



Deborah E. Palter
Partner

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Deborah is recognized as a leading advocate with a broad commercial and civil litigation practice. She regularly acts for individuals, companies and financial institutions providing creative advice and strategies for litigating and resolving complicated business disputes. Her significant mandates include cases involving complex commercial agreements, director and officer liability, banking litigation, commercial real estate disputes, fraud claims, shareholder and partnership disputes, insolvency proceedings and securities-related matters over a wide cross-section of industries. She is a skilled trial and appellate lawyer, appearing regularly in the Ontario Superior Court of Justice and in the negotiation, mediation and private arbitration of commercial disputes.

Deborah is a past President of The Advocates' Society, the pre-eminent association of litigation counsel in Canada. She is recognized as a leading litigator in several major legal publications and is known for her commitment and contribution to excellence in the profession.

Deborah is identified as one of the top 100 Women in Litigation in Canada by Benchmark Canada and has been repeatedly recognized as one of Canada's leading lawyers by The Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory (Litigation – Corporate Commercial) and Best Lawyers in Canada (Corporate Commercial Litigation). She is a sought-after speaker, moderator and advocacy skills trainer.

Representative mandates:

- + Counsel to Oxford Properties on cases involving the enforcement of commercial real estate contracts.
- + Defended a large international bank in a dispute over amounts owed under the terms of a carried interest plan and related private equity fund.
- + Defended the former principal of Lakeport Brewing Corp. in the defence of a \$50 million officer and director liability claim.

- + Defended an Ontario College sued by employees of the College's student union for claims involving negligence and negligent misrepresentation. Obtained an order dismissing the action against the College on a summary judgment basis.
- + Acted for a U.S. subsidiary claiming indemnification for pre-arrangement taxes arising out of a Plan of Arrangement under the Canada Business Corporations Act with a \$400 million transaction value. Defended the responding Application seeking rectification of the tax indemnity agreement executed in connection with the Plan of Arrangement.
- + Court-appointed litigation counsel to the Litigation Trustee of Cash Store Financial Services Inc.
- + Defended the owner in an action for specific performance of an agreement for the sale of land in Georgian Bay.
- + Represented the Ontario Municipal Employees' Retirement System before a major municipal judicial inquiry.
- + Litigation counsel to the receiver, RSM Richter Inc., in the Norshield hedge fund scandal.
- + Acted on behalf of a committee of contesting bondholders in the BCE privatization, which involved the world's largest leveraged buy-out with an enterprise value of \$52 billion.
- + Counsel on a variety of matters involving interim injunctive relief.

Professional Involvement

Deborah is a past President of The Advocates' Society, the leading association of litigation counsel in Canada dedicated to the promotion of excellence in advocacy, access to justice and a strong, independent and courageous bar. Deborah served on the Society's board of directors for 8 years (2014-2022) and has served as Chair of the Society's Education Committee and Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee on Advocacy and Practice. She chaired The Advocates' Society Task Force on the precedent setting constitutional case *Trinity Western University v. Law Society of Upper Canada* and *Law Society of British Columbia v. Trinity Western University*.

Deborah sat on the Commercial List Users' Committee (2015-2019), a committee comprised of members of the judiciary, courts administration and senior members of the bar who meet regularly to consider improvements to the organization and operation of the Commercial List and to make recommendations to the Regional Senior Justice and Chief Justice in that regard.

Deborah is a member of The Advocates' Society, the Canadian Bar Association and Ontario Bar Association.

Recent professional appearances include:

- + [Nov 19, 2024](#)
Deborah E. Palter will be speaking on The Advocates' Society's panel "Doing it Right: Successfully Bringing (or Opposing) a Summary Judgment Motion"
- + [Dec 08, 2023](#)
Deborah E. Palter is co-chairing The Advocates' Society program "The Bench Speaks" and moderating a fireside chat with The Hon. Ian Binnie, C.C., K.C.
- + [Oct 27, 2023](#)
Deborah E. Palter is speaking on "The Ties that Bind: Building Community in the Profession and Beyond"

