

# MENTOR BIOS

## **Adil Abdulla**

Adil is an associate at Sotos LLP. He works on class actions, public interest litigation, and commercial litigation. He has appeared before the Supreme Court of Canada, the Court of Appeal for Ontario, and the Federal Court of Appeal, among others. He is currently writing a book for Lexis on Indigenous class actions and has previously published textbook chapters or peer-reviewed articles on a wide range of topics including civil procedure, class actions, securities litigation, competition litigation, intellectual property litigation, and legal ethics. He ran the OBA's annual Privilege Pitfalls series and has lectured on class actions, privacy law, and consumer protection law. He is currently the Chair of the OBA's Civil Litigation section and a member of The Advocates' Society's Diversity and Inclusion Standing Committee and Young Advocates Standing Committee.

## **Yemisi Afolabi**

Yemisi is an associate in the corporate and capital markets group at Borden Ladner Gervais LLP ("BLG"), with a practice focus on corporate finance, M&A, private equity, and investment funds. Her hybrid practice encompasses advice-based solicitor work across a wide range of corporate and securities law matters, including public and private company transactions and corporate governance issues.

Yemisi summered and articulated at BLG. Prior to joining the firm, she worked as a securities legal clerk at one of Canada's leading asset management firms. Before moving to Canada, Yemisi was in-house counsel at a multinational company and also practiced at a leading law firm in Lagos, Nigeria.

Yemisi earned her LL.M. in International Business Law from Osgoode Hall Law School, York University and her LL.B from Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria.

## **Lila Amara**

Lila Amara is legal counsel at the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board. In her role, she provides legal advice on multiple areas of law such as workers compensation, Privacy, Human Rights, regulatory and administrative law. She has at heart to work towards benefitting vulnerable members of society and her experience representing workers at the office of the worker adviser and vulnerable tenants and landlords at the Ministry of Housing are a testament to that passion. She is on the executive of the OBA on the workers compensation group and Women Lawyers Forum and is an avid runner and reader in her free time.

## **Ayush Arora**

Ayush Arora will represent Technology, Intellectual Property and Privacy Law.

### **Maurizio P. Artale**

Maurizio serves as legal counsel at the City of Mississauga, working in their municipal law group, with a focus on commercial contract and construction matters. Having been called to the Bar in 2013, he has over 11 years of experience in the areas of municipal, contracts, and construction law. Maurizio obtained his Honours B.A. at the University of Toronto, and his Masters at the University of Guelph before graduating from Osgoode Hall Law School (J.D.). Prior to Mississauga, Maurizio began his legal career in private practice downtown Toronto before moving in-house with York Region's Rapid Transit Corporation (Regional Municipality of York) in 2017. Maurizio also currently serves on the OBA's In-House Lawyers Section Executive, as well as their Construction Law section executive.

### **Robyn Barabash**

Robyn Barabash is an associate at Davies Ward Phillips & Vineberg LLP. She is developing a broad environmental practice and has assisted on a range of matters, including due diligence and risk management relating to corporate transactions, project permitting and compliance with federal and provincial legislation in various jurisdictions, species at risk issues, Indigenous consultation, regulatory investigations and approvals, public disclosure, environmental impact assessments and contaminated site remediations.

### **Elizabeth Barefoot**

Elizabeth Barefoot is a compassionate and fearless advocate for her clients, regardless of which side of the aisle she sits on. She is both a criminal Defense lawyer and an Agent of the Public Prosecution Service of Canada, practicing primarily in Grey & Bruce Counties.

Elizabeth obtained her Bachelor of Arts from Queen's University in 2002 and her law degree from the University of Manitoba in 2007. She was called to the bar in 2008 and after articling at a firm in Owen Sound opened her own practice in 2014. She incorporated that practice in 2017 to become "Barefoot Law Professional Corporation" and has grown to include 3 lawyers, 3 paralegals and a law clerk.

