

Sarah Sweet

Partner and Co-Leader, Transportation & Logistics Group

T 416.367.6590
F 416.367.6749
Toronto
SSweet@blg.com
LinkedIn

Trucking
Transportation
Shipping
Insurance
Insurance Claim Defence
Contract Disputes
Municipal Liability
Aviation
Railway

Sarah Sweet is a Partner in BLG's Toronto office. She is a Co-Leader of BLG's Transportation & Logistics Group and a member of BLG's National Coverage Team. Sarah's practice focuses on all aspects of the transportation and insurance industries. She also acts for municipalities in both defence and plaintiff-side litigation, including requests for injunctive relief.

In her transportation practice, Sarah acts for clients in complex shipping and rail casualty matters, cargo claims, commercial disputes, bills of lading and contracts of affreightment disputes, ship arrest and sale, passenger cruise claims, and cargo arrest. She also advises on transportation agreements and transportation regulatory matters. Sarah's practice includes advising on the financing and mortgaging of maritime and transportation assets as well as transactions and purchase agreements involving transport and maritime businesses. She has also been appointed Vice-Chair to the Admiralty and Maritime Law General Committee of the ABA Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section since 2020. Sarah is also the Vice President – Central Region for the Canadian branch of the Women's International Shipping and Trading Association (WISTA).

In her coverage practice, Sarah acts as coverage counsel to Canadian and foreign insurers carrying on business in Canada. Sarah provides coverage opinions, drafts policy language, and advises on policy interpretation under many forms of policies, including commercial general liability policies, environmental and pollution policies, errors & omissions policies, directors & officers policies, property policies, and RWI policies. Sarah has acted as defence counsel for insurers in complex coverage litigation. Her experience includes defending claims brought by

insureds against their insurers as well as disputes among primary and excess insurers. Sarah has litigated insurance coverage defence claims up to the Ontario Court of Appeal. She also maintains an insurance regulatory practice advising on regulatory compliance.

In her municipal practice, Sarah acts as counsel for municipalities when advancing claims for breach of contract, nuisance, and in seeking injunctive relief. She also defends municipalities and their employees against claims such as bodily injury claims, non-repair of roads and sidewalks, negligent design, and property damage. Sarah also provides advice on the structuring of contractual insurance and indemnity protections for municipalities.

Sarah has appeared before the Ontario Superior Court of Justice, the Ontario Court of Appeal, and the Federal Court. She has trial experience in the Ontario Superior Court of Justice.

Experience

- Acting as counsel in coverage litigation, including as counsel for excess layer insurer in complex coverage litigation brought by insured against its insurers for environmental claims spanning multiple decades and coverage periods
- Acting as counsel for ocean carriers in successfully defeating cargo claims in the Ontario Superior Court of Justice and the Federal Court
- Acting as counsel for ship-owners in large financing transactions and in the purchase of new vessels for their fleets
- Acting as counsel for municipalities, including in successfully obtaining injunctive relief under section 440 of the Municipal Act against a homeowner for breach of municipal by-laws and nuisance

Insights & Events

- Author, "Mother and Son Successful on Summary Judgment after Son’s Head-On Vehicle Collision,", BLG Article, July 2019
- Author, "Competing "Other Insurance Clauses": Can One Trump the Other?", BLG Article, January 2019
- Author, "Stop Here, Not There: Court Of Appeal Comes To Seemingly Different Conclusions In Two Strikingly Similar Roadway Repair Cases", BLG Article, October 2018
- Author, "Negligent Investigation Claim Against Police Dismissed in Child Sexual Assault Case", BLG Article, January 2018
- Author, "Legislation Introduces Ban On Oil-Tankers On Canadian West-Coast", BLG Article, May 2017
- Author, "Swept Overboard: Federal Court Finds Undeclared On-Deck Carriage Did Not Prevent Carrier From Limiting Liability Under Hague-Visby Rules", BLG Article, May 2017
- Author, "BC’s restricted insurance agency regime: Preparing for licensing", BLG Article, November 2026
- Author, "British Columbia Insurance Update: Insurer and Agent Licensing Exemptions for Motor Vehicle Manufacturers and Dealers", BLG Article, November 2026
- Author, "Key takeaways from BLG's 37th Annual Maritime Law Seminar", BLG Article, December 2025
- Author, "Too close for comfort: Motion to strike bystander’s claim fails", BLG Article, November 2023
- Author, "Court of Appeal confirms factors for determining compensable mental injury", BLG Article, May 2023
- BLG Talks Transportation, BLG Perspective, December 2021
- Business insurance trends: Climate change litigation, D&O risk, force majeure and transport insurance, BLG Perspective, October 2021
- Author, "Supreme Court gives guidance on "core policy" immunity", BLG Article, October 2021

- Supply chains in a post-pandemic world, BLG Perspective, June 2021
- Full steam ahead: Recent developments in maritime autonomous technology, BLG Perspective, February 2021
- Author, "Ontario passes Bill 218 to provide COVID-19 liability protection", BLG Article, December 2020
- 32nd Annual Maritime Law Seminar Webinar, BLG Video, December 2020
- Author, "Ontario proposes new bill to provide COVID-19 liability protection", BLG Article, October 2020
- The Sensor: Unfamiliar waters: Navigating autonomous vessels' potential and perils, BLG Perspective, July 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, "Saumur V. Antoniak: A Child's Failure to Look Both Ways Before Crossing the Street", BLG Article, November 2016
- Recent Legal Developments — Summaries of Relevant and Recent Cases, BLG Video, October 2016
- Author, "An Educator's Guide to Welcoming Syrian Refugee Children", BLG Article, January 2016

Beyond Our Walls

Professional Involvement

- Member, Canadian Bar Association
- Member, Ontario Bar Association
- Member, Transportation Lawyers Association
- Vice-Chair, Admiralty and Maritime Law General Committee, ABA Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section, 2020-21

Community Involvement

- Volunteer, BLG Reads to Kids

Awards & Recognition

- Recognized in the 2027 edition of *The Legal 500* as a "Leading Partner" (Transport: shipping)
- Recognized in the 2026 edition (and since 2025) of *The Best Lawyers in Canada* as “Ones to Watch” (Insurance Law) and since in 2024 (Maritime Law)
- Recognized in the 2026 edition of *The Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory* (Shipping and Maritime Law).

Bar Admission & Education

- Ontario, 2016

- B. Sc. (Hons), Acadia University, 2012
- JD, Schulich School of Law, Dalhousie University, 2015

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 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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