



## Loretta P. Merritt \*

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*\* Legal services provided through Loretta P. Merritt Professional Corporation*

Loretta is one of the few lawyers in Ontario who has substantial experience in dealing with abuse and harassment in civil lawsuits and employment cases. She understands and cares about abuse survivors, recognizing that coming forward, being heard and acknowledged as well as gaining a sense of justice and closure, in addition to the amount of a settlement, are what matter to her clients.

She has represented hundreds of clients in a variety of historical and recent sexual and physical abuse cases, including abuse by members of clergy, doctors, police officers, teachers, relatives and neighbors. Many of Loretta's cases involve institutions such as school boards (both public and private), churches, children's clubs, children's aid societies, boy scouts, big brothers, group homes and training schools. She represents adults and children, men and women, plaintiffs and defendants.

Loretta provides information for victims of sexual assault who are trying to decide whether to sue. See **Should I Sue?**

Loretta's civil litigation practice also includes traumatic injury litigation (motor vehicle cases, medical malpractice, and products liability).

**Visit our sexual assault site**

### Expertise

- ▶ Litigation
- ▶ Personal Injury

### Awards & Recognition

Recipient of the Attorney General's Victim Services Award of Distinction for 2021-2022

Recipient of the 2018 Ontario Trial Lawyers Association's (O.T.L.A.) John A. McLeish Award

Loretta is recognized by *TheBest Lawyers in Canada*® since 2013 for Personal Injury Litigation.

She has been recognized by her peers in the *Canadian Legal Lexpert*® Directory as a leading lawyer in personal injury litigation. Lexpert is the leading lawyer rating service in Canada.

Loretta is a Fellow of the Litigation Counsel of America. The Litigation Counsel of America is an invitation-only trial lawyer honorary society. An invitation is extended to less than one-half of 1% of all lawyers in

North America. Fellows are selected after being evaluated on effectiveness and accomplishment in litigation and trial work, along with ethical reputation.

She has *Martindale-Hubbell's* highest possible Peer Review Rating: General Ethical Standards Rating V (very high), and Legal Abilities Rating A (very high to pre-eminent). For more information on Loretta's *Martindale-Hubbell* rating, please click [here](#).

Loretta is in *Register of Preeminent Women Lawyers*<sup>™</sup> - exclusively for women lawyers who have received the highest possible rating in both legal ability and ethical standards from their peers.

In 2012, Loretta was presented with the Diamond Jubilee Medal, commemorating the 60th anniversary of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's accession to the Throne, in recognition of her contributions to Canada in representing abuse survivors.

In 2013, Loretta was selected as a recipient of the Litigation Counsel of America's inaugural Peter Perlman Service Award. The award recognizes LCA Fellows who have contributed in meaningful ways to society by giving their time and resources in an effort to improve the lives of others.

Loretta is also a recipient of the Gold Key Award for Service from Osgoode Hall Law School.

## Publications & Presentations

- ▶ [Aug 02, 2022 | Presentation](#)  
Confidentiality Agreements  
*OTLA webinar*
- ▶ [May 17, 2022 | Presentation](#)  
Criminal and Civil Legal Proceedings  
*Abuse Hurts Hope Conference Series: LEARN*
- ▶ [May 02, 2022 | Article](#)  
The New Tort of Family Violence  
*Money & Family Law Publication*
- ▶ [Jan 20, 2022 | Torkin Manes LegalPoint](#)  
NDAs and Gag Orders in Sexual Misconduct Cases
- ▶ [Dec 16, 2021 | Presentation](#)  
Ontario Trial Lawyers - Women Lawyers Roundtable: Effective Business Development
- ▶ [Nov 08, 2021 | Torkin Manes LegalPoint](#)  
Institutional Response to Disclosure of Sexual Abuse
- ▶ [Oct 28, 2021 | Article](#)  
Canadian Privacy Law Review: Privacy in Civil Sexual Assault Cases  
*Canadian Privacy Law Review*
- ▶ [Aug 13, 2021 | Torkin Manes LegalPoint](#)  
Privacy in Civil Sexual Assault Cases
- ▶ [May 14, 2021 | Presentation](#)  
Practicing in the Pandemic: The New Normal  
*OTLA Spring Conference*
- ▶ [Apr 01, 2021 | Presentation](#)  
Making the Most of Expert Evidence
- ▶ [Mar 03, 2021 | Article](#)  
Economic Losses in Civil Sexual Assault Cases
- ▶ [Feb 19, 2021 | Presentation](#)  
Civil Sexual Assault: Critical and Emerging Issues  
*Osgoode Professional Development*

