

ESTATE LITIGATION



ROSELLE P. WU

Contact

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We help clients who dispute or contest the validity of wills, estates, trusts and joint tenancy transfers. We also represent people who have been disinherited.

Estate litigation is an emotionally charged area of law. We take the time to understand how stressful estate disputes are to our clients and their families, and what is at stake for them.

We also have a group of lawyers who help clients prepare wills and trusts, and who work with them on estate planning and wealth preservation. Their primary goal is to create vehicles that transfer a maximum amount of wealth to beneficiaries with a minimum amount of delay.

Clients with estate disputes in other regions benefit from our membership in the TAGLaw network of law firms. We can help you find a reliable, reputable lawyer in another province, state or country who is familiar with local case law and legislation.

SERVICES

- Committeeship applications.
- Wills Variation Orders.
- Estate disputes relating to family businesses.
- Contesting executor or trust accounting.
- Interpretation of wills.
- Connecting clients to wills and estates lawyers in other jurisdictions.
- Helping clients in other jurisdictions who must deal with elder law or estate issues in British Columbia.

TYPICAL SITUATIONS

- The surviving spouse in a second-marriage is the sole beneficiary of a large estate. The deceased wife was estranged from her two adult children, but they feel entitled to a portion of the inheritance.
- A charity is left an enormous sum of money in a benefactor's will. Arrangements had been made to launch a charitable service in the donor's honour. The other beneficiaries dispute the amount gifted to the charity, especially those involving securities.
- A businessman leaves his entire estate to his male children, even though he has three daughters and three sons. This comes as a surprise to his daughters, who took care of him in his old age, and who were involved in running the family business.

RECOGNITIONS

24 Harper Grey lawyers recognized for litigation expertise by Benchmark Canada®, 2021

Harper Grey receives highest firm ranking as a “Highly Recommended” local litigation law firm in British Columbia from Benchmark Canada® 2014-2020

29 Harper Grey lawyers recognized across 19 specialty areas by Best Lawyers® in Canada, 2020

19 Harper Grey lawyers recognized as “Leading Practitioners” by Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory®, 2021

Harper Grey recognized as a "Leading Law Firm" regionally in the area of Dispute Resolution by Chambers Canada®, 2017-2020

Martindale Hubbell® recognizes 13 Harper Grey lawyers across 27 practice areas

Harper Grey receives the TAGLaw Membership Award of Distinction acknowledging 15 years of outstanding service

Harper Grey recognized as a Top 10 Regional Firm in British Columbia, Alberta and the Territories by Canadian Lawyer Magazine, 2012 and 2014

COMMENTARIES

"The Harper Grey team is a well-oiled machine. All the lawyers I deal with are well-trained and hardworking. They communicate well and are always available for questions."

— *Benchmark Canada® 2020*

"Incredibly strong skill set, knowledge of litigation and strategic, and keen ability to solve problems."

— *Benchmark Canada® 2020*

"These lawyers are all subject matter experts, and leader in their field, whose knowledge and skill are matched by their excellent client service."

— *Benchmark Canada® 2019*

"This team has provided outstanding legal service. They are prompt, responsive, and communicative. They are strong strategists and provide well researched, experienced legal advice. We work with many firms, and Harper Grey stands out. One member of the team remembers every interaction, memo, pleading and document. They understand a very complicated file and address it with ease and candor. We very much appreciate their strong advocacy."

— *Benchmark Canada® 2019*

"The firm is top notch. They have many lawyers specialized in medical defense work who are highly skilled in their legal acumen and practice management, but who also recognize the importance of carrying out their work in a practical, results-oriented manner. They actively look for ways to more efficiently partner with their clients for effective management of the work, while at the same time not weakening their excellent service delivery, their responsiveness, or their effectiveness in the work."

— *Benchmark Canada® 2019*

"The firm's lawyers are principled and have deep integrity. Their work is thorough and of consistent high quality."

— *Benchmark Canada® 2019*

“Excellent response time, good talent from junior and intermediate to senior levels and reasonable service costs.”

— *Benchmark Canada@ 2018*

“Harper Grey is one of the best firms in Vancouver. They have excellent service, knowledge and their cost structure is excellent.”

— *Benchmark Canada@ 2017*

“Harper Grey lawyers are ‘dedicated to their clients and focused on finding and implementing practical solutions for them. The lawyers are prompt, intelligent and insightful, and provide a high level of customer service’.”

— *2012 Canadian Lawyer Magazine@ Embracing Regionalism - Canadian Lawyer's Top 10 firms from B.C., Alberta, and the Territories are in the Sweet Spot Right Now, October 1, 2012*

“They exceeded all my expectations. I am very satisfied with their work and very happy to recommend them.”

— *Chambers Canada@ 2017*

“A Vancouver staple, Harper Grey is perhaps the most BC-centric of the “highly recommended” firms, owing largely to the firm’s bench strength in several key areas.”

— *Benchmark Canada@ 2018*

“A lawyer who refers work to Harper Grey wrote it has ‘great service, a breadth of practice and I have never received a negative comment from referrals to the firm’.”

— *2014 Canadian Lawyer Magazine@ Stronger than Ever - Top Western & Northern Firms, September 1, 2014*

“Every day it seems like I am dealing with someone at Harper Grey, and I always find them professional, courteous and effective.”

— *Benchmark Canada@ 2017*

“Harper Grey has a stellar pedigree as a litigation firm, and they’ve put a ton of people on the bench, observes one peer.”

