DAVIES



Sandra A. Forbes

Partner

Office

Toronto

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416.863.5574

Email

sforbes@dwpv.com

Expertise

Litigation
Competition Litigation
Investigations and White Collar Defence

Bar Admissions

Ontario, 1992
British Columbia, 2023

"Sandra is one of the top trial lawyers in Canada. She has superb judgment. She is incredibly experienced."

– Market Commentator, *Chambers Canada*

A leading litigator specializing in corporate, class action, competition and securities litigation, Sandra is known for her incisive counsel and her courtroom skills. She achieves successful results on diverse issues, including class actions alleging anti-competitive conduct or collusion, and competition matters such as cartel, merger and abuse of dominance cases, and appears before all levels of court and various administrative tribunals in Canada, including the Supreme Court of Canada and the Competition Tribunal. She is highly experienced in defending litigation for directors and audit committees. Clients describe her as “one of the best competition litigators in Canada”, who “combines intelligence, strategic thinking and an encyclopaedic knowledge of the law with outstanding advocacy skills in court.” (*Chambers*)

Sandra is president of the American College of Trial Lawyers, fellow of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers and former president of the Advocates’ Society. She is also a member of our firm’s Management Committee.

Representative Work

McKesson Corporation and McKesson Canada Corporation

Acting for **McKesson Corporation** and **McKesson Canada Corporation** in its defence of a class action brought by the Province of British Columbia on behalf of all Canadian provincial governments, as well as the Federal government, against manufacturers and distributors of opioids seeking to recover health care costs related to the opioid crisis. Also acting for McKesson in defence of additional opioid-related proposed class actions across Canada.

Altria Group, Inc.

Defending **Altria Group, Inc.** in nationwide litigation relating to vaping products, including an action brought by the British Columbia government on behalf of Canadian governments.

Choice Hotels International, Inc.

Defending **Choice Hotels International** in proposed class actions filed in British Columbia and Québec that allege major hotel chains used AI-powered software to coordinate hotel room rates, amounting to algorithmic price-fixing.

Ipex Inc.

Defending **Ipex Inc.** and its affiliates in a proposed multijurisdictional consumer class action alleging a North America-wide price-fixing conspiracy in PVC pipes industry.

Canadian Real Estate Association

Acting for the **Canadian Real Estate Association (CREA)** in its defence of a class action in the Federal Court alleging that CREA’s rule regarding broker commissions is anti-competitive.

Mohawk Industries Inc.

Acting for **Mohawk Industries Inc.** in its defence of a class action in Ontario alleging

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a conspiracy among suppliers of condominium refurbishment services.

StarKist Company and Dongwon Industries Company Limited

Successfully represented **StarKist Company and Dongwon Industries Company Limited** in their defence of a class action commenced in Ontario alleging a conspiracy amongst canned tuna producers. Davies successfully defeated certification in the Ontario Superior Court and that decision was upheld by the Ontario Court of Appeal and leave to appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada was denied. This decision won an Impact Case Award at Benchmark Litigation Canada Awards 2025.

National Beef Packing Company

Successfully settled class actions commenced in Québec and British Columbia on behalf of **National Beef Packing Company** alleging a supply and price-fixing conspiracy in respect of cattle and beef.

SK hynix Inc. and SK hynix America Inc.

Successfully represented **SK hynix Inc. and SK hynix America Inc.** in their defence of multiple class actions across Canada alleging anticompetitive conduct in respect of the sale of dynamic random-access memory (DRAM) chips, including with respect to cross-border issues arising out of parallel U.S. class actions. Davies successfully defeated certification in the Québec Superior Court, the Quebec Court of Appeal, the Federal Court of Canada and the Federal Court of Appeal, a result that is rarely seen in competition class actions.

Occidental Chemical Corporation and Oxy Canada Sales Inc.

Acting for **Occidental Chemical Corporation** and **Oxy Canada Sales Inc.** in antitrust class actions commenced in the Federal Court of Canada and in Québec, alleging that Occidental, together with a number of other chemical manufacturers, engaged in a price-fixing conspiracy in connection with the global sale of caustic soda, also known as sodium hydroxide (NaOH) or lye.

Lerøy Seafood Group

Acted for **Lerøy Seafood Group**, a seafood production and distribution company based in Bergen, Norway, in its defence of a class action in the Federal Court, alleging a conspiracy amongst the producers of the farmed salmon.

