



MATTHEW  
**DESMARAIS\***  
PARTNER

\* Professional Law Corporation

## BIOGRAPHY

Matthew Desmarais is a Partner and a member of the firm's Labour + Employment, Business Disputes, Intellectual Property + Technology, Cannabis and Corporate/Commercial Practice Groups. Matthew is a strong advocate for his clients and seeks to provide practical, business-focused advice. He has represented clients at the Provincial Court of British Columbia, the Supreme Court of British Columbia, and the British Columbia Court of Appeal, as well as the British Columbia Human Rights Tribunal, WorkSafeBC's Review Division, and various arbitrations.

## ON A PERSONAL NOTE

Matthew enjoys ice hockey, hiking, and spending time with his family and friends. Matthew also has an unhealthy addiction to cheering on the Vancouver Canucks.

## REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- *Bonnefoy v. Northern Health Authority o/a Wrinch Memorial Hospital*, 2024 BCHRT 38 – dismissal of human rights complaint alleging discrimination in the context of employment. Tribunal made rare award of costs in client's favour
- *Bott v. Buy-Low Foods LP dba AG Foods*, 2024 BCHRT 50 – dismissal of human rights complaint alleging discrimination in the context of

EMAIL [mdesmarais@ahbl.ca](mailto:mdesmarais@ahbl.ca)  
TEL 604 484 1767  
FAX 604 484 9767

---

## EDUCATION

- 2018 J.D. [University of Calgary](#)
  - 2014 B.B.A. [Simon Fraser University](#)
- 

## BAR ADMISSIONS

- 2019 Admitted to the British Columbia Bar
- 

## PRACTICE AREAS

### BUSINESS

- Business Disputes
- Corporate / Commercial
- Employment Law
- Labour Relations
- Workers Compensation
- Intellectual Property + Technology
- Franchise
- Cannabis

employment

- *WorksafeBC Review Reference #R0263355* (2021) – successfully overturned a WorkSafeBC penalty of over \$540,000
- *Kang v. Advanced Fresh Concepts Franchise Corp.*, 2021 BCPC 262 – successfully enforced an arbitration clause, staying the action
- *Impact Recruitment Inc. v. John Volken Academy Society*, 2020 BCSC 1416 – successfully obtained a judgment for breach of contract and costs on a solicitor-and-own-client basis
- *Pai v. Ho* (unreported – 2019) – successfully obtained judgment for debts owing under a verbal loan agreement.
- *Hindi v. Teranishi et al*, 2019 BCCRT 692 – successfully defended a breach of contract claim
- *Realty Executives Intl. Svcs. LLC v. Vince Eidsness et al* (unreported – 2019) – successfully defended a claim for breach of a franchise agreement
- *Logan v. Numbers Cabaret Ltd. (Hamburger Mary's)*, 2016 BCSC 1473

## PUBLICATIONS

- November 13, 2018, “Why Growing the Devil’s Lettuce Could Cause You to Lose Your Green”, *AHBL Business Law Blog*, Co-author

## EVENTS

- 20/11/2024, Labour and Employment Webinar: Year in Review for 2024
- 24/04/2024, Labour + Employment Webinar: Best Practices for Offer Letters & Employment Contracts
- 18/10/2023, Labour + Employment Webinar: WorkSafeBC Compliance Issues
- 31/05/2023, Labour + Employment Webinar: Employment Contracts
- 09/02/2022, Labour + Employment Webinar: Keeping Current with Legislative Updates and COVID-19 Orders
- 05/05/2021, Labour + Employment Webinar: Workplace Reorganization

## PROFESSIONAL & COMMUNITY AFFILIATIONS

### PERSONAL

- Employment
- Human Rights
- Intellectual Property + Technology

### INSURANCE

- Human Rights
- Employment Practices

---

### INDUSTRIES

- Franchise
- 



MATTHEW  
**DESMARAIS**  
PARTNER

- [Law Society of British Columbia](#), Member
- [Canadian Bar Association](#), Member
- [Vancouver Bar Association](#), Member



MATTHEW  
**DESMARAIS**  
PARTNER