

McKenzie Lake

FAMILY LAW TEAM

MCKENZIE LAKE'S EIGHT-LAWYER FAMILY law team is the largest in Southwestern Ontario, offering a breadth of experience and a quality of service known to be exceptional. The team's approach to family law disputes is uniquely tailored to each client's situation and needs.

Family law clients are often in a difficult and emotional place, uncertain of the process and what to expect. Concerns about children are at the forefront, with legal advice needed on both a short-term and long-term basis. Support and property issues can be very complex upon the breakdown of a marriage or relationship. McKenzie Lake's family law team helps their clients face these issues with confidence and assurance.

"We have years of experience dealing with the questions and concerns that people naturally have," says Scott Merrifield. "The first step is to assess the best option for our client, which may be mediation, rather than going to court."

McKenzie Lake is home to one of Canada's leading mediation and arbitration experts in family law—Alfred Mamo. Mr. Mamo does much of his work in Toronto, and leads by example for the entire family law team. "Everyone here considers the client's needs first and foremost," he says. "We're here to help people get through a difficult time and to look ahead to a better situation."

In London, Malcolm Bennett, a family law practitioner with 40 years of experience, is transitioning his practice to focus more on his mediation and arbitration work, increasing the range of services offered by the group.

The broad range of legal services offered by McKenzie Lake benefits family law clients. "A distinct advantage is offered by the group by way of the availability of legal expertise in McKenzie Lake's broad range of services," says Carolyn Lloyd.

"It is common for our clients to require assistance from lawyers in other areas of practice," adds Erin Reid. "They might need help with tax, corporate issues, real estate law or any number of things. We can gather the expertise to solve all the issues in one place, as simply as possible."

Clients are strongly represented by the group in court when other forms of dispute resolution, such as mediation, are not appropriate or successful. McKenzie Lake is known for effective family law litigation with senior lawyers Carolyn Lloyd, Erin Reid and Scott Merrifield regularly appearing in Family Court. Erin Reid has been counsel on precedent-setting cases in the Court of Appeal for Ontario. Erin Fisher, experienced and respected in the Family Court, also acts in an executive role for the local family law bar.

The team also puts its experience to use in the community. Malcolm Bennett, Scott Merrifield, Erin Reid and Carolyn Lloyd act as Dispute Resolution Officers in the Superior Court of Justice, Family Court in London, presiding in court to intervene at the earliest stages of family law proceedings. This is a role of tremendous responsibility, with a view to reducing the backlog of cases in Family Court.

With its spectrum of experience, the McKenzie Lake team is able to help clients manage the cost of family law services. Associate lawyers in the team, Jelena Buac and Alice Van Deven, work with the more senior lawyers to provide affordable options for many clients.

"I like the collaborative nature of the family law group," says Alice Van Deven, who recently joined McKenzie Lake.

"The size of our team distinguishes us, as well as our range of experience," Merrifield says. "Our clients benefit from the synergy of the team."



MCKENZIE LAKE
LAWYERS



BACK ROW: Alice Van Deven, Malcolm Bennett, Erin Reid, Scott Merrifield, Alfred Mamo
FRONT ROW: Erin Fisher, Jelena Buac, Carolyn Lloyd