



Erin Finlay

Erin practises in the areas of entertainment law, copyright, privacy, broadcast regulatory and cultural policy. She provides a wide range of legal services and strategic direction to producers, artists, musicians, authors, publishers, trade associations, copyright collectives and cultural businesses in the development, production, exploitation and protection of film, television, publishing, music and digital media projects.


Erin has led the negotiation, drafting, and enforcement of multi-party collective licences, directed complex copyright tariff and CRTC broadcast regulatory and policy proceedings, and has appeared numerous times before the Copyright Board of Canada, the CRTC, the Federal Court of Appeal, the Supreme Court of Canada and Standing Committees of the Federal Government on Canadian Heritage and Industry and Technology, as well as the Senate of Canada. Her expertise spans a range of legal, policy and government relations experience in the music, film and television production and publishing industries.

Before joining the firm, Erin was the Chief Legal Officer at the Canadian Media Producers Association (CMPA), where she provided legal advice and strategic direction to the organization and its producer member companies on a variety of matters, including CRTC regulatory proceedings, business affairs, television financing, tax credits, broadcast licences, terms of trade, Canada Media Fund policies and guidelines, intellectual property, and the role of copyright and licensing in our ever-changing media landscape. Prior to her work at the CMPA, she was General Counsel and Director of Government Relations at Access Copyright and an associate practising in the entertainment law group at Cassels Brock & Blackwell LLP. With more than 20 years experience as both in-house counsel and in private practice, she brings a practical perspective to resolving complex issues and advocating for her clients in Canada's creative industries.

Erin has deep roots in and passion for the creative industries as a singer and musician and she recently performed on the Grammy- and Juno-nominated Toronto Symphony Orchestra's recording of Handel's Messiah.

Professional Activities

- Course Director, Copyright Master Class, Intellectual Property Institute of Canada (IPIC) McGill, 2018-2019
- Board Director, Canadian Retransmission Collective, Producers Audiovisual Collective and ISAN-Canada
- Lecturer, Osgoode Certificate in Entertainment Law
- Speaker and guest lecturer at various legal and industry conferences and educational institutions, including the Law Society of Ontario, Ontario Bar Association, Canadian Bar Association, Digital Media at the Crossroads, Banff International Media Festival, International Institute of Communications, Association Littéraire et Artistique Internationale (ALAI), Intellectual Property Institute of Canada (IPIC), Toronto Intellectual Property Group, Digital Book World, Federated Press, University of Toronto, Osgoode Hall Law School, Humber College and George Brown College School of Continuing Studies
- Member, CMPA, WIFT-T, Academy of Canadian Cinema & Television

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Education

- Osgoode Hall Law School, LL.M., specialization in intellectual property law - 2012
- Called to the Ontario Bar - 2003
- Queen's University, J.D. - 2002
- Wilfrid Laurier University, B.A. (Hons) - 1996

Community Involvement

- Chair of the Board, Alumni chorister, Toronto Mendelssohn Choir
- Board Director, Work in Culture