

Ian C. Matthews

Partner

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Commercial Litigation
Class Action Defence
Contract Disputes
Appellate Advocacy
Fraud
Administrative and Public Law
Corporate & Shareholder Disputes

Ian's experience includes complex commercial litigation and appellate disputes. He has significant expertise in class actions, representing both plaintiffs and defendants on diverse claims ranging from unpaid overtime to foreign currency exchange issues in Canada and the United States.

Ian has appeared at all levels of court in Ontario and at the Supreme Court of Canada. He is an active member of BLG, serving on its committees relating to generative AI and the Future of Work, and as a member of BLG's national Diversity and Inclusion Council.

Prior to joining BLG, Ian practiced at a leading litigation boutique in Toronto and a large U.S. law firm. He served as a law clerk to the Honourable Madam Justice Marie Deschamps at the Supreme Court of Canada in 2010-11.

Experience

- **Peoples Trust Company**, in obtaining urgent injunctive relief enforcing the audit provisions of a commercial contract.
- **A dissenting shareholder**, in a successful application seeking payment of fair value for his shares in the context of an amalgamation transaction in the mining sector.
- **Orillia Soldiers' Memorial Hospital**, in successfully obtaining judgment following a multi-week trial arising out of property damage suffered to its operating rooms in the context of a construction project.
- **A technology growth equity company**, in an arbitration with one of its former shareholders to resolve the value of the company's assets.

- **BMO InvestorLine Inc.**, in defeating certification of a proposed class action regarding the receipt of mutual fund commissions and subsequently upholding the decision on appeal.
- **A developer of large energy storage and hybrid renewable energy projects**, in a successful multi-week arbitration with its customer over a terminated battery storage and backup project.
- **Foresters Life Insurance Company**, in obtaining an ex parte *Mareva* injunction and *Norwich* order freezing the assets of insurance agents alleged to be engaging in a multimillion dollar fraud.
- **A naturopathic doctor**, in prosecuting a multimillion dollar claim against an international pharmaceutical company alleging misappropriation of the doctor's personality to sell natural health products.
- **An individual shareholder**, in an extensive arbitration proceeding alleging oppression in the sale of his shares in a multi-billion dollar financial services company.
- A number of telescope manufacturers, including **Celestron LLC and Pacific Telescope Corp.**, in obtaining the summary dismissal of a proposed class action for delay.
- **BMO Investments Inc.**, in defending a class action seeking $200 million in damages in relation to "trailing commissions" charged in connection with certain mutual funds.
- **A technology corporation,** in obtaining a civil search warrant (*Anton Piller* Order) against an executive who misappropriated the company's property.
- **An individual executive**, in successfully defending a $30 million claim alleging fraud and breach of fiduciary obligations and a proposed worldwide *Mareva* injunction seeking to freeze assets.
- **A group of standardbred horse breeders**, in successfully prosecuting a $65 million lawsuit against the Province of Ontario and the provincial lottery and gaming corporation for negligence and breach of contract relating to the cancellation of a revenue sharing arrangement that placed slot machines in racetracks.
- The **Centre for Addiction and Mental Health**, in successfully responding to an appeal before the Supreme Court of Canada involving the liberty and security of the person interests of mentally ill individuals under s. 7 of the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms.*
- The **Information Technology Association of Canada**, in an intervention before the Supreme Court of Canada involving the enforceability of online forum selection clauses in consumer agreements.
- **Current and former employees of trucking and logistics company Canada Cartage**, in a successfully-certified $100 million class action seeking damages for unpaid overtime.
- **Standard Chartered PLC**, in defending and resolving a $1 billion class action alleging price-fixing in the foreign exchange market.
- **Mattamy Homes**, in a $400 million dispute regarding the interpretation of the terms of a joint-venture agreement.
- **Two high school students**, in a successful constitutional challenge to their principal's decision to impose a breathalyzer test as a precondition of entry into their prom.
- **NEC Corporation, NEC Canada and TOKIN Corporation**, in a successful jurisdictional challenge made in the context of an $85 million class action alleging price-fixing in the market for lithium ion batteries.

