



Melissa Ghislanzoni-Foster

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[Investment Management](#)

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Melissa has almost 20 years of experience as a trusted legal advisor in the investment management and capital markets industry, providing strategic advice and insight to issuers, fund managers, portfolio managers and dealers.

Melissa combines her passion for policy development, knowledge management, and client engagement with her industry expertise to stay up-to-date on the latest emerging industry trends and developments and their impact on market participants registered with the CSA and with CIRO. Her expertise includes providing registrants with ongoing advice on compliance and regulatory best practices. Melissa publishes legal insights and speaks frequently at asset and wealth management seminars, meetings and conferences.

Prior to joining BLG, Melissa was general counsel to a highly respected national portfolio management association, with over 300 member firms collectively managing over \$3 trillion in assets. Melissa served as a dedicated legal and regulatory resource for member firms, drafting and developing a wide variety of legal, regulatory and compliance communications and advocacy letters. In this role, Melissa developed an excellent reputation in the industry as a highly knowledgeable speaker and author on matters of importance to investors, including on derivatives law, the importance of succession planning and compliance best practices.

Melissa also has experience as legal counsel at the Toronto Stock Exchange where she advised Listed Issuer Services and Compliance & Disclosure on a wide variety of novel legal and policy issues.

Melissa also obtained valuable experience in private practice, having practiced corporate and commercial law as well as securities law at national law firms for 6 years.

Insights & Events

- Author, "DIY with OEO: But first, read the updated CIRO Guidance", BLG Article, April 2026
- Author, "The future is now: CIRO's compliance report for 2026", BLG Article, April 2026
- Author, "Want to deal with Canadian clients or investors? What you need to know before you cross the border", BLG Article, April 2026
- Author, "Under the bright lights: CSA & CIRO illuminate enhanced expectations in phase 2 client-focused reform sweep", BLG Article, December 2025
- Author, "CSA Proposals on Liquidity Risk Management", BLG Article, December 2025
- Author, "Understanding the OSC's Investment Management Division's 2025 priorities: Insights from Staff Notice 81-739", BLG Article, December 2025
- Author, "BCSC 2024 Compliance Report Card: A sneak peek of the 2024 CFR sweep findings", BLG Article, October 2025
- Author, "Autorité des marchés financiers consultation on fee recalibration", BLG Article, September 2025
- Author, "CIRO proposes new conception of the OEO Dealer model", BLG Article, September 2025
- Author, "Highlights from the 2025 OSC Registration, Inspections and Examinations Division Annual Report", BLG Article, September 2025
- Author, "CIRO tackles account transfers", BLG Article, August 2025
- Author, "CSA's Prospectus Relief marks strategic shift to boost market activity", BLG Article, April 2025
- Author, "CIRO's handful of proposals: Phase 5 of the rule consolidation project", BLG Article, April 2025
- Author, "Avoiding compliance déjà vu: CIRO's compliance report for 2025", BLG Article, February 2025
- Author, "Staying comfortable and current: CIRO continuing education rule proposals", BLG Article, January 2025
- Author, "Firms that use AI systems for any purpose: It's time to make a to-do list", BLG Article, January 2025
- Author, "Canada's Supply Chains Act (Modern Slavery Regulation) Resource Centre", BLG Article, December 2024
- Author, "OSC's Investment Management Division Report focused on AI, crypto and ESG", BLG Article, December 2024
- Author, "Investing in the long game", BLG Article, November 2024
- Author, "Goodbye MRFP, hello fund report: Proposed changes to continuous disclosure rules for investment funds", BLG Article, October 2024
- Author, "The OSC wants registered firms' 'go bags' packed and ready: how firms can tailor their packing lists and how owners can protect their legacies", BLG Article, September 2024
- Author, "Let's inspect the OSC's 2024 Registration, Inspections and Examinations Division Summary Report", BLG Article, September 2024
- Author, "The CSA has competition: The Competition Act introduces new prohibitions on misleading environmental claims", BLG Article, July 2024
- Author, "Court opens the door to a finding of fiduciary duty in relation to non-managed accounts", BLG Article, June 2024
- Author, "ESG-related investment fund disclosure in 2024: 'Walk your talk'", BLG Article, May 2024

Beyond Our Walls

Professional Involvement

- Past Member, Registrant Advisory Committee – Ontario Securities Commission

- Member, Securities Law Subcommittee, Ontario Bar Association

Community Involvement

- Corporate Secretary, Adoption Council of Ontario
- Member, Board of Directors and Governance Committee, Adoption Council of Ontario

Awards & Recognition

- Women's Law Association of Ontario Community Contribution Award

Bar Admission & Education

- Ontario, 2007
- LLB, University of Western Ontario, 2006
- MA, English Literature, University of Toronto, 2003
- BA (Honours), Queen's University, 2002

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