



Education

University of Toronto (1986) LLB
Queen's University BA (Political Studies)

Bar Admissions

Ontario (1988)

Practice Areas

Appeals
Class Actions
Commercial Litigation
Competition and Antitrust
Defamation and Media
Employment
Professional Liability and Regulation
Public Law

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William C. McDowell

WILLIAM C. MCDOWELL

is a partner at Lenczner Slaght and a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers.

"William is an exceptional litigator and a great communicator. His work is of the highest calibre." — *Chambers Canada*

In his wide-ranging practice, Will has appeared as counsel in many important cases focusing on issues of public law and commercial litigation. He is also a leading practitioner of libel and media law, having acted for both plaintiffs and defendants in numerous noteworthy cases. In addition, he has acted as counsel to several Ontario universities.

From 2005 to 2008, Will was Canada's Associate Deputy Minister of Justice, with responsibility for civil litigation, national security and issues involving federal central agencies. He led a Department of Justice team that addressed a complex series of issues surrounding the Aboriginal Days of Protest in 2006–2007.

Upon his return to private practice in 2008, Will was appointed by the Chief Justice of Ontario to mediate issues arising from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Inquiry into Aboriginal residential schools. He was subsequently appointed to an Amicus role by the Superior Court in connection with a series of land occupations in Brantford. In 2009 he was named Chief Commission Counsel to the City of Mississauga Judicial Inquiry, which delivered its report in October 2011.

Will was a joint recipient of the Department of Justice National Award for his work in resolving the high-profile *Maher Arar v Canada* case. He has also been honoured by the University of Toronto for many years of volunteer efforts on behalf of his alma mater. A frequent contributor to professional conferences as a speaker as well as a writer, he has taught trial advocacy at Queen's University and Osgoode Hall law schools.

Will was elected in May 2023 to serve his third term as a Bencher of the Law Society of Ontario.

RECOGNITION

- Benchmark Canada (2012-2025)
Litigation Star – Commercial, Government & Regulatory
- Benchmark Canada (2019)
Medical Defense/Health Attorney of the Year
- Best Lawyers in Canada (2013-2025)

Administrative & Public Law, Class Action Litigation, Corporate & Commercial Litigation, Defamation & Media, Health Care Law, Legal Malpractice Law

- **Best Lawyers in Canada (2023)**
Toronto "Lawyer of the Year" in Administrative & Public Law
Toronto "Lawyer of the Year" in Defamation and Media Law
- **Canadian Legal Lexpert® Directory (2012-2025)**
Litigation - Corporate Commercial, Litigation - Defamation & Media, Litigation - Regulatory & Public Law, Professional Liability, Litigation - Public Law (2023), White Collar Defence & Investigations
- **Chambers Canada (2020-2025)**
Litigation: Administrative & Public Law (Ontario)
- **Department of Justice National (2011)**
Award for his work in resolving the *Maheer Arar v Canada* case
- **Lexology Index: Canada (2013-2025)**
Commercial Litigation
- **Lexology Index: Litigation (2018-2020)**
Leading Lawyer
- **Lexpert Guide to the Leading US/Canada Cross-border Litigation Lawyers in Canada (2013-2018)**
Corporate Commercial Litigation, Defamation & Media Litigation
- **Lexpert Special Edition: Canada's Leading Litigation Lawyers (2013-2024)**
- **Lexpert®/American Lawyer Guide to the Leading 500 Lawyers in Canada (2016-2024)**
Corporate Commercial Litigation
- **Martindale-Hubbell Peer Rating**
- **The Lexpert®/American Lawyer Guide to the Leading 500 Lawyers in Canada (2012-2016)**
Corporate Commercial Litigation
- **University of Toronto (1999)**
Arbour Award

SELECT CASES

- **Paterson v Royal Bank of Canada** – Counsel to the defendants in a \$275 million defamation claim. Successfully brought a motion to strike the claim on the basis that it was an abuse of process and barred by the Ontario *Limitations Act*. Reported at 2025 ONSC 1122.
- **D'Silva v Algranti** – Counsel to the plaintiffs in successfully bringing a motion for summary judgment, finding a valid and enforceable agreement of purchase and sale, and awarding specific performance, which was upheld on appeal.
- **Solmar Inc v Hall** – Counsel to the plaintiffs/respondents, Benny Marotta and Solmar Development Corp., in a defamation action. Successfully resisted an anti-SLAPP motion, which sought to dismiss the claim.
- **Xavier Tu v Ireland Byrne et al** – Counsel for the Defendants in a defamation action.
- **Moazzani v Ebrahimi** – Successful counsel to a defendant/moving party in a motion to strike a statement of claim, which sought \$2,000,000 in damages for defamation. Despite being an opposed motion in-writing, the Superior Court of Justice granted the motion and awarded costs.
- **The Corporation of the City of Kingston v Jason English et al** – Counsel to the City of Kingston in an application for a permanent injunction which involved a *Charter* Challenge to one of its by-laws.

