Lauren J. Wihak, K.C.

PARTNER



OFFICE Regina

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PRACTICE AREAS

- Civil Litigation
- Appellate Advocacy
- Administrative Law
- Municipal Law

Lauren J. Wihak's practice focuses on administrative and public law, civil litigation, and appeals. Lauren previously clerked at the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court of Canada. Lauren has appeared before various trial courts, appeal courts in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, British Columbia, and the Supreme Court of Canada. Lauren received her King's Counsel appointment in 2024. She is fluent in English and French.

Overview

Lauren J. Wihak, K.C., joined McDougall Gauley LLP in 2017, after spending the first seven years of her practice split between a Vancouver litigation boutique and a major national law firm in both Ottawa and Vancouver.

Prior to starting her career has a lawyer, Lauren had the privilege of clerking for the Honourable Mr. Justice Louis LeBel of the Supreme Court of Canada (2009-2010) and the Honourable Madam Justice Georgina R. Jackson of the Court of Appeal for Saskatchewan (2008-2009). She is called to the bar in Saskatchewan (2009), Ontario (2010), and British Columbia (2011). Lauren received her King's Counsel appointment in 2024. She is fully fluent in French and English.

Lauren's civil litigation practice focuses on public and administrative law, appellate litigation, and constitutional litigation. In addition to a vast array of representative work helping clients in any number of civil litigation matters, Lauren also has considerable experience dealing with appeals, and for application for leave to appeal and for leave to intervene, including before the Supreme Court of Canada.

Lauren has appeared before the Supreme Court of Canada, the Court of Appeal for Saskatchewan, the Court of Appeal for British Columbia, the Court of Appeal for Manitoba, and various trial courts across Canada including the Court of King's Bench for Saskatchewan. She has also appeared before a number of administrative boards and tribunals.

Lauren has designed an upper year law school course entitled Appellate Advocacy and Principles, which she has taught at the College of Law at the University of Saskatchewan since 2018. She has also authored a number of papers and articles, some of which have been cited by Canadian courts including the Supreme Court of Canada and the Court of Appeal for Saskatchewan. Lauren has spoken and presented at numerous conferences and seminars both in Saskatchewan and across Canada on administrative law, legal writing, and appellate advocacy.

Accordingly, Lauren has been recognized by her peers across the Country as a Best Lawyer in Canada (Administrative and Public Law), and has been listed in the Canadian Lexpert Legal Directory in the area of Regulatory and Public Law since 2023. Lauren was featured in the Lexpert Special Edition: Litigation, in both 2023 and 2024.

Lauren continues to be an active member of her profession. She served for five years on the Canadian Bar Association's Supreme Court of Canada Bench and Bar Committee, including two years as its Chairperson. She also served three years on the Executive for the Advocate's Society's Appellate Advocacy Practice Group. Including as its Chairperson in 2023-2024. Lauren has been involved in a volunteer capacity with the Wilson Moot, a national moot bringing together law students from across Canada to address important questions of constitutional litigation, since 2011, as a team coach, volunteer judge and, since 2024, factum grader.

Lauren received her Juris Doctor in 2008 from Queen's University, where she was a member of the Dean's list during each of her three years of study and was awarded the Dean's Key at graduation. Lauren also holds a degree in Communication and Psychology from the University of Ottawa, where she was awarded the Silver Medal.

Achievements

BAR ADMISSION

- British Columbia, 2011
- Ontario, 2010
- Saskatchewan, 2009

EDUCATION

- Juris Doctor, Queen's University, 2008
- Bachelor of Arts (magna cum laude), University of Ottawa, 2005

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- Appointed King's Counsel, 2024
- "Best Lawyers in Canada"
  - "Lawyer of the Year", Administrative and Public Law (Regina), 2027
  - Administrative and Public Law, 2025-present
- Featured in Lexpert Special Edition: Litigation, 2024 and Litigation (Lawyer to Watch), 2023
- Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory
  - Litigation - Regulatory & Public Law, 2024-2026
  - "Lawyer to Watch" in Litigation - Regulatory & Public Law, 2023

MEMBERSHIPS & ASSOCIATIONS

- Canadian Bar Association
- Association des Juristes d'Expression Francaise de la Saskatchewan
- Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice
- Law Society of British Columbia
- Law Society of Saskatchewan
- Law Society Ontario
- Regina Bar Association
- Saskatchewan Trial Lawyers Association
- The Advocates Society

