

Jessica Stansfield

Partner

Toronto

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Practice Areas

Blockchain and Digital Assets
Commercial Litigation
Litigation & Dispute
Resolution

Jessica Stansfield is a Partner in the Commercial Litigation Practice Group at WeirFoulds LLP.

Jessica brings a client-focused and practical approach to complex and high stakes litigation. She has significant experience acting for both private and publicly held corporations, financial institutions, not-for-profit organizations, and individuals in disputes involving asset tracing, civil frauds and conspiracies, shareholder rights, director and officer liability, consumer banking services, and breach of fiduciary and other employee duties. Jessica also advises clients on internal policies and controls, evidence preservation, and regulatory and litigation risks arising from data breaches, cybersecurity incidents, and misappropriations of funds and digital assets.

Before joining WeirFoulds, Jessica was an Associate at the Toronto office of a full-service national firm, where she maintained a diverse commercial litigation and professional liability practice. Her experience includes representing clients before the Ontario Superior Court, Ontario Divisional Court, Federal Court, and all levels of court in British Columbia. She has also represented clients before numerous administrative tribunals and regulatory bodies.

Jessica is an involved member of the broader legal community. She volunteers with Pro Bono Students Canada as a supervising lawyer and is a contributing author of the CanLII Manual to British Columbia Civil Litigation, which was awarded the Hugh Lawford Award for Excellence in Legal Publishing. In addition, Jessica volunteers with St. Michael's Homes where she acts as a Co-Chair of the Board of Directors.

WeirFoulds LLP

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Called to the Bar

- Ontario (2017)
- British Columbia (2017)

Education

- University of Ottawa, Juris Doctor (2016)
- Queen's University, Bachelor of Arts Honours (2011)

Affiliations

- Law Society of Ontario
- Law Society of British Columbia
- Canadian Bar Association
- The Advocates' Society

Notable Mandates

- Represented a minority shareholder in arbitration proceedings seeking remedies for shareholder oppression and breach of fiduciary duties in relation to excessive director and senior officer compensation.
- Advised a financial institution on an internal investigation of a top performing sales employee believed to have been involved in a fraudulent conveyance and counselled client on related asset tracing.
- Successfully obtained urgent injunctive relief for clients invested in a digital asset mining business, including obtaining numerous court orders tracing cryptocurrency and fund flows, freezing bank and digital exchange platform accounts (Mareva Orders), and preserving cryptocurrency mining equipment and cold storage wallets.
- Defended related hospitality corporations in arbitration proceedings brought by a shareholder and partner alleging breach of fiduciary duty and fraudulent misappropriation of shareholder and partnership funds.
- Defended a professional in an action seeking tracing of trust funds and alleging the funds had been misappropriated and siphoned through numerous accounts.
- Acted for a purchasing developer in an urgent application and successfully obtained an injunction granting access to the subject property prior to closing.
- Advised a not-for-profit on an internal investigation into an employee believed to have defrauded the organization through a vendor invoice scheme, and counselled client on related asset tracing and police involvement.
- Represented a plaintiff in an action against a former employee and a former service provider for fraudulent misrepresentation and conspiracy in relation to travel and entertainment expenses billed as client development.
- Acted for a defendant in a summary trial where the plaintiff's claim that he was induced into entering an agreement of purchase and sale based on misrepresentations was successfully dismissed.
- Advised a financial institution on an internal investigation of senior employees suspected of being involved in a fraudulent travel expense scheme.
- Successfully obtained disclosure orders for production of account and transaction records from digital asset platforms, exchanges, and wallet service providers (Norwich Orders) with respect to assisting clients with recovery of cryptocurrency holdings transited through various accounts and wallets.
- Represented a plaintiff prosecuting an action and seeking to trace assets from a fraudulent conveyance of real estate and a cheque forgery scheme.
- Defended a professional and brokerage in an action alleging breach of contract, negligent misrepresentation, and knowing assistance of a fiduciary's breach in a claim brought by a developer against one of its directors.
- Represented a financial institution in an action seeking to recover fraudulently withdrawn funds that were successfully traced and secured with another financial institution pending final determination of the action.
- Advised digital asset trading platform on an internal investigation into employee misconduct and suspected security breaches.

Community Involvement

- Supervising Lawyer, Pro Bono Students Canada
- Co-Chair and Board Member, St. Michael's Homes

Speaking Engagements

- Speaker, "Understanding Crypto and Digital Assets in Insolvency Proceedings", Ontario Association of Insolvency & Restructuring Professionals, Webinar, March 6, 2025
- Speaker, "Protecting Charities & Not-For-Profits from Fraud: Understanding the Risks & Best Practices for Prevention", Member Agencies of the Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Toronto, Webinar, February 11, 2025.

Additional Publications

- Contributing Author, *Manual to British Columbia Civil Litigation*, 2020

Publications

- Crypto Scammers Capitalize on Political Uncertainty as Securities Regulators Warn of Increasing Sophistication of Online Investment Frauds, March 14, 2025
- Canadian Medjedovic Indicted for DeFi Fraud in the Eastern District of New York: Rule of Law '2', Code is Law '0?', February 04, 2025
- Commercial Litigation Insights: From Banks to Blockchain: Could Exchanges in Receipt of Stolen Digital Assets be Liable as Constructive Trustees?, February 04, 2025
- Defending Against Fraud This Holiday Season: A Guide For Charities And Not-For-Profits, December 03, 2024
- Rule of Law '1', Code is Law '0': Eisenberg Convicted in Mango Markets Criminal Trial after He Shies Away from Testifying, April 19, 2024
- Commercial Litigation Insights: Securities Enforcement? But They're Crypto Tokens, Not Shares..., February 07, 2024
- Cryptocurrency 'Regulation by Enforcement' as Hot as Ever: What's to come from Securities Regulators in 2024?, February 05, 2024
- Postponement of Long-Awaited Mango Markets Criminal Trial on the Heels of SBF Guilty Verdict: What's to Come?, November 27, 2023