- **1107051 Ontario Ltd v GG Kingspa Enterprises Limited Partnership** – Counsel to Great Gulf in a large commercial dispute involving the development of two large condominium projects in the heart of downtown Toronto. Great Gulf successfully resisted the Plaintiffs' motion to strike claims for repudiation made in Great Gulf's counterclaim. Great Gulf also successfully resisted the Plaintiffs' motion to amend its pleadings, and was partially successful on a motion to strike the Plaintiffs' claim on the basis of settlement privilege.
- **Fleming v York University** – Counsel to York University in judgment enforcement proceedings arising from a multi-million dollar fraud against the University. Most recently, successfully resisted an application by a judgment debtor which sought to drawn down equity in assets available to York for enforcement purposes.
- **Starr v Crombie** – Counsel to the Mayor of Mississauga in various proceedings initiated by a former member of Council.
- **Town of Collingwood Judicial Inquiry** – Counsel to the Town of Collingwood in a Judicial Inquiry into the 50% share sale of Collingwood Utility Services Corporation to PowerStream Inc.
- **Busch-Vishniac v Wall** – Counsel to the plaintiff, the former President of the University of Saskatchewan, in a high-profile wrongful termination claim against her prior employer, the Board of the University and the then Premier of the Province and Minister responsible for post-secondary education.
- **Jacobson v Skurka** – Counsel to a prominent criminal lawyer in a case involving allegations of solicitor's negligence in connection with a guilty plea in US criminal proceedings. Successful in having the action dismissed on a motion for summary judgment.
- **Long-Term Care Homes Public Inquiry** – Commission Counsel to the Public Inquiry into the safety and security of residents in the Long-Term Care Homes System.
- **Google Inc v Equustek Solutions Inc** – Counsel to Google in an appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada from decisions of the Supreme Court of British Columbia and British Columbia Court of Appeal...
- **Subway Franchise Systems of Canada Inc v Canadian Broadcasting Corporation** – Counsel to Subway in a \$210 million defamation action against the CBC and Trent University relating to a Marketplace episode.
- **York University v Markicevic** – Counsel to plaintiff University in a successful trial of an action arising from fraud by senior university executives in connection with construction and...
- **Urbacorn Limited v Henneberry** – Counsel to the plaintiffs in an action relating to the design and construction of a data centre.
- **Crookes v Newton** – Counsel to an intervener in an appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada regarding the novel question of whether an internet hyperlink to a defamatory...
- **HMK (Canada) v Canadian Transit Company** – Counsel to the Government of Canada in relation to litigation relating to the Detroit/Windsor transportation corridor and the new DRIC Bridge.
- **Éditions Écosociété Inc v Banro Corp** – Counsel to the appellant in the Supreme Court of Canada in an interjurisdictional defamation matter. The Court's decision in this case is one of its leading precedents in the application of public law to defamation.
- **City of Mississauga Judicial Inquiry** – Counsel to the Commissioner in the City of Mississauga Judicial Inquiry, an independent Judicial Inquiry tasked with investigating issues in connection...
- **Xerox Corporation v Infinite Media Inc.** – Counsel to Xerox in a software licensing dispute encompassing allegations of copyright

infringement.

- **Moon v Milborne** – Counsel to the defendant GG Eight Cumberland Inc in connection with an action relating to a condominium development project in downtown Toronto.
- **Akagi v Synergy Group (2000) Inc** – Counsel for parties in receivership proceedings arising out of a tax driven investment program.
- **Achilles Motors Limited v 1717222 Ontario Inc** – Counsel to successful respondent in application and appeal of a matter involving the interpretation of provisions of the Business Corporations Act as...
- **SCM Insurance Services Inc v Medisys Corporate Health LP** – Counsel to the plaintiffs, SCM Insurance Services Inc. and Cira Medical Services Inc., in an action for an Anton Piller order and an injunction restra...
- **Union Carbide Canada Inc v Bombardier Inc** – Counsel to an intervenor in an appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada regarding settlement privilege in mediation.
- **Goldhar v Ha'aretz** – Counsel to the plaintiff in a defamation action involving the online publication of an article by an Israeli newspaper. Successful in responding to...
- **Borden Ladner Gervais v Barlow** – Counsel to the plaintiff in a defamation matter, including obtaining injunctions on the basis of internet defamation and trademark infringement.
- **Gamache v York University** – Counsel to York University in connection with a *Human Rights Code* proceeding brought by a student.
- **R v Szejnmler and Stoll** – Counsel to a bar owner charged with manslaughter arising in connection with a fatal highway accident after a patron's consumption of alcohol at the bar...
- **Victorian Order of Nurses – Ontario v Central West Community Care and Access Corporation** – Counsel to the VON in a judicial review of the termination of a contract for nursing and personal support services.
- **Isaac v City of Mississauga** – Counsel on successful motion to quash an application for judicial review of the report of the City of Mississauga Judicial Inquiry.
- **Turner v York University** – Counsel to defendant York University in a proposed class action by students arising out of an instructors' strike. Successful in resisting certi...
- **Kamal v Federation of Law Societies** – Counsel to the respondent Federation of Law Societies in an application under Ontario's *Human Rights Code*.
- **Ault v Canada (Attorney General)** – Counsel to the Attorney General of Canada in a negligent misrepresentation action relating to pension benefits. Successful appeal of the trial...
- **White v National Committee on Accreditation** – Counsel to the organization that assesses foreign law school graduates in a successful proceeding against allegations of discrimination on the basis of...
- **Noble v York University** – Counsel to York University in a successful defence against a professor's allegations of discrimination and reprisal.
- **Maher Arar v Canada** – Lead counsel to the Government of Canada in the mediation resolution issues arising from extraordinary rendition to Syria.
- **Brantford (City) v Montour** – Counsel as amicus to the Superior Court in an application brought by The Corporation of the City of Brantford for an interlocutory injunction to prevent...

