

# REBECCA SHOOM

Dispute Resolution and Advocacy

PARTNER

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## PRACTICE OVERVIEW

Rebecca Shoom is a partner at Lerners LLP. Her practice focuses on litigation and dispute resolution in a wide range of areas, including commercial litigation and arbitration, appeals, defamation, securities law, employment law, public and administrative law, class actions, and professional regulation. She also advises companies and professional associations on governance and other business matters. She has appeared before all levels of court in Ontario and the Supreme Court of Canada, as well as numerous administrative tribunals and arbitral panels.

Rebecca also offers dispute resolution services as a neutral arbitrator in commercial arbitrations. She has extensive experience as arbitration counsel, and has completed the Toronto Commercial Arbitration Society's Gold Standard Course in Commercial Arbitration. She also regularly writes and speaks on arbitration-related topics. She is available for arbitral appointments in a variety of commercial disputes, including business and contract disputes, shareholder disputes, and employment disputes.

## REPRESENTATIVE WORK

- ◆ *Ontario (Attorney General) v Contents of Bank Accounts (in rem)*, 2021 ONSC 8304: Acted for defendant bank account owners in successfully resisting a forfeiture application under the *Civil Remedies Act*
- ◆ *Catalyst Capital Group Inc. v West Face Capital Inc.*, 2021 ONSC 7957 (appeal pending): Acted for a defendant professional whistleblower and short-seller in a successful anti-SLAPP motion, resulting in the dismissal of claims in defamation and conspiracy, among others
- ◆ *Maginnis and Magnaye v FCA Canada et al.*, 2020 ONSC 6498, aff'd 2021 ONSC 3897 (Div Court) (appeal pending): Acted for a defendant automobile dealership in successfully resisting certification of a class action related to alleged vehicle "defeat devices", engaging issues of whether representative plaintiffs are required to provide evidence of compensatory harm at the certification stage
- ◆ *County of Wellington v Municipal Property Assessment Corporation, Region 22* 2021 CanLII 26723 (ON ARB) (appeal pending): Acted for the appellant county in successfully challenging MPAC's assessment and classification of gravel pit properties before the Assessment Review Board
- ◆ *Smith v Arsenault-Smith*, 2019 ONSC 3600: Acted for the successful respondent in an appeal of an arbitration decision relating to the obligation to make full and honest disclosure in a family law dispute
- ◆ Acts for corporations in a variety of contract disputes, including contracts related to the supply of pharmaceutical and technology products
- ◆ Acts for a wealth management firm in employment-related disputes arising out of its hiring of investment advisors
- ◆ Acts for a provincial financial institution on a variety of matters, including in relation to allegations of having facilitated fraud and class actions involving credit card issuance and payment processing
- ◆ Acts for respondents in Ontario Securities Commission enforcement proceedings involving such allegations as unregistered trading, fraud, and obstruction
- ◆ Represented a minority shareholder of a closely-held corporation in a long-running, arbitrated dispute, involving such issues as shareholder oppression and the exercise of a shotgun clause
- ◆ Acted for the Law Society of Ontario in litigation arising out of its conduct of an investigation and professional discipline proceedings
- ◆ Acted as intervener at the Supreme Court of Canada on behalf of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association in *R v Vice Media Canada Inc.*, which dealt with the test applicable to the granting of a production order against a journalist in relation to journalist-source communications and the appropriateness of publication bans in a public and notorious case

## LEADERSHIP POSITIONS AND COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS

- ◆ Secretary, Arbitration and Mediation Advocacy Practice Group, The Advocates' Society (2022 – present) (Member-at-Large, 2020 – 2022)
- ◆ Roster Lawyer, Ontario Securities Commission Litigation Assistance Program (2018 – present)
- ◆ Member, Young Advocates' Standing Committee (YAS), The Advocates' Society (2020 – 2022)

**LERNERS**

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- ◆ Former Director, Epilepsy Canada (2018-2019)

## SELECTED PRESENTATIONS/PUBLICATIONS

- ◆ Co-presenter, "SLAPP Legislation – Recent Developments", "Defamation Law: Trends and Developments" program, Law Society of Ontario, November 2021
- ◆ Author, "Courts of Justice Act Chapters, 22. Gag Proceedings, Sections 137.1 - 137.5", *Civil Procedure and Practice in Ontario*, September 2021
- ◆ Co-presenter, "Affidavits of Documents, Privilege, Confidentiality and E-Discovery Fundamentals", "Divine Discoveries: Building a Great Case" program, Ontario Bar Association, March 2021
- ◆ Presenter, "Effective Use of Evidence in Arbitrations", "Arbitration Advocacy" program, The Advocates' Society, September 2020
- ◆ Panelist, "Managing Litigation Files as In House Counsel", Canadian Corporate Counsel – Ontario Branch, September 2020
- ◆ Author, "Private and Confidential? Managing Confidentiality in Domestic Commercial Arbitration Appeals and Applications", ADR Perspectives, September 2020
- ◆ Co-author, "The Independent Arbitrator: Challenging Arbitrator Independence" (with Earl A. Cherniak), ADR Perspectives, September 2019
- ◆ Co-presenter, "Professionalism Issues", Ontario Bar Association program "Buying and Selling a Business: A Comprehensive Guide", September 2019
- ◆ Co-author, "A "SLAPP" in the Face of Defamation Plaintiffs", presented at "Defamation at a Crossroads: Trends and Developments" program, Law Society of Ontario, September 2018

## PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

- ◆ Partner, Leners LLP (2021)
- ◆ Associate Lawyer, Leners LLP (2015 – 2020)
- ◆ Articling Student, Leners LLP (2014-2015)
- ◆ Summer Law Student (Enforcement Branch), Ontario Securities Commission (2013)

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- ◆ The Advocates' Society
- ◆ Toronto Commercial Arbitration Society
- ◆ Toronto Lawyers' Association
- ◆ Ontario Bar Association
- ◆ Law Society of Ontario

## EDUCATION

- ◆ Admitted to Ontario Bar (2015)
- ◆ Juris Doctor, Queen's University, Faculty of Law (2014)
- ◆ Certificate in Public International Law, Bader International Study Centre, Herstmonceux, United Kingdom (2012)
- ◆ Bachelor of Arts (with distinction) in Sociology, Queen's University (2011)

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- ◆ Best Lawyers in Canada, Ones to Watch, Corporate and Commercial Litigation/Labour and Employment Law

## LERNERS

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