



Christine Wadsworth

Partner

Toronto

cwadsworth@mccarthy.ca

t. +1 416-601-7686

Bar Admission

Ontario 2014

Law School

University of Toronto

Practices

Litigation and Dispute Resolution
Appellate Litigation
Corporate Commercial Litigation
Professional Liability
White Collar Defence and
Investigations
Alternative Dispute Resolution
Class Actions

Industries

Healthcare
Banking & Financial Services

A fierce and pragmatic advocate, Christine relies on her extensive courtroom experience to help clients resolve their most complex challenges.

Christine Wadsworth is a partner in our Litigation group in Toronto. She maintains a broad litigation practice with an emphasis on commercial litigation, professional liability, internal investigations and white collar defence. Christine acts as counsel for professional accounting firms and is one of the leaders of McCarthy's national accounting firm initiative.

Christine has served as lead counsel at both the trial and appellate level. She has tried cases before judges, juries and arbitrators. She has appeared before all levels of court in Ontario, including numerous appearances before the Commercial List in Toronto and the Ontario Court of Appeal. She has also appeared before multiple administrative tribunals. No matter what forum, Christine weaves each piece of evidence into a compelling narrative to achieve results for clients. When disputes are best resolved outside of the courtroom, Christine applies these same skills to negotiations with opposing counsel.

Christine is consistently recognized as a leading lawyer in her areas of practice, including being named a Lexpert Rising Star – Canada's Leading Lawyers Under 40 and a Precedent Setter by Precedent Magazine. She is ranked in the Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory in the areas of Corporate Commercial Litigation and Professional Liability.

Christine's commercial litigation experience includes:

- Representing The Toronto-Dominion Bank at trial and on appeal in a \$5.5 billion action arising from the collapse of Stanford International Bank (*McDonald and Dickson v. TD Bank*, 2021 ONSC 3872, aff'd 2022 ONCA 788, leave to appeal denied)
- Acting for financial institutions at the motion, trial and appellate level

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- Representing companies and individuals in proceedings on the Commercial List
- Representing a large construction company in confidential arbitration proceedings for breach of contract claims
- Representing companies in class actions, including a securities class action

Christine's professional liability experience includes:

- Representing professional accounting firms in auditors' liability cases
- Representing the defendants at trial and on appeal in a case which confirmed that "but for" causation is required to establish liability for breach of fiduciary duty (*Stirrett v. Cheema*, 2020 ONCA 288, leave to appeal denied). The decision was cited by the Supreme Court of Canada in *Southwind v. Canada*, 2021 SCC 28.
- Defending physicians in professional liability cases tried by both judges and juries
- Representing physicians in disputes with patients' family members over end-of-life treatment, including in the leading Canadian case on the definition of death, which confirmed that the medical and legal definition of death includes death by neurological criteria (*McKitty v. Hayani*, 2019 ONCA 805)
- Prosecutor for the Ontario College of Teachers' Discipline Committee and Fitness to Practise Committee

Christine's criminal and investigations experience includes:

- Defending clients in criminal proceedings at the trial and appellate level
- Counsel on an internal investigation for a public company

Christine serves as co-director of McCarthy Tétrault's pro bono criminal defence program, which is a partnership with the University of Toronto's community legal clinic Downtown Legal Services. This program provides pro bono representation on criminal trials and appeals. Christine has also acted as pro bono counsel to the British Columbia Civil Liberties Association.

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A dedicated mentor and teacher, Christine brings her passion for storytelling to both the courtroom and the classroom.

Christine teaches trial advocacy at the University of Toronto Faculty of Law and previously taught Evidence at Osgoode Hall Law School's Common Law LLM program. She has presented at continuing professional development sessions run by the Law Society of Ontario and the Canadian Bar Association. She was featured in an episode of the LumiQ podcast for CPAs and spoke about auditors' negligence.

Prior to joining McCarthy Tétrault, Christine was a consultant for a defence team at the Special Tribunal for Lebanon in The Hague and worked in Judges' Chambers at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda.

Christine received her JD from the University of Toronto and participated in an exchange to the University of Amsterdam. Christine received her Bachelor of Arts (Honours) with Distinction in Political Studies from Queen's University. At Queen's, she was a Loran Scholar and a recipient of the Chancellor's Scholarship. In university, Christine was an active member of the competitive moot program and competed in five debating World Championships.

Christine is a member of the Law Society of Ontario, the Canadian Bar Association, the Ontario Bar Association, the Advocates' Society, the Criminal Lawyers' Association and the Women's White Collar Defense Association.

PUBLICATIONS

- "When You Know, You Know: The Supreme Court of Canada Clarifies the Degree of Knowledge Required for Discoverability", *Canadian Appeals Monitor*, August 3, 2021
- "Court of Appeal Applies But For Causation in Fiduciary Duty Claim", *Canadian Appeals Monitor*, May 7, 2020
- "Ontario Court of Appeal Overturns Divisional Court's Decision in CPSO v. Peirovy", *Canadian Appeals Monitor*, June 12, 2018
- "Recent Developments in Competition Private Actions", co-written with Sarah W. Corman, *Annual Review of Civil Litigation 2014*, Thomson Reuters,

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Awards & Rankings

Best Lawyers in Canada

Ones to Watch - Corporate and Commercial Litigation

Best Lawyers in Canada

Ones to Watch - Professional Malpractice Law

Benchmark Litigation Canada 2022

Impact Case Award for McDonald and Dickson v. TD Bank, 2021 ONSC 3872

Lexpert Rising Stars

Canada's Leading Lawyers Under 40

Precedent Magazine - 2023

Precedent Setter Award

The Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory

Leading Lawyer: Litigation - Corporate Commercial, Professional Liability

Recent Insights

■ Appellate Quarterly 01/17/2023 – Key Takeaways

January 25, 2023

■ Ontario Court of Appeal Dismisses \$5B Negligence Claim Relating to Stanford Ponzi Scheme

November 18, 2022

■ When You Know, You Know: The Supreme Court of Canada Clarifies the Degree of Knowledge Required for Discoverability

August 3, 2021

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Events

- **Appellate Quarterly - July 2024**

July 17, 2024

- **Appellate Quarterly**

January 17, 2023

- **Appellate Quarterly**

October 13, 2022

