

Dionysios Rossi

Partner and National Co-Leader, Transportation & Logistics Group

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Shipping
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Disputes
Environmental
Environmental Disputes
Infrastructure
Energy - Oil & Gas
Energy – Power
Indigenous Power

Dionysios is a Partner and National Co-Leader of the BLG Transportation & Logistics Group. He practices primarily in the areas of transportation & shipping law, environmental law, and energy law. A four-time “Lawyer of the Year," he is widely recognized as a leading advocate in these fields. Dionysios also serves as the Regional Group Manager of Specialized Disputes in the Vancouver office of BLG.

Dionysios has represented clients before the Federal Court and the Federal Court of Appeal, all levels of court in British Columbia, and before a number of administrative tribunals. After graduating from the Faculty of Law at the University of British Columbia, he served as a judicial law clerk to several justices of the British Columbia Supreme Court.

Dionysios frequently speaks and publishes on a wide variety of legal subjects. He has been interviewed by national media outlets such as Global News, and his work has appeared in legal publications (including the leading Irwin Law reference work *Canadian Maritime Law, The Alberta Law Review, The Transportation Lawyer, The Lawyers Weekly, The Verdict, Bar Talk*, and various Continuing Legal Education Society of BC works);trade publications (such as *Western Mariner* and *Tradewinds*); and in general interest publications (including the *Vancouver Sun* and *Business in Vancouver*).

Experience

- **Overview**
  - Counsel to shipping and transportation clients in dispute-related matters (vessel arrest, cargo arrest, casualty incidents, spill response, regulatory investigations, insolvency proceedings, blockade injunctions and judicial reviews); transactional matters (the negotiation of charterparty agreements, contracts of affreightment, terminal services agreements, tug service agreements, confidential railway contracts, and trucking contracts); and regulatory matters (permits, licenses, authorizations).
  - Counsel to major project proponents (including TransLink, Woodfibre LNG, Ridley Terminals, B.C. Hydro, Petronas, and Apache Corporation) on matters involving environmental assessments, regulatory approvals, and the allocation of environmental risks and liabilities in infrastructure projects.
  - Counsel on a wide range of environmental law matters, including: the environmental assessment process (federal and provincial), civil cost-recovery proceedings, the contractual allocation of environmental risks and liabilities, pollution-related matters (air, water and soil), spills, and regulatory compliance and enforcement (including criminal prosecutions).
  - Counsel to energy industry clients in proceedings before the National Energy Board (now the Canada Energy Regulator), the British Columbia Oil and Gas Commission, the British Columbia Oil and Gas Appeal Tribunal, the British Columbia Utilities Commission, and the British Columbia Surface Rights Board.
- **Representative Matters**
  - Counsel to Trigon Pacific Terminals in a British Columbia Supreme Court civil action and a Federal Court judicial review proceeding against the Prince Rupert Port Authority, relating to a proposed $750 million LPG terminal in Prince Rupert.
  - Counsel to Kirby Corporation in ongoing Canadian Federal Court and British Columbia Supreme Court civil proceedings and British Columbia Provincial Court regulatory prosecution arising from the grounding of the M/T Nathan E. Stewart and subsequent bunker fuel spill.
  - Counsel to Zim Integrated Shipping Services Ltd. in over 100 ongoing Canadian Federal Court civil actions and all regulatory investigations arising out of the M/V Zim Kingston container loss and vessel fire casualty.
  - Counsel to Southern Railway of British Columbia in a Federal Court judicial review proceeding against Vancouver Fraser Port Authority and DP World, relating to a Railway Services Tariff in the Port of Vancouver.
  - Counsel to Wolverine Terminals on all aspects of the commencement and operation of its vessel bunkering operations in the Port of Prince Rupert.
  - Counsel to Richardson Terminals in British Columbia Environmental Appeal Board proceedings challenging the constitutionality of certain provincial environmental legislation and its application to a federally regulated grain elevator and marine terminal in the Port of Vancouver.
  - Counsel to Bel Excavating and Shoring Limited Partnership in British Columbia Provincial Court regulatory prosecution arising from the $200 million expansion of Fairview Terminals.
  - Counsel to Filld Inc. on all aspects of the commencement and operation of its mobile fuel delivery service in Canada.
  - Counsel to Hanjin Shipping Co. Ltd. in all Canadian Federal Court and British Columbia Supreme Court proceedings arising out of its US$10.5 billion foreign insolvency.
  - Counsel to the City of Vancouver in Federal Court proceedings arising out of the M/V Marathassa oil spill in Burrard Inlet.

