

ANDREA HIMEL, LL.B., M.S.W.,
Accred. Fam. Med. and CP Med. (OAFM)
1709 Bathurst St. Toronto M5P 3K2
Tel: (416) 551-8752 Fax: (416) 551-9720
Andrea.himel@rogers.com

Employment Experience

- Superior Court of Justice (Family) Hamilton: Dispute Resolution Officer** 2016 - Present
- Assist in the resolution of family law disputes
 - Define and narrow issues in dispute on Motions to Change
- Child and Family Services Review Board: Adjudicator and Mediator** 2010 – Present
- Adjudicate cases involving Children’s Aid Societies and School Boards
 - Ensure that parents are treated fairly and have the opportunity to be heard
 - Assess the suitability of children’s placements and other matters
 - Mediate disputes involving Children’s Aid Societies and parents
 - Draft decisions and written reviews
- Himel Mediation and Family Law Services: Family Lawyer, Mediator & Consultant** 2008 - Present
- Develop parenting plans with separated couples
 - Represent parents in child protection litigation
 - Assist in the resolution of child/spousal support and property issues
 - Consult and educate parents involved in s.30 custody/access assessments
 - On-site Court mediation for the Milton Mediation Project
 - Previously on/off-site Court mediation for 393 Mediate at the Toronto Court
 - Undertake role as a Parenting Coordinator in high conflict cases
 - Conduct child protection mediations for the Toronto Mediation Centre
- Duty Counsel and Advice Counsel: 393 University Ave., 47 Sheppard Ave. & 311 Jarvis St.**
- Assist unrepresented litigants by advocating and negotiating at court 2009 - Present
 - Provide summary legal advice on parenting, support and other issues
 - Represent parents engaged in child protection and matrimonial disputes
- Torkin Manes: Family Law Associate** 2000 - 2007
- Litigated at all levels of the Ontario courts
 - Drafted separation and cohabitation agreements
 - Provided legal advice in the areas of custody/access/ property/support
 - Conducted research and drafted legal opinions (including LPIC work)
 - Prepared court documents and appeal materials for the O.C.A. and S.C.C.
 - Supervised junior lawyers, students and law clerks
- Smith Lyons: Litigation Associate & Student (Articling and Summer)** 1997 – 2000
- Worked closely with senior counsel on various litigation matters, including an 8-month preliminary inquiry involving the Catholic Children’s Aid Society
- Office of the Children’s Lawyer: Panel Lawyer, Clinical Investigator & Student** 1996-2005

- Panel member representing children in child welfare and custody proceedings
- Acted for children involuntarily committed to a secure treatment facility
- Conducted clinical investigations of families involved in custody/access disputes
- As a student, drafted papers for the Children’s Lawyer (Willson McTavish) in the areas of privilege and solicitor/client communication

Pro Bono and Volunteer Initiatives

Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (Ontario Chapter)

- President (2015 – Present) President-Elect (2014); Vice-President (2013)
Member of the Board of Directors (2012 – 2018)
- Co-chair of the Annual Conference and AGM 2012, 2013
2015
- Co-chair of the Custody and Access / Child Protection Symposium 2016
- Co-chair of the Policy Committee 2013 -
Present
 - Oversee research project relating to family law reform
 - Draft the updated *Ideal Family Court* (2014)
- Co-chair of the Research Committee 2014 -
Present
 - Oversee research project relating to the intersection of domestic cases and the child protection system
 - Draft RFP for Part I and Part II of the project
- Organizer of Toronto-Area Education and Social Events 2012 –
Present
 - The Australian Model of Dispute Resolution (February 2015)
 - Pre-natal, Post-natal and Maternal Depression (November 2014)
 - Events coincident with AFCC (Parent) and AFCC (Ontario) Conferences
- Co-Chair of the Sponsorship Committee 2013
- Walsh Family Law Moot 2013 -
Present
 - Appellate Court Judge
 - Factum Marker
- Member of the Organizing Committee for Annual Conference and AGM 2009, 2010
2011
2011

Informal Mentorships for Individuals Interested in Family Law and Child Protection

- Informally mentor undergraduate students, law students, articling students and junior lawyers by providing shadowing opportunities and individual meetings (20+ mentees to date) 2012 -
Present

- Co-chair of a Fundraising Initiative** 2014 - Present
- Raising Funds for the Dr. Jay Grief Counselling Program
 - Draft and Edit Written Materials to Support Campaign

**Bench and Bar Committee Member: Ontario Superior Court (Toronto)
Ontariou Court of Justice (North York)**

Pro Bono Students Canada, Family Law Project at 311 Jarvis St (Volunteer) 1996

Metropolitan Toronto Children’s Aid Society (Intern) 1995

Education

Child Protection Mediation January 2014

- Advanced 21-hour training leading to accreditation

Parenting Coordination Training May 2008

- Comprehensive 14-hour training seminar for lawyers and mental health professionals

Screening for Domestic Violence for Mediators and Arbitrators

- Intensive 14-hour certificate course as mandated by the *Arbitrations Act* 2008
- Intensive 10-hour certificate course 2012 and 2014

Centre for Mediation in Law April 2008

- Practice-focused 32-hour mediation training in California
- Trained by Gary Friedman, J.D., formerly of the Harvard Program

Law Society of Upper Canada: Bar Admission Course Fall 1999

University of Toronto Law School: Bachelor of Laws 1994-1998

University of Toronto School of Social Work: Masters of Social Work 1994-1998

McGill University: Bachelor of Arts, Great Distinction 1989-1993

Washington Semester Program at American University: Criminal/Social Justice Fall 1992

