



Jean Saint-Onge Ad. E.

Senior Counsel

T 514.954.2551
F 514.954.1905
Montréal
JSaintOnge@blg.com
[LinkedIn](#)

[Class Actions](#)
[Automotive](#)
[Corporate Commercial](#)
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A highly accomplished **class actions** lawyer, Jean Saint-Onge has extensive experience as **defence counsel** representing private and public sector clients, including multinational companies, particularly in **multi-jurisdictional** and **cross-border** class actions. He is known for his ability to find practical and sustainable solutions in cases that are frequently complex and involve several defendants.

Jean's expertise extends across a number of fields of law, including:

- competition
- product liability
- environmental law
- consumer law

He draws on his experience to further enhance the strategic direction and management of class actions in which the firm is involved. He has acted in numerous matters and has successfully argued several **precedent-setting cases**. He is consistently recognized as one of Canada's leading class action lawyers in publications such as *Lexpert*, *Chambers Canada*, *Chambers Global* and *Benchmark*.

Jean is a certified mediator of the Barreau du Québec, and a member of the Institut de médiation et d'arbitrage du Québec (IMAQ).

Since 2004, Jean has organized and hosted the National Conference of the Barreau du Québec on Class Actions, the largest continuing professional training activity in the field in Canada. He has also been Chair of the Class Actions Committee of the Barreau du Québec since 2006.

Jean is the recipient of the Prix de la justice du Québec 2007, Québec's highest honorary distinction in the field of law.

Strongly involved in the community, Jean was president and director of the Marie-Vincent Foundation, an organization dedicated to helping children and teenagers victims of sexual violence (1987-2012). He was also a director and treasurer, from 2010 to 2015, of the Fondation Lafontaine-Cormier – Preservation of Québec's legal and judicial heritage.

Experience

- Represented numerous life insurance companies in participating life insurance and universal life premium offset class action litigation.
- Represented Cash Store in a multijurisdictional securities class action – *Mariane Dessis vs. Cash Store Financial Services Inc. et al.* (2016).
- Represented the AEPC in a class action related to laundry expenses in private and public nursing homes (CHSLD) – *Conseil pour la protection des malades (CPM) c. CHSLD Manoir Trinité et al.* (2015).
- Represented St-Hubert Airport (DASH-L) in a noise nuisance class action – *Comité anti-pollution des avions – Longueuil (CAP-L) c. Max Aviation Inc.* (2015).
- Represented Intact Insurance in a dispute dealing with compensation for additional living expenses connected with the 1998 ice storm – *Lavergne c. Union canadienne et al.* (2014).
- Represented Toyota in the class proceeding related to the sudden acceleration of certain automobiles – *Schachter c. Toyota Canada* (2013).
- Represented Research in Motion Ltd. in a service interruption class action – *Blackette c. Research in Motion Ltd.* (2013).
- Represented NUMMI and Toyota Canada Inc in the class action litigation related to the Anti-Lock braking system (ABS) of certain hybrid vehicles (2012).
- Acted as defense counsel at the authorization stage and trial on the common issues in the trichloroethylene (TCE) water contamination class action in Shannon, Québec (2012).
- Represented Pfizer in litigation involving the prescription drug Neurontin – *Option Consommateurs v. Pfizer Canada inc.*(2011).
- Represented Maple Leaf Foods Inc. in a class action relating to certain foods contaminated by listeriosis – *Melvin c. Maple Leaf Foods Inc.* (2009).
- Represented Menu Foods in the pet food contamination class action – *Sirois c. Menu Foods Income Fund* (2008).
- Represented Toyota in a competition law class action concerning the "Access Toyota" program – *Harmegnien c. Toyota Canada* (2008).
- Represented Aéroports de Montréal (ADM) in an airport noise nuisance class action – *Citoyens pour une qualité de vie/Citizens for a Quality of Life c. Aéroports de Montréal* (2007).
- Represented James McClaren Inc. and other parties in a class action relating to a problem of soil erosion along the banks of the Le Lièvre River – *L'Association des résidents riverains de La Lièvre inc. c. Procureur général du Québec* (2006).
- *Deshaies c. FCA* (2019) – Represented FCA in a product liability class action related to the SCR system of certain vehicles.

