Adrian Pel

Senior Associate

T 416.367.6040
F 416.367.6749
Toronto
APel@blg.com
LinkedIn

Commercial Litigation
Class Action Defence
Administrative and Public Law
Contract Disputes
Securities Disputes
White Collar Criminal Defence and Corporate Investigations
Commercial Arbitration

Adrian Pel is a litigator in BLG's Disputes group. He represents businesses, financial institutions, public bodies, and individuals in complex commercial disputes, class actions, regulatory matters, and internal investigations.

Adrian has represented clients in sectors including financial services, securities, technology, automotive, life sciences, healthcare, and education. He frequently works on civil and regulatory matters that are high-stakes, involve novel legal issues, and require navigating complex regulatory regimes.

Adrian has particular expertise in securities, competition, and product liability class actions. Adrian has worked on class action matters before all levels of court in Ontario, the Federal Court, the Federal Court of Appeal, courts in several other provinces, and on Supreme Court of Canada leave applications. Adrian is an elected member of the executive of the Ontario Bar Association's Class Actions Section.

Adrian has appeared before commercial arbitrators, the Ontario Court of Justice, the Ontario Superior Court of Justice (including the Commercial List), the Divisional Court, and the Ontario Court of Appeal.

Experience

- **Commercial Litigation & Arbitration**
  - Counsel for a **50% shareholder and director** of a company seeking urgent relief under the oppression remedy before the Commercial List

- Counsel for the **majority shareholders of a technology growth equity company**, in defending an oppression claim in an arbitration that involved complex valuation issues
- Counsel for a **publicly listed technology company** in litigation with a publicly traded investment holding company
- Counsel for a **court-appointed monitor in oppression proceedings**, including the investigation of missing corporate property of significant value
- Defeated a motion to impose a certificate of pending litigation over a disputed property, in the context of a **complex dispute over the existence of a partnership** (2022 ONSC 6295)
- Obtained the **dismissal of an oppression remedy application**, with substantial indemnity costs (2024 ONSC 1653; 2024 ONSC 2537)
- Counsel for an **automotive manufacturer** in proceedings brought under the National Automobile Dealer Arbitration Program (NADAP)

- **Class Actions**
  - Counsel for **BMO Investments Inc.**, a mutual fund trustee/manager, in defending ongoing securities class actions relating to the payment of "trailing commissions" to discount brokers (2021 ONSC 3589; 2024 ONSC 3674; 2024 ONSC 6143; 2025 ONCA 719)
  - Counsel for **Purdue Pharma (Canada)** in defending ongoing class actions across Canada, including healthcare recovery claims brought by governments (2023 ONSC 6792; 2024 BCCA 58)
  - Defeated certification of a proposed securities class action, including an ensuing appeal, against **BMO InvestorLine Inc.** relating to the payment of mutual fund "trailing commissions" to discount brokers (2023 ONSC 16 aff'd 2024 ONSC 533)
  - Succeeded in dismissing a proposed **privacy class action against a hospital** on the basis of delay
- **Investigations, White Collar Defence & Public Law**
  - Counsel for private and public sector clients in conducting **confidential investigations**, including fraud and competition/antitrust matters
  - Obtained **a stay of proceedings to terminate a regulatory prosecution** on the basis of public interest following nine days of trial
  - Defeated a judicial review application that challenged decisions of an elected public body in a case of first impression (2023 ONSC 349)

Insights & Events

- Author, "On the Sault Dock-et: Court of Appeal for Ontario updates test for leave to appeal", BLG Article, September 2026
- Program Chair and Speaker, "Fundamentals of Class Actions Law," OBA Class Actions Section, August 2026
- Program Chair & Moderator, "Judicial Insights on Class Actions: A Fireside Chat with the Honourable Edward Morgan", OBA Class Actions Section, March 2026
- Author, "No Liftoff: Court Declines to Certify Airline Supply Suppression Conspiracy Class Action," Ontario Bar Association, February 2026
- Speaker, "Keeping Up with the Case Law" Series, OBA Class Actions Section, January 2026, January 2025, April 2024, April 2023 & June 2022
- Panel Moderator, "Living with Change: The 2020 CPA and 2026 Proposed Rules Amendments", OBA Class Actions Colloquium, November 2025
- Author, "Fishing in a "Lobster Tank": Non-Party Production Order Granted in Proposed Secondary Market Misrepresentation Class Action," Ontario Bar Association website, May 2025

- Co-Author, "Dismissal of class proceedings for delay: ONCA provides guidance", Law360, April 2025
- Author, "Tick tock: Ontario Court of Appeal provides guidance on dismissal for delay under the Class Proceedings Act", BLG Article, March 2025
- Author, "No certification for Boal investors – Fiduciary duty ruled individual issue", BLG Article, November 2024
- Speaker, "Some Basis in Fact The Triumph of the Two-Step Test and Certification Successes", November 2024
- Author, "Civil Procedure and Practice in Ontario, Rule 59 - Orders", Canadian Legal Information Institute, July 2024
- Author, "Divisional Court affirms high degree of deference to public school-board decisions", BLG Article, April 2024
- Author, "TCDSB v. OECTA: School board not liable for public statements made by trustee", BLG Article, April 2024
- Author, "Ontario Court of Appeal provides guidance on 'risk of harm' claims and common issues test", BLG Article, April 2024
- Co-Author, "Claims Against Class Action Administrators: Court Reviews Leave Requirement", OBA, March 2024
- Author, "B.C. introduces Bill 12: sweeping health care cost recovery legislation", BLG Article, March 2024
- Author, "Shareholder Voting Injunctions in Canada," Canadian Bar Review 237, 2023
- Author, "Appeal Court provides guidance on non-compliance with Mareva orders", BLG Article, July 2023
- Co-Author, "Court Decertifies "Phantom Class" Following Extensive Opt-Outs: *Navartnarajah v. FSB Group Ltd.,*" OBA, June 2023
- Author, "Ontario's Divisional Court confirms regulatory rules do not create fiduciary duties", BLG Article, April 2022
- Co-Author, "Fresco v. CIBC: Ontario Court Of Appeal Decision Offers Guidance, Leaves Open Questions," OBA, March 2022
- Author, "Why a recent ETF class action may prompt reform to the Ontario Securities Act", BLG Article, October 2021
- Author, "Court decision raises risk of securities class actions for companies receiving whistleblower report", BLG Article, November 2020
- Author, "Reforming Section 89 of the Indian Act: Tinker, Waiver, Soldier (On), Sigh?", Lakehead Law Journal (Vol. 4, Issue1), November 202

Beyond Our Walls

Professional Involvement

- Executive Member, Ontario Bar Association, Class Actions Section
- Member, The Advocates' Society
- Member, Canadian Bar Association

Community Involvement

- Volunteer, Pro Bono Ontario Hotline

Awards & Recognition

- Recipient of the Principal David L. Johnston Medal in 2019 for distinguished academic standing and outstanding contribution to the McGill Faculty of Law in the areas of academic, social and community life.

Bar Admission & Education

- Ontario, 2020

- LLB/BCL, McGill University, 2019
- MA, University of Toronto, 2015
- BA, University of Cambridge, 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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