SELECT PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- **2024 Snapshot: Through the Lens of Lenczner Slaght** – Lenczner Slaght launches our *2024 Snapshot*, which highlights the most significant developments, decisions, and trends in litigation from the past year across 20 areas of expertise. Reflect on 2024 and look ahead to 2025 through the lens of our expert litigators.
- **2023 Snapshot: Through the Lens of Lenczner Slaght** – Lenczner Slaght launches our *2023 Snapshot*, a look at the most significant developments, decisions, business takeaways, and trends in litigation from the last year, across 15 practice areas. Revisit 2023 and look ahead to 2024 through the lens of our expert litigators.
- **18th Annual Civil Litigator's Survival Guide To Evidence** – William C. McDowell was invited to share his expertise at OsgoodePD's annual conference on key evidentiary principles and strategies. In the session, *Evidentiary Issues on Motions and Applications: Perspectives from Both Sides of the Bench*, William discussed the key differences between motions and applications, strategies for effective written motions and applications, guidance on avoiding common mistakes in evidence gathering and preparation on motions and applications (including summary judgment motions), and tips on evidence gathering during a case-conference.
- **The 17th Annual Civil Litigator's Survival Guide to Evidence** – William C. McDowell was invited to share his expertise at OsgoodePD's annual conference on *Evidence Law Top Tips and Tricks*. The conference gave attendees the practical tips and knowledge needed to prevail in negotiations, discoveries, motions, pretrials and trials.
- **Leading Your Case: Opening Statements and Exam-in-Chief** – Will McDowell shared his expertise at The Advocates' Society's program on the panel *Telling Your Story: Choosing the Theory of the Case and Your Theme*.
- **Thomas G. Heintzman, OC, QC: Life at full speed** – William C. McDowell's article *Thomas G. Heintzman, OC, QC: Life at full speed* was published in the Summer 2020 Issue of The Advocates' Journal. The article is a tribute to the late Thomas G. Heintzman, OC, QC.
- **Keeping Up with the Times: How to Survive and Thrive in the Age of Digital Litigation** – William C. McDowell was a faculty member at the 2018 Ontario Bar Association's Institute. With his depth of expertise and experience in Defamation & Media Law, he discussed "The Impact of Social Media on the Development of the Law".
- **Your Profession, Your Future: The Future of Media and the Law** – William McDowell was a panelist at The Advocates' Society's program on how to manage the media in high profile cases, how to take a business...
- **John Furlong, Laura Robinson and Qualified Privilege** – William McDowell participated in a podcast entitled "John Furlong's Privilege", along with Jesse Brown of Canadaland, regarding John Furlong, Laura...
- **Advanced Administrative Law and Practice** – William McDowell was a guest speaker at the the Canadian Institute's Advanced Administrative Law and Practice conference. William spoke on ethics and...
- **Libel and You, the Municipal Practitioner** – William C. McDowell spoke at the annual conference of the International Municipal Lawyers Association in Canada (Advancing Excellence in the Practice...

- **Lawyers in the Media** – William C. McDowell presented on the topic *Lawyers in the Media* at the Manitoba Bar Association on January 24, 2014.
- **Municipal Governance Redux (What Every Mayor Should Know)** – William McDowell presented on the topic at the 2nd Annual Civil Litigation Summit held in Toronto on June 11, 2013.
- **Putting Theory into Practice: Exercising Professionalism and Civility** – Will McDowell presented on the topic in a demonstration of an examination for discovery at The Advocates' Society conference.
- **Debate on Cameras in the Courts: Time for a Change?** – Will McDowell presented on Cameras and New Media in the Courtroom at the 2012 Fall Convention hosted by The Advocates' Society.
- **What's New and Exciting in the World of Defamation Law** – William C. McDowell served as a panelist at the 2012 OBA Conference "What's New and Exciting in the World of Defamation Law".
- **Law, ethics, and municipal government** – William C. McDowell spoke on a panel at the University of Toronto Faculty of Law conference Is there Planning Law or just City Politics? He was joined by Lorne Sossin – Dean, Osgoode Hall Law School. They offered differing perspectives on the Mississauga Judicial Inquiry.
- **Social Media: What you need to know** – William C. McDowell speaks about the increased use of social networking websites giving rise to several recent precedent-setting cases at Osgoode's Lunch N' Learn teleseminar.
- **A Lawyer's Duty to Ensure Access to Justice** – Prepared by William C. McDowell and Usman M. Sheikh for The Advocates' Society Symposium on Professionalism.
- **U.S. Libel Tourism Law Silences Foreign Courts** – William C. McDowell's article *U.S. Libel Tourism Law Silences Foreign Courts* appeared in the March 27, 2009 issue of The Lawyers Weekly.
- **A Lawyer's Duty to Ensure Access to Justice** – Prepared by William C. McDowell and Usman M. Sheikh for The Advocates' Society Symposium on Professionalism.

