

MICHELLE MARASCO

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INTRODUCTION

Michelle Marasco has been an associate at the firm Goddard Gamage LLP in Toronto, Ontario since November, 2017. 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.

EDUCATION

Called to the Bar of Ontario 2017

The University of Windsor, Faculty of Law 2013 - 2016
Juris Doctor

The University of Windsor, Faculty of Social Work 2013 - 2016
Masters of Social Work

The University of British Columbia - Okanagan, Faculty of Social Work 2007-2011
Bachelor of Social Work

WORK EXPERIENCE

Goddard Gamage LLP Present
Litigation Associate

- Practicing in the areas of estates, trusts, consent and capacity, and elder law
- Drafting court materials including application records, probate applications, motion records, as well as drafting guardianship documents, including guardianship applications, management plans, guardianship plans and applications to pass accounts

Monique J. Charlebois, Barrister & Solicitor - Wills, Trusts & Estates
Contract Work September 2017 – November 2017

- Drafting wills and providing feedback on estate plans
- Conducting procedural and substantive legal research in the area of wills, trusts and estates

The Ministry of the Attorney General - The Public Guardian and Trustee
Articling Student July 2016 – June 2017

- Managed a full caseload and independently conducted client interviews and negotiations
- Represented clients in Small Claims Court, the Ontario Superior Court of Justice, the Ontario Court of Justice, the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board and the Social Benefits Tribunal
- Researched complex, substantive and procedural matters and provided recommendations to counsel and clients
- Drafted pleadings, motions, applications, affidavits, appeals and minutes of settlement
- Assessed organizational liability and produced internal memoranda for review
- Experience in the following areas of law: family, elder law, mental health law, torts, charities, real estate, estates, corporate, civil litigation, guardianship law, health law and landlord and tenant

McLeish Orlando LLP

Summer Law Student

May - August 2015

- Drafted pleadings, motions, mediation memoranda, pre-trial conference memoranda, affidavits and other court documents
- Conducted legal research on issues relating to personal injury and insurance law
- Attended examinations for discovery, client intakes and mediations
- Worked alongside senior lawyers and partners in preparation for and during mediation and trials
- Fostered meaningful and professional relationships with clients and their families

The University of Windsor

Research Assistant to Professor Gemma Smyth

June - September 2014

- Assisted with the development of clinicallaw.ca, a legal skills resource for law students
- Transcribed client interviews and created presentations on practical legal skills and complex client relationships

Vancouver Coastal Health Authority

Medical Social Worker

March 2012 - August 2013

- Developed discharge plans, performed psychosocial and adult guardianship assessments
- Responsible for the referral of patients to community resources
- Effectively provided crisis counselling to patients and their families

The John Howard Society

Community Outreach Worker

January 2011 - March 2012

- Facilitated the transition of clients with developmental disabilities, mental health issues, addictions, and a history of incarceration into half-way houses
- Created and implemented client case plans and generated monthly reports
- Responsible for creating and presenting “life skills” workshops

UBC Faculty of Social Work

Research Assistant to Dr. Rachelle Hole

September 2010 - June 2011

- Transcribed interviews from current home sharing clients
- Conducted and presented research on home sharing options

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Vancouver Coastal Health - ReAct Adult Protection Program

Practicum Student

January - June 2016

- Authored a Supplement Guide for applications under Part 3 of the *Adult Guardianship Act* for clinical staff conducting Adult Protection Investigations
- Researched health care related legislation and accompanying policies

Community Legal Aid - Family Law Clinic

Student Litigator

January - May 2015

- Provided legal support and representation on custody, access, support and restraining order matters in the Ontario Court of Justice

Family Law Project (Pro Bono Canada)

Case Worker/Duty Counsel

September 2014 - January 2015

- Assisted Duty Counsel with family law matters in the Ontario Court of Justice
- Represented Clients in Rule 40 Court
- Performed legal research and prepared separation and custody and access agreements

Community Legal Aid (Windsor Law)

Case Worker

September 2013- December 2014

- Prepared files and documents for trial, conducted client intake interviews, drafted legal letters, conducted legal research and client meetings, negotiated with opposing parties and the crown

ARTICLES & PAPERS

“Guardianship and Powers of Attorney: A Primer”, co-authored paper with Jan Goddard, Certificate in Elder Law, Osgoode Professional Development, February 14, 2018.

“What’s New in Estates, Trusts and Incapacity Law”, co-researcher on paper with Nimali Gamage, OBA Institute 2018: Emerging Issues in Estate, Trusts and Incapacity Law, Ontario Bar Association, February 8, 2018.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- Young Women in Law
- Toronto Lawyers Association
- Ontario Bar Association
- Canadian Bar Association