

Nadia Effendi

Partner & National Business Leader, Disputes - Commercial and Construction

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Disputes
Appellate Advocacy
Commercial Litigation
Class Action Defence
Administrative and Public Law
Transportation
Railway
Public Policy & Government Relations
Crisis Management

Nadia represents a wide range of clients in both English and French, in complex and often high profile proceedings, including class actions, administrative, regulatory, constitutional, and human rights law cases.

Nadia has represented clients in industries including transportation, financial services, broadcasting and telecommunications, energy, and entertainment, and has particular subject-matter expertise in transportation law, electoral law, access to information and official language rights.

Nadia regularly appears before all levels of federal and provincial courts, administrative tribunals, and commissions of inquiry, and has appeared numerous times before the Supreme Court of Canada. Nadia is a member of the CBA Federal Courts Bench and Bar Liaison Committee. She is the National Business Lead of the Disputes - Commercial and Construction group. She is also a member and Past President of the Board of Directors of the Association des juristes d'expression française de l'Ontario (AJEFO), as well as a member of the Ontario Bar Association Official Languages Committee. Prior to joining BLG, Nadia served as a law clerk at the Supreme Court of Canada to The Honourable Mr. Justice Bastarache.

Experience

- Counsel for the Honourable Louise Arbour appointed to carry out a review into the Canadian Armed Forces and Department of National Defence, in response to reports of harassment and sexual misconduct within Canada's military.
- Counsel for Amazon in an unpaid wages and overtime class claim (2020-present).
- Counsel before the Supreme Court of Canada for the Federation of Law Societies of Canada in its intervention in *Law Society of Saskatchewan v. Peter V. Abrametz*.
- Counsel before the Supreme Court of Canada for York University in SCC 39222 York University, *et al*. v. Canadian Copyright Licensing Agency ("Access Copyright"), *et al.* (2020-2021).
- Counsel before the Federal Court for the Leaders' Debates Commission (led by the Honourable David Johnston) on applications brought Rebel Media for media accreditation for the federal leaders' debates (2019-present).
- Counsel before the Federal Court for the Courts Administration Services in File No. T-1624-19 Jeremy King v Federation of Newfoundland Indians Inc. (FNI) and Her Majesty the Queen Canada.
- Counsel before the Supreme Court of Canada for the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada in SCC 39172 Grant Thornton LLP *et al.* v Province of New Brunswick *et al.*
- Counsel before the Cullen Commission for the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada (2020-present).
- Presenting counsel before the Ontario Judicial Council in the hearing concerning a complaint about the conduct of the Honourable Justice Donald McLeod (2020-2021).
- Retained as counsel by federal government to assist in carbon reference appeals (2019-2020).
- Counsel before the Supreme Court of Canada for the National Council of Canadian Muslims in SCC 39094 Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church of Canada St. Mary Cathedral v. Teshome Aga (2020-present).
- Counsel before the federal court for the Chief Electoral Officer of Canada in Szuchewycz v. Attorney General of Canada, 2020 FC 954 (2020-present).
- Counsel before the federal court for the Courts Administration Services in an application brought by Pierre Devinat with respect to the translations of judgments of the federal courts (2018-2021).
- Counsel before the Federal Court of Appeal and the federal court for Oceanex Inc. in a judicial review application against the Minister of Transport and Marine Atlantic Inc. (2015-2020).
- Counsel before the Supreme Court of Canada, the Federal Court of Appeal and the federal court for the Speaker of the House of Commons and the Board of Internal Economy in applications commenced by members of the NDP (2014-present).
- Counsel before the Supreme Court of Canada for the Canadian Bar Association in SCC 38381 AG of BC v. Provincial Court Judges' Association of British Columbia | SCC 38459 AG of NS *et al.* v. Judges of the Provincial Court *et al.* (2019-2020).
- Counsel before the Ontario Superior Court of Justice for confidential online retailer in a wage class action (2020-present).
- Counsel before the Ontario Superior Court of Justice for Handa Student Travel in a wages class action (2018-present).
- Counsel before the Ontario Superior Court of Justice for GoodLife Fitness in a wages class action (2016-2019).
- Counsel before the Ontario Superior Court for Scotiabank in a wages class action (2014-2016).
- Counsel before the Supreme Court of Canada, the Ontario Court of Appeal and the Ontario Divisional Court for the Law Society of Ontario in Trinity Western University v. The Law Society of Upper Canada, 2015 ONSC 4250; 2016 ONCA 518 (2014-2018).