Elizabeth is a member of the Grey County Law Association and the Bruce County Law Association. She is currently the Regional Representative for the Criminal Justice section of the Ontario Bar Association, as well as a member. She was formerly the President and Vice-President of the Grey County Law Association which she remains involved with and is on the Board of Directors. She is a member of the Criminal Lawyers' Association and currently serves as the regional representative for Grey Bruce. She is also on the subcommittee of the CLA for the Spring Conference and has served on the Fall Conference Committee and Women's Committee.

As part of her commitment to continuing professional development she has contributed to various panels for various organizations both within Canada and internationally.

### **Max Chaudhary**

M. Max Chaudhary is an immigration lawyer with over 30 years of experience and the principal of Chaudhary Law Office. An accomplished litigator with nearly 600 reported cases before Canadian immigration tribunals including the Supreme Court of Canada, Chaudhary Law Office is recognized for its expertise in complex immigration matters and policy. Active within the profession, Max has served in leadership roles with the Ontario Bar Association Immigration Section, mentored new lawyers through the Law Society of Ontario, and contributed to national advocacy through the Canadian Bar Association. Committed to access to justice, they also organize pro bono initiatives to support individuals affected by global crises.

### **Hilary Cook**

Hilary Cook is an Arbitrator, Mediator, and conducts independent workplace investigations. Specialising in the areas of Employment, Labour, and Human Rights law, Hilary is bilingual and provides employment and labour arbitration, mediation, and workplace investigations in both English and French. Hilary brings 25 years of experience and an engaged and pragmatic approach to resolving workplace conflicts.

### **Ranjan Das**

Ranjan Das, a 1995 call to the Bar, is a partner of the Toronto litigation boutique Berkow Youd Lev-Farrell Das, LLP practicing commercial and civil litigation. He is on the OBA and CBA Civil Litigation Executives and was a member of the OBA Council. He was formerly a member of the Civil Rules Committee, a past director of the Toronto Lawyers Association (and was its representative on RODA), a past director of the Forest Hill Hockey Association and sat on the Granite Club board for 6 years. Ranjan was a “virtual” firm mentor in the Toronto Metropolitan University’s Law Practice Program (the LSO alternative to traditional articling), a volunteer in the Coach and Advisor Network, and has participated in the Articling Mentorship Program for the LSO. Ranjan holds an LL.M. from Osgoode Hall Law School (Banking Law/Financial Services), an LL.B. from the University of Ottawa, and a Bachelor of Commerce (Honours) from Queen’s University.

### **Josiah Davis**

Josiah Davis will represent Taxation Law.

### **Vanessa De Sousa**

Vanessa brings a dynamic approach to her civil litigation practice, with a particular focus on insurance and commercial matters. Her courtroom experience shines through extensive trial involvement, including jury trials at the Ontario Superior Court of Justice. She also has experience with examinations for discovery, contested motions, mediations and trials.

Vanessa has served in a number of volunteer roles, including with Pro Bono Students Canada on its Family Law Project, showcasing her dedication to a well-rounded legal foundation.

Engaged in legal circles, Vanessa actively participates in associations such as Canadian Bar Association and The Advocates' Society. Her accolades, including The Charles Edward Woodrow Award from Osgoode Hall Law School and the Political Science Academic Excellence Award from York University, underscore her commitment to excellence in the field.

### **Amy Delisle**

Amy Delisle is a recognized leader in franchise law and a Partner at Keyser Mason Ball, LLP. She heads the firm's Franchising, Retail & Distribution Group and advises clients on franchise structuring, compliance, and cross-border expansion. Amy is a Certified Franchise Executive (CFE), a frequent speaker at legal conferences, and a member of the Ontario Bar Association's Franchise Law Executive Committee. She has been recognized as one of Ontario's top franchise lawyers by Best Lawyers since 2022.

