



NOVA SCOTIA
BARRISTERS' SOCIETY

Statistical Snapshot

2023

Membership (December 31, 2023)		
	Total	% of total
Practising	2,263	63.9%
Practising – More than 50 years	22	0.6%
Non–Practising, including retired	1,055	29.8%
Life	114	3.2%
Articling clerks - NS	89	2.5%
Totals	3,543	100.0%

Practising Lawyers – Geographical Distribution (From 2023 Annual Lawyer Report)		
	# by district	% by district
Halifax Regional Municipality	1,541	70.5%
Southwestern NS	186	8.5%
Central NS	171	7.8%
Cape Breton NS	141	6.4%
Outside NS	148	6.8%
Totals	2,187	100.0%

Practising Lawyers – Diversity (2023 Annual Lawyer Report)			
Diverse Communities Self-Identified as:	Individual Identification	Unique Member Total	% of total membership
Mi'kmaq	45		2.1%
Indigenous	36		1.7%
Total Indigenous or Mi'kmaq (Adjusted for those identifying as both.)		60	2.8%
African Nova Scotian	49		2.3%
Black	49		2.3%
Total Black or African Scotian. (Adjusted for those identifying as both.)		84	3.9%
Adjusted for those both Black or ANS and Indigenous or Mi'kmaq	5	-5	
Racialized	57	55	2.6%
Total identifying as a member of a Black/ANS, Mi'kmaq/Indigenous or racialized community.		194	9.1%
Persons with a disability	81	81	3.8%
2SLGBTQ+	127	127	6.0%
Those identified as a person with a disability or 2SLGBTQ as well as indigenous or racialized.	38	-38	
Total identifying as belonging to one or more of the listed equity deserving communities		364	17.1%



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Type of Practice or Employment (2023 Annual Lawyer Report)		
	# of Lawyers	%
Private practice - partner	556	25.4%
Private practice - associate/other	428	19.6%
Federal government	135	6.2%
Provincial government/legal aid	394	18.0%
Sole practitioner	253	11.6%
Employed lawyer	268	12.3%
All other	153	7.0%
Totals	2,187	100.0%

Area of Law (percentage of time - 2023 Annual Lawyer Report)	# of lawyers whose practice includes:	Overall % of all lawyers' time
Aboriginal	125	1.3%
Administrative	540	5.5%
Bankruptcy and Insolvency	122	0.7%
Civil Litigation - Corporate & Commercial	502	4.9%
Civil Litigation - Personal Injury - Plaintiff	287	4.8%
Civil Litigation - Personal Injury - Defence	207	4.1%
Civil Litigation - Real Estate / Residential Tenancy	131	0.9%
Constitutional / Human Resources	184	1.2%
Corporate / Commercial / Banking	668	11.0%
Criminal - Defence	306	5.8%
Criminal - Prosecution	190	6.8%
Elder	61	0.3%
Employment / Labour - Employee	218	1.2%
Employment / Labour - Employer	279	4.1%
Environmental / Natural Resource / Energy	119	1.2%
Family - Child Protection	223	3.1%
Family - Other	390	6.9%
Government / Crown / Legislative	182	4.1%
Health	67	1.0%
Immigration and Refugee	83	1.7%
Indigenous	37	0.4%
Intellectual Property / Franchises / Patents	110	0.6%
Marine / Shipping / Fisheries	94	0.7%
Military / Aviation	30	0.5%
Mediation & Arbitration / Alternative Dispute Resolution	86	0.8%
Municipal	134	1.1%



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Real Estate	570	9.6%
Privacy	105	0.8%
Securities	76	1.1%
Tax	143	2.4%
Wills, Estates & Trusts	633	6.1%
Other	200	5.0%

Breakdown of practicing lawyers by years since Call (June 30, 2023). Compared to baseline quartiles established in 2007

	2007 (base year for quartiles)		2023	
0-7 Years	432	25%	734	33.6%
8-16 Years	451	25%	487	22.3%
17-26 Years	448	25%	423	19.3%
27+ Years	432	25%	543	24.8%
Totals	1,763	100.0%	2,187	100.0%

Gender Distribution by years since Call (2023 Annual Lawyer Report)

	Male/Man		Female/Woman		Outside M/F binary		Choose Not to Answer	Total
0-7 Years	322	44.9%	387	54.0%	8	1.1%	17	734
8-16 Years	262	54.8%	215	45.0%	1	0.2%	9	487
17-26 Years	186	44.9%	228	55.1%	0	0.0%	9	423
27+ Years	402	76.1%	126	23.9%	0	0.0%	15	543
Totals	1,172	54.8%	956	44.7%	9	0.4%	50	2,187