

**SUZANNE ALEXANDER-SMITH,
KC Chapman Riebeek LLP**

QUEEN'S COUNSEL DESIGNATION IN 2014

Member of the Law Society of Alberta with a general litigation practice including: civil litigation, labour, family, and municipal law; and a commitment to improving access to justice for disenfranchised community members through *pro bono* services and public legal education.

Core Competencies:

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| • Strategic Planning & Oversight | • Collaborative Decision-Making |
| • Risk Assessment & Accountability | • Stakeholder Engagement |
| • Policy Analysis & Development | • Public-Interest Leadership |

PRO BONO EXPERIENCE

***Law Society of Alberta/Canadian Bar Association (Alberta)* 2011**

Recipient of the 2011 Distinguished Service Award for *Pro Bono* Legal Service, one of four annual awards presented by the *Law Society of Alberta* and the *Canadian Bar Association* to celebrate excellence in the Legal Profession in Alberta. The other categories are: Service to the Community, Service to the Profession, and Legal Scholarship.

***Central Alberta Legal Clinic Foundation (CALCF)* 2004 - present**

Served as inaugural Chair, CALCF's Board of Directors (to 2009), and continuing as Past Chair and Board member (to 2012); returned to the Board in 2023 and have served as Chair since 2025. Helped establish Central Alberta's first comprehensive *pro bono* legal clinic, by conducting market research; drafting, presenting, and securing initial funding from the *Alberta Law Foundation*; obtaining charitable status; and securing operational staff. Promoted the clinic to lawyers as a key volunteer opportunity and to front-line service providers as a resource for their clients. Developed diverse educational programming, including outreach education for seniors, and summary legal advice at a homeless shelter. Set goals and a vision for expansion, including a remote service delivery model adaptable by other Alberta *pro bono* providers. Served as liaison between the CALCF Board and PBLA (see below) while with PBLA. Have volunteered as a clinic lawyer at summary advice clinics, as family court duty counsel (project), and on complex litigation matters on an *ad hoc* basis.

***Pro Bono Law Alberta (PBLA)* 2007 - 2015**

Served as inaugural Secretary of the Board of Directors for establishing a value-added umbrella organization to support Alberta *pro bono* service providers and access to justice through: developing resources and a network for front line providers; incorporating and expanding Volunteer Lawyer Service – a roster program assisting not-for-profit organizations with organizational and governance issues; developing a clinic – support roster for expertise and for conflict matters. Promoted Alberta program models nationally by helping host the 3rd Annual National *Pro Bono* Conference and Awards Dinner in Calgary, September 2010, by serving on the steering committee securing speakers and developing workshop programming.

***Public Legal Education Network of Alberta (PLENA)* 2007 – 2013**

Served as President and board member of provincial network of over 184 public legal education and information (PLEI) organizations, agencies and individuals providing law-related education and information services. Contributions included: delivering Department of Justice programming, e.g. 'family law' toolkits; developing and presenting workshops on changes to the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*; supporting members, including as keynote speaker for awards banquet; organizing and

presenting at regular PLENA symposia and annual general meetings; collaborating on the development of programming including domestic violence initiatives with then *Central Alberta Women's Outreach*; securing and advocating for core and project funding; helping re-structure PLENA to improve member service; securing the opportunity to host a national PLEI conference.

Loaves & Fishes Project

1999 - 2017

Served as a volunteer lawyer working the food line and providing summary legal advice at a monthly hot meal service operated by the People's Place, a homeless shelter in Red Deer. Initially run through the *Central Alberta Bar Association*, the program was later administered by the *Central Alberta Legal Clinic Foundation*.

Central Alberta Bar Society

1999 - present

Have attended meetings to discuss developments in the law and local court system. Have served on *ad hoc* committees, including: Social committee, organizing formal dinner event co-sponsored by the judiciary, with silent auction and fun casino, used as a fundraiser for the *Central Alberta Legal Clinic Foundation*; and served on the Law Day Steering committee: casting and participating in mock trials, securing volunteers and covering the 'ask-a-lawyer' summary advice booth, delivering workshops on substantive legal topics, including civil claims procedure and landlord tenant procedure; organizing student art and essay contests; and conducting opening ceremonies for the day's events. Developed the annual Prism award to recognize outstanding *pro bono* service volunteers, jointly presented with CALCF.

