

Rambod Behboodi

Senior Counsel

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International Trade & Investment
Government & Public Sector
Anti-Dumping, Anti-Subsidy & Safeguards
Financial Services Regulatory
Administrative and Public Law
Competition/Antitrust and Foreign Investment
Environmental

Rambod is recognized as one of Canada's most knowledgeable and experienced trade lawyers.

He has extensive experience advising on and arguing North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) cases and World Trade Organization (WTO) cases, participating in multilateral environmental negotiations, and advising on issues including agricultural trade, subsidies and antidumping, export controls, and technical barriers to trade. Rambod has also served on postings to the WTO and the European Union, and as Counsellor at the WTO, advising on antidumping disputes.

In addition to his trade expertise, Rambod has significant experience in financial regulation. As General Counsel at Finance Canada during the financial crisis, Rambod gained unique insight into the Department's non-tax business lines, in particular regulation of financial institutions, anti-money laundering measures, and trade in financial services. He has advised finance ministries and central banks in both advanced and developing countries.

Rambod was named the Canadian Competition Bureau's first Deputy Commissioner for Competition Promotion in 2014, where he helped establish the branch. In this role, he was responsible for economic analysis and advocacy, compliance, and international cooperation.

Prior to joining BLG, Rambod worked at a global firm in Geneva, providing policy and legal advice to public and private sector interests on a range of access, regulatory, litigation and institutional issues.

Rambod has taught international economic regulation and litigation at various universities in Canada, the United States and Europe throughout his career.

Rambod is fluent in English, French and Farsi.

Experience

- *Barrister*
  - **Government of Morocco** in a WTO dispute against Tunisia in respect of Morocco's antidumping practices; the dispute is under appeal
  - **Government of Canada** in various WTO disputes:
    - *Canada – Wheat Board*, head of delegation in the first ever dispute on the scope of state-trading enterprise obligations of the WTO Agreement, secured significant win for Canada.
    - *U.S. – Final Determination of countervailing measures on softwood*, head of delegation in the first ever dispute before the Appellate Body of the WTO on the scope of "in-country" benchmarks for subsidies cases and the definition of "goods" in the SCM Agreement
    - *U.S. – Byrd Amendment*, head of delegation, first ever disputes on what constitutes "specific action against a subsidy" with important and far-reaching consequences for subsidy disciplines
    - *Canada – Measures Affecting Export of Civilian Aircraft (21.5)* co-counsel in systemically important case clarifying the scope of obligation of a state in implementing panel reports
    - *Brazil – Export Financing Programme for Regional Aircraft (21.5)* lead counsel, first case on the legal test for meeting the requirements of key exception to the prohibition on export subsidies in the SCM Agreement
    - *Canada – Measures Affecting Export of Civilian Aircraft* co-counsel, first case on the scope of *de facto* export subsidy disciplines of the SCM Agreement, and the export financing activities of Export Development Canada
    - *Brazil – Export Financing Programme for Regional Aircraft* lead counsel, first case on the scope of a developing country's obligations under the SCM Agreement, as well as key systemic findings on procedural questions
- *Solicitor and litigation manager*
  - **Government of Canada**, in various domestic public law litigation:
    - *Reference re* Securities *Act*, [2011] 3 SCR 837: Series of constitutional references dealing with Parliament's jurisdiction to regulate securities to ensure national financial stability.
    - *Canada (Attorney General) v. Federation of Law Societies of Canada*, [2015] 1 SCR 401: Long-running case involving the interaction between Canada's money laundering regime, internationally-agreed financial monitoring and reporting requirements, and constitutionally protected rights related to solicitor-client privilege
    - *Bank of Montreal, et al. v. Réal Marcotte*, et al., 2013 CanLII 18832 (SCC): Canada participated as intervenor at various levels leading to the Supreme Court to safeguard Parliament's authority over consumer protection in respect of banking
  - The **International Trade Centre**:
    - Advised the Central Bank, the Finance Ministry, and the Trade Ministry of Uzbekistan on WTO accession services trade negotiations, in particular in respect of financial services liberalization, and strategic aspects of multilateral negotiations.