LANGUAGES

- English
- French

Representative Work

Assessment of lawyers' accounts under the Legal Professions Act

2026

| *Buffalo River Dene Nation & Birch Narrows Dene Nation v Duboff Edwards Schachter Law Corporation*, 2026 SKCA 79

Appellate practice and procedure – application for a re-hearing of an appeal – constitutional law

2026 | *Whitley v Korvemaker*, 2026 SKCA 47

Appellate practice – solicitor-client costs – doctrine of functus officio

2026 | *Geortz v The Owners of Condominium Plan No. 98SA1201*, 2026 SKCA 43

Municipal law – disqualification from council due to conflict of interest – judicial review

2026 | *Kaiser v Baildon (Municipality)*, 2026 SKKB 57

Civil Procedure – Statutory Interpretation – Scope of right to sue for damages in relation to motor vehicle accidents in Saskatchewan

2026 | *Korvemaker v Whitley*, 2026 SKCA 15

Civil Procedure – Equitable Set Off Defence – Limitation of Actions

2026 | *RIP Beverages Co. Ltd. v Dunn*, 2026 SKCA 10

Municipal Law – Statutory Limitation Periods – Striking Pleadings as Abuse of Process

2025 | *Canadian National Railway Company v Edgeley (Town)*, 2025 SKKB 202

Judicial review – procedural fairness – withdrawal of certificate of nomination under provincial immigration program

2025 | *Sukhadia v Saskatchewan (Ministry of the Economy)*, 2025 SKKB 100

Aboriginal law – duty to consult – judicial review of administrative action

2025 | *Chaboyer v Saskatchewan Power Corporation et al*, 2025 SKCA 31

Summary dismissal – subject matter jurisdiction – no reasonable claim

2025 | *More & Better Asset Development Corporation*, 2025 SKKB 23

Judicial review – procedural fairness – disqualification of municipal councillors

2025 | *Wushke v RM of Rocanville*, 2025 SKKB 19

Entitlement to statutory benefits – statutory interpretation

2024 | *Custer v Saskatchewan Government Insurance*, 2024 SKCA 18

Human rights – discrimination in employment on the basis of disability

2024 | *Baildon (RM) v Gronvold*, 2024 SKCA 73

Assessment of lawyers accounts under The Legal Professions Act

2024 | *Duboff Edwards Schachter Law Corporation v Buffalo River Dene Nation*, 2024 SKKB 193

Judicial review – duty to consult with Aboriginal peoples

2023 | *Waterhen Lake First Nation v Saskatchwan*, 2023 SKKB 230

Judicial review – program requirements of the College of Medicine

2023 | *Cantos v University of Saskatchewan*, 2023 SKKB 211

Off-duty professional misconduct – professional discipline sanctions – standard of review

2023 | *College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan v Leontowicz*, 2023 SKCA 110

Fresh evidence on appeal and new issues on appeal

2023 | *Zunti v Saskatchewan Government Insurance*, 2023 SKCA 82

Scope of duty to consult aboriginal peoples in context of licence renewal

2023 | *Chaboyer v Saskatchewan*, 2023 SKQB 62

Sanctions available in response to code of ethics violations by municipal councillor

2023 | *Kaiser v Rural Municipality of Baildon*, 2023 SKKB 50

Availability of the tort of misfeasance in public office

2022 | *Slater v Pedigree Poultry Ltd.*, 2022 SKCA 113

Whether arrests for purposes of keeping the peace in context of public protests violate the Charter

2022 | *Dubois v Saskatchewan*, 2022 SKCA 100

Striking pleadings – civil vs administrative law remedies

2022 | *Solgi v College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan*, 2022 SKCA 96

Administrative delay and availability of stay of proceedings

2022 | *Law Society of Saskatchewan v Abrametz*, 2022 SCC 29

Enhanced costs

2022 | *Pastuch v The Queen*, 2022 TCC 72

Res judicata, abuse of process and collateral attack

2022 | *Pastuch v The Queen*, 2022 TCC 36

Civil appeals – mootness

2022 | *Dubois v Saskatchewan*, 2022 SKCA 15

Judicial review of denial of workplace injury benefits for PTSD

2022 | *Mercer Estate v Moose Jaw Board of Police Commissioners*, 2022 SKQB 8

Extrinsic evidence admissible on judicial review

2021 | *Chaboyer v Saskatchewan*, 2021 SKQB 200

Evidence needed to establish entitlement to a preservation order – appeal remedies

2021 | *Yorkton (City) v Mi-Sask Industries Ltd.*, 2021 SKCA 43

Procedural fairness obligations for employment decisions in education – administrative law remedies