- ▶ [Feb 18, 2021 | Presentation](#)  
Mentoring  
*Torkin Manes*
- ▶ [Feb 09, 2021 | Presentation](#)  
Compensation and Financial Management  
*Torkin Manes - Justicia Committee*
- ▶ [Jan 11, 2021 | Presentation](#)  
Imposter Syndrome  
*Justicia Committee*
- ▶ [Dec 15, 2020 | Presentation](#)  
Financial Management of Your Practice  
*Torkin Manes*
- ▶ [Dec 10, 2020 | Article](#)  
Publication Bans: Do They Help or Hurt Abuse Survivors?
- ▶ [Dec 02, 2020 | Presentation](#)  
12th Annual Class Actions Colloquium: Litigating Class Actions Claims Amidst Profound Change
- ▶ [Oct 23, 2020 | Presentation](#)  
Sexual Abuse: Developing a Claim for Vicarious Liability  
*Ontario Trial Lawyers Association 2020 Fall Conference*
- ▶ [Jul 16, 2020 | Presentation](#)  
Practical Considerations for Representing Plaintiffs in Sexual Abuse Cases  
*Ontario Trial Lawyers Association*
- ▶ [Jul 14, 2020 | Torkin Manes LegalPoint](#)  
School Board Liability for Sexual Assaults by Teacher
- ▶ [May 21, 2020 | Presentation](#)  
Girao v. Cunningham: Latest Word on Trial Evidence by the Ontario Court of Appeal
- ▶ [May 21, 2020 | Presentation](#)  
Sexual Assault: Credibility and Memory Issues  
*Ontario Trial Lawyers Association*
- ▶ [Apr 23, 2020 | Article](#)  
The problems with class actions for historical sexual abuse cases  
*The Lawyer's Daily*
- ▶ [Dec 03, 2019 | Torkin Manes LegalPoint](#)  
Busting Sexual Assault Myths (Still)
- ▶ [May 30, 2019 | Torkin Manes LegalPoint](#)  
Nude Video Chats Are Voyeurism  
*Torkin Manes LegalPoint*
- ▶ [Apr 01, 2019 | Article](#)  
What Does #MeToo Mean for Lawyers?  
*The Litigator, March 2019*
- ▶ [Feb 07, 2019 | Presentation](#)  
Credibility and Memory Issues in Sexual Assault Cases  
*Co-Chair - Sexual Misconduct in the #Metoo Era, Osgoode Hall Law School/York University*
- ▶ [Jan 14, 2019 | Torkin Manes LegalPoint](#)  
Ontario Government Auto Insurance Reform  
*Torkin Manes LegalPoint*
- ▶ [Oct 22, 2018 | Torkin Manes LegalPoint](#)  
The Problem with Class Actions for Historical Sexual Abuse Cases

