



Robert S. Russell

Partner

F 416.367.6749
Toronto
RRussell@blg.com

[Competition & Foreign Investment Review](#)

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With more than 30 years' experience in competition law, Rob acts on both criminal and civil matters under the Canadian Competition Act.

He leads the most active criminal cartel practice in Canada, investigating and leading more than 30 cases in the last decade with the help of his team of forensic investigators. Rob advises and represents clients with respect to criminal matters such as conspiracy, bid-rigging, misleading advertising and price maintenance.

Where civil matters are concerned, he has been involved in a number of complex and contested merger reviews and abuse of dominance matters. He also advises clients with respect to advertising, packaging and labelling, tariffs and trademarks.

In 2001, Rob was retained by the Commissioner of Competition to provide a report and legislative framework for amending the cartel provisions of the Competition Act, which ultimately were reflected in the amendments to the Act in 2009.

He has testified before Parliamentary and Senate Committees on issues of competition law and policy and appeared before the Canadian Competition Tribunal.

Rob is the national chair of BLG's Competition and Foreign Investment Review Group.

Experience

- Acted in a competition matter for Loblaw Companies (six significant mergers or acquisitions including leading the \$12B acquisition of Shoppers Drug Mart in 2014).
- Acted in a competition matter for George Weston (five significant mergers or divestitures).
- Acted in a competition matter for Hewlett Packard (a number of acquisitions and mergers including the \$25B acquisition of Compaq).
- Acted for Loblaw Companies in class proceedings by minority Class A shareholders claiming oppression, conspiracy and breach of fiduciary duty for damages exceeding \$72 million, 2003.
- Acted for Hewlett-Packard in class proceedings regarding alleged defective printers for damages exceeding \$110 million, 2004.
- Acted for a major technology services provider in alleged negligence and breach of contract relating to a major SAP implementation for damages exceeding \$20 million, 2004.
- Acted for Weston Limited in a commercial dispute regarding the divestiture of E.B. Eddy for damages exceeding \$42 million, 2005.
- Acted for Future Shop in a class action proceeding relating to allegedly defective disk drives, 2001.
- Acted for various private-sector clients in many significant mergers in Canada, including: the \$4-billion acquisition of Dome Petroleum by Amoco to form Canada's largest oil producer; the \$2.2-billion acquisition of Provigo by Loblaws to create Canada's largest supermarket chain; and the \$40-billion acquisition of Compaq by Hewlett-Packard.
- Acted as Agent of the Attorney-General of Canada and counsel to the Competition Commissioner in a number of matters including CP Containers/Cast North America, Abitibi-Consolidated/Donohue Inc. and Forzani.
- Appeared before the Competition Commission in the U.K. in the merger of Air Canada and Canadian Airlines.
- Acted in major technology-law transactions for clients including Hewlett-Packard, NEC, Amoco Canada, Loblaw Companies, Westons, Placer Dome, Barclays Bank, Marsh McLellan, B.C.E., Ryder, Holt Renfrew, Gainers, Bramalea Limited, Institut Mérieux, Bliss & Laughlin Industries, Carecor Health Services, Liberty Mutual Insurance, Simcoe & Erie Insurance, Gerber Foods, Amdahl Canada, Atochem North America, Scepter Manufacturing and Telecom - Telesat.
- Advises clients with respect to advertising, packaging and labelling, tariffs and trademarks, as well as representing clients with Consumer and Corporate Affairs, Health Protection Branch and the Liquor Licence Board.

Insights & Events

- The Antitrust Review of the Americas 2018 Canada: Private Antitrust Litigation
- Avoiding Nightmares: Moving from Competition Compliance Training to Compliance Management
- Contributing editor, Corporate Litigation

Beyond Our Walls

Professional Involvement

- Treasurer, North American Forum, International Bar Association
- Member, Canadian Bar Association

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- Member, International Bar Association
- Member, commercial list users committee of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice
- Former member, integrated justice steering committee of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice

Awards & Recognitions

- Recognized in the 2020 edition (and since 2019) of *Chambers Global - The World's Leading Lawyers for Business* (Competition/Antitrust: Litigators).
- Recognized in the 2019 edition of *Chambers Canada - Canada's Leading Lawyers for Business* (Competition/Antitrust: Litigators).
- Recognized in the 2020 edition of *Best Lawyers in Canada* (Competition/Antitrust Law).

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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