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DOMESTIC CONTRACTS, 2ND ED. Hugh G. Stark & Kirstie J. MacLise Release No. 8, October 2025

This text contains the expert analysis and commentary, practical guidance, and sophisticated materials you need to draft effective domestic agreements. Domestic Contracts includes checklists, many sample agreements (including marriage agreements, cohabitation agreements and separation agreements), numerous additional clauses, case annotations, as well as authoritative commentary and relevant case law.

What's New in this Update

This release features updates to Chapter 3 (Cohabitation Agreements).

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Highlights

This release includes the following updates:

- Chapter 3 has been updated throughout, to modernize the language of the commentary and Sample Agreements. This includes amendments to incorporate recent changes to Family Law terminology.
- The Sample Agreements have also been edited to include reference to modern interests and issues, such as:
 - Digital assets (e.g. cryptocurrency, NFTs, and domain names), and employment-related stock options and Restricted Share Units (RSUs);
 - Care of children of former unions; and
 - Changes to legislation dealing with the rights of a common law spouse arising on the partner's intestacy.
- A detailed checklist has been added, for lawyers to consider when giving Independent Legal Advice.
- Among other changes is the inclusion of the following case: *Ramadan v. Coupal*, 2025 BCSC 1194 – Parties began romantic relationship and later purchased a residential property together — Before purchase, they signed a cohabitation agreement setting out ownership shares, financial contributions, and procedures for sale and division of proceeds — Following the man's death, litigation arose in response to the woman's application for a variation of his Will — Woman advanced claims in unjust enrichment, constructive trust, resulting trust, and an entitlement under the British Columbia Wills, Estates and Succession Act — Man's estate argued cohabitation agreement barred these claims — Court found the agreement contained no clear, unequivocal language waiving statutory or equitable remedies, including rights under succession law — No clear language to exclude claims to share of man's estate under intestacy law — Agreement focused narrowly on property division mechanics and did not expressly contract out of Wills-related entitlements — Court held that contracting out of such rights requires precise, unambiguous drafting — Woman permitted to advance all alternative claims, including the Wills entitlement, notwithstanding existence of cohabitation agreement.

ProView Developments

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- The opening page is now the title page of the book as you would see in the print work
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- The Table of Cases and Index are now in PDF with no searching and linking
- The Table of Contents now has internal links to every chapter and section of the book within ProView

- Images are generally greyscale and size is now adjustable
- Footnote text only appears in ProView-generated PDFs of entire sections and pages