



hamilton duncan

Greg Palm

Litigator & Mediator, Partner

Contact

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Practice Areas

Business

- ▶ Commercial & Business Litigation
- ▶ Shareholder & Partnership Disputes
- ▶ Employment Law and Human Rights
- ▶ Real Estate Litigation
- ▶ Legal Fee Disputes (Business)
- ▶ Debt Collection & Foreclosure
- ▶ Bankruptcy and Insolvency Services
- ▶ Construction Litigation & Builders Liens

Personal

- ▶ Real Estate Litigation
- ▶ Employment and Human Rights Law
- ▶ Legal Fee Disputes (Personal)
- ▶ Bankruptcy and Insolvency Services

Education

- ▶ LL.B., University of British Columbia (2000)
- ▶ B.B.A., Simon Fraser University (1996)

Bar Locations

- ▶ British Columbia (2001)

Greg Palm is Hamilton Duncan's managing partner and the head of its litigation practice. His practice consists of commercial litigation and business disputes, real estate litigation, collection and foreclosure matters and employment and human rights cases. Greg also devotes a significant portion of his practice to disputes between lawyers and their clients over legal fees and disputes about the costs of litigation. In the course of those matters, Greg has acted for a wide range of clients and has done so at every level of court in B.C. as well as before various administrative tribunals.

In his commercial litigation practice, Greg acts as counsel on matters of all kinds and types: contract disputes, wrongful dismissal and other employment law matters (including workplace investigations), disputes between business owners, leasing and other real estate disputes, and others. His clients on these matters range from small local businesses to large national and international ones.

Greg's legal fee disputes practice is a niche one in which few lawyers have his background or experience. Throughout his career as a lawyer, he has regularly assisted both large and small law firms with establishing their entitlement to fees and with protecting and recovering on that entitlement as well as assisting them with matters where they are required by law to have their fees approved by the Court (such as class proceedings and cases involving infants). He has also represented both corporate and individual clients of other lawyers with a view towards ensuring that the legal fees they have been charged are fair and reasonable in all the circumstances. Lawyers and litigants alike also frequently contact Greg for assistance in disputes over costs of litigation that are payable from one party to the other.

In his collections and foreclosure practice, Greg is frequently called on by banks and other financial institutions, collection agencies, casinos and private lenders to recover on mortgages, credit card debts and many other kinds of loans, and by small and large businesses, law firms and other professionals to collect on invoices for goods sold or services provided. He maintains a quality network of investigators, bailiffs, realtors and other professionals, and is aided by a dedicated team of legal assistants experienced in collections work, to assist in maximizing recovery in a cost-effective manner.

The breadth of Greg's litigation experience coupled with his diplomacy skills and dedication to helping parties achieve their own solutions rather than having one imposed on them by a court makes him particularly well suited to serving as a mediator. For more information about his mediation practice, please visit our Civil & Estate Mediations page.

Greg spent the first nine years of his litigation career at two reputable downtown Vancouver firms before founding his own boutique litigation firm in South Surrey in 2010. In 2013 he moved that practice to Hamilton Duncan and became a partner of the firm shortly thereafter. In addition to his law practice, Greg is also a past president of the Surrey Bar Association, a former member of the Provincial Council of the Canadian Bar Association – B.C. Branch, a former director of the Continuing Legal Education Society of B.C. and recognized author and speaker on matters pertaining to legal fee disputes and costs of litigation.

