



Michael Fenrick B.A., M.A., LL.B.
Partner

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Michael is focused on solving his clients' most complex and sensitive problems, efficiently and effectively. He is results oriented, responsive, and understands the importance of momentum to reaching successful outcomes. In 2018, he was recognized as a *Lexpert Rising Star as a Leading Lawyer - 40 and Under* and by Benchmark Litigation as both a Future Star and on its Hot List of leading litigators who are 40 and under.

Michael has a diverse practice, working with clients across a broad range of industries, in areas such as corporate practice, commercial litigation, public-private partnerships and alternative finance procurement; appellate advocacy; judicial reviews; class actions; defamation; privacy; and labour and employment law. His range of experience means he has a depth and breadth of strategic insight when advising clients on a multitude of issues that face them.

Michael has a particular expertise in constitutional and other public law and policy matters, and is adjunct faculty at Osgoode Hall Law School teaching Constitutional Litigation. He previously taught Constitutional Law at the University of Toronto. He is also a contributing author of the leading textbook, *Constitutional Litigation in Canada*.

Michael is active in politics, and was appointed Constitutional and Legal Affairs Advisor to the National Board of the Liberal Party of Canada in 2018. He has expertise in elections law, and issues related to the political process in Canada, as well as the legal issues faced by voluntary associations and other not-for-profit groups.

Prior to joining the firm in 2009, Michael was Law Clerk to the Honourable Justice Marshall Rothstein of the Supreme Court of Canada. He was the gold medalist at Dalhousie Law School and received numerous academic and advocacy prizes.

Education:

Dalhousie Law School, LL.B.,
2008

University of British Columbia,
M.A., 2005

University of King's College,
B.A., 2003

Bar Admissions:

Ontario, 2009

Professional Affiliations:

Ontario Bar Association,
Executive Member of the
Administrative Law Section

Ontario Bar Association,
Executive Member of the
Constitutional, Civil Liberties
and Human Rights Section

The Advocates' Society
Canadian Association of
Labour Lawyers

The Osgoode Society for
Canadian Legal History

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Representative Work

- Michael is co-counsel representing three migrant workers in the first constitutional challenge to the Seasonal Agricultural Workers' Program.
- Michael was co-counsel for the British Columbia Civil Liberties Association in the first appeals before the Supreme Court of Canada challenging the constitutionality of the terrorism provisions in the Criminal Code.
- Michael was co-counsel for the Canadian Civil Liberties Association in *R. v. Bedford* in which the Court of Appeal struck down many of the provisions criminalizing prostitution in Canada.
- Michael has been co-counsel for the Canadian Police Association in leading cases in the area of freedom of association (*Fraser v. Ontario (Attorney General)* and *Mounted Police Association of Ontario v. Canada*).
- Michael was also counsel for the Canadian Police Association in *Penner v. Niagara Police Services Board* respecting the scope of issue estoppel and police discipline.
- Michael was co-counsel for the Foundation for the Advancement of Investor Rights before the Supreme Court of Canada in the reference respecting the constitutionality of the proposed national securities regulator.
- Michael has appeared as co-counsel on a number of judicial reviews or appeals from decisions of the administrative tribunals, including decisions of the Ontario Municipal Board, the Ontario College of Pharmacists, the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board and the Ontario Securities Commission.

Awards and Honours

- Recognized for *2019 Precedent Setter Award*
- Recognized in *2019 Canadian Legal Lexpert® Directory* as *Leading Lawyer to Watch – Litigation Public Law*
- Recognized by *Benchmark Litigation* as 2019 Future Star and is on 40 & Under Hot List
- Named a "*Rising Star, one of Canada's Leading Lawyers under 40*" by Lexpert, 2018
- Law Clerk to the Honourable Justice Marshall Rothstein, Supreme Court of Canada, 2008-2009
- Dalhousie Law School, University Medal in Law, 2008
- Numerous academic and advocacy prizes in areas such as constitutional, administrative, labour and corporate commercial law

Community Involvement

Michael is very involved in federal politics and has a deep interest in politics generally.

- OneLight Theatre, Board Member
- Local Federal Riding Association, Executive Member and Fundraising Co-Chair

Publications/Presentations

- *No Freedom to Remain Silent* – November 2017 article in the Law Times about the heated debate over the Law Society of Upper Canada's decision to require licensees to adopt a statement of principles related to diversity and inclusion
- Regularly speaks and chairs panels on legal matters related to public law issues.