

Pelton Law: Skill, Passion, Results

At Pelton Law, the atmosphere is casual. The four lawyers seem to have a relaxed attitude to everything – except law! About law they are all equally passionate. The firm's slogan sums it up: "Skill. Passion. Results".

Each of the four brings something different to the table. Helen Pelton came to law after a career as an organic chemist. She credits her experience working in factories in England, Montreal and New York with her client focused approach to problem solving. "I try to find the best possible result for the client in the most efficient way I can", she says, adding that most of her referrals come from former clients.

James Greve started his law career here in Hamilton, but later left for a stint in Toronto. Now back in town, he enjoys the collegiality here. "The Hamilton legal community is perfectly suited to my brand of hard-nosed litigation combined with collegiality and respect."

Mary Grosso joined the Pelton Law team earlier this year. She brings a wide range of litigation experience to the group, and is keen on the firm's personal injury, wrongful dismissal and estates litigation matters. "The work

here is fabulous and I can't say enough about how outstanding the quality of the team is, especially with Helen at the helm."

Kevin Henderson is the most junior member of the firm, having been called to the bar in June 2008. He is keen and energetic, enjoying every opportunity he gets to go to court, and already racking up some nice results.

The firm practices primarily in the areas of personal injury, both for plaintiffs and defence, and in employment law, both for employers and employees. It may seem counter-intuitive to accept cases on both sides of these areas. However, it just may be the secret of their success.

"The guiding principle behind employment law is fairness," says Mary. "Knowing what's fair is the key to getting the right result for either the boss or the worker".

James echoes this sentiment in the personal injury arena – his chosen field. "Knowing how each side views the issues helps us to strategize and successfully resolve our cases."

Kevin likes to push the boundaries. He recently persuaded a judge to order disclosure of a plaintiff's Facebook

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Pictured from left to right are: Kevin M. Henderson LL.B. Mary Grosso B.A., LL.B. Helen Pelton M.Sc., LL.B. and James Greve C.D., B.Soc.Sc. LL.B.

account. He puts it this way. "If we want to stop our insurance premiums from going through the roof, we have to make sure the system doesn't get abused. If someone claims to be totally disabled, it's important to know if the information they post on Facebook shows something different."

Helen really enjoys trial work. She gets great personal satisfaction from both the pre-trial planning stage, as well as the trial itself, whether in front of a jury or with a judge alone. However, she notes that trials are becoming much less common. "It's a very expensive and slow way to resolve a dispute," she notes. "It's much better for clients to work things out by negotiation, often using an outside

mediator." She firmly believes that the skill set that makes a good trial lawyer also makes a good negotiator. "It's all about a thorough understanding of the facts and the law, then being clear and persuasive."

These four lawyers rely heavily on their support staff. James is enthusiastic. "We have a great team here!" Law clerk Valerie Craine is the litigation manager, overseeing the efforts of clerks Heather Douglas, Samantha Prince and Erynn Richards. Nancy Setterlund runs the accounting department, assisted by a part-time bookkeeper.

Helen expresses it for everyone. "We love what we do!"

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Give us a call! We can help!

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