

VIRGINIA WORKMAN

**Law Chambers  
43 Church Street  
St. Catharines, ON  
(905) 704-0804**

## **EDUCATION**

- 1988                      Called to the Bar of the Province of Ontario
- 1986                      *Bachelor of Law*  
University of Toronto
- 1983                      *Bachelor of Arts*  
McGill University  
Canadian Studies and Economics  
(Graduated with Distinction)
- 1980                      Governor Simcoe Secondary School  
Ontario Scholar, Simcoe English Award

## **LEGAL WORK EXPERIENCE**

**1995 TO PRESENT SOLE PRACTITIONER – VIRGINIA WORKMAN FAMILY LAW**

**2019 - AXIS Mediation** - Panel Mediator Ontario Association of Family Mediation Accredited Mediator

**2018 - present - DISPUTE RESOLUTION OFFICER (DRO) - SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE (FAMILY)** - assisting court in conducting Case Conferences in the Superior Court of Justice on Motions to Change

**1999-2019 CENTRE FOR FAMILY MEDIATION – Ontario Association of Family Mediation Accredited Mediator – provided mediation to qualified applicants accessing service through local Unified Family Court mediating both financial and parenting issues and child protection issues.**

**1995- 2000 - LANCASTER BROOKS AND WELCH - DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

**GROUP** - Panel member of ADR Roaster  
Provided Mediation services

**1990 - 1992 1993-PRESENT PANEL LAWYER OFFICE OF THE CHILDREN'S LAWYER** – providing legal representation for children in areas of adoption, child protection and custody and access.

**2003 to 2009 2014- 2017 NIAGARA COLLABORATIVE LAW GROUP** – Member of Lawyer member of practice group providing family law clients with assistance through the collaborative law model to out of court negotiations and settlement of all issues arising from a family's separation.

**1992- 1995 MARTENS, LINGARD, WALTERS & MADDELENA, BARRISTERS** – Associate lawyer full time practice of family law and mediation.

**1988-1992 SULLIVAN, MAHONEY, BARRISTERS** - Employee Lawyer, full time practice in family Law and Civil Litigation

**1983-1986: DOWNTOWN LEGAL SERVICES (TORONTO) - STUDENT LAWYER**

**1984: JUSTICE LLOYD BUDGELL – LAW CLERK SUMMER EXPERIENCE PROGRAMME**

## **NON-LEGAL WORK EXPERIENCE**

**1989 -2000: BROCK UNIVERSITY**

Seminar Leader in program, "The Legal Environment of Business"

**1995-2004 : NIAGARA COLLEGE**

Instructor in the Alternative Dispute Resolution Certificate Program (ADR) Certificate Program – Courses taught included "Mediation" and "Negotiation" being two of the 4 courses required for successful completion of this certificate program.

**1990: CANADIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT**

Instructor Law Program

**1989-1998: NIAGARA COLLEGE**

Chair of Retirement Programmes

**1977-1984: ST. CATHARINES GENERAL HOSPITAL – DIETARY AIDE**

General kitchen service work.

## **MEDIATION AND ARBITRATION QUALIFICATIONS**

1992	Family Mediation Service of Ontario - Theory and Practice Toronto (45 hours)
1992	Family Mediation Service of Ontario - Advanced Training, Toronto (20 hours)
1999-Present	Ontario Association of Family Mediators – Accredited Mediator
2008	Intensive Arbitration for Family Lawyers – Conflict Management Services Genevieve Chornenki – (12 hours in class training)

## **COMMUNITY & CIVIC ACTIVITIES**

**1990 to 2015 – Kiwanis Club of St. Catharines**– Past positions with this club include board member in 1990-1992, Secretary 1990-1992, member of scholarship committee (who screen applications for University Scholarships and selected candidates), Chair of Young Children Priority One Committee (YCPO) and Youth Services, House Committee and am President Elect (2006), President 2007-2008, Past President 2008-2009).

**2008 – 2015 – Trustee of Niagara Health Sciences Foundation**, - Chair (2009) of Governance Committee

**2010-2016– Family Counselling Centre Advisory Board**- Community member to board which advised Center for Family Counselling Center who provides services to families in crisis including individual and family counselling