Work Highlights

- ▶ Regularly represents some of the world's largest casinos with respect to the recovery of loans ranging from \$50,000 to more than \$5,000,000
- ▶ Counsel for private mortgage lenders in various foreclosure matters, both residential and commercial
- ▶ Counsel to several Vancouver-area law firms in disputes about fees and in connection with the collection of their accounts generally
- ▶ Recently acted as counsel in connection with a complex, multi-party claim relating to a fraudulent real estate transaction
- ▶ Counsel on a shareholder dispute concerning family businesses valued in the range of \$50 million
- ▶ Trial counsel for the alleged purchaser in connection with a disputed claim about the existence and terms of a contract for the purchase and sale of a commercial property
- ▶ Obtained (following a lengthy trial) the dismissal of two of three foreclosure proceedings on the basis that the proceedings were time-barred

Publications

- ▶ Contributing Author, "Remuneration" chapter, Canadian Legal Practice, LexisNexis Canada Inc.
- ▶ Contributing Author & Editorial Board Member, Practice Before the Registrar, Continuing Legal Education Society of British Columbia
- ▶ Author, "Remuneration", Annual Review of Law & Practice, Continuing Legal Education Society of British Columbia (2007-present)
- ▶ Author, "Costs", Annual Review of Law & Practice, Continuing Legal Education Society of British Columbia (2007-2013)
- ▶ Author, "Basic Billing Advice for BC Lawyers", 134 The Verdict 98, Trial Lawyers Association of British Columbia (2012)
- ▶ Co-Author, "Ordinary Costs Primer: Entitlement and Manner of Assessment", Costs – 2020, Continuing Legal Education Society of British

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Columbia (2020)

- ▶ Author, “Retainer Agreements: Getting what you intend and limiting disputes”, Costs – 2012, Continuing Legal Education Society of British Columbia (2012)
- ▶ Author, “Is My Fee Agreement Worth the Paper it’s Printed On? – The Conundrum Created by section 71(5) of the Legal Profession Act”, Costs – 2008, Continuing Legal Education Society of British Columbia (2008)
- ▶ Author, “Human Rights in the Workplace”, Employment Law from A to Z in British Columbia, Lorman Education Services (2007)
- ▶ Co-Author, “Who can be Sued in an Employment Action? The Potential Liability of Persons or Entities Other than the Nominal Employer for Wrongful Dismissal and Related Claims” Employment Law from A to Z in British Columbia, Lorman Education Services (2005)
- ▶ Co-Author, “Franchise Law: Review of Labour Board Decisions Involving Franchised Systems”, Franchise Law, Continuing Legal Education Society of British Columbia (2000)

Speaking Engagements

- ▶ Course Chair & Presenter, Costs & Legal Fees – 2023/24, Continuing Legal Education Society of BC, December 2023 & January 2024
- ▶ Course Chair & Presenter, Costs – 2020, Continuing Legal Education Society of BC, February 2020
- ▶ Presenter, Litigation Misconduct 2017, Continuing Legal Education Society of BC, November 2017
- ▶ Course Chair & Presenter, Costs – 2015, Continuing Legal Education Society of BC, October 2015
- ▶ Course Chair & Speaker, Costs – 2012, Continuing Legal Education Society of BC, October 2015
- ▶ Speaker, Costs – 2008, Continuing Legal Education Society of BC, October 2015

Associations

- ▶ Provincial Council Representative, Canadian Bar Association ? BC Branch (2016-2022)
- ▶ Director, Continuing Legal Education Society of British Columbia (2019-2022)
- ▶ Past President, Vice-President and Treasurer, Surrey Bar Association
- ▶ Canadian Bar Association, Member
- ▶ New Westminster Bar Association, Member

- ▶ Vancouver Bar Association, Member
- ▶ Legal Fee Working Group, Law Society of British Columbia (2006-2007)

Community

- ▶ Guest Judge, Professional Legal Training Course, Law Society of British Columbia
- ▶ Moot Court Judge, Peter A. Allard School of Law, University of British Columbia
- ▶ Clinic Supervising Lawyer, UBC Law Students' Legal Advice Program (2001-2012)
- ▶ Chair, Education Committee, St. Bernadette School, Surrey, B.C. (2009-2017)
- ▶ Member, Education Committee, Holy Cross Regional High School (2019-present)
- ▶ Coach, Coastal FC Soccer (2014-2016)
- ▶ Assistant Coach, Surrey Minor Ball Hockey (2014-2015)