



Craig Vander Zee *

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** Legal services provided through Craig Vander Zee Professional Corporation*

Craig is a partner in our Trusts & Estates and Litigation Groups and is certified by the Law Society of Ontario as a Specialist in Estates and Trusts Law. His practice includes all aspects of estate, trust, capacity, fiduciary and power of attorney disputes and litigation for clients consisting of individuals, trust companies, government agencies and other organizations.

Craig provides counsel on, amongst other things, the rights and obligations of estate trustees, estate trustees during litigation, trustees, attorneys for property or care, and guardians, and the rights and entitlements of beneficiaries. His extensive experience includes matters involving powers of attorney, estate administration, probate applications, passing of accounts, the appointment or removal of estate trustees, trustees or guardians, the validity or interpretation of wills, capacity, undue influence, guardianship, estate or trust claims, breaches of trust, claims against an estate including dependant support claims, minors and the incapable.

Craig is also a very experienced Estate Mediator.

Craig is a past Chair of the Trusts and Estates Section of the Ontario Bar Association and a past member of the Executive (Toronto Branch) of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP). He was also a member of the Advisory Group for the Law Commission of Ontario Project on the Law as it Affects Older Adults.

Craig has represented clients before all levels of Court in Ontario, the Federal Court of Canada, the trial and appellate Courts of Alberta and various tribunals and boards.

Expertise

- ▶ Litigation
- ▶ Not-for-Profit & Charities
- ▶ Wills, Trusts & Estates

Awards & Recognition

- ▶ *Chambers and Partners High Net Worth: The World's Leading High Net Worth Advisors* - for his expertise in Private Wealth Disputes, Canada (2018 – present)
- ▶ *The Canadian Legal Expert Directory* - Estate and Tax Planning, Estate Litigation (since 2016)
- ▶ *The Best Lawyers in Canada®* - Trusts and Estates (since 2009)
- ▶ Chosen by *LawDay* as one of the leading practitioners in Canada in the area of Estates and Trusts (2009)

- ▶ Trust and Estate Practitioner (TEP) Designation (since 2006)
- ▶ Certified by the Law Society of Ontario as a Specialist in Estates and Trusts Law (C.S.) (since 2005)

Publications & Presentations

- ▶ Jun 05, 2019 | Presentation
Estate Mediation Preparation Steps
The Essential Guide to Estate Dispute Mediations: Unique Challenges, Creative Solutions for Counsel – Osgoode Professional Development
- ▶ Jun 04, 2019 | Presentation
Examination for Discovery, Planning and Preparation in a Professional Negligence Case
Trust Troubles - Litigation, Tax and Ethical Issues – B'nai Brith Canada CLE for Lawyers & Accountants
- ▶ Apr 15, 2019 | Presentation
Estate Planning & Litigation Forum
Presenter
- ▶ Oct 29, 2018 | Presentation
Marshalling the Evidence and Framing the Theory of your Case
The Advocates' Society: Conducting a Dependant Support Trial
- ▶ May 03, 2018 | Presentation
Estate Tax Planning Gone Away
B'Nai Birth Canada
- ▶ Oct 18, 2017 | Presentation
Elder Abuse and Manners of Protecting the Elderly
Chair, Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP) (Toronto Branch)
- ▶ Sep 28, 2017 | Presentation
Will Challenge Advocacy for Estate Litigators
The Advocates Society
- ▶ May 23, 2017 | Presentation
CLE for Lawyers & Accountants, Power of Attorney Dispute
B'Nai Brith Canada
- ▶ Sep 14, 2016 | Presentation
Disability Planning
Chair, Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP) (Toronto Branch)
- ▶ Jun 07, 2016 | Presentation
Mock Trial, Estate Disputes and Prenuptial Agreements
B'Nai Brith Canada
- ▶ May 10, 2016 | Presentation
Bonds and Beyond
The Six Minute Estates Lawyer 2016, Law Society of Upper Canada
- ▶ Sep 17, 2015 | Presentation
Fiduciary Accounting: Duties, Obligations, Process and Best Practices
Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP)(Toronto Branch)
- ▶ Jun 09, 2015 | Presentation
100 Questions about a Will Challenge (& Mock Trial)
B'Nai Brith Canada
- ▶ Nov 03, 2014 | Presentation
Addressing Confidentiality Concerns Involved in Court Proceedings
17th Annual Estates and Trusts Summit, Law Society of Upper Canada

