

OFFICE

📍 Regina

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PRACTICE AREAS

Banking & Finance

Banks & Financial
Institutions

Commercial Litigation & Arbitrations

Corporate Law &
Governance

Energy & Mining

Financing

Insolvency & Restructuring

Mergers & Acquisitions,
Business Transactions

Real Estate & Development

Tendering &
Procurement



Michael is a senior commercial and insolvency lawyer whose forty years of practice have included many significant transactions and litigation assignments. He is the Chair of the firm's executive committee.

Overview

Michael is the Chair of the firm's Executive Committee.

He has a wealth of experience from his broad banking law, insolvency, and commercial practice, including related litigation. Michael has acted as lead counsel in lending and insolvency matters originating in Saskatchewan, and in national transactions involving Saskatchewan parties or Saskatchewan assets. He regularly advises financing institutions with respect to lending and enforcement policies, and clients as to the structure of commercial transactions.

He has appeared before all levels of court in Saskatchewan, in the Manitoba Court of King's Bench, in the Alberta Court of King's Bench, and in the Supreme Court of Canada. He has testified as an expert witness in respect of a lawyer's obligations under an escrow agreement.

The range of his practice is reflected by his ranking in The Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory in the areas of Asset Based Lending, Corporate Commercial Law, Insolvency & Financial Restructuring, and Litigation-Corporate Commercial.

Michael has been named by Best Lawyers Canada as "Lawyer of the Year- Regina" 10 times in the fields of Banking & Finance Law, Insolvency & Financial Restructuring Law, and Banking & Finance Law.

Chambers and Partners has stated the following:

[he] is highly acclaimed for his commercial lending and insolvency practice. *"He is practical, knowledgeable and well respected,"* noted one source, further highlighting that he is a *"very strong lawyer, who knows the market inside-out."*

He has also been recognized by Benchmark Litigation Canada and Who's Who Legal: Canada. Michael is the Chair of the Law Reform Commission of Saskatchewan. He is a Past President of the Law Society of Saskatchewan, and was President of the Federation of Law Societies of Canada, which is the national coordinating body of Canada's 14 law societies, regulating 95,000 lawyers and 3,500 Quebec notaries.

Achievements

BAR ADMISSION

- Saskatchewan, 1981

EDUCATION

- Bachelor of Laws, University of Saskatchewan, 1980

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- Who's Who Legal: Canada, Restructuring & Insolvency, 2023
- Named a Fellow of the American College of Mortgage Attorneys, 2023
- Featured in Lexpert Special Edition: Finance and M&A (2022-2023), Mining & Energy (2022, 2024), Energy (2023), Litigation (2023-2024), and Insolvency & Restructuring (2024)
- Chambers and Partners – Rated Band 1 – General Business Law, 2016-2022
- Named a Fellow of the Insolvency Institute of Canada, 2011
- Canadian Legal Expert Directory: Leading Practitioner in the areas of Banking, Corporate Commercial, Directors and Officers Liability, Insolvency and Financial Restructuring, and Litigation-Corporate Commercial and Insolvency Litigation, 2009-2021
- The Best Lawyers in Canada: Named in the categories of Asset Based Lending Practice, Banking and Finance Law, Bet-the-Company Litigation, Corporate and Commercial Litigation, Corporate Law, Director and Officer Liability Practice, Insolvency and Financial Restructuring, Mergers and Acquisitions, and Natural Resources Law, 2006-present
- Named in The International Who's Who of Insolvency and Restructuring Lawyers, 2005-2019
- Canadian Bar Association (Saskatchewan) - 2022 Distinguished Service Award
- Appointed Honourary Member of the Law Society of Manitoba, 2002
- Appointed Queen's Counsel, 2001

- Appointed Honourary Member of the Law Society of Alberta, 2000
- Saskatchewan Legal Education Society Inc.: Outstanding Volunteer Award, 1995
- Law Society of Saskatchewan Award for Highest Standing in Bar Admission Course, 1981