### **Katherine T. Di Tomaso**

Katie DiTomaso is a trusted civil litigator with over 20 years of experience representing insurers, businesses, governments, individuals, and public entities in complex tort matters. She received the OBA Joel Kuchar Award for Professionalism and Civility (2024) in recognition of her dedication to the highest ideals of the profession.

Katie has appeared as lead counsel before the Court of Appeal for Ontario, Superior Court of Justice, Federal Court, Human Rights Tribunal, and numerous regulatory tribunals. Clients value her judgment, problem-solving, and commitment to achieving practical results.

A graduate of the University of Toronto (High Distinction) and Western Law, Katie has earned top academic honours including the Governor General's Medal, University of Toronto Silver Medal, and awards in Intellectual Property and Insurance Law. She is also a published author on civil litigation and procedure in leading texts and journals.

Deeply engaged in her profession and community, Katie serves as OBA Insurance Law Section CPD Liaison, Civ Pro Instructor/Mentor at Lincoln Alexander Law, and on the Tort Law Moot Executive Committee, while also fundraising and serving on the Board of a children's charity. Her civic contributions have been recognized with the Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Award (2022), the University of Toronto St. Michael's College Richard Alway Alumni Award (2025), and the TCDSB Parent Volunteer of the Year Award (2025).

### **Robert Eisenberg**

<https://www.weirfoulds.com/people/robert-eisenberg>

Robert Eisenberg is a property development and commercial leasing lawyer who excels at identifying potential landmines and devising clear, creative, and proactive solutions.

Robert is building a specialized practice focused on mixed-use developments and is well-versed in the unique challenges inherent in these complex projects. He is valued for his ability to pinpoint and avoid future problems to help ensure that your deal goes smoothly.

More generally, Robert acts for both landlords and tenants on negotiating, drafting, reviewing, and revising commercial leasing documents including leases, offers, amendments, assignments, subleases, and consents. He also has experience in large-scale due diligence reviews of properties across Canada.

### **Emma Gardiner**

Emma Gardiner is a partner at Rosen Sunshine LLP. Emma provides advice and opinions to health professionals, institutions, and individuals in the health and regulatory context, and represents clients in proceedings in health, regulatory, and civil matters. She has appeared before a number of administrative tribunals, as well as before the Ontario Superior Court and the Court of Appeal of Ontario. Emma was recognized by her peers in the 2025 edition of the Best Lawyers to Watch in Canada for her work in Administrative and Public Law and Health Care Law. Emma is an active member of the Advocates' Society, the Medico-Legal Society of Toronto, and the Canadian and Ontario Bar Associations. Since 2018, Emma has served as a public member on UHN's Research Ethics Board, which is responsible for reviewing and approving the breadth of bio-medical research performed at UHN.

### **Jayashree Goswami**

Jayashree Goswami will represent Civil Litigation.

### **Tracey Hamilton**

As Senior Litigation Counsel at a national insurance company, Tracey handles complex litigated insurance matters. Tracey was the Chief Agent for a national insurer, responsible for spearheading and building the in-house legal department in its Toronto office.

Throughout her career, Tracey has appeared before various levels of court, including the Court of Appeal of Ontario. She currently sits as Vice Chair on the executive of the Insurance Law Section of the Ontario Bar Association.

Tracey holds both a Bachelor of Law (LL.B) and a Master of Laws (LL.M) degree from Osgoode Hall Law School. She also holds an Honours Bachelor of Arts (H.B.A) degree from the University of Toronto. Tracey is both a contract lecturer and mentor at Lincoln Alexander Law School. Tracey also serves on various professional associations and not-for-profit Boards and Committees. She is a frequent speaker and lecturer at various conferences and events.

### **Tulu Harsa**

Tulu Harsa is a dual-qualified business lawyer with nearly 20 years of experience. Before establishing his firm, he worked and gained experience at several international full-service and boutique law firms in Canada and Türkiye. His practice focuses on private mergers and

acquisitions, corporate law and finance, and general business law. Tulu serves clients of all sizes across diverse sectors, including manufacturing, private equity, technology, professional services, real estate, energy, and non-profit organizations.

