DEREK FRENETTE*

PARTNER

* Professional Law Corporation

BIOGRAPHY

Derek is the leader of the firm's Business Disputes and a member of the Wills, Estates + Trusts, Estate Litigation, Labour + Employment, Intellectual Property + Technology, and Insurance practice groups.

Derek brings skill and experience to the resolution and adjudication of all manner of business and property disputes.

Derek litigates a broad range of commercial, employment, and intellectual property matters. He regularly advises employers on all aspects of employment law, including the drafting of contracts and policies. He prosecutes trademark applications.

He has a particular interest in estate and succession disputes, in the passage of property between generations, and the conflicts which can arise from that process.

Derek has represented clients before the Supreme Court of British Columbia, the British Columbia Court of Appeal, the Federal Court of Canada, and many tribunals including the British Columbia and Canada Human Rights Tribunals, the Canada Industrial Relations Board, the British Columbia Employment Standards Tribunal, and the federal Trade-Marks Opposition Board.

ON A PERSONAL NOTE

In his spare time, Derek enjoys basketball, cycling, camping and travel.

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EDUCATION

- 2012 J.D. University of British Columbia
- 2005 M.A. Simon Fraser University
- 2003 B.A. Simon Fraser University

BAR ADMISSIONS

- 2013 Admitted to the British Columbia Bar

PRACTICE AREAS

BUSINESS

- Business Disputes
- Employment Law
- Succession Planning
- Corporate / Commercial
- Insolvency + Restructuring
- Labour Relations
- Intellectual Property + Technology

RECOGNITION

- 2025 - 2027 Best Lawyers® in Canada Labour and Employment Law, and 2026 - 2027 Best Lawyers® in Canada Corporate and Commercial Litigation
- 2026 Leading Trusts, Estates & Probate Litigation Lawyers – British Columbia: Leading Category

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

Recent Decisions:

- *Derek Scott Steedman Testamentary Trust (Re)*, 2026 BCSC 1484
- Crout v. Macapugas, 2026 BCSC 1235
- *Andrews v. Thompson Rivers University*, 2026 BCHRT 25
- *Vines v. Wilcock*, 2025 BCCA 393
- *Summit Leasing Corporation v. Rutledge*, 2025 BCSC 2142
- *Vines Alter Ego Trust (Re)*, 2024 BCSC 2085
- *Lam v. Law et al.*, 2024 BCSC 1561
- *Betts v. Zeinowicz*, 2023 BCSC 328
- *LL v. DM and another*, 2020 BCHRT 129
- *Syukur v. Yeh*, 2018 BCSC 1826

PUBLICATIONS

- April 2023, "Conflict Laws in Estate Disputes", *CLEBC BC Estate Estate Disputes in British Columbia: A Litigator's Guide*, Contributor

EVENTS

- 23/09/2026, Labour and Employment Webinar: Navigating the Duty to Accommodate – What Employers Need to Know Now
- 22/04/2026, Labour and Employment Webinar: Restrictive Covenants in Employment Agreements – Practical Guidance for Employers
- 26/11/2025, Labour and Employment Webinar: Year in Review for 2025
- 17/09/2025, Labour and Employment Webinar: Best Practices for

- Workers Compensation

PERSONAL

- Wills, Estates + Trusts
- Employment
- Human Rights
- Intellectual Property + Technology
- Estate Litigation

INSURANCE

- Employment Practices
- Human Rights

INDUSTRIES

- Local Government
- Property Management
- Real Estate

Workplace Investigations

- 25/09/2024, Labour + Employment Webinar: Tips for Prosecuting and Defending Claims Through the Court and Arbitration Processes
- 05/04/2023, Labour + Employment Webinar: Workplace Investigations Update
- 22/09/2021, Labour + Employment Webinar: Business Protection
- 05/05/2021, Labour + Employment Webinar: Workplace Reorganization
- 18/11/2020, 2020 Hindsight: Update of Employment Related Legislation and Caselaw
- 25/09/2019, Labour + Employment Seminar: Restrictive Covenants
- 06/09/2019, 12th Annual Pro Bono Going Public
- 09/05/2018, Labour + Employment Seminar: Independent Contractors/Consultants

PROFESSIONAL & COMMUNITY AFFILIATIONS

- Law Society of British Columbia, Member
- Canadian Bar Association, Member
- Vancouver Bar Association, Member
- Canadian Association of Counsel to Employers (CACE), Member
- Access Pro Bono Going Public, Volunteer (2013, 2014 and 2018)
- JDRF Ride for Diabetes Research, Volunteer (2013 and 2014)