



Sarah E. Whitmore

PARTNER

From precedent-setting class action defence to defamation law and commercial litigation, Sarah brings broad experience and skilled advocacy to her work with clients on all aspects of their disputes.

CONTACT

Toronto: [416.865.7315](tel:416.865.7315)

swhitmore@torys.com

Overview

Sarah is the practice group leader for Torys' litigation department. Sarah maintains an active disputes practice with an emphasis on commercial litigation, class actions, employment law, and defamation. Sarah advises corporations in all stages of disputes, including complex governance disputes, shareholder arrangements, breach of contract claims, and transaction disputes.

Sarah advises clients in numerous class actions, including employment claims, product liability, competition law, mass tort and negligence disputes. She regularly represents clients in the banking, retail, and technology sectors, including acting as counsel in several leading and precedent-setting national class actions, acting for the Canadian Hockey League, Canada Cartage and Deloitte, as well as a Canadian Schedule I bank in its defence to the first common issues trial to proceed on the merits in an employment class action in Canada.

Sarah also has a robust defamation practice regularly representing media companies, authors, and individuals in various defamation matters.

She has appeared as counsel at all levels of court in Ontario, British Columbia, Alberta, and Québec, as well as in various administrative tribunals in Ontario (including the Human Rights Tribunal), the Federal Court of Canada and the Supreme Court of Canada.

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Sarah Whitmore is terrific. She's very bright and very experienced.

CHAMBERS CANADA, 2026

Featured Work

Deloitte employee misclassification class action

Torys is acting as counsel to Deloitte in a class action alleging the misclassification of employees and breach of contract

Precedent-setting decision advancing gender equity in women's sport

Torys acted as counsel to Olympic athlete Mandy Bujold and the Canadian Olympic Committee in an arbitration against the International Olympic Committee before the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Switzerland with respect to a gender equity and discrimination challenge of the Tokyo 2020 qualification process

Unpaid overtime class action

Torys is acting as counsel to a major Canadian Schedule I bank in an overtime class action concerning unpaid time

a North American provider of energy efficiency solutions and services in a reverse earn out dispute concerning the purchase of its shareholdings in a Canadian energy efficiency manufacturer

an e-commerce platform in a proposed class action in Ontario and several individual claims alleging breach of contract and errors in termination

a majority shareholder before the Capital Markets Tribunal of the Ontario in connection with its proposed takeover bid

a big five Canadian bank in a proposed class action in Ontario brought by all Canadian employees of the bank alleging failure to meet minimum statutory entitlements for vacation and holiday pay

the defendant in an arbitration relating to its reliance on a force majeure clause following significant changes to the market as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic

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Recognition and Awards

2023-2026 *Chambers Canada*—Leading lawyer in dispute resolution: class action (defence)

2024-2025 *Benchmark Litigation*—40 & Under Hot List

2026 *Benchmark Canada: The Definitive Guide to Canada's Leading Litigation Firms and Attorneys*—Litigation Star

2024-2025	<i>Benchmark Canada: The Definitive Guide to Canada's Leading Litigation Firms and Attorneys—Future Star</i>
2021-2026	<i>The Legal 500—Next generation partner in dispute resolution: Ontario</i>
2023-2027	<i>Best Lawyers in Canada—Leading lawyer in class action litigation, corporate and commercial litigation, and labour and employment law</i>
2023	<i>Lexpert's Rising Stars: Leading Lawyers Under 40—One of Canada's leading lawyers under 40</i>
2023-2026	<i>The Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory—Leading lawyer in class action, corporate/commercial litigation, and product liability</i>

Insights

***Palmer*: certification denied for class action based on risk of future harm**

The decision confirms that viable negligence class actions must allege actual harm, not merely an increased risk of future harm.

[The AI claims curve: what's next for Canadian AI class actions?](#)

[Ontario Court of Appeal weighs in on the bounds of solicitor-client privilege](#)

[Fundamentals of Class Actions Law](#)

[The limits of state immunity: Ontario court grants judgment against Iran for terrorism](#)

[Bill C-34: Canada proposes legislation to regulate social media, AI chatbot, and online services](#)

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News

83% of Torys' Canadian partners are recognized in *Chambers Canada* 2027

Congratulations to our ranked lawyers and practice groups on earning industry-leading recognition, including 19 Band 1 rankings.

***Benchmark Litigation* recognizes 22 Torys lawyers in its 2026 guide**

Danielle Kline, Sarah Whitmore and Zehra Sheerazi named 2023 *Lexpert* Rising Stars

This award is a well-deserved reflection of our lawyers' reputation for excellence as well as their contributions to furthering female leadership within the legal profession.

[Best Lawyers recognizes 177 Torys lawyers in its 2027 guide](#)

[Chambers Canada ranks 81% of Torys' Canadian partners in its 2026 guide](#)

[176 Torys lawyers recognized in the 2026 Best Lawyers guide](#)

[23 Torys litigators recognized in the 2025 Benchmark Litigation guide](#)

[81% of Torys' Canadian partners ranked by Chambers Canada](#)

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Professional Involvement

Sarah is an instructor at Osgoode Hall Law School's Trial Advocacy course. She is also a member of the Advocates' Society and the OBA's Class Action and Civil Litigation Executives. Additionally, Sarah is on the editorial board for the Class Action Defence Quarterly.

In the community, Sarah serves as the President of the Board of Directors of the Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic. She also volunteers as an instructor and mentor for Ontario's Law Practice Program's Trial Advocacy course. In addition, Sarah also co-chair's the University Tribunal, Trial Division at the University of Toronto.

Education and Bar Admissions

Education

JD, 2010

Osgoode Hall Law School

BA (Honours, With Distinction), 2007

Queen's University

Bar Admissions

Ontario, 2011

British Columbia, 2026