Denso Corporation

Acted for **Denso Corporation** (and related entities) in its defence of dozens of class actions commenced across Canada alleging anti-competitive conduct in respect of the sale of various automotive parts, including contested certification proceedings and with respect to cross-border issues arising out of parallel U.S. class actions.

LG Chem America, Inc.

Acted for **LG Chem America, Inc.** in its defence of multiple class actions commenced across Canada alleging anti-competitive behaviour in the market for rechargeable lithium-ion batteries, including contested certification proceedings before the Ontario Superior Court of Justice and Court of Appeal.

Canadian Real Estate Association

Acted for the **Canadian Real Estate Association**, an intervener in proceedings brought by the Commissioner of Competition against the Toronto Real Estate Board, including a hearing and rehearing before the Competition Tribunal in 2012 and 2015,

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two appeals decided by the Federal Court of Appeal and two applications for leave to appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada. Issues include privacy rights of consumers, copyright protection in property information databases and whether certain rules on the display of certain property information on portions of an internet website amounted to abuse of dominance.

Hearing Panel of the Patented Medicine Prices Review Board

Acted as counsel to the **Hearing Panel of the Patented Medicine Prices Review Board** in two proceedings which determined whether Soliris and Procysbi, rare disease medicines, are excessively priced.

General Motors Financial

Successfully settled a class action in favour of **General Motors Financial**, which claimed damages resulting from an alleged privacy breach concerning customer information.

LG Electronics

Acted for **LG Electronics** and its Canadian and U.S. subsidiaries in their defence of multiple class actions commenced across Canada alleging a price-fixing conspiracy in connection with the sale of optical disk drives and products containing them, including a certification motion in the British Columbia Supreme Court and subsequent appeal in the British Columbia Court of Appeal and Supreme Court of Canada.

Mars, Incorporated

Acted for **Mars Canada** in its defence of criminal proceedings under the *Competition Act* alleging charges of price-fixing of chocolate confectionery products in Canada and in follow on class actions commenced across Canada.

Association of Chartered Certified Accountants

Acted as co-counsel for the **Association of Chartered Certified Accountants** in respect of trademark claims and antitrust defences against certain provincial Chartered Accountant and Chartered Professional Accountant institutes in Federal Court.

Beaverbrook (U.K.) Foundation

Acted for the **Beaverbrook (U.K.) Foundation** in closely watched trial and appellate arbitration proceedings that were held in public in New Brunswick concerning the ownership of numerous valuable works of art acquired by the Beaverbrook (U.K.) Foundation between 1954 and 1965 that are currently housed at the Beaverbrook Art Gallery in Fredericton. This case was the subject of extensive media coverage throughout Canada, including a lengthy book written by a reporter from the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

Agricore United

Acted for **Agricore United** in a proceeding brought by the Commissioner of Competition before the Competition Tribunal arising out of the acquisition by United Grain Growers of Agricore Cooperative.

Kamaya Electric Co. Ltd. and Kamaya, Inc.

Acted for **Kamaya Electric Co. Ltd.** and **Kamaya, Inc.** in their defence of a class action alleging price-fixing in respect of linear resistors sold directly and indirectly into the Canadian market.

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The Canadian Chamber of Commerce

Acted for **the Canadian Chamber of Commerce**, an intervener, in appeals decided by the Supreme Court of Canada on September 20, 2019, arising from class action proceedings alleging a global, criminal price-fixing cartel in respect of optical disc drives, which clarified the standard for class certification in competition class actions, and settled long-standing issues concerning the applicability of limitation periods to the cause of action under s. 36 of the *Competition Act* and whether "umbrella purchasers" have a cause of action.

Japan Airlines

Acted for **Japan Airlines International Co., Ltd.** in its defence of class actions across Canada alleging price fixing in respect of, among other things, fees for passenger airfares.

Unisource Canada, Inc.

Acted for **Unisource Canada, Inc.** in its defence of multiple class actions across Canada alleging a price-fixing conspiracy in respect of carbonless paper.

Tenneco Inc., Tenneco Packaging and Packaging Corporation of America

Acted for **Tenneco Inc.**, **Tenneco Packaging Co.** and **Packaging Corporation of America** in their defence of a class action alleging a price fixing conspiracy and *Competition Act* violations in respect of linerboard.

