

Roark Lewis

Senior Associate

T 604.632.3539
F 604.687.1415
Vancouver
RLewis@blg.com
LinkedIn

Environmental
Disputes
Indigenous Law
Energy – Power
Administrative and Public Law

Roark's practice focuses on environmental, Indigenous, and regulatory matters. He represents clients in dispute resolution involving environmental issues, Aboriginal rights and title, and regulatory proceedings and prosecutions. In addition to his litigation practice, he advises clients on regulatory compliance, environmental due diligence, and Indigenous land rights.

Roark provides strategic advice to clients on legal requirements for accessing and operating on Indigenous lands. He acts for clients—including utility, energy, and telecommunications companies—in negotiating and advising on permits, rights of way, and other tenures on First Nation reserve lands, treaty lands, and Métis settlement lands.

Roark has appeared before all levels of court in British Columbia and in numerous provincial and federal administrative tribunals. He also represents parties in negotiations and mediations.

Experience

- Counsel on environmental law matters including contaminated sites litigation, responses to spills and migrating pollution, regulatory compliance and enforcement proceedings, site due diligence, and environmental management and remediation agreements.
- Counsel in litigation matters involving Aboriginal rights and title.
- Negotiating and advising on land-use and access agreements relating to Indigenous lands.

- Counsel for clients facing enforcement proceedings, including prosecutions, relating to licensing, permitting, and other regulatory compliance issues.
- Counsel for housing operators in matters under the *Residential Tenancy Act* and the *Community Care and Assisted Living Act*, including drafting resident agreements, representing clients in landlord-tenant disputes in the Residential Tenancy Branch, and defending clients in administrative proceedings involving the Residential Tenancy Branch's Compliance and Enforcement Unit and the Assisted Living Registry.
- Defence counsel for clients in litigation relating to occupiers' liability, product liability, construction defects, and other types of negligence claims.
- Counsel in regulatory proceedings before the British Columbia Utilities Commission.
- *E.B. v. British Columbia (Child, Family and Community Services),* 2021 BCCA 47: Acted as counsel in successful defence of appeal from striking of claims of defamation and misfeasance in a public office.
- *E.B. v. British Columbia (Child, Family and Community Services)*, 2019 BCSC 2200: Acted as co-counsel for defendants in successful application to strike amended notice of civil claim alleging negligence, defamation, and misfeasance in a public office.
- Acted as co-counsel in a regulatory prosecution for a corporation facing charges under the *Health of Animals Act*, S.C. 1990, c. 21.
- Acted as co-counsel for the Law Society of British Columbia in professional discipline proceedings.
- Acted as counsel for a refugee claimant from a European country in the Refugee Protection Division of the Immigration and Refugee Board. The claimant sought protection from persecution based on their SOGIE. The Refugee Protection Division accepted the claim and granted the claimant refugee status.
- Acted as counsel for a personal applying for a Pre-Removal Risk Assessment to avoid removal to a Central American country. The person was able to remain in Canada with their family.

Insights & Events

- Author, "Recent developments in Aboriginal Title litigation", BLG Article, June 2026
- Author, "From mineral tenures to nuclear projects: The evolving role of UNDRIP in Canadian domestic law", BLG Article, January 2026
- Author, "Proposed amendments to Canada's greenwashing rules", BLG Article, January 2026
- Author, "Greenwashing rules may get a makeover in Canada's 2025 budget", BLG Article, November 2025
- Author, "B.C. government launches public engagement on Infrastructure Projects Act: What you need to know", BLG Article, July 2025
- Author, "Canada's greenwashing crackdown: New guidelines & private right of action", BLG Article, July 2025
- Author, "New legislation alert: Streamlined approval processes for major projects in B.C. and Canada", BLG Article, June 2025
- Speaker, "Expert evidence: How to not soil the bed in erosion and sediment control-related litigation," Erosion and Sediment Control Association of British Columbia, June 2025
- Speaker, "Environmental Permitting in BC: Tips for Success and Lessons Learned (Panel)," British Columbia Environmental Industry Association Bettering Environmental Stewardship + Technology conference, May 2025
- Author, "Regulation of renewable energy projects in B.C.: Streamlined approval processes for project development", BLG Article, February 2025
- Author, "New proposed guidelines regarding environmental claims - Canada's Competition Bureau holds a public consultation", BLG Article, January 2025

- Author, "ESG litigation and regulatory risks: Managing claims and liabilities for Canadian businesses", BLG Article, July 2024
- Author, "False advertising and greenwashing: Bill C-59 changes to Competition Act", BLG Article, July 2024
- Author, "Actton Super-Save Gas Stations Ltd v Eneas Proper tenure for businesses on reserves", BLG Article, June 2024
- Author, "New draft VOC regulations in Canada: Same old constitutional battles? ", BLG Article, March 2024
- Author, "BC Supreme Court issues rare damages award for misfeasance in public office", BLG Article, October 2023
- Author, " Canada enacts into law the right to a healthy environment and more stringent chemical management requirements ", BLG Article, June 2023
- Author, "Kitselas First Nation and British Columbia reach Environmental Assessment Agreement", BLG Article, June 2023
- Author, "Opening the tap: the B.C. government proposes new Watershed Security Strategy", BLG Article, March 2023
- Author, "BC introduces new rules for carbon capture and storage", BLG Article, December 2022
- Author, "BC expands liability for oil and gas activities to directors, officers and others", BLG Article, December 2022
- Author, "BC hydrogen legislation New regulator for hydrogen and other energy resources", BLG Article, December 2022
- Presenter “Evolving Trends and Best Practices in ESG," Vancouver Environmental Seminar, October 2022.
- Author, "Contaminated sites BC: Increased requirements proposed in ministry discussion paper", BLG Article, October 2022
- Author, "British Columbia Court of Appeal upholds provisions of the Medicare Protection Act", BLG Article, August 2022

Beyond Our Walls

Professional Involvement

- Member, Canadian Bar Association
- Member, Law Society of British Columbia
- Member, Vancouver Bar Association
- Director, British Columbia Environmental Industry Association
- Law & Policy Liaison, Canadian Bar Association (British Columbia Environmental Law Subsection)
- Section Executive, Canadian Bar Association (British Columbia Natural Resources Subsection)

Awards & Recognition

- Recognized in the 2027 edition (and since 2022) of *The Best Lawyers in Canada* - Ones to Watch (Corporate and Commercial Litigation, Administrative and Public Law and Aboriginal Law / Indigenous Law).

Bar Admission & Education

- Alberta, 2026
- British Columbia, 2018
- Yukon Territory, 2024

- BA (Honours), McGill University, 2013
- JD, University of Victoria, 2017

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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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