**2005 to 2009— Design for New tomorrow** – Board Member, Vice Chair (2006-2007), Chair of Board (2006 – 2009.)

**2002-2004– Bethlehem Project** - Board member to Stage Two housing project in Niagara.

**1998-2000 Trinity United Church, Thorold** – Member of Official Board in

**1989- 1993 – St. Catharines Distress Center-** Board member

**1989-1991-St. Catharines Historical Museum** – Board Member

**1989-1991, 2017 to present Big Sisters** – volunteer acting as Big Sister rn

**1988-1990 – Grantham United Church Elder Stewardship Committee** – I

**1989 – YMCA Walker Family Y Capital Campaign** – Fund raiser

**1979-1980, 1985-1986 1988-1989 Guide Leader** – In both St. Catharines and Downtown Toronto Units,

**1976-1980 –Hospital Volunteer** – Volunteered through high school at the St. Catharines General Hospital

## **PUBLICATIONS AND LECTURES**

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|-----------------|---|
| 1995            | The Use of the Hansen Trust   |
| 1997            | Co-authored Legal Information Presentation Package for presentation by local counsel at Family Court Information Nights.  |
| 1997            | Attorney General - Conducted Public Forum Meetings on Federal ChildSupport Guidelines.  |
| 1999 to present | Presenting legal information, including information on Mediation at Family Court Information Meetings.  |
| 1999            | Child support and Post Secondary Expenses – Lincoln County Law Association  |
| 2000            | Changes to the Child And Family Services Act and impact for parent’s Counsel’s view, Presented to the Ontario Association of Children’s Aid Societies Annual Conference |
| 2000.           | Lincoln County Law Association – Costs  |

2001.	Lincoln County Law Association- Support and the Adult Child
2003 Hamilton	Affidavit Evidence in Child Protection Proceedings – Law Association Child Protection Seminar
2004	Presentation Office of the Children’s Lawyer Annual Training Role of Foster parents in child protection proceedings
2004	Support and the Adult Child – presented to Another Saturday of Family Law, Lincoln Country Law Association
2006	Opening Statements the First Chapter of a Trial and Closing Statements the Final Chapter of a Trial, presented to Lunch ‘N Learn program jointly presented by Lincoln County Law Association and the Local Unified Family Court Liaison Committee.
2006	Chair – Child Protection Law Best Practices, Niagara Liaison Committee
2006	Introduction to Family Law, presentation to Settlement Workers
2006	Opening Statements and First Chapter of a trial and Closing statement the Final chapter of a Trial presented to Lunch N Learn programme Lincoln County Law Association
2006	Ministry of Community and Social Services-Violence Against Women Regional Meeting Strategic Planning Group Hamilton/Niagara member as President of Board of Design for a New Tomorrow Counselling Services.
2007	Chair Conference Focus on Support Lincoln County Law Association
2008	Evidence in Child Protection Cases – The interim motion – presented at the Hamilton Law Association Seminar Evidence in Child Protection Law
2009	Chair Conference Evidence Law Full Day Training in

Niagara “Evidence for Family Law and Criminal Lawyers”-  
a full day training on Evidence law presented to both the  
Criminal bar and the Family Law Bar

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| 2010 | The Hybrid Child support situation – presented to Family Law Group   |
| 2011 | Ontario Court of Justice Judicial Training Niagara on the Lake - Presentation Panel on Grandparent’s Access. |
| 2011 | Grandparents Access revisited - Presented to the St. Catharines Family Law Group                             |
| 2018 | Arbitration Basics - Presented to the St. Catharines Family Law Group  |
| 2018 | Business Records and other Tricky Evidence Issues - Presented to the St. Catharines Family Law Group         |

### **AFFILIATIONS- PROFESSIONAL BOARDS**

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| 2009 to Present  | Member of Association of Family Courts and Conciliators  |
| 2006 to 2009     | Member of Executive Committee Niagara Collaborative Law Group  |
| 1999-Present     | Family Mediation Ontario<br>Accredited Member  |
| 1999 - 2001      | Member of the Local Implementation Committee of Superior Court of Justice (Family Court), St. Catharines<br>Office of the Children’s Lawyer representative |
| 2002- to present | Member of Local Resource Liaison Committee of Superior Court of Justice (Family Court), St. Catharines   |
| 2006 to 2009     | Chair of Family Law Education Group of Family Law Practice Group (organize monthly educational meeting)  |
| 1999 – 2002      | Duty Counsel Panel Member for Family Law Group Information   |

Centre

- 1995-Present Member of Legal Aid Ontario Area Committee
- 1997 – 1998 President, Lincoln County Law Association
- 1990 – 1992 Chair of Continuing Education Committee of Lincoln Law Association

### **CONTINUING EDUCATION –FAMILY LAW**

- 1990 Protection Law (Full Day) Canadian Bar Association
- 1992 Family Mediation Service of Ontario – Theory and Practice Toronto
- 1992 Family Mediation Service of Ontario – Advanced Training
- 1992 National Family Law Training Program – Prince Edward Island, Advance Family Law Training
- 1994 Child Representation
- 1995 Expert Evidence – Law Society of Upper Canada
- 1995 Personal Rights Panel OCL training - Addiction Issues
- 1997 Dealing with Difficult People
- 1996 Child Support Guidelines – Canadian bar Association
- 1996 Parenting Through Separation and Divorce – through the Niagara Child and Development Center
- 1999 Mediation Domestic Violence – Family Mediation Canada with Dr. Barbara Landau
- 2000 Personal Rights Panel OCL training - “Attachment and Parent Infant Relationships”
- 2000 National Family Law Training Program – Newfoundland