2021 | Oberg v Saskatchewan (Board of Education of the South East Cornerstone School Division No. 209), 2021 SKCA 28

Judicial review of demotion of high school principal in breach of procedural fairness

2020

| Oberg v Saskatchewan (Board of Education of the South East Cornerstone School Division No. 209), 2020 SKQB 96

Judicial review of denial of workplace injury benefits for PTSD

2020 | Pierson v Estevan Board of Police Commissioners, 2020 SKQB 144

Application for leave to appeal decision denying preservation order

2020 | Yorkton (City) v Mi-Sask Industries Ltd., 2020 SKCA 109

Constitutionality of provisions of the Criminal Code

2019 | R v Robb, 2019 SKQB 295

Dismissal of bankruptcy appeal by judgment creditor on the basis of delay

2018 | Ross v Day, 2018 SKQB 153

Municipal law - civil procedure - application to strike pleadings

2018 | Kaiser v RM of Baildon, 2018 SKQB 292

Whether foreign default judgment can survive discharge from bankruptcy

2017 | Lang v. Lapp, 2017 BCSC 670

Strike pleadings – whether corporate law claims are personal or derivative

2017 | Wang v. Epoch Press Ltd., 2017 BCSC 136

Whether constitutional challenge to tendering policy should be heard by courts or by labour board

2016 | Millen et al v Hydro Electric Board (Man), 2016 MBCA 56

Constitutionality of legislative changes to class size and composition

2015 | British Columbia Teachers' Federation v British Columbia, 2015 BCCA 184

Application for injunction to remove defamatory postings

2014 | Richardson v. Hunter, 2014 BCSC 1960

Application for leave to intervene in Charter challenge

2014 | British Columbia Teachers' Federation v. British Columbia, 2014 BCCA 341

Conflicts of interest

2013 | Canadian National Railway Co. v. McKercher LLP, 2013 SCC 39

Constitutionality of the right to strike

2013 | R v. Saskatchewan Federation of Labour, 2013 SKCA 43

Public interest standing

2012

| Fédération des parents francophones de Colombie-Britannique v. British Columbia (Attorney General), 2012 BCCA 422

Constitutionality of restrictions on election spending in context of fixed election dates

2012 | Reference re Election Act (BC), 2012 BCCA 394

Conflicts of law and assumption of jurisdiction

2012 | Club Resorts Ltd. v. Van Breda, 2012 SCC 17

Enforceability of foreign choice of forum clauses and private international law

2012 | Momentous.ca Corp. v. Canadian American Association of Professional Baseball Ltd., 2012 SCC 9

Insights

JANUARY 29, 2026 | Lauren J. Wihak, K.C. Joy M. Brailean

Recent Saskatchewan Court of King's Bench decision reaffirms the broad application of the one-year limitation period for suing municipalities in Saskatchewan

JUNE 17, 2021 | Lauren J. Wihak, K.C.

Workplace Injury Benefits for First Responders Suffering from PTSD: A Look at Pierson v Estevan Board of Police Commissioners

APRIL 8, 2019 | Lauren J. Wihak, K.C.

Left Behind Charter Rights under the New Impaired Driving Regime

MARCH 13, 2019 | Lauren J. Wihak, K.C.

Principled Limitations? or Just Path Dependency?

Speaking Events & Presentations

JUNE 2025 | Panelist

SYMPOSIUM HELD AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA, FACULTY OF LAW, EDMONTON, ALBERTA

"Vavilov at 5"

FEBRUARY 2025 | Panelist

THE ADVOCATES SOCIETY'S ADVOCACY HOUR, ONLINE

"Perfecting your Pitch at the Court of Appeal"

OCTOBER 30, 2024 | Panelist

CANADIAN INSTITUTE, ADVANCED ADMINISTRATIVE LAW AND PRACTICE CONFERENCE, OTTAWA

The Review of Government Regulations Post-Katz: Reading the Tea Leaves of *Auer* and *TransAlta*

OCTOBER 11, 2024 | Speaker

SASKATCHEWAN TRIAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION, FALL CONFERENCE, APPELLATE ADVOCACY AND THE TRIAL LAWYER, REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN

Courts of Appeal: What they do, don't do, can't do, and why this matters to effective appellate advocacy

JUNE 13, 2024 | Panelist

ADVOCATES SOCIETY, SUPREME COURT ADVOCACY (ONLINE)