#### **Joanne Horton**

Joanne Horton is a general practice lawyer which includes real estate, estates, wills, corporate and commercial, civil and family litigation. She is the managing partner of Horton & Horton in Owen Sound on the shores of Georgian Bay which has been in business since 1939. She looks forward to the firm celebrating it's 90th and 100th anniversary. She began her career in a litigation boutique on Bay Street.

She has been involved at various level of the OBA including YLD, Student Division, Section Executive, Council and the Board Executive, as well as other legal organization.

Her community involvement includes supporting local community and charitable organizations including Brightshores Hospital Foundation, Sweetwater Music Festival, Kiwanis Club and the Owen Sound and District Chamber of Commerce.

#### **Darren Joblonkay**

Darren's practice focuses on tax and private wealth matters for high-net-worth individuals and family offices. He assists clients with complex domestic and cross-border reorganizations, investment and butterfly transactions, as well as general estate and tax planning.

#### **M. Imtiaz Karamat**

Imtiaz has a multifaceted practice that covers a range of intellectual property and information technology matters, including IP commercialization, technology contracting, privacy, cybersecurity, and regulatory law. He assists both startups and established businesses with commercial transactions and maintaining compliance with privacy requirements. He is also a Certified Information Privacy Professional for Canada (CIPP/C).

Imtiaz attended Osgoode Hall Law School where he was involved in its Intellectual Property Law & Technology Program. Prior to practicing law, Imtiaz completed his Master of Science degree in Medical Sciences at McMaster University.

#### **Emma Katz**

Emma Katz is a Partner with Kelly D. Jordan Family Law Firm, in Toronto, Ontario. She was called to the Bar in 2013. Emma practices in all aspects of family law and fertility law including litigation involving the intersection of those areas. After practicing civil litigation at a boutique firm for four years, Emma transitioned into practicing family law and joined Kelly Jordan in 2018. Emma completed her Juris Doctor at Osgoode Hall Law School, during which time she spent one semester working at Parkdale Community Legal Services. Emma contributed to the family law chapter in new edition of Death of a Taxpayer. She also contributed to writing resources regarding decision-making responsibility and parenting

time for Family Law Education for Women. Emma is one of the current Public Policy and Affairs Liaison on the OBA Family Law Executive. Emma is the Chair of the Board of Directors of the legal aid clinic, Justice for Children and Youth.

#### **Mana Khami**

Mana Khami will represent Labour and Employment Law.

#### **Candice Kloes**

[Candice Kloes](#) is a seasoned lawyer with extensive expertise in advertising, consumer protection, and regulatory law. With experience at top-tier law firms and as in-house counsel for some of the world's most recognized brands, Candice combines deep legal knowledge with practical, business-focused judgment.

#### **Inna Koldorf**

Inna Koldorf is an employment and labour lawyer with Miller Thomson LLP. Having advised and represented unions and employees earlier in her career, Inna brings a unique perspective to the counsel and representation that she now provides exclusively to employers. In addition to her management-side practice, Inna is often retained as a neutral, third-party investigator to conduct workplace investigations involving harassment, violence and fraud allegations at the workplace. Inna is also a respected litigator, and has appeared before the Ontario Labour Relations Board, the Canada Industrial Relations Board, boards of arbitration, the Ontario Human Rights Tribunal, the Small Claims Court, the Superior Court of Justice and the Tax Court of Canada. Inna is active in the community and has sat on Boards of Directors of various not-for-profit organizations including the Alzheimer Society Peel and the Canadian Mental Health Association of York and South Simcoe. Inna has been repeatedly quoted in the Financial Post, The Globe and Mail, the Lawyers Weekly and other news publications, regularly speaks at seminars on workplace law topics and is the author of several legal articles and textbook chapters addressing current issues in workplace law.

