

The transportation industry is constantly evolving as innovation drives new laws and regulations. Success depends on having a specialized legal team to help navigate the industry's longstanding and emerging issues, including the evolution of how goods and passengers move, autonomy and automation, and the growing gig and sharing economy.

As one of Canada's most experienced transportation teams, we have a unique understanding of the industry's past, present, and future. Our multidisciplinary structure allows us to work with professionals from across the firm to deliver optimal service and results.

We are recognized for our expertise in disputes, regulatory and transactional facets of all modes of transportation, including road, marine, air and rail. This includes:

- litigation at all levels of federal/provincial courts, arbitrations, mediations and other dispute resolution procedures across Canada
- project and transaction planning
- licensing and approvals
- operating permits
- safety and compliance advisory services
- enforcement and claims matters, including disputes
- quasi-criminal and administrative tribunal work
- infrastructure project planning advice, including land use approvals, property acquisitions, procurement structuring and administration, regulatory approvals, commercial agreements and financing
- transactions, including transport-specific mergers, acquisitions, dispositions and joint ventures
- commercial advisory and support, including drafting of a wide range of commercial transportation contracts and general commercial legal support
- transportation insurance expertise
- autonomous vehicles (including autonomous ships and drones) and technology

We are the preferred counsel to a number of major national and regional railway companies, urban transit authorities, transportation service providers, shippers, customers, project developers and contractors, along with:

- owners and operators of transportation companies and commercial vehicle assets
- P & I clubs and transportation insurers
- ship owners
- airlines
- terminals
- freight forwarders
- load brokers
- warehouses
- other third-party logistics providers and their insurers

Trucking

We have expertise in dispute, regulatory, and transactional aspects of trucking. Our experience includes:

- successful representation of numerous regional and national motor carriers and their insurers in catastrophic injury and wrongful death cases as well as cargo damage claims, commercial disputes, and regulatory proceedings relating to, among others, carrier fitness safety and compliance issues
- defence and prosecution of claims on behalf of members of the industry and their insurers
- representation in respect of Notices of Cancellation and Seizure of Commercial Plates; CVOR/National Carrier Fitness Safety Certificate aspects; IRP and IFTA registrations; transport regulatory compliance and registration in the context of mergers, acquisitions, amalgamations, and restructurings involving commercial motor vehicles; cabotage aspects for foreign carriers carrying on business in Canada; emissions and environmental issues

The Group also offers advice to trucking and logistics clients on issues related to freight forwarding, waybills, bills of lading and contracts of carriage; distribution and warehousing disputes, including liens on inventory and general security and forbearance agreements; recovery of property and debt disputes; corporate and business law issues, as well as environmental issues and the transportation of dangerous goods.

Specializations

Automotive

We have provided tailored, strategically-minded advice to clients in the automotive sector for over 40 years. Our team finds effective solutions through their collective knowledge of the industry and the law.

Autonomous Vehicles

Autonomous and connected vehicles are a new, exciting reality.

Aviation

In the high-stakes aviation sector, it's crucial to have a specialized team of advisors and advocates.

Railway

Canada was built on the shoulders of the railways, and remains a key part of an interconnected transportation system.

Shipping

Shipping law is one of the oldest legal systems in the world, with complex frameworks that companies must navigate.

Related Expertise

Capital Markets

Disputes

Environmental

Indigenous Law

Mergers & Acquisitions

BLG Can Also Help You With

Banking & Financial Services

Corporate Commercial

International Trade & Investment

Labour & Employment

Tax

Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG)

Your ambition. Our advice. M&A at BLG.

At the heart of every M&A opportunity is an ambition — to harness a market opportunity, to forge a new partnership, to shape growth on your terms. Strengthen and support your goals, backed by BLG's strong regulatory acumen and deep expertise in the sectors driving the Canadian economy today and tomorrow.

Key Contacts

Robin Squires
Partner

📍 Toronto

✉ RSquires@blg.com

📞 [416.367.6595](tel:416.367.6595)

Jean-Marie Fontaine
Partner

📍 Montréal

✉ JFontaine@blg.com

📞 [514.954.3196](tel:514.954.3196)

Graham Walker
National Group Head, Specialized Disputes

📍 Vancouver

✉ GWalker@blg.com

📞 [604.640.4045](tel:604.640.4045)

Sarah Sweet
Partner

📍 Toronto

✉ SSweet@blg.com

📞 [416.367.6590](tel:416.367.6590)

Martin Abadi
Partner

📍 Toronto

✉ MAbadi@blg.com

📞 [416.367.6158](tel:416.367.6158)

Dionysios Rossi
Partner

📍 Vancouver

✉ DRossi@blg.com

📞 [604.640.4110](tel:604.640.4110)

