

Resume

Joan Braun, LLB, MSW, LLM

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SUMMARY

Joan is a practicing lawyer and registered social worker. She has 15 years' experience as a practicing lawyer and mediator, working in private practice and legal aid. She has more than 7 years' experience in executive management in the justice sector, focusing on legal service delivery. Joan's skill set is diverse, with expertise acquired establishing the first legal aid clinic for older adults in western Canada, and relevant graduate studies.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Vista Law Group (BC)

Lawyer & Mediator

2004 - Present

- I mediate elder, family, child protection, workplace, civil and first nations disputes.
- I advise and represent clients on family, elder, and charitable/ non-profit issues.
- I offer legal research and educational services to non-profit organizations on contract.
- ***I have practiced here f/t or p/t since 2004, other than 2013 - 2014.***

Peter A. Allard School of Law (UBC)

Teaching Assistantship & PhD Scholarship Position

2015 - Aug. 2017

- I completed all PhD coursework, and passed comprehensive exams with distinction.
- I carried out research on human rights, civil justice and disability on a prestigious scholarship.
- I taught in aboriginal and constitutional law classes, a position awarded on scholastic merit.

Legal Resource Centre - Alberta (LRC)

Executive Director

2013 - 2015

- I managed a staff of 14, a budget of \$1.4M, and many public legal education projects.
- I used my legal skills in-house, advising the board on governance and employment issues during an organizational restructure, and through developing new policies, and in legal research and drafting.
- I worked closely with justice sector stakeholder groups on projects and committees.
- I successfully renegotiated core funding that was 'at risk' and secured additional funding.
- **I was recruited to LRC from my previous position with a very attractive job offer.**

Human Rights Commission

Executive Director

2013 - 2013

- I managed the *Manitoba Human Rights Commission*, with responsibility for 21 staff, a \$2M budget and five departments - investigation, mediation, intake, education, and legal.
- I oversaw the human rights complaints process, ensuring compliance with statute.
- I approved complaints, reviewed investigation findings, and presented cases to the Board

BC Centre For Elder Advocacy & Support (BC CEAS)

Executive Director/ Senior Lawyer

2007 - 2012

BC CEAS is a non-profit agency, that operates legal and social support programs for vulnerable older adults. I established and managed a specialty legal aid legal law office that served the province of BC, while also working as executive director of the agency.

- I successfully established the *Elder Law Clinic (ELC)*, the first legal aid clinic for older adults in western Canada. I developed policies, service priorities, procedures and case management systems.
- As senior counsel in *ELC*, I supervised lawyers and clinic staff, oversaw client file work, and represented clients; areas of law included elder, poverty, family, human rights, and residential tenancy.
- I reported to the board on trends and emerging law reform issues in *ELC*, making recommendations.
- I oversaw *BC CEAS*'s programs operating in complement to *ELC*'s legal services, which included policy and education initiatives, a victim services program, and a legal information telephone line.
- I represented *BC CEAS* with stakeholder groups, on advisory committees, and with the media.
- I successfully met all objectives in a 3-year business plan, including doubling agency revenue.

Vista Law Group / Joan Braun Law

Lawyer & Mediator

2004 - present;

- See above for a description of services I provide at Vista (f/t: 2004 - 2007; p/t thereafter)

West Coast Domestic Workers

Legal Aid Lawyer

2003 - 2004

- I provided legal representation on employment, human rights and immigration cases.

EDUCATION

- PhD in Law (ABD - June 2017; Candidacy expected - fall 2017) In Progress
- Master of Laws 2015
- Master of Social Work 2007
- Bachelor of Laws 2000

MEMBERSHIPS AND CERTIFICATIONS

- Practicing Member - *Law Society of BC* (and accredited Family Law Mediator)
- Registered Social Worker - *BC College of Social Workers*
- Comprehensive Family Mediator - *Family Mediation Canada*

COMMITTEES (Examples)

- Board Co-Chair - *Canadian Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse.*
- Section Co-Chair - *Association for Conflict Resolution's Elder Mediation Section.*
- Executive member for the *National Elder Law Section - CBA* (past position).
- Chair & Executive - *National Alternative Dispute Resolution Section - CBA* (past).