Cassels



Kate Byers

Partner

Contact Information

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Office

Toronto

Expertise

- Commercial Litigation
- Franchise
- Securities Litigation

Biography

Kate Byers is a partner in the Litigation Group at Cassels. Kate has a broad commercial litigation practice, with a focus on securities and franchise litigation and class actions. In her practice, Kate strives to bring a practical, results-oriented approach to achieve strategic resolutions to complex litigation.

Kate has acted for public and private corporations, directors and officers, shareholders, and investment funds in litigation arising from shareholder disputes, oppression claims, proxy fights, and class actions, including primary and secondary market liability claims and claims in systemic negligence. Kate regularly acts for franchisors in disputes arising out of provincial franchise legislation, including rescission claims. Kate has also acted in a wide range of commercial litigation matters involving contract disputes, real estate (including disputes over the early redemption or discharge of a mortgage), and the granting of extraordinary relief such as Mareva injunctions and Norwich orders.

Kate has appeared before every level of court in Ontario and before the Supreme Court of Canada. Kate also has significant arbitration experience before single and panel arbitrators.

Recent examples of Kate’s representative work include:

- Acting for public issuers and individual directors and officers in defending securities class actions involving allegations of misleading or inaccurate financial, operational, and technical disclosure
- Representing shareholders, directors and officers, and corporations in oppression and breach of contract proceedings
- Acting for franchisors in proceedings alleging rescission claims, other breaches of the *Arthur Wishart Act (Franchise Disclosure), 2004*, and breaches of franchise agreements, including pursuing injunctive relief in order to enforce restrictive covenants
- Enforcing guarantees of franchisee obligations under franchise agreements
- Acting for mining companies in litigation or arbitration arising out of the interpretation of a royalty or net profits interest agreement

- Investigating matters relating to allegations of corporate misconduct, including internal and external investigations

Kate is a frequent contributor to firm publications on franchise and securities litigation topics. She regularly volunteers for Pro Bono Law Ontario's free legal advice hotline. She is a member of the Young Leaders Council, a philanthropic board sub-committee of The WoodGreen Foundation, which raises funds in support of WoodGreen Community Services Inc., one of Toronto's largest social services agencies.

Achievements

- *Benchmark Litigation* (Future Star)
- *Best Lawyers in Canada* (Corporate & Commercial Litigation) (2026)
- *Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory* (Corporate/Commercial Litigation)

Recent Representative Work

- Cassels Acts for Respondents in Successful Defence of Appeal in Major Junior Hockey Class Action
- Cassels Successfully Defeats Certification Motion for Class Action Brought by Major Junior Hockey League Players; Court Leaves Path Open for Individual Claims Process

Insights

- What is a "Material Change"? Guidance from the Supreme Court of Canada
- Cassels Academy 2025 (Cassels Webinar)
- Court's Interpretation of "Material Adverse Change" Clause Results in Voting Restrictions Lifted for Simpson Oil

Pro Bono & Community Involvement

- Young Leaders Council, Philanthropic Board Sub-Committee of The WoodGreen Foundation, Member

Education / Bar Admissions

- J.D., Dalhousie University
- B.A. (Hons.), Queen's University

- Ontario, 2015

Associations

- Ontario Bar Association
- The Advocates’ Society
- Women’s White Collar Defense Association