



Heather Pessione

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Heather is BLG's Toronto Office Research Partner. Heather's practice focuses on supporting corporate and litigation clients and lawyers with complex legal strategy, research and written advocacy.

She specializes in corporate governance and thought leadership for not-for-profit corporations, including public hospitals, regulators, and Ontario Health Teams.

Heather regularly assists with written materials for appeals to the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court of Canada, and drafts opinions, pleadings, factums, corporate documents and publications. She also specializes in appellate and public law advocacy, and in the health and energy sectors.

Heather has appeared at all levels of court in Ontario and at the Supreme Court of Canada.

Heather was a summer and articling student at BLG and joined the firm as an associate in September 2006. Heather practiced in a number of litigation-related practice areas at BLG as an associate and as a partner before becoming the Toronto Office Research Partner. She studied bioethics before transitioning into law.

Experience

- *Teva Canada Ltd. v. TD Canada Trust*, [2017] 2 SCR 317

- *Iroquois Falls Power Corporation v. Ontario Electricity Financial Corporation*, 2016 ONCA 687 (leave to appeal to the SCC denied)
- *Kazemi Estate v. Islamic Republic of Iran*, [2014] 3 SCR 176
- *Amaratunga v. Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization*, [2013] 3 SCR 866
- *Canadian National Railway Co. v. John Doe*, [2013] OJ No. 26 (SCJ)
- *Canadian National Railway Co. v. Plain*, [2012] OJ No. 6272 (SCJ), [2012] OJ No. 6184 (SCJ)
- *R. v. N.S.*, [2012] SCJ No. 72 (SCC)
- *Ontario Nurses' Assn. v. Rouge Valley Health System* (2008), 302 DLR (4th) 751 (Div. Ct.)
- *OPSEU v. Central East Local Health Integration Network*, [2008] OJ No. 3243 (Div. Ct.)

Insights & Events

- New approval protocol for Ontario hospitals under Section 4 of the Public Hospitals Act
- Presenter, Hospital Governance in a Virtual Context, Ontario Hospital Association virtual education session, August 2020
- Governance advice during COVID-19
- Ontario Health Teams Series
- Organizing an Ontario Health Team: Considerations when Creating a Governance Framework
- Governance Best Practices for High Performing Health Provider Boards
- Governance Options: Getting Started and Evolving Towards Maturity
- Contributor, Ontario Hospital Association's "Hospital Prototype Corporate By-Law" (2018)
- Contributor, Ontario Hospital Association's "Records Retention Toolkit" (2018)
- Contributor, Ontario Hospital Association's "Understanding Your Legal Accountabilities" (2018, 2019)
- Co-Author, "Not Merely the Transmission of Knowledge: Constitutional Protection for Denominational Education in Canada," 26 Education and Law Journal 93, Thomson Reuters, 2017
- Ontario Court of Appeal Upholds Law Society's Decision to Deny Accreditation to Trinity Western University
- Court Rules Banks Not Liable For Converting Cheques To Non-Existing / Fictitious Payees
- Co-author, "Bhasin v. Hrynew: Towards Clarity and Coherence with Respect to Good Faith in Contract Performance?", (2016), 46 Advocates Quarterly 94
- Moore v Getahun: No Wall of Silence Between Experts and Counsel
- Co-Author, "Advance Costs Awards: A Critical Analysis", (2015), 34 N.J.C.L. 31
- New Supreme Court Decisions Interpreting Ontario Summary Judgment Rule
- Co-Author, "A.I. Enterprises: a Clear Approach for the Tort of Unlawful Means in Canada?" (2014) 42 Advocates Quarterly 47
- Co-Author, "Ontario Divisional Court Rules on Exemptions for Non-Catholic Students' Activities, (2014), 18 Principal Connections 29
- Co-Author, The Death of Oakes: Time for a Rights-Specific Approach?, (2013), 63 S.C.L.R. (2d) 485
- Author/Speaker, "Applications for Leave to Appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada: An Overview and Practical Tips," The Commons Institute Conference on Supreme Court & Constitutional Litigation, November 2012 (with Chris Bredt).
- Co-Author, Physician Leadership Resource Manual, Ontario Hospital Association.

Beyond our Walls

Professional Involvement

- Member, Canadian Bar Association
- Member, Ontario Bar Association
- Member, Law Society of Upper Canada
- Member, Canadian Bioethics Society
- Member, The Advocates' Society

Community Involvement

- Volunteer, Pro Bono Law Ontario
- Volunteer, LAWS Program
- Volunteer board member, Friends of HumberSide Collegiate Institute

Bar Admission & Education

- Ontario, 2006
- JD, University of Toronto, 2005
- MA, Dalhousie University, 2001
- BA (Hons.), University of Toronto, 2000

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