

Koren Lightning KC

Barrister and Solicitor

EDUCATION

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| 2018 | LL.M – Master of Laws with Specialization in Alternative Dispute Resolution
Osgoode Hall Law School, York University |
| 2007 | LL.B - Bachelor of Laws , University of Alberta |
| 2004 | Bachelor of Arts (Special) , Augustana University College, Camrose, AB |
| 2000 | Bachelor of Arts in Recreation and Leisure Studies , University of Alberta |

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS & DESIGNATIONS

- ICD.D Designation, Institute of Corporate Director, September 2026
- Certified In-House Counsel – Canada (CIC.C), Rotman School of Management (2021)
- Law Society of Alberta, 2009 – Present
- Canadian Bar Association, 2018 – Present
- Indigenous Bar Association, 2004 – Present

HONOURS AND AWARDS

- King's Counsel (KC) 2024, Appointed by the Government of Alberta.
- Pringle/Royal Sessional Teaching Excellence Award, Faculty of Law, UofA, 2022.
- Tomorrow's Leader, Women in Law Leadership Awards, 2019.
- Alumni Horizon Award, University of Alberta, 2016.

EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE

Lawyer, Indigenous Legal Advisor, City of Edmonton, Edmonton, AB, (2025 – Present)

- Provides high-level legal and strategic advice on Indigenous related matters, including urban reserves, reconciliation initiatives, and the duty to consult. Draft and structure legal agreements while stewarding enduring government relationships with Indigenous Nations.

Legal Director, Wahkohtowin Law and Governance Lodge, Faculty of Law, University of Alberta, Edmonton AB. (2019 – 2025)

- Co-lead the strategic direction, legal research, public legal education and Indigenous law revitalization initiatives. Practices and role modeled Indigenous legal principles and professionalism while fostering a respectful, inclusive, and culturally safe environment.

Sessional Instructor, Faculty of Law, University of Alberta, (2021 – Present)

- Law 591 – TRC, Law and Justice, Law 486 – Indigenous Law: Foundations and Methods, Kawaskimhon Moot Coach 2022, 2023, 2024, 2026.

Sole Practitioner, Thunderbird Law, Samson Cree Nation, Maskwacis, Alberta (2011- Present)

- Small, private practice working in the areas of Family Law, Wills, Estates, Indigenous Law, Aboriginal Law, Administrative Law, ADR, Governance, Policy Work & Strategic Planning.

Sessional Instructor, Maskwacîs Cultural College, Maskwacîs, Alberta (2008 – Present)

- Business Law, Introduction to Western Law and Indigenous People and Native Insight and Issues, Organizational Behaviour.

Acting Commission Member, Alberta Utilities Commission, Calgary, Alberta (2018 – 2023)

- Review applications, preparation of questions, attendance and discussion at meetings, and hearings. Make decisions on issues raised by applications, review drafts and final decision reports.

Indigenous Initiatives Liaison, Law Society of Alberta, Calgary, Alberta (2017-2019)

- Work with key stakeholders to develop initiatives to advance the process of reconciliation & surrounding access to justice for Indigenous Peoples and cultural competency for lawyers.

Councillor, Samson Cree Nation, Maskwacîs, Alberta, (2011 – 2014)

- Governing Samson Cree Nation. Guiding and directing the affairs of Samson Cree Nation in the best interests of the community while maintaining good governance practices.

Associate, Sasakamoose Law Office, Maskwacîs, Alberta (2009 – 2011)

- Carrying on the general practice of law with a focus on Administrative Law, Aboriginal Law, Criminal & Family Law, Real Estate and Wills. In-house Counsel for Samson Cree Nation.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Governing Boards:

- Co- Chair, **Women's Legal Education and Action Fund Inc (LEAF)**, 2023 - Present
- Board Member, **Peace Hills General Insurance**, 2021 – Present
- Board Member, **First Nations Child and Family Caring Society**, 2016 – Present
- Vice President, **Kasohkewew Child Wellness Society**, 2011 – 2021
- President and Board Member, **Indigenous Bar Association**, 2005 – 2017
- Board Member, **Indigenous Bar Association Scholarship Foundation**, 2011 – 2017
- Co-Chair, **Alberta First Nation Women Economic Security Council**, 2013 – 2016
- Chair and Co-Founder, **HUB Samson Cree Nation**, 2012 – 2014

Committees and Taskforces:

- Committee Member, **Alberta Court of Justice, Indigenous Justice Strategy, Access to Justice Committee** 2024 – Present.
- Special Rapporteur, National Gathering on Unmarked Burials, **Office of the Independent Special Interlocutor for Missing Children and Unmarked Graves and Burial Sites associated with Indian Residential Schools**, Sept 12-14, 2022.
- Participant, **Governor General's Canadian Leadership Conference**, Tour NWT, 2017
- Member, **Federal Court Aboriginal Bar Liaison Committee**, 2010 – 2017
- Committee Member, **Law Society of Alberta Access to Justice Committee**, 2014 – 2015