



Charles Wright

Partner

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Charles practices exclusively in the area of mass tort and class action litigation.

Called to the Bar of Ontario, 1995

About

Charles is a Siskinds' partner and leader of Siskinds' price fixing class action group. He has been counsel to the class in numerous successful class actions, including the areas of price-fixing, securities, products liability, and consumer protection.

Charles has repeatedly been recognized as one of Canada's leading class action lawyers, including being named by Lexpert/American Lawyer Guide as one of the Leading 500 Lawyers in Canada, by Chambers & Partners as a class actions leading practitioner, by Benchmark Canada as a litigation star, and as a recipient of the 2014 Lexpert Zenith Award.

A co-author of *Class Actions Law and Practice* (Butterworths 1999), he speaks frequently at public and legal forums on class action litigation.

Charles is a ranked lawyer in the nationwide plaintiff class action lawyers rankings by Chamber & Partners for 2018.

Education

Indiana University (B.A.B.S., 89)

University of North Carolina School of Law (Chapel Hill) Visiting Student 1992-93
of Toronto LL.B., 1993

Memberships and Associations

- Middlesex Law Association, Member
- American Association of Justice, Member
- Law Society of Upper Canada, Member
- ABA Section of Antitrust Law, Member

Awards and Recognition

- Charles Wright was recently selected by his peers for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers™ in Canada 2019*.
- Benchmark Canada, Local Litigation Star (2012, 2013, 2014, 2015) – Ontario
- 2014, recipient of a Lexpert Zenith Award for his work at the forefront of class action law in Canada for over ten years
In 2014, Siskinds ranked 16th overall in the global ranking of the world's 50 leading

securities class action law firms, the highest ranking ever attained by a Canadian firm. It is compiled annually by Securities Class Action Services, a unit of Institutional Shareholder Services (ISS)

- 2013, 2014 named by Chambers & Partners, Chambers Global: Dispute Resolution: Class Action (Plaintiff) – Canada – as a leading practitioner Benchmark Canada
- Benchmark Canada, Litigation Star (2013, 2014) – Canada, Class Action
- December 2012, named to Lexpert’s list of leading litigators in their Globe and Mail insert “Report on Business Special Edition: Litigation” For the years 2012 and 2013, named to Lexpert’s Guide to the Leading US/Canada Cross-Border Litigation Lawyers in Canada
- Since 2012, named to the Lexpert/American Lawyer Guide for Leading 500 Lawyers in Canada
- Since 2012, chosen directly by his peers to be published in the Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory as a leading practitioner
- Class ActionSiskinds LLP named as the top-ranked Canadian firm in the “SCAS 50.” Siskinds was the first Canadian firm to rank in the top 50 and has been the top Canadian firm each year since 2010
- 2009, LawDay Directory of Leading Lawyers: recognized as among the 50 Leading Practitioners in the practice area of Class Action-Plaintiff

Notable Work and Decisions

Counsel of record or played a major role in the following class actions:

Price-Fixing

- *Fanshawe College v Sony Optiarc, Inc.* (Optical Disc Drives)
- *Airia Brands Inc v Air Canada* (Airfreight Surcharges) – Settlements, to date, reached with eight groups of defendants
- *Fanshawe College v LG Philips LCD Co. Ltd* (Liquid Crystal Display (“LCD”)) – Settlements, to date, reached with five groups of defendants, totalling \$37.6 million
- *Fanshawe College v Hitachi, Ltd.* (Cathode Ray Tubes (“CRT”)) – Settlement reached with defendant group
- *Irving Paper Limited v Atofina Chemicals Inc.* (Hydrogen Peroxide) – Settlements, to date, reached with five groups of defendants
- *Osmun v Cadbury Adams Canada Inc* (Chocolate) – Settlements reached with four groups of defendants, resolving the litigation
- *Ford v Degussa-Huls AG* (Methionine) – Settlements reached with three groups of defendants
- *799376 Ontario Inv* (c.o.b. Lonsdale Printing Services) (Trustee of) v Cascades Fine Papers Group Inc. (Carbonless Paper) – Settlement of \$2.95 million

- *La Cie McCormick Canada Co v Stone Container Corp* (Linerboard) – Settlements reached with three groups of defendants, resolving the litigation
- *Stone Paradise Inc. v Bayer Inc.* (EPDM) – Settlements reached with five groups of defendants
- *Mura v Archer Daniels Midland Co* (Lysine) – Settlement reached with defendant group
- *Newly Weds Foods Co. v Pfizer Inc.* (Maltol) – Settlement reached with defendant group
- *Bona Foods Ltd. v Ajinomoto U.S.A., Inc.* (MSG) – Settlements reached with four defendant groups
- *Bona Foods Ltd v Pfizer Inc* (Sodium Erythorbate) – Settlement reached with defendant group
- *Alfresh Beverages Canada Corp v Archer Daniels Midland Co.* (Citric Acid) – Settlement of approximately \$8 million reached with defendant group
- *Alfresh Beverages Canada Corp. v Hoechst AG.* (Sorbates) – Settlement reached with one defendant group
- *Vitapharm Canada Ltd. v F. Hoffman-LaRoche Ltd.* (Various vitamin products) – National settlement of approximately \$148 million
- *Ritchie-Smith Feed, Inc. v. Rhône-Poulenc Canada Inc.* (Vitamins) – Settlements reached with defendant groups

