

Samantha Bonanno

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Disputes
Municipal Liability
Police Law & Liability
Defamation & Media Law
Insurance Claim Defence
Crisis Management
Government & Public Sector
Education
Institutional Abuse Claims Defence

Samantha is a litigator with experience as counsel in trials, motions, and appeals across all levels of court in Ontario. Her diverse disputes practice focuses on advising and defending public sector and institutional clients in claims relating to:

- Sexual violence and harassment;
- Defamation;
- Municipal liability (negligence claims involving property damage, maintenance and design of roadways and sidewalks, motor vehicle accidents, occupiers' liability);
- Police liability (claims alleging malicious prosecution, negligent investigation, false arrest, negligence, assault, excessive use of force and damages under the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*);
- Product liability (on behalf of manufacturers, distributors, and retailers); and,
- Class actions.

In addition to defending claims on behalf of institutions, Samantha has specialized experience in crisis management on behalf of institutions, including incident response relating to sexual violence, abuse and harassment and allegations of vicarious liability and independent negligence.

Samantha frequently provides advice on sensitive matters which are the subject of public and media interest and scrutiny.

Samantha articled with BLG before joining as an Associate in 2017.

Insights & Events

- Author, ""“Mere opportunity” is not sufficient to ground a finding of vicarious liability", BLG Article, May 2025
- Author, "Supreme Court of Canada confirms that there is no absolute immunity for Parliament (or legislatures) for legislative acts", BLG Article, July 2024
- Author, "Ontario court dismisses a claim against the Ontario Provincial Police on summary judgment", BLG Article, July 2023
- Author, "Supreme Court of Canada: Spotlight on promissory estoppel in insurance", BLG Article, December 2021
- Author, "Artificial Intelligence and Product Liability: Catching up with the Future", BLG Article, March 2021
- Author, "Product liability design negligence claims allowed to proceed in mass shooting class action", BLG Article, February 2021
- Author, "Proximity is paramount: Supreme Court weighs in on duty of care for pure economic loss", BLG Article, December 2020
- Author, "Ontario court clarifies law for the commencement of limitation periods for prosecutorial torts", BLG Article, November 2020
- Author, "Alberta court rejects “boilerplate” release language in proposed class action settlement", BLG Article, November 2020
- Author, "Supreme Court offers first insight into Ontario’s anti-SLAPP legislation", BLG Article, September 2020
- Author, "This is NOT a test: Inaugural AV safety standard published", BLG Article, May 2020
- The Sensor: The future of farming — Autonomous agriculture, BLG Perspective, March 2020
- Author, "The clearer the better: Waiver’s unclear indemnity is not enforceable", BLG Article, January 2020
- Author, "What to Refuse? Ontario Court Clarifies Scope of Discovery of a Representative Plaintiff", BLG Article, November 2019
- Author, "Limitation Period Began to Run When Plaintiff Threatened Class Action", BLG Article, September 2019
- Author, "Court Concludes Police Owed No Private Law Duty of Care to Victim of Unexpected Shooting", BLG Article, August 2019
- Author, "Court Approves Settlement in Novel Question of Law under Solicitor’s Act", BLG Article, April 2019
- Author, "Party’s Over: Duty Of Care Of Social Hosts Hinges On Fact-Specific Determinations Of Foreseeability And Proximity", BLG Article, November 2018
- Author, "Class Action Settlement Administrators Need Not Go “Above And Beyond” Terms Of Settlement Agreement: Court Of Appeal Of Alberta", BLG Article, October 2018
- Author, "Who’s in the Class? Court Orders Limited Pre-Certification Production of Documents Relating to Size and Scope of Class", BLG Article, June 2018
- Co-author, “Party’s Over: Duty of Care of Social Hosts Hinges on Fact-Specific Determinations of Foreseeability and Proximity,” BLG Publications, June 2018.
- Author, "BLG Successfully Intervenes in Upholding Waivers in the Recreational Sporting Industry", BLG Article, March 2018
- Author, "Subjective Beliefs Alone Not Sufficient to Demonstrate Breach of Duty", BLG Article, September 2017

- Author, "Young Man Sentenced for Criminal Harassment for "Sexting"", BLG Article, January 2017

Beyond our Walls

Professional Involvement

- Member, Ontario Bar Association
- Member, Canadian Bar Association
- Member, Toronto Lawyers Association

Community Involvement

- Member, BLG Reads to Kids
- Member, "Give A Day" Campaign Committee

Awards & Recognitions

- Recognized in the 2025 edition of *The Best Lawyers in Canada* - Ones to Watch™ (Insurance Law)

Bar Admission & Education

- Ontario, 2017

- JD, University of Windsor, 2016
- JD, University of Detroit Mercy School of Law, 2016, (cum laude)
- BA (Hons), University of Toronto, 2012

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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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