



Valerie Hughes

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BAR ADMISSIONS

Ontario, 1981

Clients benefit from Valerie Hughes' unrivalled experience in international trade and WTO law.

She has served as counsel for the Government of Canada before WTO panels and the organization's Appellate Body, as an adjudicator in WTO disputes, and as the only person to have served as both Director of the WTO's Legal Affairs Division (2010-16) and Director of its Appellate Body Secretariat (2001-05).

Valerie has been involved in more than 70 WTO disputes. These include challenges in the Canadian auto industry, softwood lumber and seafood exports. She brings a unique perspective to WTO dispute settlement—having served as counsel, judge, or advisor to WTO judges.

Valerie is one of Canada's leading lawyers in international treaty law. She argued Canada's first investor-state dispute under the NAFTA. She represented Canada before the International Court of Justice in a dispute with the United States over the fishing grounds off Canada's east coast, and before an international tribunal that determined the international maritime boundary off Newfoundland and the French islands of Saint-Pierre and Miquelon.

Valerie served in senior counsel and leadership positions in her 22 years with the Government of Canada. She was most recently Assistant Deputy Minister and Counsel to the Department of Finance. She also served in the Departments of Justice and Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

In 2016, Valerie was awarded the John E. Read medal by the Canadian Council on International Law for her distinguished contribution to international law and organizations. She is currently a Senior Fellow at the Centre for International Governance Innovation.

Valerie has written numerous articles on the WTO dispute settlement and on international maritime boundary arbitration.