CONNIE RISI

ASSOCIATE COUNSEL

BIOGRAPHY

Connie's practice is civil litigation-based with a primary focus on insurance law defence, primarily in the areas of disability insurance, personal injury and healthcare professional regulation and liability. She has a diverse range of civil litigation experience which includes matters involving commercial disputes and multi-party lawsuits being tried inside and outside of the class action context. Connie has appeared as counsel at all levels of the British Columbia courts.

Her disability insurance work includes assessment of disability as defined by different contracts of long-term disability insurance, related coverage and offset issues, and non-contractual claims of bad faith, mental distress and aggravated damages. Other representative work includes defending personal injury and wrongful death claims arising from motor vehicle accidents as well as in the marine, occupier's liability and other contexts. This experience has included defending a multi-party civil sexual assault case in the medical professional liability context involving 22 plaintiffs, and a marine liability case in and outside of the class action context involving the same major event and a total of 50 passenger / claimants.

In the area of professional regulation and liability, Connie has represented physicians and other healthcare professionals, including nurses, chiropractors, optometrists, massage therapists, dentists, as well as veterinarians, with respect to registration issues, complaints, disciplinary proceedings and other matters before their respective regulatory Colleges. This representation has further involved acting for healthcare professionals before the Health Professions Review Board, which work has included preparing written submissions leading to preliminary / interim, registration and complaint (inquiry committee) disposition decisions.

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EDUCATION

- LL.B. 1992 University of British Columbia
- B.A. UBC 1989 University of British Columbia

BAR ADMISSIONS

- 1993 Admitted to the British Columbia Bar

PRACTICE AREAS

BUSINESS

- Health

PERSONAL

- Administrative + Public Law

INSURANCE

- Health
- Life + Disability

ON A PERSONAL NOTE

Connie is married and has three young adult children. In her spare time, she enjoys gardening, cooking, travelling. She also enjoys the companionship of the newest member of the family, a dog named Cooper.

RECOGNITION

- 2026 - 2027 Best Lawyers® in Canada Insurance Law, and 2027 Best Lawyers® in Canada Personal Injury Litigation

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- *Complainant v. The College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia*, 2015 BCHPRB 107, 2015-HPA-156(a) (BC HPRB). Subject: Complainant failed to establish that special circumstances existed justifying an extension to the 30 day filing deadline for a review application. The Complainant's application was dismissed.
- *Complainant v. The College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia*, 2015 BCHPRB 102, 2013-HPA-059(a). Subject: Inquiry Committee's investigation was adequate, and its disposition was reasonable. As such, the disposition of the Inquiry Committee was confirmed.
- *Li v. Oneil*, 2013 BCSC 1449. Subject: Defendant's entitlement to continued examination for discovery on new matters.
- *Keller v. Pearson et al.* (12 April 2013), Chilliwack S021802 (BCSC). Subject: Summary dismissal of personal injury claim on the basis of defence of inevitable accident due to mechanical failure.
- *McClelland, Woods, et al. v. Stewart, Asplin, et al.*, 2007 BCSC 825. Subject: delivery of written summaries of the proposed evidence of witnesses in advance of trial.
- *McClelland, Woods, et al. v. Stewart, Asplin, et al.*, 2006 BCSC 1948. Subject: discovery in civil historical sexual assault case – range of examination for discovery in connection with questions relating to prior sexual assaults – production of journal kept for therapeutic purposes.
- *Burnett v. Took Engineering et al.*, 2000 BCSC 1630. Subject: engineer's liability – negligent misrepresentation – negligent performance of a service.

- Occupiers' Liability
- Personal Injury

INDUSTRIES

- Health Care

PUBLICATIONS

- September 2014 & October 2013, “Health & Life Insurance Case Law Update for Western Canada”, *Legal Section Annual Meeting of the Canadian Life & Health Insurance Association*, Author & Speaker.
- October 2012, “Mental & Psychological Disability Claims: A Defence Perspective”, *Insight Seminar on Disability Claims Management & Litigation*, Author & Speaker.
- 2009, “Finding, Instructing & Direct Examination of Experts”, *Canadian Defence Lawyers’ seminar on Trial Tactics*, Author & Speaker.

PROFESSIONAL & COMMUNITY AFFILIATIONS

- Law Society of British Columbia, Member
- Canadian Bar Association, Member
- Canadian Defence Lawyers, Member
- College of Optometrists of British Columbia, Appointed Public Board Member
- Italian Cultural Centre of Vancouver, Elected Board Member