SISKINDS | The law firm



Rasha El-Tawil

Partner - Personal Injury & Civil Sexual Abuse

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Rasha takes great pride in her ability to help her clients achieve the results they seek, while also being cognizant of the emotional support required to truly help them heal.

Rasha El-Tawil has been selected by her peers for inclusion in The Best Lawyers™ in Canada in 2022 to 2027, and was recognized as a recipient of the London Inc. “Top 20 Under 40 Award” in 2020.

She has experience in all areas of personal injury litigation including motor vehicle claims, municipal and road authority claims, and historic and institutional sexual abuse claims. Rasha has appeared before the Superior Court of Justice, the Ontario Divisional Court, and the Court of Appeal for Ontario. She regularly appears before the Licence Appeal tribunal.

Education

Western University, LL.B. 2007
Western University, B.A. Hons Political Science & Philosophy (Gold Medalist) 2004

About

Rasha El-Tawil is a Partner in the personal injury law group, and sits on the Siskinds’ Board of Directors. Rasha assists injured individuals and their families in all aspects of serious injury claims or fatalities with a focus on catastrophic brain injuries, spinal cord injuries and orthopedic injuries. Rasha takes a trauma-informed, client-centered approach to the practice of law. Rasha and her team are dedicated to achieving the best results for her clients, often through alternative dispute resolution. When a claim cannot be settled, she is not afraid to take insurers on in the courtroom.

Rasha’s practice also includes civil litigation with a special interest in appeals work. Rasha has successfully argued appeals at the Divisional Court and Court of Appeal for Ontario. She has also been counsel on applications for leave to appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada.

Rasha is committed to advancing equity issues within and outside of the firm, and has led the firms Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee.

She is involved in the legal community, serving as a Trustee and Bench and Bar representative with the Middlesex Law Association. She is the Vice-Chair of the Western Law Young Alumni Advisory Council.

Rasha is a native Londoner, and speaks Arabic.

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Other Languages

Arabic

Memberships and Associations

- Ontario Trial Lawyers Association, Director
- Middlesex Law Association, Trustee
- Bench and Bar Representative - London
- Ontario Bar Association, Member
- The Advocates Society, Member
- Law Society of Ontario, Member

Awards and Recognition

- Rasha has been selected by her peers for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers™ in Canada* 2022 to 2027.
- Top 20 under 40 Award, 2020, London Inc.: 20 Under 40: Rasha El-Tawil | London Inc Magazine

Community Involvement

- SWRWLA (Southwest Region Women's Law Association), Member
- GROWL (Group of Racialized Ontario Women Litigators)
- Muslim Resource Centre for Social Support and Integration - Community Advisory Council, 2023-present
- Learning Disabilities Association of London Region, Past Board Member

Teaching

- Part time adjunct professor at Western University Law School - teaching the Capstone in Civil Litigation Course - 2021/2022.
- Past Instructor at Fanshawe College, Advanced Civil Litigation, Law Clerks Program.
- Guest Lecturer at Western University Law School

Notable Work and Decisions

Rasha has been successful in obtaining large Jury awards for her clients, including an award in excess of $3,000,000.00. Some of Rasha's other notable work and decisions include:

- Purcell v Van Pelt, 2021 – striking jury notice
- Tuffnail v Meekes et al., 2020 ONCA 390
- Tuffnail v Meekes trial decisions – 2017 ONSC 2894; 2017 ONSC 2751; 2017 ONSC 4610
- Hengeveld v. Ontario et al., 2017 ONSC 6300
- Reddecopp v. Daniels, 2017 ONSC 1726
- Jazey v State Farm, Financial Services Commision of Ontario, July 29, 2016

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- Dickerson v 1610396 Ontario Inc. (Carey's Pub & Grill), 2013 ONCA 653 (CanLII) —Court of Appeal for Ontario
- Fakih v Palmer Homes Inc, 2013 CanLII 76930 (ON SCSM) — Small Claims Court — Ontario
- Rollins v English Language Separate District School Board #39, 2012 ONCA 104 (CanLII) — Court of Appeal for Ontario
- Dickerson v 1610396 Ontario Inc. (Carey's Pub & Grill), 2010 ONCA 894 (CanLII) — Court of Appeal for Ontario
- Decision No. 2018/09,2009 ONWSIAT 2851 (CanLII) — Ontario Workplace Safety and Insurance Appeals Tribunal
- Good Life Corporation v Hazeldean Properties Inc., 2008 ONCA 742 (CanLII) — Court of Appeal for Ontario

