



Sandy A. Vander Ziel

Sandy Vander Ziel joined DBB in 2013 and practices exclusively in family law. She is a registered collaborative lawyer, mediator and arbitrator, as well as a dispute resolution officer with the Court of Queen's Bench. She has practiced in the area of family law at local and national law firms since 2002. Sandy has significant experience with a variety of methods of Alternate Dispute Resolution including collaborative law, lawyer assisted mediation, arbitration and interest based negotiation.

Sandy works in all areas of family law including, but not limited, to separation and divorce, parenting plans, child custody, child and spousal support, matrimonial property, as well as co-habitation and prenuptial agreements. Sandy has a strong collaborative practice and is known for her in-depth experience with domestic violence matters and has received training in spousal abuse risk assessment.

Sandy has had extensive experience appearing at the Court of Queen's Bench as well as Provincial Family Court, particularly as a child and youth advocate. She has represented children through the Legal Representation for Children and Youth Advocacy Program.

Sandy is committed to working in an atmosphere that promotes healthy parenting relationships post-separation so that the best interests of children are always protected.

She is the Past Chair of the Association of Collaborative Professionals and is a volunteer with the Legal Education Society of Alberta as an instructor and evaluator for the Canadian Centre for Professional Legal Education program. Sandy is also an executive member of the Canadian Bar Association Family Law Section.

Sandy has a passion for community involvement and is the Past Chair of the Calgary Youth Justice Society Board of Directors. During her tenure on the Board, the Sandy Vander Ziel Heart of Change Award was established in her name.

Sandy is the current President of the Board of Directors for Sonshine Community Services, a second-stage transitional shelter for women and children fleeing domestic violence. She is truly passionate about her work with Sonshine and the recent opening of the first children's centre in North America, which provides children who have been exposed to and/or have been victims of domestic violence, with therapeutic intervention to work towards breaking the cycle of violence.

Associate

Dunphy Best Blocksom LLP
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Education

University of Alberta
B.A., 1997

University of Calgary
J.D., 2000

Called to the Bar

Alberta: 2001

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