



Matthew G. Swanson

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[Disputes](#)

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Matthew Swanson is a leading litigation and disputes lawyer in BLG's Vancouver office. He has extensive experience acting for companies and individuals in critical business and personal disputes.

Matthew is known for his strategic approach to challenging cases. He regularly appears as counsel in complex matters and has conducted numerous trials, arbitrations, and appeals. He handles transactional disputes, contract disputes, real estate, and construction disputes, franchise disputes, and matters relating to the breakdown of business relationships, including partnership disputes, shareholder disputes and oppression claims.

Matthew is a frequent author and speaker. He has written and spoken extensively on a broad range of litigation and dispute resolution issues including topics relating to contract law, real estate law, construction law and franchise law.

Insights & Events

- Author, "Real estate purchaser protections upheld: B.C. Court of Appeal confirms that a purchaser's lien survives despite an alternative claim for rescission", BLG Article, July 2025
- Speaker, "Protest Response & Injunctive Relief," BLG Client Presentation, July 2025

- Author, "Will the Supreme Court of Canada impose a duty to mitigate on commercial landlords?", BLG Article, July 2025
- Author, "No signature, no sale: The emoji that couldn't seal the deal", BLG Article, May 2025
- Speaker, "Rent Distress Done Right," CLE BC's Commercial Leasing 2025 Seminar, May 2025
- Author, "Broken beyond repair: Court declines to grant relief from forfeiture due to tenant's poor conduct", BLG Article, February 2025
- Author, "Diving deeper into the PPPA: Reynolds v Deep Water Recovery Ltd.", BLG Article, February 2025
- Author, "A primer on the oppression remedy", BLG Article, December 2024
- Co-Chair, CLE BC's Creditors Remedies Seminar, June 2023 (and February 2021)
- Moderator, "A View From the Bench, How to Run a Summary Trail," CLE BC's Creditor's Remedies Seminar, June 2023 (and February 2021)
- Speaker "Problems Encountered by Landlords: Non-Payment of Rent," CLE BC's Commercial Leasing 2023 Seminar, May 2023
- Panelist, "Putting Commercial Leasing Concepts into Practice," CLE BC's Commercial Leasing 2023 Seminar, May 2023
- Co-author, "Franchise Law," Annual Review of Law & Practice, CLEBC, March 2023 (and since 2016)
- Presenter, "Collapsed Real Estate Transactions," CBABC Real Estate Subsection Meeting, December 1, 2022
- Legal and Legislative Update, BLG Franchise Seminar, November 23, 2022
- Panelist, "Commercial Leasing Hot Topics," CLE BC's Commercial Leasing 2021 Seminar, May 2021
- Speaker, "Rent Distress: Cautionary Tales and How to Do it Right," CLE BC's Commercial Leasing 2021 Seminar, May 2021
- Speaker, "To Breach or Not to Breach: Examining the Doctrine of Efficient Breach," BLG U, November 2017.
- Author, ["TRAK Energy Corp. vs. Happy Valley: a cautionary tale for builders' lien claimants."](#) On-Site Magazine, October 2017.
- Speaker "Case Law Update," BLG franchise law seminar, September 2017
- Speaker "System Compliance: How to Get It and How to Lose It," BLG franchise law seminar, September 2017.
- Author, "Franchise Law In British Columbia: The New Franchises Regulation", BLG Article, July 2017
- Speaker, "Realtor Beware: Lessons Learned from Collapsed Real Estate Transactions," BLG client seminar, June 2017.
- Co-author, "The British Columbia Franchises Act and Franchises Regulation: A Primer," Franchising World, May 2017.
- Co-author, "Real Estate Development Marketing" chapter, Real Estate Development Practice Manual, February 2017.

Beyond Our Walls

Professional Involvement

- Member, Law Society of British Columbia
- Member, Law Society of Saskatchewan (non-practicing)
- Member, The Advocates' Society
- Member, American Bar Association

Community Involvement

- Member, Leader's Council, VGH-UBC Hospital Foundation, 2022-present
- Member, Vitality Gala Committee, VGH-UBC Hospital Foundation, 2022-present
- Director, Kids Up Front - Vancouver Club, 2024-present
- Member, Governance Committee, Vancouver Club, 2024-present
- Co-Chair, Finance Committee, Vancouver Club, 2022-2024
- Chair, Discipline Committee, Vancouver Club, 2022-2024
- Past supervising lawyer, Pro Bono Students Canada ID Project, Powell Street Getaway Resource Centre
- Past member, BLG United Way campaign
- Past mentor, Canadian Bar Association

Awards & Recognition

- Recognized in the 2025 (and since 2022) edition of *The Best Lawyers in Canada* (Franchise Law)
- Recognized as the 2023 'Lawyer of the Year' in Vancouver by *The Best Lawyers in Canada* (Franchise Law)
- Recognized in the 2025 edition (and since 2022) of *Benchmark Canada – The Definitive Guide to Canada's Leading Litigation Firms & Attorneys* as a "Litigation Star" in British Columbia.
- Recognized in the 2021 (and since 2018) edition of *Benchmark Canada – The Definitive Guide to Canada's Leading Litigation Firms & Attorneys* as a "Future Star" in Litigation in British Columbia.
- Recognized in the 2019 and 2018 editions of *Benchmark Litigation — 40 & Under Hot List, Canada*, as a top litigation lawyer in Canada aged 40 or younger.
- Recognized in the 2019 Edition of *The Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory®* as a Leading Lawyer to Watch (Litigation - Corporate and Commercial).
- Recognized in 2021 (and since 2017) as a Thomson Reuters Standout Lawyer (formerly known as Acritas Star Lawyers)

Bar Admission & Education

- British Columbia, 2008
- Saskatchewan, 2019
- LLB, University of British Columbia, 2007
- BA (Dist., Philosophy), University of Regina, 2003

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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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