

# David Di Paolo

## National Managing Partner and CEO

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Commercial Litigation
White Collar Criminal Defence and Corporate Investigations
Securities Disputes
Banking Litigation
Class Action Defence
Commercial Arbitration
Contract Disputes
Employment Disputes

As national managing partner and CEO of BLG, David is building the law firm of the future: agile, innovative and delivering exceptional work with unmatched efficiency. He combines the discipline of a highly ranked litigator with the vision of a transformational leader, testing new ideas, investing in talent and setting new standards for performance.

Over more than two decades, David has acted for leading financial institutions, public companies, regulators and professionals in some of the country's **most complex commercial, securities and class action matters**, including before the Supreme Court of Canada. Clients trust him to manage risk, protect reputation and deliver clarity when it counts. Before becoming national managing partner, he co-led BLG's 400-member disputes group and served on the firm's Partnership Board, where he continues to serve.

A lifelong resident of Hamilton — a city known for its industrial grit and creative resurgence — David is a **decisive, pragmatic and open-minded leader** who isn't afraid to get his hands dirty. He built his nationally respected career at BLG because of the meaningful work, distinguished mentors and a culture that rewards initiative and collaboration. As national managing partner, he's focused on what matters most to organizations facing complex challenges and pursuing transformative opportunities: strengthening systems, setting expectations and fostering a culture that inspires BLG's teams to deliver consistent value across practices, industries and offices.

**David is ranked among Canada's top litigators** by *Chambers Canada*, *Legal 500*, *Lexpert*, *Benchmark Canada* and *Best Lawyers*. In 2025, he was named Securities Litigator of the Year by *Benchmark Litigation*.

## Experience

- *Fischer v. AIC et al.* – represents one of the fund companies in a securities class action regarding alleged market timing activities.*Pozgaj v. Mackenzie Financial Corporation et al:* acting for Mackenzie Financial in a class action alleging prospectus misrepresentation and breach of trust related to trailing fees paid by mutual funds.
- *Clarus Securities Inc. et al v. Aphria Inc.*: acting for a syndicate of underwriters in a class action alleging prospectus misrepresentation and secondary market misrepresentation.
- *Pardhan v. Bank of Montreal and Kherani v. Bank of Montreal:* acting for BMO in a class action concerning a fraud committed by a BMO customer.
- *Carrie Eklund v. Goodlife Fitness Centres Inc.* – acting for Goodlife, the largest fitness chain in Canada, in an unpaid wages and overtime Class Action claim related to its club locations in Ontario, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland.
- *Fulawka v. Bank of Nova Scotia* – represented the Bank of Nova Scotia in an overtime class action.
- Represents **Handa Student Travel** in a wages class action.
- *Wrzesnewskyj v. A. G.* – represented **Elections Canada** in a contested election application in Etobicoke Centre both at the application and before the Supreme Court of Canada.
- *Gould v. Western Coal* – represented one of the defendant directors in successfully defeating certification in a securities class action.
- Represented **Parrish & Heimbecker** in successfully setting aside a shareholder's rights plan before the Ontario Securities Commission (OSC).
- *French v. Karas et al.* – represented the dealer in defence of a class action proceeding.
- *Franmed Consultants (1993) Inc., et al v. Medcan Health Management Inc. et al* - represented the Chairman of the Board in defending an action in oppression.
- *Dawson v. Rx Drug Mart Inc. et al* – representing the company in its response to an oppression application and claim in wrongful termination.
- Acted for a number of institutional shareholders before the OSC and the court in opposing Magna's proposal to eliminate its dual class share structure.
- Research in Motion – represented senior executive in options back-dating regulatory investigation and settlement.
- *YBM Magnex International Inc. et al.* – represented one of the respondents in defending an OSC proceeding and in defending a class action proceeding.

