

Krista M. Johanson

Partner

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Construction Disputes
P3 Contracts
Public Infrastructure
Commercial Arbitration
Commercial Litigation
Construction
Disputes
Surety and Bonding

Krista resolves construction disputes. She acts for clients in litigation, domestic and international, and in dealing with project tribunals.

Her industry focus and experience acting for contractors, owners, design professionals, and sureties makes her effective at helping clients avoid and resolve disputes on ongoing projects. Krista's experience includes disputes involving procurement, delays, design deficiencies, construction defects, contract termination, cost escalation, insurance coverage and bonding claims. She is familiar with P3 and other public projects, mining projects, hydro-electric and other infrastructure projects, as well as large residential and institutional projects. Krista has appeared as lead counsel at all levels of court in British Columbia and Saskatchewan.

Krista is the past Chair of the Canadian Bar Association's B.C. Construction section and the current Chair of the national Construction and Infrastructure Section. Prior to joining BLG as an articling student, Krista clerked for two justices of the Court of Appeal of British Columbia. She also serves on the board of the Vancouver Opera.

Experience

- Has represented sureties, owner-developers, contractors, sub-trades, and strata corporations. Experience includes:
    - large-scale infrastructure disputes
    - construction and engineering disputes
    - residential construction disputes

- construction disputes in the bankruptcy and insolvency context.
- Has experience clearing, defending and bringing claims of builders' liens, advancing and defending claims relating to deficiencies and delays, and advancing and defending professional negligence claims against consultants.

Insights & Events

- Author, "B.C. introduces new Construction Prompt Payment Act", BLG Article, October 2025
- Co-author,"Reading between the lines: Implied terms in construction contracts," *On-Site*, November 2, 2021
- Presenter, CBA National Construction & Infrastructure Section Webinar: "2020 Cross-Canada Year in Review (Western Canada)", December 2020
- Co-speaker, "Navigating COVID-19: Managing the contractual and related legal protections and risks for construction companies", Canadian Construction Association, April 16, 2020
- Contributor, "Canadian Construction Law Reform: A Survey of Recent Developments in Builders Liens, Prompt Payment, Interim Adjudication and Mandatory Construction Bonding," (M.A. Skene and D.H. Laudan) 2020 Journal of the Canadian College of Construction Lawyers 93.
- Author, "Federal Government Introduces Prompt Payment Legislation for Construction Projects on Federal Land", BLG Article, May 2019
- Co-author, “Certificates of completion: The Purpose, process, and pitfalls,” On-Site Magazine, October 2018
- Co-Author, "How much is too much? ," On-Site Magazine, August 2018
- Co-Author, "The Enforceability of "No Damages for Delay" Clauses," Construction Law Letter, July/August 2018.
- Author, "When Can a Lien Be Secured for Less Than Face Value?", BLG Article, May 2018
- Co-author, "Don’t make these 5 mistakes about performance bonds," On-Site Magazine, February 20, 2018
- Author, "Bidder Beware-Bids Must be Completed When Submitted," The Canadian Bar Association, September 2017
- Author, "Contractors and the law: breaking up is hard to do," On-Site Magazine, June 20, 2017
- Author, "An Estimate is Never 'Just an Estimate'," On-Site Magazine, February 28, 2017
- Author, "B.C.'s New Civil Resolution Tribunal Orders Special Levy to Fund Repairs to Strata Property", BLG Article, February 2017
- Co-Presenter, "The Duty of Good Faith: At Work on Your Projects," BLG U, May 2016
- Co-Author, "How New Climate Change Policy Could Impact Design/Construction Companies," Construction Canada, April 2016.

Beyond Our Walls

Professional Involvement

- Chair, Construction & Infrastructure Law Section, Canadian Bar Association (National)
- Former Chair, Construction Law Section, Canadian Bar Association (B.C. Branch)
- Member, Canadian Bar Association
- Member, American Bar Association

Community Involvement

- Volunteer, BLG Reads to Kids
- Board of Directors, Vancouver Opera Association

Awards & Recognition

- Recognized in the 2027 edition (and since 2021) of *The Best Lawyers in Canada* (Construction Law).
- Recognized in the 2026 edition (and since 2024) of *Benchmark Canada - The Definitive Guide to Canada's Leading Litigation Firms & Attorneys* as a Litigation Star and from 2019 to 2023 as a Future Star.
- Recognized in the 2025 (and since 2023) edition of *Lexpert® Special Edition: Infrastructure.*
- Recognized in the 2025 edition (and since 2023) of *The Canadian Legal Lexpert® Directory* as a Leading Lawyer to Watch (Construction Law).
- Recognized in the 2022 edition (and since 2020) of the *Benchmark Litigation Canada's* "40 & Under Hot List".
- Recognized as a CLE BC 'Rising Star' 2018 for her contributions to BC CLE.

Bar Admission & Education

- Saskatchewan, 2019
- British Columbia, 2011

- JD, University of British Columbia, 2009, (received the Carswell Prize for highest standing in first-year law, the Bull Housser & Tupper Prize in Torts, the Allan McEachern Prize in Criminal Law, the Davis LLP Prize in First Nations Law, and the Malcolm MacIntyre Prize in Succession Law)
- BA (Hons., with Distinction), University of Toronto, (Trinity College), 2004

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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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