

# Mary Wahbi

## Partner

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Mary's estates and trusts practice focuses on estate planning (including business succession, estate freezes, creation of trusts), and the preparation of wills, insurance directions and trusts, powers of attorney for property and powers of attorney for personal care, medical directives, and the administration of the estate of deceased persons.

Mary's corporate/commercial practice is focused on business acquisitions and dispositions, business relationships (including executive employment agreements, partnership agreements, and shareholders' agreements), business financing (secured transactions), corporate re-organizations (including tax related transactions) and general business and commercial agreements.

Her two areas of expertise allow her to provide her high net worth entrepreneurial client base with an integrated solution to their business and personal planning issues.

Mary is also active in the legal community. She is a past instructor in Estate Planning at the Bar Admission Course, Law Society of Ontario, and is former Chair of the Statutory Review Committee, Executive of the Ontario Bar Association. In her latter role, Mary was instrumental in achieving an amendment to the *Family Law Act* by the Ontario legislature which eliminated the windfall on death associated with jointly held property in favour of a surviving spouse seeking equalization of Net Family Property. Mary also acts as a Mentor in the Ontario Bar Association's Mentorship Program, providing guidance and mentoring new lawyers.

Mary volunteers as a supervising lawyer at Pro Bono Student Canada's Wills Clinic, which provides estate planning legal services to low income clients. The Clinic delivers such services through the efforts of law students from Osgoode Hall Law School and from the University of Toronto Law School, under the supervision of volunteer lawyers. Mary is instrumental in both the training of law students and in supervising students. Mary is also a volunteer lawyer at the Wellspring Pro Bono Wills/Powers of Attorney Clinic which provides estate planning legal services to cancer patients who have little income and assets. Mary is a frequent speaker with the Ontario Bar Association, speaks regularly to community groups, is former Treasurer of the 344th Brownie Pack, and is co-founder of Smart Choices, a women's information exchange and networking group.

Born in Israel in 1960, Mary relocated to Canada in 1967 with her family.

## Education & Memberships

### EDUCATION

**University of Windsor, 2000**  
[Alternative Dispute Resolution \(ADR\) Certificate](#)

**Osgoode Hall Law School, J.D., 1984**

### MEMBERSHIPS

**Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP)**

**Estate Planning Council of Toronto**

**Law Society of Ontario**

**Ontario Bar Association**

**Canadian Bar Association**

## Awards & Recognition

**The Canadian Lexpert® Directory**  
[Estate & Personal Tax Planning](#)

**The Best Lawyers™ in Canada**  
[Trusts and Estates Law](#)

## Professional Designations

**Trust and Estate Practitioner (TEP)**

**PRACTICE AREAS****Wills and Estates****Business Succession Planning****Estate Litigation****Recent Insights****CORPORATE COMMERCIAL****2024 Canadian Legal LEXPERT Directory Rankings**

Announcement, Recognition

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

Announcement, Recognition

**COMMERCIAL LEASING****Eight Partners Ranked as Leading Practitioners in Canadian Legal Lexpert® Directory, 2021**

Recognition

**WILLS AND ESTATES****Latest Update on Virtual Witnessing of Wills and Powers of Attorney: Extension in Ontario to September 22, 2020**

COVID-19 Resource

**WILLS AND ESTATES****Update on Virtual Witnessing of Wills and Powers of Attorney: Signing in Counterparts Now Temporarily Permitted in Ontario**

COVID-19 Resource

**WILLS AND ESTATES****Virtual Witnessing of Wills and Powers of Attorney Now Temporarily Permitted in Ontario**

COVID-19 Resource

**WILLS AND ESTATES****E-Wills: Legislative Change a Necessity in the COVID-19 Crisis**

COVID-19 Resource

**Professional & Community Involvement****Pro Bono Canada's Wills Clinic**  
Volunteer**Ontario Bar Association Mentorship Program****Wellspring Cancer Support Foundation**  
Member of the Planned Giving Advisory Committee**Wellspring Pro Bono Wills/Powers of Attorney Clinic**  
Volunteer