E.I. Dupont De Nemours/DAK Americas

Acted for **E.I. Dupont De Nemours** and **DAK Americas** in their defence of multiple class actions across Canada alleging price fixing in the polyester staple industry.

Former members of the Audit Committee of Philip Services

Acted for former members of the **Audit Committee of Philip Services** in a class action claim for over $1 billion in damages.

Keurig Canada Inc.

Acted for **Keurig Canada Inc.** in its defence of a class action alleging misrepresentations concerning advertisements of the recyclability of single-serve, single-use plastic beverage capsules known as K-Cup pods.

National Gypsum

Acted for **National Gypsum** in its defence of a class action alleging anti-competitive conduct by the producers of drywall.

Magna International Inc.

Acted for **Magna International** in its defence of a class action alleging defective door latches.

Recognitions

Canadian Law Awards
Litigator of the Year
2025

Chambers Global
Competition/Antitrust: Litigators

Chambers Canada
Competition/Antitrust: Litigators

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Band 1

Chambers Canada
Litigation: General Commercial: Ontario

Chambers Canada
Dispute Resolution: Class Action (Defence)
Band 1

GCR 100 Canada
Competition and Foreign Investment Review

Legal 500 Canada
Dispute Resolution: Ontario
Hall of Fame

Legal 500 Canada
Competition and Antitrust
Leading Individual

Benchmark Canada
Top 100 Women in Litigation
2017-2026

Benchmark Canada
Commercial; Competition/Antitrust
Litigation Star

Benchmark Canada Awards
Impact Case of the Year
2025

Lexpert 500 Cross Border
Class Actions; Competition Law; Litigation: Corporate Commercial

Lexpert Special Edition
Health Sciences; Litigation; Technology

Lexpert (CLLD)
Class Actions; Competition Law; Litigation: Corporate Commercial
Most Frequently Recommended

Lexpert (CLLD)
Litigation: Directors' & Officers' Liability; Litigation: Regulatory & Public Law; Litigation: Securities

Best Lawyers Canada
Class Action Litigation; Competition/Antitrust Law; Corporate and Commercial Litigation; Director and Officer Liability Practice

Expert Guides
Competition and Antitrust
Women in Business Law

External Engagements

Speaking Engagement

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American Bar Association, International Law Section 2024 Fall Conference, "Tradition, Innovation, and Influence in Class Action and Mass Tort Litigation: The English, Canadian, and American Experiences"; London, UK
Nov 15, 2024

Speaking Engagement
Toronto Lawyers Association, "Professional Civility: Avoiding Costs, Arguments, and Malpractice Claims"; Online
Oct 10, 2024

Speaking Engagement
Canadian Bar Association, Competition Law Spring Conference, "Class Actions & Private Enforcement of the Act"; Toronto, ON
May 7, 2019

Speaking Engagement
Chair, The Advocates' Society and the American College of Trial Lawyers, Spring Symposium 2019; Toronto, ON
Apr 24, 2019

Speaking Engagement
Co-chair, Law Society of Ontario, "12 Minute Civil Litigator"; Toronto, ON; Annual
Sep 18, 2018

Speaking Engagement
The Advocates' Society, The Resilient Litigator, "Dealing with Difficult People – Practical Tips and Strategies"; Toronto, ON
Jul 19, 2018

Speaking Engagement
Chair, The American College of Trial Lawyers and The Advocates' Society, "Spring Symposium 2018 – The Advocate Matters"; Toronto, ON
Apr 25, 2018

Speaking Engagement
Co-chair, The Law Society of Upper Canada, "12 Minute Civil Litigator"; Toronto, ON; Annual
Sep 14, 2017

Speaking Engagement
The Advocates' Society, Competition Law For Advocates, "Advocacy in Civil Competition Matters"; Toronto, ON
Apr 25, 2017

Speaking Engagement
Moderator, UJA Federation/CIJA, Combating Hate Speech and Antisemitism – Legal Perspectives, "Panel Discussion on Law Society Statement of Principles"; Toronto, ON
Feb 13, 2017

Speaking Engagement
The Advocates' Society, Interviewing Skills: Gathering The Best Evidence For Your Case, "Evidentiary, Ethical and Other Legal Considerations"; Toronto, ON
Nov 4, 2016

