

LEANNE TOWNSEND

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.