



Jeffrey Vallis KC, FCI Arb

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[Construction Disputes](#)

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Jeff is recognized as one of the leading lawyers in Canada for construction law by the foremost legal rankings publications.

He acts on behalf of owners, contractors, subcontractors, lenders and sureties in disputes arising from large-scale construction and engineering projects in the infrastructure, industrial and commercial sectors.

Jeff has extensive experience before the Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta and the Alberta Court of Appeal. He has also appeared before the superior courts of Saskatchewan and Manitoba, the Federal Court of Canada and the Supreme Court of Canada.

Jeff acts extensively as counsel in both domestic and international arbitrations, and has served as both an arbitrator and a mediator.

Jeff provides legal services through a Law Corporation.

Experience

- Counsel in a multi-party arbitration, acting for a Construction Manager in a dispute arising out of the construction of a large hospital project in northern Alberta, with claims and cross-claims involving the public owner and a number of subcontractors.

- Counsel in an arbitration, acting for a contractor engaged in the design and delivery of a highly complex signalling infrastructure for a railway project in Ontario, in a dispute with a consortium partner arising out of a disagreement over scope of work and contractual performance.
- Counsel in an arbitration involving two joint ventures engaged in disputes arising out of the design and construction of a major ring road project in southern Alberta.
- Counsel in an arbitration, for an international engineering firm defending a \$125 million claim arising out of the design of a series of pumping stations on a large international oil pipeline. The arbitration was commenced as an ICC arbitration, but was converted to ad hoc rules by agreement between the parties.
- Counsel in an arbitration, for an owner of a \$1 billion sour gas processing plant in northern Canada claiming damages against two contractors and a fabricator. This arbitration was commenced under UNCITRAL rules, and is a multi-party proceeding.
- Counsel in an arbitration, for a general contractor involved in disputes with the owner and with a number of subcontractors arising out of the construction of an international airport in a major city in Canada.
- Counsel in an arbitration, for a design build contractor, arising out of the design and construction of a highway infrastructure project in southern Manitoba.
- Counsel in an arbitration, for an EPC contractor involved in a dispute with the owner and operator of a carbon capture facility.
- *Graham Building Services v. Saskatoon (City)* (2018), SKQB336; successfully sought leave to appeal from an arbitration award.
- *Whissell Contracting Ltd. v. Calgary (City) et al.* (2017), ABQB 644; successfully acted for a general contractor in resisting an application for summary judgment by a subcontractor.
- *JTI v. Alberta* (2016), ABCA 28 (Alta. CA); successfully set aside an adverse interpretation of the Tobacco Tax Act of Alberta.

Insights & Events

- Chair, "Major Projects Disputes - Arbitration", Western Canada Commercial Arbitration Society, May, 2023
- Panelist, "Preparing and Presenting Expert Evidence in Construction Arbitrations", The Advocates Society, March 31, 2023
- Panelist, "Ethical and Professional Challenges in Challenging Times", Annual Meeting of the Canadian College of Construction Lawyers, May 28-29, 2021
- Panelist, "The Role of the Expert in Arbitration", Society for Construction Law – North America (Calgary), October 28, 2020.
- Co-Author, "[The Importance of Context to Importance – Seeking Leave to Appeal from an Arbitral Award](#)," ADRIC, February 28, 2020.
- Panelist, "Hot Tips/Hot Issues," 31st Annual Meeting of the American College of Construction Lawyers (Tucson, Arizona), February 2020
- Author, "The Post-Sattva Scope of Arbitration Appeal," ADR Perspectives (ADR Institute of Canada).
- Author, "A Bought Magistrate: The Conundrum of the Consultant," Journal of the Canadian College of Construction Lawyers.
- Author, "In Defence of Yugraneft," News and Notes from The Institute of Transnational Arbitration.
- Author, "Resolving Construction Disputes: Is Arbitration Today's Answer?," Calgary Construction Association's magazine, The Constructor.
- Author, "Welcome to Alberta ... But Don't be Late," Lexpert®.
- Co-Chair, "Canadian Construction Insurance Law: A Roadmap to Risk Management," Lexpert, Calgary.
- Co-Chair, Managing Risks in Construction Contracts Conference, (with Scott J. Hammel).
- Contributor, PLC Cross-Border Construction and Projects Handbook.

- Panel chair, "Construction Claims – Dispute Resolution Options," 11th Annual WCCAS Energy, Mining and Resources Arbitration Conference, Calgary.
- Panelist, "Doing More with Less," Canadian Bar Association/Canadian Corporate Counsel Association Annual Conference, Calgary.
- Speaker, "Construction Contract Dispute Resolution – Collaborating with the Opposition in a Litigious Situation," Managing Risk in Construction Contracts and Projects conference.
- Speaker, "Multi-party Arbitrations," Society for Construction Law Conference.
- Speaker, "New Rules for Summary Judgement in Canada," Annual Meeting of the Canadian College of Construction Lawyers.
- Speaker, "Best Practices for Minimizing Financial Risk During a Construction Project," 18th Annual Western Canadian Construction Superconference
- Speaker, "Better Understanding the Arbitration Process," Canadian Bar Association, Alberta Branch, Commercial Real Property Section.
- Speaker, "Construction Delay: A Couple of Current Legal Issues," Managing Risks in Construction Contracts Conference.
- Speaker, "Drafting Key Provisions in Procurement Documents," Tendering and Procurement Conference.
- Speaker, "Exclusion Clauses in the Construction Context," Tercon: Changing the Face of Tendering Law in Canada.
- Speaker, "Leading Types of Claims in the Construction Industry," 4th Construction Claims Conference.

