



Laurie H. Pawlitza *

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** Legal services provided through Laurie H. Pawlitza Professional Corporation*

Laurie is a partner in our Family Law Group, acting in disputes involving high incomes, significant property, and custody and access issues. Laurie is results-oriented, using her practical and creative skills to find the most appropriate resolution for each client's specific needs. Laurie appears in courts at both the trial and appellate levels, and makes effective use of both mediation and arbitration for her clients.

Laurie is a frequent contributor to the National Post and writes a regular column on current family law issues. Links to her columns in the National Post can be found [here](#).

In addition to her column in the National Post, Laurie has been widely quoted in the Globe and Mail, The Toronto Star, the Toronto Sun, Canadian Living Magazine, Law Times, The Lawyers Weekly, Canadian Lawyer and Precedent Magazine. She also speaks regularly on a wide variety of law-related and professional issues in far-flung places, such as Australia, Ireland, Scotland, India, and throughout Canada.

Between 2010 and 2012, Laurie was elected as the 63rd Treasurer (President) of the Law Society of Ontario, the regulator governing all lawyers and paralegals in Ontario. She was only the third woman since the founding of the Law Society in 1797 to hold this office. Throughout her time as an elected benchler (director) of the Law Society of Ontario (2003-2012), Laurie was engaged in specific projects affecting legal education in Canada, and in advancing women lawyers within the profession. For much of this time, Laurie co-chaired the Justicia Project, aimed at advancing women lawyers within the profession, a project that has now been adopted by a number of other provincial law societies.

In addition to being frequently listed in Best Lawyers and The Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory in the area of Family Law, Laurie was named in the "Top 25 Most Influential Lawyers in Canada" in 2012, and received an Honourary Doctorate from the Law Society of Ontario in the same year.

Expertise

- ▶ Family Law

Awards & Recognition

- ▶ Consistently recognized in *The Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory* - Family Law
- ▶ Consistently recognized in *The Best Lawyers in Canada*® - Family Law
- ▶ Awarded the Zenith Award by *Lexpert*, recognizing women leaders in the legal profession (2013)
- ▶ Named one of the "Top 25 Most Influential Lawyers in Canada" by Canadian Lawyer magazine (2012)

- ▶ Awarded an Honourary Doctorate of Laws by The Law Society of Upper Canada (2012)
- ▶ The Women's Law Association's President's Award (2011)
- ▶ Recognized by Women's Legal Education and Action Fund ("LEAF") as one of the "Women Who Make a Difference" (2010)
- ▶ Honoured as a "Hero" by the Metropolitan Community Church, Toronto, for successfully litigating the first same sex adoption case in Canada (1995)
- ▶ Past nominee of the "YWCA Women of Distinction Award" and the "Toronto Life Women Who Make a Difference Award" (1996-1997)

Publications & Presentations

- ▶ [May 14, 2021 | Article](#)
Bill and Melinda not the only high-net-worth couple whose divorce playbook is ahead of the curve
Special to Financial Post
- ▶ [Apr 14, 2021 | Article](#)
Updated *Divorce Act* emphasizes parental responsibilities over rights to children
Special to Financial Post
- ▶ [Jan 13, 2021 | Article](#)
Why the court is blocking an Alberta man's request for a quick divorce so he can remarry
Financial Post
- ▶ [Nov 27, 2020 | Article](#)
Why family separations can get messy when the major asset is a corporation
Special to National Post
- ▶ [Sep 10, 2020 | Article](#)
Pandemic has forced Ontario courts to embrace the future, but questions over technology use remain
Special to National Post
- ▶ [Aug 17, 2020 | Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
How much is 'unconscionable'? Why a 2009 decision is suddenly relevant again in high-stakes Ontario separation cases
Special to the National Post
- ▶ [Jun 02, 2020 | Article](#)
No surge in domestic violence cases during COVID-19 lockdown – but it's happening
Special to the National Post
- ▶ [May 26, 2020 | Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
What you need to know about getting support payments varied during the pandemic
Special to the National Post
- ▶ [Apr 30, 2020 | Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
Here's why your Zoom wedding might not stand up in court
Special to the National Post
- ▶ [Apr 16, 2020 | Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
Can I get divorced during the COVID-19 pandemic and more burning family law questions
Special to the National Post
- ▶ [Mar 30, 2020 | Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
Antiquated technology holding Ontario's justice system back during COVID-19 crisis
Special to the National Post
- ▶ [Feb 14, 2020 | Article](#)
Location really is everything when it comes to dividing family property amid bankruptcy
Special to the National Post