MEMBERSHIPS & ASSOCIATIONS

- Canadian Bar Association (1981 - present)
 - Member, Organizing Committee Annual Law Firm Leadership Conference, 2011- 2019
- Law Society of Saskatchewan (1981 - present)
 - President, 2002
 - Bencher, 1998 - 2003
- Regina Bar Association
 - President, 1993
- Saskatchewan Provincial Court Council, Member, 2002
- Queen's Bench Bar Judicial Council, Member, 2002
- Federation of Law Societies of Canada
 - President, 2007- 2008
 - Member of Council, 2003-2009
- Law Reform Commission of Saskatchewan
 - Chair, 2014 – present
 - Member, 2010 – present
- Canadian Lawyers Insurance Association
 - Chair, 2012 - 2014
 - Board Member, 2002 - 2014
 - Member, Executive Committee, 2007 - present
- Saskatchewan Lawyers Insurance Association
 - Board Member, 2000-present
 - President, 2000-2001
- Editorial Board of Banking and Finance Law Review, Member, 1986 - present
- Editorial Board of Commercial Insolvency Reporter, Member, 1999 – present
- Federation of Law Societies Committee on Model Code of Conduct, Member, 2004 - 2009
- Canadian Legal Information Institute (“CanLII”), Member of Board and Executive Committee Member, 2004 - 2006
- Committee Member for review of applications for the first Director of Public Prosecutions in Canada, June, 2007
- Insolvency Institute of Canada, Secretary, 2011

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- United Way of Regina, 1984 – 1997
 - President, 1994-1996
 - Vice-President, 1992-1994
 - Chairman of Allocations Committee, 1990-1991
 - Executive, 1990 – 1997
- Minor Hockey Coach, 1993 – 2001
- MacKenzie Art Gallery Incorporated

- Chair, 1999- 2001
 - Vice Chair 1997 – 1999
 - Trustee, Board of Trustees, 1995 – 2003
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Representative Work

INSOLVENCY & RESTRUCTURING

Counsel to court appointed Receiver of multi-faceted group of companies, including in construction and agricultural sector

INSOLVENCY & RESTRUCTURING

Counsel to secured creditor in respect of forbearance and realization upon residential apartment complexes

INSOLVENCY & RESTRUCTURING

Counsel to contractual counterparty to insolvent construction company

INSOLVENCY & RESTRUCTURING

Counsel to trustees and officers of publicly traded income trust

FINANCING

Counsel to lender to publicly traded oil and gas company pursuant to a secured note transaction

FINANCING

Counsel to foreign lender to multinational group of companies, including a Saskatchewan-based agricultural operation

Counsel to Canadian chartered bank on development of lending platform for credit facilities in favour of farm product supplier

Local counsel to the preferred proponent selected to design, build, finance, operate and maintain a long term care facility

Lead external counsel on the negotiation of key contracts for two natural gas power facilities including, procurement matters and the creation of applicable EPC agreements

Lead external counsel on the negotiation of key contracts for wind and solar power generation facilities including, procurement matters and the creation of applicable power purchase agreements

Counsel to an international mining company on the development of a greenfield potash operation including land assembly, regulatory compliance and negotiation and preparation of key contracts

Development and construction of a large pipeline project, including land acquisition, procurement matters and drafting of contracts.

Speaking Events & Presentations

NOVEMBER 16, 2020 | Presenter

MCKERCHER LECTURE SERIES

Insolvency and the CCAA in 2020: Practical Developments and Tips for Legal Advisors

OCTOBER 27, 2020 | Presenter

CBA INSOLVENCY AND BANKRUPTCY SECTION

Reviewable Transactions Act

2015 - 2018 | Lecturer

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN COLLEGE OF LAW

Mortgage Security

DECEMBER 2017

US/CANADA CROSS-BORDER GUIDE

Litigation in the area of Insolvency & Financial Restructuring

SEPTEMBER, 2017 | Presenter

INSOLVENCY INSTITUTE OF CANADA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Comparison of Canadian and US insolvency features

NOVEMBER, 2017

TORONTO

Facilitator, Law Firm Leadership Conference

NOVEMBER, 2016

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Presenter, Commercial Law Conference

NOVEMBER, 2016 | Presenter

2016 CBA LAW FIRM LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Under-Performing Partners

FEBRUARY, 2016 | Presenter

CANADIAN BAR ASSOCIATION (SASKATCHEWAN BRANCH) MID-WINTER MEETING

Risk Management and Solicitor's Opinions

AUGUST, 2015 | Presenter

CANADIAN BAR ASSOCIATION (SASKATCHEWAN) PANEL

Red Flags: Addressing Challenges Before They Become Problems"

APRIL, 2014 | Presenter

ADR INSTITUTE OF SASKATCHEWAN/ADR INSTITUTE OF CANADA PANEL

Saskatchewan Bankruptcy and Insolvency Template Committee

SEPTEMBER 2015 | Moderator

INSOLVENCY INSIGHT OF CANADA CONFERENCE

Good Faith Obligation Panel

Presenter

INSOLVENCY LAW CONFERENCE

Annual Review

NOVEMBER 8, 2018 | Presenter

THE CANADIAN BAR ASSOCIATION

Law Firm Leading Conference

MARCH 2015 | Presenter

CANADIAN BAR ASSOCIATION CORPORATE COUNSEL SASKATCHEWAN SOUTH MEETING

“Dealing with Difficult Clients”

