Melanie Baird

Partner

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Professional Designations

Bar Admission (Ontario), 2008

Trademark Agent, 2010

Practice Areas

- Arbitration
- Class Action Defence
- Commercial Litigation
  - Advertising & Consumer Claims
  - Appellate Litigation
  - Commercial Disputes
  - Competition & Anti-Trust Litigation
  - Defamation Claims
  - Directors' & Officers' Liability
- Intellectual Property Litigation
  - Patent Litigation
  - Copyright & Trade Secrets
  - Trademarks & Brands
- Life Sciences & Pharma Litigation
- Privacy & Technology Disputes

Melanie is an exceptional trial lawyer and head of the firm's Intellectual Property Litigation Group. She is the go-to Canadian adviser for an array of world-leading life sciences and technology companies.

Melanie's diverse intellectual property and commercial litigation practice encompasses patent, trademark, complex commercial, class actions, product liability, regulatory and technology disputes. Known for her bold and creative approach to advocacy, she is adept at devising strategic options and navigating cross-border issues.

Melanie has been consistently recognized as a leading litigator both in Canada and globally. She was named IP Litigator of the Year by Benchmark in 2022 and again in 2023. She is ranked as one of the Top 50 Trial Lawyers in Canada, in addition to being ranked as one of the Top 100 Women Litigators in Canada and one of the Top 250 Women in IP worldwide and is recognized by every major legal directory including *Chambers*, *Legal 500*, *IAM Patent 1000* (Gold Tier and Global Leader), *Managing IP* and *Lexpert*.

Melanie excels at litigating cases in emerging fields. She acted on the first biologic and the first biosimilar drug patent cases in Canada in addition to numerous precedent-setting trials, applications, and appeals. Melanie works extensively with life sciences companies on complex litigation and regulatory issues of all sorts and is intimately familiar with the business of pharmaceuticals and biotechnology. In particular, she has extensive experience leading litigation under the Patented Medicines (Notice of Compliance) Regulations. Melanie also has broad experience in the software, technology and social media fields, handling commercial, patent, trademark, copyright and licensing disputes. She is a registered Canadian trademark agent.

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REPRESENTATIVE CASES

- Bausch Health, Canada et al. ats Pharmascience Inc. re: SUBLINOX®
- Bausch Healthcare Co. Inc., Valeant Canada S.E.C. et al. ats The Province of British Columbia (Canadian Opioid Class Actions)
- Charette v. Trinity Capital Corporation
- Cronos ats Langevin
- Crown Equipment Corporation ats Crown Lift Truck Services
- Facebook ats United American Corp.
- Florida Food Products LLP ats Kerry Group Services International, Ltd. et al.
- G&W Distilling Inc. et al. ats Stephen Christoper Goodridge and Judith Ann Goodridge
- Glofish Inc. v. Oceanview Enterprise et al.
- IBM Canada Limited ats Hawk Technology Systems LLC
- Instagram ats United American Corp.
- International Business Machines Corporation ats Smart Cloud Inc.
- Janssen Inc. ats Teva Canada Limited re: VELCADE®
- Janssen Inc. ats AbbVie Corporation re: STELARA®
- Janssen Inc. et al. v. Natco re: IMBRUVICA®
- Janssen Inc. et al. v. Apotex Inc. re: OPSUMIT®
- Janssen Inc. et al. v. Hospira Healthcare Corporation re: REMICADE®
- Janssen Inc. et al. v. JAMP Pharma Corporation re: OPSUMIT®
- Janssen Inc. et al. v. Generic Medical Partners Inc. re: OPSUMIT®
- Janssen Inc. et al. v. Sandoz Canada Inc. re: OPSUMIT®
- Janssen Inc. et al. v. Sandoz Canada Inc. re: UPTRAVI®
- Janssen Inc. et al. v. Sandoz re: IMBRUVICA®
- Janssen Inc. v. Apotex Inc. re: PREZISTA®
- Janssen Pharmaceutica NV v. Apotex Inc. re: ODEFSEY®
- Kenvue ats Glyco Biosciences
- Mill Street Brewery ats The Tragically Hip
- Newmont et al. ats Zacon
- The Kennedy Trust ats Hospira Healthcare Corporation
- Valeant Canada LP v. Generic Partners Canada Inc. re: GLUMETZA®
- Various Law Firms
- Various pharmaceutical companies
- Willow Biosciences ats Aurora Cannabis

