

ALUMNI

2023 Annual Update

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STAY IN TOUCH

Field Law is developing new ways to help you stay in touch with your alumni community, from social media to educational and social events throughout the year.

You can:

- **Sign up (<http://field.law/alumni>)** for our mailing list to receive emails about the most up-to-date firm developments and alumni engagement opportunities
- Follow Field Law on LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter to find the latest news
- Check our event listings for upcoming educational opportunities

Don't be shy... We'd be delighted to share your news with firm members and your fellow alumni. If you have recently changed positions, moved or want to share your news, please write to us at alumni@fieldlaw.com

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MANAGING PARTNER MESSAGE

2022 ended on an exciting note as the firm finalized a deal to acquire Hicks Intellectual Property. Located in Canmore and owned by Andrew and Christine Hicks, Hicks IP is a boutique IP firm with a strong global reputation. This opportunity results in the rapid growth of our intellectual property practice and gives Field Law a solid base to service new and existing clients in the Bow Valley. Read on for more about this exciting news.

While we continue to grow as a firm and our environment evolves, we are grateful to have returned to being able to connect with many of you in person over recent months. We look forward to more of these opportunities in the future.

As we enter 2023, we have weathered what we hope is a once-in-a-lifetime storm and have come to this point strong, stable and ready to move forward.

As the firm moves into a new era, with four office locations, I would like to recognize two of our partners who retired from the partnership at the end of 2022. Jay Guthrie and Leah Wintermute have both made significant contributions to the firm and the practice of health law across the province. While they will both continue with the firm as Counsel, we wish them the best of health, happiness and success in the next phase of their careers.

Jeremiah Kowalchuk

HICKS IP



In 2022, Field Law bulked up its IP team by acquiring Hicks Intellectual Property Law and Hicks & Associates Intellectual Property, collectively known as Hicks Intellectual Property, which are located in Canmore. The union between the firms significantly increases our capacity and allows us to offer more expansive IP services and broader subject-matter knowledge across the various technical disciplines of patents and trademarks.

This opportunity results in the rapid growth of our intellectual property practice and presents an opportunity for further growth with the Hicks IP client base. The combination with Field Law means that the Hicks IP Canmore location will become Field's fourth office, giving Field Law a strong base to service new and existing clients in Canmore and the surrounding Bow Valley.

To meet our IP team and understand more about what value and benefits they provide our clients, please visit <https://www.fieldlaw.com/Services/Intellectual-Property-Technology>.

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ADDITIONS TO THE PARTNERSHIP

We are delighted to welcome **Erin Berney** to the partnership.



Based in the Edmonton office, Erin joined Field Law in 2019 bringing with her a broad civil litigation practice. Since then, Erin has built an extensive condominium law practice dealing with all manner of residential and commercial condominium issues, including solicitor-type work such as bylaw review and contract

drafting, and barrister-type work such as condo fee collection and construction litigation. Erin has done a remarkable job establishing her own self-sustaining law practice and we are happy she has accepted our invitation to join the partnership.

RETIREMENTS



JAY GUTHRIE, KC

On December 31, 2022, Jay retired from the partnership at Field Law. Jay was a valued member of the partnership and will continue as a valued member of Field Law in the role of Counsel. Jay took over as Practice Group Leader of the Health Law Group

after Bill Wintermute retired in 2006. Jay expertly guided the firm through changes with health law clients, including the amalgamation of the regional health authorities into one large healthcare organization and moving from a regional reciprocal insurance model to a national one. In his 15 years as Practice Group Leader, Jay was integral in maintaining and strengthening the relationship between the firm and its biggest client.

Jay was admitted to the bar in Alberta in 1986 after articling at another regional law firm. Jay was involved in a large litigation file early in his career under the mentorship of the late Honourable C. Philip Clarke. Jay worked alongside other firm members, including Jim Casey, KC, Brent Windwick, KC, and Dan Carroll, KC on the matter. There were many stories fondly shared by Jay about this experience.

Jay developed a civil litigation practice with a primary emphasis on healthcare law. Jay has represented staff, administration, and boards of healthcare facilities throughout Alberta for over 30 years in high-exposure professional malpractice actions and other complex disputes, both in the courtroom and through

various alternative dispute resolution mechanisms. Jay has also represented major active treatment hospitals at fatality and other inquiries.

Jay is soft-spoken, conscientious, and thoughtful in all his communications. He is a tenacious defender of his clients while remaining pragmatic and always professional. He developed and held deep trust and respect with his partners at Field Law. We will miss Jay's guidance and input at the partnership table.

While remaining at Field Law part-time as Counsel, Jay will be able to enjoy more time with his wife and children, who, despite his dedication to the firm and his clients, have always been his priority. The firm thanks Jay for his contributions over the past 35 years and wishes him all the best in his next chapter.



LEAH WINTERMUTE

Leah retired from the Field Law partnership on December 31, 2022. Leah was highly regarded as a partner and had roles on the Accounts Committee and the Student Committee, amongst others. Her contributions to the partnership, loyalty, and support will be missed. Leah stays with the firm as Counsel and will continue to work with and support the Health Law Group.

