



## Christine Pratt (She/Her)

### KC, Practice Group Leader, Partner

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## Overview

Christine Pratt, KC represents individuals, insurers, governments and corporations of various sizes located throughout Alberta and the Northwest Territories, with a focus on insurance defence, personal injury and general civil litigation, including mediation. Christine's insurance clients turn to her for help with casualty, coverage, subrogation, errors and omissions, fidelity and employment disputes.

Christine represents corrections and police services clients before administrative tribunals and inquiries, including peace officer disciplinary reviews before the Law Enforcement Review Board of Alberta and various Fatality Inquiries. In addition, Christine regularly represents contractors and subcontractors regarding construction liens and other general construction matters.

With over 30 years experience pursuing and defending personal injury claims involving minor to serious bodily injuries and fatalities, Christine provides her clients with a risk assessment and a range of options to ensure they understand the likelihood of success at trial and whether a favourable alternative resolution is ideal under the specific circumstances of the case. Christine is also available as an Umpire in the dispute resolution process under s. 519 of the *Insurance Act*, RSA 2000, c I-3.

Christine articulated with Field Law from 1992-93 and returned to the firm in 1998 after practicing for five years at a small, full-service law firm. She also taught insurance law for 12 years and is currently in her fourth year of teaching civil procedure at the University of Alberta Faculty of Law.

## Value to Clients

*"Regardless of the industry sector or type of dispute at issue, I always try to understand my clients' non-legal, business pressures. I'm also an empathetic listener and dedicated to fostering relationships with clients built on trust. My clients occasionally deal with claims that touch on aspects of their business and areas of law that fall outside my practice focus. One of the numerous benefits of practicing at Field law is the ability to leverage the skill sets of lawyers throughout the firm to ensure the diverse needs of my clients are served no matter what issues may arise."*

## Industries

Insurance  
Construction

## Services

Litigation  
Construction  
Alternative Dispute Resolution  
Mediation + Arbitration  
Construction Liens

## Education

University of Alberta, 1992,  
Bachelor of Laws

## Admissions

Alberta, 1993

## Outside the Office

Christine is fond of reading fiction, particularly English mystery writers such as P.D. James and Agatha Christie.

## Experience

Andrews v Edmonton (Police Service), 2018 ABLERB 16

Acielo v. Condominium Plan 9022497, 2016 ABCA 251, Alberta Court of Appeal

JR and MR v Edmonton (Police Service), 2014 ABLERB 58, Alberta Law Enforcement Review Board

Sullivan v. Edmonton (Police Service), 2014 ABLERB 53, Alberta Law Enforcement Review Board

Fish v Tagg, 2013 CanLII 69155 (AB LERB), Alberta Law Enforcement Review Board

Olsen v Edmonton (Police Service), 2014 ABLERB 48, Alberta Law Enforcement Review Board

Wagener v Alberta (Minister of Justice and Solicitor General), 2014 ABLERB 19, Alberta Law Enforcement Review Board

Fish v Tagg, 2014 CanLII 13820 (AB LERB), Alberta Law Enforcement Review Board

Atchison v Director of Law Enforcement, 2013 CanLII 48820 (AB LERB), Alberta Law Enforcement Review Board

Gladue v. Alberta (Attorney General), 2012 ABQB 319, Alberta Court of Queen's Bench

## Professional

### Canadian Defense Lawyers

#### Member

2002-Present

### Alberta Association of Insurance Adjusters

#### Associate Member

2001-Present

### Alberta Civil Trial Lawyers Association (ACTLA)

#### Associate Member

2000-Present

### Canadian Bar Association Alberta, Insurance Law Section (North)

#### Member

1999-Present

### Edmonton Bar Association

#### Member

1994-Present

### Law Society of Alberta

#### Member

1992-Present

### Canadian Bar Association Alberta, Civil Litigation Section (North)

#### Member

### University of Alberta Law School

#### Sessional Instructor, Civil Procedure

2021-Present

### University of Alberta Law School

#### Sessional Instructor, Insurance Law

2011-2021

### Alberta Association of Insurance Adjusters

#### Associate Member

2001-Present

Law Society of Alberta  
Credentials and Education Committee  
2015-2017

## Community

Board Member, University of Alberta, Alumni and Friends of the Faculty of Law, 2012-Present  
Member, DRI VOICE of the Defence Bar (USofA), 2007-Present  
Dean's Advisory Counsel, University of Alberta, Faculty of Law, 2015-2020  
President, University of Alberta, Alumni and Friends of the Faculty of Law, 2015-2017  
Board Member, Citie Ballet, 2009-2015  
Secretary, Edmonton Community Legal Centre, 2007-2010  
Volunteer Staff, Edmonton Community Legal Centre, 2003-2010  
Board Member, Edmonton Community Legal Centre, 2004-2007  
Secretary, Northern Alberta Brain Injury Society (NABIS), 2000-2002  
Board Member & Fundraising Committee Member, Northern Alberta Brain Injury Society (NABIS), 1998-2000

## Recognition

Listed Insurance Law, The Best Lawyers™ in Canada: 2020 - 2024  
Listed Personal Injury Litigation, The Best Lawyers™ in Canada: 2019 - 2024  
Distinguished Service Award for Pro Bono Contributions, Law Society of Alberta: 2016  
Distinguished Service Award, ECLC: 2012  
Pro Bono Leader in the Community Award, PBLA: 2011

## Client Stories

### Settling an insurance claim below the cap

- **Our client:** An insurance company in Alberta.
- **Where we began:** Our client faced an action brought by a woman with injury claims from two accidents with no dispute on the liability issues.
- **Our approach:** While we were on the lookout for a case to take to litigation, the client was willing to settle for an amount within the cap. *"The case had the ideal facts to fall within the cap, but we settled before we could litigate for an amount within the cap on account of non-legal pressures."*
- **The result:** According to Christine, *"We didn't get the law we wanted, but it was an offer we had to take after looking at, analyzing and discussing all of the options."*

### Quick response in getting a lien removed in order to close

- **Our client:** A homebuilder in Alberta.
- **Where we began:** In the midst of closing a real estate transaction, our client discovered a subcontractor's lien that needed to be removed by the next Monday, or we couldn't close on 50 deals and our client would have to return the mortgage funds. The challenge was that the subcontractor was out of business and couldn't be reached.
- **Our approach:** Christine found the subcontractor's subcontractor and discussed what was necessary to remove the lien. They analyzed the options, timelines and the risks, including our client's relationship to the subcontractor and its effect on other liens. Christine and her client also developed a plan with how they were going to handle similar scenarios in the future, limit liability and close deals.
- **The result:** *"I got the subcontractor's lien off Monday, and our client's deal closed on time."*

## Notable Work

- Negotiated favourable settlement of a personal injury lawsuit involving a plaintiff with significant injuries, with multiple Plaintiffs and insurance limits issues

- Represented clients at fatality inquiries as interested parties
- Conducted numerous LERB appeals
- Conducted and trial and appeal of a double fatality action and liability split
- Defended (as part of a legal team) complex multi-year/multi-party litigation
- Quickly removed a subcontractor's lien discovered in the midst of closing a major real estate transaction on behalf of an Alberta home builder

## News + Views + Events

April 2023 - 3 min read

[Get Me Out of This Mess! Partial Settlement in Multi-Party Litigation](#)

March 16, 2021

[Coffee + Counsel: Alberta Automobile Insurance, Recent Reforms + Case Law](#)

October 22, 2019

[Insurance Industry Update: What You Need to Know](#)

September 2018

[The Best Lawyers in Canada 2019](#)