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RECOGNITIONS

Chambers Global: The World's Leading Lawyers for Business – 2021-2025 (Intellectual Property: Litigation)

Thomson Reuters Stand-out Lawyers – Independently Rated Lawyers – 2022-2026 (As nominated by senior in-house counsel)

Chambers Canada: Canada's Leading Lawyers for Business – 2021–2026 (Intellectual Property: Litigation)

IAM Global Leaders 2026

IAM Patent 1000: The World's Leading Patent Professionals – 2020-2025 (Recommended Individual – Patent Litigation: Gold)

WTR 1000: The World's Leading Trademark Professionals – 2021-2026 (Recommended Individual – Enforcement and Litigation)

The Legal 500 Canada – 2025-2026 (Leading Partner in Intellectual Property); 2020-2024 (Next Generation Partner – Intellectual Property)

Benchmark Canada Awards – 2022 and 2023 (IP Litigator of the Year)

The Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory – 2019-2025 (Litigation – Corporate Commercial; Litigation – Intellectual Property; Life Sciences & Health; Intellectual Property)

Benchmark Canada (2025: Top 50 Trial Lawyers – Canada; 2020-2025: Top 100 Women in Litigation – Canada; 2017-2023: 40 & Under Hot List; 2017-2025: Litigation Star)

Managing Intellectual Property's IP Stars (2020-2025: Top 250 Women in IP worldwide; 2018-2025: Patent Star and Trademark Star)

The Best Lawyers in Canada – 2020-2025 (Biotechnology and Life Sciences Practice, Corporate and Commercial Litigation, Health Care Law, Insurance Law, Intellectual Property Law)

Lexpert Special Editions (2022-2025: Technology, Health Sciences, and Litigation; 2021: Cannabis, Technology, Health Sciences, and Litigation)

Lexology Index: Healthcare & Life Sciences – Patent Litigation (Thought Leader) 2025

Who's Who Legal: Global – 2021-2024 (Life Sciences – Patent Litigation, IP – Patents)

Who's Who Legal: Canada – 2021-2024 (Life Sciences and Patents)

Lexpert Rising Stars 2021: Canada's Leading Lawyers Under 40

Euromoney's LMG Life Sciences Expert Guide 2019 (Intellectual Property)

LMG Life Sciences Awards 2017 (Canadian Rising Star)

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ABOUT

Professional Affiliations

Melanie is an executive member of The Advocates' Society Mid-Career Advocates Committee, as well as an active participant in many other legal and Intellectual Property related organizations. She is also a fellow of the Litigation Council of America.

Teaching Engagements

Melanie regularly speaks and teaches on advocacy and intellectual property topics:

Remedies in Patent Law Intellectual Property Institute of Canada Patent Case Law Review Webinar Series, annually from 2021 through 2023.

Claim Construction Issues 10th Annual University of Toronto Patent Colloquium, Jan 28, 2022.

An Evening with the Commercial Bench The Advocates Society, January 20, 2022.

Managing Your Leadership Agenda Women in Law Leadership Forum, Canadian Lawyer, September 9, 2021.

Patent Litigation Breakout Session Canadian Bar Association, IP Symposium, May 20, 2021.

Education

University of Western Ontario (with Distinction, Dean's Honour List), LLB, 2007

University of Western Ontario (with Distinction, Dean's Honour List), Genetics and Media Information and Technoculture, BSc, 2004