

Patrick J. Hawkins

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Health Law
Health Care Disputes
Patient Care
Health Care Providers
Class Action Defence
Privacy & Security Breaches
Personal Health Information & Privacy
Health Care & Life Sciences

Patrick defends hospitals, healthcare organizations and their employees in medical malpractice litigation as counsel to the Healthcare Insurance Reciprocal of Canada (HIROC).

He acts as general counsel and provides situational advice to **healthcare** clients on a wide range of issues, including physician credentialing, privacy, **freedom of information** , quality of care reviews, adverse event management and disclosure.

He appears regularly in court and before administrative tribunals, including in regulatory proceedings under the *Public Hospitals Act* and *Regulated Health Professions Act*.

Prior to his call to the Bar, he articled as a justices' law clerk at the Ontario Court of Appeal.

Experience

- Defends hospitals and healthcare providers in malpractice litigation, including obstetrical negligence, neurological injuries, breach of privacy, and occupier's liability.
- Expertise in privacy and cybersecurity breach management and class action defence.

- Advises hospital senior management and boards of directors on healthcare legal issues, including incident and crisis management, physician relationships and patient disclosure.
- Represents Chiefs of Staff and Medical Advisory Committees in physician credentialing proceedings before hospital Boards of Directors and the Health Professions Appeal and Review Board.
- Serves as counsel to the Ontario Hospital Association, assisting on new legislation and policy initiatives.
- Represents health professionals in complaints before the regulated health colleges.

Insights & Events

- Author, "Quality of Care Information Protection Act Toolkits", BLG Article, November 2017
- Author, "Appeal court upholds decision limiting intrusion upon seclusion tort to significant privacy breaches", BLG Article, February 2023
- Board Governance Education, William Osler Health System, January and February 2021
- Presentation, “COVID 19: What Does the Future Hold?”, Medico-Legal Society of Toronto, June and November 2020
- Presentation, “Physician Discipline and CPSO Reporting”, University Health Network, October 2020
- Presentation, “Quality and Patient Safety: The Role of the Board and Quality Committee”, Temiskaming Hospital, October 2020
- Presentation, “Quality Reviews, Reporting and Disclosure Obligations”, Southlake Regional Health Centre, September 2020
- Lessons Learned from Recent Cases The Importance of Your Contracts with Service Providers, 2019
- Presentation, “2019 Class Actions Update”, Borden Ladner Gervais LLP Class Action Seminar, November 2019
- Author, "Lessons Learned from Recent Cases The Importance of Your Contracts with Service Providers", BLG Article, March 2019
- Presentation, “Cybersecurity – Protecting your Organization and Responding to Threats”, Healthcare Insurance Reciprocal of Canada, November 14, 2018
- Presentation, “Hospital Privileges: An Update from Recent Cases”, Medico-Legal Society of Toronto, September 12, 2018
- Presentation, “Crisis Management – A Lawyer’s Perspective”, Association of Corporate Counsel, May 10, 2018
- Author, "Divisional Court Upholds Hospital Board Decision to Revoke Physician Privileges", BLG Article, April 2018
- Author, "Good Faith/Bad Faith — Varying Privileges Could Result in Significant Civil Liability", BLG Article, March 2018
- Presentation, "The Impact of New Legislation on Quality and Patient Safety," Board of Directors, St. Mary's General Hospital, March 12, 2018
- Presentation, "CPSO Reporting Obligations," Medical Advisory Committee, Scarborough and Rouge Hospital, February 8, 2018.
- Speaker, "Privacy Class Actions," IC Funding Seniors Housing Leaders Symposium, January 19, 2018.
- Speaker, "Privacy and Cybersecurity," Borden Ladner Gervais LLP Class Action Seminar, November 1, 2017.
- Presentation, "Managing Physician Complaints," William Osler Health System, Professional Staff Association, June 27, 2017.
- Presentation, "Mediation Best Practices in Physician Credentialing," Healthcare Insurance Reciprocal of Canada and Canadian Medical Protective Association Joint Meeting, May 2, 2017.
- Lecturer, "Disclosure and QCIPA," Osgoode Hall Health Law Certificate Course, April 18, 2017.

- Organizer and speaker, “Quality of Care Information Protection Act, 2016,” Ontario Hospital Association, Regional Conferences, Mar-April 2017.
- Author, "Proposed Changes To The Regulated Health Professions Act Furthering Patient Protection And Accountability", BLG Article, December 2016
- Speaker, "Privacy and Cybersecurity," Property and Casualty Underwriters Club, November 23, 2016.

Beyond Our Walls

Professional Involvement

- Medico-Legal Society of Toronto; Past President
- Member, Ontario Bar Association; Past Executive, Health Law Section
- Member, The Advocates' Society, Canadian Bar Association, Toronto Lawyers Association

Community Involvement

- Member, Board of Directors, William Osler Health System Foundation
- Past Chair, National Organizing Committee, BLG Reads to Kids

Awards & Recognition

- Selected by peers for inclusion in the 2027 edition (and since 2025) of *The Best Lawyers in Canada* for Privacy and Data Security Law, since 2024 for Administrative and Public Law, since 2015 for Health Care Law and since 2022 for Medical Negligence and Personal Injury Litigation.
- Recognized in the 2027, 2026, 2025 and 2021 editions of *Chambers Canada* (Healthcare: Contentious (Nationwide - Canada)) and in the 2024 edition (and since 2016) (Healthcare).
- Recognized in the 2026 edition (and since 2013) of *The Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory* (Medical Negligence) and in the 2013 to 2024 editions (Data Protection & Privacy, Personal Injury) and the 2025-2023-2013 editions (Professional Liability).
- Recognized in the 2026 edition of *Lexpert Special Edition: Technology*
- Recognized in the 2025 edition (and since 2018) of *Benchmark Canada* (Health, Medical Negligence, Product Liability; Local Litigation Star - Ontario).
- Recognized in the 2026, 2025 and 2021 editions of *Lexpert Special Edition: Health Sciences.*
- Recognized in the 2024 edition (and since 2023) of *Lexpert Special Edition: Technology and Health Sciences*
- Recognized in the 2026 and 2020 edition of *Benchmark Canada* (Litigation Star).
- Recognized in Acritas Star 2019: Independently Rated Lawyer (Nominated as a stand-out lawyer by senior in-house counsel).
- Recognized in the 2019 and 2017 editions of *Acritas Stars*. Nominated as a stand-out lawyer by senior in-house counsel.
- Recognized as a 2019 Acritas Star (and since 2017)
- Recognized in the 2018 edition of *Chambers Canada - Canada's Leading Lawyers for Business* (Healthcare).
- Martindale-Hubbell Peer Review Rated

Bar Admission & Education

- Ontario, 1992

- LL.M., University of Cambridge, 1990
- LL.B., Queen's University, 1989

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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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