

ALLEN PONAK

Allen Ponak has been arbitrating and mediating in Canada since 1984. Currently based in Toronto, his practice is national in scope and he is a listed arbitrator in national and regional collective agreements including manufacturing, mining, retail trade, public service, and professional sports. Until 2006, Allen was a professor of industrial relations and the author of numerous books and articles on labour and employment. He has an undergraduate degree in economics and sociology from McGill University, a master's in industrial relations from Michigan State University, and a Ph.D. in industrial relations from the University of Wisconsin.

In 2015-16 Allen was president of the National Academy of Arbitrators and in 2015 was the recipient of the Bora Laskin Award for his contributions to labour policy and law in Canada. In 2007, he was honoured with the Gérard Dion Award for outstanding contributions to the field of industrial relations. His documentary film "Beyond Collision: High Integrity Labour Relations" won the Silver Screen Award (Education category) at the 2006 Los Angeles International Video and Film Festival. In 2005, Allen received the Alberta Centennial Medal for "Outstanding Service to the People and Province of Alberta". In 1990/91 he was national president of the Canadian Industrial Relations Association and in 2008 the Association created an annual award, the "Allen Ponak Outstanding Paper Award", for the best student paper in labour and employment. Since 2007, Allen has been working with the Arbitration Council Foundation of Cambodia and is a member of the International Advisory Board.

Allen Ponak is married to Daphne Taras, dean of Ted Rogers School of Management at Toronto Metropolitan University. They have four children and three grandchildren (and hope for more).