Securities

- *Dugal v Manulife Financial Corporation*
- *Smith v Sino-Forest Corporation* – \$117 million partial settlement with Ernst & Young

- *Genier v CCI Capital Canada Ltd.*
- *Snelgrove v. Cathay Forest Products Corp.* – Settlement of \$1.9 million
- *Zaniewicz v Zungui Haixi Corporation* – Settlement of \$10.85 million
- *West Coast Soft Wear Ltd. v 1000128 Alberta Ltd.* – Settlement of \$9.99 million
- *Metzler Investment GMBH v Gildan Activewear Inc.* – North American settlement of US\$22.5 million
- *Omers Administration Corp v CP Ships Ltd* (formerly McCann v. CP Ships Ltd.) – National settlement of \$12.8 million
- *Gould v BMO Nesbitt Burns Inc.* – North American settlement of US\$21 million and CDN\$4.55 million

Product Liability

- *White v IKO Industries Ltd.* (Roofing Shingles)
- *Wong v Sony Corp.* (DVD Player) – Settlement reached resolving the litigation
- *Allen v Uponor Ltd.* (Plumbing Products) – National settlement for damages, warranty extension and the cost to repair or replace
- *Gariepy v Shell Oil Co.* (Polybutylene Pipe) – Settlements reached with each of three defendants resolving the litigation
- *Kelman v Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company* (Entran II hose) – North American settlement of approximately US\$300 million
- *Crawford v The Corporation of the City of London* (Condominium Fireplaces) – Settlement reached for expenses of converting wood burning fireplaces to gas insert fireplaces

- *Rosati v Ipex USA LLC* (Plumbing Products) – North American settlement of \$125 million

Pharmaceutical and Medical Devices

- *Bisignano v La Corporation Instrumentarium Inc.* (TMJ Implants) – National settlement of approximately \$9.4 million
1999 CarswellOnt 3834 (S.C.J.)
- *Breast Implant Litigation* – Settlements reached with Bristol Myers, Baxter Healthcare and Dow Corning Corporation totalling in excess of \$40 million
- *Bendall v. McGhan Medical Corporation*
- *Serwaczek v. Medical Engineering Corporation*
- *Burke v. American Heyer-Schulte Corp.*
- *Conlon v Bristol-Myers Squibb Canada Co.* (Tequin) – National settlement of approximately \$5 million
- *Doucette v Bristol-Myers Squibb Canada Co.* (Stadol NS) – National settlement of approximately \$12.4 million
- *Knowles v. Wyeth-Ayerst Canada Inc.* (Pondimin) – National settlement of approximately \$11.3 million

Employment and Benefits

- *Kranjcec v Ontario* (Ontario Government Retirees Health Benefits) – Settlement of \$20 million
- *Huras v. Primerica Financial Services Ltd.* – Settlement for class alleging breach of Employment Standards Act (failure to pay for mandatory training).
- *Penton v Parker Canada Holding Co.* – Settlement for damages for wrongful dismissal from mass termination

- *Smith v Kronos Machinery Company Ltd.* – Settlement of approximately \$1.4 million for damages for wrongful dismissal resulting from mass termination
- *Reble v. Navistar International Corporation Canada* – Settlement for non-union retirees whose post-retirement health benefits were reduced

Consumer Protection

- *Helm v. Toronto Hydro-Electric System Limited* – Settlement of \$5.84 million following summary judgment argument
- *Munro v. Bausch & Lomb Inc.* (17 October 1997), London 22610 (Ont. Ct. (Gen. Div.)). [unreported] – Three province settlement (Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia) with compensation of approximately \$4 million

Other

- *Gray v. Great-West Lifeco Inc.* – Settlement reached stemming from demutualization of Canada Life and its subsequent purchase by Great-West Lifeco Inc.
- *Dabbs v Sun Life Assurance Co. of Canada* (Vanishing Premiums)
- *Haney Iron Works Ltd. v Manufacturers Life Insurance Co.* (c.o.b. Manulife Financial) (Vanishing Premiums)
- *McKrow v Manufacturers Life Insurance Co.* (Vanishing Premiums)

Publications and Speaking

- Author – “Practical Tips for Managing Class Actions” – Canadian Bar Association / New Brunswick CLE Conference – October 2014
- Co-Author – “Third-party funding for Class Actions, and Control Over the Litigation”, (2014) 55:1 CBLJ 165
- Co-Author – “Class Action Counsel Fees: A Fair and Reasonable Approach” (2011)
- Authored a chapter in the American Antitrust Institute’s The International Handbook On Private Enforcement of Competition Law published by Edward Elgar Publishing, (2010)

Community Involvement

- Memorial Boys and Girls Club of London, Board Member
- London Squash and Racquet Club, Member
- Always an avid tennis player, Charles has twice won national junior doubles championships, won a silver medal at the 1997 Maccabiah Games in Israel, and was a member of the All-Big Ten Conference tennis teams in 1987 and 1988.