

## **Leanne Townsend**

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**Skills** Multifaceted entrepreneur and attorney experienced in the areas of family law, criminal law, and domestic violence. Skilled negotiator, litigator, mentor, educator and podcast host.

**Education:** **Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) - 1993**  
University of Western Ontario, London  
**Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) - 2011**  
University of Toronto, Toronto  
**Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) - 1990**  
University of Toronto, Toronto

**Experience:**

**Senior Divorce Lawyer**  
Benmor Family Law Group  
*2024 – present*

- Act as counsel for clients on all aspects of their family law matter including drafting pleadings, attending mediation, negotiating settlement, attendance at court

**Professor**  
Fanshawe College  
*2024 – present*

- Part-time Professor in Faculty of Health, Community Studies and Public Safety
- Teaching paralegals courses in Family Law and Alternative Dispute Resolution

**Founder & Managing Lawyer**  
Townsend Family Law  
*2022 – 2024*

- Built successful family law firm
- Appeared on behalf of clients in the Superior Court of Ontario and Ontario Court throughout the greater Toronto area.
- Drafted pleadings, attended mediations, negotiated settlements
- Presenter and panelist at various continuing education programs at the Toronto Lawyer's Association and Ontario Bar Association
- Host of the Divorcing Well podcast and grew the audience to over 65,000 downloads.
- Cohost of the highly regarded podcast Divorce Explained

- Published author of articles in Law Times & Divorce Magazine

### **Partner – Family Law**

Brauti Thorning LLP

2019 – 2021

- Managed clients through all stages of their family law matter including negotiating, litigating, advocating and building strong relationships.
- Lead & mentored a team including two junior lawyers, an articling student and a law clerk.
- Built large client base through strong marketing skills.
- Appear regularly in media since 2019 including CBC news, CTV news, CP24 and Global News as a guest expert on divorce and family law.
- Wrote articles for Law Times

### **Sole Proprietor – Family & Criminal Lawyer**

Townsend Law, Toronto

2011 - 2019

- Advised clients on all family law issues including divorce, separation, custody, support and property division.
- Prosecuted criminal cases for the Ministry of the Attorney General on a per diem basis

### **Assistant Crown Attorney**

Ministry of the Attorney General, Toronto West

1999 – 2010 and 1993-1996

- Prosecuted all offences under the *Canadian Criminal Code* at both the Ontario Court of Justice and the Ontario Superior Court of Justice.
- Developed expertise in domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse cases as the Domestic Violence Team Leader
- Organized and presented training to Police Officers and Assistant Crown Attorneys on the prosecution of domestic violence cases.

### **Barrister & Solicitor**

Leanne Townsend Law, Toronto

1996 – 1999

- Represented clients in criminal and family law matters.

### **Memberships**

Law Society of Ontario;

The Canadian Bar Association

### **Interests:**

Fitness, writing, hiking, fashion and travel.