BLOG POSTS

- **Instructions to Spies: Are They Privileged?** – In brief, the decision by Justice Boswell of the Commercial List suggests that solicitor/client privilege has been narrowed, and litigation privilege has become easier to lose. For seven years, Catalyst Capital and West Face Capital have been at war. Their latest skirmish, over privilege, might change the way that lawyers interact with witnesses, investigators, and the media.
- **“A Court of Law, Not a Policy Forum”: The Federal Court of Appeal weighs in on policy and the proper scope of intervenors’ submissions** – In 2017, the Canada Food Inspection Agency (the “CFIA”) determined that wines produced by Psagot Winery, a vineyard located within an Israeli settlement in the West Bank, could be sold in Canada with a “Product of Israel” label to meet “country of origin” labelling requirements required under the *Consumer Packaging and Labelling Act* and the *Food and Drugs Act*. This decision was challenged by Dr. David Kattenburg, a Canadian activist, on the basis that the wine was in fact produced on occupied Palestinian territory and not within Israel, making the labelling of “Product of Israel” false and misleading and therefore contrary to the applicable legislation.
- **Supreme Court of Canada Provides First Guidance on the Test for an Anti-SLAPP Motion** –

The Supreme Court of Canada has released its highly anticipated pair of decisions, *1704604 Ontario Ltd v Pointes Protection Association* and *Bent v Platnick*, which consider the anti-SLAPP framework set out in s 137.1 of the Ontario *Courts of Justice Act* (“CJA”) for the first time.

- **When Must an Anti-SLAPP Motion Be Heard? – Ontario’s Anti-SLAPP legislation** (ss 137.1 to 137.5 of the *Courts of Justice Act*) provides a judicial screening device. It is designed to swiftly eliminate claims that unduly limit freedom of expression on matters of public interest. Since coming into force, courts have considered, at length, the substantive issues. To date, little guidance has been provided on the procedural issues.
- **Towards a More Workable Approach: Proportionality and Internet Defamation** – As the internet continues to develop into the primary forum for expression in our society, defamation actions increasingly involve comments made online.

SELECT NEWS ARTICLES

- **2025 Lexpert Directory Highlights Lenczner Slaght’s Excellence in Advocacy** – Peers and senior members of the legal profession across the country continue to recognize the depth and breadth of Canada’s leading litigation firm in the latest *2025 Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory*.
- **Lenczner Slaght Lawyers Recognized as Canada’s Leading Litigators** – Following an in-depth peer review process across the legal profession, 21 Lenczner Slaght lawyers have been recognized in the *2024 Lexpert Special Edition: Canada’s Leading Litigation Lawyers* guide for their extensive courtroom experience and subject-matter expertise.
- **Chambers Canada Recognizes Lenczner Slaght’s Deep Bench of Expert Litigators** – Canada’s leading litigation firm continues to advance their position in the latest edition of the world-renowned directory.
- **Lenczner Slaght Litigators Recognized as the Best Lawyers in Canada** – In the 2025 edition of *Best Lawyers in Canada*, Lenczner Slaght is proud to receive 168 total rankings, with 45 of our expert litigators recognized for their expertise across 25 practice areas.
- **Recent Canadaland-WE Charity Ruling Example of Anti-SLAPP ‘Misuse’ Says Lawyer** – William C. McDowell was interviewed by Law Times, where he comments on the Court’s decision to dismiss the anti-SLAPP motion in *Kielburger v Canadaland Inc*, in favour of our client.
- **The 2024 Lexpert Directory Recognizes Lenczner Slaght’s Litigation Excellence** – Lenczner Slaght’s litigators continue to be recognized by their peers as the foremost practitioners in their fields.
- **Lenczner Slaght Remains at the Centre of the Lexpert Bull’s Eye** – The 2024 Lexpert®/American Lawyer Guide to the Leading 500 Lawyers in Canada recognizes Lenczner Slaght as the #1 firm in Toronto for Litigation and Commercial Litigation for the 23rd consecutive year.
- **Lexpert Recognizes Lenczner Slaght’s Litigation Strength** – An increasing number of our expert litigators continue to be recognized as the foremost lawyers in their fields by peers and senior members of the legal profession.