        - Advised the Finance Ministry and the Trade Ministry of the Republic of Iraq on WTO accession services trade negotiations, in particular in respect of financial services liberalization.
    - **ACT for Living Wages**, advised on due diligence implementation and the structure of dispute settlement mechanisms in the textile sector in Cambodia and Türkiye

Insights & Events

- Author, "Beyond CETA: What EU "associate membership" actually means for Canadian business", BLG Article, October 2026
- The Tariff Home Companion – Season 2, BLG Podcast, September 2026
- Author, "From duties to import bans: The Canada–U.S. tariff war after the collapse of negotiations", BLG Article, September 2026
- Interviewed, U.S. policy compelling some drug companies to stall medicine rollouts in Canada, City News, Toronto, August 2026
- Author, "Smoot-Hawley revived: a never-before-used Depression-era law is invoked against Canadian trade", BLG Article, July 2026
- Author, "Canada extends steel and aluminum trade measures: What stakeholders need to know", BLG Article, June 2026
- Author, "U.S. expands Tariff Offset Regime to medium and heavy-duty vehicle sector", BLG Article, May 2026
- Author, "The “deal”: U.S. “Reciprocal Trade Agreements” in Southeast Asia", BLG Article, May 2026
- Author, "U.S. steel and aluminum tariffs update: Relief, more of the same or more extreme industrial policy?", BLG Article, May 2026
- Author, "Overhauling EU customs system", BLG Article, May 2026
- Author, "2026 CUSMA review: Enhancing trade negotiation transparency", BLG Article, March 2026
- Author, "U.S. trade developments: IEEPA tariffs end, but will new Section 301 tariffs follow?", BLG Article, March 2026
- Author, "U.S. Supreme Court Decision on Emergency Tariffs: Legal and Commercial Implications", BLG Article, February 2026
- Author, "A seismic trade shift from the Alps to the Himalayas", BLG Article, February 2026
- The Tariff Home Companion, BLG Podcast, February 2026
- Author, "When regulators shake hands: The CFIA–China food safety MOU", BLG Article, January 2026
- Author, "The world’s first carbon border-adjusted tax enters its definitive phase: What it means for Canada", BLG Article, January 2026
- Author, "Canada’s new trade landscape: Legal and compliance imperatives in Federal Budget 2025", BLG Article, November 2025
- Author, "Chinese EV tariffs revisited? A look back to find a path forward", BLG Article, October 2025
- Author, "U.S. releases new process for expanding auto parts tariffs: What Canadian stakeholders need to know", BLG Article, September 2025
- Tariffs and Trade Resource Centre, BLG Perspective, August 2025
- Author, "EU customs reform: What Canadian exporters and trade associations need to know", BLG Article, July 2025
- Author, "Finding a ratification solution in the EU-Mercosur trade deal", BLG Article, June 2025
- Author, "Pharma, national security and tariffs: Where do we go from here?", BLG Article, June 2025
- Author, "Colombia's response to unfavourable investment arbitration: Renegotiate the bilateral investment treaty", BLG Article, May 2025

Beyond Our Walls

Professional Involvement

- Member, Law Society of Ontario
- Previous Member, Ordre des avocats de Genève

Community Involvement

- Board Member, Tastakel for Peace Education (Geneva)

Awards & Recognition

- Recognized in the 2027 edition of *Chambers Canada* (International Trade/WTO (Nationwide))
- Recognized in the 2026 edition of *The Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory* (International Trade Regulation).
- Received the 2014 APEX Award
- Received the 2013 and 2012 Justice Canada Portfolio Excellence Award
- Received the 2008 Minister's Award for Trade Service (DFAIT)
- Received the 2000 Head of the Public Service Award Minister's Citation for Trade Service (DFAIT)
- Received the 1999 Award of Excellence (Treasury Board Secretariat)
- Received the 1998 Award of Merit (DFAIT)

Bar Admission & Education

- Ontario, 1994

- LLM, University of Toronto, 1992
- LLB, University of Toronto, 1991
- BA, University of Toronto, 1988

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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 800 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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