


Katherine Hensel

Partner and Indigenous Practice Department Co-Chair

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 Services provided through a professional corporation



Katherine is a citizen of the Secwepemc (Shuswap) Nation. Katherine has built a diverse practice providing advice and acting in disputes concerning the assertion of inherent jurisdiction and other Indigenous and treaty rights, the duty to consult, commercial matters, public inquiries (including as Assistant Commission Counsel to Ontario's Ipperwash Inquiry, and counsel to a number of parties at Canada's Missing and Murdered Women's Inquiry), coroners' inquests, employment law and workplace investigations, child welfare matters, and select criminal cases.

Katherine is the recipient of a number of awards for her innovative and passionate advocacy for human rights and the advancement of social justice, including the *Minaake Award for Human Rights and Advocacy* from the Native Women's Resource Centre and the *Arleen Goss Young Advocates Award* from the Advocates Society.

Katherine is regularly asked by law faculties, professional associations and regulatory bodies, First Nations and Tribal Councils, and others to speak and teach in her field of practice. She served as an adjunct professor at the University of Toronto's Faculty of Law from 2011 to 2019. Katherine was also a member of Ontario's Judicial Appointments Advisory Committee from 2017 to 2020.

Prior to joining Foglers, Katherine founded and served Indigenous clients through her own firm, Hensel Barristers, from 2011 to 2021. During that time, she was repeatedly acknowledged by *The Canadian Legal Expert® Directory* and *The Best Lawyers™ in Canada* in their rankings. In 2021, the *Globe and Mail* recognized Hensel Barristers as one of the top 19 law firms in Canada practicing in the field of Aboriginal and Indigenous law. In 2023, she was named one of Canada's Top 25 Most Influential Lawyers by *Canadian Lawyer*.

PRACTICE AREAS

Indigenous

Litigation and Dispute Resolution

Recent Insights

Education & Memberships

EDUCATION

Called to the Ontario Bar, 2003

University of Toronto, J.D., 2002

Awards & Recognition

Minaake Award for Human Rights and Advocacy

Arleen Goss Young Advocates Award

The Canadian Legal Expert® Directory, 2025

[Aboriginal Law](#)

The Best Lawyers™ in Canada

[Aboriginal Law / Indigenous Practice](#)

Named one of the Top 25 Most Influential Lawyers of 2023, by Canadian Lawyer Magazine

Speaking Engagements & Publications

Compassionate Justice Speaker Series 2024-2025

[Bringing Our Children Home](#)

INDIGENOUS

Reframing Inherent Jurisdiction: A Critical Dialogue

Diversity & Inclusion

INDIGENOUS

Success before the SCC in a landmark constitutional case with respect to Indigenous peoples' inherent jurisdiction over their children.

Announcement

CORPORATE COMMERCIAL

2024 Canadian Legal LEXPERT Directory Rankings

Announcement, Recognition

INDIGENOUS

Katherine Hensel Named One of Canada's Top 25 Most Influential Lawyers of 2023

Announcement, Recognition

CORPORATE COMMERCIAL

41 Lawyers Profiled Across 24 Areas of Law in The Best Lawyers in Canada, 2024

Announcement, Recognition

Fogler, Rubinoff LLP Recognized in the 2023 Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory

Announcement, Recognition

INDIGENOUS

Foglers is acting for the intervener before the SCC in a landmark constitutional case with respect to Indigenous peoples' inherent jurisdiction over their children.

Announcement

INDIGENOUS

Interview: Panel Discusses Gender Bias and Their Legal Efforts to Advance Equality at IWD Event

Diversity & Inclusion, Interview

2022 Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory

Recognition

INDIGENOUS

Prominent First Nations Lawyer Joins Fogler, Rubinoff LLP

Announcement