Joseph F. Burke

PARTNER

HALIFAX

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PRACTICE AREAS

Insurance Litigation • Commercial Litigation • Environmental • Municipal

BIOGRAPHY

Joe is a partner with Cox & Palmer's Halifax office and practises primarily in the areas of insurance and general litigation. A proud native of St. Peter's, Cape Breton, Joe joined the firm in 2006 after spending several years in private practice with a large firm, acting as in-house counsel for a major insurer and then working as an aide to a minister in the federal government.

A resident of downtown Halifax, Joe is actively involved in his community and takes an interest in a variety of issues and organizations. Among other roles, Joe recently served as national Vice-President of Development & Peace, the Canadian arm of Caritas Internationalis, which is the world's second largest international development and humanitarian relief organization. He has also served in a number of senior leadership positions within the firm.

EXPERIENCE

Over a 20+ year career, Joe has provided advice to major insurers, utilities, municipalities, and other commercial and institutional clients, appearing before all levels of court. He routinely deals with all types of property and casualty claims, coverage issues, and other matters of strategic interest to the insurance industry. He has successfully negotiated numerous settlements both informally and through mediation.

INDUSTRY RECOGNITION & AWARDS

- 2022 Law Firm of the Year for Insurance Law by The Best Lawyers™ in Canada.
- Listed as a leading practitioner by the publication The Best Lawyers in Canada for his practice in the area of Insurance Law and Personal Injury Litigation.
- Listed as a Lexpert Leading Lawyer in the areas of Commercial Insurance and Personal Injury litigation.

LANGUAGES

- English

LAW SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS

- Canadian Bar Association
- Nova Scotia Barristers' Society

BAR ADMISSION

- Nova Scotia (2002)

LAW SCHOOL

- Dalhousie University

EDUCATION

- Mount Allison University (BA First Class Honours in History and Political Studies, 1997)
- Dalhousie University (MPA and LLB, 2001)

PUBLICATIONS

- Case Law Updates: Insurance Litigation Law
- Case Law Updates - Insurance Litigation Law
- Case Law Updates - Insurance Litigation Law

LECTURES & PRESENTATIONS

- Numerous presentations to insurance industry groups on Nova Scotia's minor injury legislation and other Insurance Act amendments, Case Law updates, Civil Procedure Rules, and other topics
- HRM v. The Queen: Payments in Lieu of Taxes and the Halifax Citadel – Canadian Bar Association (NS Municipal Law section)
- Getting the Jump on Coverage and Liability: A Review of 2013's Most Notable Cases – Webinar presentation, national Canadian Bar Association Insurance Law section
- Stay Ahead of the Curve: 2014's Most Notable Insurance Cases and Developments From Across Canada – Webinar presentation, national Canadian Bar Association Insurance Law Section
- Payments in Lieu of Taxes and the Halifax Citadel: The Latest (and Hopefully Final) Round – Canadian Bar Association (NS Municipal Law section)
- What is a Car? – Webinar presentation, Risk Management Counsel
- Leading 2015 Insurance Cases and Developments from Across Canada -Webinar presentation, national Canadian Bar Association Insurance Law section

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES & AFFILIATIONS

- Canadian Defence Lawyers
- Insurance Bureau of Canada Property & Casualty Panel (2012-2022)

ACTIVITIES WITHIN FIRM

- Coordinator, Art in the Office project
- Chair, Halifax Insurance Practice Group (2017-2022)
- Member, Regional Insurance Steering Committee (2017-2024)
- Chair, Halifax Articling & Recruiting (2010-2012)

COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

- Advisory Council for Responsible Ministry, Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth
- Vice-President & National Council member, Canadian Catholic Organization for Development & Peace/Caritas Canada (2015-2021)
- Steering Committee, Art Gallery of Nova Scotia Young Patrons' Circle (2010-2018)
- Steering Committee, Halifax Stadium Analysis Project (2011-2012)
- Past President, Halifax Citadel Liberal Association
- Past member of the Board of Directors, 2b Theatre Company
- Past member of the Board of Directors, Coverdale Centre
- Past member of the Board of Directors, Halifax Community Learning Network
- Past member of the Board of Directors, Destination Richmond