



Denise Cooney

Partner

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Denise Cooney is a talented and resourceful lawyer who enjoys working with her clients to develop practical solutions to their legal problems. She has particular skills in solving complex legal and factual problems, and in viewing matters from her clients' perspective.

Denise has a broad civil litigation practice that includes complex commercial, estates, and employment disputes, as well as appeals. Denise is an accomplished advocate, who practices before all levels of court and administrative tribunals.

Prior to joining Paliare Roland as an associate, Denise clerked for the Justices of the Court of Appeal for Ontario. There, she assisted on leading cases across a broad spectrum, including administrative, civil, family and criminal law. She graduated with honours from the University of Toronto Faculty of Law.

Education:

University of Toronto, J.D.
2012

Queen's University, M.A.,
2009

University of Western
Ontario, B.A. (Hons.), 2008

Bar Admissions:

Ontario, 2013

Professional Affiliations:

Ontario Bar Association
The Advocates' Society

Representative Work

- Rob Centa, Kris Borg-Olivier and Denise Cooney successfully represented Brandon Moyse in proceedings brought by Mr. Moyse's former employer in *The Catalyst Capital Group Inc. v Moyse*.

They successfully defended the employee in contempt proceedings in which Mr. Moyse's former employer sought to have him sent to prison for breach of a court order (2015 ONSC 4388 (CanLII), <http://canlii.ca/t/gm3x1>). Subsequently, they successfully moved to have the employer's appeal to the Court of Appeal from that decision quashed (2015 ONCA 784 <http://canlii.ca/t/gm3x1>) and to the Divisional Court dismissed today (2016 ONSC 554 (CanLII), <http://canlii.ca/t/gn1mk>).

At the trial of the action, the plaintiff advanced the tort of spoliation against Mr. Moyse, the first time such a claim had been advanced to trial in Ontario. The court dismissed the action against Mr. Moyse in its entirety (2016 ONSC 5271 (CanLII), <http://canlii.ca/t/gt24t>). Mr. Moyse was wholly successful on appeal. The Court of Appeal for Ontario dismissed the appeal from the trial judge, and the motion for leave to appeal the costs decision (*The Catalyst Capital Group Inc. v. Moyse*, 2018 ONCA 283 (CanLII), <http://canlii.ca/t/hr4gx>).

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Community Involvement

In addition to her busy practice, Denise actively volunteers her time and legal skills in the community. Through Pro Bono Ontario, Denise represents Registered Early Childhood Educators in professional discipline proceedings on a pro bono basis. She also acts as duty counsel to self-represented litigants appearing before the Superior Court of Justice Civil Practice Court, and at Law Help Ontario, providing legal assistance to low-income self-represented litigants.

Denise also volunteers at the Fred Victor's Women's 24/7 Drop-in Program, a social service charitable organization, where she provides legal information and support to the Program's members.

Denise also regularly volunteers with the University of Toronto Faculty of Law, providing coaching and guidance to students participating in the school's moot programs, mentoring law students through its alumni mentorship program, and speaking to high school students as part of its programs for youth.

Publications/Presentations

- Speaker, CBA, "Summary Trial Essentials", October 2021