

Cassels



Emilie N. Lahaie

Partner

Contact Information

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Office

Vancouver

Expertise

- Aboriginal
- Business
- Litigation
- Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG)

Biography

Emilie Lahaie* (she/her/hers) is a partner in the Aboriginal Law Group at Cassels. Emilie works on Aboriginal and Indigenous legal matters related to Indigenous self-governance, Indigenous rights, Indigenous-Crown relations, legislative reform, regulatory and constitutional issues. In particular, Emilie has developed an expertise supporting Indigenous clients as they revise and implement their laws and governance systems and exercise their inherent jurisdiction.

Emilie also offers extensive experience in negotiations, Aboriginal rights advocacy, human rights advocacy and law reform. Emilie represents a wide variety of clients, including: Indigenous governments, organizations and individuals; provincial governments; and project proponents. She brings a nuanced understanding of the needs of all parties in the Canadian Indigenous legal space to her practice.

Emilie has represented clients at various administrative tribunals, including the Ontario Human Rights Tribunal, BC Human Rights Tribunal, Canadian Human Rights Tribunal, Ontario Coroner's Court and in the Residential Schools Independent Process. She has also appeared on matters before the Ontario Superior Court of Justice, Ontario Court of Appeal, Saskatchewan Court of King's Bench, Federal Court, Federal Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court of Canada. In 2017, Emilie appeared before the Senate Committee for Aboriginal Peoples to testify in regard to the potential impact of Bill S-3.

Prior to joining Cassels, Emilie worked directly with clients from the urban Indigenous community of Toronto through a legal aid agency established by the Native Canadian Centre of Toronto.

**Services provided through a Law Corporation*

Achievements

- *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch* (Aboriginal Law/Indigenous Practice)
- *Canadian Lawyer Magazine*, Canada's Top 25 Most

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Influential Lawyers, Nominee (2017)

- Osgoode Professional Development Certificate in Negotiation

Recent Representative Work

- Cassels Represents Métis Interveners in the Supreme Court of Canada's Decision on Indigenous Child Welfare Law
- Cassels Represents the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan in Connection with the Government of Canada's Introduction of Bill C-53 Respecting Métis Self-Government
- Métis Nation Signs Historic Impact Benefit Agreement
- Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Advances the Recognition of Métis Self-Determination in Saskatchewan
- Federal Government to Transfer Batoche Historic Site Lands Back to Métis People of Saskatchewan

Insights

- Aboriginal Law – Case Law Update 2024 (Cassels Webinar)
- SCC Upholds Indigenous Child Welfare Law
- Aboriginal and Regulatory Law: 2022 Update (Cassels Webinar)

Pro Bono & Community Involvement

- Acted as co-counsel for the Interveners: the Métis National Council, the Métis Nation British Columbia, the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan, the Métis Nation of Alberta, the Métis Nation of Ontario, and Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak in *Reference re An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families*, 2024 SCC 5
- Acted as counsel for the Intervener: the Métis Nation British Columbia in *R. v Desautel*, 2021 SCC 17
- Executive member of the Board of Directors of Charlford House Society for Women in Burnaby, BC
- Volunteer with Access Pro Bono

Education / Bar Admissions

- J.D., University of Toronto, 2014
- M.A., Western University, 2011
- B.Mus., Western University, 2009

- Ontario, 2015

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- British Columbia, 2018
- Saskatchewan, 2019

Associations

- Canadian Bar Association
- Vancouver Bar Association