



Jeffrey S. Leon L.S.M., FCI Arb

Partner

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Toronto

EDUCATION

University of Alberta, BA (Hons), 1973, gold medallist

University of Toronto, MA, 1974

University of Toronto, LLB, 1977

BAR ADMISSIONS

Ontario, 1979

Jeffrey Leon, one of Canada’s pre-eminent counsel, helps clients develop practical approaches to complex, ‘bet-the-company’ business litigation and class actions. He advocates for companies, directors, officers, and individuals involved in domestic and cross-border securities, commercial, corporate, product liability, professional negligence and health care proceedings. Jeff has advised independent committees in a variety of corporate transactions and has acted as counsel and neutral in domestic and international arbitrations. He has had extensive experience in a wide variety of administrative law matters. Jeff uses his deep experience to deliver the result sought by clients, whether through negotiated settlement or vigorous advocacy at trial.

Jeff is an Arbitrator and Mediator at Arbitration Place. For a number of years he has been an active Arbitrator and Mediator of international and domestic disputes. He brings to these roles his many years of understanding and experience with all nature of business matters and disputes, his common sense and practical perspective and recognized judgment, and an ability to focus on the real issues at the heart of a matter. He is familiar with the leading arbitral rules and regimes, as well as ad hoc proceedings. His energetic and pragmatic approach enables him to work with parties to fashion an effective process to achieve timely and efficient resolutions, whether through arbitration or mediation.

Most recently, Mr. Leon was Co-Lead Counsel to the Public Order Emergency Commission.

"tremendous advocate... very tough, very smart, and very skilled."

Client Interview, Chambers Canada

A Certified Specialist in Civil Litigation by the Law Society of Ontario and a former clerk to the Chief Justice of the Court of Appeal for Ontario, Jeff has been lauded in legal directories by clients and peers alike for his skill and demeanour.

Over his 40+ year career, Jeff has been committed to continuing legal education and high professional standards in the litigation bar, evidenced by his role as an author, lecturer, panellist and teacher of trial skills and his many volunteer roles:

- American College of Trial Lawyers – Past President
- Chartered Institute of Arbitrators – Fellow
- International Academy of Trial Lawyers – former Board Member
- The Advocates' Society – Past President
- Pro Bono Ontario – Past Chair
- The Sopinka Cup Society – Past Chair
- International Society of Barristers – Member
- Commercial Bar Association (UK) – Honourary Member
- University of Toronto Tribunal – Past Co-Chair
- Litigation Counsel of America – Fellow

"World class...impresses clients with his steadfast commitment and pragmatic approach."

Client Interview, Chambers Canada

Jeff is cited as a leading Canadian litigator in the areas commercial litigation, class actions, securities litigation and directors' and officers' liability by the independent legal market rankings of Chambers Global, Lexpert, American Lawyer Media, Best Lawyers (including their list of "Bet the Company" litigators), Expert Guides (including their Best of the Best guide), Who's Who Legal and Benchmark Canada, among others.

"He is a strategic thinker and understands our goals."

Client Interview, Chambers Canada

Other recent awards include the Benchmark (Canada) Hall of Fame Award (2018), Ontario Bar Association Award of Excellence in Civil Litigation (2014), Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal (2013) in recognition for his achievements in law and his commitment to serving his community, The Advocates' Society's Catzman Award for Civility and Professionalism (2010), and the Law Society Medal from the Law Society of Ontario (2005) in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the profession.

For many years, he was a member of a team of independent counsel that provided advice to

the Discipline Committee of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario. He served as legal counsel to the Chiropractic Review Committee of the College of Chiropractors of Ontario, and in 2008 he received their Presidential Award of Excellence for his work.