



Stephen J. May, KC

COUNSEL

ST. JOHN'S

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PRACTICE AREAS

Insurance Litigation • Commercial Litigation • Environmental • Administrative
• Regulated Professions

BIOGRAPHY

Stephen May is Counsel in the St. John's office of Cox & Palmer. He was admitted to the Newfoundland and Labrador Bar in 1988 after completing his education at the University of Ottawa.

Stephen's practice focuses on civil litigation with an emphasis on insurance. He has acted on behalf of a number of insurance companies that underwrite home, automobile, disability, and Errors & Omissions coverage in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Stephen has provided advice on policy drafting and interpretation as well as the handling of claims. He has counseled government, aboriginal groups and corporations on various constitutional issues, including aboriginal land claims.

EXPERIENCE

Stephen has appeared before various administrative tribunals, all courts within Newfoundland and Labrador, the Tax Court of Canada, the Federal Court of Canada, and the Supreme Court of Canada.

INDUSTRY RECOGNITION & AWARDS

- Best Lawyers in Canada 2025 Insurance Law Lawyer of the Year (St. John's)
- Consistently recognized in the Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory as a leading practitioner in Personal Injury Law, Commercial Insurance Litigation and Professional Liability Law
- Appointed a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers in 2024, one of the premier legal associations in America.
- Awarded the Lee Samis Award of Excellence in 2023 from Canadian Defence Lawyers for his contributions to the growth and development of the legal profession in Canada, long-term dedication as a mentor to students and young lawyers, and continued peer recognition.
- 2022 Law Firm of the Year for Insurance Law by The Best Lawyers™ in Canada.
- Recognized since 2012 in Benchmark Canada Guide as a leading practitioner in Civil Litigation and Insurance
- Listed as a leading practitioner since 2013 by the publication Best Lawyers in Canada in the areas of Insurance Law, Personal Injury Litigation and Aboriginal Law
- Recognized by Benchmark Litigation as a preeminent litigation practitioner in Canada in the area of Insurance
- *Best Lawyers'* 2018 St. John's Insurance Lawyer of the Year
- *Best Lawyers'* 2021 St. John's Insurance Lawyer of the Year

LANGUAGES

- English

LAW SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS

- Canadian Bar Association
- Law Society of Newfoundland & Labrador

BAR ADMISSION

- Newfoundland and Labrador (1988)

LAW SCHOOL

- University of Ottawa

EDUCATION

- Carleton University (B.A. 1983)
- University of Ottawa (LL.B. 1987)

LECTURES & PRESENTATIONS

- “Advocacy in the Discovery Process”, Newfoundland and Labrador Bar Admission Course
- “Per Quod Servitium Amisit and Employers’ Rights of Recovery: A Changing Approach”, Newfoundland and Labrador Civil Litigation Sub-section, Canadian Bar Association
- Frequent speaker on insurance related topics

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES & AFFILIATIONS

- Member, Electoral Advisory Committee to the Chief Electoral Office of Newfoundland and Labrador
- Member, Newfoundland and Labrador Law Society Insurance Committee
- Past Chair, Advisory Board, Canadian Lawyers Insurance Association