

Adrienne S. Smith

Lawyer

Adrienne Smith Law

Vancouver, British Columbia

Adrienne S. Smith is a transgender human rights activist and social justice lawyer. They recently argued a BC human rights case that clarified employers' obligations to recognize correct pronouns for transgender and nonbinary workers. Smith appeared at the BC Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court of Canada, where they argued about the deleterious effects of mandatory minimum sentences for women, indigenous people and drug users. As a trade union activist, Smith advocates for transgender inclusion in our unions and workplaces. They volunteer at the Catherine White Holman Wellness Clinic, where Smith gives free legal advice, takes on human rights cases and notarizes name change documents for transgender people. They were the recipient of the Canadian Bar Association BC Diversity Award; the Canadian Mental Health Association BC Branch Nancy Hall Public Policy Leadership Award; the Allard Law Alumni Achievement Award; and the Vancouver and District Labour Council Syd Thompson Award for Community Service. Smith earned a double honours B.A. degree in English literature and geography, a master's degree in human geography and a juris doctor degree all from the University of British Columbia. They held a UBC undergraduate entrance scholarship for four years as well as the Geography Alumni Award during their undergraduate degree. Smith received a University Graduate Fellowship and was named the Green College Scholar. They were called to the bar in British Columbia in 2014.