OCTOBER 24-25, 2011 | Presenter

THE CANADIAN BAR ASSOCIATION

Seventh Annual Law Firm Leadership Conference

FEBRUARY, 2014 | Presenter

2014 CBA MID-WINTER MEETING

Insolvency Issues and Corporate Transactions: “Hidden Landmines”

JUNE, 2011 | Presenter

Pre-negotiation Strategies and Issues-Ethical, Business and Legal Considerations

OCTOBER 29, 2010 | Presenter

SASKATCHEWAN TRIAL LAWYERS’ ASSOCIATION

Big Guns & Money: Tips and Traps from the Debtor/Creditor Experts: Overview of CCAA Proceedings

JUNE 5 - 7, 2008 | Presenter

LAW SOCIETY OF ALBERTA

“Creating a public Accountability Structure to Address Criticisms of Self Regulation-Potential Role of the Federation”

FEBRUARY, 2008 | Seminar Presenter

VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA

5th Annual Review of Insolvency Law Conference

MAY 5, 2006 | Seminar Presenter

CHARLOTTETOWN

Quality Assurance for Law Societies: Federation of Law Societies of Canada

Seminar Presenter

THE CANADIAN INSTITUTE’S 6TH ANNUAL ADVANCED INSOLVENCY LAW & PRACTICE SEMINAR

Assessing the Impact of Legislative Reform and the Peoples v Wise case on directors’ and officers’ liability

SEPTEMBER 30, 2005 (CALGARY) AND JANUARY 20, 2006 (TORONTO) | Presenter

CANADIAN INSTITUTE ADVANCED INSOLVENCY LAW & PRACTICE SEMINAR CALGARY AND TORONTO

“Directors’ and Officers’ Liability: Did Peoples v. Wise Clear the Air?”

MARCH, 2005 | Presenter

CANADIAN INSTITUTE COMMERCIAL LOAN FINANCING SECURITY FORUM, TORONTO

“Lending to Limited Partnerships: Tips and Traps”

2005 – 2010 | Member

INSOLVENCY INSTITUTE OF CANADA LAW

Panel of Judges, Insolvency Institute of Canada Law Student Writing Awards

2005 – PRESENT | Member

SASKATCHEWAN TEMPLATE RECEIVERSHIP ORDER

Saskatchewan Template Receivership Order Committee

NOVEMBER 5, 2005 | Chair

FEDERATION OF LAW SOCIETIES OF CANADA, OTTAWA

Seminar on Dissemination of Legal Information

MAY 20, 2005 | Seminar Presenter

FEDERATION OF LAW SOCIETIES OF CANADA, BANFF, ALBERTA

The Clementi Report: Role of Federation and Law Societies and Government Relations

OCTOBER, 2004 | Presenter

INSOLVENCY INSTITUTE OF CANADA

Extent of Collateral Covered by Personal Property Security Act

OCTOBER, 2004 | Presenter

INSOLVENCY INSTITUTE OF CANADA

Insolvent Debtors and Mass Tort Claims: Another Look at Les Oblates

FEBRUARY 6, 2004 | Presenter

CANADIAN BAR ASSOCIATION (SASKATCHEWAN BRANCH) 2004 MID-WINTER MEETING

Developments in Commercial Law

FEBRUARY 5, 2004 | Presenter

CANADIAN BAR ASSOCIATION (SASKATCHEWAN) MID-WINTER MEETING

President’s Forum “Future of the Legal Profession in Saskatchewan”

OCTOBER 6, 2004 | Presenter

CANADIAN BAR ASSOCIATION (SASKATCHEWAN BRANCH) BUSINESS LAW (SOUTH) SUBSECTION

“Developments in Banking Law”

MAY, 2004 | Presenter

NATIONAL SEMINAR FINANCIAL INSTITUTION’S SPECIAL LOANS GROUP

“The Legal Landscape: Hot Topics and Trends in Restructuring”

2000 | Seminar Presenter

CANADIAN BAR ASSOCIATION (SASKATCHEWAN BRANCH) MID-WINTER MEETING

Multi-Disciplinary Partnerships

MAY, 1998

SASKATCHEWAN LEGAL EDUCATION SOCIETY INC.