Public Legal Education Association of Canada

2009 - 2011

Served as Regional Board Member of a national not-for-profit organization supporting and promoting public legal education and information (PLEI) Across Canada. Developed and shared resources; fostered collaborations among PLEI organizations such as *Fédération des associations de juristes d'expression française de common law inc.* to inform policy and programming to improve access to justice through PLEI; securing opportunity for PLENA to host 2011 national conference.

Red Deer Public School Division (Community Programs)

2003 - 2009

Served as volunteer lecturer for Community Programs, including: divorce and division of matrimonial property, personal injury compensation, to community members; delivering employment law seminar to high school students, and running monthly seminars (6 months) on aspects of the *Protection Against Family Violence Act* to temporary residents of Central Alberta Women's Emergency Shelter.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERISM & RECOGNITION

2022 to 2026	President of <i>Collaborative Lawyers of Central Alberta</i>
2019	Recipient of <i>Red Deer & District Community Foundation</i> Women of Excellence Award – Business & the Professions
2018 to 2019	Member, Expansion Campaign Cabinet, <i>Red Deer Hospice Society</i>
2015	Recipient of <i>Central Alberta Bar Association/CALCF</i> Prism Award for <i>pro bono</i> service delivery
2014 to 2018	Board Member, <i>Central Alberta Women's Emergency Shelter</i>
2011 to 2018	Board Member, President (2013-16), <i>Red Deer Hospice Society</i>
2010 to 2013	Board Member, Secretary (2010-2012), <i>Red Deer Cultural Heritage Society</i>
2009 to 2014	Board Member, Vice President (2010), <i>Irish Dance Association of Red Deer</i>
2000 to 2011	Board Member, <i>Red Deer Public Library</i> (to 2008): Community Member, <i>Red Deer Library Council</i> (from 2008 to 2011)
1997	Volunteer Mediation Facilitator, <i>Red Deer Youth and Volunteer Centre</i>

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2003 to present	Various LESA and Alberta Civil Trial Lawyers Assoc. courses, including: Intensive Trial Advocacy, Effective Legal Writing, Quantum Assessment, Labour Law Seminars, Employment Law Seminars, Family Law Seminars, Estate Planning, Alberta Rules of Court Seminars.
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EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Sept./03 to present	Partner (since 2013) <i>Chapman Riebeek LLP, Barristers and Solicitors, Red Deer</i>
Aug./00 to Sept./03	Legal Research and Public Legal Education and Information Consultant <i>Self-employed, Red Deer</i>
Jan./98 to Aug./00	Researcher/Associate Lawyer <i>Chapman Riebeek, Barristers and Solicitors, Red Deer</i>
Sept./95 to Oct./96	File Analyst <i>Commission of Inquiry into the Deployment of Canadian Forces to Somalia, Ottawa</i>
1995	Contract Lawyer <i>H. John Farah & Todd A. McKendrick, sole practitioners, Ottawa</i>
1993 to 1994	Student-at-Law <i>Williams, McEnery & Davis, Barristers and Solicitors, Ottawa</i>

AFFILIATIONS

2011 to present	Member, <i>Collaborative Lawyers of Central Alberta</i>
2003 to present	Member, <i>Central Alberta Bar Society</i>
1998 to present	Member, <i>Law Society of Alberta</i>
1995 to 1999	Member, <i>Law Society of Upper Canada</i>

EDUCATION

1989 to 1993	University of Saskatchewan, College of Law - LL.B.
1986 to 1989	Queen's University, College of Arts and Science - B.A. (Psychology)

PERSONAL DETAILS

Suzanne is married to David Smith, a social studies teacher at Lindsay Thurber Comprehensive High School and a curriculum developer and examiner with the International Baccalaureate Organization and text book author. Their immediate family includes two adult children with significant others, and they all enjoy spending time together: cooking, laughing, re-charging, and adventuring.