

David Stratas

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David Stratas, 48, is a litigation partner in the national law firm of Heenan Blaikie, primarily in the areas of constitutional, administrative and regulatory law and civil litigation. He has acted as counsel for a wide variety of corporations, administrative tribunals, municipalities and individuals in many civil, regulatory and criminal cases in all levels of court, including twelve times in the Supreme Court of Canada. He is often retained by lawyers outside of his firm to prepare formal legal opinions, research memoranda, written submissions and court briefs in various matters.

The *Chambers Global Guide* ranks Mr. Stratas as one of the top thirty-five litigators in any field in Ontario, describing him (2006) as “widely praised” as a “prodigious worker” and “a creative force to be reckoned with – he’s got ideas you’d never think of.” The annual *Lexpert Survey* rates him as “repeatedly recommended” by his peers. He is also one of the lawyers who has been featured in all editions of *The Best Lawyers in Canada*.

Mr. Stratas is regularly invited to present to judges at judicial conferences, judicial educational sessions and private judicial retreats on constitutional and administrative law and is frequently the only private sector lawyer so invited. He is regularly invited by many administrative tribunals and the Society of Ontario Administrators and Regulators to instruct tribunal members on decision writing and administrative law.

David has spoken at over eighty conferences and has authored over seventy articles and papers, primarily in the areas of constitutional, administrative and regulatory law. From 1990-2001, he authored *Direction from the Supreme Court of Canada: The Charter of Rights in Litigation*, a well-known looseleaf service analyzing Supreme Court of Canada judgments concerning the *Charter of Rights*. He has also commented on constitutional law and other issues for the CTV national network and Canada’s national newspaper, the *Globe and Mail*.

Since 1994, Mr. Stratas has been a member of the Faculty of Law at Queen’s University. There, he annually conducts an upper-year seminar on constitutional law, for which he has won a record seven faculty-wide teaching awards. The Faculty of Law has presented him with the H.R.S. Ryan Award, one of its highest alumni distinctions.

David is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. He is also a member of the Supreme Court Advocacy Institute. The Minister of Justice (Canada) has appointed David to the public roster of Special Advocates who, upon court appointment, independently of government to protect the interests of persons in closed security proceedings.

David was called to the Bar of Ontario in 1988 after the completion of history studies at Queen's University (1979-1981), legal studies at Queen's University (1981-1984, LL.B. 1984), and graduate legal studies at Oxford University (1984-1986, B.C.L. 1986, first class standing). Mr. Stratas was also a law clerk to the Hon. Justice Bertha Wilson of the Supreme Court of Canada (1986-1987).