John Hunter

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Insurance Claim Defence
Municipal Liability
Class Action Defence
Products Law
Police Law & Liability
Health Care & Life Sciences

John maintains a diverse practice that includes product liability, municipal and police liability, class actions and mental health law. He is interested in new and developing technology and innovation, including medical devices and autonomous vehicles.

John leverages his experience working within the in-house legal departments of two leading Ontario hospitals and his prior training as a social worker to craft creative, client-centred and practical solutions to areas of legal risk. His social work experience has proved effective in the defence and resolution of sensitive and complex claims.

He has appeared before the Superior Court of Justice and Divisional Court, and has acted as counsel in other venues for dispute resolution. In his mental health practice, John regularly appears before the Ontario Review Board representing the person in charge of hospitals.

John has a special interest in mentorship and contribution to the legal community. He serves as a mentor to law students and regularly contributes to articles and bulletins on emerging issues in industry and the law.

John joined BLG's Toronto office after summering and articling at the firm.

Experience

- Assisted with defence and resolution of largest Canadian consumer class action on behalf of major automobile manufacturer.

- Co-counsel at trial for a police services board and individual defendants arising out of arrest and charging of plaintiff, with all claims dismissed at conclusion of trial.
- Sole counsel at Small Claims Court trial for a police services board and individual defendant, with all claims dismissed at conclusion of trial.

Insights & Events

- Court of Appeal: Effect of Sex Offender Registries Legislation on Mentally Ill Accused is Unconstitutional
- Author, "Wrinkles in Judicial Class Actions Management: Recent Decisions from the Federal Court of Appeal and the Court of Appeal for Ontario", BLG Article, February 2019
- Author, "Court of Appeal Affirms Police Owe No Private Law Duty of Care to Victims or Their Families", BLG Article, April 2018
- Author, "Senate Committee Calls For National Autonomous Vehicles Strategy in New Report", BLG Article, January 2018
- Author, " UK Seeks to Legislate Liability For Autonomous Vehicles", BLG Article, March 2017
- Author, "J.J. V. C.C.: Court Of Appeal Finds Garage And Car Dealership Owed Duty Of Care To Minor Who Stole Vehicle From Premise", BLG Article, November 2016
- Author, "Canada's new automotive strategy", BLG Article, February 2026
- Author, "Culture shift in dismissal for delay motions – Delay alone is prejudice sufficient for dismissal", BLG Article, December 2024
- Author, "Ontario Court of Appeal confirms when new Class Proceedings Act applies", BLG Article, May 2024
- Author, "ONSC provides guidance on the analysis of superiority and predominance provisions in the Class Proceedings Act", BLG Article, November 2023
- Author, "Claims from minors and the 15-year ultimate limitation period in Ontario", BLG Article, May 2023
- Author, "Certification denied for Takata air bag recall on basis that existing recalls preferable to proposed class action", BLG Article, October 2022
- Author, "Evidence of online complaints of limited utility on motion for certification", BLG Article, July 2021
- Product liability and class actions, BLG Perspective, April 2021
- Author, "Where is that feature featured: Addressing geographic product features and warnings", BLG Article, November 2020
- Author, "Rideshare class action by taxi operators against City of Toronto denied certification", BLG Article, October 2020
- Author, "Ending a Class Action – Recent Guidance on Consent Discontinuances in Gradja v. Barrick Gold Corp", BLG Article, October 2019
- Author, "Cap on Non-Pecuniary Damages Does Not Apply for Intentional Torts", BLG Article, October 2019
- Author, "Deemed Undertaking Rule Does Not Apply to Opt Out Information", BLG Article, July 2019
- Speaker, "Procedural Developments in Litigation", Municipal Liability Seminar, April 30, 2019
- Author, "Canadian Policy Framework on Connected and Automated Vehicles", BLG Article, February 2019
- The Sensor: Autonomous and Connected Vehicles — "Ideal" for a Class Action?, BLG Perspective, December 2018
- Author, "Court Rejects Negotiated Class Counsel Fee as not "Anywhere Close to Reasonable", Suggests Fee Should be Cut in Half," October 2018
- Author, "Supreme Court of Canada Reinforces Reasonable Foreseeability of Harm as Critical Limiting Principle in the Law of Negligence", BLG Article, May 2018

- Speaker, “Case Law Update”, Municipal Liability Seminar, April 19, 2018

Beyond our Walls

Professional Involvement

- Member, Law Society of Upper Canada
- Member, Toronto Lawyers Association

Bar Admission & Education

- Ontario, 2016

- JD, Queen's University, 2015
- MSW, University of Toronto, 2012
- BA (Hons.), University of Toronto, 2010

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