- **Chambers Canada Recognizes Lenczner Slaght as a Top-Tier Litigation Firm** – Canada's leading litigation firm and its expert litigators continue to be recognized by world-renowned directory, Chambers & Partners.
- **Lenczner Slaght Litigators Recognized as Best Lawyers in Canada** – In the latest edition of *Best Lawyers in Canada*, 41 of our expert litigators are recognized for their expertise across 24 practice areas. The following lawyers have also been recognized as "Lawyer of the Year" for receiving the highest overall peer-feedback in their practice areas in Toronto.
- **Ontario Law Society Candidates Running With 'Stop Woke' Slogan Shut Out in Election** – Will McDowell was proud to be re-elected as LSO Benchers, alongside 39 other Benchers Good Governance Coalition candidates! The Globe & Mail spoke to Will about this landslide victory in their feature on the Benchers Election results.
- **Will McDowell Re-elected as LSO Benchers** – Will knows the way to a better future for the legal profession.
- **Toronto Star Article** – William C. McDowell and Derek Knoke were mentioned in a Toronto Star article, which looks into a defamation lawsuit concerning a dance group and their former leader and employer.
- **Lenczner Slaght's Litigation Excellence Recognized in 2023 Lexpert Directory** – Following comprehensive peer review surveys and interviews with senior members in the legal profession, the 2023 *Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory* has recognized 31 of the firm's expert litigators for their experience, knowledge, and precision, with 108 rankings spanning 17 practice areas.
- **Vote Will McDowell for Benchers** – Will knows the way to a better future for the legal profession.
- **Lenczner Slaght's 22nd Year at the Centre of the Lexpert Bull's Eye** – The 2023 Lexpert®/American Lawyer Guide to the Leading 500 Lawyers in Canada continues to recognize Lenczner Slaght as the #1 firm in Toronto for Litigation and Commercial Litigation.
- **Lenczner Slaght Recognized Among Canada's Leading Litigation Lawyers** – Following an in-depth peer review process, the 2022 Lexpert Special Edition: Canada's Leading Litigation Lawyers guide recognizes 15 Lenczner Slaght lawyers for their extensive courtroom experience and subject-matter expertise. We know courts, and courts know and trust us. That is why clients turn to us to solve their most complex legal problems.
- **Lenczner Slaght Ranked Band 1 in Chambers Canada for 5th Consecutive Year** – Canada's leading litigation firm and its expert litigators continue to be recognized in the latest edition of world-renowned directory, Chambers & Partners.
- **Lenczner Slaght Litigators Recognized Among the Best Lawyers in Canada** – In the latest edition of *Best Lawyers in Canada*, 39 of our expert litigators are recognized by their peers for their expertise across 24 practice areas.
- **The 2022 Lexpert Directory Recognizes Lenczner Slaght's Litigation Excellence** – 31 of our expert litigators are recognized by their peers as the foremost practitioners across 18 fields.
- **Lenczner Slaght's 21st Year at the Centre of the Lexpert Bull's Eye** – Lenczner Slaght continues to be recognized as the #1 firm in Toronto for Litigation and Commercial Litigation by the 2022 Lexpert®/American Lawyer Guide to the Leading 500 Lawyers in Canada.
- **Lexpert Recognizes Lenczner Slaght's Litigation Expertise** – Following an in-depth peer review process, the 2021 Lexpert Special Edition: Canada's Leading Litigation Lawyers guide recognizes 19 Lenczner Slaght lawyers for their extensive courtroom experience and

subject-matter expertise.

- **Chambers Canada Recognizes Lenczner Slaght's Litigation Excellence** – Canada's leading litigation firm and its expert litigators continue to advance their position in the latest edition of world-renowned directory, Chambers & Partners.
- **Lenczner Slaght Litigators Ranked Among Best Lawyers in Canada** – In the latest edition of *Best Lawyers in Canada*, 37 of our expert litigators are recognized for their expertise across 25 practice areas.
- **Benchmark Canada Recognizes Lenczner Slaght as a "Powerhouse"** – Canada's leading litigation firm continues to be recognized with the top tier ranking of "Highly Recommended in Ontario" for its Dispute Resolution practice.
- **The 2021 Lexpert Directory Recognizes 30 Lenczner Slaght Lawyers** – An increasing number of our expert litigators are recognized by their peers as the foremost practitioners in their fields.
- **Lenczner Slaght Achieves 20 Years at the Centre of the Lexpert Bull's-Eye** – The 2021 Lexpert®/American Lawyer Guide to the Leading 500 Lawyers in Canada continues to recognize Lenczner Slaght as the #1 firm in Toronto for Litigation and Commercial Litigation.
- **Lexpert Recognizes Lenczner Slaght Lawyers for Litigation Excellence** – An increasing number of our expert litigators continue to be recognized as the foremost litigators in their fields by peers and senior members of the legal profession.
- **Who's Who Legal: Canada 2020 Recognizes Lenczner Slaght's Expert Litigators** – In the latest edition of Who's Who Legal: Canada, Lenczner Slaght achieves eight recognitions in the Litigation chapter, with a total of ten expert litigators ranked.
- **Lenczner Slaght Recognized as a Top-Tier Litigation Firm by Chambers Canada** – Canada's leading litigation firm and its expert litigators continue to be recognized by world-renowned directory, Chambers & Partners.
- **Best Lawyers in Canada Recognizes Lenczner Slaght's Litigation Expertise** – Lenczner Slaght is proud to announce that 33 of our expert litigators are recognized in *Best Lawyers in Canada 2021*. Our lawyers received a total of 128 rankings, up from 100 in 2020.
- **Lexpert Highlights Lenczner Slaght's Professional Excellence** – Lenczner Slaght's litigators continue to be recognized by their peers as the foremost practitioners in their fields.
- **Lenczner Slaght's Expert Litigators Ranked in Who's Who Legal: Canada 2019** – Canada's leading litigation firm continues to be recognized for its exceptional litigation expertise.
- **Lenczner Slaght's 19th Year at the Centre of the Lexpert Bull's-Eye** – Canada's leading litigation firm continues to be recognized as the #1 firm in Toronto for Litigation and Commercial Litigation by the 2020 Lexpert®/American Lawyer Guide to the Leading 500 Lawyers in Canada.
- **Lexpert Recognizes Lenczner Slaght's Leading Litigation Lawyers** – Peers and senior members of the legal profession continue to recognize our expert lawyers among the foremost litigators in their fields.
- **Chambers Canada Recognizes Lenczner Slaght as a Top-Tier Litigation Firm** – Canada's leading litigation firm and its expert litigators continue to advance their position in the latest edition of world-renowned directory, Chambers Canada, with nine new rankings.
- **Best Lawyers in Canada Recognizes Lenczner Slaght with 100 Rankings** – In the latest edition of *Best Lawyers in Canada*, 28 Lenczner

Slaght lawyers earned a total of 100 rankings, up from 86 in 2019.