Insights & Events

- Court of Appeal rules on the waiver of professional secrecy at the Authorization Stage, BLG Article, May 2021
- Action collective – Rétrospective de l'année 2020 au Québec, BLG Perspective, March 2021
- L'autorisation d'un groupe mondial de consommateurs refusée par la Cour d'appel (in French), BLG Article, December 2020
- [Author, "Présentation d'excuses et règlement des conflits : les bienfaits d'une approche holistique." Chapter 17, Psychologie et droit. Éditions Yvon Blais, 2020.](#)
- A summary of Canadian class action procedure and developments, BLG Article, June 2020
- Contamination de l'eau à Shannon : des dommages-intérêts peuvent être attribués même sans atteinte réelle au droit à la sûreté (French only), BLG Article, February 2020
- The SCC Reaffirms the Court's Screening Role at the Authorization Stage for Class Actions, BLG Article, June 2019
- Co-Author, "Class and Collective Actions in Canada," Lexology Guide, November, 2018.
- Court of Appeal Affirms Punitive Damages Must Be Proportionate to Gravity of Breach, BLG Article, June 2018
- Interview, Mark Cardwell, "New class action process launched in Montreal," Canadian Lawyer Magazine, April 10, 2018.
- Interview, Emmanuelle Gril, "Pour une loi sur la présentation d'excuses au Québec," Le Journal du Barreau, p. 34-36, March 2018.
- Co-Author, "Getting the Deal Through, " Class Actions 2017, Canada Chapter published by Law Business Research Ltd., 2016-2017
- Speaker, McGill Research Group on Health and Law – Les recours collectifs québécois contre les fabricants de cigarettes: a bilingual interdisciplinary panel on the role of litigation in pursuing public health objectives, November 2015
- Association des juristes d'expression française de l'Ontario (AJEFO) – Les actions collectives en matière environnementale au Québec, Lafayette, LA, June 2015
- Association des juristes d'expression française de l'Ontario (AJEFO) – Les actions collectives en matière environnementale au Québec, Lafayette, LA, June 2015
- class action national update recent decisions from the supreme court of canada

Beyond Our Walls

Professional Involvement

- Fellow, International Academy of Trial Lawyers (IATL)
- Fellow, American College of Trial Lawyers (ACTL)
- Fellow, Litigation Counsel of America (LCA)
- President, Barreau du Québec's Selection Committee of Advocatus Emeritus (Ad. E.) (2008-2014)
- Member, Canadian Bar Association
- Member, Editorial Committee, Class Actions Defence Quarterly (LexisNexis publication)
- Member, Defense Research Institute (DRI)
- Member, Association des juristes d'expression française de l'Ontario (AJEFO)
- Member, Canadian Defence Lawyers
- Chair, Barreau du Québec's Class Actions Committee
- Member, The Advocates' Society

Community Involvement

- President and board member, Marie-Vincent Foundation (1987-2012) - Support and services for children victims of sexual abuse)
- Director and Treasurer, Board of Directors, Fondation Lafontaine-Cormier (2010-2015) – Preservation of Québec's legal and judicial heritage

Awards & Recognitions

- Recognized in the 2023 edition (and since 2016) of *Chambers Canada*® – *Canada's Leading Lawyers for Business* (Dispute Resolution: Class Action [Defence]).
- Recognized in the 2022 edition (and since 2006) of *Best Lawyers in Canada*® (Class Action Litigation). Also recognized in the 2022 edition (and since 2017) (Bet-the-Company Litigation). Also recognized in the 2022 edition (and since 2017) (Corporate and Commercial Litigation). Also recognized in the 2022 edition (and since 2017) (Product Liability Law)
- Recognized in the 2022, 2021, 2019 and 2018 editions of *Canadian Legal Lexpert*® *Directory* (Class Actions) in the 2019 and 2018 editions (Litigation - Product Liability). Also recognized in the 2017 and 2016 editions (Dispute Resolution).
- Recognized in the 2022 edition (and since 2020) of *Lexpert Special Edition: Litigation*
- Recognized as a leading litigator in the 2018 edition of the *Lexpert*®/*Report on Business Litigation Special Edition*.
- Recognized as the "Montréal Class Actions Lawyer of the Year" in the 2013 and 2018 editions of *The Best Lawyers in Canada*®.
- Recognized in the 2017 edition (and since 2013) of *Chambers Global – The World's Leading Lawyers for Business* (Dispute Resolution: Class Actions [Defence]).
- Recognized in the 2017 edition of *Benchmark Canada – The Definitive Guide to Canada's Leading Litigation Firms & Attorneys* as a "Local Litigation Star: Québec" and a "Litigation Star: Arbitration, Class Action, Competition, General Commercial, Product Liability".
- Recipient of the *Prix Lambertois – Humanitarian Commitment*, the Ville de Saint-Lambert, 2008.
- Recipient of the *Prix de la justice du Québec*, 2007.
- Recipient of the Mérite Award, the Barreau du Québec, 2007.
- Named *Advocatus Emeritus* (Ad. E.) of the Barreau du Québec, 2007.
- Recipient, Pro Bono Award, The Canadian Bar Association (Québec Division), 2003.

Bar Admission & Education

- Québec, 1981
- LLB, Université de Montréal, 1980

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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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