- 2001 Tax and Financial Issues for Family Law - Law Society of Upper Canada
- 2000 Advance Mediation Skills -with Peggy Malpass
- 2002 Child Protection Mediation Training – with June Mareska
- 2000 Personal Rights Panel OCL Training – The Role of the Children’s Lawyer
- 2000 Collaborative Law Immediate Training – with Pauline Tesler and Chip Rose
- 2003 Money and Family Law – Law Society of Upper Canada
- 2004 The Six Minute Lawyer – Assorted family Law Issues Law Society of Upper Canada
- 2009 Personal Rights Panel OCL training - The intermingling of criminal and Family Law, Assorted Child Protection Law issues
- 2005 When the 2<sup>nd</sup> Marriage Fails – Law Society of Upper Canada )
- 2006 Lincoln County Law Association Lunch N’ Learn – Evidence
- 2006 Lincoln County Law Association Lunch N’ Learn – Cross Examination and Court Protocol
- 2006 New York State Divorce Council on Mediation
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- 2006 Office of the Children’s Lawyer – Nuts and Bolts Spring Training
- 2006 Hamilton Law Association – Spousal Support Guidelines
- 2006 Lincoln County Law Association Lunch N’ Learn – Offers and Costs and Court Protocol Part II
- 2006 Law Society of Upper Canada – Estate Essentials for the Family Law
- 2006 Law Society of Upper Canada – How to conduct a Family Law Trial Part \
- 2006 Advocacy in and Out of the Courtroom Child Protection Law – Lincoln County Law Association
- 2006 Office of the Children’s Lawyer - “Nuts and Bolts, Let’s Talk training”
- 2007 Law Society of Upper Canada- Family Law: Dilemmas in Evidence



- 2007 Lincoln County Law Association Lunch 'n Learn – What ever lawyer should know about computer Research
- 2008 Intensive Arbitration for Family Lawyers – Conflict Management Services  
Genevieve Chornenki
- 2007 Lincoln County Law Association Lunch and Learn – Production of Records from Third Parties
- 2006 Office of the Children's Lawyer – Openness and Custody orders under the CFSA, Alternative Dispute Resolution under the CFSA
- 2006 Lincoln County Law Association Lunch 'n Learn- Factum and Effective Legal Writing
- 2008 Lincoln County Law Association Lunch and Learn – What every Family Law Lawyer should know about Divorce mate.
- 2008 Lincoln County Law Association Lunch and Learn – What every Family Law Lawyer should know about Estate Law
- 2008 Lincoln County Law Association Lunch 'n Learn – What every Family Law Lawyer should know about Assessment of Costs and Assessment of Solicitor's Accounts
- 2008 National Family Law Conference – Federation of Law Societies Deer Hurst, Ontario
- 2008 Joint training OCL/LA/ÇAS
- 2008 Hamilton Law Association – Child Protection Law
- 2009 AFCC “ Improving the Lives of Children and Families in Conflict
- 2010 AFCC Parental Alienation – Denver,Colorado

2013 How to understand Tax Returns and Financial Statements - Lincoln County Law Association

2013 Annual Family Law Summit - Law Society of Upper Canada

2014 Lincoln County and Welland County Law Associations - Another Day of Family Law, Niagara Style

2014 Niagara Chapter of Aboriginal Woman - Alternative Dispute Resolution

2014 Annual Family Law Summit - Law Society of Upper Canada

2014 OCL - Annual Training - Interviewing Children

2014 AFCC - 51st Conference "Navigating the Waters of Shared Parenting, Guidance from the Harbour", Toronto, ON

2014 Lincoln County Law Association - Mentoring Dinner Conflicts

2014 OCL - Winter/Fall Training

2015 Openness Orders - Welland County Law Association

2015 OCL Fall Training, OCL Role Review - OCL

2015 First Annual Niagara Aboriginal Conference

2015 Litigating Your Secure Treatment Cases - OCL

2015 Modern Family Custody and Child Support - Law Society of Upper Canada

2015 Annual Family Law Summit - Law Society of Upper Canada

2016 Discovery Skills When at Trial - Advocates' Society

2016 Financial Benefits for Crown Wards - Welland County Law Association

2016 Twenty Minute OCL - OCL

2016 Advanced Issues in Child Protection Law - Ontario Bar Association

2016 Annual Family Law Summit - Law Society of Upper Canada

2017 Annual Family Law Summit - Law Society of Upper Canada

- 2018 AFCC - Trauma Based Practice - Washington, D.C.
- 2018 Changes to the Child Protection Law - Child Protection Committee of Family Liaison Committee Welland & St. Catharines
- 2018 Resource Day - Welland County Law Association
- 2018 Annual Family Law Summit - Law Society of Upper Canada
- 2019 Annual Family Law Summit - Law Society of Upper Canada