



Cynthia (Cindy) Clarke

National Group Head, Clients, Sectors & New Services

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Cindy is one of BLG's senior leaders and sits on the National Management Committee. Widely recognized for her knowledge, experience and commitment to her clients, she acts as a liaison and relationship manager for major clients at the firm.

As the National Group Head, Clients, Sectors & New Services, Cindy uses her extensive management, legal and business experience to ensure that all clients benefit from BLG's unconditional commitment to providing the highest level of service. Clients trust Cindy to act as their advisor. She liaises with the client's general counsel and assembles the best representation within the firm to handle their needs.

In her practice, Cindy represents hospitals and health organizations with all manner of complex issues and she has a class action defence practice focused on defending actions alleging improper claims were made about the health effects of a product or pharmaceutical. Cindy is regularly recognized by colleagues as outstanding in her field by ranking bodies including *Chambers Canada*, *Benchmark Litigation*, *Lexpert*, *Best Lawyers* and many more.

Cindy provides legal services through a Law Corporation.

Experience

- Acts as defence counsel multiple hospitals in defence of complex, multi-million dollar medical malpractice actions.

- Acts as defence counsel in a multi-million dollar class action and two of Canada's healthcare costs recovery actions, including representation of Purdue Canada in various class actions initiated across Canada.
- Defending Trillium Gift of Life Network and University Health Network in application seeking declaration of a Charter violation due to management of wait list for liver transplants and in injunction brought by individual seeking urgent placement on the transplant list after declaration he was not eligible for a transplant.
- Acts as defence counsel in a multi-million dollar class action and two of Canada's healthcare costs recovery actions.
- *Ceretti v. Hamilton Health Sciences-McMaster Children's Hospital* - Represented a Regional Autism Program run by Hamilton Health Sciences in a Judicial Review Application by a family seeking to prevent the Program from discharging a child from its services.
- El Roubi/Lopez Inquest - Represented the Central CCAC in the only inquest in Ontario to investigate the long-term care sector, which inquired into the deaths of Mr. Lopez and Mr. El Roubi following an assault by another resident.
- King/Bertrand Inquest – Represented Purdue Pharma in inquiry into the use and misuse of OxyContin arising from the deaths of Mr. King and Ms. Bertrand.
- Assists senior hospital leadership and Medical Advisory Committees on physician privileges issues.
- Advises hospital leadership on managing disruptive physician behaviour and quality of care issues.

Insights & Events

- The Legal Listen: Immunity passports, BLG Podcast, March 2021
- Co-Chair, Causation on Trial: Making sense of causation in the most difficult cases, February 2021
- Moderator, Canadian Lawyer- Women in Law Canada: Promoting Diversity, Driving Change- A New Legal Landscape, February 2021
- Trends to watch in 2021 – Disputes: accelerated transformation, BLG Perspective, January 2021
- COVID-19 Legal Perspectives
- Co-Author, Law for Canadian Health Care Administrators, 2nd Edition, LexisNexis Canada
- Guest Lecturer, "Legal Issues of Medical Errors", University of Toronto, M.Sc. Patient Safety Health Law Session
- Guest Lecturer, "Who Does What: How Legislation Influences Actions of Organizations in the Health Care System - A Review of the Management of Hospital Discharge", University of Toronto, M.Sc. Patient Safety Health Law Session
- Panelist, "Developing your Skills to become a Leader", Justicia Symposium
- Panelist/Speaker, "Legal Counsel Perspectives on Presenting and Defending a Claim", HIROC Risk Management Conference
- Speaker and Panelist, "Legal Issues of Medical Errors", Canadian Winter School on Quality and Safety in Radiation Oncology
- Speaker, "Best Practices in Physician Annual Reappointment, Performance Management and Disruptive Behaviour", HIROC Annual Risk Management Conference (with Dr. H. Stern, CEO of the CMPA).
- Speaker, "Discussion and Disclosure of Medical Incidents with Patients", Orillia Soldiers Memorial Hospital
- Speaker, "Role of Documentation in Malpractice Litigation - Lessons Learned from a Recent Trial Experience", William Osler Hospital
- Speaker, "Role of Documentation in Malpractice Litigation", Malpractice in Pain Medicine, Medico-Legal Conference

- Speaker, “Strategic Pro Bono Litigation: How to Spare Some Change”, Panelist at Plenary Session, 5th Annual National Pro Bono Conference
- Speaker, “What CCACs Can Learn From Recent HSARB Decisions”, OACCAC Annual Conference

Beyond Our Walls

Professional Involvement

- Member, Ontario Bar Association, Health Law and Civil Law sections
- Member, The Advocates' Society
- Member Medico Legal Society of Toronto
- Former Adjunct Professor, Osgoode Hall Law School, Professional LLM – Health Law, Health Facilities Course
- Former Program Director, Certificate in Health Law, Osgoode Hall Law School
- Former Advisor/Instructor, M.Sc. in Quality Improvement and Patient Safety, University of Toronto; Instructor, Risk Management
- Member of the Holland Group

Community Involvement

- Advisor, Pro Bono Law Ontario and Sick Kids Legal Clinic
- Past President of Volunteer Board, Canadian Mothercraft Society
- Member of Women United – Advocate level

Awards & Recognitions

- Recognized in the 2023 and previous editions of *Chambers Canada – Canada's Leading Lawyers for Business* (Healthcare: Contentious - Nationwide).
- Recognized in the 2023 and previous editions of *The Canadian Legal Lexpert® Directory* (Class Actions, Medical Negligence).
- Recognized in the 2022 edition of *Who's Who Legal: Canada* (Life Sciences).
- Recognized in the 2023 and previous editions of *The Best Lawyers in Canada®* (Administrative and Public Law, Health Care Law, Medical Negligence, Personal Injury Litigation).
- Recognized in the 2022 edition of *Benchmark Litigation Canada* in the "Top 100 Women in Litigation"
- Recognized in the 2021 edition of *Lexpert Special Edition: Health Sciences*.
- Recognized in the 2020 edition of *Lexpert Special Edition: Litigation*
- Recipient of a 2018 *Lexpert® Zenith Award – Celebrating Mid-Career Excellence*.
- Recognized in the edition of *Benchmark Top 25 Women in Litigation in Canada*.
- Recognized in *Benchmark Canada - The Definitive Guide to Canada's Leading Litigation Firms & Attorneys* as a "Local Litigation Star: Ontario" (Construction, Health, Product Liability).
- Recipient of the Women's Executive Network (WXN) Canada's Most Powerful Women: Top 100 Award.
- Exclusive winner of the Lexology Client Service Award in the Healthcare & Life Sciences category in Canada and Ontario.
- Named one of *Lexpert®'s Rising Stars: Leading Lawyers Under 40*.
- Recognized as a 2019 Acritas Star

Bar Admission & Education

- Ontario, 1999
- LLB, University of Western Ontario, 1997
- BA, Philosophy, University of Western Ontario, 1993

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 725 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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