- **‘No one thought this would happen’: outgoing benchers react to turnover at LSO** – William C. McDowell is quoted in the article *‘No one thought this would happen’: outgoing benchers react to turnover at LSO* published on The Lawyer’s Daily. In this article, he comments on the results of the Bencher Election.
- **The 2019 Lexpert Directory Recognizes Lenczner Slaght with 89 Rankings** – An increasing number of our expert litigators are recognized by their peers as the foremost practitioners in their fields.
- **Benchmark Canada Highlights Lenczner Slaght’s Litigation Excellence** – Benchmark Canada 2019 not only recognizes Canada’s leading litigation firm with the top tier ranking of “Highly Recommended in Ontario”, 17 Lenczner Slaght litigators are also ranked for their expertise.
- **Lenczner Slaght Named Firm of the Year in Medical Defense/Health** – Canada’s leading litigation firm is proud to announce that we have been singled out for our Medical Defense and Health Law expertise at last week’s 2019 Benchmark Canada Awards.
- **William C. McDowell: Recognize the importance of empathy in the law.** – Will McDowell is featured in Episode #37 of Sean Robichaud’s *Of Counsel* podcast: *William C. McDowell: Recognize the importance of empathy in the law*. Will discusses his fascinating career, the role of the AG, the LSO, the importance of empathy in law, and more!
- **Of Counsel: Bencher Series 2019** – William C. McDowell is featured in the most recent episode of Sean Robichaud’s *Of Counsel* podcast which gives listeners the opportunity to hear from all the Bencher Election candidates and learn more about their platforms.
- **Will Knows the Way – Re-elect Will McDowell for Bencher** – Will knows the way to a better future for the legal profession.
- **Another Bull’s-Eye for Canada’s Leading Litigation Firm** – Lenczner Slaght is once again recognized as the #1 firm in Toronto for Litigation and Commercial Litigation by the 2019 Lexpert/American Lawyer Guide to the Leading 500 Lawyers in Canada.
- **Lexpert Recognizes Lenczner Slaght’s Excellence in Litigation** – Our expert litigators continue to be recognized as the foremost litigators in their fields by peers and senior members of the legal profession.
- **Who’s Who Legal: Canada 2018 Highlights Lenczner Slaght’s Litigation Strength** – Seven Lenczner Slaght litigators are once again recognized for their exceptional expertise.
- **Who’s Who Legal Recognizes Lenczner Slaght’s Litigation Dominance** – Eight Lenczner Slaght lawyers are recognized globally for their superb litigation expertise.
- **Lenczner Slaght Litigators Ranked in Best Lawyers in Canada** – Canada’s leading litigation firm is proud to announce that 25 of the firm’s 58 lawyers have been recognized in the *Best Lawyers in Canada 2019* publication across multiple categories.
- **A life lived by the book** – William McDowell was interviewed by a local Collingwood news outlet, Collingwood Today, about his judicial inquiry into the 2012 sale of COLLUS to Powerstream.
- **Lexpert Highlights Lenczner Slaght’s Cross-border Expertise** – Nine partners from Canada’s leading litigation firm are ranked as leading the way in cross-border practice excellence.
- **Lexpert Recognizes Lenczner Slaght’s Professional Excellence** – An increasing number of the firm’s lawyers have been ranked by their peers as leading practitioners in their field.
- **Lenczner Slaght Receives Top Tier Ranking in Benchmark Litigation** –

19 Lenczner Slaght leading litigators are ranked in Benchmark Litigation's 2018 directory, including 7 new additions since last year. Three of the firm's litigation stars are also recognized as a Top 50 Trial Lawyer in Canada.

