Blaney McMurtry LLP

James B.C. Edney

Partner

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CALLED TO THE BAR OF ONTARIO, 1993

EDUCATION

- LL.B.,University of Western Ontario, 1991
- B.A.,York University, 1988
- Continuing Education in Alternative Dispute Resolution,
- Yellow Belt,Process Improvement & Process Management,Legal Lean Sigma Institute LLC

PRACTICE AREAS

- Family Law
- Alternative Dispute Resolution

The stakes in Family Law cases don't get much higher: it takes a special lawyer to consistently win results at the highest level in Family Law. Jim Edney has been that kind of a lawyer for over 30 years, earning him recognition as a Certified Specialist in Family Law by The Law Society of Ontario.

Vision

Praised by clients for his ability to "put things in perspective" and described by them as "incredibly diligent, fair and intelligent", Jim advises on complex Family Law cases in Toronto and throughout the G.T.A.

Marriage breakdowns can be emotionally overwhelming. Jim's approach is to 'de-stress' every case with a firm but fair approach that utilizes negotiating skills honed on thousands of cases, backed up when required by an unwavering presence in the Courtroom.

Opposing lawyers describe Jim's work as "excellent Family Law expertise of the highest nature, with admirable professional and personal integrity". No game-playing, no unnecessary bickering with opposing lawyers; just a laser focus on obtaining results.

Jim's work has earned him recognition by Chambers & Partners as a "Notable Practitioner" in the top tier in Canada for

Family/Matrimonial: High Net Worth, with peers describing him as "*a tough litigator*"; "*very knowledgeable [with] good judgement*", and for being "*strategic on how to achieve the best possible outcome for his clients, as well as being extremely experienced and intelligent.*"

Deep Understanding – Trial Tested

Having done thousands of cases, Jim is at home at the negotiating table, in the courtroom and in alternative dispute resolution (ADR). He brings that experience to guide clients through the most efficient process to get their case resolved, whether by negotiation of a Separation Agreement, Mediation, Arbitration or taking a case to Trial in Court. This experience, coupled with his deep understanding of the law, means that Jim can achieve results when it counts for you. Most cases do not go to Trial; but when they do, you want Jim's experience on your side.

Jim's track record on Family Law cases and 'real world' experience give him the skills to analyze complex financial situations, properly assess Income for Support determination, value businesses, and deal with the complex intersection of Trusts Law and Family Law to get results. When it comes to money, he gets it.

Innovative Thinking

The application of the 'traditional' law can have its disadvantages when it comes to marriage breakdowns. There are more modern methods that can be applied to make this process into a potential 'Win – Win', rather than a losing proposition for both spouses.

Jim has taken advanced training in Mediation and Arbitration and Negotiation, and in addition to his work on cases Jim acts as a Mediator and as an Arbitrator. This training and experience help Jim achieve the best possible results as an advocate in the ADR process.

Jim is also interested in Process Improvement and Project Management. He obtained 'Yellow Belt' certification in Legal Lean Sigma (a 'legal' version of Lean Six Sigma).

Jim has more than 30 years of experience in all aspects of Family Law, including:

- Separation Agreements
- Family Trusts

- Business Valuations
- Income Determinations
- Divorce Applications
- Motions
- Trials
- Mediations
- Arbitrations
- Tax Implications of Divorce

Commercial Litigation Experience for “Family Businesses”:

- Oppression Remedies
- Shareholders' Disputes

EXPERIENCE

- Defended a high-net-worth wife against a $200 million CAD multi-jurisdictional divorce with parallel proceedings in Toronto and Beijing; obtained consent orders staying the Ontario action on *forum non conveniens* grounds and returning the dispute to the Chinese courts for resolution.
- Acted for an applicant wife where the husband claimed the entirety of his $100 million CAD estate was excluded by inheritance; challenged the claim under s. 5(6) of the Family Law Act and negotiated a favourable settlement.
- Represented a husband during the $25 million CAD sale of his business to a public company while managing concurrent divorce proceedings and potential reconciliation, preserving corporate value and confidentiality.
- Secured disclosure and tracing orders for approximately $10 million CAD in offshore Caribbean assets on behalf of a spouse whose partner earned in excess of $2.7 CAD million annually.
- Successfully resisted a summary judgment motion to enforce a separation agreement obtained by misrepresentation; later obtained summary judgment in favour of the client and upheld the result before the Ontario Court of Appeal (leave to the Supreme Court of Canada dismissed).
- Obtained an order striking opposing party’s pleadings in acrimonious litigation for a well-known entertainer and successfully defended the ruling at the Ontario Court of Appeal.
- Advanced novel arguments before the Divisional Court on the leave-to-appeal threshold for interlocutory family court orders, prompting discussion of procedural reform within the bar.
- Counselled a politically exposed person in sensitive divorce proceedings involving assets in European nations with links to a prominent South Asian family, navigating complex asset-protection and privacy issues.
- Achieved successive summary-judgment victories recognizing a Chinese divorce, compelling sale of Ontario real estate and defeating further support and property claims asserted in Canada.

- Represented a common-law spouse in a dispute with an heir to a media fortune; secured a confidential settlement clarifying the definition of “cohabitation” where partners maintain separate residences.
- Advises regularly on High Net Worth family disputes involving inter-vivos trusts, estate freezes, post-separation corporate reorganizations and Mareva-style injunctions, working closely with leading forensic accountants across Canada, the United States and Asia.

RECOGNITION

- Certified Specialist in Family Law – Law Society of Ontario
- Top Ranked (Band 1) in Family Law in Canada - Chambers & Partners High Net Worth Guide, 2017 to 2026
- Leading Practitioner (Repeatedly Recommended) in Family Law - Rated by *Lexpert® Canadian Legal Directory*
- Recognized by *Best Lawyers® in Canada* 2026 in the area of Family Law
- Dispute Resolution Officer (DRO) for the Superior Court of Justice in Toronto
- Certified PIPM 'Yellow Belt' - Legal Lean Sigma Institute LLC

MEMBERSHIPS

- Law Society of Ontario
- Ontario Bar Association
- Toronto Lawyers Association
- Blaney McMurtry LLP:
- Past Member, Executive Committee
- Co-Chair of Strategic Planning Committee
- Chief Technology Officer

IN THE MEDIA

- September 22, 2025
  James Edney discusses "the lasting power of old-school networking"

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Past President, Markland Wood Golf Club
- Past President, JobStart
- Past Trustee, Metro Toronto Lawyers Association