



Lancaster, Brooks & Welch LLP
Niagara's Lawyers Since 1882

Spanning Three Centuries *in Niagara*



Accessibility and Convenience

Lancaster, Brooks & Welch LLP have offices in both St. Catharines and Welland which are conveniently located in the downtown core.

Regular office hours are Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 5:00pm.

We are happy to make appointments at other times to satisfy our clients' needs.

80 King St., Ste. 800, St. Catharines, ON
905.641.1551

3 Cross St., Ste. 202, Welland, ON
905.735.5684

For more than 134 years Niagara clients have relied on us for help solving a broad range of legal issues. Over time, as laws have become more complex, Lancaster, Brooks & Welch has responded by developing more focussed expertise in a wide array of practice areas. In 2002, the former firms of Lancaster Mix & Welch in St. Catharines and Brooks, Bielby & Smith in Welland merged to become Lancaster Brooks & Welch. In 2012, the firm of Reid McNaughton joined us.

905.641.1551
www.lbwlawyers.com

The commitment of our offices in St. Catharines and Welland goes beyond legal advice. Lancaster, Brooks & Welch is entrenched in the region, serving and supporting a great cross-section of charitable organizations and service clubs. Some of our team has also served Ontarians beyond the Niagara region in political and legislative roles.

Technology

Being effective as Lawyers in the 21st century requires the use of up-to-date technology. Our systems have been developed to reduce costs to our clients while improving the quality of our work.

Working Together

The lawyers and legal staff at Lancaster Brooks & Welch work as a team to get results. Old-fashioned hard work combined with the latest technology helps us bring matters to conclusion as quickly and effectively as possible. We believe providing timely, creative and cost-effective solutions can best serve our clientele. Success as a firm has come from satisfied clients referring their friends and associates to us. We strive to justify that trust and actively look for ways to improve our service.

Separation and Divorce

When family relationships break down, a good lawyer will help navigate the process. The Family Law group at Lancaster Brooks & Welch deals with separation and divorce matters daily and is the largest family law group in the region. Our experienced staff provides knowledgeable and reliable advice on matrimonial matters, child custody and visitation, division of property, and pensions. We also prepare marriage contracts and co-habitation agreements. We appear in court and effectively negotiate separation agreements and divorce settlements.

Labour & Employment Law

The firm has experienced labour lawyers to represent clients in drafting employment contracts, prosecuting or defending wrongful dismissal claims, human rights complaints and Employment Standards matters. The firm effectively represents management in matters of collective bargaining, grievance

arbitration and in Labour Relations Board hearings We also advise on responses to union organizing drives, unfair labour practice complaints and *Employment Standards Act*.

Sports Law

Both professional and amateur athletes have an increasing need for representation in contract negotiation, arbitration and mediation of judging disputes and entrance qualifications for events such as the Pan Am and Olympic Games.

Real Estate

Buying or selling a house is often the biggest financial transaction a family ever undertakes. At Lancaster Brooks & Welch, we close more real estate deals than any other firm in the region, which allows us to minimize cost and maximize quality of service. Our business clients, including leading financial institutions, rely on our expertise in handling important commercial real estate transactions, including mortgages and leases, land-use zoning applications and land development, as well as the purchase and sale of major properties. We are committed to maintain our leadership in the Niagara real estate arena by continually responding to our clients' needs, no matter how large or small the transaction.

Civil Litigation

The Litigation department at Lancaster Brooks & Welch includes a talented and experienced group of trial lawyers who regularly appear before all levels of courts in the province. Contract disputes, personal injury claims, insurance matters and construction liens are typical of our work. In addition, we handle matters of estate disputes. We also represent clients at administrative tribunals such as the Ontario Municipal Board and the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board.

Trademark and IP Law

If you have developed a unique brand, tagline or product name, then registration of a Canadian trademark is the highest level of protection to ensure exclusivity. Our firm assists with the procedural requirements from the due diligence stage to the point of registration and beyond. Our intellectual property law



department is well-versed in the drafting of software agreements, licenses, and other contracts.

Corporate and Commercial Law

Lancaster Brooks & Welch offers a full range of legal services to small and large businesses alike, from the incorporation of companies and the drafting of shareholder agreements, to complex contract negotiations and corporate financing. Our advice is enhanced by the civil litigation and labour relations skills of other Firm lawyers as required. We are pleased to be the firm of choice for some of the region's leading businesses, institutions and entrepreneurs.