- ▶ Jun 05, 2014 | Presentation
 “Scardoni Decision”, Court’s Role under the Health Care and Consent Act - when Consent and Capacity Board finds end of life wishes expressed by an adult person insufficiently specific
B’Nai Brith Canada
- ▶ May 07, 2014 | Presentation
 Estate Trustee Liability
Chair, Society of Trust and Estate Practitioner’s (STEP), (Toronto Branch)
- ▶ Mar 12, 2014 | Presentation
 Navigating a Dependent Support Claim
Kissing Cousins - Where Family Law and Estates Law Meet, Ontario Bar Association
- ▶ Nov 01, 2013 | Presentation
 Improper Conduct by an Executor: What is a Beneficiary or Co-Executor to do?
Co-authored with Craig Vander Zee (Presenter), 16th Annual Estates and Trusts Law Summit, The Law Society of Upper Canada
- ▶ Sep 01, 2013 | Presentation
 Interpretation, Rectification and Variation Applications: A Primer
Practice Gems: The Administration of Estates, The Law Society of Upper Canada
- ▶ Jun 01, 2013 | Presentation
 What should Beneficiaries do when they suspect the executor of improper conduct including defrauding the estate?
Fraud and Estate Litigation, B’Nai Brith Canada
- ▶ May 01, 2013 | Article
 Administrative Tribunals: Capacity to Instruct Counsel - Revisited
Co-authored with Craig Vander Zee (Presenter), Administrative Law Practice Essentials 2013, The Law Society of Upper Canada
- ▶ May 01, 2013 | Presentation
 Administrative Tribunals: Capacity to Instruct Counsel - Revisited
Co-authored with Craig Vander Zee (Presenter), Administrative Law Practice Essentials 2013, The Law Society of Upper Canada
- ▶ Nov 01, 2012 | Presentation
 Remedies for Breach of Trust: An Overview
Co-authored with Craig Vander Zee (Presenter), 15th Annual Estates and Trusts Law Summit, The Law Society of Upper Canada
- ▶ Jun 01, 2012 | Presentation
 Cross-Examination
Disinherited Beneficiaries, Testamentary Independence and Public Policy, B’Nai Brith Canada
- ▶ Apr 01, 2012 | Presentation
 Shielding the Estate from Mismanagement: Lesson Learned from Penna and McMichael
The Six-Minute Estates Lawyer 2012, Law Society of Upper Canada
- ▶ Nov 01, 2011 | Presentation
 Estoppel - Do promises really matter?
14th Annual Estates and Trusts Law Summit, Law Society of Upper Canada
- ▶ Sep 01, 2011 | Presentation
 Administration Where There are Claims Against the Estate
Practice Gems: The Administration of Estates 2011: Avoiding the Pitfalls, Law Society of Upper Canada
- ▶ Apr 01, 2011 | Presentation
 Conflicts Involving the Role of a Lawyer as Estate Trustee & Estate Solicitor
The Six-Minute Estates Lawyer 2011, Law Society of Upper Canada

- ▶ Jan 01, 2011 | Presentation
A Review of Recent Trust Law Cases
Hull & Hull LLP Breakfast Series
- ▶ Oct 01, 2010 | Presentation
A Review of Recent Trust Case Law
Trusts, Trustees, Trusteeships 2010, Ontario Bar Association, Continuing Legal Education Program
- ▶ Feb 01, 2009 | Presentation
Trustee Mistakes
Ontario Bar Association Annual Institute, Ontario Bar Association, Continuing Legal Education Program
- ▶ Nov 01, 2008 | Presentation
Short-Circuiting the Frivolous Will Challenge
11th Annual Estates and Trusts Law Summit, Law Society of Upper Canada
- ▶ Sep 01, 2008 | Presentation
Variation of Trusts
Trusts, Trustees, Trusteeships III, Ontario Bar Association, Continuing Legal Education Program
- ▶ Jun 01, 2008 | Presentation
Dependant's Relief: *Cummings* and Beyond
York Law Association, Family Law Section, Continuing Legal Education Program
- ▶ Jan 01, 2008 | Presentation
Considerations in Negotiating the Removal and/or Replacement of a Trustee
Hull & Hull Breakfast Series
- ▶ Nov 01, 2007 | Presentation
The Trial in Contested Passings (A Checklist for Preparing for Trial, Experts & Avoiding Conflicts)
Passing of Accounts: Getting Cost Effective Results, Ontario Bar Association, Continuing Legal Education Program
- ▶ Sep 01, 2007 | Presentation
Changing Trustees: Voluntary, Involuntary Changes and Negotiating the Removal and Replacement of a Trustee
Trusts, Trustees, Trusteeships II, Ontario Bar Association, Continuing Legal Education Program
- ▶ Jun 01, 2007 | Presentation
Demand Promissory Notes
Hull & Hull Breakfast Series
- ▶ Mar 01, 2007 | Presentation
First Court Appearances and Orders
The Will Challenge: From Notice of Objection to Trial, Ontario Bar Association, Continuing Legal Education Program
- ▶ Jan 01, 2006 | Presentation
Managing Estate Litigation, Tips on Directing and Controlling Your Dispute
Ontario Bar Association Annual Institute, Ontario Bar Association, Continuing Legal Education Program
- ▶ Dec 01, 2004 | Presentation
Contempt Motions in the Context of Estate Litigation
7th Annual Estates and Trusts Law Summit, Law Society of Upper Canada

Memberships

- ▶ Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP), Past Member of the Executive, Toronto Branch

- ▶ The Advocates' Society
- ▶ Toronto Lawyers Association
- ▶ Estate Planning Council of Toronto
- ▶ Ontario Bar Association
- ▶ Ontario Bar Association - Trusts and Estates Section, Past Chair
- ▶ Ontario Bar Association, National Elder Law Liaison, Past Member
- ▶ Canadian Bar Association, National Wills, Trusts and Estates Committee, Past Member
- ▶ Bench and Bar Committee, Toronto Region Estates List, Past Member
- ▶ Advisory Group, Law Commission of Ontario Project on the Law as it Affects Older Adults, Past Member

Community Involvement

- ▶ Past Coach, Markham Minor Hockey Association
- ▶ Past Coach, Markham Soccer Club
- ▶ Past Coach, Markham District Baseball Association
- ▶ Past Co-Chair of a number of charitable golf tournaments

Credentials

- ▶ Trust and Estate Practitioner (TEP) Designation (since 2006)
- ▶ Certified by the Law Society of Ontario as a Specialist in Estates and Trusts Law (C.S.) (since 2005)
- ▶ Called to the Ontario Bar, 1994

Education

- ▶ Arbitration Course, Arbitration and Mediation Institute of Ontario Inc.
- ▶ LL.B., Queen's University Law School, 1992
- ▶ B.A., Honours Economics and Commerce, Royal Military College, Kingston, 1989