

Lawyer Profiles



Melissa MacKewn

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Associations

Co-chair of the OSC's Litigation Assistance Program
Member of the OSC's Securities Proceedings Advisory Committee
Board Member of the Private Capital Markets Association of Canada
Member of The Advocates' Society

Education

Called to the Bar - 1997
LL.B., University of Western Ontario - 1995

Melissa is experienced litigation counsel with a widely recognized expertise in civil and regulatory securities cases and complex commercial litigation matters. Melissa was recently recognized as both a Litigation Star and one of the 2017 Top 25 Women in Litigation by *Benchmark Canada*. In addition to being ranked for many years as a leading securities and corporate commercial litigation lawyer by *Best Lawyers in Canada*, Melissa was named the 2018 Lawyer of the Year for Securities Law in the Toronto area. Melissa has been listed for many years in the *Lexpert Guide* in both securities and corporate commercial litigation and been featured in their Special Edition on Canada's Leading Litigation Lawyers.

Melissa worked as a Senior Prosecutor in the Enforcement Branch of the Ontario Securities Commission (OSC) from 2004-2008. She was seconded from that position for a one year term to serve as Acting Chief Enforcement Counsel and Manager of Investigations at the Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada (IIROC). From her time as a regulator, Melissa gained an in-depth understanding of the substantive legal and policy issues at play in securities litigation matters.

Melissa acts on a wide range of securities regulatory matters before the OSC, IIROC and the Mutual Fund Dealers Association of Canada, both on the prosecution and defence side. Melissa routinely represents clients in compliance and registrant regulation matters and enforcement investigations, settlements and contested proceedings involving such issues as insider trading, disclosure violations and market manipulation.

Melissa has maintained an active complex commercial litigation practice since her Call to the Bar in 1997 and has appeared before all levels of Court in Ontario. Melissa advises investors, registrants, issuers, officers, directors, underwriters and private and public corporations on a variety of corporate and securities matters, including (defense-side) securities class action proceedings, corporate and shareholder disputes, oppression remedy matters, proxy battles, corporate governance matters, investment loss claims, breach of contract and professional negligence matters.

Prior to joining Crawley MacKewn Brush LLP, Melissa was a partner at two large national law firms.

Speaking Engagements & Publications

Faculty, 16th Annual Spring Symposium: The Advocates Matters, The Advocates' Society, April 27, 2017

Quoted, "Swifter Regulations" *Lexpert Special Edition* — Litigation,



Sheldon Gordon, November 25, 2016

Panellist, "Private Lending and the Private Markets — Issues and Challenges for MICs and MIEs" 2016 PCMA Conference, May 9, 2016

Speaker, "A Perspective From Past Regulators Who Have Retired Their Jerseys," Stickhandling Compliance Challenges, NSCP 2016 Canadian Conference, April 4, 2016

Panellist, "When Compliance Reviews Don't Go As Planned," Capital Raising and Effective Regulation — Private Capital Markets and Canada's Economic Development, 2015 PCMA Conference, May 19, 2015

Speaker and Author, "Evidence in Administrative Hearings," Proving Your Case: Evidence for Litigators, Ontario Bar Association Professional Development Program, May 7, 2015

Speaker and Co-Author, "The Paper Chase: Documentary Requests and Production" Short Course in Prosecuting and Defending Professional Discipline Cases, Osgoode Hall Law School PD, January 30, 2015

Speaker, "Effective Litigation, Getting Things Done," The Law Society of Upper Canada, Continuing Professional Development, April 4, 2014