Wills and Estates

The Wills and Estates department at Lancaster Brooks & Welch is the touchstone of expertise in the region. With a highly-experienced legal and support staff, the firm has provided efficient, yet caring, services in the preparation of Wills, Powers of Attorney, powers of attorney and in the administration of estates for decades. Members of the estates department make public legal education presentations to the community to acquaint people with the current state of the law.

Mediation

Drawing on their backgrounds in civil litigation, matrimonial law, labour relations and commercial law, several partners at Lancaster Brooks & Welch have taken additional training as mediators. They help people arrive at speedy, fair and often inexpensive resolutions of a dispute. Our firm takes the lead in promoting Alternative Dispute Resolution in the Niagara region.

Estate Planning

Protecting your wishes and family in the future is one of the most important things you can do. Who will inherit your assets? Who would handle your financial affairs and medical decisions if you were rendered unable to make them for yourself? We have the knowledge to help you protect your assets and ensure they are distributed according to your wishes.

Arbitration

In answer to the public need for alternatives to the traditional resolution of disputes in court, Lancaster Brooks & Welch offers the services of its most senior and respected lawyers to solve disputes by arbitration, which is timely and cost-effective, compared with the slower and more expensive court process. Binding awards have the same effect as judgments of the court. These services are offered to solve problems when the firm does not already act for either party.

Personal Injury

Our personal injury department helps injured clients present their claims in a way that ensures maximum physical and financial recovery. Injuries can occur in many different ways – often a vehicle is involved or sometimes it's a fall or a dog bite. The claim may relate to dangerous premises or failure of adequate supervision (e.g. in a school playground). Whatever the injury is and however it was caused, we provide representation in claims for damages, accident benefits or long-term disability payments.

The information provided in this brochure is designed to provide topical information of a general nature only. You may wish to discuss any specific matter with your lawyer and you should feel free to do so at any time.

This material is provided for information purposes only, not as legal advice, and is not intended to be exhaustive of your rights under the relevant legislation.

*Provided by way of public information as a courtesy by:
Lancaster Brooks & Welch,
Barristers & Solicitors*



OUR LEGAL TEAM

Malte von Anrep, Q.C.:

Malte has practised law in Ontario since 1966. He is designated as a Specialist in Civil Litigation, by the Law Society of Upper Canada and has extensive trial experience, especially in the areas of matrimonial disputes, contract and commercial litigation. Malte is also available as an arbitrator.

Harry E. Thorsteinson, Q.C.:

Since his call to the bar in 1968, Harry has provided a variety of personal legal services, including wills, estates and estate planning, real estate and advice concerning marriage disputes. He maintains an active involvement in many local community organizations. As well, Harry brings his significant mediation skills to the firm.

Gary L. Black:

A life-long local resident, Gary has conducted a general commercial practice since 1970. He is largely responsible for making the firm's Real Estate department the largest in the region.

Michael S. Stratton:

A graduate of the University of Western Ontario, Michael studied law at the University of Ottawa and was called to the bar in 1974. After a distinguished career in Welland, Michael joined the St. Catharines office in 2006 and practices in civil, estates and commercial litigation, construction and matrimonial law.

Barry R. McNaughton:

Barry graduated from the University of Western Ontario with a Bachelor of Laws Degree in 1975, and following completion of the bar admission course, was called to the Bar in 1977. Barry is one of the more knowledgeable and experienced real estate lawyers in the Niagara Region, handling commercial and residential purchase, sale and mortgage transactions.

David A. Thomas:

Dave Thomas went to school in Montreal, and then attended Queen's University. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1975, majoring in History and Philosophy, and a Bachelor of Laws in 1978. Dave was called to the Ontario Bar in 1980, in Ottawa. Dave Thomas practices mainly in the areas of corporate, commercial and tax law, real estate, and estate planning.

Kevin H. Robins:

Kevin Robins was called to the Bar and admitted to the Law Society of Upper Canada in 1984. He has practised law in St. Catharines since that time. He graduated from Brock University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1979, and received his law degree from Queen's University in 1982. Kevin's practice is largely in the area of Family Law. He provides services in the areas of divorce, separation agreements, marriage and cohabitation agreements.

Robert W.P. Welch:

Focusing on the areas of estates, wills, and real estate law, Rob is the second generation in his family to practise with the firm. He served three terms on Niagara Regional Council and is Chancellor of the Anglican Diocese of Niagara.

Sheila P. Marcantonio:

Sheila has practised in the personal injury area of law since her call to the Bar in 1986. Whether acting for the injured individual or the insurance company, Sheila brings to the issues her skill and experience as a trial lawyer. Sheila's practice includes personal injury, insurance law and accident benefit disputes.

