



## Alison Colpitts

Associate

Business Litigation

Family Law

Estates & Trusts

Estates & Trusts Opinions and Appeals

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### Profile

When business or personal disputes arise, clients may find themselves navigating an unfamiliar and complex territory that is often emotionally charged. As a result, tensions can quickly escalate, making resolutions seem impossible.

Alison is a confident advocate for our clients inside and outside the courtroom. She has successfully represented clients before all three levels of court in British Columbia, both as lead counsel and co-counsel.

Litigation can be a timely and public investment, and some clients prefer to have their matters attended to quickly and discreetly. Alison has experience in alternative dispute resolution, allowing clients to resolve their issues more privately and cost-effectively. Regardless of the medium, Alison devotes considerable time, care, and thorough attention to each case.

Her curiosity and inquisitiveness mean she enjoys dissecting and analyzing complex issues to find new ways to add value to clients.

Alison's experience includes a highly coveted clerkship at the province's highest court, the Court of Appeal for British Columbia. This role gave Alison the opportunity to observe

hearings, help craft judgments, and liaise directly with the judges of the court, providing her invaluable insights into the judicial decision-making process and court proceedings.

Prior to law school, Alison completed her Master of Arts at the prestigious University of Chicago, a challenging program that helped her develop outstanding writing skills and the ability to construct arguments with intellectual rigour and thorough research. Together with Alison's strong work ethic, grit and determination, these attributes make her a strong litigator for our clients.

### **Business Litigation Services**

- > Commercial litigation
- > Business disputes
- > Real estate disputes
- > Contract disputes
- > Appellate practice

### **Family Law Services**

- > Child support
- > Parenting time
- > Spousal support
- > Property division
- > Appellate practice

### **Estates & Trusts Services**

- > Wills variation claims
- > Committeeship applications
- > Breach of fiduciary duty claims
- > Legal research and opinions
- > Unjust enrichment claims
- > Abuse of powers of attorney claims
- > Breach of trust claims
- > Appellate practice

### **Work Highlights**

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#### **Successful Defence of Tenants' Rights to Compensation Under the Residential Tenancy Act**

- > Counsel for the respondents. Successfully defended a Residential Tenancy Branch decision awarding compensation to the tenants after the landlord failed to personally occupy the rental unit within a reasonable time. The petition for judicial review was dismissed. *Bhangal v. DeSousa*, 2025 BCSC 1053

#### **Upheld Appeal on Parenting Time**

- > Co-counsel at the Court of Appeal. Secured our client's parenting time in the child's best interests. *M.C. v. D.G.G.*, 2023 BCCA 469

## Landmark Win Getting Leave to Appeal an Interim Spousal Support Award

- > Co-counsel at the Court of Appeal. Successfully obtained leave to appeal an interim spousal support award in a one-of-its-kind decision. *McMillan v. McMillan*, 2023 BCCA 144

*Additional work highlights below*

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## Credentials

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### Awards & Distinctions

- > Best Lawyers® in Canada: Ones to Watch, Corporate and Commercial Litigation, 2024-2025
- > DLA Piper (Canada) LLP Prize in Alternate Dispute Resolution, 2019
- > Margaret E. Barr Bigelow Memorial Scholarship, 2019
- > Guild Yule LLP Prize in Ethics and Professionalism, 2019
- > Patrons of the UBC Law Review Award, 2019
- > Hon. Justice Grant Burnyeat Award in Law, 2018
- > JSD Tory Prize for Advocacy, 2018
- > Rosina and Gabriel Iacobucci Prize for Achievements in Family Law, 2018
- > Ted le Nobel Memorial Scholarship, 2018
- > Lawson Lundell Prize in Administrative Law, 2018
- > Superior Court Judges' Scholarship, 2017

### Industry Involvement

- > Canadian Bar Association, member, 2021 - Present
- > The Advocate's Society, member, 2021 - Present
- > Trial Lawyers' Association of British Columbia, member, 2023 - Present
- > Vancouver Bar Association, member, 2021 - Present

### Community Commitments

- > Access Pro Bono Society of British Columbia, volunteer lawyer, 2021 - Present
- > University of British Columbia, UBC Law Review, past editor-in-chief (administrative)
- > The Lawyer Show (an annual fundraiser for the Touchstone Theatre), performer, 2018 - Present

### Education & Call to Bar

- > Call to Bar: British Columbia, 2021
- > University of British Columbia, Juris Doctor (JD), 2019
- > University of Chicago, Master of Arts, 2012
- > McGill University, Bachelor of Arts, 2010

### Publications & Presentations

- > Author, British Columbia Family Practice Manual (Chapter 18), Continuing Legal Education Society of British Columbia, 2024
- > Contributing author, British Columbia Estate Planning and Wealth Preservation (Chapter

- 7), Continuing Legal Education Society of British Columbia, 2024
- > Contributing author, British Columbia Probate and Estate Administration Practice Manual (Chapter 2), Continuing Legal Education Society of British Columbia, 2024
  - > Author, British Columbia Family Practice Manual (Chapter 18), Continuing Legal Education Society of British Columbia, 2023
  - > Research, Annual Review of Law & Practice Book 2021, Continuing Legal Education Society of British Columbia, 2021

#### **Additional Languages**

- > French
- > German

## **Additional Work Highlights**

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### **Successful Defence of Appeal on Inheritances in Family Law**

- > Co-counsel at the Court of Appeal. Successfully argued that the appellant intended to use his inheritance to benefit his family. *Cohoon v. Stobo*, 2023 BCCA 479

### **Successfully Defended a Residential Tenancy Eviction**

- > Lead counsel at the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal. Upheld the eviction of a tenant who had received multiple complaints for abusive and discriminatory behaviour. *Campbell v. The Bloom Group*, 2023 BCCA 84 and 2022 BCSC 1733

### **Defended Significant Damages Claim in Breach of Contract**

- > Co-counsel at a five-week trial where we successfully defended against a multi-million dollar breach of contract claim. *Nouhi v. Pourtaghi*, 2022 BCSC 807

### **Confirmed Suitability For Summary Trial**

- > Co-counsel on appeal defending suitability for summary trial for dispute on marriage agreement. *Hudema v. Moore*, 2021 BCCA 482