- ▶ [Jan 09, 2020 | Article](#)
Trading your share of the house for reduced child support could leave you paying more
Special to the National Post
- ▶ [Nov 12, 2019 | Article](#)
Disorder in the court: When one spouse ignores rulings, the other often pays the price
Special to the National Post
- ▶ [Oct 08, 2019 | Article](#)
How a three-year relationship can lead to 15 years of spousal support payments
Special to the National Post
- ▶ [Sep 12, 2019 | Article](#)
Why spousal support doesn't always end when your ex remarries
Special to the National Post
- ▶ [Aug 14, 2019 | Article](#)
What is 'table' child support and why is it so hard to get it reduced?
Special to the National Post
- ▶ [Jul 17, 2019 | Article](#)
Joint tenants or tenants in common? Don't leave it to the courts and your heirs to sort out
Special to the National Post
- ▶ [Jun 18, 2019 | Article](#)
Family fight over farm puts question of 'undue influence' under the microscope
Special to the National Post
- ▶ [Jun 03, 2019 | Article](#)
Family law arbitration has advantages, but it's no guarantee you'll stay out of court
Special to the National Post
- ▶ [May 03, 2019 | Presentation](#)
ADR Skills for Family Law Lawyers
The Advocates' Society Program, Faculty
- ▶ [Mar 28, 2019 | Article](#)
Discretionary trusts prove problematic when it comes to dividing assets
Special to the National Post
- ▶ [Mar 07, 2019 | Article](#)
Just because your ex failed to disclose assets, doesn't mean you get a cut
Special to the National Post
- ▶ [Jan 30, 2019 | Article](#)
Former Dragons' Den star's divorce case highlights trouble with 'expert testimony' in family law
Special to the National Post
- ▶ [Jan 09, 2019 | Article](#)
What you need to know if you are considering getting a divorce in 2019
Special to the National Post
- ▶ [Nov 28, 2018 | Article](#)
'Excruciating' trial in case that lasted 17 years emblematic of troubles plaguing family courts
Special to the National Post
- ▶ [Oct 31, 2018 | Article](#)
Therapy records are an explosive issue in custody battles
Special to the National Post
- ▶ [Oct 03, 2018 | Article](#)
Dog not just another asset to be divided, dissenting judge argues
Special to the National Post

- ▶ [Sep 05, 2018 | Article](#)
Battle over embryo highlights family law's new fertility frontier
Special to the National Post
- ▶ [Jun 21, 2018 | Article](#)
All three adult members of polyamorous family deemed child's parents by Newfoundland judge
Special to the National Post
- ▶ [Jun 21, 2018 | Article](#)
Why Ottawa's changes to the Divorce Act don't go far enough
Special to the National Post
- ▶ [May 16, 2018 | Article](#)
When does a separated spouse have to pay rent to an ex?
Special to the National Post
- ▶ [May 02, 2018 | Article](#)
New romantic partners can be dragged into the fray in support disputes
Special to the National Post
- ▶ [Apr 18, 2018 | Article](#)
What child and spousal support payors (and recipients) need to know at tax time
Special to the National Post
- ▶ [Apr 04, 2018 | Article](#)
Boxer's legal dispute sheds light on questions of capacity
Special to the National Post
- ▶ [Mar 22, 2018 | Article](#)
Hand over the ballet slippers – 'Frequent flyer' parents tie up family courts with trivial arguments
Special to the National Post
- ▶ [Mar 08, 2018 | Article](#)
Alienating a former spouse may come with a cost in family court
Special to the National Post
- ▶ [Feb 22, 2018 | Article](#)
Damages for spousal abuse are on the rise after several years of neglect in family court
Special to the National Post
- ▶ [Feb 07, 2018 | Article](#)
Zombie spousal support: When death doesn't end your obligations to your ex
Special to the National Post
- ▶ [Jan 24, 2018 | Article](#)
She lied about being on the pill, and now she's pregnant. Do you still have to pay child support?
Special to the National Post
- ▶ [Dec 19, 2017 | Article](#)
Note to deadbeat dads: If you try to avoid paying child support you could wind up in jail in Ontario
Special to the National Post
- ▶ [Nov 29, 2017 | Article](#)
In family court, there's no hiding the Ferrari
Special to the National Post
- ▶ [Nov 15, 2017 | Article](#)
If your former spouse is 'allergic' to work, do you still have to pay support?
Special to the National Post

