



OFFICE

📍 Regina

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PRACTICE AREAS

Civil Litigation

Appellate Advocacy

Administrative Law

Municipal Law

Lauren J. Wihak's practice focuses on administrative and public law, civil litigation, and appeals. Lauren previously clerked at the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court of Canada. Lauren has appeared before various trial courts, appeal courts in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, British Columbia, and the Supreme Court of Canada. She is fluent in English and French.

Overview

Lauren J. Wihak joined McDougall Gauley LLP in 2017, after spending the first six years of her practice split between a Vancouver litigation boutique and a major national law firm in both Ottawa and Vancouver.

Prior to starting her career as a lawyer, Lauren had the privilege of clerking for the Honourable Mr. Justice Louis LeBel of the Supreme Court of Canada (2009-2010) and the Honourable Madam Justice Georgina R. Jackson of the Court of Appeal for Saskatchewan (2008-2009). Relying on the experiences and knowledge gained during the course of her two clerkships, Lauren's civil litigation practice places an emphasis on public and administrative law, appellate litigation, and constitutional litigation. In addition to a vast array of representative work helping clients in any number of civil litigation matters, Lauren also has considerable experience dealing with applications for leave to appeal and for intervener status, and with appeals (including appeals to the Supreme Court of Canada).

Lauren has appeared before the Supreme Court of Canada, the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal, the British Columbia Court of Appeal, the Manitoba Court of Appeal, and various trial courts throughout Canada including the Saskatchewan Court of King's Bench. She has also appeared before various administrative boards and tribunals.

Lauren is a sessional instructor at the University of Saskatchewan, College of Law, teaching Appellate Advocacy and Principles. She is fully fluent in French.

Lauren is an active member of her profession. She served for five years on the Canadian Bar Association's Supreme Court of Canada Bench and Bar Committee, including for two years as its Chairperson. She has also served on the CBA's Legislation and Law Reform Committee. Prior to moving home to Saskatchewan, Lauren served as the coach of the Thompson Rivers University Wilson Moot Team for five years. The Wilson Moot is a national moot, which brings together law students from all across Canada and focuses on constitutional law. She continues her support of the Wilson Moot by acting as a volunteer judge.

Lauren has authored several papers and articles, some of which have been cited by Canadian courts, including the Supreme Court of Canada and the Court of Appeal for Saskatchewan. She is the author of a legal blog entitled "The Admin Law Blog", providing commentary and analysis of important and interesting administrative law decisions from the Supreme Court of Canada and other Canadian courts. She has spoken and presented at numerous conferences and seminars on administrative law, across Canada.

Lauren received her Juris Doctor in 2008 from Queen's University, where she was a member of the Dean's List during each of her three years of study and was awarded the Dean's Key at graduation. Lauren also holds a degree in Communication and Psychology from the University of Ottawa, where she was awarded the Silver Medal.

Achievements

BAR ADMISSION

- British Columbia, 2011
- Ontario, 2010
- Saskatchewan, 2009

EDUCATION

- Juris Doctor, Queen's University, 2008
- Bachelor of Arts (magna cum laude), University of Ottawa, 2005

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- "Best Lawyers in Canada", Administrative and Public Law, 2025
- Featured in Lexpert Special Edition: Litigation (Lawyer to Watch), 2023
- Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory
 - Litigation - Regulatory & Public Law, 2024
 - "Lawyer to Watch" in Litigation - Regulatory & Public Law, 2023

MEMBERSHIPS & ASSOCIATIONS

- Canadian Bar Association
- Association des Juristes d'Expression Francaise de la Saskatchewan
- Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice
- Law Society of British Columbia
- Law Society of Saskatchewan

- Law Society Ontario
- Regina Bar Association
- Saskatchewan Trial Lawyers Association
- The Advocates Society

LANGUAGES

- English
 - French
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Representative Work

Fresh evidence on appeal and new issues on appeal

2023 | *Zunti v Saskatchewan Government Insurance*, 2023 SKCA 82

Scope of duty to consult aboriginal peoples in context of licence renewal

2023 | *Chaboyer v Saskatchewan*, 2023 SKQB 62

Sanctions available in response to code of ethics violations by municipal councillor