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Speaking Engagement
Co-chair, The Law Society of Upper Canada, "The Twelve-Minute Civil Litigator"; Toronto, ON; Annual
Sep 15, 2016

Speaking Engagement
Moderator, Osgoode Hall Law School, 2016 Annual Winkler/IAM/Osgoode Professional Development Conference on Mediation, "The Unsettleable Case – Counsel's Perspective"; Toronto, ON
May 12, 2016

Speaking Engagement
Moderator, Osgoode Hall Law School, Osgoode Professional Development's 13th National Symposium on Class Actions, "Carts Before Horses? The Latest on Pre-Certification Motions"; Toronto, ON
Apr 21, 2016

Speaking Engagement
The Advocates' Society, Competition Law for Advocates Program, "Advocacy in Civil Competition Matters"; Toronto, ON
Mar 7, 2016

Speaking Engagement
Panelist and Demo, The Advocates' Society, Civil Litigation Skills Certificate Program: Examining and Cross-examining Experts, "Practical Tips for Conducting an Effective Cross-Examination of an Expert"; Toronto, ON
Feb 9, 2016

Speaking Engagement
Co-chair and moderator, The Advocates' Society, "Putting Theory into Practice: Exercising Professionalism and Civility"; Toronto, ON
Dec 10, 2015

Speaking Engagement
Canadian Bar Association, Competition Section Fall Conference, "Disclosure and Privilege in the Practice of Competition Law in Canada"; Ottawa, ON
Oct 1, 2015

Speaking Engagement
Co-chair, The Law Society of Upper Canada, "The Twelve-Minute Civil Litigator"; Toronto, ON; Annual
Sep 18, 2015

Insights

Sandra Forbes Installed as ACTL President
Oct 29, 2026

Davies Lawyers Recognized by *Best Lawyers*
Sep 3, 2026

3 Davies Lawyers in *Benchmark*'s Top 100 Women in Litigation
Aug 13, 2026

Lexpert Recognizes Davies' Health Sciences Expertise
Jul 8, 2026

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Lexpert Recognizes Davies' Technology Expertise
Jun 5, 2026

Lexpert Affirms Davies' Position as a Leading Firm
Mar 17, 2026

Matthew Milne-Smith Named Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers
Mar 3, 2026

Business Implications of Recent Landmark Decisions
Jan 15, 2026

Business Implications of Recent Landmark Decisions
Jan 15, 2026

Lexpert 500 Guide Recognizes Davies
Jan 14, 2026

Lexpert Recognizes Davies' Excellence in Litigation
Nov 20, 2025

3 Davies Lawyers in *Benchmark*'s Top 100 Women in Litigation
Aug 14, 2025

Lexpert Special Edition Recognizes Davies' Expertise in Technology
Jun 4, 2025

Davies Honoured at the 2025 Benchmark Litigation Awards
May 9, 2025

Sandra Forbes Named Litigator of the Year
May 8, 2025

Benchmark Litigation Recognizes Davies
May 1, 2025

Davies Recognized in *Lexpert Special Edition: Litigation*
Nov 29, 2021

Certification Dismissed in DRAM Class Action
Nov 10, 2021

Cara Cameron and Sandra Forbes Recognized Among Top 50 Women in Canada by *Benchmark Litigation*
Aug 5, 2021

Eight Davies Lawyers Recognized in *Who's Who Legal: Competition 2021*
Aug 3, 2021

Davies Litigators Achieve Top Ranking in*Benchmark Canada* 2021
Apr 28, 2021

Davies Achieves Highest Percentage of Band 1 Lawyer Rankings in*Chambers Global 2021*
Feb 18, 2021

Education

Osgoode Hall Law School, LLB, 1990
Clerk, The Honourable Mr. Justice Peter Cory, Supreme Court of Canada

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Bar Admissions

Ontario, 1992
British Columbia, 2023

Teaching Engagements

Sandra is a frequent participant in education programs for lawyers on a variety of advocacy issues.

Board Memberships

Ontario Reports, Editorial Board
Toronto Summer Music Festival, director

Professional Affiliations

American College of Trial Lawyers, president
International Academy of Trial Lawyers, fellow
The Advocates' Society, member and past president