



## Celeste Poltak Partner

Practice Area  
Class Actions

Expertise  
Appellate Court Practice, Commercial  
Litigation

Called to the Bar  
2000

T: 416-595-2701  
F: 416-204-2909

[cpoltak@kmlaw.ca](mailto:cpoltak@kmlaw.ca)

Celeste Poltak focuses extensively on class proceedings litigation and is a partner in our class actions department. She regularly appears before a variety of courts throughout the province including the Court of Appeal, and the Supreme Court of Canada. She has developed a particular expertise in class proceedings, having worked on some of the most notable Canadian cases, including a variety of common issues trials, and is well published in the area.

Celeste is often asked to lecture on the topic of class proceedings at Osgoode Hall Law School, the Advocates' Society, the OBA and the University of Toronto. She is also a member of the Firm's Executive Committee and past Chair of the Student Committee. Celeste also sits on the Class Actions Committee of the Advocates' Society and is a member of the editorial board of the Canadian Institute's Class Action Journal.

Celeste has been recognized by Lexpert as a leading practitioner in class proceedings, named a Future Litigation Star by Benchmark Canada and has received a Chambers ranking in Class Proceedings.

## Experience

- Class Counsel in National Indian Residential Schools Settlement with attendance at settlement approval motions in nine jurisdictions across Canada
- Class counsel in environmental contamination class action for property devaluation in Port Colborne, Ontario, certified by the Court of Appeal for Ontario, leave to appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada denied

## Education

LLM, 2001, London School of Economics and Political Science

LLB, 1999, University of Calgary

BA, 1994, Queen's University

## Member/Affiliations

Member, Canadian Bar Association

Member, Ontario Bar Association

Member, International Bar Association

Member, The Advocates' Society

## Celeste's Publications

- "The New Approach to Summary Judgment in Ontario", Lawyers' Weekly, January 27, 2012
- "Are the costs of certification too high?", Lawyers Weekly, January 11, 2011
- "Is Decertification Doomed to Failure?", Lawyers Weekly, May 28, 2010
- "The Space Between Rule 20 and Rule 21: the evidentiary burden on certification", The Canadian Class Action Review, Vol. 6 (2010)
- "Class Action Costs Awards: A Swinging Pendulum", Lawyers Weekly, October 10, 2008.
- "Residential Schools Settlement Approval: Testing Jurisdictional Boundaries or Vigilant Scrutiny", The Canadian Class Action Review, Vol. 4, No. 2, (2008).
- "Ability of members to appeal orders in class proceedings remains limited", Lawyers Weekly, May 25, 2007.
- "Ontario and Her Sisters: Should Full Faith & Credit Apply to the National Class?", The Canadian Class Action Review, Vol. 3, No. 2 (2006).
- "Defendants May Have Difficulty Defeating Preferability Finding with ADR Programs", Lawyers Weekly, June 23, 2006.
- "Humanitarian Intervention: A Contemporary Interpretation of the UN Charter", University of Toronto Faculty of Law Review, Vol. 60, No. 2, May 2002.