



Adrian Pel

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[Commercial Litigation](#)

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[White Collar Criminal Defence and](#)

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Adrian represents businesses, individuals, and public bodies in complex disputes. His practice includes commercial litigation & arbitration, class action defence (including cutting-edge securities, competition, and product liability matters), white-collar investigations, and public law matters such as judicial review applications and defending regulatory prosecutions.

Adrian has acted before commercial arbitrators, the Ontario Court of Justice, the Ontario Superior Court of Justice (including the Commercial List), the Divisional Court, and the Ontario Court of Appeal. He has also worked on class action matters before the Federal Court, the Federal Court of Appeal, and in several other provinces.

Adrian summered and articled at BLG's Toronto office, and he is a member of the Toronto office's Associates Committee.

Experience

- **Commercial Litigation & Arbitration**
 - Acted for the **majority shareholders of a technology growth equity company**, in defending an oppression claim in an arbitration that involved complex valuation issues.

- Act for **financial institutions** such as banks, trust companies, and money services businesses in a range of civil litigation matters.
- Acted for a **publicly-listed technology company** in litigation with a publicly-traded investment holding company.
- Acted for a **50% shareholder and director** of a company seeking urgent relief under the oppression remedy before the Commercial List.
- Act for an **automotive manufacturer** in proceedings brought under the National Automobile Dealer Arbitration Program (NADAP).
- Defeated a motion to impose a certificate of pending litigation over a disputed property, in the context of a **complex dispute over the existence of a partnership** ([2022 ONSC 6295](#)).
- Successfully represented the **purchaser of a property** in an application for specific performance ([2022 ONSC 3823](#)).
- **Class Actions**
 - Defeated certification of a proposed securities class action, including an ensuing appeal, against **BMO InvestorLine Inc.** relating the payment of mutual fund “trailing commissions” to discount brokers ([2023 ONSC 16](#) aff'd [2024 ONSC 533](#)).
 - Act for a **pharmaceutical company**, in defending ongoing class actions in multiple Canadian provinces, including government healthcare recovery claims ([2023 ONSC 6792](#); [2024 BCCA 58](#)).
 - Act for **BMO Investments Inc.**, a mutual fund trustee/manager, in defending ongoing class actions relating to the payment of “trailing commissions” ([2021 ONSC 3589](#)).
 - Successfully obtained the dismissal of a proposed **privacy class action** against a **hospital** on the basis of delay
- **Investigations & Regulatory Defence**
 - Act for private and public sector clients in conducting **confidential investigations**, including into fraud and competition/antitrust matters.
 - Acted for a privately-held technology company in a lawsuit against a former executive arising from the **misappropriation of company property** that involved the successful execution of an *Anton Piller* (civil search) order.
 - Defend **regulatory prosecutions** under the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act* and *Occupational Health and Safety Act*.

Insights & Events

- Panel Moderator, "Living with Change: The 2020 CPA and 2026 Proposed Rules Amendments", OBA Class Actions Colloquium, November 2025
- Author, "["Fishing in a "Lobster Tank": Non-Party Production Order Granted in Proposed Secondary Market Misrepresentation Class Action."](#)" Ontario Bar Association website, May 2025
- [Co-Author, "Dismissal of class proceedings for delay: ONCA provides guidance". Law360, April 2025](#)
- Author, "Tick tock: Ontario Court of Appeal provides guidance on dismissal for delay under the Class Proceedings Act", BLG Article, March 2025
- Speaker, "Keeping Up with the Case Law" Series, OBA Class Actions Section, January 2025, April 2024, April 2023 & June 2022
- Author, "No certification for Boal investors – Fiduciary duty ruled individual issue", BLG Article, November 2024
- Speaker, "Some Basis in Fact The Triumph of the Two-Step Test and Certification Successes", November 2024

- Author, "[Civil Procedure and Practice in Ontario, Rule 59 - Orders](#)", Canadian Legal Information Institute, July 2024
- Author, "Divisional Court affirms high degree of deference to public school-board decisions", BLG Article, April 2024
- Author, "TCDSB v. OECTA: School board not liable for public statements made by trustee", BLG Article, April 2024
- Author, "Ontario Court of Appeal provides guidance on 'risk of harm' claims and common issues test", BLG Article, April 2024
- Co-Author, "Claims Against Class Action Administrators: Court Reviews Leave Requirement", OBA, March 2024
- Author, "B.C. introduces Bill 12: sweeping health care cost recovery legislation", BLG Article, March 2024
- Author, "[Shareholder Voting Injunctions in Canada](#)," Canadian Bar Review 237, 2023
- Author, "Appeal Court provides guidance on non-compliance with Mareva orders", BLG Article, July 2023
- Co-Author, "Court Decertifies "Phantom Class" Following Extensive Opt-Outs: *Navartnarajah v. FSB Group Ltd.*," OBA, June 2023
- Author, "Ontario's Divisional Court confirms regulatory rules do not create fiduciary duties", BLG Article, April 2022
- Co-Author, "Fresco v. CIBC: Ontario Court Of Appeal Decision Offers Guidance, Leaves Open Questions," OBA, March 2022
- Author, "Why a recent ETF class action may prompt reform to the Ontario Securities Act", BLG Article, October 2021
- Author, "Court decision raises risk of securities class actions for companies receiving whistleblower report", BLG Article, November 2020
- Author, "[Reforming Section 89 of the Indian Act: Tinker, Waiver, Soldier \(On\), Sigh?](#)", Lakehead Law Journal (Vol. 4, Issue1), November 202
- Co-Author, "Cross-Border Discovery in Canadian & American Antitrust Litigation," , ABA Antitrust Section *Global Private Litigation Bulletin*, February 2020
- Author, "*The Reform Act, 2014: A Critical Analysis*," *Journal of Parliamentary and Political Law* 177, 2017.

Beyond Our Walls

Professional Involvement

- Executive Member, Ontario Bar Association, Class Actions Section
- Member, The Advocates' Society
- Member, Canadian Bar Association

Community Involvement

- Volunteer, Pro Bono Ontario Hotline



Awards & Recognition

- Recipient of the Principal David L. Johnston Medal in 2019 for distinguished academic standing and outstanding contribution to the McGill Faculty of Law in the areas of academic, social and community life.

Bar Admission & Education

- Ontario, 2020
- LLB/BCL, McGill University, 2019
- MA, University of Toronto, 2015
- BA, University of Cambridge, 2014

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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