- Counsel before the Supreme Court of Canada for the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada in Deloitte & Touche v. Livent Inc., Through its Special Receiver and Manager Roman Doroniuk (2016-2017).
- Counsel before the Supreme Court of Canada for the European Bank For Reconstruction and Development, the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation And Development, the African Development Bank Group, the Asian Development Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank and the Nordic Investment Bank in World Bank Group v. Wallace, 2016 SCC 15 (2015-2016).
- Counsel before the Ontario Superior Court of Justice for the Chief Electoral Officer of Canada in Council of Canadians v. Canada (Attorney General), 2015 ONSC 4601 (2015-2018).
- Counsel before the Supreme Court of Canada, Ontario Court of Appeal and Ontario Superior Court of Justice for Canadian National Railway Company in a contractual dispute with the City of Thunder Bay (2014-2019).
- Counsel before the Supreme Court of Canada for the Railway Association of Canada in Canadian Pacific Railway Co. v. Canada (Attorney General), 2016 SCC 1.
- Counsel before the Federal Court of Appeal for Canadian National Railway Company in various challenges of decisions of the Canadian Transportation Agency involving complaints by shippers about interswitching and statutory service obligations (see CN v. Richardson International Ltd., 2015 FCA 180; Canadian National Railway Company v. Canadian Transportation Agency and Wilkinson, 2013 FCA 270; Canadian National Railway Company v. Canada (Transport, Infrastructure and Communities), (2012 FCA 240).
- Counsel before the Federal Court of Appeal for Canadian National Railway Company against the Canadian Transportation Agency in two appeals challenging the agency's revenue cap determinations for the transportation of grain (2015-2016).
- Counsel before the Federal Court for Canadian National Railway Company against Transport Canada challenging decisions on access to information requests (2016).
- Counsel before several provincial courts for JTI-Macdonald Corp. challenging the menthol ban (2015-present).

Insights & Events

- Author, "BLG at the SCC – What's coming in the Supreme Court's fall 2026 sitting schedule", BLG Article, October 2026
- Author, "SCC clarifies when administrative errors are "irregularities" requiring annulment of election", BLG Article, September 2026
- Author, "SCC confirms: You have a constitutional right to judicial review on all issues", BLG Article, July 2026
- Author, "Manitoba Jurist Glenn Joyal nominated to the Supreme Court of Canada", BLG Article, June 2026
- Author, "SCC leaves the door open to tort claims against election officials", BLG Article, June 2026
- Author, "The Supreme Court rules: Sorry, Your Honour N.B. Lieutenant Governor. You must speak French!", BLG Article, June 2026
- Author, "Loose lips sink ships: SCC upholds restrictions on Parliamentarians' right to disclose national security information", BLG Article, May 2026
- Author, "Re-investing in Canada's sport system: The spring economic update 2026 in context", BLG Article, May 2026
- Author, "Extreme circumstances call for extreme measures: NL's pandemic travel restrictions upheld by SCC", BLG Article, February 2026
- Author, "Freedom Convoy: Disruptive, but not a public order emergency", BLG Article, January 2026

- Interview, "Supreme Court preview with Nadia Effendi," Guests, Verdicts & Voices podcast, January 2026
- Author, "SCC holds that CRTC cannot resolve disputes for telecommunication carriers' access to 5G antennas on public land", BLG Article, August 2025
- Author, "Appeal right or appeal wrong? SCC finds only one reasonable interpretation of immigration appeal right", BLG Article, July 2025
- Author, "Federally regulated industries: The SCC reaffirms and clarifies the interjurisdictional immunity doctrine", BLG Article, June 2025
- Author, "Drug and alcohol testing in Canada: SCC denies leave to appeal in Power Workers' Union v. Canada", BLG Article, June 2025
- Author, "The SCC lowers the legal threshold for challenging the vires of subordinate legislation", BLG Article, November 2024
- Author, "Federal Court of Appeal finds lengthy and complex privacy policies breached meaningful consent", BLG Article, November 2024
- Author, "Unanimous Supreme Court upholds air passenger protection regulations' requirements for travel disruption compensation on international flights", BLG Article, October 2024
- Author, "New Rules of the Supreme Court of Canada for 2024", BLG Article, May 2024
- Author, "Supreme Court rules military judges free of reasonable apprehension of bias", BLG Article, May 2024
- Author, "Individual Charter Rights vs Collective Indigenous Rights", BLG Article, April 2024
- Author, "Two routes to a remedy: Judicial review and statutory rights of appeal", BLG Article, March 2024
- Author, "SCC finds warrant is required before first digital breadcrumb can be revealed", BLG Article, March 2024
- Author, "A second chance for Canada's single-use plastics regulations", BLG Article, February 2024
- Author, "SCC decision: Deliberative secrecy and disclosure of Cabinet mandate letters", BLG Article, February 2024

