

Eric S. Charleston

Partner and National Co-Leader, Privacy & Cybersecurity

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Cybersecurity, Privacy & Data Protection
Corporate Commercial
Disputes

Eric Charleston is a Partner and National Co-Leader of BLG's Cybersecurity and Privacy group. He advises clients throughout the full cyber lifecycle, from readiness and regulatory compliance to rapid incident response.

His clients span Canada's public, private and not-for-profit sectors, including financial services, insurance, healthcare, education, energy, technology, retail and professional services. Eric is a leading cyber incident and data breach lawyer, known for pragmatic, time-sensitive strategies that focus teams on the right tasks, preserve legal privilege, and protect core constituencies. He translates the technical into the actionable, always ensuring the client understands the approach. He frequently leads complex, cross-border incidents, coordinates national and international notification programs, and engages with federal, provincial and sectoral regulators and law enforcement in Canada and internationally.

Eric's readiness work spans cybersecurity risk assessments (from scoping and methodology through reporting and remediation planning) and hands-on support for cybersecurity compliance audits across verticals, aligning client programs to leading frameworks and regulatory expectations. He develops bespoke incident response plans, evaluates cyber hygiene, trains directors and executives on cyber risk management and governance, and conducts realistic table-top and attack-simulation exercises.

Eric is a leading expert on cyber insurance coverage. He advises carriers on coverage analysis, policy wording and endorsements, and claims strategy, often being called upon to oversee the largest cyber claims in Canada. Eric's breadth of experience with complex Canadian cyber claims is second to none leading to practical, business-oriented, and efficient claim resolutions.

Eric is an adjunct professor of cybersecurity law at the University of Toronto Faculty of Law and holds CIPP/C and CIPP/US certifications from the International Association of Privacy Professionals.

Experience

- Canadian engineering firm on complex ransomware attack, including notification to federal and provincial regulators and impacted individuals.
- North American retailer on complex data theft, including notification to Canadian, American and Mexican regulators and impacted individuals.
- Canadian university on complex ransomware attack, including notification to ministry and provincial regulators.
- Canadian investment dealer on business email compromise, including notification to regulators and individuals.
- Coverage counsel to numerous insurers on cyber insurance claims, including some of the largest in Canada's history.

Insights & Events

- Author, "Ontario Court of Appeal: Insurance coverage analysis turns on nature of loss, not coverage grant selected", BLG Article, September 2026
- Author, "Click carefully: Canadian Securities Administrators Staff Notice on cybersecurity practices", BLG Article, July 2026
- Author, "FSRA’s new Operational Risk and Resilience Guidance for Ontario insurers", BLG Article, July 2026
- Author, "Year 2025 in review and trends for 2026: Major developments in cybersecurity and personal information protection", BLG Article, January 2026
- Author, "No need for access, theft or disclosure: encryption of data is notifiable under PHIPA and CYFSA", BLG Article, September 2025
- Author, "Year 2024 in review and trends for 2025: Major developments in cybersecurity and personal information protection", BLG Article, January 2025
- Author, "Bill 194 - The new Enhancing Digital Security and Trust Act, 2024 and changes to Ontario’s Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act", BLG Article, May 2024
- Thought Starters, BLG Perspective, September 2023
- Author, "Province releases cyber incident response standard for Ontario school boards", BLG Article, April 2023
- Author, "Ransomware attacks – Tips from the trenches", BLG Article, April 2023
- Author, "Cyber incidents: the role of legal counsel and the first 24 hours ", BLG Article, January 2023
- Author, "Ontario Court of Appeal rules against plaintiffs in trilogy of privacy class actions", BLG Article, December 2022
- 3 steps to lower your cyber liability insurance cost, BLG Video, September 2022
- Cyber attack insurance: Will your business interruption claim for labour costs be covered?, BLG Video, September 2022
- Cyber liability insurance exclusions: Is this upgrade covered?, BLG Video, September 2022
- Author, "Business interruption and cyber insurance: What’s covered after a cyber attack?", BLG Article, September 2022
- Author, "Cyber insurance exclusions: 4 examples of upgrades a policy may not cover after a breach", BLG Article, September 2022

- Author, "How to lower your cyber insurance costs: 3 key steps", BLG Article, September 2022
- Author, "OSFI's new Guideline B-13 – Managing technology and cyber risks", BLG Article, August 2022
- Author, "An update on new Québec confidentiality incidents and record-keeping requirements", BLG Article, July 2022
- Author, "The cyber incident response plan: The power is in the process", BLG Article, May 2022
- Author, "Mind your spreadsheets: Tips to improve your data governance before an incident", BLG Article, May 2022
- Author, "Cyber hygiene checklist: Tick these boxes to lower your cybersecurity risk and insurance costs", BLG Article, February 2022
- Author, "Healthcare cyber attacks: Lessons for Canada from Ireland's HSE attack", BLG Article, January 2022
- Business insurance trends, Part 3: Cyber insurance, smart equipment, shipping and a plug for insurance reviews, BLG Perspective, December 2021

Beyond Our Walls

Professional Involvement

- Member, Law Society of Ontario
- Adjunct Professor, Henry N.R. Jackman Faculty of Law, University of Toronto

Awards & Recognition

- Recognized in the 2027 edition (and since 2026) of *Chambers Canada* (Privacy & Data Protection (Nationwide - Canada))
- Recognized in the 2026 edition (and since 2023) of *The Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory* (Data Protection & Privacy)
- Recognized in the 2026 edition (and since 2023) of *Lexpert Special Edition: Technology.*
- Recognized in the 2024 edition (and since 2023) of *Lexpert Special Edition: Health Sciences*

Bar Admission & Education

- Ontario, 2019
- New York, 2009 (inactive)

- JD, Georgetown University Law Center, 2008
- BFA, Syracuse University, 2002
- Fellow, Loyola University Institute of Politics, 2014

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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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