#### **Mitchell Leitman**

Mitchell is a partner at Rasmussen Starr Ruddy LLP in Ottawa. Mitchell's practice covers the areas of commercial and residential real estate and financial services, with a focus on real estate development, commercial acquisitions, dispositions and secured financings. Mitchell is bilingual (French and English). He is a past chair of the Canadian Bar Association Real Property Law section and is the current chair of the Ontario Bar Association Real Property Law section. He received a B.A. (Hons). from McGill University (1992) and an LL.B. from the University of British Columbia (1995).

#### **Christine Marchetti**

Christine Marchetti will represent Child and Youth Law.

### **Jonathan Mesiano-Crookston**

Jonathan Mesiano-Crookston (BScH Biochem, JD) is a partner of Goldmans LLP, a boutique law firm in Toronto, Canada. He has a diverse litigation and intellectual property practice, with a focus on franchising and distribution law, dispute resolution, commercial litigation, defamation law, and intellectual property filings as well as litigation. He has been repeatedly voted a leading lawyer in the field of franchising by his peers in the prestigious Lexpert directory and by the Franchise Times. He is also a registered patent and trademark agent and received the IPIC Educational Prize for highest mark on the Canadian Trademark Agent exam.

He has made law about franchise rescission rights of shareholders, litigation procedure, electronic disclosure of franchise disclosure documents, how Ontario's franchise laws interact with the Personal Property Security Act, in patent law in the issue of double patenting, on promissory estoppel in leasing, and recently confirmed the narrow scope of disclosure exemptions in franchise law.

Jonathan writes and speaks frequently on the law. He has been interviewed by national media (Financial Post, Globe and Mail, Lawyers Weekly, The Law Times, CP24, and others); guest lectured at universities; and has been published in peer-reviewed journals about intellectual property, civil procedure, information law, and franchising. He wrote a book chapter about virtual property and crypto-currency. In the past he has received the Markus Cohen Q.C. Award for a paper about franchise rescission remedies and damages, and JD Torgys writing award for a paper on telecommunications regulation and media convergence.

Jonathan is an active member of various organizations including the Ontario Bar Association, where he is chair of the Franchise Section for the 2025-2026 session, the Association for the International Protection of Intellectual Property (AIPPI), and he sits on the Medical and Scientific Advisory Committee of Muscular Dystrophy Canada.

### **Alex Munoz**

Alex Munoz leads Sherrard Kuzz LLP's Education Law/Educational Institutions practice. He is one of Canada's leading lawyers in education law, with more than 20 years' experience representing all levels of school boards and departments. Alex's extensive practice focusses on education law, employment law, human rights, criminal law, regulatory and administrative matters, as well as civil litigation in the education law context. He has appeared as counsel in courts and administrative tribunals across Ontario, including the Divisional Court and the Court of Appeal.

Alex is the long-standing editor of the Annotated Ontario Education Act (Thomson Reuters).

Prior to joining Sherrard Kuzz LLP, Alex was the Associate General Counsel to the Toronto District School Board, the largest public school board in Canada, and one of the largest in North America.



## **Nithila Murugadas**

Nithila Murugadas will represent Elder Law.

## **Edward Peghin**

Edward is an accomplished corporate/commercial lawyer and business leader. He brings experience from a law firm setting as well as having been an in-house counsel and a solo practitioner.

Practising in Ontario and having practised in British Columbia, as well as having been an of counsel to a Manhattan law firm, Edward has many years of legal experience, as well as over twenty-five years as an entrepreneur, business executive, and film and television producer.

Having acted as counsel for the purchase and sale of businesses, Edward has extensive legal experience with commercial contracts, private equity and venture capital deals, as well as with all types of business entities, formations, and structures. He has also provided entertainment law advice to all levels of television, film, and media companies, and for producers, directors, screenwriters, actors, and other artists.