Beyond Our Walls

Professional Involvement

- Director, Canadian Institute for Advanced Legal Studies (2024-present)
- Vice-President, Fédération des associations de juristes d'expression française de common law inc., 2023-present
- Secretary, Appellate Advocacy Practice Group, The Advocates' Society
- Chair, Interventions Committee, Association des juristes d'expression française de l'Ontario
- Member, The Advocates Society, 2020-Present
- Past Member, Women's Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF)'s Law Program Committee
- Member, Canadian Bar Association, Ontario Bar Association
- Member, County of Carleton Law Association
- Former Member, Canadian Bar Association, Federal Court Bench and Bar Association, 2019-present
- Member, Divisional Court Users' Committee, 2019-present
- Member, Organizing Committee of the Judicial Assistants of the Supreme Court of Canada's 2020 Conference
- Federal Courts Bench and Bar Liaison Committee, 2021-Present
- Member, TAS Appellate Advocacy Practice Group
- Past Member, Official Language Committee, Ontario Bar Association

Community Involvement

- Past director and secretary, Citizen Advocacy (a charity that helps people with disabilities participate more fully in community life)

Awards & Recognition

- Recognized in the 2027 edition (and since 2020) of *The Best Lawyers in Canada* (Appellate Practice), since 2021 for Administrative and Public Law, and since 2022 for Corporate and Commercial Litigation.
- Recognized in 2027 edition (and since 2022) of the *Chambers Canada — Canada's Leading Lawyers for Business* (Litigation: Administrative & Public Law (Ontario)) and in the 2027 edition (Constitutional Law (Nationwide)).
- Recognized in the 2026 edition (and since 2025) of *The Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory* (Class Actions), since 2020 (Litigation - Regulatory & Public Law) and in the 2018 editions (since 2016) (Litigation: Public Law)
- Recognized in the 2026 edition (and since 2021) of *Benchmark Litigation* as a Litigation Star.
- Recognized in the 2026 edition of *Lexpert Special Edition: Technology*
- Recognized in the 2026 edition *Lexpert Special Edition: Health Sciences*.
- Recipient of the 2025 Catzman Award for Professionalism and Civility
- Recognized in the 2026 edition (and since 2022) of *Benchmark Litigation* in the *Top 100 Women in Canada,* and in 2021 and 2020 in the *Top 50 Women in Canada*
- Recipient of the Ordre du mérite 2023 of the Association des juristes d'expression française (AJEFO)
- Recipient of the 2023 Women in Law Leadership Stronger Together Award.
- Recognized in the 2025 edition (and since 2020) of *Lexpert Special Edition: Litigation*.
- Recognized at the 2022 Canadian Law Awards as Litigator of the Year
- Recognized as a 2013 Rising Star by *Lexpert*
- Awarded a Lexpert Zenith Award in 2011 for pro bono representation of veterans before the Federal Court
- Recognized in the 2020 and in the 2018 (since 2015) editions of *Benchmark Canada — The Definitive Guide to Canada's Leading Litigation Firms & Attorneys* as a Future Star and a Litigation Star (Administrative, General Commercial, Public Law and Class Actions)
- Recognized in the 2020 (and 2017-2018) editions of the *Benchmark Canada 40 & Under Hot List*
- Nominated as Emerging Talent of the Year by Benchmark Canada 2019 Awards
- Recognized as one of Canada's 25 Most Influential Lawyers in 2016 by Canadian Lawyer Magazine in the Young Influencers category

Bar Admission & Education

- Ontario, 2004

- LLB (summa cum laude, gold medalist), University of Ottawa, 2003

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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