

Kathleen Leighton

Practice Innovation Lawyer



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Language(s) spoken: English

Bar Admission(s): Nova Scotia, 2016

Executive Assistant: [Heidi Evans](#)

After practicing corporate immigration law for several years, Kathleen transitioned into a Practice Innovation Lawyer role and became involved in various firm-focused innovation initiatives regarding client solutions, practice re-engineering, project management, process improvement, practice health coaching, and digital literacy. Kathleen's work with the Practice Innovation Department helps to streamline processes, reduce costs, and increase profitability.

Kathleen has her Yellow Belt Certification in Legal Lean Sigma ® Process Improvement & Project Management and experience in pricing and budgeting, data analytics, database design, Excel, SmartSheet, automated document assembly, process mapping, and other fields and technologies that allow her to work with internal and external stakeholders on practice innovation and creative problem solving initiatives.

Practice Areas

Immigration

Education & Career

Education

Dalhousie University Schulich School of Law, JD, 2015

Dalhousie University, BComm (Co-op), 2012

Activities

Member, Canadian Bar Association

Member, AI Task Force, Stewart McKelvey

Coordinator, Stewart McKelvey *Beyond the border: Immigration update* publications

Peer educator, IB&M Society, 2013 – 2015

Volunteer, Community Outreach Program, Schulich School of Law, 2012 – 2015

Executive secretary, Community Outreach Program, Schulich School of Law, 2013 – 2015

Volunteer, Pro Bono Project, Schulich School of Law, 2012 – 2015

Volunteer, Business Law Association, Schulich School of Law

Accolades

Clifford Rae Achievement Award

Gowlings Law & Technology Prize

Dalhousie Schulich School of Law Entrance Scholarship

Eaton Foundation Scholarship

Dean's List, Dalhousie University

Dalhousie University Entrance Scholarship

Thought Leadership

Beyond the Border: A Year End Immigration Wrap-Up

December 13, 2022

think: international talent

November 29, 2022

The rise of remote work and Canadian immigration considerations

November 03, 2022

Upcoming changes for international students in Canada

October 12, 2022

Overwhelming backlog of Canadian immigration applications prompts new government action

August 25, 2022

COVID-19 immigration update

May 31, 2021

Building French language ability in Canada through immigration

February 22, 2021

New pre-boarding COVID-19 testing requirements

January 07, 2021

What steps must employers take to hire a foreign worker?

November 16, 2020

How to improve your Express Entry score

October 30, 2020

The limits of open work permits

September 23, 2020

Travelling to visit a cottage or summer home in Canada during COVID-19

June 15, 2020

New Brunswick restricts entry of temporary foreign workers

May 12, 2020

Newfoundland and Labrador introduces travel ban

May 04, 2020

Can my child obtain a work permit?

February 27, 2020

Bringing top talent to Canada's educational institutions

February 19, 2020

Post-Brexit impact on CETA mobility

February 03, 2020

My PR Card expired! What do I do?

January 28, 2020

Five compliance tips (for employers of foreign workers)

January 07, 2020

Employer immigration compliance obligations

January 02, 2020

Bye, Bye Canadian P.I.?: What Apple's fight against the FBI means for the protection of Personal Information in Canada

February 23, 2016

Presentations

Panelist, “Empowering Citizen Developers: Keeping your Experts in Control”, Legalweek New York, January 2024

“COVID-19 Overview for Employers of Foreign Workers”, Stewart McKelvey Fall Labour and Employment webinar, November 2020

“Top 5 Immigration Considerations for Employers”, Stewart McKelvey Nova Scotia Labour and Employment Law Client Seminar, October 2018

“Immigration Update – Key Opportunities and Risks for Employers”, Stewart McKelvey In-House Counsel Professional Development Day, April 2017