- Counsel to the two largest container terminals in Port Metro Vancouver in Federal Court judicial review proceedings arising from the 2014 Joint Action Plan imposed to end a commercial trucking strike.
- Counsel to a member of the Jordanian Royal Family in Federal Court, Federal Court of Appeal, and British Columbia Supreme Court proceedings to enforce a USD $28.8 million foreign fraud judgment in a matter involving a vessel arrest and the insolvency of a local shipyard.
- Counsel to Aozora Bank in the arrest and sale of the M/V Yosemite containership, as part of the USD $300 million Eastwind bankruptcy proceedings.
- Counsel to Westwood Shipping Lines in the seminal Westwood Annette case, in which the Federal Court and Federal Court of Appeal held that the Hague Visby Rules do not compulsorily apply to sea waybills under Canadian law.

Insights & Events

- Co-author, “Canada: Ship Mortgages and Vessel Finance Security,” International Shipping Finance and Law Review 2026/27 (London: Beaumont, 2026).
- Co-Author, "Environmental Law" chapter, *Annual Review of Law and Practice*, The Continuing Legal Education Society of British Columbia (CLEBC), 2008–2026 editions.
- Co-author, "Maritime Law" chapter, *Annual Review of Law and Practice*, The Continuing Legal Education Society of British Columbia (CLEBC), 2010-2026 editions.
- Speaker and Panellist, “Navigating Risks: Environmental Challenges In Marine Transportation Infrastructure,” Canadian Transportation Lawyers Association Annual Conference, September 19, 2025.
- Presenter, “International Impacts: Tariffs, Trade and Economic Uncertainty", Canadian Board of Marine Underwriters Spring Conference 2025, May 2025
- Author, “PFAS and the Furious: The Rise of Forever Chemicals Regulations and Litigation in Canada", The Transportation Lawyer Vol. 26, No. 4, February 2025
- Author, "Supply Chain Uncertainty: Navigating rail shutdowns and possible port strikes", BLG Article, August 2024
- Author, "False advertising and greenwashing: Bill C-59 changes to Competition Act", BLG Article, July 2024
- Author, “Uncharted Waters – Enforcement under the Wrecked, Abandoned or Hazardous Vessels Act," The Transportation Lawyer, Vol. 25, No. 5, April 2024
- Author, “Legal Net: Boundary Bay Crab Fishing Offences Net Fines and Fishing Ban," Western Mariner, Vol. 21, No. 12, February 2024
- Author, “Federal Government Enacts Wave of New Shipping Industry AMPs and Increased Fines," BarTalk, Vol. 36, No. 1, February 2024
- Author, "Labour strike on Canada’s West Coast: The impact on marine industry stakeholders", BLG Article, July 2023
- Author, "Canada proposes to amend the Canada Transportation Act and the Canada Marine Act to improve transparency and accountability", BLG Article, July 2023
- Author, "Key developments in British Columbia and federal environmental law", BLG Article, April 2022
- BLG Talks Transportation, BLG Perspective, December 2021
- Speaker and Panel Moderator, “Recent Developments in the Law of Injunctions," Canadian Bar Association Environmental Law Subsection Event, December 8, 2021.
- Speaker, “West Coast Update," BLG 33rd Annual Maritime Law Seminar Webinar, December 3, 2021.
- Author, "British Columbia Breaks New Ground on the Regulation of Contaminated Sites," British Columbia Environmental Industry Guide, June 2021.

- Speaker/Author “2021 Environmental Case Law Update" Environmental Industry Association of B.C. Better Environmental Stewardship & Technology Conference, May 2021
- “Impact of the SCC decision regarding the Carbon Tax Reference" Presentation to Environmental Committee of Railway Association of Canada, May 2021.
- Author, "Key developments in British Columbia and federal environmental law", BLG Article, April 2021
- Speaker/Author, “Basic Elements of Environmental Common Law and Statutory Claims,” Canadian Bar Association National Environmental, Energy and Resources Law Symposium, April 2021
- Author, "Environmental obligations and compliance during the COVID-19 pandemic: A Canadian comparison", BLG Article, February 2021
- 32nd Annual Maritime Law Seminar Webinar, BLG Video, December 2020
- Speaker, "Regulation and the Resource Sector," B.C. Legal Innovation Forum, November 2019.

