

Jeffrey S. Thomas

Partner

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International Trade & Investment
Competition/Antitrust and Foreign Investment
Public Policy & Government Relations
Corporate Commercial

Jeffrey has extensive experience providing legal advice in the context of large, complex, multi-party negotiations, as well as within international trade, competition law and investment law. His practice focuses in these areas, with particular emphasis in the following:

- state-to-state negotiations and dispute settlement
- trade policy
- domestic trade laws and economic and trade sanctions
- all manner of issues arising under the Competition Act

Jeffrey's practice also extends to other areas of international trade law and Investment, such as:

- international employee transfers
- in-bound and out-bound foreign investment
- Japan-related business transactions
- government relations

Additionally, Jeffrey also has a robust corporate law practice.

Experience

- Extensive experience in advising clients engaged in or affected by large complex multi-party international and domestic negotiations, particularly trade negotiations, including NAFTA, the WTO, the Canada-EU CETA, the AIT, the CFTA, the TILMA and the NWPTA.
- Significant involvement in complex state-to-state trade disputes, including those under NAFTA, the WTO, the AIT, the TILMA and the NWPTA.
- Experience in all areas of Canadian domestic law applicable to the trade of goods, services and technology, including trade remedies, customs laws, economic and trade sanctions, and foreign anti-corruption laws.
- Experience providing trade policy advice to governmental clients respecting their international and domestic obligations.
- Extensive experience in providing advice in all areas of Canada's *Competition Act*, including, in particular, pre-merger notification and merger clearance.
- Extensive experience in the areas of foreign investment into Canada, including advice relating to the *Investment Canada Act* and all manner of international law concerning foreign investment.
- Extensive experience in all immigration-related aspects of international employee and executive movements.
- Active in all manner of government relations-related activities at the provincial and federal levels.

Insights & Events

- Tariffs and Trade Resource Centre, BLG Perspective, August 2025
- Author, "Thriving amid tariff shifts", BLG Article, February 2025
- Author, "The federal government is finally creating a foreign influence registry — Are you ready?", BLG Article, May 2024
- Author, "External pressure: New federal foreign influence transparency registry likely to be established soon in Canada", BLG Article, July 2023
- Author, "Ratification of The Canada-EU Free Trade Deal: Current Status, Next Steps, and Important Implications for Canadian and EU Companies", BLG Article, February 2017
- Co-Author, The New Rules of Global Trade: A Guide to the World Trade Organization, Carswell, 1997.
- Author and Presenter, "Be Afraid, Be Very Afraid: The New Rules for Hiring Foreign Workers," client presentation, October, 2014
- Co-Author, International Trade & Investment Law in Canada, Carswell, 1994.

Beyond our Walls

Professional Involvement

- Member, Law Society of British Columbia
- Member, Vancouver Bar Association
- Member, Canadian Bar Association
- Member, American Bar Association
- Member, Roster of Dispute Settlement Panellists under the Agreement on Internal Trade, 2004 - 2018
- Roster of Dispute Settlement Panellists under the BC-Alberta Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement, 2006 - present

- Roster of Dispute Settlement Panellists under the New West Partnership Trade Agreement, 2010 - present
- Roster of Dispute Settlement Panellists under the Canadian Free Trade Agreement, 2018 - present
- Roster of Dispute Settlement Panellist under NAFTA Chapter Nineteen, 2017 - 2020
- Roster of Dispute Settlement Panellist under CUSMA Chapter Ten, 2020 - present

Community Involvement

- Chair, British Columbia Wine Authority (independent regulatory body), 2007 - 2019
- Coach, North Shore Girls Soccer Club, 2008 - 2016

Awards & Recognitions

- Recognized in the 2026 (and since 2013) editions of *The Canadian Legal Lexpert® Directory* (International Trade Regulation).
- Recognized in 2024 (and since 2023) as a *Thomson Reuters* Stand-out Lawyer
- Recognized in the 2023 (and since 2006) edition of *Best Lawyers in Canada* (Competition/Antitrust Law).
- Recognized in the 2023 edition (and since 2022) of *Who's Who Legal: Canada* (Trade & Customs).
- Recognized in the 2020 edition of *Who's Who Legal Guide to the World's Leading Trade and Customs Lawyers*
- Recognized in the 2017 edition of the *Lexpert® US/Canada Cross-Border Litigation Guide*.
- Recommended in the 2017 edition of the *Legal 500 Canada* (International Trade).
- Recognized in Legal Media Group's *Guide to the World's Leading International Trade Lawyers*.
- Recognized in the 2019 BC Wine Institute (now Wine Growers BC) Wine Industry Recognition Award for outstanding contribution to the BC wine Industry

Bar Admission & Education

- Newfoundland and Labrador, 2024
- British Columbia, 1990

- LLM, University of Toronto, 1989
- LLB, Osgoode Hall Law School, 1988

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