- ▶ [Oct 19, 2017 | Article](#)
Generous parents take note: Gifts to your adult children could boost their support payments, if a marriage falters
Special to the National Post
- ▶ [Oct 06, 2017 | Article](#)
Child support doesn't necessarily end at 18, especially when education is involved
Special to the National Post
- ▶ [Sep 20, 2017 | Article](#)
Expect your divorce's dirty laundry to be aired in public, unless you live in Quebec
Special to the National Post
- ▶ [Sep 06, 2017 | Article](#)
Why the 'matrimonial home' is a hot topic when it comes to family law
Special to the National Post
- ▶ [Aug 09, 2017 | Article](#)
If you think retirement will change your spousal support obligations, you might want to think again
Special to the National Post
- ▶ [Aug 08, 2017 | Article](#)
Social Media and Family Law
Special to the National Post
- ▶ [Jul 26, 2017 | Article](#)
How to know if you're entitled to spousal support
Special to the National Post
- ▶ [Jul 12, 2017 | Article](#)
You put an engagement ring on it, but now you want it back. Here's what the courts say
Special to the National Post
- ▶ [Jul 06, 2017 | Article](#)
Support payor's death leads to complex court case involving estranged wife, fiancée and an unborn child
Special to the National Post
- ▶ [Jun 14, 2017 | Article](#)
Your pet is property, not a child, so don't expect visitation rights if you split up
Special to the National Post
- ▶ [May 30, 2017 | Article](#)
What you need to know before you say 'I do' to a marriage contract
Special to the National Post
- ▶ [May 16, 2017 | Article](#)
When it comes to support payments, 'first families first' is the general rule
Special to the National Post
- ▶ [May 02, 2017 | Article](#)
Why confusing common law relationships with marriage can be a costly mistake
Special to the National Post
- ▶ [Mar 02, 2017 | Presentation](#)
Family Law Mediation in Canada
Speaker, Law Society of Tasmania, Hobart, Australia
- ▶ [Mar 02, 2017 | Presentation](#)
Legal Education in Canada
Speaker, Commonwealth Lawyers' Association Conference, Melbourne, Australia

- ▶ Jul 19, 2016 | Presentation
Family Law Issues in Domestic Violence
Speaker, Summer Educational Program for Ontario Crown Attorneys, London, ON
- ▶ Oct 10, 2015 | Presentation
Women in the Legal Profession - How to be Successful
Speaker, OBA-LSUC Rainmaking Panel, business development for women
- ▶ Apr 15, 2015 | Presentation
The Commonwealth Lawyers' Association Conference
Speaker, alternative dispute resolution in Canadian family law, Glasgow, Scotland
- ▶ Feb 28, 2015 | Presentation
OBA Institute on Family Law
Speaker, solicitor and client retainers, Toronto
- ▶ Feb 27, 2015 | Presentation
Gender Equality Conference
Speaker, gender equality issues in the legal profession, Mississauga
- ▶ Nov 10, 2014 | Presentation
Women's Law Association Dinner
Speaker
- ▶ Oct 15, 2014 | Presentation
Women and Leadership: Taking Charge of Your Career
Speaker, Ontario Trial Lawyers' Association Conference, Women's Caucus Luncheon
- ▶ Oct 02, 2014 | Presentation
Lexpert Zenith Awards
Keynote Speaker
- ▶ Sep 10, 2014 | Presentation
Thunder Bay Law Association Family Law Conference
Speaker
- ▶ May 15, 2014 | Presentation
Commonwealth Lawyers' Association Conference
Speaker, advocacy in mediation, Belfast, Ireland

Memberships

- ▶ Member, Editorial Board, *Canadian Lawyer*, 2021
- ▶ Executive Committee Member for Canada Commonwealth Lawyers' Association (London, U.K) (2012 to date)
- ▶ Law Society of Ontario, Treasurer Emeritus and Ex-Officio Member of Convocation (current)
- ▶ Federation of Law Societies of Canada (FLSC), Ontario Council Member (2012 to 2016)
- ▶ Chair, Canadian Common Law Degree Approval Committee (2012 to 2016)
- ▶ Member, National Admission Standards Steering Committee (FLSC) (2013 to 2016)
- ▶ Dean's Council, College of Law, University of Saskatchewan (2014 to date)
- ▶ The Law Society of Ontario, Treasurer (President), (regulator of all lawyers and paralegals in Ontario (2010-2012)
- ▶ The Law Society of Ontario, Elected Bencher (director) 2003 to 2012
- ▶ The Law Society of Ontario, Chair, Professional Development and Competence (2006-2010)
- ▶ The Law Society of Ontario, Co-Chair, Retention of Women in Private Practice (Justicia Project) (2005-2014)

- ▶ The Law Society of Ontario, Vice-Chair, Government Relations (2005-2010)
- ▶ Director, LawPRO, Board of Directors
- ▶ Family Law Rules Committee, 2001-2007
- ▶ The Lawyers Club, Trustee, 2000-2007
- ▶ Ontario Bar Association - Family Law Section Executive, 1999-2003

Community Involvement

- ▶ Member, Board of Trustees, Royal Ontario Museum, 2012-2014
- ▶ Chair and Director, Casey House Foundation 1995 - 1999
- ▶ Chair and Regional Council Member, YMCA, 1988-2002

Credentials

- ▶ Called to the Ontario Bar, 1986

Education

- ▶ LL.B., University of Saskatchewan, 1983
- ▶ B.A., University of Saskatchewan, 1980