

Fenton, Smith Barristers*

THIRTY YEARS OF DEDICATION

by Dave Gordon

The client comes first. That's our credo in terms of professionalism and excellence in practice.

Criminal lawyer, published author, lecturer, and Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and International Society of Barristers – for nearly thirty years, Scott Fenton has accrued a vast and varied background in the legal profession.

His eleven page CV is a testament to his passionate drive to achieve, grow in his skills, and be a loyal defender of his clients.

And this proverbial fire in the belly has been burning since his youth.

As a young man, Fenton was influenced by a couple of his parents' friends who were, by coincidence, an influential criminal lawyer, and a powerful civil litigator. The spark was lit; he was inspired. Pursuing law was something he felt compelled to gravitate to – and he has found enormous success in the field.

Currently a senior partner at Fenton, Smith Barrister since 2000, he was formerly a Crown prosecutor in the 1990s for the Federal Department of Justice, and former partner at Fasken Martineau DuMoulin in Toronto. Fenton has litigated countless trials and appeals, including multiple appearances before the Supreme Court of Canada.

"I ultimately found my greatest interest in defending criminal cases," he notes.

Included in his long list of career accolades that have primarily involved taking briefs as defence counsel, he was appointed as Special Prosecutor in high profile matters by the Attorney General of Ontario and Attorney General of British Columbia.

His services and experience consist of a full range of criminal law, with an emphasis on fraud, competition, corruption of foreign public officials and securities fraud.

"Clients come to me experiencing the worst problem they've had in their life," he says. And while in the long term, of course, the goal is an acquittal, Fenton makes sure every step of the way that the process is clear for the people he's protecting.

"It's very important for them to know the nature of the charges, the evidence against them and all of their strategic options, so they may make an informed decision as to what they're going to do in their defense," he adds.

"That can include going trial, resolve the matter, or requesting the Crown to withdraw the case. Every client should walk away from his lawyer's office with a full understanding of their case and complete satisfaction that their counsel did everything ethically and legally possible to secure the best possible outcome."

He has representation on files with the Toronto Police Services, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Competition Bureau, Ontario Securities Commission, US Securities and Exchange Commission, United States Attorney's Offices and United States Federal Department of Justice.

"You have to love the grind of preparing for trial, love dealing with your adversary, and you have to love being on your feet," he says. "You're always on, always thinking."

A much sought-after speaker on legal issues here and abroad, he has lectured at conferences throughout Canada, the United States, the Caribbean and the U.K. and been a long time faculty member of the National Criminal Law Program.

Impressive credentials are one thing; it's another thing to know they were built because of the individual attention and concern given to those whom he defends.

"The client comes first. That's our credo in terms of professionalism and excellence in practice," he insists.

"There are many very good criminal lawyers in the province of Ontario. We are proud to stand among the best because of our hard work, experience and expertise, our professionalism, and our dedication to our clients."

That, in a nutshell, has been how Scott Fenton has developed nearly three decades' worth of accomplishments and success.

*Scott Fenton Professional Corporation



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