Beyond Our Walls

Professional Involvement

- Judicial Advisory Committee, Canadian Bar Association (B.C. Branch)
- Inaugural Faculty, Federation of Asian Canadian Lawyers Future Partner Program
- Past Chair and Section Executive, National Maritime Law Section, Canadian Bar Association
- Director and Chair, Environment Committee, Canadian Maritime Law Association
- Member, Federal Court Maritime Law Bar Liaison Committee, The Advocates’ Society
- Director, Vancouver Maritime Arbitrators Association
- Past Chair and Section Executive, Maritime Law subsection, Canadian Bar Association (B.C. Branch)
- Past Director, Environmental Law subsection, Canadian Bar Association (B.C. Branch)
- Past Director, Canadian Transportation Lawyers Association
- Past Vice-President (Communications) and former Director, Environmental Managers Association
- Past Director, British Columbia Civil Liberties Association
- Member, Advocates' Society
- Member, Canadian Bar Association
- Member, Canadian Maritime Law Association
- Member, Canadian Transportation Lawyers Association
- Member, Federation of Asian Canadian Lawyers
- Member, Law Society of British Columbia
- Member, Vancouver Bar Association
- Member, Vancouver Maritime Arbitrators Association

Community Involvement

- Volunteer, UBC Allard Law School Moot Court judge
- Volunteer, UBC Allard Law School mentor program

Awards & Recognition

- Recognized by *The Best Lawyers in Canada* as the 2027, 2025 and 2022 'Lawyer of the Year' for Shipping and Maritime Law.
- Recognized by *The Best Lawyers in Canada* as the 2026 'Lawyer of the Year' for Transportation Law.
- Awarded the Martindale-Hubbell highest Professional Excellence designation of AV Preeminent (4.9 out of 5 in client and peer reviews).

- Recognized in the 2026 edition (and since 2019) of *Benchmark Litigation — The definitive guide to litigation firms and attorneys in Canada* - “Litigation Star" (since 2020) “Future Star” (since 2019) (Energy, Environmental and Shipping).
- Recognized in the 2027 edition (and since 2018) of *The Best Lawyers in Canada* (Maritime Law (since 2018), Environmental Law (since 2021) Transportation Law (since 2021), and Railroad Law (since 2024)).
- Recognized in the 2027 edition (and since 2018) of *Chambers Canada* (Transportation: Shipping (since 2018), Environment (since 2024) (Nationwide - Canada)).
- Recognized in the 2026 edition (and since 2025) of *Chambers Global* – The World's Leading Lawyers for Business (Environment).
- Recognized in the 2026 edition (and since 2016) of *The Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory* (Shipping and Maritime Law (since 2016); Environmental Law (since 2023), Energy (since 2024), and Transportation (Road and Rail) (since 2026)).
- Recognized in the 2026 edition (and since 2019) of *The Legal 500 Canada* - “Leading Partner” (since 2023) and a “Next Generation Partner” (2019-2023) (Transport: Shipping).
- Recognized in the 2026 edition (and since 2023) of *Lexology Index* (formerly *Who's Who Legal: Canada*) (Transport Shipping).
- Recognized in the 2026 edition of *Lexpert Special Edition: Infrastructure*.
- Recognized in the 2026 edition (and in 2025, 2023 and 2021) of *Lexpert Special Edition: Energy*.
- Recognized in the 2024 edition of *Lexpert Special Edition: Energy and Mining*.
- Recognized as a 2024 (and since 2022) Thomson Reuters (client nominated) “Stand-out Lawyer”
- Recognized in the 2022 edition of Doyle's Guide: Leading Transport Lawyers – Canada.

Bar Admission & Education

- British Columbia, 2007

- LLB, University of British Columbia, 2005
- MA (History), Simon Fraser University, 2004
- BA (History), Simon Fraser University, 2001

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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