



Maureen Littlejohn

Partner

Office

Toronto

Tel

416.367.6916

Email

mlittlejohn@dwpv.com

Expertise

Dispute Resolution

Bar Admissions

Ontario, 2009

“Maureen has legal as well as business savvy. She presents practical solutions and really understands her client’s needs to handle the tough files.”

Client – *Chambers Canada*

Maureen’s civil litigation practice focuses on complex commercial litigation and alternative dispute resolution. Her experience spans a wide range of matters, including commercial disputes, insolvency proceedings, professional regulation, employment disputes and class actions, with a particular emphasis on contractual and infrastructure disputes. She has been involved in a variety of public proceedings before trial and appellate courts across the country (including Saskatchewan, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland & Labrador), as well as numerous private arbitrations.

Maureen has worked with Canadian and international clients across a broad range of industries, including construction and infrastructure, mining, telecommunications, renewable energy, information technology and professional services. One client describes Maureen as “a tremendous advocate and absolutely committed to her clients’ success.” (*Chambers Canada*) She has a deep expertise in the law of privilege and frequently writes, presents and advises in this area.

Maureen is a member of the firm’s Talent Management Committee.

REPRESENTATIVE WORK

Confidential client

Acted for a public company in defence of a proposed securities class action alleging misrepresentations contrary to the *Securities Act* (Ontario) in connection with government contracting and the importation of goods.

Canadian Women’s National Soccer Team Players’ Association

Advising the Canadian Women’s National Team in their high-profile dispute against the national federation, Canada Soccer, for fair treatment and wages.

Confidential Client

Acted for a leading global services provider and its Canadian subsidiary in a high-stakes arbitration relating to the termination of a series of long-term services agreements.

Centerra Gold Inc.

Acted for the special committee of independent directors of Centerra Gold Inc. in successfully obtaining approval of a contested plan of arrangement under the *Canada Business Corporations Act* in relation to the global arrangement agreement between Centerra, Kyrgyzaltyn JSC and the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Baffinland Iron Mines LP and Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation

Acted as counsel for Baffinland Iron Mines LP and Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation (together, “BIM”) in a high-stakes application to set aside or overturn

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an arbitral award of more than \$114 million in damages. The resulting appeal in this case resulted in an important decision rendered by the Ontario Court of Appeal in April 2023 that addresses the circumstances in which an arbitration agreement will be interpreted as excluding rights of appeal, the application of the presumption of consistent expression in the interpretation of Canadian contracts, and the narrow circumstances in which a refusal to grant leave to appeal by a Superior Court may be appealed directly to the Court of Appeal.

A long-term shareholder of BlackBerry Limited

Acted for a long-term shareholder in BlackBerry Limited, in engaging with staff of the TSX and OSC regarding requiring shareholder approval of BlackBerry's September 2020 recapitalization. Successful in having BlackBerry provide additional public disclosure and compelling BlackBerry to amend the transaction terms.

Denso Corporation

Acting for Denso Corporation (and related entities) in its defence of dozens of class actions commenced across Canada alleging anti-competitive conduct in respect of the sale of various automotive parts, including contested certification proceedings and with respect to cross-border issues arising out of parallel U.S. class actions.

Vale Canada Limited

Acted for Vale Canada Limited and its affiliates in defending contractual claims before the Supreme Court of Newfoundland and Labrador in an amount of almost C\$500 million that were asserted by the Plaintiff under an Option Agreement pertaining to the Voisey's Bay Nickel Project. This case was settled in September, 2018, at the end of the first week of a four month trial that would have involved dozens of lay and expert witnesses. This was the first "hybrid trial" and first electronic trial ever conducted in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Canadian Women's National Soccer Team

Advised the Canadian Women's National Team on the formation of a Players' Association and compensation negotiations on behalf of the Canadian Women's National Soccer Team Players' Association.

Rogers Communications Inc.

Acting for Rogers Communications Inc. in connection with numerous multi-billion dollar class action proceedings across Canada to recover "system access fees" charged to consumers by wireless service providers in Canada in the period since 1987. These are some of the largest class actions in Canadian history and have given rise to numerous trial level and appellate decisions in favour of Rogers in various provinces in Canada, including Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Québec, Nova Scotia, Alberta and British Columbia.

RECOGNITIONS

Chambers Canada: Canada's Leading Lawyers for Business—Litigation, General Commercial: Ontario

Benchmark Canada: The Definitive Guide to Canada's Leading Litigation Firms & Attorneys—Top 100 Women in Litigation; Class Action (Litigation Star);

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Commercial (Litigation Star)

Benchmark Canada Impact Case of the Year Award (2019)—Recipient

Lexpert Special Edition: Infrastructure

Lexpert Special Edition: Litigation

Lexpert Rising Stars: Leading Lawyers Under 40

The Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory—Class Actions; Litigation: Corporate Commercial

The Best Lawyers in Canada—Class Action Litigation; Corporate and Commercial Litigation

INSIGHTS

International Association of Defense Counsel, IADC Annual Meeting, "Third Party Litigation Funding: The Dark Money Driving High-Stakes Litigation"; Vancouver, BC

July 09, 2024

CanArbWeek 2024, "ArbitralWomen – Experts in Action: A Cross-Exam Demo"; Toronto, ON

June 03, 2024

Interview, *Lexpert Special Edition: Infrastructure*, "Pricing and complexity driving disputes in infrastructure construction projects"; Web Publication

May 13, 2024

Ontario Bar Association, "Avoiding Pitfalls in Waiver of Privilege"; Webcast
Mar. 28, 2024

Osgoode Hall Law School Professional Development, The 18th Annual Civil Litigator's Survival Guide to Evidence, "The Latest on Privilege"; Webcast
Jan. 18, 2024

Law Society of Ontario, Financial Accounting for Litigators 2023, "Current Topics in Professional Ethics Best Practices for Managing Valuation and Litigation Support Mandates"; Toronto, ON

Apr. 04, 2023

Canadian Bar Association, OBA Civil Litigation Lawyers Program, "Avoiding Pitfalls in Common Interest Privilege"; Webcast

Jan. 30, 2023

Ontario Bar Association, OBA Civil Litigation Lawyers Program, "Avoiding Pitfalls in Litigation Privilege"; Webcast

Feb. 15, 2022

Co-chair, Ontario Bar Association, Today's Advocacy Challenge: Mastering Remote Interactions with the Courts; Toronto, ON

Apr. 21, 2020

In Defence of Transactional Common Interest Privilege

Nov. 22, 2019

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EDUCATION

University of Western Ontario, LLB/MBA (with Distinction, Stephen Watchorn Memorial Gold Medallist), 2008

Queen's University, BSc (Hons) (Mechanical Engineering), 2004