“Title Opinions in Commercial Mortgage Transactions”

NOVEMBER, 1997

SASKATCHEWAN TRIAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION 1997 FALL CONFERENCE PRACTICE BEFORE THE COURTS

“Directors’ Liabilities, Landlords’ Rights, & Practice Tips”

MAY, 1997

CANADIAN CONFERENCE ON PERSONAL PROPERTY SECURITY LAW, REGINA

“Views from the Bar”

MAY, 1997

THE LAW SOCIETY OF SASKATCHEWAN AND SASKATCHEWAN LEGAL EDUCATION SOCIETY INC.

“Commercial Lease Checklist” Saskatchewan Practice Checklist

1997

CANADIAN BAR ASSOCIATION (SASKATCHEWAN BRANCH): MID-WINTER MEETING

“Trade Creditor Remedies”

MAY, 1997

CANADIAN CONFERENCE ON PERSONAL PROPERTY SECURITY LAW

“Views from the Bar: Recent Judicial Decisions on The Personal Property Security Act”

APRIL, 1996

INSIGHT INFORMATION INC. SEMINAR, CREDITORS’ RIGHTS IN THE PETROLEUM INDUSTRY

“Priority Issues Affecting Operations’ and Suppliers’ Liens: The Saskatchewan Perspective”

APRIL, 1996 | Co-Presenter with Patrick T. McCarthy and Howard Lee

INSIGHT INFORMATION INC. SEMINAR, CREDITORS’ RIGHTS IN THE PETROLEUM INDUSTRY

“Environmental Issues Affecting Creditors’ Rights: Perspectives from Alberta and Saskatchewan”

1996

CANADIAN BAR ASSOCIATION (SASKATCHEWAN BRANCH): MID-WINTER MEETING

“Recent Developments in Banking Law and Secured Transactions”

DECEMBER, 1995

SASKATCHEWAN LEGAL EDUCATION SOCIETY INC.

“Loss Prevention Issues Arising From The Personal Property Security Act, 1993”

DECEMBER, 1994

SASKATCHEWAN LEGAL EDUCATION SOCIETY INC.

"The PPSA 1993"

OCTOBER, 1994

SASKATCHEWAN LEGAL EDUCATION SOCIETY INC.

"Assignment of Rental Payments"

1993

CANADIAN BAR ASSOCIATION (SASKATCHEWAN BRANCH): MID-WINTER MEETING

The Personal Property Security Act, 1992: Just When You Thought You Understood The Law ..."

DECEMBER, 1991

QUEEN'S BENCH CHAMBER APPLICATIONS SEMINAR, LAW SOCIETY OF SASKATCHEWAN, CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

"Receivership Applications"

APRIL 16, 1991 | Presenter

CANADIAN BAR ASSOCIATION (ALBERTA BRANCH) INSOLVENCY SECTION

"Saskatchewan Personal Property Security Act"

1989

CANADIAN BAR ASSOCIATION (SASKATCHEWAN BRANCH): MID-WINTER MEETING

"Recent Developments in Banking Law"

NOVEMBER 25, 1987 | Co-Presenter with R. Shawn Smith

INSIGHT EDUCATION SERVICES SEMINARS ENTITLED "SECURED FINANCING ACROSS CANADA"

"Guidelines for Secured Financing in the Province of Saskatchewan"

1990-2000 | Lecture and author

LAW SOCIETY OF SASKATCHEWAN, CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION, BAR ADMISSION COURSE

"Commercial Mortgages"

NOVEMBER, 1989

LAW SOCIETY OF SASKATCHEWAN, CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION, CONSTRUCTION LAW SEMINAR

"Construction Mortgages and Financing of Builders"

FALL, 1988 | Seminar presenter with Dale R. Doan

LAW SOCIETY OF SASKATCHEWAN, CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION SEMINAR ON SASKATCHEWAN FARM SECURITY AND BASIC PERSONAL PROPERTY SECURITY ACT SEMINAR

"Introduction to Personal Property Security Practice"

LAW SOCIETY OF SASKATCHEWAN, CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION SEMINAR ON FARM INSOLVENCY
"Realization Against Personal Property"

JANUARY, 1985 | Seminar Coordinator

LAW SOCIETY OF SASKATCHEWAN, CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION SEMINAR,
"The Personal Property Security Act" Seminar

JANUARY, 1985

PERSONAL PROPERTY SECURITY ACT SEMINAR, LAW SOCIETY OF SASKATCHEWAN, CONTINUING LEGAL
EDUCATION SEMINAR

"Drafting Security Agreements and Notices"

1983

CANADIAN BAR ASSOCIATION (SASKATCHEWAN BRANCH): MID-WINTER MEETING

"Attachment of Debts Act"