R. Bruce Smith:

Called to the bar in 1987, Bruce has focused his practice on corporate and commercial work. He acts for both small and large corporations, as well as for individual clients. Bruce is involved in matters of residential real estate, estate planning and wills and powers of attorney. His municipal experience includes the preparation of subdivision and development agreements.

Thomas G. Hanrahan:

Tom enjoys a civil litigation practice with emphasis on family law. He has acted as part-time Crown Attorney and prosecutes cases for the Children's Aid Society. Tom has practised in Welland since his call to the bar in 1990.

Maria G. Lucarelli:

Maria received her Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Western Ontario, and was called to the bar in 1994. Maria's experience includes work in the areas of family and estates, civil litigation, including plaintiff side personal injury work. She has also been involved in expropriation and appeals hearings before the Ontario Municipal Board. Maria joined the firm in 2009.

Michael A. Mann:

Michael received his Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Western Ontario and was called to the bar in 1995. A life-long resident of the Niagara region, Michael joined our corporate/commercial team in 1996. In addition to supporting the legal needs of corporate and commercial clients; he also provides services in real estate and estate planning.

Leanne E. Standryk:

Leanne received her Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Western Ontario, and was called to the bar in 1998. She is a senior partner who oversees the Firm's labour and employment law department and also practices in the area of sports law.

Stanleigh E. Palka:

Stanleigh was born and raised in St. Catharines and received his Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Windsor. He was called to the bar and joined the litigation department of the firm in 2002. His focus at the Firm is in family law.

Yaroslav O. Diduch:

Growing up in the Niagara Region, Yar has built strong ties to his community and possesses a passion for the people and the region where he calls home. Since his call in June of 2010, Yar has been focusing his practice on matters of family law, civil litigation, wills and estate matters.

Johanna McNulty:

Johanna was born and raised in the Niagara Region, Johanna was proud to return to her roots, to practice law as a civil litigator. Since called to the Bar by the Law Society of Upper Canada, in 2010, Johanna's litigation practice has focused in on commercial disputes, construction law/liens and estates litigation.

Kristi J. Collins:

Kristi was called to the California State Bar in 2007 and practised business law there before returning to Canada. She was called to the Ontario Bar in 2011. Prior to joining Lancaster, Brooks & Welch in 2015, Kristi practised in the Commercial Litigation group at an established firm in Toronto, gaining experience in a wide variety of commercial disputes as well as in estates and insolvency litigation.

Civita M. Gauley:

Vita is a Partner at Lancaster, Brooks & Welch. Vita was called to the Bar in 2012 and a member of the Labour & Employment team. Through her focus on detail, positive outlook, motivation and energy, Vita offers her clients great skills and experience. Vita is currently looking forward to further strengthening her roots in the community and building a strong practice in Niagara.

Jillian R. Ali:

Jillian grew up in the Niagara Region, and after graduating Law School, Jillian moved back to the area to complete her articles and practiced corporate and commercial law with an established firm in the Region prior to accepting an Associate position within Lancaster, Brooks & Welch's corporate and commercial department in 2015.

Jean S. Gaspich:

Born and raised in the Niagara Region, Jean was eager to return home to her family and friends after she was called to the Bar in 2014. Jean completed her articles with a well-known litigation lawyer in Grimsby, focusing primarily in the area of family law. Jean believes her combination of organizational and interpersonal skills will help her obtain positive results for her family law clients.

Emily V. Keene:

Emily is a proud Niagara resident, having moved to the region at a young age. Emily was called to the Ontario Bar in June 2014 and joined Lancaster, Brooks & Welch. Emily is committed to providing excellent legal services, including understanding the legal issues clients face, offering proactive approaches for resolution, and advocating with strong legal writing and communication skills.

Robert W. Galloway:

Rob graduated from Western Law in June 2013, receiving his Juris Doctor with a focus in intellectual property. He completed his articles at a well-respected national law firm in Hamilton and was called to the Ontario bar in June 2014 before joining Lancaster, Brooks & Welch. Rob brings to his practice a deep commitment to the law and understanding of the legal issues that clients face.

Matthew M. Leask:

Matt graduated from Osgoode Hall Law School in June of 2015 and was called to the bar in 2016 after completing his articles with Lancaster, Brooks & Welch LLP. Matt is an associate in our Corporate and Commercial department with a focus on land use planning, municipal, and real estate law.