



## LAURA CÁRDENAS

### LAWYER

Bar of Quebec - 2019

Law Society of Ontario - 2020

514.375.2665 | lcardenas@lcm.ca

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## AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Class actions
- Appeals and judicial review
- Defamation and privacy law
- Construction law
- Employment law
- Public and administrative law
- Injunctions, seizures and special procedures
- Civil and commercial litigation
- Professional liability

## BIOGRAPHY

Laura focuses her practice on civil and commercial litigation, as well as constitutional and administrative law. She acts in complex matters at both the trial and appellate levels, including in judicial review proceedings and applications for extraordinary remedies. She has appeared before all levels of court in Quebec and before the Supreme Court of Canada.

She is recognized for her analytical rigour, creativity, and ability to quickly master new areas of law, enabling her to approach complex and varied mandates with confidence. Her practice encompasses professional liability, class actions, estates and trusts, employment law, property law, construction, and matters involving public law issues. She also has significant experience in injunctions and extraordinary remedies across a broad range of contexts.

Laura has led multiple trials and secured favourable judgments in complex disputes, particularly in estate litigation, an area in which she regularly publishes and speaks. She has also been involved in cases raising novel legal issues that have resulted in precedent-setting decisions.

A graduate of McGill University's dual civil law and common law program, Laura earned her degrees with honours. During her studies, she served as Editor-in-Chief of the *McGill Law Journal* and contributed to a leading reference work in succession law. She subsequently clerked for the Honourable Justice Sheilah L. Martin at the Supreme Court of Canada — an experience that

significantly shaped her approach to litigation and appellate advocacy.

Actively engaged in her community, Laura has a particular interest in issues affecting 2SLGBTQ+ families, especially in matters involving discrimination. She is the author of several publications and is frequently invited to speak or provide commentary on these topics.

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## PUBLICATIONS

- **Contributor**, *Equality of Opportunity for Sexual and Gender Minorities 2024*  
World Bank Group, 2024
- **“Un/Related: Discrimination in Posthumous Conception for LGBTQ+ Families in Canada”**  
*Canadian Bar Review*, 2021
- **“Lines Drawn in Blood: A Comparative Perspective on the Accommodation of Blended Families in Succession Law”**  
*McGill Law Journal*, 2019–2020
- **“Married Couple, Single Recipient: Understanding the Exclusion of Gifts and Inheritances from Default Matrimonial Regimes”**  
*Canadian Journal of Family Law*, 2018
- **“Introduction”**  
*McGill Law Journal*, Special Issue: *Environment, Peoples, Power and Law*, 2017

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## CONFERENCES

- **“When Law Meets Activism”**  
Inaugural National Conference, *Lawyers Against Transphobia*, panelist, Vancouver, 2025
- **“Domestic Legal Issues Panel”**  
National Conference, *Prisme*, panelist, Ottawa, 2025
- **“The Law of Multi-Parent Families”**  
Association des juristes progressistes, panelist, May 27, 2025
- **“LGBTQ+ Realities at the Margins of Succession Law: Historical Context and Practical Considerations”**  
Canadian Bar Association, webinar, December 7, 2022
- **“Trans Rights in Quebec: A Historical and Comparative Perspective”**  
Fondation du Barreau du Québec, webinar (with Florence Ashley), May 17, 2022
- **“Blended Families in the Eyes of Comparative Succession Law”**  
Fondation du Barreau du Québec, June 2020
- **“‘This Is Not Your Child’: Posthumous Conception & Discrimination of LGBTQ+ Families in Canada”**  
Comparative Equality & Anti-Discrimination Conference, UC Berkeley (Stockholm University), June 2019
- **“Changing Laws, Unchanging Values: Adoption in the Legislature and the**

## **Courts, 1873-1960s”**

Family and Justice in the Archives: Histories of Intimacy in Transnational Perspective  
Conference, Concordia University, May 6-7, 2019

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## **EDUCATION**

- B.C.L./LL.B. (Hons), McGill University, 2018
  - M.A. in Asia Pacific Policy Studies, The University of British Columbia, 2013
  - B.A. in Film Studies (High Distinction), Concordia University, 2011
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## **AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS**

- First Prize – Legal Writing Competition, Barreau du Québec Foundation, for the article “Blended Families in Comparative Succession Law,” 2019
  - First Prize – Legal Writing Competition, Québec Association of Comparative Law, for the article “Married Couple, Single Recipient: Understanding the Exclusion of Gifts and Inheritances from Default Matrimonial Regimes,” 2018
  - Stanley Kandestin, Q.C. Prize, McGill University, 2018
  - Dean’s Honour List, Faculty of Law, McGill University, 2017
  - McMillan Scholarship in Law, McGill University, 2017
  - Richard Golick Prize for Extracurricular Achievement, McGill University, 2016
  - Patricia Allen Prize, McGill University, 2016
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## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

### **Professional Associations**

- Young Bar of Montreal
- The Advocates’ Society
- Canadian Bar Association

### **Professional Engagements**

- Canadian Bar Association – Québec Branch  
Member, Executive Committee, Wills, Estates and Trusts Section (2022–present)
- Égale Canada  
Member, Legal Issues Committee
- Department of Legal Sciences, Faculty of Political Science and Law, Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM)  
Researcher, Private Law Research Group

- Barreau du Québec Foundation  
Member, Advisory Committee (2021-2024)  
Governor, Emerging Leaders
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