## Insights & Events

- The Legal Listen: David Di Paolo and CBA president Bianca Kratt on the future of law, BLG Podcast, October 2025
- Author, "Simply the best (evidence): Capital Markets Tribunal rules on read-ins", BLG Article, February 2025
- Author, "Everything you need to know about the Canadian Investment Regulatory Organization (CIRO): a dynamic resource", BLG Article, February 2025
- Author, "OSC short-selling prosecution dismissed", BLG Article, November 2024

- Author, "Court opens the door to a finding of fiduciary duty in relation to non-managed accounts", BLG Article, June 2024
- Author, "Delivery driver class action against Amazon stayed and certification dismissed", BLG Article, July 2023
- Author, "Canada's New SRO: A new name, enforcement and policy focus", BLG Article, April 2023
- Pearls of wisdom: Investment management regulatory trends and preparing for the new SRO, BLG Video, January 2023
- Author, "The iMessage and WhatsApp Trap: Compliance with record-keeping obligations in the BYOD era", BLG Article, October 2022
- Author, "Alberta Court of Appeal affirms key decision regarding investor loss class actions ", BLG Article, April 2022
- Trends to watch in 2021 – Disputes: accelerated transformation, BLG Perspective, January 2021
- Author, "BLG clients Aimia Inc. and Kognitiv Corporation have a significant win", BLG Article, June 2020
- Author, "COVID-19 update from IIROC and the MFDA", BLG Article, March 2020
- Author, "IIROC Releases Bulletin on Limitation of Liability & Exclusionary Clauses", BLG Article, November 2019
- Author, "CSA Releases Client Focused Reforms", BLG Article, October 2019
- Co-author, "Supreme Court Clarifies Process for Challenging Production Orders," BLG Bulletin, December 2018
- Co-Author, "Class and Collective Actions in Canada," Lexology Guide, November, 2018.
- Author, "Canadian Securities Regulators Publish Revamped 'Client Focused' Registrant Reform Proposals and Signal Policy Direction on Mutual Fund Embedded Compensation", BLG Article, June 2018
- Author, "Trailing Fees Class Action Commenced", BLG Article, April 2018
- Editor, Brokers' Report
- Co-Author, "Costs Principles in Class Actions Are Not Asymmetrical," BLG Class Actions Bulletin, May 2015
- Quoted, "What to do if a client launches a lawsuit," Investment Executive
- Quoted, "Costly advice: Should all investors be treated as 'completely vulnerable'?," Financial Post
- Quoted, "Five things clients — and advisors — should do to protect themselves," Financial Post
- Quoted, "IFB Summit: OBAs in compliance spotlight," Investment Executive

## Beyond Our Walls

### Professional Involvement

- Member, Canadian Bar Association
- Member, The Advocates' Society
- Advisory Board Member, Canadian General Counsel Awards
- Member, Thomson Reuters Law Firm Leader Roundtable Series

## Awards & Recognition

- Recognized in the 2027 and previous editions of *The Best Lawyers in Canada* (Class Action Litigation, Corporate Commercial Litigation, Securities Law)

- Recognized in the 2027 edition (and since 2019) of *Chambers Canada – Canada's Leading Lawyers for Business* (Litigation: Securities (Ontario) and White-Collar Crime & Government Investigations (Nationwide - Canada))
- Recognized in the 2027 edition (and since 2023) of *The Legal 500 Canada* as a "Leading individual" (Dispute Resolution)
- Recognized in the 2026 edition (and since 2022) of *The Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory* (Class Actions, Litigation – Corporate Commercial, Litigation – Securities, Litigation – Directors' & Officers' Liability)
- Recognized in the 2026 edition of *Lexpert Special Edition: Technology*
- Recognized in the 2026 edition (and since 2020) of the *Benchmark Canada - The Definitive Guide to Canada's Leading Litigation Firms & Attorneys* as a Litigation Star (Commercial, Securities)
- Recognized in the 2026 edition (and since 2020) of *Lexpert Special Edition: Litigation*
- Shortlisted for "Securities Litigator of the Year" at the 2023 Benchmark Litigation Canada Awards
- Recognized as a 2023 *Thomson Reuters* Stand-out Lawyer
- Recognized in the 2022 edition of *Lexpert/American Lawyer Guide to the Leading 500 Lawyers in Canada*

## Bar Admissions & Education

- Ontario, 1998

- LLB, University of Western Ontario, 1996
- BSc, (Hons., summa cum laude) in Biology and Psychology, McMaster University, 1993

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**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 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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