

# SARA A. PETERSON, JD – MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT



Sara has been a management consultant to nonprofits, government, foundations, and community groups for more than 20 years. Her practice includes board development, planning, facilitation, and evaluation work.

**Since beginning practice in 1998, she has assisted hundreds of organizations** – from small, all-volunteer start-ups to a multi-billion-dollar funder. Her portfolio has spanned the United States and included projects in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean.

From 2000 to 2010, Sara was part of a national consulting practice at LarsonAllen LLP.<sup>1</sup> During that period, she led organizational development, planning, program evaluation, and search engagements; made numerous presentations on governance, evaluation and organizational change; managed the firm's annual nonprofit conference; and managed marketing efforts within the firm's

nonprofit and government consulting group. She left the firm in 2010 to set up her own business – **guiding clients in strategy, governance, and management**. In the years since, then she has been honored to serve new and old clients in a busy solo practice.

Prior to her employment with LarsonAllen LLP, Sara developed expertise as a funder and an attorney, serving as program officer to the James Ford Bell Foundation in Minnesota and as a litigator for the Iowa Department of Human Services, Child Support Recovery Unit. At the foundation, she managed a multi-organization collaboration, administered grant programs, and maintained information systems for the philanthropic consulting firm in which the foundation was housed.

Sara's education includes graduate study at the University of Minnesota Humphrey School of Public Affairs master's program with a concentration in nonprofit management. She received a juris doctor with high distinction from the University of Iowa College of Law and a Bachelor of Arts in French with a minor in music from the University of Iowa.

She is a partner member of the Association of Governmental Risk Pools (AGRiP) and a consultant member of BoardSource (Certificate in Nonprofit Board Consulting, 2018).

Her community service has included officer roles with WFIU Public Radio's Community Advisory Board, the Monroe County Humane Association, the IAP2 USA Midwest Chapter, the Textile Center of Minnesota, and the Humphrey Institute Alumni Board; as well as work on the Nonprofit Alliance of Monroe County's training/outreach committee, the IAP2 USA board of directors, the Charities Review Council's marketing committee, and the League of Women Voters of Minneapolis' advisory board.

"Best experience I've ever had doing a strategic plan, which may not sound flattering as strategic plans tend to be dry, but you made it fun, efficient, exciting and the deliverables are second to none. Thanks for showing me what a GREAT facilitator can do!"

Executive Director

"Sara has injected knowledge of the nonprofit sector, creative marketing and communications ideas, enthusiasm and a healthy dose of practical common sense. She's bright, energetic and upbeat—an invigorating combination that, I can attest, makes those around her better."

Executive Director

"Sara is a brilliant nonprofit management consultant that can help organizations move to a much higher level of governance and management. I highly recommend her."

Executive Director

"Sara did a great job helping us get the Minnesota Channel up and running. She analyzed our successes and failures, so we could build on our early efforts. Sara's work was timely, insightful, and always a great value."

Chief Operations Officer

"I have appreciated her thoughtful approach to managing a diverse set of opinions in meetings, all the while working to promote meaningful conversations among the group. She is able to provide direction to a wide range of personalities in that setting, and she does so in a measured and unassuming way. She works to understand the subject matter at hand prior to the meetings, and provides insightful post-meeting feedback. I would wholeheartedly recommend Sara."

Vice President

<sup>1</sup> As of 1/2/2012 CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

effective strategy, governance and management  
for nonprofits, foundations, government, & community groups