

## Erin Best (she/her)

### Partner & Trademark Agent

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Suite 1100, Cabot Place  
100 New Gower St.  
St. John's, N.L.  
A1C 6K3

Phone: +1.709.570.8833

Fax: +1.709.722.4565

[ebest@stewartmckelvey.com](mailto:ebest@stewartmckelvey.com)

[LinkedIn Profile](#)

Language(s) spoken: English

Bar Admission(s): Newfoundland and Labrador,  
2009

Legal Assistant(s): [Susan Greening](#)

Erin obtains excellent and timely results for her clients. In addition to leading complex commercial litigation files (particularly insurance, construction, and real estate), her varied practice includes providing guidance in matters relating to entertainment, media, privacy, and the acquisition and protection of intellectual property (trademarks, copyright, and trade secrets). She is the past chair of Stewart McKelvey's NL Litigation Group and the Canadian Bar Association's National Intellectual Property Section.

Erin has assisted her clients by:

- Acting as lead counsel for the City of Corner Brook on a successful appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada in *Corner Brook (City) v. Bailey* where a unanimous judgment was received on a contractual interpretation matter.
- Appearing before all levels of court in Newfoundland and Labrador, the Federal Court, and the Supreme Court of Canada.
- Developing and implementing high level litigation, privacy and corporate structuring strategies.
- Acting as lead counsel for Premier Kathy Dunderdale at the Muskrat Falls Public Inquiry. Hearings proceeded for a full year and involved over a million documents.
- Acting as lead counsel for the applicant in a successful class action with over a million class members, resulting in an award of \$20 million for class members.
- Acting as counsel for the Intervenor, APTN, in a significant media law appeal decision wherein an injunction was vacated helping to relieve journalist Justin Brake of the consequences of a contempt order.

## Practice Areas

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Cybersecurity  
Education  
Entertainment  
Insurance  
Intellectual Property  
Litigation & Alternative Dispute Resolution  
Media, Advertising & Marketing  
Municipal  
Privacy

## Education & Career

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### Education

McGill University, BA, 2001  
University of New Brunswick, LLB/MBA, 2008

### Activities

Board Member, Law Foundation of Newfoundland & Labrador Board of Governors, 2022 – present  
Board Member, The Rooms Corporation, 2022 – present  
Chair of Diversity & Inclusion Committee, The Rooms Corporation, 2022 – present  
Past-chair, Canadian Bar Association National Intellectual Property Section, 2020 – present  
Vice chair, Canadian Bar Association National Intellectual Property Section, 2018 – 2019  
Chair, Stewart McKelvey Newfoundland and Labrador litigation practice group, 2017 – 2020  
Founder and president, The Kitchen Party Newfoundland and Labrador Music Industry Think Tank, 2016 – present  
Treasurer, Canadian Bar Association National Intellectual Property Section, 2016 – 2017  
Co-chair, Stewart McKelvey Newfoundland and Labrador litigation practice group, 2016  
Member, pro bono committee, Business & the Arts Newfoundland, 2014 – present  
Co-chair, local operations committee, East Coast Music Association, 2014/2015  
Chair, local partnerships committee, East Coast Music Association, 2014/2015  
Vice-chair, East Coast Music Association, 2012 – 2015  
Member, public awareness committee & insurance committee, Intellectual Property Institute of Canada (IPIC), 2012 – present  
Director, St. John's International Women's Film Festival, 2011 – 2013  
Co-chair, copyright working group preparing the CBA submission on Bill C-32, Copyright Modernization Act, Canadian Bar Association – National, 2010 – 2012  
Secretary-treasurer, Canadian Federation of Musicians – local 820, 2010 – 2011  
Chair, Intellectual Property section, Canadian Bar Association – Newfoundland and Labrador chapter, 2009 – 2019

## Accolades

[Lexpert® Rising Star: Leading Lawyer Under 40, 2017](#)

Lexpert rating: Data Protection & Privacy, 2022-2023

Lexpert rating: Litigation – Intellectual Property, 2022-2023

Lexpert rating: Litigation – Corporate Commercial, 2018 – 2023

Lexpert rating: Intellectual Property Law, 2018 – 2023

Lexpert rating: Computer & IT Law, 2020

Rhind Scholarship from the Insurance Institute of Canada

## Thought Leadership

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*Corner Brook (City) v. Bailey*: Canada's top court clarifies the law of releases

[July 23, 2021](#)

Client Update: Recent Supreme Court of Nova Scotia decision drives home the importance of credibility

[December 20, 2018](#)

Client Update: Court Confirms: Credibility is a Key Factor In Personal Injury Awards (Ryan V. Curlew, 2018 NL SC)

[April 10, 2018](#)

## Presentations

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"Dynamic Equity Splits: What, why and how", Invest NL

[September 19, 2017](#)

*IP Basics for Lawyers*, NL CBA IP Section

[July 06, 2016](#)

*Expropriation and other popular municipal law issues*, Municipalities NL Conference

[May 05, 2016](#)

*Intellectual Property and Royalties for Creators*, Business and the Arts NL

[February 29, 2016](#)

*Implications of Sharing the Economy*, Stewart McKelvey Insurance Day, Halifax

[October 30, 2015](#)

*Business organizations and IP issues in film*, Scene and Heard, SJWIFF

[March 07, 2015](#)

*Intro to Trade-marks*, 2014

*User Rights in the Educational Context*, IPIC annual conference, 2014

*Intro to IP*, Department of Business, Tourism, Culture and Rural Development, 2014

*Anti-spam Breakfast Seminar*, 2014

*Protecting Your Intellectual Property Assets*, Memorial University Faculty of Business, 2014

*Tendering and Procurement*, 2013

*Arson*, Newfoundland Insurance Industry, 2013

*Women in Technology*, NATI, 2012

*Artist Resale Right*, Royal Academy of Artists, 2012

*Punitive Damages*, Newfoundland Insurance Industry, 2012

*Valuing Your Intellectual Property Assets*, Genesis Centre and RDC, 2012

*Diminishing Value: An Emerging Head of Damages*, Newfoundland Insurance Industry, 2011