Tips for Getting Leave to Appeal at the SCC

JUNE 6, 2024 | Moderator

CANADIAN INSTITUTE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE, ANNUAL ROUNDTABLE ON ADMINISTRATIVE LAW, OTTAWA, ONTARIO

The Legacy of Two Great Jurists in Administrative Law: Justice Louis LeBel and Ron Ellis

MAY 8, 2024 | Panelist

SASKATCHEWAN ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNALS ASSOCIATION, ANNUAL CONFERENCE (ONLINE)

Too Much or Not Enough? Responsive Reasons, Information Management and Administrative Tribunals

DECEMBER 6, 2023 | Panelist

ADVOCATES SOCIETY, WRITTEN APPELLATE ADVOCACY (ONLINE)

Getting Leave to Appeal – How to Put Your Best Foot Forward

OCTOBER, 2023 | Speaker

OSGOODE HALL LAW SCHOOL 18TH ANNUAL NATIONAL FORUM ON ADMINISTRATIVE LAW & PRACTICE (ONLINE)

Current Topics in Standard of Review: Review of Regulations; Procedural Fairness; and the latest word from Abrametz (with Ewa Krajewska, Henein Hutchison Robitaille LLP)

JUNE, 2023 | Speaker

CANADIAN INSTITUTE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE ANNUAL ROUNDTABLE ON ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

What are unconscious and conscious biases? What do they mean in the context of administrative tribunals?

APRIL, 2023

LAW SOCIETY OF ONTARIO WEBINAR

L'essentiel de la pratique en droit administratif: Le délai en droit administratif

FEBRUARY, 2023 | Moderator

ADVOCATES SOCIETY APPELLATE ADVOCACY PRACTICE GROUP

How to Get Leave to Appeal: A View from the Bench

NOVEMBER, 2022

INVESTIGATIVE AND DISCIPLINARY FORUM

Principles of Administrative Law (with Amanda M. Quayle, K.C.)

OCTOBER, 2022

OSGOODE HALL 17TH ANNUAL NATIONAL FORUM ON ADMINISTRATIVE LAW & PRACTICE

W(h)ither Doré? The Uncertain Place of "Charter Values" after Vavilov

SEPTEMBER, 2022 | Panelist

COUNCIL OF CANADIAN ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNALS

Abrametz: What it means for Administrative Justice Proceedings

MAY, 2022 | Speaker

CANADIAN INSTITUTE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE ANNUAL ROUNDTABLE ON ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

Promoting Mental Health in the Justice System for Both Professionals and Users: The Obligations of Court Officers and Court Council

NOVEMBER, 2021

CANADIAN BAR ASSOCIATION (SASKATCHEWAN) CRIMINAL JUSTICE SOUTH

Introduction to Criminal Appeals

OCTOBER, 2021

LERNERS/TORYS

Agree to Disagree: Dissent in Canada's Appeal Courts – Supreme Court Dissents in Administrative Law

OCTOBER, 2021

OSGOODE HALL 16TH ANNUAL NATIONAL FORUM ON ADMINISTRATIVE LAW & PRACTICE

Procedural Fairness Update: post Covid-19 and Other Developments

JUNE, 2021

CANADIAN BAR ASSOCIATION (SASKATCHEWAN) CIVIL LITIGATION SOUTH

Administrative Law 101: the Top 5 things every civil litigator needs to know about administrative law

2021 | Presenter

ADVOCATES SOCIETY, DELIVERED ONLINE

"Abrametz v Law Society of Saskatchewan: Top Administrative and Regulatory Cases of 2020"

2020 | Speaker

UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA PUBLIC LAW CENTRE, DELIVERED ONLINE

"Vavilov: in Perspective," Vavilov's First Birthday, The implications of Vavilov for various areas of administrative decision making

2020 | Speaker

CIAJ NATIONAL ROUNDTABLE ON ADMINISTRATIVE LAW, DELIVERED ONLINE

"Introduction: Towards a Unified Theory of Administrative Law?"

2020 | Moderator

CIAJ WEBINAR ON ADMINISTRATIVE LAW, DELIVERED ONLINE

"Vavilov, où en sommes nous six mois plus tard?"

2020 | Moderator

CIAJ WEBINAR ON ADMINISTRATIVE LAW, DELIVERED ONLINE

"Six months of Vavilov, where are we now?"

2017 | co-presented with Benjamin J. Oliphant

2017 CIAJ NATIONAL ROUNDTABLE ON ADMINISTRATIVE LAW, VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA

"Plus ça change…The Record on Judicial Review"