

# SANDRA PETERSSON, KC

Executive Director, Alberta Law Reform Institute

## EDUCATION

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Master of Business Administration, University of Alberta	2013
Master of Laws, first class, Victoria University of Wellington	1997
Bachelor of Laws, with distinction, University of Alberta	1991
Bachelière-ès-Arts, with distinction, University of Alberta	1987

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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Alberta Law Reform Institute, Executive Director	2016-present
Alberta Law Reform Institute, Research Manager	2006-2015
Alberta Law Reform Institute, Legal Counsel	2002-2015
Alberta Justice, Legislative Reform Branch, Solicitor, 6 month secondment	2009
Victoria University of Wellington, Senior Lecturer in Law	2000-2004
New Zealand Centre for Public Law, Deputy Director	2001-2002
Victoria University of Wellington, Lecturer in Law	1997-2000
Court of Appeal of Alberta, Executive Legal Assistant to the Chief Justice	1994
Supreme Court of Canada, Clerk to Mr. Justice JC Major	1993
Duncan & Craig LLP, Student at Law and Associate	1992
Court of Appeal & Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta, Student at Law	1991-1992

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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NFP Governance Essentials Programme, Institute of Corporate Directors	2018
Graduate Certificate in Executive Coaching, Royal Roads University	2015
Seven Habits of Highly Effective People, licensed facilitator, FranklinCovey	2003
Leadership: Great Leaders, Great Teams, Great Results, FranklinCovey	2006
Leadership Development Program, University of Alberta	2011
Graduate Certificate in Project Management, University of Alberta	2007
Fluent in English, French & Swedish	2006

## CONTRIBUTION TO THE LEGAL PROFESSION

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### ***Law Society of Alberta***

- Elected Bencher: 2021-
- Strategic Planning Task Force, 2023-
- Audit and Finance Committee, Vice Chair: 2023-
- Conduct Committee, Vice Chair: 2022-23
- Audit and Finance Committee: 2021-
- Assurance Fund Adjudications (Finance) Committee:2021-
- Complaint Dismissal Appeals Committee:2021-
- Credentials and Education Committee: 2021-
- Practice Review Committee: 2021-
- Trust Safety Committee: 2021-
- Policy and Regulatory Reform Committee: 2021-2023

### ***Canadian Bar Association, Alberta Branch***

- Governance Review Task Force, 2023-
- Governance Review Task Force, 2017-2018
- Alberta Branch Council, Member, 2012-2019
- Women Lawyers Forum, Mentoring Co-Chair, 2012-2022
- Alberta Law Conference, Women Lawyers Forum, Panel Chair, 2011
- Legislation and Law Reform Committee, Member, 2004-2008
- Over 18 presentations to CBA Alberta sections, plus presentations to the CBA National Law Conference and to the Alberta and Manitoba Law Conferences

### ***Canadian Bar Association, National***

- Law for the Future Fund, Trustee, 2021-
- Law Reform Subcommittee, 2018-2019
- Women Lawyers Forum, National Liaison, 2014-2016

### ***Uniform Law Conference of Canada***

- Alberta Delegate 2007, 2009, 2010, 2012-
- Uniform Interpretation Act Working Committee, Member 2011-2014
- Uniform Wills Act Working Committee, Member 2010-2013

### ***Legal Education Society of Alberta***

- Director, 2014-2020

### ***Federation of Law Reform Agencies of Canada***

- Director, 2016-
- President, 2014-2017
- Secretary, 2009-2014
- Conference Co-chair, 2012, 2019

### ***Legal Archives Society***

- Board Member, 2002-2005

## **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

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### ***University of Alberta***

- Law Faculty Council, Member, 2016-
- President's Society, Member, 2014-
- Faculty of Agricultural Life & Environmental Science, Donor of the Kobe Petersson Prize in Textiles & Material Culture
- Staff Learning and Development, Professional Development Facilitator, 2005-2008
- Association of Academic Staff, Council Member, 2004-2008
- Association of Academic Staff, Bargaining Team Member, 2003-2005

### ***Vasa Order of America*** (A Swedish cultural organization)

- District Master for Alberta, 2013-2017
- Vice District Master for Alberta & scholarships coordinator, 2011-2013
- Lead the establishment of the Lindvall Prize at the University of Alberta
- Executive Board for Alberta, Member, 2009-2011

## RESEARCH AND PRESENTATIONS

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### Major Seminars

#### ***Law Society of Alberta and CBA Women Lawyers Forum***

- “Grit and Growth”, Candid Conversations Series, Edmonton, 2015 with I Meier and J Frazer

#### ***CBA National Law Conference***

- “Language Matters: Respectful Language for Professional and Effective Communication”, Saskatoon, 2013

#### ***Legal Education Society of Alberta***

- “The New Trustee Act”, Legal Education Society of Alberta, online, May 2023 with A Choles, D Molzan, V Jones, S James and S Waite
- “The Art of Comparing and Analyzing in Advanced Legal Research” Calgary and Edmonton, 2012
- “Overview of the New Rules of Court: Dealing with Change”, Edmonton and Calgary, 2010

