



KATHERINE COOLIGAN

Partner

T 613.787.3565

F 613.230.8842

Ottawa

KCooligan@blg.com

<http://www.linkedin.com/pub/katherine-cooligan/33/279/371>

[Family Law](#)

[Litigation and Arbitration](#)

[Estates and Trust Litigation](#)

[Family Wealth Counsel](#)

Education / Bar Admissions

LLB, University of Ottawa, 1989

BA (combined major) in Law and Psychology, Carleton University, 1986

Harvard Law School, Executive Education Leadership in Law Firms, 2016

Certificate, Women in Leadership, Cornell University, 2018

Ontario, 1991

Professional Involvement

Member, The Advocates' Society, Canadian Bar Association, County of Carleton Law Association and Women's Law Association

Frequent Chair and Speaker, continuing legal education programs on advocacy skills and substantive family law and estate litigation issues

Former Executive Member, Ontario Bar Association, Family Law Section

Former Member, Regional Law Day Committee

Former President, Young Lawyers Division, Ontario Bar Association

Community Involvement

Chair, Women for Mental Health,

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Katherine Cooligan is the Regional Managing Partner of the Ottawa office. She is the Chair of the Regional Management Committee and also the Regional Leader of the Estates and Family Law Group. Katherine is a specialist in family law as certified by the Law Society of Ontario.

Katherine appears before all levels of court, including the Superior Court of Ontario and Ontario Court of Appeal. In addition and as an adjunct to her litigation practice, Katherine negotiates, drafts and reviews all forms of domestic contracts, including marriage contracts, cohabitation agreements and separation agreements. Katherine has extensive litigation experience in all aspects of family law including custody, financial issues including corporate and business issues arising out of separation, income determination, and child and spousal support.

During the Bar Admission Course, Katherine was awarded the Abraham Lief Scholarship Award for demonstrating excellence in the skills required in family law practice.

PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

- Panelist, "Women Lawyers Forum," *Ontario Bar Association*, March 6, 2019.
- Speaker, "Tackling Fear and Unleashing the Full Potential of Women in Leadership," *EDC Ottawa Toastmasters Meeting*, March 6, 2019.
- Speaker, "Litigating High Conflict Custody Disputes," *University of Ottawa*, March 6, 2019.
- Panel Moderator, "CEO Talk: Women in Business," *Ottawa Board of Trade*, March 5, 2019.
- Speaker, "Tackling Fear and Unleashing the Full Potential of Women in Leadership," *TEDxKanata*, February 28, 2019.
- Interview, "[Unromantic Detour with Katherine Cooligan](#)," *I'm a Millionaire...So, Now What? Podcast*, February 12, 2019.
- Speaker, "Credibility and Leadership," *Women in Leadership: Challenges and Opportunities*, Career Women Interaction, May 16, 2018.

2019

Member, International Women's Forum, 2018 - present

Member, Ottawa Board of Trade, 2018 - present

Member, Women's Business Network, 2018 - present

Executive, CHEO Foundation, June 2017 - present

Member, Ottawa Build Task Force, 2018 & 2019

Organizing Committee, The Royal, Breakfast for Mental Health, 2018

Table Captain, The Royal, Breakfast for Mental Health, 2017 & 2018

Member, Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario Foundation, 2015 and 1997-99

Annual Volunteer, Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario Telethon and Teddy Bear Picnic