Given his passion and dedication to excellence, Edward has been recognized for his achievements, particularly in the entertainment industry, with an Emmy nomination and other internationally recognized awards.

## **Justin Po**

Justin is an Associate Lawyer at Kelly D. Jordan Family Law, practicing exclusively in the area of family law. His practice covers all aspects of family law, including parenting, division of property and support issues.

Justin was called to the bar in June 2023. Prior to joining the team, he summered and articulated with a prominent family law firm in the GTA. Following his call to the bar, he was welcomed back to the firm as an associate.

Justin graduated cum laude from the Faculty of Law at the University of Ottawa in 2022. His passion for family law truly sprouted during law school where he completed every family law course the school had to offer. Justin also volunteered with Pro Bono Students Canada assisting with both access to justice and anti-discrimination initiatives. Prior to law school, Justin graduated from the University of Western Ontario with an Honors Double Major in Finance and Criminology.

By empathizing and fostering an understanding relationship with his clients, Justin conducts his files with both compassion and purpose. Each client is unique in their circumstances and goals, thus requiring a tailored and individualized approach. Justin's focus on supporting his clients, coupled with his honesty and practicality, allows him to proceed in the most cost-effective and efficient manner possible. When able, Justin will attempt to negotiate a resolution outside of court, but when required, will not hesitate to represent his clients fervently in court.

### **Jason Reynar**

Jason is a partner with the Municipal & Public Entity Group at Lerner LLP (Toronto), litigating and providing advisory services. He is also an adjunct professor with the School of Public Policy at York University and Co-Director of the Certificate in Municipal Law from Osgoode Hall Law School. Jason has held pivotal public sector roles including CAO, Municipal Solicitor, Municipal Clerk, Utilities Board Chair, and Vice President (Strategy) at a regional health centre. Jason has an LL.B. and LL.M. from Osgoode Hall; an MBA from the Schulich School of Business; and a B.A. (Honours) from the University of Guelph.

### **Michelle Rival**

Michelle Rival is a senior legal consultant in Willis Towers Watson's Benefits Advisory and Compliance group in Toronto and has more than 25 years of industry expertise.

Michelle specializes in defined benefit and defined contribution pension and benefit design, legislative compliance, plan documentation, pension and benefit issues relating to corporate transactions and employment-related issues. She also advises clients, boards and their pension committees on fiduciary matters and the governance of employee benefits and retirement plans.

Prior to joining Willis Towers Watson in 1996, Michelle worked as a pension researcher for one of the largest DB pension plans in Ontario.

Michelle received her LL.B. from the University of Western Ontario in 1994 and was called to the bar in 1996.

She is a member of the Pension and Benefits Section of the Ontario Bar Association and serves on the executive committee. She is also a member of the Law Society of Upper Canada and the International Pension and Employee Benefits Lawyers Association. Michelle was part of the Legal Advisory Committee for the Financial Services Regulatory Authority of Ontario and Family Law Technical Advisory Committee.

Michelle has spoken at conferences held at the Ontario Bar Association, International Pension and Employee Benefits Lawyers Association, Osgoode Professional Development and teaches parts of the PPAC and ACP course for the faculty of business at Humber College.

### **Oksana Romanov**

Oksana Romanov is a criminal defence lawyer (September 2023 Call) and former Assistant Crown Attorney (Acting) with work experience in two Ontario jurisdictions: Central West and Northeast Regions. I also served with distinction as a Judicial Law Clerk to the Ontario Superior Court of Justice in Sudbury.

She earned her Juris Doctor with Distinction from the Lincoln Alexander School of Law, Toronto Metropolitan University, in 2023. Prior to law school, Oksana completed a Masters in Communication from the State University of New York at Albany as a U.S. Fulbright Fellow – one of the most prestigious academic scholarships for graduate study.