Beyond our Walls

Professional Involvement

- Fellow, American College of Construction Lawyers
- Fellow, Canadian College of Construction Lawyers
- Fellow, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators
- Member, Western Canada Commercial Arbitration Society
- Member, Canadian Bar Association and Calgary Bar Association

Community Involvement

- Former Board Chair and Director, Hospice Calgary Society
- Former Trustee and Vice-President, Canadian Athletic Foundation
- Former Director and Vice-Chair, Recreation for Life Foundation
- Former Co-Chair, Hospice Calgary's Community Campaign

Awards & Recognitions

- Recognized in the 2024 (and since 2006) edition of *The Best Lawyers in Canada*® (Construction Law).
- Recognized in the 2024 edition (and since 2023) of *The Legal 500 Canada* Hall of Fame (Construction)
- Recognized in the 2024 edition (and since 2016) of *Chambers Canada – Canada's Leading Lawyers for Business* (Construction - Nationwide and Dispute Resolution: Arbitration - Nationwide).
 - **Construction** - *Calgary-based Jeffrey Vallis KC specialises in the handling of large-scale construction disputes. He is frequently sought after by engineering and architecture companies to advise on contentious mandates.*

- **Dispute Resolution: Arbitration** - Jeffrey Vallis KC is renowned for his longstanding experience in domestic and international construction disputes. Based in the Calgary office of Borden Ladner Gervais, he is widely regarded as one of Canada's leading construction arbitration lawyers. His wide-ranging practice also sees him handle commercial arbitration cases conducted under ad hoc and ICC rules.
- Recognized in the 2023 edition (and 2020) of *Chambers Global – The World's Leading Lawyers for Business* (Dispute Resolution: Arbitration).
- Recognized as the 2023 'Lawyer of the Year' in Calgary by *The Best Lawyers in Canada* (Construction Law)
- Recognized in the 2023 (and previous editions) of the *Lexpert® / American Guide to the Leading 500 Lawyers in Canada* (Construction Law).
- Recognized in the 2023 (and since 2012) edition of *Canadian Legal Lexpert® Directory* (Commercial Arbitration, Construction Law; Infrastructure Law).
- Recognized in the 2023 (and since 2020) edition of *Benchmark Canada – The Definitive Guide to Canada's Leading Litigation Firms & Attorneys* as a "Litigation Star" (Arbitration, Commercial, Insurance, Product Liability).
- Shortlisted for "Construction Litigator of the Year" at the 2023 Benchmark Litigation Canada Awards
- Recognized in the 2022 edition of *Who's Who Legal Thought Leaders: Construction*
- Recognized in the 2022 edition of *Who's Who Legal: Canada* (Arbitration and Construction).
 - Jeffrey D Vallis KC is a clear leader in the field when it comes to construction law and regularly handles disputes arising from large-scale construction and engineering projects.
- Recognized in the 2022 edition of *Who's Who Legal: Construction*
 - "Jeffrey is a true leader in the construction field."
 - "He is very well known for his deep expertise in construction disputes."
 - "Mr Vallis QC is an extremely sharp attorney who has an excellent handle on the particulars of a matter. He is well respected by peers in the industry."
 - "Jeff Vallis is professional, courteous, capable and ethical. He is deserving of recognition by WWL."
- Recognized in the 2023 (and 2013-2018-2020-2022) edition of the *Lexpert Special Edition: Infrastructure*
- Recognized in the 2021 edition (and since 2020) of *Lexpert Special Edition: Litigation*
- Recognized in the 2023 edition (and since 2022) of *Lexpert Special Edition: Energy*
- Recognized as Construction Lawyer of the Year at the 2019 (and 2018) *Benchmark Canada Awards*.
- Inducted as Fellow to the American College of Construction Lawyers in 2019, only the 6th Canadian to be given this honour.
- Recognized in the 2018 (and since 2012) edition of *Who's Who Legal: Canada* (Construction).
- Recognized in the 2015 edition of *Chambers Global - The World's Leading Lawyers for Business* (Construction).
- Recognized in the 2015 edition of the *Legal 500 Canada* (Dispute Resolution).
- Recognized in the 2018 and 2017 editions of the *Lexpert®/ROB Special Edition – Canada's Leading Energy Lawyers*.
- Recognized by the 2014 *Lexology Client Choice Awards* as the exclusive winner in Construction in both Canada and Alberta. Also recognized in 2013 as the exclusive winner in Construction in Alberta.
- Recognized by the 2013 *Lexology Client Choice Awards* as the exclusive winner in Construction in Alberta.
- Recognized in the 2012 edition of the PLC Which lawyer? (Construction).
- Martindale-Hubbell® Peer Review Rated.

Bar Admission & Education

- Alberta, 1982
- LLB, University of Toronto, 1981
- Leadership in Law Firms Certificate, Harvard Law School Executive Program, 2011

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 725 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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