

# ELISABETH PRESTON OF MCMILLAN LLP'S OTTAWA OFFICE NAMED FINALIST FOR BUSINESSWOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

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The Managing Partner of McMillan's Ottawa office, Elisabeth Preston, is a finalist for the Women's Business Network (WBN) Businesswoman of the Year Award.

Each year, the WBN acknowledges the accomplishments of outstanding women in business in the National Capital Region. This year's awards mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of honouring extraordinary women who are role models to businesswomen today and to the leaders of tomorrow.

McMillan is honoured that Elisabeth has been recognized for her strengths and achievements as a leader in the Ottawa business community and for her innovative efforts in managing the firm's Ottawa office.

Elisabeth is known to colleagues and clients as an outstanding business law counsel, providing strategic business advice to executive management teams and serving as a director for many of her clients. She has, for example, gained significant professional recognition for advising a leading local counter-terrorism company through its rapid expansion and restructuring.

She is a frequent lecturer throughout North America on international business topics and is a past recipient of the Ottawa Business Journal's *Forty Under 40 Award*.

At McMillan, Elisabeth leads the firm's drive to be recognized as Ottawa's gateway to international markets and for McMillan's leadership and innovation as a modern and ambitious national law firm with a strong presence in the capital.

McMillan supports Elisabeth diligent work in being a role model to others and in providing her clients with more tools to be great leaders themselves.

Elisabeth is committed to giving back to the National Capital Region community in many diverse ways. She is Vice Chair of Start-up Canada, a not-for-profit organisation focussed on the education of entrepreneurs starting up their next venture. She is a member of the governance committee of a local school for girls, and actively seeks out opportunities at schools to mentor young women in their career choices. She is the local interviewer for secondary school students pursuing an ivy league education at the University of Pennsylvania and the

Wharton School of Business. Elisabeth is a director of The Canadian Tulip Festival, an international festival of friendship and learning, and volunteers her time to many other community organisations in need of her skills and energy. An avid equestrian, Elisabeth also works to support a thriving equine community for all of the benefits it provides to young and old alike.

"I believe very strongly that, in our complicated and changeable world, we have a duty to impart the wisdom and experience we have gained to the future leaders among us and to inspire them as much we can," Elisabeth says. "This imperative is also what makes working late together on a difficult project rewarding and, to be honest, fun."

McMillan salutes all of the nine finalists of the WBN Businesswoman of the Year Award. They are:

- Heidi Hauver-Pythian
- Shannon Lambert-Veritaaq
- Frances Mannarino- Bank of Montreal
- Marilyn Henschel- Henschel Business Services
- Bronwyn Mondoux-Cinamon Toast
- Rebecca Page- Concierge Home Services
- Cheryl Cooper-Vitalife Integrative Medicine
- Kimothy Walker- CTV
- Elisabeth Preston – McMillan LLP

### **About WBN**

The WBN is Ottawa's leading network of women in business. Founded in 1981, the WBN provides a forum for women to exchange ideas and grow their involvement in the local business community. The organization launched its Businesswoman of the Year Awards in 1983, and has since continued to recognize outstanding businesswomen with

- proven business acumen
- outstanding leadership qualities
- notable achievements in her particular area of expertise
- community engagement