

# JOHN CURTIS

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## **EDUCATION**

- 1998 Certified Mediator (Certificates from CDR Associates and The Conflict Consensus Institute)
- 1998 Called to the Ontario Bar
- 1995 LLB Queen's University
- 1990 B.A. Hon. Major in Philosophy, Queen's University

## **EXPERIENCE**

### **Athlete**

I represented Canada in the **2004 Olympic Games in Athens**, in Sailing.  
I was Member of the Canadian National Sailing Team for 16 years.

### **Lawyer**

I have worked in large and small firms as well as in sole practice. I have experience in a variety of areas of the law including, General Contract Law, Sport Law, Employment Law, Personal Injury, Long Term Disability, Insurance, Estates, Corporate Commercial litigation, Residential Tenancy, collections, summary Criminal matters, etc.

Since 2005 I have focused my legal practice exclusively on Sport Law. I work with National Sport Organizations. There are two aspects to this work. One is preventative the other is remedial. On the prevention side I have done extensive work with governance including advising on the redrafting of By-Laws and other critical policy documents. On the remedial side I appear as counsel before the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada (SDRCC). I am also available to act for athletes.

I have also done work with the Canadian Olympic Committee reviewing all the Olympic Selection Criteria for 2008.

### **Sports Administration**

#### **High Performance Manager & General Counsel for the Canadian Yachting Association**

- **High Performance Manager:** This position involved oversight of all high performance activities of the Canadian Sailing Team; management of 5 coaching staff; team logistics, budget management (\$1,000,000 approx.); working with internal CYA Committees, Sport Canada, Canadian Olympic Committee, Canadian Paralympic Committee and the Canadian Sport Review Panel and Private Foundations. I was also responsible for drafting new intermediate level training materials at the Bronze Sail level.
- **General Counsel:** This role involved a wide range of legal services including: drafting of contracts and equipment leases, drafting of selection Criteria (eg. Olympic Trials); management of the National appeals process under the Racing Rules of Sailing and under internal athlete appeals process; policy drafting (eg. privacy policy, personnel policy, discipline policies, etc.), policy interpretation and advice; employment law related advice; matters related to charitable donations; trademark and copyright matters; a variety of Corporate Filings.

### **Coach**

**Queen's University Sailing Team Coach and Team Manager; National Team Coaching**

I revived the defunct Queen's Sailing Team while at Law School. I actually raised the funds necessary to pay my salary from Alumni. The flexibility of this job allowed me to continue with my Olympic Sailing Program. In addition to the on-water coaching in the Fall it involved a variety of administrative duties and ongoing fundraising, which has raised significant sums for the Queen's Sailing Team. I have also coached many of the elite sailors on the current Canadian Sailing Team and athletes from other Nations on a contract basis over the past 12 years

### **Mediator**

Mediator and Instructor with Mediation Centre of Southeastern Ontario.

[www.mediatecentre.com](http://www.mediatecentre.com)

### **A Unique Combination**

As you will see from the above I have experience as a Athlete, Lawyer, Sport Administrator and Mediator. This unique combination of training and experience allow me to provide insightful and practical advice to my clients.