member – Reel Queer Film Festival** 1990-1995

* Co-founded and ran an annual nationwide international film festival for five years.
* Established relationships with film distributors, venues, and other volunteers.
* Took part in all management and financial decisions.

**Musician – Backdoor Blues Band (Self-employed)** 1985–1988

* Worked full time from the earnings of a band in New Zealand and Australia, along with four partners.