



David A. Steele

PARTNER

David is a leading trusts and estates lawyer, with a long history working closely alongside sophisticated clients in their legal, financial and private client matters.

CONTACT

Toronto: [416.865.8150](tel:416.865.8150)

dsteele@torys.com

Overview

David's practice focuses on domestic and international family trusts, estate planning and administration, charities and business trusts. He regularly advises domestic and international financial institutions and others acting as trustees and custodians.



David is a great person to work with, well respected and very smart about trust and estate matters. He handles clients well and he is always very practical, very knowledgeable and can express risks and communicate meaningfully with clients. He is good at problem solving, I go to him for complex cases.

—CHAMBERS' HIGH NET WORTH, 2020

Recognition and Awards

2020-2025

Chambers & Partners' *High Net Worth Guide*—Leading lawyer in private wealth law (Canada)

2025-2026

Best Lawyers in Canada—Lawyer of the Year for Trusts and Estates

2006-2025	<i>Best Lawyers in Canada</i> —Leading lawyer in trusts and estates
2008-2026	<i>The Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory</i> —Leading lawyer in estate and personal tax planning and charities/not-for-profit law
2014-2022	<i>Who's Who Legal</i> — Thought Leader in private client, Global and National leading lawyer in private client
2016-2017	<i>Chambers Canada</i> —Leading lawyer in private client
2008-2014	<i>Which Lawyer? Private Client</i> —Leading Canadian lawyer in private client, domestic and international trusts, and estate planning and administration
2014	Corporate LiveWire's Lawyer of the Year—Lawyer of the year in wills, trusts and estates (Canada)
2014	<i>Expert Guides</i> —Best of the best in trusts and estates (Canada)
2009-2014	<i>Citywealth</i> —Leading lawyer in North America in private wealth advisory

Insights

[Capacity and consent: an overview of the requirements for medical assistance in dying \(MAiD\)](#)

[View More](#)

News

Ten Torys partners named Lawyer of the Year by *Best Lawyers*

Congratulations to everyone named in the 21st edition of *The Best Lawyers in Canada* and the 6th edition of *The Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch* guides.

Torys ranked Band 1 in Private Wealth Law by *Chambers*

Congratulations to the firm's Family Enterprises practice and the partners recognized in the 2026 *Chambers and Partners* High Net Worth guide.

179 Torys lawyers recognized in the 2025 *Best Lawyers* guide

Six Torys partners were also named Lawyer of the Year in their respective field.

Torys' Family Enterprises practice ranked in the Chambers 2025 High Net Worth Guide

161 Torys lawyers named in the 2024 Best Lawyers guide

Torys' leading lawyers recognized at the 2021 Chambers Canada Awards and in the 2022 Chambers Canada guide

[View More](#)

Professional Involvement

David was a lecturer in the law of trusts at Osgoode Hall Law School, York University from 1991 to 1998 and from 2000 to 2005. He is the director of a master of laws program in the law of trusts at Osgoode Hall Law School, in which he has taught courses on the commercial uses of trusts.

David is an Academician of the International Academy of Estate and Trust Law. He is also a member of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners and a former member of the Executive Committee of the Trusts and Estates Section for the Ontario Bar Association.

Education and Bar Admissions

Education

LLM, 1991	Cornell University
LLB, 1990	Osgoode Hall Law School
BA (Honours), 1987	McGill University

Bar Admissions

New York, 1993	Ontario, 1993
----------------	---------------