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George R. Wray Partner

T 416.367.6354 F 416.367.6749 Toronto <u>GWray@blg.com</u> Products Law Municipal Liability Cybersecurity Disputes Automotive Autonomous Vehicles Contract Disputes Transportation

An experienced litigator in all aspects of products law, George brings deep understanding of risk and regulatory concerns for designers, manufacturers, importers and distributors of products across various industry sectors. From automobiles, food, natural health products, beverage and agri-business to medical devices and emerging technologies including artificial intelligence, BLG's clients trust George's practical approach to handle the most complex and challenging of cases. His enviable record of success and business-oriented approach to helping clients navigate risks relating to their products goes beyond litigation and involves strategic advice regarding the sale of products into Canada, including product warnings, labelling, distribution, advertising as well as safety issues and recalls.

A recognized thought-leader and speaker on topics at the intersection of product development and safety, technology, innovation, business and law, George's curiosity and expertise gives BLG's clients an edge. His "what's next" approach to the law and risk management provides his clients with creative forward-thinking advice helping them to avoid and solve the small and big problems facing their business.

George is co-chair of BLG's Indigenous Peoples Action Committee.

Experience

• Advising worldwide distributor of caffeinated beverages re regulatory requirements in Canada.

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- Advising various food companies on the development and sale of natural health products and food in Canada.
- Advising leading fashion and clothing company regarding the regulatory requirements and sale of products in Canada.
- Advising and leading various recalls for health and other consumer products with Health Canada.
- Advising life science and medical device companies looking to deploy AI-enabled products in Canada (*i.e.* Software as a Medical Device), including dermatological tools, robotic surgical equipment and remote medical monitoring.
- Counsel to a world leading agricultural manufacturer on autonomous equipment testing and AI utilization.
- Defending various automotive OEMs defending claims relating to airbags, timing chains, emissions systems, seatbelts and electrical and engine failures.
- Defending worldwide leading RV companies.
- Defending a world leading appliance and household good manufacture in various product related claims.
- Defending a sport wear and product company against the unauthorized sale of its products.
- Counsel to an international tobacco manufacturer regarding the deployment of various vapour and ecigarette products and providing strategic advice concerning warnings and labelling.
- Defending a home products company regarding water coolers.
- Defending engineers and architects relating to building claims, including cold storage facilities.
- Defending municipalities in infrastructure and construction related claims.
- Defending boiler manufacturers for claims arising from property damage and personal injury.
- Defense of recreational vehicle manufacturer for claims arising from use of all-terrain vehicles.
- Defending power tool manufacturers for claims arising from the use of various products and tools.
- Defense of an international bottle manufacturer regarding wine bottles.
- Successfully defended a work boot manufacturer against design and manufacturing claims, including a successful application before the Workplace Safety and Insurance Appeal Tribunal.

Insights & Events

- Author, "Enhancing oversight: Health Canada's regulatory reform for drug and medical device recalls", BLG Article, September 2024
- Author, "Major changes are coming to Canadian competition law", BLG Article, December 2023
- Author, "A new consumer protection act is proposed for Ontario", BLG Article, November 2023
- Thought Starters, BLG Perspective, September 2023
- Author, "Navigating the maze of AI regulations: Tips for preparing your business compliance programs", BLG Article, July 2023
- Author, "Precision medicine in an AI world", BLG Article, June 2023
- Author, "The AIDA companion document: A roadmap for Canada's artificial intelligence law", BLG Article, March 2023
- Author, "Incoming changes to the Natural Health Products Regulations in Canada", BLG Article, July 2022
- Author, "Canada's Artificial Intelligence and Data Act: Impact for businesses", BLG Article, June 2022
- Author, "Regulating artificial intelligence: Preparing your business for the future", BLG Article, February 2022
- "Deals, disruptions and growth areas in the Americas Conference Artificial Intelligence," International Bar Association, Miami, USA, December 2021
- 5 more insurance industry trends: Product recall, municipal, cargo and business interruption insurance, BLG Perspective, November 2021

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- Speaker, "Artificial Intelligence and Product Liability: Catching up with the Future," International Consumer Product Health and Safety Organization," Webinar, October 2021
- Key legal and business issues facing the automotive sector: Shared mobility and Mobility as a Service (Maas), BLG Perspective, April 2021
- Author, "Artificial Intelligence and Product Liability: Catching up with the Future", BLG Article, March 2021
- Author, "Where is that feature featured: Addressing geographic product features and warnings", BLG Article, November 2020
- Author, "Ontario court addresses the issue of partial summary judgment", BLG Article, September 2020
- Author, "ONCA provides direction on use of AB settlement information at trial", BLG Article, June 2020
- The Sensor: The future of farming Autonomous agriculture, BLG Perspective, March 2020
- The Sensor: Mobility-as-a-Service & Smart Infrastructure: A New Risk Paradigm, BLG Perspective, February 2020
- The Sensor: Lingua Vehiculum: The competition for connected car communication, BLG Perspective, October 2019
- Author, "Stop Here, Not There: Supreme Court Refuses Leave to Appeal in Two Roadway Repair Cases that are Seemingly at Odds", BLG Article, April 2019
- Author, "Product Liability: DRI Compendium of Warning, Instructions, Recalls: Canada: Pre-Sale," April 2019.
- The Sensor: The State of insurance and autonomous vehicles in Ontario, BLG Perspective, March 2019
- Quoted, "Confusion about municipal obligations emerges" in Law Times, November 12, 2018.

Beyond our Walls

Professional Involvement

- Member, Canadian Bar Association
- Member, Ontario Bar Association
- Member, American Bar Association
- Member, International Bar Association (IBA)
- Member, International Association of Defense Counsel (IADC)
- Member, Defense Research Institute (DRI)
- Member, Canadian Defense Lawyers
- Member, The Advocates' Society

Community Involvement

• Hockey Helps the Homeless

Awards & Recognitions

- Recognized in the 2024 edition of The Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory (Litigation Product Liability)
- Recognized in the 2024 edition of Lexpert Special Edition: Technology and Health Sciences
- Mildred K. Walters Academic Award, Queen's University, 2005
- Reuben Wells Leonard Prize in Aboriginal Law, Queen's University, 2005
- R.W. Leonard Prize in Immigration and Refugee Law, Queen's University, 2005
- Fraser Milner Casgrain Award, Queen's University, 2005
- J.S.D. Tory Writing Award, Queen's University, 2005



- George M. Hood (SC'43) Award, Queen's University, 2005
- Elwin and Beverly Derbyshire Academic Achievement Award, Queen's University, 2005
- Cassels Brock & Blackwell Award in Constitutional Law and Human Rights, Queen's University, 2005
- Sabbath Prize in Comparative Constitutional Law, Queen's University, 2005
- Chief Justice McRuer Essay Prize, Queen's University, 2005

Bar Admission & Education

- Ontario, 2006
- LLM, University of Toronto, 2007
- LLB, Queen's University, 2005
- MA, Queen's University, 2001
- BA (Hons.), Queen's University, 2000

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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