

Partner

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Odette Soriano is a partner at Paliare Roland Rosenberg Rothstein LLP, and a member of the firm's Executive Committee. She is an advocate characterized by her thoughtful, strategic and practical approach to solving complicated problems. In her litigation practice focused on class actions, defamation, and other complex disputes, Odette represents significant stakeholders both on the plaintiff and defence side.

Odette is ranked with *Chambers Canada* in Dispute Resolution: Class Action (Plaintiff), and in *Best Lawyers*. As a recommended lawyer for dispute resolution by the *Legal 500 Canada*, Odette is described as having "spectacular problem-solving instincts". She is also consistently recognized as a Litigation Star by *Benchmark Litigation*.

Education

University of Victoria, LL.B.

University of Western Ontario, Finance and Economics, B.A.

Bar Admissions

Ontario, 1995

Professional Affiliations

The Advocates' Society

Toronto Lawyers Association

Practice Areas

Appeals and Judicial Review

Product Liability and Tort Claims

Class Actions

Professional Discipline and Regulation

Commercial Litigation

Securities Litigation

Defamation, Libel and Slander

Universities

Mediation and Arbitration

Awards and Honours

Benchmark Litigation - Top 100 Women in Canadian Litigation - 2023

Benchmark Litigation - Top 100 Women in Canadian Litigation, Litigation Star - 2022

Best Lawyers in Canada - Class Action Litigation - Since 2022

Chambers Canada - Dispute Resolution: Class Action (Plaintiff) - Nationwide - Canada

The Legal 500 - Recommended lawyer in Dispute Resolution - Ontario

Benchmark Litigation - Litigation Star

Representative Work

Plaintiff-side class actions:

Representing a class of registered accountholders against investment brokerages and a trust company alleging breach of trust and breach of fiduciary duty in connection with foreign exchange fees

Representing a class of pharmacist franchisees against their franchisor alleging breach of contract, breach of duties of good faith, and unjust enrichment in connection with payments from pharmaceutical companies and franchisor fees and practices

Represented a class of investors in a private placement against the auditor of an offshore company

Representing a class of consumers against an online payments company alleging breach

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of contract and breach of consumer protection legislation in connection with foreign exchange transactions

Represented a class of elevator owners who alleged that their elevators had faulty braking systems

Represented a class of credit card customers who alleged that they had been charged unlawful fees on cash advances

Represented classes of customers of payday lenders who alleged the lenders charged criminal rates of interest

Defence-side class actions:

Representing a public institution in defence of a proposed class action arising out of the COVID-19 pandemic

Represented a law firm in defence of a class action by former clients relating to billing practices

Represented an educational institution in defence of a proposed class action regarding historical allegations

Other class action engagements:

Provided opinions to litigation funders regarding potential investments in class actions

Provided advice to class action defendants on media and defamation issues

Defamation engagements:

Represented politicians, lawyers, authors, athletes, senior executives, and other individuals in respect of media and defamation issues, on both the plaintiff and defendant side

Represented trade unions and their members in defamation proceedings

Provided media and defamation advice to corporations, religious organizations, charities and NGOs, as well as educational institutions and their employees

Conducted pre-publication reviews from a defamation perspective

Presentations

Panel member – *Procedural Grab Bag* – 19th National Symposium on Class Actions, Osgoode Hall Law School Professional Development – April 2023

Panel member – *Anti-SLAPP – Court of Appeal weighs in – Ad IDEM* – Canadian Media Lawyers Association 2019 Annual Conference – November 2019

Panel member – *Anti-SLAPP Developments* – OBA: Defamation Law: A Practical Guide for Litigators – May 2019

Panel member – *Mastering Opening Statements* – The Advocates' Society: Civil Litigation Skills Certificate Program: Leading Your Case: Opening Statements and Examination-in-Chief – December 2018

Plaintiff's counsel and panel member – *Demonstration and Commentary on Effective Opening Statements* – December 2018

Panel member – *Practical Tips for Class Action Mediation with the Honourable Warren Winkler* – OBA: Class Actions Webinar – November 2018

Panel member – *Lightning Round – The Year in Review* – The Advocates' Society, Class Actions Advocacy – February 2018