



Dionysios Rossi

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[Disputes](#)

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Dionysios is the Regional Group Manager for Specialized Disputes in the Vancouver office of BLG, and practices primarily in the areas of transportation & shipping law, environmental law, and energy law. He is widely recognized as a leading advocate in these fields.

Dionysios has acted as counsel before the Federal Court and the Federal Court of Appeal, all levels of court in British Columbia and before a number of administrative tribunals.

After graduating from the Faculty of Law at the University of British Columbia, he served as a judicial law clerk to several justices of the British Columbia Supreme Court.

Dionysios frequently speaks and publishes on a wide variety of legal subjects. He has been interviewed by national media outlets such as Global News, and his work has appeared in general interest publications (including the *Vancouver Sun* and *Business in Vancouver*), trade publications, and legal publications (including the Irwin Law *Canadian Maritime Law* reference work, *The Transportation Lawyer*, *The Lawyers Weekly*, *The Verdict*, and various Continuing Legal Education Society of BC works).

Experience

- **Overview**

- Counsel to shipping and transportation clients in dispute-related matters (vessel arrest and sale, cargo arrest, casualty incidents, spill response, regulatory investigations, insolvency proceedings, blockade injunctions and judicial reviews); transactional matters (the negotiation of charterparty agreements, contracts of affreightment, terminal services agreements, tug service agreements, confidential railway contracts, and trucking contracts); and regulatory matters (permits, licenses, authorizations).
- Counsel to major project proponents (including TransLink, Woodfibre LNG, Ridley Terminals, B.C. Hydro, Petronas, and Apache Corporation) on matters involving environmental assessments, regulatory approvals, and the allocation of environmental risks and liabilities in infrastructure projects.
- Counsel on a wide range of environmental law matters, including: the environmental assessment process (federal and provincial), civil cost-recovery proceedings, the contractual allocation of environmental risks and liabilities, pollution-related matters (air, water and soil), spills, and regulatory compliance and enforcement (including criminal prosecutions).
- Counsel to energy industry clients in proceedings before the National Energy Board (now the Canada Energy Regulator), the British Columbia Oil and Gas Commission, the British Columbia Oil and Gas Appeal Tribunal, the British Columbia Utilities Commission, and the British Columbia Surface Rights Board.

- **Recent Matters**

- Counsel to Zim Integrated Shipping Services Ltd. in over 100 ongoing Canadian Federal Court civil actions and all regulatory investigations arising out of the M/V Zim Kingston container loss and vessel fire casualty.
- Counsel to Richardson Terminals in British Columbia Environmental Appeal Board proceedings challenging the constitutionality of certain provincial environmental legislation and its application to a federally regulated grain elevator and marine terminal in the Port of Vancouver.
- Counsel to Kirby Corporation in ongoing Canadian Federal Court and British Columbia Supreme Court civil proceedings and British Columbia Provincial Court regulatory proceedings arising from the grounding of the M/T Nathan E. Stewart and subsequent bunker fuel spill.
- Counsel to Bel Excavating and Shoring Limited Partnership in British Columbia Provincial Court regulatory proceedings arising from the \$200 million expansion of Fairview Terminals.
- Counsel to Parkland Fuels in the negotiation of a tug services agreement for its Burnaby Refinery, and other vessel charterparty issues.
- Counsel to Filld Inc. on all aspects of the commencement and operation of its mobile fuel delivery service in Canada.
- Counsel to Hanjin Shipping Co. Ltd. in all Canadian Federal Court and British Columbia Supreme Court proceedings arising out of its US\$10.5 billion foreign insolvency.
- Counsel to the City of Vancouver in Federal Court proceedings arising out of the M/V Marathassa oil spill in Burrard Inlet.
- Counsel to the two largest container terminals in Port Metro Vancouver in Federal Court judicial review proceedings arising from the 2014 Joint Action Plan imposed to end a commercial trucking strike.
- Counsel to a member of the Jordanian royal family in Federal Court, Federal Court of Appeal, and British Columbia Supreme Court proceedings to enforce a US\$28.8-million foreign judgment in a matter involving the arrest of a 144-foot tri-deck luxury yacht and subsequent insolvency of a local shipyard.

- Counsel to a shipowner in Federal Court proceedings seeking combined damages of C\$33 million arising out of a collapsed stow of containerized uranium cargo during a voyage from Vancouver, Canada to Zhangjiang, China.
- Counsel to a shipowner in successful Federal Court trial and appeal proceedings holding that the *Hague Visby Rules* do not compulsorily apply to sea waybills under Canadian law, and enforcing a C\$50,000 contractual limitation of liability, in a C\$1.5-million action for damage to cargo, following a derailment.

