

**OFFICE**

📍 Regina

**CONTACT**

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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.

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## 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), and Litigation (2023)
- 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**

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### INSOLVENCY & RESTRUCTURING

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

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### INSOLVENCY & RESTRUCTURING

**Counsel to contractual counterparty to insolvent construction company**

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### INSOLVENCY & RESTRUCTURING

**Counsel to trustees and officers of publicly traded income trust**

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### FINANCING

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

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### FINANCING

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

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

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

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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

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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

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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

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

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## 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"**