2023 | *Kaiser v Rural Municipality of Baildon*, 2023 SKKB 50

Availability of the tort of misfeasance in public office

2022 | *Slater v Pedigree Poultry Ltd.*, 2022 SKCA 113

Whether arrests for purposes of keeping the peace in context of public protests violate the Charter

2022 | *Dubois v Saskatchewan*, 2022 SKCA 100

Striking pleadings – civil vs administrative law remedies

2022 | *Solgi v College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan*, 2022 SKCA 96

Administrative delay and availability of stay of proceedings

2022 | *Law Society of Saskatchewan v Abrametz*, 2022 SCC 29

Enhanced costs

2022 | *Pastuch v The Queen*, 2022 TCC 72

Res judicata, abuse of process and collateral attack

2022 | *Pastuch v The Queen*, 2022 TCC 36

Civil appeals – mootness

2022 | *Dubois v Saskatchewan*, 2022 SKCA 15

Judicial review of denial of workplace injury benefits for PTSD

2022 | *Mercer Estate v Moose Jaw Board of Police Commissioners*, 2022 SKQB 8

Extrinsic evidence admissible on judicial review

2021 | *Chaboyer v Saskatchewan*, 2021 SKQB 200

Evidence needed to establish entitlement to a preservation order – appeal remedies

2021 | *Yorkton (City) v Mi-Sask Industries Ltd.*, 2021 SKCA 43

Procedural fairness obligations for employment decisions in education – administrative law remedies

2021 | *Oberg v Saskatchewan (Board of Education of the South East Cornerstone School Division No. 209)*, 2021 SKCA 28

Judicial review of demotion of high school principal in breach of procedural fairness

2020

| *Oberg v Saskatchewan (Board of Education of the South East Cornerstone School Division No. 209)*, 2020 SKQB 96

Judicial review of denial of workplace injury benefits for PTSD

2020 | *Pierson v Estevan Board of Police Commissioners*, 2020 SKQB 144

Application for leave to appeal decision denying preservation order

2020 | *Yorkton (City) v Mi-Sask Industries Ltd.*, 2020 SKCA 109

Constitutionality of provisions of the Criminal Code

2019 | *R v Robb*, 2019 SKQB 295

Dismissal of bankruptcy appeal by judgment creditor on the basis of delay

2018 | *Ross v Day*, 2018 SKQB 153

Municipal law - civil procedure - application to strike pleadings

2018 | Kaiser v RM of Baildon, 2018 SKQB 292

Whether foreign default judgment can survive discharge from bankruptcy

2017 | Lang v. Lapp, 2017 BCSC 670

Strike pleadings – whether corporate law claims are personal or derivative

2017 | Wang v. Epoch Press Ltd., 2017 BCSC 136

Whether constitutional challenge to tendering policy should be heard by courts or by labour board

2016 | Millen et al v Hydro Electric Board (Man), 2016 MBCA 56

Constitutionality of legislative changes to class size and composition

2015 | British Columbia Teachers' Federation v British Columbia, 2015 BCCA 184

Application for injunction to remove defamatory postings

2014 | Richardson v. Hunter, 2014 BCSC 1960

Application for leave to intervene in Charter challenge

2014 | British Columbia Teachers' Federation v. British Columbia, 2014 BCCA 341

Conflicts of interest

2013 | Canadian National Railway Co. v. McKercher LLP, 2013 SCC 39

Constitutionality of the right to strike

2013 | R v. Saskatchewan Federation of Labour, 2013 SKCA 43

Public interest standing

2012

| Fédération des parents francophones de Colombie-Britannique v. British Columbia (Attorney General), 2012 BCCA 422

Constitutionality of restrictions on election spending in context of fixed election dates

2012 | Reference re Election Act (BC), 2012 BCCA 394

Conflicts of law and assumption of jurisdiction

2012 | Club Resorts Ltd. v. Van Breda, 2012 SCC 17

Enforceability of foreign choice of forum clauses and private international law

2012 | Momentous.ca Corp. v. Canadian American Association of Professional Baseball Ltd., 2012 SCC 9

Insights

JUNE 17, 2021 | Lauren J. Wihak

Workplace Injury Benefits for First Responders Suffering from PTSD: A Look at Pierson v Estevan Board of Police Commissioners

APRIL 8, 2019 | Lauren J. Wihak

Left Behind Charter Rights under the New Impaired Driving Regime

MARCH 13, 2019 | Lauren J. Wihak

Principled Limitations? or Just Path Dependency?

