

Heather Mountford

INTRODUCTION

Heather Mountford has been an associate at the firm Goddard Gamage Stephens LLP in Toronto, Ontario since September of 2009. The firm's focus is in the areas of estate litigation, trusts, consent and capacity law, elder law, guardianship, power of attorney litigation, estate planning and estate administration.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Goddard Gamage Stephens LLP

Lawyer

September 2009 – Present

- Practising in the fields of estates, trusts, consent and capacity law, and elder law
- Assisting clients with estate planning, estate administration, and drafting court materials, including application records, motion records, mediation briefs, appeal compendia and facta
- Appearing at the Superior Court of Justice on contested and uncontested motions, application hearings, scheduling appointments, settlement conferences, and pre-trial conferences
- Appearing at the Consent and Capacity Board on patient applications under the *Mental Health Act* and *Health Care Consent Act*

Office of the Public Guardian & Trustee, Ministry of the Attorney General

Student-at-law

August 2008 – June 2009

- Drafted court materials, including facta, affidavits, motion records, application records, and pleadings
- Appeared at the Ontario Court of Justice, Superior Court of Justice, and administrative tribunals
- Researched a variety of legal issues in practice areas including: family, contracts, charities, torts, real estate, trusts, estates, guardianship, health law, labour, and bankruptcy

Osgoode Hall Law School

Labour Law Research Assistant

December 2007 – April 2008

- Conducted interjurisdictional research of current and repealed statutes, and pending legislative bills
- Researched legislative debates and government publications on policy mandates

Office of the Public Guardian & Trustee, Ministry of the Attorney General

Summer Student

April 2007 – August 2007

- Drafted court materials, including motion records, affidavits, facta, and pleadings
- Researched and drafted memoranda of law, and provided recommendations to counsel evaluating potential claims and defences

Parkdale Community Legal Services

Student Caseworker, Landlord & Tenant Division

May 2006 – January 2007

- Advocated for clients before an administrative tribunal, which included conducting direct examination and cross-examination of witnesses, and making oral submissions

ARTICLES, PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

Client Interview, Fact Gathering and Investigation paper presented jointly
Debra Stephens at Osgoode Professional Development program “Managing,
Mediating and Litigating Estate Disputes” **June 2013**

Case Comment: Papasotiriou v. Manufacturer’s Life Insurance Co., article,
Ontario Bar Association (OBA) Trusts & Estates Law Newsletter **February 2013**

Powers of Attorney and Substitute Decision-making, presented at the East
End Community Health Centre **March 2013**

Conflict of laws in Intestate Succession presented at the 15th Annual Estates
and Trusts Summit **November 2012**

Cross-border Legal Remedies to Protect Cognitively Impaired Adults Paper
and presentation (authored jointly with Chicago lawyer, Peter Schmiedel),
National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys Annual Conference **April 2012**

*Unexpected Benefits: How Lawyers and the Community Prosper from Pro
Bono Work*, article, Ontario Bar Association (OBA) Trusts & Estates Law
Newsletter **March 2012**

Legal Issues for Caregivers, presentation, Senior People’s Resources in
North Toronto **May 2011**

*Trust Companies as Decision Makers: When Property and Personal Care
Decisions Collide*, presentation, Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce
Trust Company Lunch & Learn Program **September 2010**

Motions for Directions for Corporate Estate Trustees, presentation,
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce Trust Company Lunch & Learn
Program **May 2010**

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- Member of the Law Society of Upper Canada 2009 – Present
- Member of Ontario Bar Association and Canadian Bar Association 2009 – Present
- Member of the Mental Health Legal Committee 2011 – Present
- Member of the Senior People’s Resources in North Toronto Advisory Committee 2011 – Present
- Member of the Junior Trusts and Estates Practitioners Group 2012 – Present
- Tutor for the Lawyer Licensing Process Tutoring Program 2012 – Present
- Executive Member of the Elder Law Section of the Canadian Bar Association Committee 2013 – Present

EDUCATION

- Called to the Bar of Ontario** 2009
- Osgoode Hall Law School, Bachelor of Laws** 2008
- Graduated as a Member of the Dean’s Honour Roll 2005
 - Ross McMillan Award for outstanding contribution to the university Community 2005
 - Master’s Award for outstanding contribution to student life on campus 2004
 - Ellen Baar Award for outstanding commitment to the public policy mandate of McLaughlin College 2003