

Stephen Hsia

Partner

Vancouver

OFFICE

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Industries & Expertise

INDUSTRIES

Charity & Not-For-Profit | Environmental | Health
| Real Estate

EXPERTISE

Administrative and Public Law | Corporate
Governance | Tax | Charities and Not-For-Profit
| Private Client Services

Biography

BAR ADMISSION

Ontario, 2022

British Columbia, 2014

EDUCATION

- Chartered Professional Accountants In-Depth Income Tax Course, Parts I, II, and III, 2020
- Judicial Law Clerk, Court of Appeal for Ontario, 2013-14
- J.D. (Top 3% of Graduating Class), Osgoode Hall Law School, 2013
- A.B. *cum laude*, Princeton University, 2008

LANGUAGES SPOKEN

English, Mandarin

Stephen is a leading lawyer in the area of charities law and estate planning. He is a trusted advisor to charities, foundations, international organizations, social entrepreneurs, donors, high net worth families, and business owners. His clear and sound advice helps charities fulfill their missions and helps families and owners pass on their life's work and legacy to the next generation.

Stephen has been recognized by legal directories as a leader in Tax Law, Corporate Law, and Trusts and Estates Law. His opinions and writing have been published in *The Globe and Mail*, *The Philanthropist*, *Advisor's Edge*, *Law360*, *Money and Family Law*, and *The Practitioner's Income Tax Act*.

In addition to writing and speaking frequently, Stephen has served on a number of boards and is the Co-Chair of the Canadian Bar Association's Charities and Not-for-Profit Law Section for British Columbia. His dedication to the community is also reflected in his volunteer work as a sought-after board advisor, as a legal reviewer for People's Law School, and as a Sunday School teacher at his local church.

Industry involvement

Recognition

- *The Canadian Legal Expert Directory*, Charities/Not-For-Profit Law, 2026
- *Best Lawyers in Canada*, Trusts and Estates, 2025-2026; Charities / Non-Profit Law, 2026
- *Best Lawyers in Canada: Ones to Watch* – Tax Law, 2022-2024; Corporate Law, 2023-2024; Trusts and Estates, 2024
- *Lexology Legal Influencer* (2023)
- The Legal and Literary Society Leadership Award, Osgoode Hall Law School, 2013
- 2nd Place Factum, US-Canada Niagara International Moot Court Competition, 2013
- McCarthy Tétrault First-Year Academic Achievement Prize, 2011
- Princeton Class of 1924 Leadership Prize, 2008

Thought leadership

Select publications:

- Co-Editor (with Michael Blatchford) "Chapter 15 – Charitable Donation Planning" in *British Columbia Estate Planning and Wealth Preservation* (Vancouver: Continuing Legal Education Society of British Columbia, 2025)
- Co-Author (with M. Elena Hoffstein), "The laws governing gifts by will – and the pressures they put on executors", *The Philanthropist* (October 24, 2022).
- Co-Author (with Amanda J. Stacey), "Charitable Giving Strategies for Owner-Managers", presented to the Canadian Tax Foundation's 2022 Ontario Tax Conference (October 23-24, 2022).

- Co-Editor (with Dierk Ullrich), *Annotated British Columbia Societies Act*, loose-leaf (Toronto: Thomson Reuters, 2021)
- Co-Author (with Dierk Ullrich), "Chapter 18 – Societies" in *British Columbia Company Law Practice Manual* (Vancouver: Continuing Legal Education Society of British Columbia, 2021).
- Legal Reviewer, People's Law School's "Preparing Your Will" and "Being An Executor" guides, 2019
- Co-author, "Private Clients in Canada", Lexology Navigator, March 12, 2018
- Refer to Insights for complete list of articles.

Presentations:

- "Bad Gifts, Difficult Endowments: A Trust and Estate Planner's Perspective on How to Fix Them — And How to Avoid New Ones", Presentation (with M. Elena Hoffstein) at the 2025 Canadian Association of Gift Planners National Conference (Edmonton, AB), April 9, 2025
- "Strategic Philanthropy: Understanding the Proposed Changes to Alternative Minimum Tax", Virtual Webinar to Private Clients and Investment Advisors, October 12, 2023
- "Qualifying Disbursements: A New Way for Charities to Give", Virtual Presentation to Canadian Bar Association (BC) Charities and Not-for-Profits Section, October 20, 2022
- "Estate Planning Bootcamp for Investment Advisors", Virtual Presentation to Investment Advisors in BC, Alberta, and Ontario, June 29, 2022
- "Estate Planning: 5 Common Questions", Presentation to the Impact North Shore Society (in Mandarin Chinese), January 18, 2022
- "Corporate Shares on Death, Disability, and Divorce", Virtual Presentation to Private Clients, November 2021
- "Your Will: Experts Answer Your Top Questions", Virtual Presentation to the British Columbia Children's Hospital Foundation Legacy Circle, March 3, 2021
- "Never Let a Crisis Go to Waste: Planning Opportunities for Business Owners During COVID-19", Virtual Presentation to Private Clients, November 18, 2020
- "The Pitfalls of Joint Tenancy", Presentation to the Canadian Bar Association BC Elder Law Subsection, September 12, 2019

Media Mentions:

- Interviewed by *The Globe and Mail*, "Prorogued Parliament complicates extension to charitable donation deadline", January 8, 2025
- Interviewed by *Financial Post*, "Ottawa says it will extend charitable donation deadline because of postal strike", January 2, 2025

Community roles

- Co-Chair and Executive Committee Member, Canadian Bar Association (BC) Charities and Not-for-Profits Section, 2022-
- Legal Reviewer, People's Law School, 2018-21
- Director, S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Multi-Level Care Society, 2019-21
- Director, Federation of Asian Canadian Lawyers, 2016-18
- Director, Christian Respite Family Services, 2015-17
- Sunday School Teacher and Volunteer, Midtown Church

Memberships & affiliations

- Law Society of British Columbia
- Law Society of Ontario
- Canadian Bar Association