Speaking Events & Presentations

OCTOBER, 2023 | Speaker

OSGOODE HALL LAW SCHOOL 18TH ANNUAL NATIONAL FORUM ON ADMINISTRATIVE LAW & PRACTICE (ONLINE)
Current Topics in Standard of Review: Review of Regulations; Procedural Fairness; and the latest word from Abrametz (with Ewa Krajewska, Henein Hutchison Robitaille LLP)

JUNE, 2023 | Speaker

CANADIAN INSTITUTE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE ANNUAL ROUNDTABLE ON ADMINISTRATIVE LAW
What are unconscious and conscious biases? What do they mean in the context of administrative tribunals?

APRIL, 2023

LAW SOCIETY OF ONTARIO WEBINAR

L'essentiel de la pratique en droit administratif: Le délai en droit administratif

FEBRUARY, 2023 | Moderator

ADVOCATES SOCIETY APPELLATE ADVOCACY PRACTICE GROUP

How to Get Leave to Appeal: A View from the Bench

NOVEMBER, 2022

INVESTIGATIVE AND DISCIPLINARY FORUM

Principles of Administrative Law (with Amanda M. Quayle, K.C.)

OCTOBER, 2022

OSGOODE HALL 17TH ANNUAL NATIONAL FORUM ON ADMINISTRATIVE LAW & PRACTICE

W(h)ither Doré? The Uncertain Place of “Charter Values” after Vavilov

SEPTEMBER, 2022 | Panelist

COUNCIL OF CANADIAN ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNALS

Abrametz: What it means for Administrative Justice Proceedings

MAY, 2022 | Speaker

CANADIAN INSTITUTE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE ANNUAL ROUNDTABLE ON ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

Promoting Mental Health in the Justice System for Both Professionals and Users: The Obligations of Court Officers and Court Council

NOVEMBER, 2021

CANADIAN BAR ASSOCIATION (SASKATCHEWAN) CRIMINAL JUSTICE SOUTH

Introduction to Criminal Appeals

OCTOBER, 2021

LERNERS/TORYS

Agree to Disagree: Dissent in Canada’s Appeal Courts – Supreme Court Dissents in Administrative Law

OCTOBER, 2021

OSGOODE HALL 16TH ANNUAL NATIONAL FORUM ON ADMINISTRATIVE LAW & PRACTICE

Procedural Fairness Update: post Covid-19 and Other Developments

JUNE, 2021

CANADIAN BAR ASSOCIATION (SASKATCHEWAN) CIVIL LITIGATION SOUTH

Administrative Law 101: the Top 5 things every civil litigator needs to know about administrative law

2021 | Presenter

ADVOCATES SOCIETY, DELIVERED ONLINE

“Abrametz v Law Society of Saskatchewan: Top Administrative and Regulatory Cases of 2020”

2020 | Speaker

UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA PUBLIC LAW CENTRE, DELIVERED ONLINE

“Vavilov: in Perspective,” Vavilov’s First Birthday, The implications of Vavilov for various areas of administrative decision making

2020 | Speaker

CIAJ NATIONAL ROUNDTABLE ON ADMINISTRATIVE LAW, DELIVERED ONLINE

“Introduction: Towards a Unified Theory of Administrative Law?”

2020 | Moderator

CIAJ WEBINAR ON ADMINISTRATIVE LAW, DELIVERED ONLINE

“Vavilov, où en sommes nous six mois plus tard?”

2020 | Moderator

CIAJ WEBINAR ON ADMINISTRATIVE LAW, DELIVERED ONLINE

“Six months of Vavilov, where are we now?”

2017 | co-presented with Benjamin J. Oliphant

2017 CIAJ NATIONAL ROUNDTABLE ON ADMINISTRATIVE LAW, VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA

“Plus ça change... The Record on Judicial Review”