

## Tracy C. Brown

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I am 20-year member of the CBA.

Membership in the CBA is something I consider essential to being an engaged member of the legal profession. And indeed, since my first year at Osgoode Hall Law School, I have been an active member of the CBA in various capacities and always a cheerleader for the CBA as the “voice of the profession”. As a mentor and firm leader, I have always encouraged (if not cajoled) students, new lawyers and colleagues to maintain their CBA membership as a necessity to their continuing professional development and indicator of what it means to be a “good lawyer”.

The past 4 years I have sat on the CBA National Family Law Section Executive and I currently Chair the Family Section (2025-2026) which has been a huge honour and weighty responsibility. I have also actively participated in the CBA Alberta Family North Section Executive since 2019, the CBA Alberta Agenda for Justice Committee since 2022 where I have been involved in the drafting of the Family

Justice agenda of the CBA Agenda for Justice and actively participating in the *ad hoc* Legal Aid Committee. I sat on the CBA Alberta Voice of the Profession Committee for 2 years, the CBA Alberta Women Lawyer’s Forum – North for 4 years, was the Program Coordinator for the CBA Alberta Small, Solo & General Practice Section for a year, and going way back to my Articling days, I was on the Student Executive of the Ontario Bar Association.

In all these CBA involvements I believe I have shown up and stepped up to contribute in every way possible. I am motivated by genuine interest and passion for the Law, the legal profession and for working across our many silos and building common ground around the core tenets of the profession that have always been at the core of the CBA’s work.

In short answer to the question “*Why do you want to serve on the CBA Alberta Board of Directors?*” I would say that I am well-suited to this role, as a strategic thinker with practical lawyering and Board experience and specific knowledge of many of the issues that come before the Board. As a Member at Large I am able to contribute to and support the strategic leadership of CBA Alberta.

A bit more about me:

- ❖ Called to the Bar in Ontario (June 2010) and Alberta (December 2010) in my mid 40s, as a second-career lawyer. Articled in Toronto in Civil Litigation, Employment Law and Regulatory Appeals, then worked briefly in Plaintiff Personal Injury, Medical Malpractice and Class Actions before immersing myself exclusively in Family Law.
- ❖ Founder & Managing lawyer of Brown Law Group, a 10-lawyer Family Law firm in Edmonton (now in its 10<sup>th</sup> year).
- ❖ Registered Collaborative Family lawyer, Harvard-trained Mediator, trained Family Arbitrator, trained in Parenting Coordination. Settlement-oriented, child-focused, trauma-informed, and an advocate for enhanced ethical obligations for Family lawyers to “do no harm” to families and children. On Legal Aid Alberta’s Child Counsel Roster. When litigation is the only path to reasonable resolution, proven track record as a litigator with successful Trial and Appeal experience.
- ❖ Engaged in collaborative efforts to advance Family Justice strategies & systems, and to elevating the ethical practice of Family Law through CBA, AFCC, AFLA, Advocates Society, and others, with significant volunteer contributions in mentoring, training, public legal education, fundraising, facilitating, organizing, strategic planning, program development, policy advocacy, and thousands of hours of volunteer contributions and pro bono legal services. A few notable examples of recent Family Justice engagements include: participation on the Advocates’ Society National Taskforce on Unified Family Courts (2021-2023), participation on the ABQB / ABKB Family Law Consulting Committee (2021-2023), AFCC Alberta Conference Organizing Committee (2019-2022, 2024), AFCC Alberta Coordinator Provincial Working Group on Parenting Coordination (2020-2024), Founding member of the Alberta Family Lawyers Association (AFLA), Co-wrote paper with Dr. Terry Singh, RPsych and presented at the 2024 National Family Law Program in Halifax on “Reunification Interventions for Parent-Child Contact Problems: Evolving Research, Legal Landscape & Practical Strategies for Working on these Challenging Cases”.

- ❖ Principal to 12 Articling Students, Mentored 25+ Law students and Law graduates through the CBA Mentor Program, the Law Society Mentor Connect and Mentor Express Program, on-the-job training, and internship opportunities. Recipient of the 2024 Advocates' Society Alberta Excellence in Mentoring Award. Former member of the Law Society Competence Committee (2025-2026). Volunteer mooted judge since 2018. Committed to equity, diversity and inclusion in theory and practice.
- ❖ Long-standing commitment to promoting the advancement of women in the legal profession, inclusive & diverse Law leadership. Member of the Women's Legal Forum Organizing Committee for the celebration of Justice Mary Moreau's elevation to the Supreme Court and the Retirement Gala for the Hon. Catherine Fraser.
- ❖ Sponsor and multi-year funder of: Women in Law Leadership (WILL) Alberta Awards; U of Alberta Law School Family Bar Diversity & Equality Scholarship; ASSIST Lawyers' Assistance Society - Law firm supporter; AFCC Alberta Annual Conference; Alberta Council of Women's Shelters; YWCA Edmonton - Rose Campaign; Zebra Child & Youth Advocacy Centre; Indo-Canadian Women's Association; CBA Alberta / U of Alberta Law School Family Law A-Fair; Edmonton Community Legal Centre (ECLC) – Law firm supporter; and others.
- ❖ 20+ years pre-Law leadership experience in refugee & immigrant services, international development & human rights policy advocacy, including 8+ years working in Latin America and Africa. Fluent in Spanish and Portuguese.