Leah was called to the bar in 1989 and joined Field Law shortly after her articles at another regional firm. Leah developed a nuanced practice where she worked closely with the experts required to provide evidence in complex medical malpractice matters. Leah retained and developed trusted relationships with highly specialized medical practitioners, who appreciated her intelligence, organizational skills and understanding of complex medical issues. Leah grew a database of experts that greatly benefits the Health Law Group and our clients. Leah also supported her partners with trial prep and trial work, including second chairing a lengthy birth injury trial.

Leah has acted as a formal and informal mentor to associates and legal staff at Field Law. She has always been willing to assist the Health Law Group with group management and organizing client events. She is hard working and conscientious and was fundamental in helping the Health Law Group run smoothly.

Leah will remain with Field Law part-time as Counsel, giving her more opportunity to travel with her husband and spend time with her two daughters. The firm thanks Leah for all her hard work and contributions and wishes her all the best.

IN MEMORIAM

Field Law notes with sorrow the passing of the following alumni of the firm:



MILES G. ATKINSON, KC

It is with much fondness and gratitude that we remember Miles Atkinson, KC, who passed away in his sleep on September 24, 2022 at the age of 93.

Miles joined MacDonald, Cheeseman & Moore (a predecessor to Field Law) as an Articling Student in 1956 and officially retired from Field Law in 2019.

Every now and then, an exceptional person comes along. Miles Atkinson was one of those people. A person who was genuine to the core, sincerely interested in you and your issues, someone about whom no one would say- or could say- a bad word. We are grateful to have had Miles as a pillar of the firm, providing stability and continuity for over 60 years.

As we say farewell to Miles, we strive to carry forward the traditions and values he planted and nurtured over the years. Miles is a reminder of our proud past and a beacon for all that we aspire to be in the legal profession and in life.

Click to visit obituary



JUSTICE WILLIAM JAMES (BILL) GIRGULIS, KC

We are saddened to advise that the Honourable Mr. Justice William (Bill) J. Girgulis passed away on December 10, 2022, at the age of 89, surrounded by his loving family,

wife Paulina, and children Mary Beth, Karen, and Paul (his eldest son Jim lives abroad).

As many of you know, Justice Girgulis is deeply rooted in our firm's long history. Justice Girgulis joined Field, Hyndman, Field, Owen, Blakey & Bodnar in 1956, climbing the firm ranks from associate to partner, through various name transitions to Field Hyndman in 1968, Field Owen in 1974, and Field & Field in 1979. Known at the firm for being an excellent skier, Justice Girgulis was a regular on the firm's ski trips to Marmot Basin for several years. Justice Girgulis served as a Bencher in 1980-81, before being appointed to the Court of Queen's Bench (now the Court of King's Bench) in 1981 where he served as a member of

the judiciary until his retirement in 2006 where he then served in many capacities for several years thereafter. During his judicial tenure, his Lordship authored three books published by LESA (family, wills and estates and foreclosures), and issued a plethora of written decisions covering all areas of law, many of which are still cited with approval to this day.

Click to visit obituary

AWARDS + RECOGNITION



Mike Casey, KC - Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal

We would like to extend our warmest congratulations to Mike Casey, who was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal by the province of Alberta in

December 2022. This commemorative medal was created prior to her passing to mark the 70th anniversary of Her Majesty's accession to the Throne as Queen of Canada and was awarded to 7,000 Albertans throughout 2022 in recognition of significant contributions to the province.

In addition to Mike's professional excellence as a lawyer for almost 50 years, he has tirelessly given back to the community in Calgary. A brief and incomplete list of his contributions include acting as Board Chair of the Calgary Airport Authority; decades of volunteer service to the Calgary Stampede, including a 25-year tenure as a Director and a term as Stampede president and board chair; an 8-year tenure as a regional director of the Alberta Motor Association; A Director and Vice-Chair of the Canada 2005 Exposition Corporation, which developed the bid for Expo 2005 in Calgary; president of the Calgary Junior Chamber of Commerce; and Chair of the Calgary Grey Cup Committee from 1978 – 1982.

Mike's professional and community contributions have continued the traditions established by our firm's earlier leaders and have set an example for all of us. His receipt of the Jubilee Medal is a well-deserved distinction that recognizes his many contributions to the province.

NEW LATERAL HIRES



**Regan
Christensen**
Calgary
(Litigation)



**Cory
Dawson**
Edmonton
(Real Estate, Wills,
Estates + Trusts)



**Mark
Hein**
Calgary
(Litigation)



**Royce
Henning**
Calgary
(Litigation)



**Stefanie
Kingsbury**
Calgary
(Litigation)



**Vivian
Stevenson, KC**
Edmonton
(Litigation)

UPCOMING CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

- **Important Professional Regulatory Cases of 2022**
Webinar
February 7
[Click for more information](#)
- **2022 - A Year in Review: Labour + Employment (Part 2)**
Seminar + Webinar
February 15 (Calgary + Edmonton)
February 16 (Webinar)
[Click for more information](#)
- **Tips + Resources for Charities and Non-Profits as Estate Beneficiaries**
Seminar
February 28 (Calgary + Edmonton)
[Click for more information](#)

To receive invitations to educational events and other programs that the firm offers, sign up here, or contact our Digital Marketing Administrator **Deb Kondysar**, for more details. Email dkondysar@fieldlaw.com or call her at **780-429-7863**.

