

**MICHAEL G. THOMAS**

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ASSISTANT

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Michael is the chair of Harper Grey's Critical Injury Group. His practice is focused on people that have suffered an injury that has had a significant effect on their life. "The stakes are high for my clients – it's someone's future that I am responsible for – which really brings home the personal aspect of practicing law."

To help clients get their lives back on track, Mike consults not only on their legal action but also on access to physicians and other health care providers, education, financial and vocational consultants. Mike wants his clients to be able to say they took every possible step to help themselves.

"When I represent someone who has suffered a critical injury we embark on a journey together and share a spectrum of experiences. When I initially meet clients they are injured, often uncertain and sometimes desperate. While the path ahead can be long and hard what makes it all worthwhile is creating an environment that enables my client to succeed with his or her life. Knowing that his or her financial future is secure is a key part of this process."

Michael is regularly asked to lecture and provide continuing education in personal injury and related areas of the law such as brain injuries, cross examination, insurance and causation. And while he is also an active member in a number of professional associations he is thoroughly grounded in the real-life application of the law. "Legal issues are fascinating, but only in light of how they can be incorporated into individual circumstances. This can have a real impact on a client's life. It's important to join abstract views of law and justice with the practical realities of what clients need."

In addition to representing people who have suffered critical injuries Michael defends doctors and lawyers who have been sued for malpractice, provides advice to insurance companies on interjurisdictional, excess limits and ethical issues, and is frequently called upon to act as counsel for cases that are about to go to trial. He enjoys both trials where the jury decides the outcome and trials by judge alone. Michael has appeared before all levels of court in British Columbia, various tribunals, the Federal Court and the Supreme Court of Canada.

Michael grew up in White Rock, BC and played rugby at Semiahmoo Senior Secondary. He attended Queen's University where he received his B.A. (Hons.) and his M.A. in Economics before going on to become a commerce officer at the Competition Bureau of Canada. His primary duties there were to enforce the civil provisions of the Competition Act. He received training from the RCMP in interview and interrogation techniques and is certified as an expert witness in the search and seizure of electronic information. Michael returned to Queen's University to obtain his LL.B. and joined Harper Grey upon completion of his articles.

Michael is a multi-engine instruments rated pilot. He now lives in North Vancouver and enjoys trail running and biking. He has participated in the Ride to Conquer Cancer, a cycle trip from Vancouver to Seattle that raises funds for cancer research.

Rankings & Recognitions

- Recognized as a "Leading Lawyer" in the area of Personal Injury Litigation by Best Lawyers® in Canada, 2016 – 2019
- Recognized as a "Leading Lawyer" in the area of Insurance Law by Best Lawyers® in Canada, 2018 – 2019
- Recognized as a "Local Litigation Star" in British Columbia in the areas of Health

Law and Personal Injury by Benchmark Canada®, 2016 – 2018

- Recognized as a “Leading Lawyer” in the area of Medical Negligence by Best Lawyers® in Canada, 2019

Leadership

- Editor, Contemporary Canadian Insurance Law Casebook, 2015 Published by LexisNexis Canada. A comprehensive casebook providing access to the case law and legal principles relevant to virtually all areas of insurance law in Canada.
- Creator and Editor, Canadian Insurance Law Blog – the preeminent database and index for leading substantive cases involving insurance laws in Canada.
- President, The Medical Legal Society of British Columbia (2014/2015)
- Member, Trial Lawyers Association of British Columbia
- Member, American Association of Justice
- Member, Canadian Defence Lawyers
- Member, Defense Research Institute
- Member, Canadian Bar Association – British Columbia Branch – Civil Litigation, Health Law, and Insurance Law subsections.
- Instructor, Advocacy, at the University of British Columbia Faculty of Law

Education

- Queen’s University, LL.B., 1998
- Queen’s University, M.A. (Economics), 1991
- Queen’s University, B.A. (Hons.), 1990

Bar Admission

- British Columbia, 1999