

## Erin Best

### Partner

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Language(s) spoken: English

Bar Admission(s): Newfoundland and Labrador,  
2009

Legal Assistant(s): [Susan Greening](#)

Largely focusing on litigation (commercial, construction and insurance), Erin is the chair of the Newfoundland and Labrador litigation group. She also deals in intellectual property, including trademark prosecution (registrations), copyright, entertainment, media law and privacy. Within her varied practice, Erin has assisted her clients by:

- Managing complex litigation files and obtaining excellent and timely results for her clients.
- Appearing before all levels of court in Newfoundland and Labrador.
- Developing and implementing high level litigation, privacy and corporate structuring strategies.
- Becoming fluent in major project litigation advanced document review and production platforms.
- Resolving complicated commercial real estate disputes.
- Acting as counsel for Premier Kathy Dunderdale at the Muskrat Falls Public Inquiry. Hearings proceeded for a full year and required the management of over a million documents.
- Acting as lead counsel for the applicant in the successful Afterlife obituary class action with over a million class members and resulting in an award of \$20 million for class members.
- Acting as counsel for the successful plaintiff in a dispute over an alleged right-of-way.
- Acting as counsel for the Intervenor, APTN, in a significant media law appeal decision wherein an injunction was vacated relieving journalist Justin Brake of the consequences of a contempt order.

## Practice Areas

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Banking & Financing

Cybersecurity  
Education  
Entertainment  
Insurance  
Intellectual Property  
Litigation & Alternative Dispute Resolution  
Media, Advertising & Marketing  
Municipal  
Privacy  
Real Property

## Education & Career

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### Education

McGill University, BA, 2001  
University of New Brunswick, LLB/MBA, 2008

### Activities

Chair, Canadian Bar Association National Intellectual Property Section, 2019 – present  
Vice chair, Canadian Bar Association National Intellectual Property Section, 2018 – 2019  
Chair, Stewart McKelvey Newfoundland and Labrador litigation practice group, 2017 – present  
Founder and president, The Kitchen Party Newfoundland and Labrador Music Industry Think Tank, 2016 – present  
Treasurer, Canadian Bar Association National Intellectual Property Section, 2016 – 2017  
Co-chair, Stewart McKelvey Newfoundland and Labrador litigation practice group, 2016  
Member, pro bono committee, Business & the Arts Newfoundland, 2014 – present  
Co-chair, local operations committee, East Coast Music Association, 2014/2015  
Chair, local partnerships committee, East Coast Music Association, 2014/2015  
Vice-chair, East Coast Music Association, 2012 – 2015  
Member, public awareness committee & insurance committee, Intellectual Property Institute of Canada (IPIC), 2012 – present  
Director, St. John's International Women's Film Festival, 2011 – 2013  
Co-chair, copyright working group preparing the CBA submission on Bill C-32, Copyright Modernization Act, Canadian Bar Association – National, 2010 – 2012  
Secretary-treasurer, Canadian Federation of Musicians – local 820, 2010 – 2011  
Chair, Intellectual Property section, Canadian Bar Association – Newfoundland and Labrador chapter, 2009 – 2019

### Accolades

[Lexpert® Rising Star: Leading Lawyer Under 40, 2017](#)

Lexpert rating: Litigation – Corporate Commercial

Lexpert rating: Intellectual Property Law

Rhind Scholarship from the Insurance Institute of Canada

## Thought Leadership

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Client Update: Recent Supreme Court of Nova Scotia decision drives home the importance of credibility

December 20, 2018

Client Update: Court Confirms: Credibility is a Key Factor In Personal Injury Awards (Ryan V. Curlew, 2018 NL SC)

April 10, 2018

## Presentations

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"Dynamic Equity Splits: What, why and how", Invest NL

September 19, 2017

*IP Basics for Lawyers*, NL CBA IP Section

July 06, 2016

*Expropriation and other popular municipal law issues*, Municipalities NL Conference

May 05, 2016

*Intellectual Property and Royalties for Creators*, Business and the Arts NL

February 29, 2016

*Implications of Sharing the Economy*, Stewart McKelvey Insurance Day, Halifax

October 30, 2015

*Business organizations and IP issues in film*, Scene and Heard, SJWIFF

March 07, 2015

*Intro to Trade-marks*, 2014

*User Rights in the Educational Context*, IPIC annual conference, 2014

*Intro to IP*, Department of Business, Tourism, Culture and Rural Development, 2014

*Anti-spam Breakfast Seminar*, 2014

*Protecting Your Intellectual Property Assets*, Memorial University Faculty of Business, 2014

*Tendering and Procurement*, 2013

*Arson*, Newfoundland Insurance Industry, 2013

*Women in Technology*, NATI, 2012

*Artist Resale Right, Royal Academy of Artists, 2012*

*Punitive Damages, Newfoundland Insurance Industry, 2012*

*Valuing Your Intellectual Property Assets, Genesis Centre and RDC, 2012*

*Diminishing Value: An Emerging Head of Damages, Newfoundland Insurance Industry, 2011*