



Shelley E. Waite

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PRACTICE AREAS

Wills, Trusts & Estates

Estate Planning

Estate Administration

Estate Dispute Resolution

Trust Planning

Guardianship & Trusteeship



I enjoy creating efficient solutions for client's succession concerns, from drafting their plan to navigating a family's contentious estate.

Shelley has a depth of knowledge in wills, trusts and estates with a focus on:

- Estate planning
- US/cross border planning
- Estate administration
- Estate dispute resolution
- Elder law
- Trust planning
- Guardianship and trusteeship matters

She is adept at guiding clients smoothly through a process that can be stressful and complicated. She believes in educating people, creating efficient solutions that work for her client's specific concerns, and collaborating with their trusted professionals to resolve their personal estate matters.

Clients have highly recommended Shelley on **Martindale Hubbell** and **Lawyers.com**. She is also recognized by the **Canadian Legal Expert® Directory** as a leading practitioner in Estate & Tax Planning and by **The Best Lawyers in Canada** for work in Trusts and Estates.



Education

2018 Executive Certificate in Conflict Management, University of Windsor, Faculty of Law

2002 University of Calgary, LLB

1998 Portland State University, BA (Honours)

Admission

2025 British Columbia

2003 Alberta

 Experience

As designated mediator and lawyer, Shelley is equipped to bring families together for either preventative strategy or to mediate any known disagreements.

In a family meeting, Shelley helps clients uncover any tensions or unknown expectations, pre or post estate planning. It’s an effective exercise used to help prevent disagreements that could lead to litigation.

For clients with disputes or potential disputes in their family, Shelley offers her mediation services to guide the process for her client tactfully, and reach a resolution without having to go near a courtroom.

 Recognition

HONOURS AND AWARDS

- Shelley is recognized by **The Best Lawyers in Canada** for work in Trusts and Estates (2022-2026)
- Shelley is recognized by **The Canadian Legal Expert Directory** as a leading practitioner in Estate & Personal Tax Planning
- Clients highly recommend Shelley, giving her a rating of 5 out of 5 (“Platinum” rating) on **Martindale-Hubbell.com**.
- Appointed King’s Counsel by the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta (2024)
- Volunteer of the Year, Glenlake Hockey Association

PUBLICATIONS

- “The Gift of Giving Back”, Avenue Magazine (March - April 2023)
- “Cryptocurrency and death: Where’s your key?”, Concentra Insights (August 2020)
- “Planning for Dependent Children,” Legal Education Society of Alberta (January 2018)
- Elder Law, Legal Education Society of Alberta (May & June 2018)

- **“Prudent Practice for the Elderly Client,”** Legal Education Society of Alberta (March 2016)
- “Guardianship & Trustee,” Canadian Bar Association Health Law subsection (February 2018)
- “Errors in Drafting,” Canadian Bar Association National Conference (October 2016)
- “Drafting and Practice Considerations under the *Wills & Succession Act*: Controlling the Matrimonial Property Claim,” Legal Education Society of Alberta (LESA), Edmonton & Calgary (November 2011)
- “Getting Started - Initial Points to Consider for the Wills and Estates Practitioner,” Legal Education Society of Alberta (LESA), Boot Camp (February 2009)

RECENT MEDIA COVERAGE

- Interviewed in, “Canadian Life Insurers Want Different Treatment for Assisted Dying,” Life Pro News (April 2016)
- Interviewed on estate planning, The Rutherford Show (June 2013)
- Quoted on the topic of wills and succession planning, The Rutherford Show (March 2012)
- Quoted on the topic of succession planning, CTV News (March 2010)
- Quoted on the topic of succession planning, CBC Wildrose Country (March 2009 and March 2010)
- Quoted on the topic of succession planning, Global News (March 2010)



Memberships

- **BC Law Society**
- **Alberta Advance Care Planning, Collaborative Research and Innovation Opportunities (ACP CRIO) Research Program (2014-present)**
- **Cambridge Forum**
 - Committee Member (2024 and 2026)
- **Estate Planning Counsel of Canada (EPCC) (2023 - present)**
- **Surrogate Rules Advisory Committee**
 - Committee Member, CBA Representative (2022 - present)
- **Advance Care Planning (ACP) Alberta**
 - Advisory Committee Member (2021-present)
 - Collaborative Research and Innovation Opportunities (ACP CRIO) Research Program (2014-present)
- **Alberta Surrogate Rule**
 - Advisory Sub-Committee Member (2020- present)
- **Society of Estates and Trusts Practitioners (STEP)**
 - Trust and Estate Planner (TEP) designation (2012-present)
 - Keynote Speaker STEP Showcase Event (Sept 2025)
- **Legal Education Society of Alberta (LESA)**
 - Chair, 2025 Refresher Conference: Will and Estates, Victoria BC (April 2025)
- **Canadian Bar Association**