Oksana is an active member of the Ontario Bar Association (OBA), The Advocates' Society (TSA), Criminal Lawyers' Association, Women in Canadian Criminal Defence, Toronto Lawyer's Association, and Peel Law Association. She currently serves on several OBA Section Executives and has been re-appointed to TSA's Young Advocates' Standing Committee. During law school, she represented Lincoln Alexander Law as the OBA Student Section Ambassador (2022-2023).

Her legal interests span a broad spectrum, including criminal, administrative, Indigenous, labour and employment, human rights, and privacy law. In law school, she pursued a wide range of research, clinical, and extracurricular opportunities to deepen her understanding of these areas.

Outside of law, Oksana enjoys spending time with her family, travelling, camping, and exploring the arts. She enjoys meeting new people and making meaningful connections. Feel free to reach out to her on [LinkedIn](#).

### **Krystyne Rusek**

Krystyne Rusek will represent Trust and Estates Law.

### **Niloufar Sadroddini**

Niloufar Sadroddini will represent Education Law.

### **Jaspal Sangha**

Jaspal is the founder and principal lawyer at Sangha Construction Law Professional Corporation. He represents owners, general contractors, and subcontractors on a wide range of construction-related matters including contract drafting and negotiations, course-of-project advice, preservation, enforcement of liens, adjudications, breach of trust claims, and construction contract disputes.

Prior to starting his own law firm, Jaspal practiced at a boutique construction law firm in Toronto where he developed his specialization in construction law. In the first few years of practice, He worked at a national firm in Toronto and at a regional insurance defense firm representing insurance companies, professionals, as well as small and medium businesses on various *litigation matters including construction disputes*.

### **Gajan Sathananthan**

Gajan Sathananthan is a senior associate in McCarthy Tétrault's International Trade & Investment Law Group in Toronto.

Through his international trade practice, Gajan advises multinational and domestic businesses on how Canada's laws related to trade with foreign countries may impact their business. He provides practical and timely advice to clients on market access issues including anti-dumping duties, tariffs and surcharges. He also has significant experience

assisting clients with complex economic sanctions matters, including matters before the Federal Courts. Gajan is also a leader nationally for his strategic advice on modern slavery issues, including Canada's modern slavery reporting regime.

Gajan received his LLB and BCL from McGill Law. He is Vice Chair of the Ontario Bar Association's International Law Section, and is an active member of the Canadian Bar Association's International Law Section and the American Bar Association's International Law Section

### **Mohsen Seddigh**

Mohsen Seddigh will represent Class Actions Law.

### **Gosha G.S. Sekhon**

Gosha G.S. Sekhon is the principal lawyer and owner of Sekhon Legal Services in Oakville, Ontario. Gosha is an '03 graduate of Queen's Law School and was called to the Bar in Ontario in 2004. She has been a member of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP Canada) since 2016 when she obtained her Trust and Estate Practitioner (TEP) designation. Gosha has been in the Trust and Estate industry for over 20 years and has extensive experience with complex planning considerations involving incapable beneficiaries, small business interests and blended families.

### **Olena Shkarovska**

Olena Shkarovska is Associate Counsel with York Region, specializing in construction law. She brings a robust legal background from her previous roles as Assistant Town Solicitor in Innisfil, an articling student at Tribunals Ontario, and a policy and procedures writer at the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario.

Olena also contributes to legal education by teaching future paralegals at Georgian College.

Active in the Ontario Bar Association's Municipal Law Section, she combines her professional expertise with a commitment to community service, including volunteer support for Ukrainian newcomers to Canada.

### **Diana M. Soos**

Diana Soos is a seasoned municipal legal professional with over 22 years of experience spanning both public and private sectors. Currently serving as City Solicitor for the City of Vaughan, she provides strategic legal leadership on complex municipal matters, offering trusted counsel to senior leadership, the Mayor, and Members of Council. Diana began her career in general civil and corporate/commercial litigation, focusing on complex disputes in administrative law, construction, employment, and contractual issues. She later transitioned into municipal law, holding progressively senior roles with the City of Brampton and the City of Vaughan. Known for her collaborative and solutions-driven approach, Diana is passionate about empowering legal teams and fostering innovation in

public service. Her academic and professional credentials reflect a strong foundation in science, law, business, and in-house counsel leadership.

