



Mary E. Comeau, Senior Counsel
Arbitration • Litigation

Mary E. Comeau Professional Corporation
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Mary is a senior commercial litigator, with over 25 years experience in complex commercial dispute resolution, focusing on oil and gas, electricity and mining matters. A graduate of the University of Calgary Faculty of Law, she started her career at Macleod Dixon, which merged with Norton Rose in 2011, now Norton Rose Fulbright, where she retired as Senior Partner and the Litigation Practice Group Leader December 31, 2017. Since January 2018 she has sat as an independent arbitrator as sole arbitrator and as a Tribunal member, including as Chair. She also provides strategic advice as senior litigation counsel.

Experience Highlights

Acted for the federal Crown in the Federal Court of Canada action brought by four Indian Bands claiming damages in excess of \$1 billion, leading oil and gas related claims.

Represented a variety of clients in numerous arbitrations related to the electricity industry since 1991. In the past 15 years has conducted many arbitrations specifically related to power purchase arrangements and related issues.

Has represented clients in numerous domestic and international arbitrations related to general commercial matters including natural gas price disputes, wind power production and pricing, co-generation production and construction disputes.

Acted for a major chemical company in a complex commercial dispute related to the operation, production and ownership of a production facility.

Acted for oil and gas companies in disputes regarding the production of heavy oil, royalty disputes related to both Crown and freehold royalties, well completion, marketing, joint venture, natural gas processing and environmental issues.

Represented numerous oil and gas companies in matters related to aboriginal consultation and project development.

Acted for mining companies in disputes related to the staking of claims and land development issues.

Represented corporate clients with respect to reorganizations and plans of arrangement pursuant to the Canada and Alberta *Business Corporations Acts*.

Acted for a variety of clients in numerous private and court-facilitated mediations related to various commercial matters including construction and royalty disputes.

Recent Rankings and Recognitions

Best Lawyers Canada 2021 Alternative Dispute Resolution, Corporate and Commercial Litigation, International Arbitration

Best Lawyers Canada 2020 Alternative Dispute Resolution, Corporate and Commercial Litigation, International Arbitration

Best Lawyers Canada 2019 Alternative Dispute Resolution, Corporate and Commercial Litigation, International Arbitration

2018 Chambers and Partners, Chambers Canada Alberta: Litigation – General Commercial

2018 Legal 500 Canada, Leading Lawyers Dispute Resolution, Alberta

Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory, (2014-present): Recommended in Litigation – Corporate

2017 Lexpert ROB Special Edition on Canada's Leading Energy Lawyers.

Best Lawyers in Canada (2011-2017): International Arbitration, Corporate and Commercial Litigation

2017 Experts Guides: Guide to the World Leading Expert's in Commercial Arbitration

Benchmark Canada (2013-2017): Top 25 Women in Litigation in Canada, Alberta Female

Litigator of the year 2013, Litigation Star in Canada in Energy and Natural Resources, Aboriginal and Arbitration 2013.

Select Recent Speaking Engagements and Publications

University of Calgary Law School, Guest Lecturer, Civil Procedure, Arbitration, March, 2021.

CANARB Week Toronto, Panelist for ADRIC Conference, September 2020

University of Calgary Law School, Guest Lecturer, Civil Procedure, Arbitration, April 2020

Drafting an Effective Arbitration Agreement, Speaker, Canadian Bar Association, Calgary Litigation Section, September 2019

The Use of Different ADR Mechanisms in the Energy Sector, Panelist, CPR Institute, Calgary Conference, October 2019

Editorial Advisory Board, Canadian Journal of Commercial Arbitration, 2019

2019 Advisory Committee, ALRI International Commercial Arbitration Project

Use of Experts in Arbitration, Panel Moderator, YCAP Spring 2018 Symposium, Calgary

Trial Advocacy Skills Instructor, The Advocates Society, May 2019, Calgary

Hot Topics in Commercial Arbitration, panelist, 11th Annual Western Canada Commercial Arbitration Society (WCCAS) Energy, Mining and Resources Arbitration Conference, Calgary, May 2017, Calgary

Top Five Tips for Drafting Arbitration Agreements, ADR Perspectives, Vol 3, No 2, September 2016.

Party Dynamics Affecting Arbitration Advocacy and Ethics and Professionalism in Arbitration Advocacy, panelist, The Advocates Society, November 2016, Calgary.

Promoting Better Access to Justice, panelist, Global Pound Conference, October 2016, Toronto.

Appointments under the ADRIC Rules, speaker, ADRIC 2016 Annual Conference, October 2016, Toronto.

Controlling Costs in Arbitration, panel moderator, YCAP Spring 2016 Symposium, Calgary.

Res Judicata and Issue Estoppel in Arbitration, speaker, 10th Annual Western Canada Commercial Arbitration Society (WCCAS) Energy, Mining and Resources Arbitration Conference, Calgary, May 2016, Calgary.

Directorships, Memberships and Activities

ADR Institute of Alberta

ADR Institute of Canada (Director 2006-2017, President's Award 2017)

Chartered Institute of Arbitrators

ICDR Canada Advisory Committee (Vice-Chair 2015 – present)

Western Canada Commercial Arbitration Society (Director 2014 - present)

International Bar Association

Canadian Bar Association

Law Society of Alberta

Calgary Bar association

Theatre Calgary (Director, Secretary 2015-2017)

St. Mary's University (Board of Governors 2014 – present)

Education

University of Calgary, B.S.W. 1986

University of Calgary, LL.B. 1989 (Gold Medal)

Admitted to the Alberta Bar 1990