

R. Douglas Elliott BA LLB LSM CS LLD

Douglas Elliott is a partner in the law firm of Cambridge LLP. He was one of the founding co-chairs of the OBA's SOGIC, and of the CBA's SOGIC. He is a recipient of the SOGIC Hero Award.

Douglas has been a Certified Specialist in Civil Litigation for 20 years. Douglas is also one of Canada's leading class action lawyers, having been consistently recognized by his peers as one of the Best Class Action Lawyers in Canada.

As one of Canada's leading human rights lawyers, Douglas has made numerous appearances in the Supreme Court of Canada. He has helped to win many important human rights cases, especially for Canada's 2SLGBTQI+ communities. His landmark cases include *Vriend v Alberta*, *M. v H.*, *Marc Hall v. Durham Catholic School Board*, *Little Sisters Bookstore v Canada*, *Halpern v Canada*, *Reference Re Same Sex Marriage* and *Hislop v Canada*. Douglas led the counsel team in the Canadian LGBT Purge class action, *Ross, Roy and Satalic v Canada*. That case settled for \$145 million, the largest financial recovery for LGBT discrimination anywhere in the world.

Douglas was the first openly gay lawyer to be honoured with two of the Ontario legal profession's highest distinctions, the Law Society Medal and an honorary Doctorate of Laws degree. He is an active volunteer, and a Board member of the LGBT Purge Fund, the Canadian AIDS Society and the Northern Ontario Pride Network.

Douglas also has a strong commitment to legal education and mentoring. He has lectured on civil litigation, class actions and human rights in many North American law schools, including Yale and Harvard, and in diverse international settings from Belgrade to Tokyo. He helped organize the first 2SLGBTQI+ human rights conference in the Balkans, held in Montenegro over 10 years ago. He recently co-chaired and taught a Zoom webinar course on human rights for Ukrainian law students. He has been mentoring articling students for over 30 years. The University of Toronto Faculty of Law has created the R. Douglas Elliott Fellowship in his honour.

Douglas is living back in his native Elliot Lake with Greg Lawrence, his partner of 46 years, and their faithful dog Kaiser.