

Karen Poetker

Partner

Karen is a litigation lawyer with a focus on civil, construction, insurance and commercial litigation and arbitration. She has a particular focus on construction-related litigation, acting for owners, contractors, sub-contractors, architects and engineers in complex construction disputes. She is also Partner and Chair of the Executive Board.



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Chair of the Executive Board of the Firm, Karen is a litigation lawyer whose practice is focused on civil, construction, insurance and commercial litigation and arbitration. Karen assists clients with a variety of matters, including shareholder disputes, negligence claims and contractual disputes, insurance litigation, and creditor/debtor disputes.

Karen has a particular focus on construction-related litigation, acting for owners, contractors, sub-contractors, architects and engineers in complex construction disputes.

She has appeared at all levels of court in Manitoba, and acts as counsel before arbitrators and administrative tribunals. She has also appeared before the Federal Court and the Federal Court of Appeal, and regularly negotiates resolutions through private mediation and formal judicially-assisted dispute resolution (JADR).

Karen has also been a presiding member of the Housing Cooperative Appeal Tribunal since 2014.

Practice Areas

- Litigation and Dispute Resolution
- Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Civil Litigation
- Construction Litigation
- Corporate and Commercial Litigation
- Insurance Litigation
- Personal Injury

Industries

- Infrastructure
- Insurance



Education

Construction Law Certificate (Osgoode, 2021)

Admitted to the Manitoba Bar, 2009

LL.B., University of Manitoba, 2008

M.A., Ryerson/York Universities, 2004

B.A., University of Manitoba, 2001

Representative Work

McCallister v. McCallister, 2021 MBQB 156

St. Boniface Warehousing Ltd. v. BBD Holdings Ltd., 2019 MBQB 181

City of Portage la Prairie et al. v. Tower Engineering Group Limited Partnership et al., 2019 MBQB 4

Embil v S Maric Construction Ltd. et al, 2018 MBCA 68

Memberships and Associations

Manitoba Bar Association, Construction subsection,
Present

Manitoba Bar Association

Canadian Bar Association

Manitoba Bar Association, Civil Litigation subsection,
2016 – 2017

Honours and Awards

Wilson Moot Cup Participant, 2008

Solomon Greenberg Moot finalist, 2007

Max and Manly Isaacs Prize, 2006

Ryerson Graduate Scholarship for academic excellence,
2002 – 2004

Dean's Honour List, University of Manitoba, 1997 – 2000



Publications and Appearances

Co-Author (with Matthew Duffy, Eric Blouw and Kara Moore), Pitblado COVID-19 Resource Centre, "COVID-19 – Summary of Court Closures in Manitoba", April 14, 2020

Author, Pitblado COVID-19 Resource Centre, "Construction Law Considerations in Light of COVID-19", April 1, 2020

Co-Author (with Matthew Duffy, Eric Blouw and Kara Moore), Pitblado COVID-19 Resource Centre, "UPDATE – Executing Affidavits and Declarations During COVID-19 Pandemic", March 26, 2020

Co-Author (with Matthew Duffy, Eric Blouw and Kara Moore), Pitblado COVID-19 Resource Centre, "Executing Affidavits and Declarations During COVID-19 Pandemic", March 24, 2020

Co-Author (with Matthew Duffy, Eric Blouw and Kara Moore), Pitblado COVID-19 Resource Centre, "Managing Litigation in Manitoba During the COVID-19 Pandemic", March 24, 2020

Co-Author (with Matthew Duffy, Eric Blouw and Kara Moore), Pitblado COVID-19 Resource Centre, "Potential Claims Resulting from COVID-19", March 24, 2020

Regular Instructor, Online CPLED Articling Student Course

Co-presenter (with The Hon. Mr. Justice Edmond and Dave Hill) at the MBA 2019 Mid-Winter Conference "Part II of *The Limitation of Actions Act*", January 25, 2019

Co-Presenter (with Elizabeth Bima and Matthew Maslanka), Small Claims Primer, Young Lawyers' Section, Law Society of Manitoba, June 2016

Co-Presenter (with Claudette Perreault and Matthew Maslanka), Small Claims Primer, Young Lawyers' Section, Law Society of Manitoba, June 2015

Co-Presenter (with Matthew Maslanka), Small Claims Primer, Young Lawyers' Section, Law Society of Manitoba, July 2014

Co-Author (with Steve Vincent), "How you can avoid common Errors and Omissions problems", Manitoba Insurance Broker Magazine, December 2013

Regular Presenter, Legal Help Centre Small Claims Workshop, 2012/2013

Co-Presenter (with Georgina Garrett), Small Claims Primer, Young Lawyers' Section, Law Society of Manitoba, June 14, 2013

Co-Presenter (with Adam Herstein), "Client Contract and Litigation Primer for Artists", ACI Manitoba, October 25, 2012

Co-Presenter (with Adam Herstein), "Clients are awesome, except when they're not. A guide to project contracts", New Media Manitoba, March 20, 2012