

Hélène Deschamps Marquis

Partner, AI Practice Lead and National Co-Leader, Privacy & Cybersecurity

T 514.954.3102
416.350.2581
F 514.954.1905
Montréal, Toronto
HDeschampsMarquis@blg.com
LinkedIn

Artificial Intelligence (AI)
Cybersecurity, Privacy & Data Protection
Compliance with Privacy & Data Protection
Privacy & Security Breaches
Privacy Regulators' Investigations
Information Technology
Health Informatics

Hélène Deschamps-Marquis has over 25 years of market-leading experience advising many of Canada's foremost institutions on managing complex legal and business risks related to cybersecurity, privacy, information technology, and artificial intelligence.

Her practice encompasses AI governance and compliance, incident and breach response, global data protection frameworks, and the negotiation of cross-border technology transactions. She frequently advises boards and general counsel on emerging digital risks and regulatory developments, helping them strengthen organizational resilience and strategic decision-making in a rapidly evolving environment.

Hélène's clients span sectors including energy, financial services, health care, the public sector, and transportation. Her strategic guidance covers:

- Cyber and AI governance frameworks
- Risk assessment and mitigation, including privacy impact assessments
- Regulatory compliance and reporting
- Breach preparedness and incident response coaching
- Responsible AI tool deployment and oversight
- Technology-related policies, training, and internal procedures
- Drafting and negotiation of technology agreements (e-commerce, outsourcing, R&D, M&A, and financing contexts)

An active speaker, lecturer, and thought leader in Canada and internationally, Hélène contributes to shaping the ethical and regulatory landscape for digital transformation, particularly in AI governance, cybersecurity law, and privacy protection.

Experience

- COSCIENS Biopharma Inc., a publicly traded biopharmaceutical company, in its US$15-million acquisition of Nualtis Corp., a specialty pharmaceutical business focused on proprietary oral thin-film drug delivery technologies.
- Kiwa N.V., a Netherlands-based testing, inspection and certification organization, in connection with its agreement to acquire the Testing, Inspection and Certification (TIC) business of CSA Group for approximately C$2.1 billion.

Insights & Events

- Co-Speaker, “Cloud, SaaS, and Hyperscalers Negotiations: What to do, what to leave, what to achieve?”, ITechLaw 2026 European Conference (Copenhagen), October 2026
- Speaker, "AI, compliance and the modern advisor," Canada Life Wealth Summit 2026 Conference, October 2026
- Author, "Critical Cyber Systems Protection Act: Bill C-8 is adopted", BLG Article, July 2026
- Author, "Canada’s new AI for All strategy: A business outlook on AI governance, adoption, and data sovereignty", BLG Article, June 2026
- Panelist, “Responsible AI: What Investors Need to Govern, Measure and Challenge,” RIA Canada Roundtable, June 2026
- Speaker, ITechLaw 2026 Chicago Conference, “Real-Time Insights: The Biggest Late-Breaking Developments in Global Tech Law in Q2 2026”, May 2026
- Author, "A turning point for AI in Canada in 2026?", BLG Article, March 2026
- Author, "Commercial transactions in Canada: Four essential privacy tips for U.S. businesses", BLG Article, March 2026
- Author, "Canada privacy laws: What U.S. businesses need to know", BLG Article, March 2026
- Speaker, "Data centres and the energy sector: emerging risks and reliability challenges" IBA Digital Conference, March 2026
- Author, "Year 2025 in review and trends for 2026: Major developments in cybersecurity and personal information protection", BLG Article, January 2026
- Speaker, "Artificial Intelligence meets Marketing: Navigating Innovation and Legal Risk," BLG Advertising and Marketing Law Seminar, December 2025
- Speaker, "AI in Practice: Canadian Legal Framework and Best Practices for Your Contracts and Governance", ABC Québec, November 2025
- Speaker, "BC Hydro CFO Committee Meeting", November 2025
- Speaker, Electricity Canada Presentation (Vancouver): Navigating Cybersecurity & AI in the Electricity Industry, November 2025
- Speaker, Electricity Canada (Montreal), Bill C-8: Cybersecurity Reform for Canada’s Critical Infrastructure Sectors, November 2025
- Speaker, "Assurance cyber : faciliter la gestion d’un incident couvert", ACC Québec Conference, November 2025
- Speaker, IBA Conference, AI in banking and finance: applications, use cases, benefits and challenges, November 2025

- Director and Speaker, ITechLaw 2025 European Conference, London, Agentic AI: Liability, Bias and Transparency Considerations, October 2025
- Director and Speaker, ITechLaw 2025 European Conference, London, ITechLaw Technology Sourcing, October 2025
- Speaker, ACCP Conference, AI and How it Impacts US, October 2025
- Speaker, Can-Tech, AI Governance in Practice: Charting a Canadian Course (Post AIDA), October 2025
- Interviewed, AI as a new driver of performance in Business Law, Les Affaires, October 2025
- Speaker, Cybersecurity: Practical matters for in-house counsels, October 2025
- Speaker, CNFP Seminar, Cultivating Magic with AI: Practical Insights for Not for Profits, October 2025

Beyond Our Walls

Professional Involvement

- Member, Law Society of Ontario
- Member, Barreau du Québec
- Board member, Canadian Internet Registration Authority (CIRA)
- Board and Executive Committee member, ITech Law
- Instructor (Board liability and cyber risks), Collège des administrateurs du Québec

Awards & Recognition

- Recognized in the 2027 edition (and since 2014) of *Best Lawyers in Canada* (Information Technology Law; Technology Law) and named 'Lawyer of the Year' in 2026 (Information Technology Law).
- Recognized in the 2027 edition of *Chambers Canada* (Artificial Intelligence (Nationwide))
- Recognized as Global Elite Thought Leader in the Data Security Category in the *Lexology Index Thought Leaders: Data 2025 report* (formerly *Who's Who Legal*)
- Recognized in the 2026 edition of *The Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory* (Technology Transactions) and since 2013 (Computer & IT Law; Data Protection & Privacy).
- Recognized in the 2026 edition (and since 2024) of *The Lexpert Special Edition on Canada's Leading Technology Lawyers.*
- Recognized in the 2024 edition of *The Lexpert Special Edition on Canada's Leading Health Sciences Lawyers.*
- Recognized in the 2024 edition (and since 2016) of the *Who's Who Legal: Canada* (Telecommunications Media & Technology; Information Technology and Data).
- Recognized in the 2024 edition (and since 2019) of the *Who's Who Legal's Thought Leaders: Data.*
- Recognized in the 2024 edition (and since 2015) of *The Legal 500 Canada* (Technology).

Bar Admission & Education

- Ontario, 2024
- Québec, 1998

- LLM, International Business and Technology Law, McGill University, 2000
- LLB, Université Laval, 1996

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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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