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Profile

Murray Rankin is a partner at Heenan Blaikie and is recognized as a leading practitioner in environmental law in the Canadian LEXPERT Directory of 2004. He has provided legal advice concerning environmental matters to a wide range of clients in both the public and private sectors.

Before going into private practice, Murray taught environmental law at the University of Victoria from 1977 to 1993, achieving the rank of Full Professor in 1988. He was appointed Adjunct Professor of Law in 2004.

In the past he has served as the provincial representative on the negotiations leading to the Vancouver Island Land Use Plan and also the Kootenay-Boundary Land Use Plan. He has acted for the BC Environmental Assessment Office in the first judicial review of the Environmental Assessment Act and advised the Province in the creation of the Oil and Gas Commission. Murray has served as commission counsel to the federal-provincial inquiry to assess the environmental impact of a proposed ferrochromium plant proposed for siting on Northern Vancouver Island. He has advised the BC Director of the Environmental Protection Branch in appeals under the Waste Management Act and appeared as counsel for private clients in various appeals.

He acted for the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks to prepare a Discussion Paper and instructions for legislation to provide a comprehensive reform of the environmental protection regime in British Columbia; prepared a report on future options for the B.C. Hazardous Waste Management Corporation and drafted the Motor Vehicle Emission Reduction Regulation and the Post-Consumer Paint Regulation, both of which were promulgated under the Waste Management Act.

In addition, Murray was appointed as an expert in Canadian environmental law for the federal and provincial governments in litigation in the US District Court relating to the Nestucca oil spill. In addition to a wide variety of private sector clients, Murray's clients include various provincial and federal environmental agencies such as the British Columbia Environmental Appeal Board and Environmental Protection Review Canada, which deals with certain appeals under the Canadian Environmental Policy Act, 1999.

✦ Professional Memberships & Activities

- ✦ Contributor, “Environmental Regulation and the changing Constitutional Landscape” in G. Thompson, M. McConnell and L. Huestis Environmental Law and Business in Canada (Canada Law Book, 1993)
- ✦ Contributor, “Persuasion, Penalties and Prosecution: Administrative v. Criminal Sanctions” in M. Friedland (ed.) Securing Compliance (University of Toronto Press, 1990)
- ✦ Contributor, various environmental law papers to proceedings of the Canadian Institute
- ✦ Contributor, various environmental law papers to proceedings of the Continuing Legal Education Society
- ✦ Member, Canadian Bar Association, National Environmental Law Section
- ✦ Chair, The Land Conservancy of British Columbia.
- ✦ Member, Canada Bar Association (BC Branch), Environmental Law Section

✦ Education

- ✦ 1976, Called to the Bar in British Columbia
- ✦ 1977, LL.M, Harvard Law School
- ✦ 1975, LL.B, University of Toronto
- ✦ 1972 B.A. (Honours), Queen’s University