- Honorary member-at-large, Executive Committee, Wills, Estates & Trusts Section - National (2019-2020)
- Executive Committee, Wills, Estates & Trusts Section - National, 6-year term
- End of Life Working Group (2016-2019)
- Chair, Wills, Estates & Trusts Section - National (2016-2017)
- Chair, Wills & Trusts Section - Southern Alberta (2010-2012)
- Committee member, Southern Alberta, *Wills & Succession Act* (2011-2012)
- Committee member, Southern Alberta, Wills & Trusts Law Section, *Adult Guardianship and Trusteeship Act* (2010-2011)
- **Leave A Legacy Calgary**
 - Former Executive Member (2004-2015)
- **Canadian Association of Gift Planners**
 - Former Executive Member, Southern Alberta Round Table (2012)

Community

- **Glenlake Hockey League**
 - Board member
 - House League Tournament coordinator (2014-2019)

Teaching Roles & Speaking Engagements

PRESENTER

Estate Planning Essentials for Elderly Clients

Legal Education Society of Alberta (LESA) (October 2023)

PRESENTER

Surrogate Digital Service

CBA Southern Alberta (October 2023)

PRESENTER

Plan Ahead Alberta

Webinar “Planning for Life’s Journey: connecting health, financial and estate planning in community education” Hosted by Palliative Care Canada, Covenant Health - Palliative Institute of Alberta, and Project Echo (July 11, 2023)

PRESENTER

New *Trustee Act* Best Practices for Lawyers and Trustees

Legal Education Society of Alberta (LESA) (March 2023)

PRESENTER

Philanthropy and Estate Planning

Calgary Food Bank (October 2022)

PRESENTER AND CO-CHAIR

Best Practices and Quality Control in a Planning Practice

FACILITATOR

Committee Session on Legal, Financial Planning and Insurance

Covenant Health Palliative Institute (April 2022)

PRESENTER

Building Compassionate Communities: Raising Awareness of Palliative Care and Advance Care Planning in Alberta Forum

Covenant Health Palliative Institute (March 2022)

PRESENTER

Conflict Resolution and mediation in guardianship & trusteeship matters

Legal Education Society of Alberta - Adult Guardianship and Trusteeship Fundamentals Course (February 2019)

PRESENTER/MODERATOR

Joint Ownership: Legal Developments and Best Practices

CBA National Webinar (October 2018)

CHAIR & PRESENTER

Elder Law Topics

Legal Education Society of Alberta (LESA), (May 2018) Calgary (June 2018) Edmonton

PRESENTER

Guardianship and Trusteeship

CBA Alberta Health Law Section - South Meeting (February 2018)

PRESENTER

Estate Planning for the Average Wealth Client

Legal Education Society of Alberta (LESA) (November 2017, December 2017)

PRESENTER

Medical Assistance in Dying

Society of Trust & Estate Planners (STEP) (October 2017)

PRESENTER/MODERATOR

Elder Financial Abuse

CBA National Webinar (June 2017)

PRESENTER

Capacity and Influence

Legal Education Society of Alberta (LESA), (March 2017) Calgary, (March 2017) Edmonton

PRESENTER

Medical Assistance in Dying

Calgary Estate Planning Council (March 2017)

PANELIST

Advance Care Planning - How Lawyers can help their clients

The Alberta Advance Care Planning CRIO Research Program (September 2015, February 2017)

PARTICIPANT

Estate Planning & Litigation Forum

Cambridge Forums (April 2016, April 2017)

PRESENTER

Common Errors in Will and Trust Drafting

CBA National Will, Estate and Trust Fundamentals for Estate Practitioners (October 2016)

PRESENTER

Capacity/Dementia Issues of an Aging Population

Canadian Association of Gift Planners National Conference (April 2016)

PRESENTER

Elder Abuse and use of the Alter Ego Trust

Society of Trust & Estate Planners (STEP) (April 2015)

SPEAKER

Wills & Succession Act of Alberta and the Adult Interdependent Relationships Act

Conciliation & Arbitration Board, Social Welfare Board, and Economic Planning Board (March 2015)

TEACHING ROLES

ADJUNCT PROFESSOR

Wills & Estates Class, University of Calgary, Faculty of Law (2014)

SEASONAL LECTURER

Estate Planning and Administration

Chinook Learning Services, Continuing Education (2006-2009)

SEASONAL LECTURER

Estate Planning and Administration

Calgary Catholic School Board (2005-2008)

DEVELOPED COURSE MATERIAL

Being an Executor Program

Chinook Learning Services (August 2009)

Recent News, Events & Notable Work

SEPTEMBER 4, 2025 | NEWS



27 McLeod Law lawyers recognized in the 2026 Edition of The Best Lawyers™ in Canada and Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch

AUGUST 29, 2024 | NEWS



24 McLeod Law lawyers recognized in the 2025 Edition of The Best Lawyers™ in Canada and Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch



McLeod Law Partners Aaron Bickman and Shelley Waite appointed as King's Counsel in Alberta

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