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LEGAL MATTERS

Unfortunately, 2022 was a banner year for complex self-represented litigants. Most matters involving complex litigants are not reported decisions. We must remember that reported decisions are often only the tip of the iceberg regarding the steps taken in the underlying matter. Some complex litigant decisions are reported. These are important for counsel to review when engaged or possibly engaged with a complex self-represented litigant. We wish to provide readers of this newsletter a selection of reported decisions where Field Law was counsel, including:

- ***Freeman v Canadian Natural Resources Limited*, 2022 ABQB 96**
- ***Dugandzic v Law Society of Alberta*, 2022 ABQB 49**
- ***Dugandzic v Law Society of Alberta*, 2022 ABQB 75**
- ***Bains v Day*, 2022 ABKB 844**
- ***Bains v Adam*, 2022 ABCA 72**
- ***Kostic v Scott Venturo Rudakoff LLP*, 2022 ABQB 188**
- ***Kostic v Scott Venturo Rudakoff LLP*, 2022 ABCA 392**
- ***Kostic v Scott Venturo Rudakoff LLP*, 2022 ABCA 423**

With the retirement of the Honourable Associate Chief Justice Rooke, who handled some of the most significant decisions regarding complex litigants (including ***Meads v Meads***), it will be interesting to see if the new Associate Chief Justice in Calgary (whoever it may be) will continue in the same way. Or if changes to gatekeeping access or the conduct of complex litigant litigation will occur.

FIELD LAW COMMUNITY FUND PROGRAM

The Field Law Community Fund Program continues to be an important cornerstone of our community. This year we received 130 applications from individuals, organizations and charities hoping to receive some of the \$75,000 in funding available across Alberta and the Northwest Territories.

Since 2013, the Program has invested \$760,000 in the communities Field Law serves as a means of giving back in a differentiated and meaningful way aligned to our core areas of law and our brand. The 2022 winners are part of a significant milestone as we celebrate our 10th anniversary of the Program. The thirteen winning organizations and individuals support a diverse range of causes like food security, access to employment, and animal welfare.

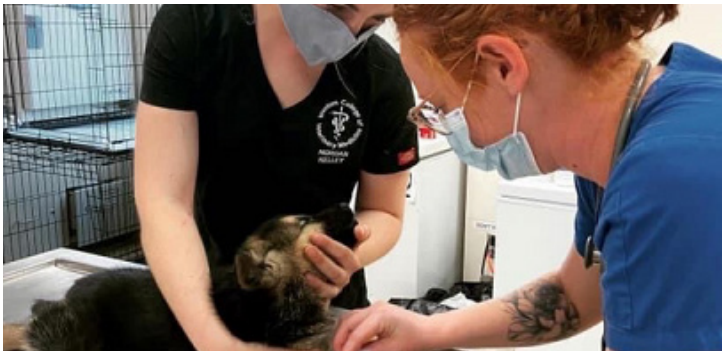
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This year the Field Law Community Fund Program once again distributed \$60,000 across Alberta and \$15,000 in the Northwest Territories. A Community Market Judging Panel selected the recipients in each market. One of the factors the judges considered was the number of votes each idea received during the public voting phase of the Program. This year we had over 28,000 votes cast – the third-highest total since the Program’s creation.

Returning for a second year was the Fielders’ Choice Award (FCA). In addition to the judging panel prizes, the FCA allowed Fielders to choose one organization in each community market to receive \$2,000.

And the Winners Are...

The grand prize winner (\$10,000) in the Northwest Territories is The NWT SPCA and their spay-neuter inclusion program. This program will remove barriers for pet owners who have faced hardships or challenges trying to get their animals spayed/ neutered. The YWCA NWT was awarded \$3,000 for their food security program.



The grand prize recipient in northern Alberta is Youth Unlimited Edmonton (\$8,000). This cooking club will help alleviate food scarcity and teach valuable life skills to youth and families. Additional recipients include Hauser & Associates Ltd.’s Project Halo, Kello Inclusive, The Pilgrim’s Hospice Society and The Black Bookshelf Project Ltd. They will each receive \$5,000.



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In southern Alberta, the grand prize idea (\$13,000) came from RESET Society of Calgary. Their Exploitation Intervention and Transition (EXIT) program will use the funds to retrofit the EXIT classroom with new desks and tablets to increase enrollment capacity. Connect Up With Downs Inc. was awarded \$8,000, Alberta Animal Rescue Crew Society received \$5,000, and CPAWS Southern Alberta was awarded \$2,000.



The FCA winner in northern Alberta is the Mental Health Foundation and their virtual mental health clinic for youth. The southern Alberta winner is Pathways Wellness Society and their pre-detox program and the Northwest Territories winner is the local YWCA.

For a complete list of past and present Field Law Community Fund Program winners, visit fieldlawcommunityfund.com.

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