

# JACOB R. W. DAMSTRA

*Defence Class Actions*

ASSOCIATE

*"Every class proceeding provides a unique opportunity to find solutions to difficult and demanding problems. With diligence and creativity, class actions can provide both access to justice and the efficient and final resolution of countless legal claims."*

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## PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

- ◆ Associate lawyer, Lerners LLP (2016 to present)
- ◆ (Professional) – Lecturer, Western Law, Appellate Advocacy – Wilson Moot Team, 2016-2017, 2017-2018
- ◆ Judicial Law Clerk, Court of Appeal for Ontario (2015 to 2016)
- ◆ Summer Student, Lenczner Slaght Royce Smith Griffin LLP (2014)
- ◆ Canadian Armed Forces Officer, 1st Hussars, London (2011 to present)
- ◆ Director, Board of Directors, Changing Ways
- ◆ Director, Board of Directors, Urban Roots London

## SELECTED PRESENTATIONS/PUBLICATIONS

- ◆ "[Becoming an Effective Advocate: Reflections from RSJ Thomas](#)", The Middlesex Law Association Snail, and The Advocates' Society Keeping Tabs, June 2018
- ◆ Co-author, "Update on Personal Injury Law", The Advocates' Society Fall Convention, 2017
- ◆ "Mission Analysis for Legal Research", Ontario Bar Association Program *Expert Advice on Launching Your Legal Career: I Have My Law Degree, Now What?*, London, ON, 7 September 2017
- ◆ "[Reinforcing the Primacy of Privilege: Lizotte v. Aviva Insurance Company of Canada and Alberta \(Information and Privacy Commissioner\) v. University of Calgary](#)", Paper delivered at the 12th Annual Straight from the Bench Civil Litigation Conference, Middlesex Law Association, London, ON, 8 June 2017
- ◆ "Contemplations on Entering the Profession of Law", 2016 Fall Opening of the Courts Ceremony, London, ON,

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LAWYERS

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Speaker on behalf of 2016 Calls to the Bar on the Rule of Law and the Legal Profession

- ◆ “Heroic or Hypocritical: Corporate Social Responsibility, Aboriginal Consultation, and Canada’s Extractive Industries Strategy” *Journal of Transnational Law and Contemporary Problems* 25 1 (2016)
- ◆ “20 Years Lost – Time for Change in Ontario’s *Environmental Bill of Rights*” *Journal of Environmental Law and Practice* 27, 1 (2015)
- ◆ “Foreign Classes Bringing Canadian Actions: Lessons Learned from the Case against Anvil Mining Limited”, *Canadian Class Action Review* 9, 2 (2014)
- ◆ “Foreigners in Canadian Class Actions: A History of Lessons Learned”, Western University, Graduate History Conference, 18-20 October 2013
- ◆ “Mitigating Threats to Water Security in the Great Lakes Basin: The Necessity of Canadian-American Policy Harmonization”, The University of Western Ontario, Centre for Environment and Sustainability, 10th Annual Earth Day Colloquium, 12 April 2013

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- ◆ Recipient, Canada 150 Medal, Parliament of Canada (2017)
- ◆ Trandafir Writing Competition Prize in Transnational Law (2015)
- ◆ 1st Place Written Arguments, Oralist Prize, Jessup International Law Moot (2014)
- ◆ Harvey T. Strosberg Essay Prize in Canadian Class Actions (2013)
- ◆ Royal Canadian Armour Corps Student-Soldier Achievement Bursary (2013)
- ◆ Cohen Highley LLP Award, Western Law (2014)
- ◆ Winner, Lenczner Slaght Legal Ethics Advocacy Competition (2013)
- ◆ Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship (2012)
- ◆ Garrison Community Council Student Bursary, Canadian Armed Forces (2012)
- ◆ UWO Gold Medal, Honours Specialization in International Relations (2012)

## MEMBERSHIPS

- ◆ The Advocates’ Society
- ◆ Middlesex Law Association
- ◆ Canadian Bar Association
- ◆ Ontario Bar Association
- ◆ (Volunteer) – Coach/Trainer, London Bandits Minor Hockey Association, 2014-Present
- ◆ Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters
- ◆ Member at Large, Argyle Community Association

## EDUCATION

- ◆ Admitted to the Ontario Bar (2016)

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- ◆ Juris Doctor, Western University Faculty of Law (2015) - Graduate with Distinction
- ◆ Master of Arts (History), Western University, Department of History (2015)
- ◆ Bachelor of Arts (Honours), Western University, Faculty of Social Science (2012) – Gold Medalist

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