

## Submission #25

I currently practice in [redacted] [medium city] Alberta. I have practiced in Calgary, as well as [redacted] [another medium-sized city in Alberta] and I have had my fair share of experiences that I can't term as anything other than discriminatory and stereotyping, specifically by judges. Colleagues do it too but one can usually push back. The worst of it is judges and the way that I've personally experienced being spoken to, that I have witnessed my other fellow minorities spoken to, it is ridiculous. It is so inappropriate.

I've had two specific incidents with Justice [redacted], which was recent and Justice [redacted] which would have been two years ago in [medium-sized city in Alberta] [redacted]. In those instances, the judges were extremely rude. I mean Justice [redacted] literally forced me off a file. This wasn't my file; this was a matter where the counsel of record had gone away on a family emergency and I had to step in. The opposing party had filed an application on a Friday, an application that was going to be spoken to on the following Monday. We were just served and when I attended, even though I explained the circumstances, Justice [redacted] insisted that I had to get ready and up-to-speed and he gave me until Friday. I had to prepare and drop everything that I was doing. On that Friday, when I was trying to make my submissions, he allowed the opposing party to speak and when it was my turn, I was cut-off, interrupted constantly and at one point I had to say "If you would just allow me to get my words in." That was the trigger. Justice [redacted] just went off on me and said that he would not allow me to speak to him in this way and said that he no longer wanted to deal with me on this matter. I was trying to apologize but I was so shocked, I didn't even know what I was apologizing for, but I was just wanting to get the file moving because there was nobody else in my firm who practiced family law. He kicked me off the file, I asked if I could bring another colleague to come in and he allowed that. I had to bring another colleague, who was white, who was male, who does not practice family law and that was the person he accepted submissions from.

With the incident with Justice [redacted], that was another one. Justice [redacted] had been consistently biased each time I had been before her. Even to a point where in a town hall meeting, I asked a question and she just shut me down. A colleague had to come in and say that they were sorry she treated me that way. People see these things, clients see these things, colleagues see these things and we are not stupid. We know that there is no other reason other than race. It is so ridiculous; you wonder why on earth this person would address me like this in open court. It does have an impact on our practice and I really hope that this process brings some changes. I have my doubts, but we will see. Thank you for listening.