

CHRISTOPHER MEARNS

cwjmearns@hotmail.co.uk | 226-268-0283 | Toronto ON

EDUCATION

Law Society of Ontario <i>Called to the Bar of Ontario</i>	Jun 2023
Law Practice Program, Toronto Metropolitan University <i>LPP Candidate</i>	Aug 2022–Jun 2023
National Committee on Accreditation, Toronto, ON <i>Certificate of Qualification</i>	Dec 2021
London South Bank University, London, UK <i>Postgraduate Diploma in Law</i>	Sept 2019–Jul 2020
BPP University, London, UK <i>Master of Laws</i>	Oct 2018–Sept 2019
University of Kent, Canterbury, UK <i>Bachelor of Arts with Honours</i>	Sept 2013–Jul 2016

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Perrys LLP, Toronto, ON **Jan 2023–Present**
Associate/Student-at-Law

- Utilized expert knowledge in corporate law to contribute to the seamless execution of corporate strategies, legal compliance, efficient management and advice on legal risks.
- Assisted in 50+ civil litigation matters before the Ontario Superior Court of Justice, including P&C insurance matters valued at over \$300,000.00.
- Advised 50+ clients on comprehensive risk management strategies, including risk assessment, mitigation planning, and compliance.
- Oversaw management of 25+ employment and labour litigation files displaying organizational skills under pressure and in a fast paced setting.
- Appeared before the Ontario Labour Relations Board in 25+ unfair dismissal, unpaid wages, and breach of contract files demonstrating superior communication skills.
- Successfully conducted court appearances as well as full-day mediations, arbitrations, and discoveries.
- Managed 20+ mediations achieving favourable outcomes for clients with skilfully drafted minutes of settlement, showcasing proficiency in resolving disputes effectively and promoting strong relationships.
- Assisted clients in drafting privacy policies, procedures and governance programs.
- Drafted 200+ pleadings for the Superior Court of Justice and Ontario Labour Relations Board, including statements of claim, statements of defence, notices of sale, advocacy documents such as draft orders, facta, case conference briefs, affidavits, demands for
- particulars, and minutes of settlement.
- Reviewed, analyzed, and negotiated complex legal contracts such as settlement agreements, and non- disclosure agreements.
- Conducted legal research and drafted memoranda on complex and evolving areas of law, including reciprocal enforcement, trusts, accident benefits, wrongful dismissal, estoppel, past practice, and condominium law.
- Interviewed potential new clients demonstrating a business-savvy mindset when deciding which clients to take on.

Ministry of Justice, HM Courts & Tribunal Service, Croydon, UK **Jul 2020–Dec 2020**
Administrative Officer

- Reviewed 50+ documents and case files for Employment Judges, ensuring adherence to legal standards and facilitating organized case preparations.
- Drafted precise legal correspondence and schedules for all parties and judges involved in employment law cases, ensuring clear and accurate communication within legal proceedings.

Graham & Co. Solicitors, Herne Bay, UK **Jun 2020**
Summer Student

- Met with 10+ clients, analysed requests, and assisted in drafting applications for appeals against convictions and sentencing, fostering effective client communication and document preparation.

Direction Law, Canterbury, UK **Jul 2019–Sept 2019**
Case Officer

- Prepared contracts for residential property purchases.
- Filed documentation with the Land Registry to ensure property purchases proceeded.
- Implemented client file organization system to re-establish trust and efficiency in the office.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Kent Football Association, Aylesford, UK **Jun 2016–Dec 2018**
Football Services Officer

- Increased course participation by 32% by implementing a research-based planning strategy.
- Drafted and analysed 30+ contracts, service agreements, operating standards agreements and other policies & procedures with venues, ensuring these agreements were filed on time.
- Attended meetings with national staff, senior management, tutors and venue providers.
- Implemented the use of Google Sheets and Google Docs for course tutors which improve the accuracy of data collection.

VOLUNTEERING

London South Bank University **Sept 2019–Jul 2020**
Course Representative

- Represented 20+ class mates throughout the program to convey concerns, questions, and general feedback from the course to the course director and managers, and assisted in formulating solutions to any issues that were brought to our attention.

University of Kent **Sept 2014–Jul 2015**
Referee, Discipline, and Statistics Officer

- Organized 10+ referees for all Inter-College Football League matches at the University of Kent.
- Recorded game statistics, including discipline for 100+ matches per season.
- Supported all referees in order to improve performances, giving specific feedback on elements of their game.

SKILLS

- Legal advice, contract law, legal writing, client services, communication, Microsoft Office, Google Suite, analysis, legal research, dispute resolution, negotiation, time management, organization, resilience, problem solving, teamwork, attention to detail, problem solving, project management, presentation, litigation, professional, high integrity, self-starter.