Member, Organizing Committee, Lawyers for Kids, 2004

Leader, United Way

Spark Member, United Way

Member, Diversity and Inclusion Counsel

- Panelist, "Groia v. LSUC: The Civility Debate," University of Ottawa, Cavanagh LLP Professional Speaker Series, October 10, 2017.
- Author, "Impact of Structured Settlements on Family Law Claims," *The Lawyer's Daily*, June 16, 2017.
- Speaker, "The Pitfalls of Family Law and How to Avoid Them: The Impact of Death on Family Law Issues," OBA Program, February 10, 2017.
- Speaker, "Caught in the Crossfire: The Impact of Family Breakup on Schools," Conference of Independent Schools of Ontario (CIS), hosted by Borden Ladner Gervais LLP, Toronto, February 9, 2016.
- Panelist, "Ignite Your Business", *Distinctive Women* 2015 National Event, October 2015.
- Panelist, "Your Snooping Client: Making Sense of the Repercussions", at the OBA program: *Bread and Butter Issues in Family Law*, September 18, 2015.
- Co-author, "Intruding upon the seclusion of personal email - what the common law tort for invasion of privacy might mean for snooping spouses and the electronic evidence that they obtain", *Canadian Family Law Quarterly*, April 2015.
- Speaker, "How to Maximize Client Satisfaction & Avoid Complaints: From Initial Retainer to Final Account," *The Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, Ontario Chapter*, February 13, 2015.
- Co-author, "When Clients Intrude Upon the Seclusion of Their Spouses' Personal Email: What the Common Law Tort for the Invasion of Privacy Might Mean for Snooping Spouses and the Electronic Evidence That They Obtain", *BLG Family Law Lunch and Learn Series* (LSUC Program), January 13, 2015.
- Speaker, "Caught in the Crossfire: The Impact of Family Breakup on Schools", *Education Law Institute*, November 6, 2014.
- Co-speaker, "Child Support for Adult Children", *BLG Family Law Lunch and Learn Series*, September 4, 2014.
- Speaker, "Intrusion on the Seclusion of Personal Email", *Federation of Law Societies of Canada – National Family Law Program*, July 2014
- Speaker, "Year in Review: Highlights of 2013 Family Law Cases", *BLG Family Law Lunch and Learn Series*, January 28, 2014.
- Co-speaker, "Managing the Custody Assessment Process: How Can We Know the Dancer from the Dance? The Assessor's and the Lawyer's Perspectives", *BLG Family Law Lunch and Learn Series*, October 21, 2013 (with Dr. Arthur Leonoff).
- Keynote Speaker and Panellist, "Reconfiguring Mentorship — A Road More Easily Travelled: Achieving Success as a Woman in Private Practice," *University of Ottawa Faculty of Common Law's Women's Legal Mentorship Program*, February 2012.
- Speaker, "How Private is Your Email?" *BLG Family Law Lunch Series*, February 2012.
- Speaker, "Practice Management Issues in Family," *BLG Family Law Lunch Series*, December 2011 (with Mary Jane Binks of Augustine Bater Binks LLP and Greg Ste Marie of Burke Robertson LLP).
- Speaker, "How Private is Your Email? – Email and Privacy – The Current State

of the Law," *31st Civil Litigation Conference*, November 2011.

- Author, "When Spouses Access Email Without Consent," *The Lawyers Weekly*, May 2011.
- Author, "You've Got Mail, Snooping Emails, Privacy Law, and Admissibility of Evidence," *Briefly Speaking*, April 2011.
- Author, "Revised Family Laws Speed up Information Transfer," *The Lawyers Weekly*, April 2010.
- Speaker, "The Family Law Amendment Act – Upcoming Changes that Will Affect Your Practice as Early as March 1, 2010: Affidavit in Support of Claim for Custody or Access – Form 35.1," *Ontario Bar Association Lunch and Learn Program*, February 2010.
- Speaker, "Extension of the Election under the Family Law Act," *Ontario Bar Association Program*, October 2009.
- Interview, "Parental Alienation: Tough Balance of Practical Realities," *Law Times*, June 2009.

RANKINGS & RECOGNITIONS

- Winner, Businesswoman of the Year, Professional Category, April 2019.
- Selected by peers for inclusion in the 2019 edition (and since 2010) of *The Best Lawyers in Canada*® (Family Law).
- Winner of the third annual [Spark Ignite Award](#), November 2018.
- Featured, "[New divorce act holds benegicial changes](#)," *Law Times News*, November 2018.
- Featured, "[Platonic friends can adopt a child together](#)," *Law Times News*, November 2018.
- Profiled, "[Family law a true calling for leader of BLG Ottawa](#)," *Ottawa Business Journal*, September 11, 2018.
- Mentioned, "[Building the Capital - City-Builders Team Up to Transform Ottawa](#)," *Capital Magazine*, May 15, 2018.
- Profiled, "[Ottawa's Top Female Lawyers](#)," *Ottawa Life Magazine*, January/February 2017.
- Included in Top 25 People in the Capital, *Ottawa Life Magazine*, September 2016.
- Featured as a Distinctive Woman, Ottawa, 2015 and 2014 editions of *Distinctive Women, Profiles of Distinction*.
- Recognized by *The Best Lawyers in Canada*® as the 2012 Ottawa Family Law Lawyer of the Year.

ABOUT BORDEN LADNER GERVAIS LLP

Borden Ladner Gervais LLP (BLG) is a leading, national, full-service Canadian law firm focusing on business law, commercial litigation and arbitration, and intellectual property solutions for our clients. BLG is one of the country's largest law firms with more than



700 lawyers, intellectual property agents and other professionals in five cities across Canada. We assist clients with their legal needs, from major litigation to financing to trademark and patent registration.