Insights & Events

- Author, "A new era for civil litigation in Ontario: Highlights from the Civil Rules Review final report", BLG Article, January 2026
- Co-Author, "Dismissal of class proceedings for delay: ONCA provides guidance", Law360, April 2025
- Author, "Major proposed reforms to Ontario's Rules of Civil Procedure", BLG Article, April 2025
- Author, "Tick tock: Ontario Court of Appeal provides guidance on dismissal for delay under the Class Proceedings Act", BLG Article, March 2025
- Future of litigation: 5 big ideas to solve the court backlog , BLG Perspective, December 2024

- Speaker, "Do's and Don'ts of Testifying," CBV National Congress, June 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
- Speaker, “Search and Seizure in Schools”, Lawrence Park Collegiate Institute, 2019-2024
- Speaker, “Recent Developments in Class Actions”, Advocates’ Society, October 20, 2023
- Co-Author, "Court Decertifies “Phantom Class” Following Extensive Opt-Outs: *Navartnarajah v. FSB Group Ltd.,*" OBA, June 2023
- Speaker, “Commercial List Advocacy”, Advocates’ Society, May 11, 2023
- Speaker, “Class Action Cros-Country Checkup”, Osgoode National Symposium on Class Actions, April 27, 2023
- Author, "Mandatory dismissal provision in Ontario’s Class Proceedings Act gets new judicial gloss", BLG Article, May 2022
- Co-Author, "Fresco v. CIBC: Ontario Court Of Appeal Decision Offers Guidance, Leaves Open Questions," OBA, March 2022
- Author, "Bill 161: Sweeping changes to Ontario's Class Proceedings Act take effect October 1", BLG Article, September 2020
- Author, "Changes to Ontario’s Class Proceedings Act passed into law", BLG Article, July 2020
- Author, "Ontario’s Divisional Court confirms a two-step approach to common issues on certification", BLG Article, June 2020
- Co-Author, “Still Doing the Two-Step: Ontario’s Divisional Court in *Kuiper* Confirms a Two-Step Approach to Common Issues on Certification”, Class Action Defence Quarterly, June 2020
- Author, "Two steps in class action “Common Issues” inquiry, court confirms", BLG Article, February 2020
- Author, "Ontario Announces Significant Proposed Changes to the Class Proceedings Act, 1992", BLG Article, December 2019
- Author, "Ontario Court of Appeal: Defendant’s Jurisdiction Motion Does Not Stop 2-Year Limitation Period for Third Party Contribution and Indemnity Claims from Running", BLG Article, October 2019
- Author, "A Clash Between Class Counsel and his Class Representative", BLG Article, August 2019
- Author, "Law Commission of Ontario Report on Class Actions — Key Recommendations", BLG Article, July 2019
- Speaker, “Keeping Up With the Caselaw”, Ontario Bar Association Class Actions Section, June 20, 2019

Beyond Our Walls

Professional Involvement

- Executive Member, Ontario Bar Association, Class Actions section
- Co-Chair, Class Actions Bench-Bar Liaison Committee
- Member, Canadian Bar Association
- Member, The Advocates' Society
- Volunteer Lawyer, Pro Bono Ontario
- Member, Law Society of Ontario

Community Involvement

- Director, Toronto Cricket, Skating & Curling Club
- Chair, Governance Committee, Toronto Cricket, Skating & Curling Club

Awards & Recognition

- Recognized in the 2027 edition (and since 2024) of *Best Lawyers in Canada* (Appellate Practice, Corporate and Commercial Litigation and Class Action Litigation).
- Recognized in the 2026 edition (and since 2021) of *Lexpert Special Edition: Litigation*
- Recognized in the 2026 (and since 2023) and 2021 editions of the *Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory* (Litigation - Corporate Commercial) and since the 2024 edition (Class Actions).

Bar Admission & Education

- New York, 2011
- Ontario, 2008

- LLM, Harvard Law School, 2009
- LLB, University of Windsor, 2007
- BA, McGill University, 2003, (Valedictorian)

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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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