

Michael Solowan

Kingsgate Legal

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Personal Overview

Michael believes that parties have the tools to resolve their disputes. His role as mediator is to facilitate good communication and guide them towards solutions that meet their needs. Where appropriate, if called upon, Michael can leverage his extensive legal knowledge to assess the strengths and weaknesses of each party's legal position and offer opinions and recommendations to help them reach a settlement.

Michael has been practicing municipal law since 2006. Prior to joining Kingsgate Legal, he was a partner at a large Western Canadian law firm and earlier in his career served on the executive management team as in-house legal counsel to a growing mid-sized city.

Michael has advised and represented both rural and urban municipalities as well municipally related entities, provincial municipal associations and the Government of Alberta. He has appeared before all levels of Court in Alberta, the Federal Court of Canada and various administrative bodies and tribunals.

Resolving disputes is central to his practice, though his role has evolved from advocating on behalf of clients before courts and tribunals to serving as an impartial facilitator and mediator of disputes. Michael's extensive experience administering codes of conduct and conducting investigations ensures he is well-versed in the principles of natural justice and procedural fairness.

Michael's extensive municipal background positions him well to mediate intermunicipal disputes involving amalgamations, annexations, dissolutions, intermunicipal collaboration frameworks, intermunicipal development plans, municipally controlled corporations, municipal public utilities, and regional services commissions. His deep understanding of governance and council dynamics is an asset in working with elected officials on intermunicipal disputes as well as internal council disputes and conflicts between elected officials and the chief administrative officer or members of the public.

A strong communicator, Michael seeks to understand and is noted for his calm demeanour and ability to synthesize complex matters into plain language that is easily understood. A noted public speaker, he is frequently called upon to provide governance training to elected officials and is a facilitator of the Elected Officials Education Program course Munis 101: The Essentials of Municipal Governance.

Formal Education and Training

Practical Ethics for Working Mediators (8hrs), ADR Institute of Ontario

Communications in ADR (40 hrs), ADR Institute of Alberta

National Introductory Mediation Course (48 hrs), ADR Institute of Canada

Bachelor of Laws with Distinction, University of Alberta

Bachelor of Arts, Major in Communications, Trinity Western University

Professional Associations

ADR Institute of Alberta

Canadian Bar Association

Law Society of Alberta

References

References are available upon request