- **Will McDowell Inducted into the American College of Trial Lawyers** – Lenczner Slaght is very proud to announce that William C. McDowell has been made a Fellow of the ACTL, a leading organization of preeminent members of the Bar from the United States and Canada.
- **Collingwood calls for judicial inquiry into 'serious questions' about public utility sell-off** – William C. McDowell is mentioned in the CBC News article *Collingwood calls for judicial inquiry into 'serious questions' about public utility sell-off* on February 27, 2018.
- **Collingwood council calls for judicial inquiry into 2012 hydro sale** – William C. McDowell is quoted in the article *Collingwood council calls for judicial inquiry into 2012 hydro sale* which was published by Simcoe.com.
- **Top 10 Business Decisions of 2017** – *Google v. Equustek Solutions*, 2017 SCC 34 is ranked second in Lexpert's Top 10 Business Decisions of 2017. Lenczner Slaght's William C. McDowell and Scott Rollwagen are mentioned as counsel to Google Inc.
- **Lenczner Slaght Litigators Lead in the 2018 Lexpert/ALM 500 Rankings** – Canada's leading litigation firm is one of two firms with the highest number of lawyers ranked in Corporate Commercial Litigation in the 2018 Lexpert®/American Lawyer Guide to the Leading 500 Lawyers in Canada.
- **Lexpert Highlights Lenczner Slaght's Litigation Strength** – A total of 13 Lenczner Slaght litigators have once again been ranked among the foremost litigators in their field in the 2017 Lexpert/ROB Special Edition: Canada's Leading Litigation Lawyers.
- **Lenczner Slaght's Cross-Border Litigation Expertise is Highly Ranked** – Almost half of the partners at Canada's leading litigation firm are ranked with one Litigation Lawyer to Watch and 12 Leading Cross-Border Litigation Lawyers.
- **Top 10 Decisions with Cross-Border Impact** – *Goldhar v Ha'aretz* is named in Lexpert's Top 10 Decisions with Cross-Border Impact as one of the cases with important implications in the United States. Lenczner Slaght's William C. McDowell and Brian Kolenda are mentioned as counsel to the plaintiff, Mitchell Goldhar. Will is also quoted in the article.
- **Who's Who Legal: Canada 2017 Highlights Lenczner Slaght Litigators** – Lenczner Slaght is proud to be named as "the foremost litigation team in the country" by Who's Who Legal: Canada 2017, with six of our expert litigators recognized for their exceptional work representing clients.
- **Lenczner Slaght Ranked Among the Best** – Almost half of the leading litigation firm's lawyers are recognized in the *Best Lawyers in Canada*.
- **Long-Term Care Homes Inquiry Announces Counsel** – William C. McDowell and Rebecca Jones were mentioned in the Canada Newswire press release *Long-Term Care Homes Inquiry Announces Counsel* on August 1, 2017 regarding the Honourable Justice Eileen E. Gillese being announced to lead the Public Inquiry into the Safety and Security of Residents in the Long-Term Care Homes System.
- **Lenczner Slaght Shines in 2017 Lexpert Rankings** – Lenczner Slaght's litigators continue to be recognized by their peers as leading practitioners in their fields according to the 2017 Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory.
- **23 Percent of Lenczner Slaght Lawyers ranked in Benchmark Litigation 2017** – 12 Lenczner Slaght leading litigators are ranked in

Benchmark Litigation's 2017 directory.

- **Lenczner Slaght lawyers recognized in Lexpert ALM 500 Guide –** Canada's leading litigation boutique leads all firms with 10 lawyers ranked in litigation practice areas in the 2017 Lexpert®/American Lawyer Guide to the Leading 500 Lawyers in Canada ("ALM 500")
- **Supreme Court hears arguments in case pitting Google against B.C. firm –** William C. McDowell was quoted in the Globe and Mail article *Supreme Court hears arguments in case pitting Google against B.C. firm* on December 6, 2016.
- **16 Lenczner Slaght Lawyers Ranked as Canada's Leading Litigators –** Number of Lenczner Slaght lawyers ranked in the year-end Lexpert Special Edition published in conjunction with *Report on Business* magazine jumps to 16.
- **Peers Recognize Lenczner Slaght's Expertise in Cross-border Litigation –** Fifteen Lenczner Slaght lawyers have been ranked in the Lexpert 2016 Guide to the Leading U.S/Canada Cross-Border Litigation Lawyers in Canada
- **Libel Crosses Borders: Court rules Israeli paper can be sued in Ontario –** William C. McDowell is quoted in the Lexpert article *Libel Crosses Borders: Court rules Israeli paper can be sued in Ontario* on September 21, 2016.
- **Lenczner Slaght Lawyers Ranked Best –** Nearly half of the firm's lawyers recognized among Canada's foremost practitioners
- **23 Lenczner Slaght Lawyers Ranked in 2016 Lexpert Directory –** This year, the Canadian Legal Lexpert® Directory increased the number of Lenczner Slaght lawyers ranked among the best in Canada to 23, up from 20 in 2015.
- **York University Succeeds in Fraud Claim Against Former Executive –** Following a lengthy trial, the Ontario Superior Court of Justice has determined that former York employees played key roles in several significant frauds.
- **Lenczner Slaght Scores Bull's Eye in Leading 500 Lawyers in Canada –** Canada's leading litigation practice once again tops the list of litigation firms in the 2016 Lexpert®/American Lawyer Guide to the Leading 500 Lawyers in Canada.
- **Lenczner Slaght Leads in Cross-Border Litigation –** Recognition of Lenczner Slaght lawyers as Canada's Leading Cross-Border Litigators Endures
- **Lenczner Slaght Recognized by Who's Who Legal 2015 –** *Seven lawyers singled out by peers as leading practitioners in their field.*
- **Lenczner Slaght Lawyers Repeatedly Ranked Among the Best –** Half of the firm's lawyers are ranked as leading practitioners and three named "Lawyer of the Year" in the latest Best Lawyers in Canada Directory.
- **Recognized as Leading Litigation Lawyers –** Lenczner Slaght lawyers recognized for litigation in 2015 *Who's Who Legal*.
- **20 Lenczner Slaght Lawyers Recognized in 2015 Lexpert Directory –** Recognized by Canadian Legal Lexpert® Directory as leading practitioners.
- **Will McDowell re-elected as LSUC Benchler –** Lenczner Slaght is pleased to announce that Partner William C. McDowell was re-elected to a second term as a Benchler of the Law Society of Upper Canada.
- **Lenczner Slaght - "a fortress inhabited by litigation royalty" –** 13 Lenczner Slaght lawyers recognized in the 2015 Benchmark Litigation Directory.

