

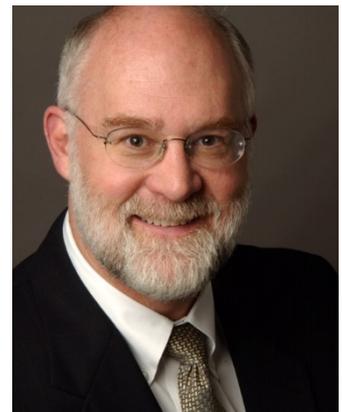
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IOA Announces Inaugural Executive Director

Charles Howard joins IOA as Executive Director, supporting the advancement of the organizational ombuds as an invaluable strategic resource for the corporate, government, non-profit, and educational sectors.

Seattle, WA (13 August 2019) – The [International Ombudsman Association](http://ombudsassociation.org) (IOA) today announced Charles (Chuck) L. Howard will serve as the organization’s Executive Director to serve as the public champion and representative for IOA, its members, and the organizational ombuds profession. The selection of an executive director concludes IOA’s organizational transition to a hybrid management model after partnering in January with [SBI Association Management](http://sbiassociation.com) to manage its operations.



As the IOA Executive Director (ED), Howard will be primarily responsible for carrying out the strategic plan and policies as established by the IOA Board of Directors, and will be tasked with building relationships and networks as well as working across all representative sectors to promote and further the strategic goals of the organization.

Marcia Martínez-Helfman, current IOA President, said, “We are thrilled to have landed as our inaugural executive director the person who literally wrote the book that captures the foundations for the organizational ombuds profession today. Chuck is no stranger to our membership, and we know he will jump into his role with lots of energy and enthusiasm for taking IOA to greater heights.”

Howard has been an advocate and spokesperson for the organizational ombuds profession for more than 30 years, and authored the seminal work, *The Organizational Ombudsman: Origins, Roles, and Operations - A Legal Guide*. Howard was a partner of the law firm Shipman & Goodwin from 1984 through 2018 before becoming “Of Counsel” on 1 January 2019. He maintained a national practice in representing organizational ombuds at universities, multinational corporations, and other organizations. He will officially begin his work as IOA Executive Director 1 September 2019.

“As a strong supporter of the role of organizational ombuds for now almost 30 years, I am thrilled to have the opportunity to work with IOA as its first Executive Director. I am looking forward to working closely with the IOA Board of Directors and membership to continue to promote and strengthen this important role, which I believe should be included in every significant organization. I cannot imagine anything else I would rather do,” said Howard of his new role.

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About IOA: The International Ombudsman Association (IOA) is a member-led, professional association committed to supporting organizational ombuds worldwide. The Association’s 800-plus members help others safely navigate conflict and change in corporations, educational institutions, non-profit organizations, government entities, and non-governmental organizations across the globe. IOA provides professional development, networking, mentoring, and other resources, as well as a robust and engaging [annual conference](http://ombudsassociation.org). Learn more at ombudsassociation.org.