- + [May 11, 2023](#)
Deborah E. Palter is addressing “Hot Topics in Commercial List Advocacy” at The Advocates’ Society’s Commercial List Advocacy program on May 11.
- + [May 12, 2022](#)
Deborah E. Palter is moderating the panel “Justice Abella & Women in the Legal Profession” in celebration of the Hon. R. Silberman Abella’s remarkable career.
- + [Feb 24, 2022](#)
Deborah E. Palter is a panelist and skills trainer at the 2022 Kingston Courthouse Series: Taking the Surprise Out of Trial
- + [Nov 19, 2021](#)
Deborah E. Palter is speaking on the Professionalism Panel at the County of Carleton Law Association Conference.
- + [Nov 02, 2021](#)
Deborah E. Palter is speaking on “The Right to be Heard: The Future of Advocacy in Canada” at the Middlesex Law Association 16th Annual Straight from the Bench Conference.
- + [Oct 29, 2021](#)
Deborah E. Palter is a panelist at The Advocates’ Society Women in Litigation Symposium Ontario.
- + [Oct 28, 2021](#)
Deborah E. Palter is speaking on “The Right to be Heard: The Future of Advocacy in Canada” as part of Access to Justice Week 2021.
- + [Sep 24, 2021](#)
Deborah E. Palter is speaking on “The Right to be Heard: The Future of Advocacy in Canada” at the Kingston and 1000 Islands Legal Conference.
- + [Apr 09, 2021](#)
Deborah E. Palter is co-chairing The Advocates’ Society Commercial List Advocacy program on April 9, 2021.
- + [Jun 05, 2019](#)
Deborah E. Palter is moderating the panel “What’s Happening on the Commercial List?” at the Commercial List Users’ Committee Annual Retreat and Reception.
- + [May 15, 2019](#)
Deborah E. Palter is speaking on effective pre-trial hearings and judge-led mediations at The Advocates’ Society program “Commercial List Advocacy.”
- + [Mar 29, 2019](#)
Deborah E. Palter is speaking at The Advocates’ Society program “Leadership Skills for Litigators.”
- + [Nov 20, 2018](#)
Deborah E. Palter is speaking on “Litigation Funding: A Tool for Risk Mitigation and Revenue Generation” on November 20, 2018
- + [May 08, 2018](#)
Deborah E. Palter is co-chairing The Advocates’ Society program “Negotiation Strategies for Litigators.”
- + [Dec 15, 2017](#)
Deborah E. Palter is conducting a live mock opening statement at The Advocates’ Society Program “Leading your Case.”
- + [Nov 01, 2017](#)
Deborah E. Palter is co-chairing The Advocates’ Society 2017 Fall Convention in Nashville, Tennessee (November 1 – 5, 2017).

- + [Oct 27, 2017](#)
Deborah E. Palter is acting as a mentor at the Advocates' Society 7th Biennial Women in Litigation Symposium.
- + [Feb 28, 2017](#)
Deborah E. Palter is chairing the Law Society of Upper Canada Program "Getting the Most Out of the Rules of Civil Procedure."
- + [Feb 23, 2017](#)
Deborah E. Palter is a speaker on a panel at the 2017 Toronto Courthouse Series on the topic "Previewing Your Story in Your Opening Statement."
- + [Feb 07, 2017](#)
Deborah E. Palter is a speaker and panelist at The Advocates' Society Program "Motions Advocacy."
- + [Jan 20, 2017](#)
Deborah E. Palter co-chairs The Advocates' Society Program "Cross-examination: Strategies for Success".
- + [Nov 12, 2016](#)
Deborah E Palter is speaking at The Advocates' Society Fall Convention regarding "Update on The Advocates' Society Policy Initiatives & Interventions"
- + [Sep 30, 2016](#)
Deborah E. Palter is co-chairing The Advocates' Society Program "Breakfast Near Tiffany's VI - Public Interest Litigation and Advocacy."
- + [Jun 20, 2016](#)
Deborah E. Palter is acting as co-chair and moderator at The Advocates' Society Program: "Insolvency Litigation."
- + [May 27, 2016](#)
Deborah E. Palter is speaking at The Advocates' Society Program "Summary Judgment Motions."
- + [Oct 23, 2015](#)
Deborah E. Palter is acting as co-chair and moderator at The Advocates' Society 6th Biennial Women in Litigation Symposium: The Powerful Advocate.
- + [Oct 22, 2015](#)
Deborah E. Palter is a speaker and panelist in the LSUC Program "At Issue for Civil Litigators - What is Trending Now."
- + [May 22, 2015](#)
Deborah E. Palter is co-chairing The Advocates' Society Program "Breakfast Near Tiffany's V - The Client."

Recognition

Deborah is most recently recognized as a leading lawyer in:

- + The Best Lawyers in Canada 2025 and prior years (Corporate and Commercial Litigation)
- + Top 100 Women in Litigation in Canada 2024, 2023 and 2022 – Benchmark Canada
- + Benchmark Canada: The Definitive Guide to Canada's Leading Litigation Firms and Attorneys 2025 and prior years (Litigation Star in Ontario)
- + The Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory 2024 and prior years (Litigation – Corporate Commercial)
- + Lexpert Special Edition on Litigation – Leading Litigators in Canada (2024 and prior years)

- + Globe and Mail's Lexpert/Report on Business Magazine Special Edition – Leading Litigation Lawyers in Canada (December 2019)
- + Lexpert 2016 Guide to the Leading US/Canada Cross-Border Litigation Lawyers in Canada (Corporate Commercial)
- + Who's Who Legal: Commercial Litigation 2023 and 2022 - leading practitioners in the field

Publications

- + Dec 01, 2021
"An Advocate's View from the Public Gallery" (Winter 2021) 40:3 The Advocates' Journal
- + Jul 05, 2021
COVID-19 Does Not Excuse a Failure to Pay Rent
- + May 01, 2018
"Rectification Claims and the Enforcement of Complex Agreements" in Commercial Litigation and Arbitration Review, Vol. 7, Number 2

Education

Bar Admissions

- + Ontario, 1996
- + New York, 1997

Education

- + LL.B. (University of Windsor, Faculty of Law), 1994
- + J.D. (University of Detroit Mercy, Faculty of Law), 1994
- + B.A. (Hons.) (University of Toronto), 1991