

# Rhonda Johnson, TEP

## Partner



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Edmonton

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## Overview

Rhonda is a partner practicing in our Trusts, Estates and Wealth Preservation group. She focuses on trusts, estate planning and estate administration solutions advising individuals, trustees, business founders and next generations, including helping clients with assets in BC and Alberta.

Her practice includes drafting inter vivos and testamentary trusts, First Nations Trusts, multiple wills planning, incapacity planning, charitable giving, wealth transfer strategies and multi-generational planning.

Rhonda articulated and practiced with Dentons in Edmonton from 1990 until 2001 before moving to Vancouver Island to help start and run an award-winning outdoor tourism business with a focus on fully guided sea kayak tours. She then went back to her roots and practiced law on Vancouver Island, first as a solo practitioner and then with mid-sized firms, until returning to Dentons Canada in 2020.

Rhonda has been a sessional instructor of the wills course for the Law Faculty of University of Alberta, and an instructor and presenter for the Legal Education Society of Alberta, CBA Wills Section, STEP National, STEP Edmonton, STEP Calgary, and Cambridge Forums. She has also been a sessional instructor in economics for North Island College.

Rhonda received the Volunteer of the Year Award 2018 and 2019 in recognition of her extraordinary contributions, from the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP) Edmonton Branch.

Active in her professional community, Rhonda currently is a member of the executive of the Edmonton Chapter of the STEP, as well as a member of the STEP National Conference Program Planning Committee, and the Cambridge Forum Sr. Estate Practitioners Program Planning Committee.

## Recognition

- *Best Lawyers'* in Canada designation, Wills and Estates, 2020 and 2021
- STEP Edmonton, Volunteer of the Year Award, 2018 and 2019

# Activities and Affiliations

- Advisors' Link, Law Society of Alberta, Wills and Estates
- STEP National organizing committee, National Conference, 2019, 2020 and 2021
- STEP National Technical Committee, 2018 to 2020, including submissions to federal government on public registries of corporate interests
- STEP Edmonton executive, 2017 to present

## Presentations

- Moderator, STEP National Conference, June 2021: Gift Wrapping the Pros and Cons of Inter vivos Gift Giving
- Co-Moderator, STEP National Speakers Series, March 2021: Conflicts of Law in Estate Planning across Canada
- Moderator, STEP National Conference 2020: The Intersection between Estate Law and Family Law
- Moderator, STEP National Conference 2019: The Battle of 2 Greats – Privacy v. Transparency
- Estates, Pensions and Trusts Journal articles: Pour Over wills, August 2019; Case Comment on Muth Estate, August 2020

# Areas of focus

## Practices

- Trusts, Estates and Wealth Preservation

# Education

- 2018, Trust and Estate Practitioner (TEP) (essay route) STEP Canada
- University of Alberta, 1990, MBA
- University of Alberta, 1990, LLB
- University of Alberta, 1986, Bachelor of Arts, Honours (English, with Distinction)

# Admissions and qualifications

- Alberta, 1991
- British Columbia, 2010
- Northwest Territories, 2021