

# Melanie T. Petrunia, LLB, Q. Arb.

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## Current Adjudicative Roles and Roster Appointments

- Social Security Tribunal of Canada, Vice-Chair of Appeal Division (Acting)
- Nova Scotia Minister's List of Arbitrators
- Nova Scotia Judicial Council
- Nova Scotia Criminal Code Review Board

## Education

Osgoode Hall Law School York University	Studies toward LLM (Tax)	2017/2018
Dalhousie University Halifax, NS	LL.B.	2006
McGill University Montreal, QC	B.A. (With distinction) English Literature	2002
Yale University New Haven, CT	Studies toward B.A. History	1997 - 1999
University of Victoria Victoria, BC	Studies toward B.A.	1997

## Continuing Education and Training

Nova Scotia Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration	Labour Arbitration Training Program	2024
Workplace Institute	How to Investigate: The Fundamentals of Fact Finding Investigating Allegations of Sexual Harassment Investigating Discrimination in the Workplace	2023

Herzing College	Certificate in Arbitration and Alternative Dispute Resolution	2021
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Institute for Corporate Directors	Certificate in Governance Essentials	2021
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## **Employment History**

<b>Petrunia Law</b> Owner and Legal Counsel	2022 to present
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- Sole-practitioner with a focus on tax litigation and alternative dispute resolution.

<b>Social Security Tribunal of Canada</b> Member	2018 to present
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- Current (Acting) Vice-Chair of Appeal Division
- Part-time member of the Appeal Division (January 2020 to present)
- Part-time member of the General Division, Employment Insurance Section (March 2018 to January 2020)
- Independent, administrative tribunal decision-maker, mandated to provide fair and impartial quasi-judicial hearings and prepare written decisions of appeals of Employment Insurance claims for benefits.

<b>Nova Scotia Criminal Code Review Board</b> Member	2022 to present
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- Appointed March 2022 as a member of Provincial Review Board established under Section 672.38 of the *Criminal Code*.
- The Review Board is an expert tribunal mandated to make and review dispositions concerning any accused that has been found not criminally responsible or unfit to stand trial.

<b>Dalhousie University – Schulich School of Law</b> Part-time Faculty and volunteer	2012 to 2022
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- Developing Pro Bono Tax Litigation Clinic
- Teaching Tax III, an advanced upper-level seminar focusing on the administration of the *Income Tax Act*
- Coach of the Dalhousie team for the Donald G. Bowman National Tax Moot from 2013

to 2022.

**Nijhawan McMillan Petrunia Barristers**

2018 to 2022

Partner

- Partner in a small boutique firm practicing tax and civil litigation.

**Satellite Tax Law Inc.**

2016 - 2018

Owner and Legal Counsel

- Sole practitioner with a focus on tax law.

**Nova Scotia Department of Health**

2017 to 2020

Involuntary Psychiatric Treatment Act Review Board

- Member of Review Board
- Panel chair for review board hearings involving preparation of written decisions.

**Department of Justice (Canada)**

2009 - 2016

Counsel – Tax Law Services

- Litigation before the Tax Court of Canada as lead counsel in both informal and general procedure matters.
- Appearances before the Nova Scotia Supreme Court, Supreme Court of Newfoundland and Labrador (General Division), Federal Court of Canada and the Federal Court of Appeal.
- Counsel on large complex files of national importance.
- Regional coordinator of Employment Insurance and Canada Pension Plan matters.
- Regional coordinator of Indigenous tax matters.
- Regional representative – Association of Women at Justice Canada

**Stewart McKelvey**

2006 - 2009

Articled Clerk/Associate Lawyer

- Associate in the litigation practice group practicing general litigation, including insurance, commercial, product liability, professional liability and immigration law.
- Experience representing both corporate and individual clients in negotiation, mediation and judicial proceedings at the Nova Scotia Supreme Court and Provincial Court and the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal.

**Dalhousie Law School**

2005

Research Assistant

- Assisted Professors Jennifer Llewellyn and Bruce Archibald in preparing a successful grant proposal in the area of restorative justice. The work involved legal research and writing, coordination and communication with over 20 community and government agencies, and the organization of a conference in June 2005.

### **McGill University Rowing**

2000 - 2001

Women's Rowing (Head Coach)

- Coached elite athletes, performed administrative duties and organized travel to numerous regattas throughout North America.

### **Volunteer Activities**

#### **Nova Scotia Judicial Council**

2024

- Appointed member representing the NSBS
- Current member of Review Panel

#### **Canadian Bar Association - Nova Scotia**

2024

- Vice-Chair Sexual and Gender Diversity Alliance Section

#### **Nova Scotia Barristers' Society**

2019 to present

- President 2022/2023
- First Vice-President, 2021/2022
- Elected member of Bar Council 2019-2021
- Member of Executive, Finance, Governance, Complaints Investigation and Gender Equity Committees
- Past Member of Credentials and Racial Equity Committees
- Chair of COVID-19 Response Task Force

#### **PATH Legal**

2022 to present

- Administrative Law Advisor on Advisory Board for not-for-profit prisoner advocacy law firm.

#### **Dalhousie University – Schulich School of Law**

2013 - 2022

- Coach of the Dalhousie team for the Bowman National Tax Moot.

#### **OUTeast Queer Film Festival**

2015 - 2016

- Member of the Board of Directors

#### **Canadian Bar Association – Nova Scotia**

2006 - 2012

- Member and Chair of the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Section from

September 2011 to September 2012.

**Avalon Sexual Assault Centre**

2010 - 2012

- Member of the Board of Directors. Served as secretary from September 2011 to September 2012.

**Halifax Community Justice Society**

2008 - 2012

- Facilitated restorative justice processes.

**Halifax Refugee Clinic**

2007 - 2009

- Representing refugee claimants in hearings before the IRB.

**CKDU-FM Community Radio**

2006 - 2008

- Member of Board of Directors

**Professional Associations and Memberships**

**Nova Scotia Barristers' Society**

2007 to present

- Practicing member admitted to the Nova Scotia Bar in June, 2007.

**Alternative Dispute Resolution Institute of Atlantic Canada**

2021

- Member
- Qualified Arbitrator designation granted in 2022.

**Institute for Corporate Directors**

2021 to present

- Member
- Completed Certificate in Governance Essentials

**Canadian Tax Foundation**

2016 to present

- Member

**Speaking Engagements and Presentations**

"CRA Updates, Tax Questions and Answers for Estate Planning" 2022  
*CBA-NS Annual Conference*

"Tax Considerations for Non-Tax Lawyers" 2021  
*CBA-NS Annual Conference*

"Key Issues in Settling Cases: Releases, Confidentiality," 2021

Non-Disparagement and Other Related Issues"  
*Lancaster House - Atlantic Canada Labour Law Conference*

"Avoiding common mistakes when dealing with the CRA" 2020  
"Top audit mistakes made on behalf of clients"  
*National Sage Accounting Forum*

"Navigating Your Law Practice Life Cycle" 2019  
*CBA-NS Annual Conference*

"Changes to the Voluntary Disclosure Program" 2018  
"Directors' Liability and Other This Party Assessments"  
"CRA Audits: What to Expect"  
*Simple PD Online Course*

"Independent Contractor or Employee" 2018  
*itaxpartners Professional Development*

"CRA Audits: How did we get here?" 2017  
*itaxpartners Professional Development*

### **Additional Information**

Former competitive rower, represented Canada as a member of the Junior National Team (1996) and competed internationally with the Yale University Women's Crew (Elected Captain 1998/1999).