- ▶ [Oct 19, 2018 | Presentation](#)  
OTLA 2018 Fall Conference - The Prudent Parent: Holding School Boards Liable
- ▶ [Mar 26, 2018 | Presentation](#)  
Pursuing Compensation for Victims of Crime: Civil Lawsuits  
*Tackling Sexual Violence, Toronto Police Service, Sex Crimes Unit, 14th Sex Crimes Conference*
- ▶ [Mar 21, 2018 | Torkin Manes LegalPoint](#)  
When Should the Survivor of a Sexual Assault Seek the Advice of a Civil Lawyer?
- ▶ [Feb 26, 2018 | Presentation](#)  
Current and Emerging Issues in Civil Sexual Assault: Credibility and Memory Issues in Sexual Assault Cases  
*Osgoode Hall Law School/York University*
- ▶ [Feb 06, 2018 | Presentation](#)  
Understanding your client and assessing causation in sexual abuse case  
*OTLA Webinar*
- ▶ [Dec 21, 2017 | Torkin Manes LegalPoint](#)  
Improving the Legal Experience of Sexual Assault Survivors
- ▶ [Oct 19, 2017 | Torkin Manes LegalPoint](#)  
The Problem with Class Actions for Historical Sexual Abuse Cases
- ▶ [Sep 01, 2017 | Torkin Manes LegalPoint](#)  
Appeal of \$24K Damages Award Against Assault Complainant
- ▶ [Aug 21, 2017 | Torkin Manes LegalPoint](#)  
Ontario Disability Support Program Changes Help Abuse Survivors
- ▶ [May 10, 2017 | Torkin Manes LegalPoint](#)  
Relationship Lies
- ▶ [Mar 27, 2017 | Presentation](#)  
2017 OTLA Webinar - Sexual Assault Cases: Overcoming Significant Client Credibility Issues  
*2017 OTLA Webinar - Sexual Assault Cases: Overcoming Significant Client Credibility Issues*
- ▶ [May 02, 2016 | Article](#)  
'Revenge porn' brings 100k in damages  
*This article originally appeared in the April 29, 2016 issue of The Lawyers Weekly.*
- ▶ [Apr 01, 2016 | Newsletter](#)  
The End of Limitation Periods for Sexual Abuse Cases in Ontario  
*Torkin Manes LegalPoint*
- ▶ [Sep 30, 2015 | Article](#)  
Negligence of Institutions: The Standard of Care  
*The Litigator - OTLA*
- ▶ [May 25, 2015 | Article](#)  
Tougher Penalties for Child Predators Act
- ▶ [May 19, 2015 | Article](#)  
Can a Children's Aid Society be Liable for Abuse by Foster Parents?
- ▶ [Feb 16, 2015 | Article](#)  
When Should the Victim of a Sexual Assault Seek the Advice of a Lawyer?  
*AbuseHurts.com E-Zine*
- ▶ [Feb 04, 2015 | Presentation](#)  
Negligence and the Standard of Care in Civil Sexual Assault Cases  
*Osgoode PD Webinar Series - Key Issues in Civil Sexual Assault*

- ▶ Jan 30, 2015 | Article  
Why Are Damages In Civil Sexual Assault Cases So Low?  
*AbuseHurts.com E-Zine*
- ▶ Jan 06, 2015 | Article  
Vicarious Liability Update 2015
- ▶ Nov 25, 2014 | Presentation  
The Standard of Care  
*The Osgoode PD Webinar Series - Key Issues in Civil Sexual Assault*
- ▶ Oct 15, 2014 | Article  
Legal Proceedings: Civil or Criminal?  
*AbuseHurts.com E-Zine*
- ▶ Sep 15, 2014 | Presentation  
Mastering Written Advocacy in Mediations  
*The Osgoode Short Course on Mediation Advocacy*
- ▶ Jul 15, 2014 | Article  
Concurrent criminal and civil cases: Making the most of evidence  
*The Litigator, Ontario Trial Lawyers Association*
- ▶ Dec 12, 2013 | Presentation  
Written Advocacy in Mediation  
*The Osgoode Short Course in Mediation Advocacy, Osgoode Hall Law School/York University*
- ▶ Oct 15, 2013 | Article  
125K Damages Award Against Abuse Complainants  
*AbuseHurts.com E-Zine*
- ▶ Oct 08, 2013 | Presentation  
Defamation  
*Co-Instructor (Loretta Merritt and Marco Falco), Torkin Manes Continued Professional Development*
  
