



Colin J. Clarke, KC

he/him

PARTNER

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PRACTICE AREAS

Health • Regulated Professions • Administrative • Energy & Natural Resources
• Commercial Litigation • Insurance Litigation

BIOGRAPHY

Colin is a partner in the Halifax office of Cox & Palmer. His practice focuses on health law and medical defence, including acting as lead counsel for the Canadian Medical Protective Association and its members throughout Nova Scotia.

In addition, Colin also practices in the areas of insurance, administrative, regulatory, and energy law. His practice includes institutional and government litigation including representation of parties adverse to the Crown in complex administrative inquiries.

Colin was appointed Queen's Counsel (now King's Counsel) in 2012.

EXPERIENCE

Appeared before all levels of Courts including the Nova Scotia Provincial Court, Nova Scotia Supreme Court, Nova Scotia Court of Appeal, Federal Court of Canada, Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board, and various other administrative tribunals.

Lead counsel in Nova Scotia for a major national grocer.

INDUSTRY RECOGNITION & AWARDS

- Ranked by Chambers Canada 2025 for Healthcare: Contentious and for Litigation: General Commercial [Atlantic Canada]
- Best Lawyers' in Canada 2025 Halifax Medical Negligence Lawyer of the Year
- Ranked by Chambers Canada 2024 for Healthcare: Contentious
- Ranked by Chambers Canada 2024 for Litigation: General Commercial [Atlantic Canada]
- Best Lawyers' in Canada's 2024 Halifax Health Care Law Lawyer of the Year
- Ranked by Chambers Canada 2023 for Healthcare: Contentious
- Ranked by Chambers Canada 2023 for Litigation: General Commercial [Atlantic Canada]
- Fellow – Litigation Counsel of America
- Listed in the publication the Best Lawyers in Canada as a leading practitioner in Administrative and Public Law, Corporate and Commercial Litigation, Health Care Law, Medical Negligence, and Personal Injury Litigation
- Listed in the Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory as a leading practitioner in Medical Negligence, and Professional Liability.

LANGUAGES

- English

LAW SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS

- Canadian Bar Association
- Nova Scotia Barristers' Society

BAR ADMISSION

- Nova Scotia (1992)

LAW SCHOOL

- Dalhousie University

EDUCATION

- Acadia University (BA Honours, 1988)
- Dalhousie Law School (LLB, 1991)
- London School of Economics and Political Science, England (LLM with Merit, 1993)

LECTURES & PRESENTATIONS

- Presentation to Dalhousie Law School Advanced Negligence Class Medical Malpractice Litigation (2023)
- Presentation to Pediatric Emergency Room Physicians – Respecting the College Complaint Process (September 2018)
- MSI Audits and Appeals – Autumn Surgical Section (NS) Meeting (2011)
- Nova Scotia Barristers' Society – Trust Everyone But Always Cut The Cards (2010)
- The Nova Scotia Medical Legal Society – Refusing to Provide Treatment (2008)
- Defence Perspective – presentation to hearing committee of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia (2007)
- The College Investigation Process for Disciplinary Complaints, A Doctor's Perspective – presentation to the investigation committees of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia (2006)
- Physicians Infected with Bloodborne Pathogens – presentation to the Nova Scotia Medical Legal Society (2005)
- Queen Elizabeth II Health Sciences Centre, Orthopaedic Department – Recent medical/legal issues respecting orthopods (2001)
- Dalhousie Health Law Society Career Day (1999 and 2002)
- Nova Scotia Canadian Bar Association Health Law Subsection – MacPhail v. DesRosiers: Legal analysis and implications for physicians/hospital liability (1999)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES & AFFILIATIONS

- Nova Scotia Barristers' Society Professional Responsibility Policies & Procedures Committee (2019 – 2022)
- Nova Scotia Medical Legal Society
- Nova Scotia Barristers' Society Complaints Investigation Committee (2010 – 2016)

ACTIVITIES WITHIN FIRM

- Finance Partner – Halifax Executive (2023 –)
- Finance Partner – Halifax Executive (2007 – 2010)

COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

- Board of Directors, Alzheimer Society of Nova Scotia (2010 – 2015)
- Board Member, Halifax Assistance Fund (2007 – 2009)