#### ***National Judicial Institute***

- “Rules of Court: Transition and Timing”, Red Deer, October 2010

### International Outreach

#### ***South Sudan***

- “Law Reform: Modern Processes” 3-day workshop for the Law Reform (Review) Commission of South Sudan, Edmonton, 2013, with M Lavelle and P Lown

#### ***Trinidad and Tobago***

- “Law Reform: Meeting the Challenge” 4-day workshop for the Trinidad and Tobago Law Reform Commission, Trinidad, 2010, with M Sayers

### Major Research Works

#### ***Torts in New Zealand: Cases and Materials***

(Oxford University Press, 2002, 3d ed.) with B Atkins, K Evans and G McLay

#### ***Putting Equality in Writing: Gender Neutral Language in Legislative Drafting***

(unpublished, LLM thesis) 1997

#### ***Law Reform Reports***

- *Assisted Reproduction after Death: Parentage & Implications*, Final Report 106, 2015, with E Robertson
- *Matrimonial Property Act: Valuation Date*, Report for Discussion 25, 2014, with S Brochu
- *Estate Administration*, Final Report 102, 2013, with others

- *Criminal Appeal Procedures: Queen’s Bench and Court of Appeal*, Final Report 101, 2012, with C Hunter Loewen and G Tremblay-McCaig
- *Criminal Trial Procedures*, Final Report 100, 2012 with W Renke and C Hunter Loewen
- *Estate Administration*, Report for Discussion 22, 2011 with C Hunter Loewen, M Lavelle, P Lown QC, D Molzan, E Robertson and G Tremblay-McCaig
- *Wills and the Legal Effects of Changed Circumstances*, Final Report 98, 2010 with D Hathaway, M Lavelle, D Molzan, E Robertson and G Tremblay-McCaig
- *Civil Appeals Draft Rules* (unpublished) 2009
- *Civil Appeals*, Consultation Memorandum 12.21, 2007
- “Time” in Rules of Court: *Miscellaneous Issues*, Consultation Memorandum 12.14, 2005
- *Limitations Act: Adverse Possession and Lasting Improvements*, Final Report 89, 2003

## Papers and Presentations by Subject Area

### **Civil Procedure**

- “Regulation of Legal Services” CBA Civil Litigation North, November 2019 with L Buckingham
- “Competence to Give Evidence: Child Witnesses and Witnesses with Cognitive Impairment” CBA Civil Litigation Section North, May 2017 with L Buckingham
- “Time and Time Again” Central Bar Association, Red Deer, 2010 with P Lown, QC
- “New time limits and transition provisions under the Alberta Rules of Court” CBA Civil Litigation Section, Calgary, 2010
- “Rules of Court Wrap Up” Central Bar Association, Red Deer, 2009
- “Rules of Court Final Report” CBA Research Lawyers Section, Calgary, 2009 with G Tremblay-McCaig
- “A Functional Approach to the Rules” CBA Alberta Law Conference, Calgary, 2008
- “The Role of Alternative Dispute Resolution in the New Rules of Court” CBA ADR Section, Edmonton, 2007, with P Lown QC
- “Judicial Dispute Resolution at the Court of Appeal” CBA Civil Litigation Section, Edmonton, 2007 with Costigan JA
- “A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Trial: Binding Judicial Dispute Resolution in the Court of Appeal” CBA ADR Section, Edmonton, 2005
- “Research Issues and the Rules of Court Project” CBA Research Lawyers Section, Edmonton & Calgary, 2005
- “Rules of Court Project: Appellate Practice” CBA Civil Litigation Section, Edmonton, 2004

### **Contract**

- “Privity of Contract” Uniform Law Conference of Canada, Charlottetown, 2007

### **Equality**

- “Language Matters: Respectful Language for Professional and Effective Communication” CBA National Law Conference, Saskatoon, 2013
- “Building Towards Success: A skills-based analysis for promoting women’s success in legal practice” (unpublished) 2013

- “Gender Neutral Language” Manitoba Bar Association Mid-Winter Conference, Winnipeg, 2013
- “New Zealand Bibliography of Women and the Law” (2001) 32 *Victoria University of Wellington Law Review* i-lxxxiv
- “Women and the Law: Thirty Years of Scholarship” (2001) *Women’s Studies Journal*
- “Poetry, Politics, and Sexuality: Judgement Writing Between the Lines” Faculty of Law Centennial Lecture, Wellington, New Zealand, 1999
- “Locating Inequality: The Evolving Discourse on Sexist Language in Law” (1998) 32 *University of British Columbia Law Review* 55-90
- “Caught in the Act? Splitting the Definition of ‘Personality’” *Creating Change: Advancing Women’s Political and Legal Issues*, Edmonton, 1997

### **Family Law**

- “Valuation Date for Matrimonial Property Division” CBA Family Law Section, Edmonton and Calgary, 2015
- “Matrimonial Property Act Valuation Date” Central Bar Society, Red Deer, May 2014