### **Andrew Sudano**

With a career spanning over 13 years, Andrew has dedicated himself to the field of family law. His unwavering commitment to his clients and diverse family law expertise have made him a respected figure in the legal community.

Andrew obtained his LL.B. from the University of New Brunswick and was called to the Ontario Bar in 2012. He graduated from the University of Toronto with an Honours Bachelor of Arts in English and History (high distinction).

Over the course of his career, he has represented hundreds of clients in complex family law cases at the Ontario Court of Justice, Ontario Superior Court of Justice, and the Ontario Court of Appeal.

In 2017, Andrew played an instrumental role representing the child in a groundbreaking case, *Coates v. Watson*, that led to the amendment of section 31 of the Family Law Act, Ontario's child support law. This precedent not only changed the law of child support in Ontario, but across the country. His tireless efforts over 6 years eventually led to this landmark ruling that has ensured a fair and just child support system for adult disabled children in Canada. In 2020 Andrew, while acting as counsel, litigated the issue of s. 35 Aboriginal Rights in a family law case.

When Andrew is not helping his clients, he volunteers with a number of organizations including the Ontario Bar Association, the University of Toronto Scarborough Alumni Association, Ontario's Family Law Limited Scope Services Project and the First-Generation Network.

### **Jackie van Leeuwen**

Jackie van Leeuwen is a lawyer in the Corporate/Construction Group of Toronto Transit Commission's Legal Department. She previously practiced at a construction litigation boutique where she represented clients in court, at mediation and arbitration and during Commissions of Inquiry. Currently, her practice focuses on drafting and negotiating construction and property agreements and advising on claims during the course of construction projects.

### **Lauren Wortsman**

Lauren helps clients navigate complex legal issues at the intersection of environmental, Aboriginal and natural resources law. As a skilled litigator and negotiator, Lauren works with Indigenous communities, governments and organizations to find innovative solutions that protect their rights and advance their self-determination, environmental and economic development goals. She also works with private and public sector clients, providing environmental advice in relation to environmental assessments and other regulatory processes related to air, water, fisheries and species at risk.

Lauren is a member of Aird & Berlis LLP's Environmental, Indigenous Practice, Litigation and Energy Groups. She works with Indigenous clients to develop governance and legal structures related to environmental and natural resource issues. Lauren assists clients in advancing their rights, interests and jurisdiction in areas such as environmental assessments for energy and infrastructure projects, permitting and other regulatory processes. She provides advice on the duty to consult and accommodate and assists in negotiating impact benefit agreements in the context of natural resource development.

In environmental law, Lauren has extensive experience providing strategic advice to help businesses across various industries navigate complex federal, provincial and municipal regulatory processes. With a background in environmental science, Lauren guides clients through technical environmental compliance matters, including contaminated land and remediation, and helps clients manage environmental risks and liabilities.

### **Brian Wylynko**

Mr. Wylynko is responsible for legal, government relations and regulatory matters affecting FedEx Express Canada and manages a Legal Department of seven staff. Prior to joining FedEx, he practised labour law (1994 to 1997) and corporate law (1997 to 2000) at one of Canada's pre-eminent law firms, Fasken, in Toronto. Mr. Wylynko received the Gold Medal at the University of Manitoba, B.A. (Hons.), in 1987, an M.A. with Distinction from the University of Essex (England) in 1988, an LL.B. from the University of Toronto in 1992 and his call to the Bar of Ontario in 1994. He is the Past President of the Canadian Corporate Counsel Association – Ontario Chapter, the Past Chair of the Canadian Courier & Logistics Association and a frequent speaker on employment, corporate and professionalism issues.