

Bernd Christmas

Bernd Christmas Law Group



Mr. Christmas is the owner of the Bernd Christmas Law Group, Barrister and Solicitor with the primary focus on Corporate and Commercial Law.

He recently assisted Hill & Knowlton Canada develop its aboriginal affairs practice while in the position of Senior Vice President and National Practice Leader. As former Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Membertou Band of Nova Scotia and the Membertou Corporate Division, and as a negotiator for several First Nations bands, Mr. Christmas brings a deep understanding of Aboriginal perspectives. He also brings extensive experience on national and international boards and commissions.

The first Mi'kmaq to become a lawyer in Canada, Mr. Christmas obtained his law degree in 1991 from Osgoode Hall at York University. In 1993, he accepted a position in corporate and commercial law with Lang Michener, where he also expanded the firm's Aboriginal practices.

In 2003, he was appointed by Prime Minister Chrétien to the External Advisory Committee on Smart Regulation. From 2000 to 2002, he was one of three Canadian commissioners to the International Commission for the Conservation of Tuna. He is a former member of the National Aboriginal Economic Development Board and of the executive committee organizing the Governor General's Conference on Leadership and Diversity. He has been a member of the board's of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and Keltic Petrochemicals Inc. He currently is a director on the board of Investors Group and the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation.

Mr. Christmas is a member of the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society and of the Law Society of Upper Canada (Ontario). He is a former commissioner for the Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board and sat on the Board of Governors of the Nova Scotia Community College.