Matthew Woodley, Q.Arb

Partner

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Matt focuses on employment, free expression, constitutional, and administrative law.

He provides advice to organizations including employers, print and broadcast media organizations, post-secondary institutions, municipalities and professional regulatory bodies, and to individuals. He is admitted to the bar in Alberta, Yukon and the Northwest Territories.

Matt has appeared at all levels of Court in Alberta on matters ranging from the constitutional right to equality, to free expression in the media and on post-secondary campuses, open courts, and privacy law.

He has appeared as counsel before the Yukon Court of Appeal on a matter relating to media law, and before the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal in a case involving defamation. Matt has also appeared as counsel before the Supreme Court of Canada in a matter involving a constitutional challenge to a publication ban.

Matt clerked with the Alberta Court of Appeal and Court of King's Bench before articling with Reynolds Mirth. He teaches Administrative Law at the University of Alberta Faculty of Law.

He also taught Communications Law at MacEwan University for 10 years, and provides pro-bono services to the Edmonton Community Legal Centre. He is a volunteer board member with the Alberta Law Reform Institute.

practice areas

- Boards, Tribunals & Administrative Law
- Constitution & Charter of Rights and Freedoms
- Media & Defamation Law
- Municipal Law
- Professional Regulatory Law

education

University of Alberta, BA (with Honours)
University of Alberta, LLB
University of New South Wales, LLM

Qualified Arbitrator (Q.Arb)

admissions

Alberta, 2004
Northwest Territories, 2007
Yukon, 2010

Matthew's Associations

- Law Society of Alberta
- Law Society of Northwest Territories
- Law Society of Yukon
- Canadian Bar Association
- Canadian Media Lawyers Association

Matthew's Awards & Recognitions

- Recognized as a Leading Practitioner in the areas of Employment Law by the Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory (2026)
- Recognized as a Leading Practitioner in the area of Litigation - Defamation Law by the Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory (2025, 2026)
- The Best Lawyers™ in Canada in the area of Labour and Employment Law (2023-2027)
- The Best Lawyers™ in Canada in the area of Defamation and Media Law (2024-2027)
- The Best Lawyers™ in Canada in the area of Administrative and Public Law (2024-2027)

- Recognized as a “Leading Practitioner” in the areas of Litigation – Defamation & Media and Employment Law by the Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory (2017-2021, 2024)