



Doreen Saunderson (She/Her) Counsel

Calgary
400 - 444 7 AVE SW
Calgary, AB T2P 0X8
T 403-260-8539
F 403-264-7084
dsaunderson@fieldlaw.com

Michelle Turner
Legal Assistant
T 403-260-8543
F 403-264-7084
mturner@fieldlaw.com

Overview

Doreen Saunderson is a Calgary-based litigator and mediator with more than 30 years' experience as a lawyer. Harnessing her experience as a litigation lawyer, Doreen helps parties resolve their disputes in creative, meaningful and cost-effective ways either representing parties or as an independent mediator. Doreen has long been a proponent of settlement as the preferred way to conclude disputes and alternative dispute resolution processes as an important settlement tool.

Much of Doreen's experience has been representing insurers and their insured defendants in various matters, including personal injury, fire losses, construction defects, product liability, pipeline, industrial and energy industry losses. She has also represented plaintiffs in subrogated claims and other actions and handled coverage litigation for both insurers and insureds. Doreen's trial experience has given her valuable insight into the way the judiciary thinks about and reacts to cases. She has represented a wide variety of parties in many types of litigated disputes, analyzing the facts, law and issues and assisting her client to reach a reasonable resolution as early and cost effectively as possible. Doreen has participated in hundreds of ADR processes as counsel representing her clients, including private mediations and JDRs, providing an excellent frame of reference for analyzing and evaluating disputes as a mediator.

Doreen's experience enables her to understand a variety of issues within various sectors, including: Agriculture, Civil Claims, Community, Condominium, Construction / Engineering, Corporate + Commercial, Energy / Oil + Gas, Environment, Estate Disputes, Faith Groups, Family Business, General Practice, Government, Group Facilitation, Healthcare, Insurance Claims, Land Use, Landlord + Tenant, Non-profit Sector / Societies and Real Estate.

With support from the Insurance team at Field Law, Doreen continues to support existing clients handling the defence of insureds, subrogated claims and coverage analysis and litigation.

Value to Clients

"I have long been a proponent of settlement as the preferred way to conclude disputes and alternative dispute resolution processes as an important settlement tool. My trial experience has given me valuable insight into the way the judiciary thinks and reacts to cases. I have learned much about the challenges of proving the theory of a case that I believe can be of value in

Industries

Insurance
Construction
Health

Services

Alternative Dispute Resolution
Litigation
Mediation + Arbitration

Education

University of Alberta, 1988,
Bachelor of Laws Gold Medalist

Admissions

Alberta, 1989

helping parties and assess their cases and litigation risks and come to a fair and reasonable resolution, including through mediation."

Outside the Office

"I hike, bike and cross-country and downhill ski. My husband and I sail together when we travel internationally, something that is relaxing and mentally engaging at the same time." Doreen also loves to read including historical novels and an occasional biography.

Experience

ING Insurance Company of Canada v. Manuel, 2008 ABCA 201
King County (a Washington Municipal Corporation) v Gelhaus, 2022 ABQB 2
Nova Pole International Inc v Permasteel Construction Ltd, 2018 ABQB 672
Gas Plus Inc v Levelton Consultants Ltd, 2017 ABQB 655
Bumstead v Dufresne, 2017 ABCA 122
Keyland Development Corporation v Rocky View (Municipal District No 44), 2016 ABQB 735
Primewest Energy Inc v Texacana Turbines Inc, 2016 ABQB 715
Bumstead v Dufresne, 2015 ABQB 787
Keyland Development Corporation v Cochrane (Town), 2014 ABQB 458
Carscallen v. Chubb Insurance Company of Canada, 2013 ABCA 263, Alberta Court of Appeal

Professional

Canadian Defence Lawyers

Member

2000-Present

Canadian Bar Association Alberta, Insurance Law Section (South)

Member

1991 - Present

Canadian Bar Association Alberta, Civil Litigation Section (South)

Member

1991-Present

Law Society of Alberta

Member

1989-Present

Calgary Bar Association

Member

1988-Present

Community

Member of the Board of Directors, MS Society of Alberta, 2008-2015
Board of Directors, The YWCA of Calgary, 1993-1997
Editor-in-Chief, Alberta Law Review, 1987-1988
Board of Directors, Calgary Women's Centre
Board of Directors, The Back Door
Board of Directors, CFSIDS
Board of Directors, Children's Legal and Educational Centre
Board of Directors, Resource Centre

Recognition

Product Liability Law, The Best Lawyers™ in Canada: 2025

Insurance Law, The Best Lawyers™ in Canada: 2013 - 2025

Leading Practitioner: Litigation - Product Liability, Canadian Legal Lexpert® Directory: 2024

"Litigation Star", Benchmark Canada: 2014 - 2024

"Repeatedly Recommended" Litigation - Product Liability, Canadian Legal Lexpert® Directory: 2023

"Repeatedly Recommended" Litigation - Commercial Insurance, Canadian Legal Lexpert® Directory: 2019 - 2022

"Distinguished", Martindale-Hubbell® Peer Review Ratings™: 2013 - 2025

University of Alberta Law School Gold Medal

Peter Loughheed Scholarship

Client Stories

Knowing the value of a matter

- *"My clients were the insurer and insured following a motor vehicle accident where the plaintiff claimed damages for chronic injuries and future care and loss of future earnings. After a four-week trial, the court awarded damages in an amount that was less than our client's pre-trial offer. It's about doing better at trial than what you were prepared to settle for. I've never gone to trial and failed to best my pre-trial offer."*