- ▶ Aug 15, 2013 | Article  
Gag Orders: Are They Ever a Good Idea?  
*AbuseHurts.com E-Zine*
- ▶ May 01, 2013 | Presentation  
Navigating Settlement in Non-Motor Vehicle Cases  
*OTLA - Spring Conference - Settled! Sowing the Seeds for Settlement*
- ▶ Apr 01, 2013 | Presentation  
Pursuing Compensation for Victims of Crime: Civil Lawsuits  
*Tackling Sexual Violence, Toronto Police Service, Sex Crimes Unit, 14th Sex Crimes Conference*
- ▶ Dec 05, 2012 | Presentation  
Examination and Cross Examination of the Expert Witness  
*Instructor, Torkin Manes Continuing Professional Development*
- ▶ Nov 15, 2012 | Article  
Supreme Court of Canada Protects Victims of Cyber Bully Abuse  
*AbuseHurts.com E-Zine*
- ▶ Oct 15, 2012 | Article  
Criminal Conviction for Covering up Child Sexual Abuse  
*AbuseHurts.com E-Zine*
- ▶ Oct 15, 2012 | Presentation  
Pursuing Compensation for Victims of Crime: Civil Lawsuits  
*Tackling Sexual Violence, Toronto Police Service, Sex Crimes Unit, 14th Sex Crimes Conference*

- ▶ [Mar 08, 2012 | Presentation](#)  
 Personal Injury - What to do When a Client Calls  
*Instructor, Torkin Manes Continuing Professional Development*
- ▶ [Jan 01, 2012 | Article](#)  
 My Hope for 2012  
*AbuseHurts.com E-Zine*
- ▶ [Sep 01, 2011 | Presentation](#)  
 Pursuing Compensation for Victims of Crime: Civil Lawsuits  
*Tackling Sexual Violence, Toronto Police Service, Sex Crimes Unit, 14th Sex Crimes Conference*
- ▶ [Aug 17, 2011 | Presentation](#)  
 Expert Evidence  
*Instructor, Torkin Manes Continuing Professional Development*
- ▶ [Jun 15, 2011 | Article](#)  
 Do the Courts Favour Women Survivors?  
*AbuseHurts.com E-Zine*
- ▶ [May 15, 2011 | Article](#)  
 Punching a Bully Can Be Self Defence  
*AbuseHurts.com E-Zine*
- ▶ [Mar 01, 2011 | Article](#)  
 Help for Survivors of Sexual Assault & Sexual Abuse  
*AbuseHurts.com E-Zine*
- ▶ [Feb 01, 2011 | Article](#)  
 Two Wishes for Legal Changes in 2011  
*AbuseHurts.com E-Zine*
- ▶ [Jan 15, 2011 | Article](#)  
 Legal Issues of Most Concern to Survivors  
*AbuseHurts.com E-Zine*
- ▶ [Dec 01, 2010 | Article](#)  
 Civil Sexual Assault  
*Contributing Author, Annual Review of Civil Litigation, 2010 (10th edition), by The Honourable Mr. Justice Todd L. Archibald and The Late Honourable Mr. Justice Randall Scott Echlin.*
- ▶ [Nov 01, 2010 | Newsletter](#)  
 Changes to the automobile accident benefits scheme in Ontario  
*Torkin Manes Focus, Fall 2010*
- ▶ [Apr 01, 2010 | Presentation](#)  
 No-Fault Liability for Institutional Sexual Abuse Since the Trilogy of E.D.G., K.L.B. and M.B.  
*The Canadian Institute's 9th National Summit on Institutional Liability for Sexual Assault and Abuse*
- ▶ [Oct 01, 2009 | Presentation](#)  
 Pursuing Compensation for Victims of Crime: Civil Lawsuits  
*Tackling Sexual Violence, Toronto Police Service, Sex Crimes Unit, 14th Sex Crimes Conference*
- ▶ [Oct 01, 2008 | Presentation](#)  
 Survivors of Sexual Abuse: Who Represents Them?  
*The Chief Justice of Ontario's Advisory Committee on Professionalism, 11th Colloquium on the Legal Profession*
- ▶ [Jun 13, 2008 | Newsletter](#)  
 Court of Appeal rules on little things...  
*Torkin Manes Focus - Spring 2008*