Insights & Events

- Author, "Labour strike on Canada's West Coast: The impact on marine industry stakeholders", BLG Article, July 2023
- Author, "Canada proposes to amend the Canada Transportation Act and the Canada Marine Act to improve transparency and accountability", BLG Article, July 2023
- Author, "Key developments in British Columbia and federal environmental law", BLG Article, April 2022
- BLG Talks Transportation, BLG Perspective, December 2021
- Speaker and Panel Moderator, "Recent Developments in the Law of Injunctions," Canadian Bar Association Environmental Law Subsection Event, December 8, 2021.
- Speaker, "West Coast Update," BLG 33rd Annual Maritime Law Seminar Webinar, December 3, 2021.
- Author, "British Columbia Breaks New Ground on the Regulation of Contaminated Sites," British Columbia Environmental Industry Guide, June 2021.
- Speaker/Author "2021 Environmental Case Law Update" Environmental Industry Association of B.C. Better Environmental Stewardship & Technology Conference, May 2021
- "Impact of the SCC decision regarding the Carbon Tax Reference" Presentation to Environmental Committee of Railway Association of Canada, May 2021.
- Co-Author, "Environmental Law" chapter, *Annual Review of Law and Practice*, The Continuing Legal Education Society of British Columbia (CLEBC), 2008–2021 editions.
- Co-author, "Maritime Law" chapter, *Annual Review of Law and Practice*, The Continuing Legal Education Society of British Columbia (CLE BC), 2010 – 2021 editions.
- Author, "Key developments in British Columbia and federal environmental law", BLG Article, April 2021
- Speaker/Author, "Basic Elements of Environmental Common Law and Statutory Claims," Canadian Bar Association National Environmental, Energy and Resources Law Symposium, April 2021
- Author, "Environmental obligations and compliance during the COVID-19 pandemic: A Canadian comparison", BLG Article, February 2021
- 32nd Annual Maritime Law Seminar Webinar, BLG Video, December 2020
- Speaker, "Regulation and the Resource Sector," B.C. Legal Innovation Forum, November 2019.
- Speaker/Author, "Responding to Regulatory Inspections and Investigations," Environmental Industry Association of B.C. Better Environmental Stewardship & Technology Conference, May 2019.
- Speaker/Author, "West Coast Legal Update: Recent Developments in Injunctive Relief Concerning Natural Resource Projects," Canadian Maritime Law Association Annual Legal Seminar, June 2018.
- Speaker/Author, "If You Build It They Will Come: Civil Disobedience and Natural Resource Development," Environmental Industry Association of B.C. Better Environmental Stewardship & Technology Conference, May 2018.
- Co-author, "SCC to Decide on Insolvent Companies' Environmental Liabilities" *The Lawyer's Daily*, March 2018
- Co-Author, "More Amendments to B.C. Spill Reporting and Response Regime," *The Lawyer's Daily*, February 2018.
- Overview of B.C.'s New Spill Reporting Regulation

- Speaker/Author, "The New Normal? Energy Development, Civil Disobedience, and Injunctive Relief," Canadian Energy Law Foundation Jasper Seminar, June 2017.
- Speaker/Author, "A Lawyer's Guide to Marine Emergency Spill Response," Environmental Industry Association of B.C. Better Environmental Stewardship & Technology Conference, May 2017.
- Speaker/Author, "Maritime Incidents and Indigenous Communities," Standard P&I Club Canada Members Forum, (Montreal and Vancouver) April 2017.

Beyond Our Walls

Professional Involvement

- Director, National Environmental, Energy, and Resources Law Section, Canadian Bar Association
- Director, National Maritime Law Section, Canadian Bar Association
- Director and Chair, Environment Committee, Canadian Maritime Law Association
- Member, Canadian Bar Association
- Member, Law Society of British Columbia
- Member, Vancouver Bar Association
- Past chair and director, Maritime Law subsection, Canadian Bar Association (B.C. Branch)
- Past director, Environmental Law subsection, Canadian Bar Association (B.C. Branch)
- Past director, Canadian Transportation Lawyers Association
- Past vice-president (communications) and former director, Environmental Managers Association
- Past director, British Columbia Civil Liberties Association

Community Involvement

- Supervising Lawyer, Pro-Bono Students of Canada & UBC Law Homeless ID Clinic
- Volunteer, UBC Law School Moot Court judge
- Volunteer, UBC Law School mentor program

Awards & Recognitions

- Recognized in the 2024 edition (and since 2018) of *The Best Lawyers in Canada*® (Environmental Law, Maritime Law, Railroad Law and Transportation Law).
- Recognized in the 2024 edition (and since 2018) of *Chambers Canada — Canada's Leading Lawyers for Business* (Environment and Transportation: Shipping).
- Recognized in the 2024 edition (and since 2018) of *Benchmark Litigation — The definitive guide to litigation firms and attorneys in Canada* as a "Litigation Star" (Energy, Environmental and Shipping).
- Recognized in the 2024 edition (and since 2019) of *The Legal 500 Canada as a Leading Lawyer* (Transport: Shipping).
- Recognized in the 2024 edition of *Chambers Global — The World's Leading Lawyers for Business* (Environment).
- Recognized in the 2024 edition (and since 2016) of *The Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory* (Shipping and Maritime Law; Environmental Law, and Energy).
- Recognized in the 2023 edition of *Who's Who Legal: Canada* (Transport Shipping).
- Recognized as a 2023 (and since 2022) Thomson Reuters (client nominated) "Stand-out Lawyer"
- Recognized by *Best Lawyers in Canada* as the 2022 'Lawyer of the Year' (Maritime Law — Vancouver).
- Recognized in the 2022 edition of Doyle's Guide: Leading Transport Lawyers — Canada.
- Recognized in the 2023 and 2021 editions of *Lexpert Special Edition: Energy*

- Awarded the highest Martindale-Hubbell® designation of AV® Preeminent™ (4.9 out of 5 in client and peer reviews).

Bar Admission & Education

- British Columbia, 2007
- LLB, University of British Columbia, 2005
- MA (History), Simon Fraser University, 2004
- BA (History), Simon Fraser University, 2001

BLG | Canada's Law Firm

As the largest, truly full-service Canadian law firm, Borden Ladner Gervais LLP (BLG) delivers practical legal advice for domestic and international clients across more practices and industries than any Canadian firm. With over 725 lawyers, intellectual property agents and other professionals, BLG serves the legal needs of businesses and institutions across Canada and beyond – from M&A and capital markets, to disputes, financing, and trademark & patent registration.

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