

TERESA DUFORT



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Teresa Dufort is widely regarded as a top litigation and dispute resolution lawyer. Her practice focuses on product liability defence and products-related regulatory issues in the automotive, industrial manufacturing and consumer products sectors.

Acting as lead Canadian counsel to numerous Canadian, American, European and Asian manufacturers and distributors, Teresa has an exceptional record of success in defending individual and commercial product liability lawsuits, including class actions. She has acted for clients in disputes involving motor vehicles, fire and security products, medical devices, consumer products, recreational products, construction and industrial machinery, building materials and swimming pools. Teresa has significant experience in directing "same product" litigation across Canada, including the defence of standards development and certification bodies in pattern litigation.

In addition to providing regulatory advice in relation to the *Motor Vehicle Safety Act*, the *Canada Consumer Product Safety Act*, and the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act*, Teresa routinely handles product recalls, and works extensively on global recall teams with US and European counsel. She is a frequent advisor and advocate on behalf of consumer and commercial product manufacturers, advancing their interests with Health Canada, Transport Canada and Environment Canada (vehicle emissions), as well as Ontario's Technical Standards & Safety Authority and Electrical Safety Authority.

Teresa was McMillan LLP's CEO and Managing Partner from 2016 to 2021.

Email: teresa.dufort@mcmillan.ca

Expertise: Automotive, Class Actions, Litigation & Dispute Resolution, Manufacturing, Product Liability & Regulation

Location: Toronto

Phone: 416.865.7145

Position/Title: Partner, Class Actions | Product Liability & Regulation

Directorships & Affiliations:

- Canadian Bar Association
- Canadian Defence Lawyers Association
- Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel
- Defense Research Institute
- International Consumer Product Health and Safety Organization

Publications:

- "[The Canada Consumer Product Safety Act is now in force: do your clients understand their reporting obligations?](#)," Newsletter of the International Bar Association Legal Practice Division, Vol. 2, No. (September 2011)
- "Canada's Regulatory Regime for Consumer Product Safety Gets New Teeth," ABA Newsletter of the Section of Antitrust law's Consumer Protection Committee, Volume 16, No. 1, Spring 2011 (April 2011)
- "Defending Your Product in Canada," (2nd ed.) Published by McMillan LLP (2006)

Education & Admissions:

Degree: Called to the Ontario bar

Year: 1984

Degree: LLB

University: Osgoode Hall Law School

Year: 1982

Degree: BA (Honours)

University: Trent University

Year: 1977

Rankings & Recognition:

- Listed in Who's Who Legal: Global 2022 as a leader in Product Liability Defence
- Listed in Who's Who Legal: Canada 2022 as a leader in Product Liability Defence
- Recognized by Chambers Canada (2023) as a leading lawyer in the area of Litigation: Product Liability
- Recognized by *Best Lawyers in Canada* (2023) as a leading lawyer in the areas of Class Action Litigation and Product Liability Law
- Listed in the 2022 Who's Who Legal: Product Liability Defence Report
- Recognized in the 2022 *Benchmark Litigation: Canada Guide* as a Litigation Star
- Recognized in the 2022 Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory as a Consistently Recommended Lawyer in the area of Litigation: Product Liability
- Recognized by Chambers Canada (2022) as a leading lawyer in the area of Litigation: Product Liability
- Recognized by Best Lawyers in Canada (2022) as a leading lawyer in the areas of Class Action Litigation and Product Liability Law
- Listed in Who's Who Legal: Global 2021 as a leader in Product Liability Defence
- Listed in Who's Who Legal: Canada 2021 as a leader in Product Liability Defence
- Recognized in the 2021 Lexpert Special Edition on Canada's Leading Litigation Lawyers as a Leading Litigation Lawyer
- Recognized in the 2021 Benchmark Litigation: Canada Guide as Top 50 Women in Litigation
- Recognized in the 2021 Benchmark Litigation: Canada Guide as a Litigation Star
- Recognized in the 2021 Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory as a Consistently Recommended Lawyer in the area of Litigation: Product Liability
- Recognized by the Best Lawyers in Canada (2021) as a leading lawyer in the areas of Class Action

Litigation and Product Liability

- Recognized in the 2020 Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory as a Consistently Recommended lawyer in the area of Litigation: Product Liability
- Recognized in the 2020 Benchmark Litigation: Canada Guide as a Litigation Star
- Listed in Who's Who Legal: Canada 2020 as a leader in Product Liability Defence
- Teresa is listed among the top lawyers in her field in numerous publications and rankings including Best Lawyers in Canada, Chambers Canada, the Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory, the Lexpert Guide to the Leading US/Canada Cross-Border Lawyers in Canada, Lexpert/ROB Litigation - Special Edition Guide, Guide to the World's Leading Product Liability Lawyers, Who's Who Legal Canada, the International Who's Who of International Product Liability Defence Lawyers and Guide to the Leading Women in Business Law.

Speaking Engagements:

- Where and When in the World do We Report This? - ICPHSO

- February 2015

- Cross Border Automotive Class Actions and Settlements DRI Product Liability Conference

- April 10, 2014

- Conducting the Cross-Border Recall – Practical Considerations Canadian Institute

- June 18, 2013

- Global Product Safety: Trends & Updates - Canada Global Product Safety Webinar

- December 4, 2012

- Canada's Consumer Product Safety Act: Where Are We Now? McMillan Corporate Counsel CPD Series

- November 21, 2012

- CCPSA – Trigger for Reporting – The "TWO DAY" Report ICPHSO

- February 2012

Industries: Automotive, Manufacturing



Practices: Class Actions, Product Liability & Regulation, Litigation & Dispute Resolution