- ▶ Mar 01, 2008 | Presentation  
Summit on Institutional Liability for Sexual Assault and Abuse  
*Co-chair, The Canadian Institute*
- ▶ May 01, 2007 | Presentation  
Personal Injury Cases  
*Leading Edge Seminars Inc.*
- ▶ Feb 01, 2007 | Presentation  
Representing Minor Plaintiffs  
*Summit on Institutional Liability for Sexual Assault and Abuse, The Canadian Institute*
- ▶ Jan 01, 2007 | Article  
Insurance Coverage for Sexual Assault Cases  
*The Lawyers Weekly*
- ▶ Jun 01, 2006 | Presentation  
An Update on Crown Liability for Institution Abuse  
*Litigation Against the Crown Conference, The Canadian Institute*
- ▶ May 01, 2006 | Newsletter  
Ontario's new automobile accident legislation: Will victims have the right-of-way?  
*Torkin Manes Focus - Spring 2006*
- ▶ Jan 01, 2006 | Article  
Helping Plaintiffs in Civil Sexual Abuse Claims Access the Deep Pockets of Insurers  
*The Litigator, Ontario Trial Lawyers Association*
- ▶ Jan 01, 2006 | Article  
Parole Officer Has Duty to Warn About Sex Offender  
*The Lawyers Weekly*
- ▶ Jan 01, 2006 | Presentation  
Institutional Liability for Sexual Assault & Abuse  
*Co-Chair, The Canadian Institute*
- ▶ May 01, 2005 | Presentation  
Pushing the Limits and Avoiding a Mistrial  
*Opening Statement: Pushing the Limits and Avoiding a Mistrial, Be In The Know: Empowered For Trial, Ontario Trial Lawyers Association, Spring Conference 2005*
- ▶ Jan 01, 2005 | Article  
The Application of the *Limitations Act* on Assault and Sexual Assault Litigation  
*The Litigator, Ontario Trial Lawyers Association*
- ▶ Feb 01, 2004 | Presentation  
Institutional Liability for Sexual Assault & Abuse  
*Co-Chair, The Canadian Institute*
- ▶ Dec 01, 2003 | Presentation  
The Role of the Therapist in Sexual Assault Cases  
*Leading Edge Seminars Inc.*
- ▶ Feb 01, 2003 | Presentation  
Tort Law: New Trends and Causes of Action  
*Chair, The Law Society of Upper Canada*
- ▶ Feb 01, 2003 | Presentation  
Emerging Trends Across Canada in Proof of Sexual Abuse: Mastering the Connection Between Credibility and Causation  
*Institutional Liability for Sexual Assault & Abuse, The Canadian Institute*

- ▶ Jan 01, 2003 | Article  
Sexual Abuse Case Holds Promise For Abuse Survivors
- ▶ Jan 01, 2003 | Article  
Trilogy Of Abuse Cases Examined 6 - Issues I and II  
*The Lawyers Weekly*
- ▶ Nov 01, 2002 | Presentation  
The Role of Therapists in Civil Sexual Assault Cases  
*Leading Edge Seminars Inc.*
- ▶ Oct 01, 2002 | Presentation  
Requests for Opinions  
*The Myth of Minor Brain Injury, Ontario Trial Lawyers Association Fall Conference*
- ▶ Sep 01, 2002 | Presentation  
Sexual Assault and Civil Litigation  
*Sexual Assault Investigators' Seminar, Toronto Police Services Sex Crimes Unit*
- ▶ Feb 02, 2002 | Presentation  
Understanding the Effects and Assessing the Victim  
*Institutional Liability for Sexual Assault and Sexual Abuse, Canadian Institute*
- ▶ Dec 02, 2001 | Presentation  
Understanding and Dealing with Workplace Harassment  
*2nd Annual Employment Law Forum, The Law Society of Upper Canada*
- ▶ Nov 01, 2001 | Presentation  
New Developments in Employment Law  
*Ontario Long-Term Care Association Management Symposium*
- ▶ Jun 01, 2001 | Presentation  
Sexual Assault Update  
*2001 Spring Conference, Ontario Trial Lawyers Association*
- ▶ Jun 01, 2001 | Presentation  
Do Suspension and Progressive Discipline Trigger Dismissal?  
*Torkin Manes In-house Seminar*
- ▶ May 01, 2001 | Article  
*Simpson* and Sexual Harassment as Cause  
*4th Annual Six-Minute Employment Lawyer, The Law Society of Upper Canada*
- ▶ Apr 01, 2001 | Presentation  
Diversity in the Workplace  
*George Brown College*
- ▶ Mar 02, 2001 | Presentation  
Employment Issues for Non-Profit and Charitable Organizations: Dealing with Employees and Volunteers  
*Volunteer Lawyers Service, Ontario Bar Association*
- ▶ Mar 02, 2001 | Presentation  
Bad Faith Discharge (*Wallace* Case)  
*Society of Design Administration Canada*
- ▶ Jul 01, 2000 | Presentation  
The Survivor and the Law  
*Canadian Centre for Abuse Awareness*
- ▶ Jun 01, 2000 | Presentation  
Quality and Risk Management Issues in Sexual Abuse Assessments  
*Millennium Honouring the Past, Embracing the Future: Psychotherapy into the 21st Century*