Publication and Speaking

- Co-Chair - Straight from the Bench Conference - Middlesex Law Association - 2023-2026
- Speaker - Anatomy of a Trial: Taking the Plunge into a Jury Trial - Ontario Bar Association - May 28-29, 2026
- Speaker - Civil Sexual Abuse: Cases to Know - OTLA conference - May 8, 2026
- Speaker - Anatomy of a Trial: Keeping Your Cool in the Heat of Trial - Ontario Bar Association - June 5, 2025
- Speaker - Overcoming Technical Hurdles - Municipal Liability: Slips, Trips and Falls - OTLA Spring Conference - May 2025
- Paper and Speaker - Your First Civil Trial - Expert Witnesses - Ontario Bar Association - March 2025
- Panelist - Succeeding in Law as a Muslim Lawyer - Muslim Law Students Association at Western Law - February 2025
- Panelist - Muslim Lawyers Mentorship - Western Law - January 2025
- Co-Chair - London Opening of the Courts - 2023-2025
- Demonstrator - Anatomy of a Trial: The New Essentials - Demonstrating cross-examination of an expert engineering witness - June 2024
- Speaker - Representing Children: Professionalism and Ethical Issues - OBA - November 2023
- Chair - Mental health and lawyers - MLA - November 2023
- Speaker - The future of women leaders - Muslim Students career fair - November 2023
- Speaker - Practice and Procedure: Moving the Case Efficiently, with Regional Perspectives - 18th Annual Update of Personal Injury Law and Practice hosted by York University - Osgoode Hall Law School - October 2023
- Demonstrator - Anatomy of a Trial: The New Essentials - Demonstrating cross-examination of a future care costs expert witness - June 2023
- Speaker - Credibility in chief and cross - Advocates' Society Courthouse series - Feb/March 2023

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- Speaker - Your first civil trial - Trial preparation strategies and tactics - OBA - March 2023
- Paper and conference presenter - Advocate's Society Tricks of the Trade - Sexual assault damages - January 2023
- Presenter/Demonstrator of a Cross-examination of a future care expert - OBA - Anatomy of a Trial - June 2022
- Moderator and conference chair - Islamophobia and the Law - MLA - June 2022
- Paper - Moore v. 7595611 Canada Corp: What is a Life Worth? - June 2022
- Speaker - Effective Presentation of Evidence: Briefs - Licence Appeal Tribunal Advocacy - The Advocate's Society - May 2022
- Paper and Presenter - Updates in Tort Law: FLA and aggravated damages - Law Society of Ontario Substantive Law for Litigators: Torts conference - March 2022
- Speaker - A "FUR"midable CATastrophic Update - panel discussion: "Do OT's PAW-ssess the Skills?" Neuropsychologist vs. Occupational Therapist on the GOS-E Guidelines. - MLST - February 2022
- Panelist - Pathways to Leadership - Canadian Muslim Lawyers Association National Legal Conference - September 2021
- Speaker - Ontario Rehab Alliance, September 2021
- Presentation - The child plaintiff: In their best interests - 2021
- Panelist - the value of sponsorship and empowering woman advocates - The Advocates' Society inaugural Breakfast with Tiffany's networking breakfast for women advocates - September 2018
- Panel Chair - Women's Roundtable - Ontario Trial Lawyers Association - 2018
- Publication - "Current State of the Law on Commercial Host Liability" - Ontario Trial Lawyers Association - June 2018
- Speaker - Life Care Plans - Annual Rehab & Life Care Planning Symposium - May 2018
- Panelist - Procedural tips and issues at the Licence Appeals Tribunal - Canadian Defence Lawyers Accident Benefits Spring Symposium - April 2018
- Paper - How Will My Personal Injury Settlement Affect My Family Law Separation or Divorce? - 2017.
- Speaker - Brain Injury Association Support Group - Stratford, ON - October 2016
- Speaker - "Life after Near-Death: Creative & Conscientious Benefits Management Post-June 1st" - Ontario Rehab Alliance workshop - May 2016
- Presenter - Mock Trial Presentation at the 4th Annual Rehab & Life Care Planning Symposium - April 2016
- Speaker - Brokers' Negligence and Optional Accident Benefits - April 2016
- Paper - Pain and Suffering Damages and the Threshold in a Personal Injury Action - January 2016
- Speaker - "A Case comment on McLeod v. General Motors" - Annual Middlesex Law Association Personal Injury Conference - December 2014
- Paper - Court of Appeal confirms that civil damages for bodily harm intentionally inflicted cannot be discharged by bankruptcy - 2013.
- Paper - Liability Of Municipalities For Injuries As A Result Of Icy Or Snowy Road Conditions - February 2013

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- Speaker - “Helpful Cases and Pointers for Income Replacement Benefits” - OTLA Spring Conference - May 2011
- Speaker - “A Case Comment on R. v Abbey”, Rasha M. El-Tawil & Emily K. Foreman - Straight from the Bench conference - MLA - April 2010
- Speaker - Changes to the Rules of Civil Procedure for Experts - 2009
- Rasha M. El-Tawil & Christopher S. Collins, Case Studies - Navigating Through the Multiple Benefits Minefield - The Canada Institute conference - October 2008
- Presenter - Environmental Law - The Growers Course at University of Guelph - November 2007