Appointments

- Board of Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (Ontario) 2012- Present
- Ontario Bar Association – Family Law Representative on the Young Lawyers Division (YLD) Education Committee 2001-2007
- Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, Education Committee 2007-Present
- *Money and Family Law*, Editor 2001–2005
- *Canadian Moneysaver*, Contributing Editor 2003–2005

Memberships

- Ontario Association of Family Mediation (Accredited member)
- Ontario Association of Family and Conciliation Courts

Speaking Engagements & Articles/Publications (Select List)

- 1-800-SKYPE-ME: Access and Child Support Disputes, Judicial Training (Ontario Court of Justice), January 2016
- 1-800-SKYPE-ME: Access Disputes When Distance is the Issue, Published in the Family Court Review, July 2016
- Better Parenting, Better Practices, Better Outcomes, AFCC (Ontario), October 2015
- 1-800-SKYPE-ME: Access Disputes When Distance is the Issue, panel organizer and speaker, AFCC (Parent), May 28, 2015
- Pre-Natal, Post-Natal and Maternal Depression, panel organizer and speaker, AFCC (Ontario), November 27, 2014
- “Children with Special Needs”, panel organizer and speaker, AFCC (Ontario), October 17, 2014
- “What Adult Children Want Lawyers to Know”, speaker, National Family Lawyers Conference, July 2014
- “25 Years of Family Mediation: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow – Co Parenting Relations, Voice of the Child, Parenting”, active participant and Ontario representative, Avant Tout, Les Enfants / Children Now, June 26 – 28, 2014
- “What About the Village? The Role for Step-families and Extended Families Following Separation”, panel organizer and speaker, AFCC (Parent), May 29, 2014
- “Presentation for joint J.D./M.S.W. students at University of Toronto”, March 2014 (also presented in 2010, 2012)
- “Getting the Best Bang for the Buck”, speaker, Ontario Provincial Court Judicial Development Institute, January 15, 2014
- “Joint Working Group on the Implementation of Family Law Reforms”, AFCC (Ontario) Representative, November 20, 2013
- “The Family Justice Reform Colloquium: An Agenda for Ontario”, group facilitator, AFCC (Ontario) November 15, 2013
- “The 6-Minute Self-Rep”, panel organizer and speaker, AFCC (Ontario), October 18, 2013
- “Mediation”, speaker, SJTO Annual Institute, May 2013
- “Separation: A Theatrical Presentation”, actor, AFCC (Ontario), October 2012

- “Opening a Mediation Practice”, speaker, Riverdale Mediation, Fall 2012
- “Lawyering in Mediations”, speaker, LSUC program (the 6-minute lawyer), December 1, 2011
- “Mediation Tips for Lawyers and Clients”, speaker, 311 Jarvis Ave. Open Bar, December 2010
- “Advice on Expert Testimony” and “The Future of Mediation and Arbitration” panel organizer and moderator, AFCC (Ontario), October 2010
- “Fundamentals in Custody and Access”, Co-chair and speaker, OBA program, May 20, 2009
- “Using the Family Law Rules to Your Advantage”, Co-Chair and panel moderator, OBA program, October 30, 2006
- “The Nuts and Bolts of Family Law: What You Need To Know”, Co-Chair and panel moderator, OBA program, September 29, 2005
- “Common Legal Problems for Common Law Couples and Same Sex Spouses”, Chair and panel moderator, OBA program, May 7, 2003
- “Building, Broadening and Bolstering Your Family Law Practice”, Co-Chair and panel moderator, OBA program, April 12, 2002

Articles and Publications (Select List)

- Numerous papers authored for the presentations listed above, and materials designed to assist the judiciary, lawyers and self-rep clients including the following:
 - “Using Existing Resources to Effectively Resolve Disputes: Suggestions (for the Judiciary) from a Duty Counsel / On-site Mediator / OCL”; “Tips about Duty Counsel”; “Tips for Clients in Mediation”;
 - Online Resources for Clients; Schedules “A” and “B” for Judicial Endorsements – Financial Disclosure and Job Search;
- “Building New Families on the Foundations of the Old: The Challenge of Maintaining Access to Grandparents and Siblings in the Context of Adoption”, (2005) 22 *Canadian Family Law Quarterly* 285
- “Live Issues in Life Insurance”, OBA Institute, February 3, 2005
- "Sale of the Jointly-Held Matrimonial Home: Right to Buy v. Right to Bid", *Money & Family Law*, vol. 19, no. 11, 2004 (with Erin Toole)

- “Broken Promises, Broken Hearts: Interfamilial Tort and Contract Claims”, (2003) 20 *Canadian Family Law Quarterly* 339 (with Lorne Wolfson)
- “Legal Obligations Arising from Marriage”, *Canadian Moneysaver*, September 2003
- “Mediation/ Arbitration Agreements: The Binding Comes Undone”, (2002) 20 *Canadian Family Law Quarterly*
- “Broken Promises, Broken Hearts: Interfamilial Tort and Contract Claims”, (2002) 25 *Advocates Quarterly* 441 (with Lorne Wolfson)
- “Support for Adult Children: When Does it End?”, *Canadian Moneysaver*, March 2002
- “What’s New in Family Law?”, *Canadian Moneysaver*, November 2001 (with Lorne Wolfson)
- "The ‘Best’ of What’s New in Pension Law (Part I and II)", *Money & Family Law* (December 2000 and January 2001), vols. 15 and 16 (with Lorne Wolfson)
- “Parents Stealing Kids: Parts I, II and III – A Canadian Perspective on the Legal and Social Problem of Child Abduction”, (2000) 18 *Canadian Family Law Quarterly* 225
- “Bargaining in the Shadow of the “End of Finality” (1998) 16 *Canadian Family Law Quarterly* 400