

Health Care

The health care industry is marked by unprecedented opportunity, innovation and change—all of which create unique patient care, compliance, transactional and litigation issues. It's essential to have a specialized legal team that understands the industry's complexity and has substantial strategic and practical experience—from the waiting room to the boardroom to the court room.

Experience

- Acted in the leading cases of *Steep v. Kingston General Hospital* and *Hospital for Sick Children v. Leone*, in which the court recognized the importance of quality assurance principles applying to documentation generated in the course of quality assurance initiatives at hospitals.
- Advised on province-wide information technology initiatives involving more than 100 hospitals with regards to critical care, emergency department, surgical efficiency, and eMPI, WTIS and PACS services.
- Manages patent portfolios for therapeutic and nutritional technologies generated at a major research-based Toronto hospital. We work with the hospital's technology transfer officers to assess patentability, draft and file patent applications and assess freedom-to-operate based on competing technologies.
- Acted pro bono for an intervener (the Schizophrenia Society of Canada), in its intervention before the Supreme Court of Canada in *Starson v. Swayze* case, which considered the legal test for capacity to consent to treatment in psychiatric care under Ontario's Health Care Consent Act. The Court accepted our unique submissions as to the requisite burden of proof on health practitioners, thereby clarifying an important principle of law in a direction favourable to healthcare providers and families.
- Acted as counsel for the successful hospital in the leading Canadian case defining the relationship between the public hospital and an independent practitioner with privileges — *Yepremian v. Scarborough General Hospital*, (1980) 110 D.L.R. (3rd) 513 (Ont. C.A.).
- Advised on responding to adverse events and unexpected outcomes, including investigations and disclosure to patients, residents or family members.
- Represented the Ontario Hospital Association at the Daniel/Dupont Inquest (Windsor, Ontario) and helped ensure a systemic hospital management perspective was brought to the inquest.
- Provided project advice to health care facilities, and project lenders in respect of the financing of major capital projects; an example is The Hospital for Sick Kids Research and Learning Tower.
- Lakeridge Health Corporation and OPSEU (Koscik Arbitration). Labour arbitration before Arbitrator Carrier. Decision issued March 12, 2012. We successfully represented Lakeridge Health Corporation in upholding the discharge of an employee for time theft
- Regularly advise retirement communities and long-term care facilities on the following matters, among others:

- o statutory compliance
- o accreditation regulations and guidelines
- o complaints process and mandatory reporting obligations
- o acts that can only be performed by certain categories of health care professionals (“controlled acts”)
- o health and safety risks
- o issues pertaining to leases / tenancies
- o privacy issues such as access to a resident’s file by family members
- o advertising and promotions

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blg.com

BLG Offices

Calgary

Centennial Place, East Tower
520 3rd Avenue S.W.
Calgary, AB, Canada
T2P 0R3

T 403.232.9500
F 403.266.1395

Ottawa

World Exchange Plaza
100 Queen Street
Ottawa, ON, Canada
K1P 1J9

T 613.237.5160
F 613.230.8842

Vancouver

1200 Waterfront Centre
200 Burrard Street
Vancouver, BC, Canada
V7X 1T2

T 604.687.5744
F 604.687.1415

Montréal

1000 De La Gauchetière Street West
Suite 900
Montréal, QC, Canada
H3B 5H4

T 514.954.2555
F 514.879.9015

Toronto

Bay Adelaide Centre, East Tower
22 Adelaide Street West
Toronto, ON, Canada
M5H 4E3

T 416.367.6000
F 416.367.6749

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