— *Benchmark Canada@ 2014*

Benchmark Canada@ 2014

— *Benchmark Canada@ 2017*

“Harper Grey lawyers are ‘dedicated to their clients and focused on finding and implementing practical solutions for them. The lawyers are prompt, intelligent and insightful, and provide a high level of customer service.’”

— *2012 Canadian Lawyer Magazine Embracing Regionalism - Canadian Lawyer's Top 10 firms from B.C., Alberta, and the territories are in the sweet spot right now.*

“Clients are comforted by the firm’s long history in BC. We’re steeped in the region. Our connection is such that we have knowledge of not only the issue itself, but the history of the issue in the province.” – Richard Bereti

— *2012 Canadian Lawyer Magazine@ Embracing Regionalism - Canadian Lawyer's Top 10 firms from B.C., Alberta, and the Territories are in the Sweet Spot Right Now, October 1, 2012*

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SELECT ARTICLES + PUBLICATIONS

Roselle Wu and Erin Hatch co-author “Wills Variation and Morality: The Centennial Update” paper

Published for: The Continuing Legal Education Society of British Columbia

Written by: Roselle P. Wu, Erin Hatch

Sandra Abley authors “No Such Thing as a Dead Simple Will” article

Written by: Sandra Abley, JD, CFP®, TEP

Article co-authored by Sandra Abley and Mollie Clark published by CBA National Wills, Estates and Trusts section

CBA National Wills, Estates and Trusts

Written by: Sandra Abley, JD, CFP®, TEP

SELECT EVENTS + PRESENTATIONS

Erin Hatch, Kim Jakeman and Una Radoja attend Women in Law Summit

Event Date: 18.Feb.21

Presented by: Erin Hatch, Una Radoja*, Kimberly J. Jakeman*

Sandra Abley and Erin Hatch to co-present Estate Planning and Litigation Tips and Traps

Presentation date: 13.Feb.20

Presented by: Sandra Abley, JD, CFP®, TEP, Erin Hatch

Sandra Abley, Erin Hatch and Roselle Wu to attend 2019 CBABC Wills and Trusts Conference

Event date: 20.Sept.19

Presented by: Sandra Abley, JD, CFP®, TEP, Erin Hatch, Roselle P. Wu

Roselle Wu and Erin Hatch will present “To Allow or Disallow: That is the Question – Disallowances of Proofs of Claim by Trustees and Appeals Therefrom”

Presented by: Roselle P. Wu, Erin Hatch

Erin Hatch will be presenting a case comment at upcoming CBABC Vancouver Wills and Trusts Section meeting

Presentation Date: 12.Apr.16

Presented by: Erin Hatch

Karen Douglas to participate in CLE Discovery Practice 2016 panel discussion

Presentation Date: 09.Mar.16

Presented by: Karen F. Douglas*

Roselle Wu will be co-presenting to the CBABC Vancouver Wills and Trusts Section on “Ethics For Trust And Estate Practitioners: Managing Conflicts Of Interest”

Presentation Date: 10.Feb.15

Presented by: Roselle P. Wu

Roselle Wu presents on “Intent Under The Fraudulent Conveyance Act” to the Advocates Club

Presentation Date: 21.Mar.11

Presented by: Roselle P. Wu

Bryan Baynham, QC presents to The Society of Notaries Public of BC Regarding Pre-Sale Condo Contracts

Presentation Date: 10.Apr.10

Presented by: Bryan G. Baynham, QC

SELECT NEWS

Harper Grey receives 51 rankings from Best Lawyers® in Canada 2021

Related to: Steven Abramson*, Owais Ahmed*, H. Roderick Anderson*, Bryan G. Baynham, QC, Richard E. Bereti*, Salman Y. Bhura*, Guy P. Brown, QC*, William S. Clark*, Prentice Durbin*, Cameron B. Elder*, Michael J. Hewitt*, Kimberly J. Jakeman*, Steven G. Lukas*, Maureen L.A. Lundell, QC, William D. MacRae*, Derek Mah*, Jonathan D. Meadows*, David W. Pilley, Una Radoja*, Christopher M. Rusnak, QC*, Raj Samtani*, John P. Sullivan*, W. Sean Taylor, Michael G. Thomas*, Nigel L. Treveshan*, Abigail C.F. Turner*, Adam R. Way, Jennifer R. Woznesensky, Lara C. Zee - 27.Aug.20

Harper Grey welcomes Lauren McMurtry

Related to: Lauren McMurtry - 14.Apr.20

Harper Grey shortlisted as BC Law Firm of the Year by Benchmark Canada 2020

14.Feb.20

Martindale-Hubbell® recognizes 14 Harper Grey lawyers

Related to: Bryan G. Baynham, QC, John B. Brown*, Guy P. Brown, QC*, Karen F. Douglas*, Steven G. Lukas*, Maureen L.A. Lundell, QC, William D. MacRae*, L. Neil Matheson, QC*, Barbara J. Norell, QC, David W. Pilley, Terrence L. Robertson, QC, Abigail C.F. Turner*, Henning W. Wiebach* - 30.Jan.17

Roselle Wu appointed Chair of the CBABC Wills and Trusts Section

Related to: Roselle P. Wu - 01.Sep.15

SELECT NEWSLETTERS + UPDATES

Being an Executor of a Will

Published in: Estate Planning and Wealth Preservation Update - 17.Jul.18

Written by: Sandra Abley, JD, CFP®, TEP