

# Cassels



## Casey Chisick

Partner

### Contact Information

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### Office

Toronto

### Expertise

- Intellectual Property
- Business
- Cannabis
- Universities & Colleges
- Entertainment & Sports

## Biography

Casey Chisick\* is a partner at Cassels, serving as a member of the firm's Executive Committee, and as Co-Chair of its Intellectual Property and Entertainment, Media & Sports practices. Certified by the Law Society of Ontario as a Specialist in Intellectual Property (Copyright), and having worked as a law professor, a jazz producer, a concert promoter, and a musician, Casey offers his clients a rare combination of recognized expertise in copyright and other IP matters and first-hand experience in the business of entertainment. He provides transactional advice and litigation counsel to clients in a wide array of industries, including music, film, television, broadcasting, theatre, video games, advertising, publishing, software, visual arts, new media, fitness and leisure, health care, fashion, and higher education. He also advises general business clients with IP needs and consults on negotiation strategy for businesses of all kinds.

As a transactional lawyer, Casey serves as a trusted advisor to clients on deals ranging from the purchase and sale of music, film, television, broadcasting, and new media assets to the development, financing, production, and distribution of TV programs, feature films, and theatrical productions. He has also negotiated a host of recording, management, publishing, appearance, branding, and employment agreements for well-known artists and executives. Beyond the creative industries, Casey has conducted IP audits, developed IP policies, and served as chief outside counsel to companies in various fields, including IT outsourcing, interactive advertising, fitness and nutrition, and functional genomics.

As litigation counsel, Casey has appeared in five seminal copyright appeals before the Supreme Court of Canada: *SOCAN v. Bell Canada*, *Entertainment Software Association v. SOCAN*, *Rogers Communications v. SOCAN*, *Alberta v. Access Copyright*, and *CBC v. SODRAC*. He is well-known for his expertise in the collective administration of copyright, having served as lead counsel in many rate-setting proceedings before the Copyright Board of Canada. He has also represented clients in IP and entertainment matters before the Federal Court of Appeal, the Federal Court, the courts of Ontario and British Columbia, and the Competition Tribunal.

Clients frequently seek Casey's specialized expertise in relation to special projects and studies involving the exploitation and monetization of IP for emerging business models. Casey has also authored influential submissions and testified as an expert witness on copyright issues before Parliamentary and Senate committees.

Casey is also very active in the international legal community, including as Vice President and President-Elect of the Copyright Society (formerly the Copyright Society of the USA), one of the world's leading organizations dedicated to the advancement of copyright law awareness and education, and as counsel to a number of top international trade associations. He was also recognized by Managing Intellectual Property as Canada's outstanding copyright law practitioner for 2020.

Casey was the gold medalist in law at the University of Manitoba, earned an LL.M. as a Fulbright scholar at Harvard Law School, and served as law clerk to The Hon. Mr. Justice Frank Iacobucci of the Supreme Court of Canada. He has taught at several Canadian law schools, sat on the boards of leading theatre companies and jazz festivals, and served as executive producer of award-winning recordings.

\*denotes Professional Corporation

## Achievements

- *Best Lawyers in Canada* (Intellectual Property Law, Entertainment Law)
- *Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory* (Entertainment, Intellectual Property)
- *Chambers Canada* (Media & Entertainment)
- *Chambers Global* (Intellectual Property)
- Law Society of Ontario, Certified Specialist in Intellectual Property Law (Copyright)
- *Lexpert*, Rising Stars Award (2011)
- *Legal Media Group Guide to the World's Leading Technology, Media & Telecommunications Lawyers* (Media)
- *Managing Intellectual Property*, Outstanding Copyright Practitioner (Canada) (2020)
- *Managing Intellectual Property*, IP Star
- *Martindale Hubbell*, Distinguished™ Rating
- *The Legal 500 Canada* (Media & Entertainment)
- *Who's Who Legal* (Entertainment)
- *Who's Who Legal: Canada* (Sports & Entertainment)
- *World Intellectual Property Review (WIPR)*, WIPR Leader

## Client Commentary

- "Prepared and knowledgeable lawyer who gets to the heart of the issues and is a fierce advocate for his clients." – *Chambers Canada (Media & Entertainment)*
- "Strong reputation as a 'fantastic' copyright practitioner." – *Chambers Global (Intellectual Property)*
- "Absolutely one of the biggest names in copyright." – *Chambers Canada (Intellectual Property)*
- "One of the top experts in the country." – *Chambers Canada (Intellectual Property)*
- "Absolutely one of the biggest names in copyright." – *Chambers Canada (Intellectual Property)*
- "Conscientious and dedicated." – *Chambers Canada (Intellectual Property)*
- "He has a very deep understanding not only of the law but of the way we interact." – *Chambers Global (Intellectual Property)*
- "He is one of the best." – *Chambers Global (Intellectual Property)*
- "Very experienced and understands the nuances of the law." – *Chambers Canada (Intellectual Property)*
- "His practical application is fantastic." – *Chambers Canada (Intellectual Property)*
- "Very knowledgeable of the intricacies of the Canadian Copyright Act and his practical application is fantastic." – *Chambers Global (Intellectual Property)*
- "I trust his instincts as a negotiator." – *Chambers Global (Intellectual Property)*

## Recent Representative Work

- Cassels Acts For Second City in Sale to ZMC
- Cassels Represents University of Toronto in OneClass CASL Investigation

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## Insights

- Amendments to the Broadcasting Act — Canada's Broadcasting Landscape Refreshed
- Bill C-86: Copyright Board Reform in Action
- Changes to the Treatment of Intellectual Property in Insolvency Proceedings

## COVID-19 Insights

- The Entertainment Business During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Current Issues and Practical Solutions (Cassels Webinar)
- Canadian Intellectual Property Office Extends All Deadlines to May 1, 2020
- Extension of Intellectual Property Timelines

## Pro Bono & Community Involvement

- American Bar Association, Chair, International Copyright Laws & Treaties Committee
- Canadian Friends of Hebrew University, Past National Board Member
- Chai Folk Ensemble, Past Former Artistic Director
- Copyright Society (formerly Copyright Society of the USA), Vice President and President-Elect
- Copyright Society International Chapter, Founding Co-Chair
- International Trademarks Association (INTA), Member, Copyright Policy Committee
- IPIC/McGill Copyright Master Class, Past Course Director
- LSO Entertainment & Media Law Symposium, Co-Chair
- Soupepper Theatre Company, Board of Directors
- TD Toronto Jazz Festival, Past Director and Officer
- TD Winnipeg International Jazz Festival, Past President
- Winnipeg Jewish Theatre, Past Vice-President

## Education / Bar Admissions

- LL.M. , Harvard University
- LL.B. (Gold Medal), University of Manitoba
- Ontario
- Manitoba

## Associations

- ALAI Canada
- Academy of Canadian Cinema & Television
- American Bar Association, Entertainment, Dispute Resolution, and Intellectual Property Sections
- Beverly Hills Bar Association
- Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (CARAS)
- Canadian Association of Law Teachers
- Canadian Bar Association
- Canadian Media Producers Association (CMPA)
- Copyright Society (formerly Copyright Society of the USA)

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- Intellectual Property Institute of Canada (IPIC)
- International Trademark Association (INTA)
- New York State Bar Association
- Ontario Bar Association
- The Recording Academy