- **The failed Caribbean casino deal** – William McDowell was quoted on behalf of Mr. Michael DeGroote in the *Globe and Mail* and the *National Post* on January 23, 2015 regarding the bitter dispute over a US\$112-million investment in Caribbean casinos which placed one of Canada's wealthiest businessmen, at the centre of bizarre accusations of Mafia exploitation, death threats and fraud.
- **Lenczner Slaght Remains at the Centre of the Lexpert Bull's-Eye** – Canada's leading litigation practice is once again ranked #1 in The 2015 Lexpert/American Lawyer Guide to the Leading 500 Lawyers in Canada.
- **A Leader in Cross-Border Litigation** – 14 Lenczner Slaght litigators ranked in Lexpert 2014 Guide to the Leading U.S/Canada Cross-Border Litigation Lawyers in Canada.
- **Recognized as Canada's Leading Litigators** – Lenczner Slaght Lawyers listed in the year-end Lexpert Special Edition published in conjunction with Report on Business magazine.
- **23 Lenczner Slaght Lawyers Ranked Among the Best** – Nearly half of the firm's 49 lawyers are ranked as leading practitioners and two named "Lawyer of the Year" in the latest Best Lawyers in Canada Directory.
- **Lexpert Magazine - Big Deals - Union Carbide v. Bombardier Inc.** – William McDowell, Jon Laxer and Katie Petney, counsel to the intervenor in *Union Carbide v. Bombardier Inc.* were mentioned in Lexpert Magazine's July 2014 issue.
- **Lenczner Slaght Lawyers Recognized in Litigation** – Six of the firm's lawyers are ranked in *Who's Who Legal: Litigation 2014*.
- **Lenczner Slaght Increases Rankings in 2014 Lexpert Directory** – Canada's leading litigation practice continues to add new names to the list.
- **Supreme Court will not cloak all settlement talks in secrecy** – William C. McDowell was quoted in the May 23 issue of the *Lawyers Weekly* published by LexisNexis Canada Inc.
- **Lenczner Slaght is at the Centre of the Lexpert Bull's-Eye** – Canada's leading litigation practice is once again ranked #1 in *The 2014 Lexpert/American Lawyer Guide to the Leading 500 Lawyers in Canada*.
- **Lenczner Slaght Lawyers among Canada's Leading Litigators** – Lenczner Slaght lawyers recognized in the year-end Lexpert Special Edition published in conjunction with Report on Business magazine.
- **The Trial of David Suzuki** – Will McDowell and Vanessa Park-Thompson participate as counsel for the government in the powerful live theatre and public engagement project "The Trial of David Suzuki." The "Trial" takes the views about climate change of one well-known and controversial scientist and gives his supporters, and those that disagree with him, equal time to challenge each others ideas about our changing environment, and how the way we live impacts it.
- **Lenczner Slaght Lawyers Ranked Among the Best** – Canada's leading litigation practice has 22 professionals in the 2014 Best Lawyers in Canada list.
- **Lenczner Slaght in Top Tier and 11 Lawyers Ranked as Stars** – Canada's leading litigation practice also wins two national impact cases.
- **Ad Idem Conference (National Media Lawyers)** – Will McDowell presents on Jurisdiction in Internet Libel cases.
- **Administrative Law & Practice** – Will McDowell presents on Non-Adjudicative Forums at the Osgoode Professional Development 8th Annual National Forum on Administrative Law & Practice.
- **Lenczner Slaght Lawyers Win Top Peer Ratings** – Recognized by

Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory as leading practitioners.

- **Overbearing lawyer criticized in discipline case** – William C. McDowell and Ryan Stewart Breedon obtained a rare stay of a discipline prosecution by the Association of Professional Engineers of Ontario.
- **Mississauga Inquiry Set to Begin** – Mississauga Inquiry set to begin with William C. McDowell as Commission Counsel.
- **Mayor Hazel McCallion's Son wants city to pay tab** – Mississauga Judicial Inquiry - a great deal remains unknown" William C. McDowell. The City of Mississauga Judicial Inquiry opened on Monday, December 14...
- **Superior Court of Ontario Appoints Judicial Inquiry Commissioner** – William C. McDowell has been appointed as Commission Counsel, and Naomi D. Loewith has been named Associate Commission Counsel, to the judicial inquiry to...
- **A Tamer Tort Law: The Canada-U.S. Divide**
- **Talking the Best Solution: Injunction Case: Neutral lawyers gives advice to judge** – Will McDowell, amicus curiae, advises talking the best solution in injunction case against native protestors.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- American College of Trial Lawyers
Fellow
- Law Society of Ontario
Bencher (2011–2019;2023-present)
- The Advocates' Society
Member; Former Director (2006-2010)
- Canadian Bar Association
- Ontario Bar Association
- Alliance Française de Toronto
- University of Toronto Summer Institute in Advocacy
Founding Co-Chair
- Laskin Moot
Director