



John L. Finnigan

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John has a broad practice in complex commercial litigation with significant experience in insolvency and restructuring litigation. John has been lauded as “a spectacular lawyer in huge insolvency proceedings” and “a very credible, no-nonsense litigator who is extremely effective in court” in Chambers Global.

John is consistently recognized as one of Canada’s top lawyers in the Lexpert/American Lawyer Guide to the Leading 500 Lawyers in Canada, as a leading lawyer for US/Canada Cross-border Litigation in Lexpert and is recommended in dispute resolution (Canada) by Chambers Global. The 2021 Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory lists John as a leading lawyer in three practice areas: Litigation – Corporate Commercial, Insolvency Litigation and in Financial Restructuring.

Representative Mandates

- + Lead counsel to PwC in its capacity as Receiver and Manager of Bridging Financial Inc. and its related entities. This high profile mandate involves maximizing returns for 26,000 investors in the context of alleged mismanagement and misappropriation of tens of millions of dollars of investor funds.
- + Lead counsel for a Big Four accounting firm in the defence of nine figure auditor negligence claims arising out of the insolvency of Bondfield Construction.
- + Counsel to JTI-Macdonald Corp., one of the largest tobacco companies in Canada, in its proceedings under the CCAA with a goal to achieve a global resolution of the myriad of litigation claims against it exceeding \$500 billion. The two other largest tobacco companies have also filed for CCAA protection resulting in unprecedented industry-wide proceedings.
- + Senior litigation counsel representing the Trustees of the UK Pension Plan and the UK Pension Protection Fund (on behalf of 42,000 UK pensioners with a US\$3 billion pension plan deficit) in successfully obtaining a groundbreaking pro rata allocation among the global Nortel Networks insolvency estates following an unprecedented joint trial of the Canadian and U.S. Courts, involving \$7.3 billion in proceeds.

- + Senior litigation counsel on behalf of the UK Pension Claimants in successfully proving and obtaining an Order allowing a CDN\$600 million claim against the Canadian Nortel estate following its disallowance by the court-appointed Monitor.
- + Court-appointed counsel representing 630,000 policy holders in the demutualization of Economical Mutual Insurance Company. Mandate to represent policy holders in negotiation of the allocation of \$2 billion in benefits among policy holders. Cutting-edge mandate in first-ever demutualization of a property and casualty company in Canada.
- + Acted on behalf of a committee of contesting bondholders in the BCE privatization, which involved the world's largest leveraged buy-out with an enterprise value of \$52 billion, ultimately appearing at the Supreme Court of Canada.
- + Court-appointed litigation counsel to the Litigation Trustee of Cash Store Financial Services Inc.
- + Acting on behalf of a power producer in a nine figure damage arbitration against a provincial government agency for the cancellation of a contract to build a power plant.
- + Acting on behalf of the Ontario Municipal Employees' Retirement System before a major municipal judicial inquiry.
- + Representing the former principal of Lakeport Brewing Corp. in the defence of a \$50 million officer and director liability case. The case resulted in an \$1.8 million cost award in favour of TGF's client.
- + Lead litigation counsel to KPMG Inc., in its capacity as receiver in the receivership and bankruptcy of the Portus Group of Companies, which involved over \$800 million of investor funds at risk in Canada's largest hedge fund scandal.
- + Lead litigation counsel to the receiver, RSM Richter Inc., in the Norshield hedge fund scandal involving the tracing and attempted recovery of over \$400 million in funds in several jurisdictions.
- + Counsel to a committee of unsecured bondholders of Calpine Corporation subsidiaries in oppression proceedings, as well as the subsequent cross-border restructuring of Calpine and its subsidiaries.
- + Represented General Motors Corporation in troubled supplier litigation to secure its automotive manufacturing supply chain.

Professional Involvement

John was a founder of the Canadian Chapter and a director of Worldwide Orphans Foundation of Canada, a charity dedicated to improving the lives of orphans throughout the world.

John is a member of:

- + The Advocates' Society
- + INSOL International
- + Toronto Lawyers Association
- + Canadian Bar Association
- + Ontario Bar Association, Civil Litigation Section

Recent professional appearances include:

- + [Oct 04, 2021](#)
John Finnigan, Leanne Williams & Mitch Grossell are panelists at the ACFI 23rd Annual Fraud Conference.

+ Jan 20, 2017

John L. Finnigan is a panelist at The Advocates' Society program "Cross-examination: Strategies for Success"

Recognition

John is recognized as a leading lawyer in:

- + The Best Lawyers in Canada® 2022 (Corporate and Commercial Litigation, Insolvency and Financial Restructuring Law)
- + The Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory 2022 (Litigation – Corporate Commercial and Insolvency & Financial Restructuring)
- + Lexpert Special Edition on Litigation – Leading Litigators in Canada 2021 and 2020
- + Who's Who Legal - National Leader - Commercial Litigation 2021
- + Benchmark Canada: The Definitive Guide to Canada's Leading Litigation Firms and Attorneys 2022 & 2021 (Litigation Star in Ontario)
- + The 2019 Lexpert Guide to the Leading US/Canada Cross-Border Lawyers for Dispute Resolution
- + Lexpert/American Lawyer Guide to the Leading 500 Lawyers in Canada 2017

Publications

+ Oct 30, 2020

Ontario Court of Appeal confirms landlord's rights under letters of credit in tenant's bankruptcy.

+ Mar 31, 2017

The Curtain is Coming Down on Nortel's eight-year run on the Global Insolvency stage

+ Jul 01, 2012

Canada's Newest Tort

+ Apr 03, 2012

The Tort of Snooping: Intrusion upon Seclusion

+ May 31, 2009

The Supreme Court of Canada provides guidance for corporate directors, shareholders, creditors and their advisers

+ Dec 31, 2000

Directors' Due Diligence: Tips and Traps

Education

+ J.D. (Western University), 1982