

Lydia Bugden, K.C.

Chief Executive Officer & Managing Partner



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Language(s) spoken: English

Bar Admission(s): Ontario 1994, Nova Scotia
1992

Executive Assistant: [Pamela Connor](#)

Lydia is the Chief Executive Officer and Managing Partner of Stewart McKelvey, being called to the Nova Scotia Bar in 1992 and the Ontario Bar in 1994. After seven years as in-house counsel Lydia joined Stewart McKelvey in September 1999. She is recognized in her profession previously being named Top 40 Under 40 by LEXPERT Magazine, and over the years has been noted as a leading corporate-commercial practitioner in a number of legal publications. Lydia gives her time as a member of the board of NetZero Atlantic and is Vice Chair of Ovarian Cancer Canada. She sits on the UNB Law Dean's Advisory Council and Co-Chairs the UNB Law Campaign Cabinet. Lydia is a recipient of The Progress Club's "Women of Excellence" Award, was named one of the top leading women lawyers in Canada receiving a Lexpert "Zenith Award" and in 2022 was inducted into the Atlantic Business Magazine's Top 50 CEOs Hall of Fame.

Education & Career

Education

University of New Brunswick, LLB, 1991

Dalhousie University, BComm, 1988

Activities

Chief Executive Officer & Managing Partner, 2015 – present

Member, Board of Directors, NetZero Atlantic, 2023 – present

Member, Board of Directors, Ovarian Cancer Canada, 2022 – present

Member, Board of Directors, C.D. Howe Institute, 2021 – 2023

President, Dartmouth HaliFast Track & Field Association, 2017 – present

Member, Board of Trustees, QEII Foundation, 2014 – present (Chair of the Board, 2019 – 2021; Past-chair, 2021 – 2023)

Member, Board of Directors, Develop Nova Scotia, 2012 – 2020

Regional Managing Partner, Nova Scotia, Stewart McKelvey, 2013 – 2015

President, Board of Directors, Halifax Trojan Aquatic Club, 2012 – 2015

Co-chair, YMCA fundraiser, “S’Mores in the City”, 2013 & 2014

Member, Board of Directors, YMCA of Greater Halifax/Dartmouth, 2007 – 2013

Chair, Board of Directors, Phoenix Youth Programs, 2005 – 2012

Chair, Board of Governors, Nova Scotia Junior Achievement Business Hall of Fame, 2010 – 2011

Member, Partnership Board, Stewart McKelvey, 2008 – 2011

Accolades

King’s Counsel, 2020

Member, Atlantic Business Magazine Top 50 CEO Hall of Fame, 2022

Recipient, Atlantic Business Magazine Top 50 CEO Award, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 & 2022

Best Lawyers 2019 Corporate Law “Lawyer of the Year” in Halifax

Best Lawyers 2018 Banking and Finance Law “Lawyer of the Year” in Halifax

Best Lawyers 2017 Corporate Law “Lawyer of the Year” in Halifax

Best Lawyers 2014 Mergers & Acquisitions Law “Lawyer of the Year” in Halifax

Recipient, Lexpert Zenith Award, “Leading Women Lawyers”, 2013

Best Lawyers: Banking and Finance Law, 2013 – 2024

Best Lawyers: Corporate Law, 2006, 2008 – 2024

Best Lawyers: Mergers and Acquisitions Law, 2011 – 2024

Best Lawyers: Natural Resources, 2013 – 2024

Member, 2013 Lexpert/American Lawyer Media’s Guide to the Leading 500 Lawyers

Recipient, Lexpert Magazine’s ‘Top 40 Lawyers Under 40’ in Canada Award, 2004

Recipient, The Progress Club “Women of Excellence” Award, 2009

Martindale-Hubbell rating: CV

Presentations

Presenter, “*Designing and implementing new initiatives*”, Women in Leadership conference, April 2015

Co-presenter, “E-Contracts – How It Can Be Hip to be Square”, CBA Nova Scotia Mid-Winter Conference, Thursday
January 29, 2015

Co-Chair, “Taking Care of Business. Taking Care of Your Client”, CBA Nova Scotia Business Law Conference
November 14, 2014

Co-presenter, “*10 Biggest Mistakes Corporate Lawyers Make*”, part of CBA Skilled Lawyers Series, Corporate Stream, May
2014

Co-presenter, "*Running an M&A Deal*", part of CBA Skilled Lawyers Series, Corporate Stream, May 2011

Presenter, "*The Front and Back End of a Deal*", CBA Online CLE, April 2010

Co-presenter, "*Lending, Credit and Syndicated Facilities and Security Agreements: Closing the Financial Transaction*", Major Business Agreements Conference, March 2010

Co-chair, Major Business Agreements conferences, 2008, 2009 and 2010 (presented by Insight)

Presenter, "*Syndicated Loan Facilities*", Major Business Agreements Conference, April 2009