Rebecca Bush

Partner and National Business Leader, Specialized Disputes

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Disputes
Insurance Claim Defence
Municipal Liability
Police Law & Liability
Crisis Management
School Boards and Independent Schools
Universities and Colleges
Institutional Abuse Claims Defence

Rebecca is a partner and BLG's National Business Leader of Specialized Disputes. Her practice focuses on public authority litigation and complex tort litigation for large institutional clients. She has specialized expertise in crisis management, sexual violence investigations, incident response and defence.

Rebecca has extensive expertise in the education sector advising and representing school boards and independent schools in respect of bullying, violence and harassment complaints and claims. In the higher education sector, Rebecca provides advice to and represents universities and colleges in respect of crisis management and allegations of sexual violence.

Rebecca also has extensive experience acting as a trusted advisor to municipalities and representing them in all manner of claims, including claims against emergency services.

Rebecca frequently provides advice on sensitive matters which are the subject of public and media scrutiny. She defends the reputational interests of her clients in policy and precedent setting cases.

Rebecca is the National Business Leader of the Insurance & Tort Liability Group.

Experience

- Crisis management, including:
    - Supporting organizations upon receiving reports of sexual assault or allegations of harassment in crisis containment and media response.
    - Advice to leadership and board members regarding investigation, mandatory reporting and working with police in the context of allegations of sexual assault or harassment
- Advises institutional clients on and defends claims relating to sexual abuse and harassment, including allegations of negligent supervision, breach of fiduciary duty and vicarious liability claims.
- Defends claims seeking damages for psychological injury and mental distress in the employment, personal injury and human rights context.
- Defends public institutions, including municipalities, in a broad range of tort claims including municipal infrastructure claims.
- Defends municipal emergency services including actions against police for malicious prosecution, negligent investigation and breach of Charter rights.
- Provides advice and opinions to large institutional clients on a variety of matters including statutory interpretation and risk management.
- Acts as counsel on Coroner's Inquests.

Insights & Events

- Author, ""Mere opportunity" is not sufficient to ground a finding of vicarious liability", BLG Article, May 2025
- Author, "Ontario introduces sexual abuse legislation for Ontario colleges and universities", BLG Article, October 2022
- Author, "Ontario proposes changes to postsecondary education sexual violence regulation", BLG Article, February 2021
- Trends to watch in 2021 – Disputes: accelerated transformation, BLG Perspective, January 2021
- Author, "Ontario Court of Appeal holds joint occupiers owe each other a duty of care", BLG Article, April 2020
- Author, "Cap on Non-Pecuniary Damages Does Not Apply for Intentional Torts", BLG Article, October 2019
- Author, "Court of Appeal Overturns Trial Decision on Police Negligence Investigation, False Arrest, False Imprisonment and Charter breach", BLG Article, June 2018
- Co-author, "Substantive Changes to Ontario's Highway Minimum Maintenance Standards Now In Effect," BLG Insurance and Tort Liability Bulletin, May 201
- Author, "Court of Appeal Confirms Limitation Period for Police Battery Claim Extended to Conclusion of Underlying Criminal Charge", BLG Article, March 2018
- Author, "Negligent Investigation Claim Against Police Dismissed in Child Sexual Assault Case", BLG Article, January 2018
- Author, " Ontario Court of Appeal Extends Limitation Period for Police Battery Claim", BLG Article, December 2017
- Co-author, "When is it "appropriate" to commence an action? Court of Appeal provides further guidance on limitation periods," BLG Insurance and Tort Liability Bulletin, September 2017
- Author, "Municipality Successful In Relying On 10-Day Notice Period In Claim Involving A Minor", BLG Article, July 2017

- Author, "Court Does Not Require Defendant Insurer To Produce Its File From A Previous Related Action", BLG Article, October 2016
- Author, "A Refresher on the Test for Gross Negligence: Zaravellas V. Armstrong, 2016 ONSC 3616", BLG Article, June 2016

Beyond Our Walls

Professional Involvement

- Vice-Chair, Women Trial Lawyers Task Force, Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section, American Bar Association
- Member, The Advocates' Society
- Member, Law Society of Ontario
- Member, Canadian Bar Association
- Member, Ontario Bar Association

Awards & Recognition

- Recognized in the 2027 edition of *Best Lawyers in Canada* (Municipal Law), since 2025 (Insurance Law), since 2024 (Personal Injury Litigation) and since 2022 (Corporate and Commercial Litigation).
- Recognized in the 2026 edition (and since 2020) of *The Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory* (Personal Injury) and since 2024 (Litigation - Commercial Insurance).
- Recognized in the 2024, 2023 and 2020 editions of *Lexpert Special Edition: Litigation*

Bar Admission & Education

- Ontario, 2002

- Certificate in International Business Transactions and International Litigation, University of San Diego's Institute of International & Comparative Law, King's College London, 2003
- LLB, University of Windsor, 2001
- BA (Hons.), University of Toronto, 1998

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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