

# TAMELA J. COATES, K.C., FCIArb.

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Calgary, AB/Summerland, BC

## PROFILE

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Tamela (Tammy) recently retired from a 35-year career in private practice in commercial litigation, dispute resolution, and risk management. Her current focus is acting as a mediation neutral in complex litigation disputes.

Tammy has provided seasoned, practical counsel to clients in a number of Canada's most high-stakes, complex commercial disputes, including those in the telecommunications, energy, and professional services sectors. Through the years, she has been retained in a host of different roles, including as lead counsel, settlement counsel, and as senior advisory counsel, working with teams of lawyers across multiple jurisdictions and firms.

As managing partner, executive committee member, and risk management advisor for her former firms, Tammy also developed unique skills with respect to people and problem management, including identification and resolution of a wide variety of professional, business, and reputational issues.

## EXPERIENCE

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2014-2023\*

**Lawson Lundell LLP**

Senior Commercial Litigation Partner

Executive Committee (2020-2021)

\*Retired from private practice May 31, 2023

1988-2014

**Dentons Canada LLP**

Managing Partner (Calgary) 2011-2013

Litigation Partner 1997-2014

Litigation Associate 1989-1997

Articling Student 1988-1989

1986-1987

**Rusnak, Balacko, Kachur, and Rusnak (Yorkton, SK)**

Summer Law Student

## EDUCATION

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### University

1988

**LLB, With Great Distinction**

University of Saskatchewan, College of Law

**1983-1985**

**University of Saskatchewan (undergrad)**

2 years of undergraduate studies (English and French Majors)

### Alternate Dispute Resolution

2014

**Fellow, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (FCIArb)**

2008

**Program on Negotiation at Harvard Law School**

Completed the Essentials for Lawyers Negotiation Workshop

2006-2007

**Fraser Milner Casgrain LLP, Introductory and Advanced Mediation**

Participated in and instructed annual courses

2001-2002

**Alberta Arbitration and Mediation Society Courses**

120 hours of course time

Included introductory and advanced courses in mediation, negotiation, and critical skills for communication

## BAR ADMISSIONS

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Alberta, 1989

Law Society of Alberta status: Practising, in good standing

## RECOGNITIONS

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Fellow, *Litigation Counsel of America* (LCA) (2018-2023) (by invitation only, Fellows selected based on evaluations of excellence, effectiveness, and accomplishment in litigation and superior ethical reputation)

*Chambers Canada 2023*: recognized for Litigation: General Commercial-Alberta (Band 4)

*Best Lawyers in Canada* 2019-2023: recognized for Corporate and Commercial Litigation (2019-2023), Defamation and Media Law (2021-2023), and Administrative and Public Law (2022-2023)

Benchmark Litigation: most recently recognized as one of Canada's "Top 100 Women in Litigation" (2022), "Top 50 Women in Litigation" (2021 and 2020), and a "Litigation Star" (2019-2022)

Benchmark Litigation Canada Awards 2021: counsel to *Bell Canada Inc.*, *Rogers Communications Canada Inc.*, *Shaw Communications Inc.*, and *TELUS Communications Inc. v the City of Calgary*

*Acritas Stars* (2019-2021)

2017 *Lexpert Zenith Award*: recognized for the advancement of women in the legal profession  
*Legal 500 Canada*: recommended for Technology, media and telecoms (2016) and Dispute Resolution (2013)  
*Chambers Global* 2011 and 2012: recognized as a leading lawyer in the area of Dispute Resolution: Alberta  
*The Canadian Board Diversity Council (CBDC) Diversity 50* (2016)  
*Women in Law Leadership (WILL) Award*—Leadership in the profession in Private Practice (2012)  
Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal  
Selected as one of Calgary’s “Top 40 Under 40” by Calgary Inc. Magazine (2004)

## **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

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### **ADR (current):**

Fellow, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CI Arb)  
Member, ADR Institute of Canada (ADRIC) and ADR Institute of Alberta (ADRIA)

### **Other (former):**

Law Society of Alberta: Professional Responsibility Committee (2015-2016)  
Appointed Member, Dean’s Advisory Council, College of Law, U of S (approx. 2013-2018)  
Guest Instructor and/or Team Leader in Trial Advocacy, U of C, College of Law (approx. 12 years)  
Guest Instructor in Trial Advocacy, Legal Education Society of Alberta (approx. 3 years)  
Instructor in Principled Negotiation and Mediation and in Advocacy for the Law Society of Alberta Bar Admission Course (2001 and 2002)

## **COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES**

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Alzheimer Calgary, long-term affiliation, including former member of advisory committee and past president, executive member, and volunteer  
Member of Founders’ Group of Big Brothers and Sisters of Calgary and Area and long-term affiliation, including service as a volunteer, director, and president  
Former member of Care Canada’s “I Am Powerful” Council, Calgary (founding member and past chair)