### **Law Reform Process**

- “Law Reform 101: The Basics” Federation of Law Reform Agencies of Canada Conference, Halifax, 2015
- “The Competitive Market for Law Reform Funding” (unpublished) 2013
- “Law Reform 101: The Basics” Federation of Law Reform Agencies of Canada Conference, Edmonton, 2012
- “Marketing Legal Change: Developing customer life-time value through volunteer involvement” (unpublished) 2011
- “Realism Over Optimism: The case for reference class forecasting in law reform project planning” (unpublished) 2010
- “From Report to Implementation” Federation of Law Reform Agencies of Canada Conference, Victoria, 2009
- “Understanding Uncertainty in Law Reform Decision-Making: A problem of process or potential for bad policy?” (unpublished) 2009
- “Global Perspectives on the Harmonisation of Laws: A Federal Perspective” Australasian Law Reform Agencies Conference, Sydney, Australia, 2006
- “Project Selection Criteria for Joint Projects” Federation of Law Reform Agencies of Canada Conference, Kananaskis, 2005
- “Law Reforms Agencies: Essential Elements” Australasian Law Reform Agencies Conference, Wellington, New Zealand, 2004

### **Legal History**

- “Learning from the History of Women Lawyers in Alberta” CBA Women Lawyers Forum, Edmonton, 2012
- “Omission and Admission: Ruby Clements and Early Women of the Alberta Bar” (1997) 9 *Canadian Journal of Women and the Law* 365-393
- “Bars and Barriers: Clara Brett Martin and Ethel Benjamin: Celebrating 100 Years of Women Lawyers” Faculty of Law Spring Seminar Series, New Zealand, 1997

### **Legal Theory**

- “What’s a Court of Appeal For?” Law Faculty Seminar, Edmonton, 2006
- “WH Auden: Lessons in Law and Literature” (2002) 18 *Yearbook of Research in English and American Literature* 131-144
- “Darwin’s Voyage through the Province of Jurisprudence: A Beguiling Hypothesis” (2001) 32 *Victoria University of Wellington Law Review* 643-53
- “Forensic Films: Images of Law in Late 20th Century Cinema” Faculty of Law Spring Seminar Series, New Zealand, 2000
- “Changing Models of Legal Education in Canada and New Zealand” Faculty of Law Winter Seminar Series, New Zealand, 2000
- “Judicial Use of Literary Sources in Decision Writing” American Legal Studies Conference, Pittsburgh, 1999
- “Poetic Justices and the Legalities of Love” (1999) 30 *Victoria University of Wellington Law Review - Special Issue* 103-116

### **Legislative Drafting**

- “Gender Neutral Drafting: Recent Commonwealth Developments” (1999) 20 *Statute Law Review* 35-65
- “Gender Neutral Drafting: Historical Perspectives” (1998) 19 *Statute Law Review* 93-112
- “The New Interpretation Bill: Historical Babies and New Bath Water” Faculty of Law Spring Seminar Series, New Zealand, 1998
- “Putting Equality in Writing: Representations of Women in Legislation” Law & Society Conference, Australia, 1997

### **Professional Development**

- “Candid Conversations with Women in Law Constructive Recommendations” CBA Women Lawyers Forum, Edmonton, 2016 with K MacKenzie and R Mitchell
- “Stand Up Speak Up and Change the Law” CBA Junior Lawyers, Edmonton 2016
- “Skills for Success: What You Didn’t Learn in Law School”, CBA Women Lawyers Forum, 2014

### **Property Law**

- “Property Division for Common Law Couples”, Central Bar Society, Red Deer, November 2018 with L Buckingham
- “Title Insurance: An Issues Primer” CBA Real Property Section, Edmonton, 2005
- “Adverse Possession of Land” CBA Real Property Section, Edmonton, 2004
- “Something for Nothing: The Law of Adverse Possession in Alberta” (1992) 30 *Alberta Law Review* 1291-1323

### **Wills & Succession**

- “The New Trustee Act”, Legal Education Society of Alberta, online, May 2023 with A Choles, D Molzan, V Jones, S James and S Waite
- “Assisted Reproduction”, Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners, Edmonton, February 2018
- “A New Trustee Act for Alberta” CBA Wills Sections, Edmonton and Calgary 2015 with R Mitchell
- “Surrogate Rules Reform” CBA Wills & Trusts Section, Edmonton, 2012

- “Estate Administration, Report for Discussion 22” CBA Wills & Trusts Section, Edmonton, 2012
- “Uniform Wills Act Renewal” Uniform Law Conference of Canada, Whitehorse, 2012, with P Lown, QC
- “Uniform Wills Act” Uniform Law Conference of Canada, Halifax, 2010, with P Lown, QC
- “Revoking Revocation: Should Changing Partners Change Your Will?” CBA Wills & Trusts Section, Calgary and Edmonton, 2010
- “Making Succession Law Clear Practical and Modern” Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners, Edmonton, February 2010, with P Lown QC, D Molzan, and E Robertson