- ▶ Jun 01, 2000 | Presentation  
Discrimination and Harassment under the Ontario *Human Rights Code*  
*Sexual Orientation Linked to the Business, Procter & Gamble*
- ▶ Apr 01, 2000 | Presentation  
An Employer's Right to Know Versus the Employee's Right to Privacy  
*Society of Design Administrators*
- ▶ Feb 02, 2000 | Presentation  
Recent Supreme Court Decisions Involving Sexual Abuse/Sexual Assault: Implications for Mental Health Professionals Involved in Damages Assessments and Clients Considering Civil Action  
*Ontario Psychological Association 53rd Annual Convention: Making a Difference in the New Millennium: Psychology for Everyday Life*
- ▶ Jan 02, 2000 | Presentation  
Conduct Of The Wrongful Dismissal File  
*Co-chair, The Law Society of Upper Canada*

## Memberships

- ▶ The Advocates' Society
- ▶ Litigation Counsel of America, Senior Fellow
- ▶ Mensa Canada Society
- ▶ Ontario Bar Association
- ▶ Ontario Trial Lawyers Association
- ▶ Trial Law Institute, Diversity Law Institute and Barrister, Order of Juris

## Community Involvement

- ▶ Panel Member, Ontario Independent Legal Advice for Survivors of Sexual Assault Pilot Program
- ▶ Panel Member, Office of the Sport Integrity Commissioner ("OSIC") Legal Aid Program
- ▶ Co-Chair, Torkin Manes United Way Campaign
- ▶ Mentor for the Practice Advisory Service, The Law Society of Upper Canada
- ▶ Mentor for the Ontario Trial Lawyers Association
- ▶ Mentor for first year students at Osgoode Hall Law School
- ▶ Mentor for young lawyers - CBAO Lawyer to Lawyer Network
- ▶ Member of the Osgoode Hall Alumni Association Board of Directors and Chair of the Nominations Committee
- ▶ Member and VP of the York University Alumni Association, Board of Directors and Member of the Nomination Committee
- ▶ Child Abuse Survivor Monument Project - Steering Committee member
- ▶ Toronto Child Abuse Centre - member and volunteer for the Court Observation Project regarding child witnesses
- ▶ Counsel to the Canadian Centre for Abuse Awareness
- ▶ Occasional "Judge" for the Osgoode Hall Law School and University of the Toronto Law School Mooting Assignment
- ▶ Student Advisor for first-year law students and assistant to the Co-Chairman of the Orientation Committee, Osgoode Hall Law School
- ▶ Duty Counsellor and Caseworker at the Community and Legal Aid Services Program and the Latin American Community Centre

- ▶ Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada–Big Sister
- ▶ Reviewed Guides for #AndMeToo - the project supporting survivors of workplace sexual harassment, under the Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic (BSCC), and funded by the Department of Justice

## Credentials

- ▶ Called to the Ontario Bar, 1987

## Education

- ▶ LL.M., Osgoode Hall Law School, York University, 1990
- ▶ LL.B., Osgoode Hall Law School, York University, 1985

## More

### Teaching Roles:

- ▶ Queen's University - Trial Advocacy (1997-2004)
- ▶ Bar Admission Course - Public Law and Professional Responsibility (1996-2004)
- ▶ University of Toronto, Scarborough - Legal Environment of Business, Part-time Professor (1987-1990)