



Rick Williams

National Leader, Environmental

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Rick represents and advises clients on commercial and regulatory aspects of project development, permitting and operations in the energy and natural resource sectors, including land, environmental and Indigenous issues. Rick also represents and advises clients on dispute resolution including regulatory proceedings, corporate/commercial litigation and arbitration, with a focus on energy, transportation, forestry and mining.

Rick is the National Leader of BLG's Environmental Law Group and the Regional Leader of the Regulatory and Oil and Gas Groups, and a member of the [Environmental, Social & Governance \(ESG\)](#) leadership team.

Rick has appeared at all levels of court in British Columbia, the Federal Court and the Supreme Court of Canada. He has represented clients before the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC), the Surface Rights Board, the Oil and Gas Appeal Tribunal, the Safety Authority, the Environmental Appeal Board as well as the Alberta Energy Resources Conservation Board (ERCB) and the National Energy Board (NEB). Rick also has significant experience advising clients on their applications and dealings with the British Columbia Oil and Gas Commission.

Rick provides legal services through a Law Corporation.

Experience

- Acted for a developer organization in a hearing before the BCUC successfully opposing the approval of a Neighbourhood Energy Agreement and issuance of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for a district energy project.
- Lead counsel on a number of appeals to the Oil and Gas Appeal Tribunal, including an oil and gas producer in the successful defence of a series of appeals – the first in British Columbia that directly addressed issues concerning the impact of hydraulic fracturing on groundwater and induced seismicity, and the sufficiency of regulations relating to such issues.
- Advised Pacific Northwest LNG on all regulatory aspects relating to its proposed LNG facility.
- Advised a project proponent on all regulatory matters relating to the PTP pipeline and KM LNG facility.
- Represented a ski resort in a dispute with a mining company regarding regulatory approvals for a power line project to provide service to a skiing lodge and issues regarding historical power service.
- Acting for the province of British Columbia in defence of an action by Blueberry River First Nations alleged breach of Treaty.
- Lead counsel in the first common carrier/common processor hearing before the BCUC in more than 30 years. This hearing established the test to be applied in BC.
- Lead counsel in the successful challenge of a public utility's discriminatory security deposit policy before the BCUC.
- Acted on successful applications to the ERCB (now AER), obtaining one of the largest interim shut-ins ever.
- Lead counsel on number of appeals to the Oil and Gas Appeal Tribunal.
- Lead counsel on many successful arbitrations/motions before the BC Surface Rights Board.
- Counsel on a number of contaminated site cases, including the first trial in BC to consider reasonably incurred costs of remediation under BC's legislation.
- Represented the British Columbia Ministry of Forests on a 20-day trial, resulting in its acquittal of all charges under the federal *Fisheries Act*.
- Lead counsel for a foreign bank in the arrest and judicial sale of a vessel, including overseeing a courthouse auction (part of global efforts to enforce a \$77-million judgment from a U.S. court).
- Successfully defended an international shipping company on the validity of an arrest to the Supreme Court of Canada Acted for an international shipping company in successfully defending the validity of an arrest to the Supreme Court of Canada.

Insights & Events

- B.C. outlines newly released oil & gas royalty framework
- Co-Presenter, "[Environmental Law: Case Law Update](#)," BEST Conference, May 26, 2022.
- Court of Appeal finds Federal Impact Assessment Act unconstitutional
- Presenter, "[Environmental Attributes - Sources and Contractual Consideration](#)," 2022 Value of Biogas East Conference, May 10, 2022.
- Can you dig it? Recent changes to regulating excess soils in British Columbia, Ontario and Québec
- ESG claims Managing risks and liabilities for Canadian businesses
- Top energy issues of 2021, with implications for 2022 and beyond
- Presenter, "[Key Developments in Indigenous Law](#)," BC, February 23, 2022
- Canadian energy oil and gas: Top 20 of 2020 - Legislative developments
- Amendments to the British Columbia contaminated sites regime
- Canadian energy oil and gas: Top 20 of 2020 - Judicial decisions

- COVID-19 and your environmental obligations – Cross-country update
- Co-Author, "British Columbia Court Acquits Shipping Company for Marine Pollution Incident," HazMat Mag, May 2019.
- MV Marathassa Acquitted of All Charges Resulting from 2015 English Bay Pollution
- BC Court of Appeal affirms that the Province upheld the Honour of the Crown in William v. British Columbia (Attorney General), 2019 BCCA 74
- Contributor, "12 Ways Canada's Gas & LNG Will Bring Both National And Global Benefits," Canada Gas & LNG ebook, February 2019
- 2018 Top Ten: Regulatory Decisions of Importance to the Canadian Energy Industry
- Co-Presenter, "Spill Response and Cost Recovery," BLG Vancouver Environmental Law Seminar, November 2018.
- 2017 Year In Review: Top 10 Regulatory Decisions of Importance to the Canadian Energy Industry
- 2017 Year in Review: Top 10 Judicial Decisions and Trends of Importance to the Canadian Energy Industry
- 2017 Year in Review: Top 10 Legislative and Regulatory Changes of Significance to the Canadian Energy Industry
- Co-author, "Forced Labour Case To Go To Trial," The Resource: BLG Energy Law Blog, December 7, 2017.
- Quoted, "Liquified Courage," Lexpert Magazine, November 2017
- Time Keeps Ticking: Implications of the New Undue Delay Framework on Regulatory Prosecutions
- Speaker, "Responding to Regulatory Investigations," Environmental Law Seminar, October 2017.

Beyond our Walls

Professional Involvement

- Business Council of British Columbia Environmental Policy Advisory Committee
- Business Council of British Columbia Climate & Energy Policy Advisory Committee
- Canadian Bar Association
- American Bar Association
- Member, Air & Waste Management Association
- Past Vice-President Communications, Environmental Managers Association of British Columbia

Awards & Recognitions

- Named by *Best Lawyers*® as:
 - 2023 'Lawyer of the Year' for Natural Resources Law;
 - 2022 'Lawyer of the Year' for Environmental Law; and
 - 2020 'Lawyer of the Year' for Oil and Gas Law.

Also recognized (since 2015) in *The Best Lawyers in Canada*™ in the areas of Aboriginal Law/Indigenous Practice; Natural Resources Law; Energy Regulatory Law; Environmental Law; and Oil and Gas Law.

- Awarded the *Martindale-Hubbell*® designation of AV® *Preeminent*™ for the 'highest peer rated level of professional excellence'
- Recognized by *Chambers Global* (since 2019) and *Chambers Canada* (2022) in Environmental Law

- Recognized by *The Canadian Legal Lexpert® Directory* (since 2014) in Energy: Oil and Gas; Environmental Law; Energy (Electricity) and Indigenous Law.
- Recognized by *Lexpert®/Report on Business Special Edition* in:
 - Canada leading Energy Lawyers (since 2014); and
 - Canada's Leading Corporate Lawyers (2019).
- Recognized by *Benchmark Canada* (since 2017) in the Definitive Guide to Canada's Leading Litigation Firms & Attorneys as a Litigation Star in the areas of Energy, Environment, Arbitration, and Commercial.

Bar Admission & Education

- British Columbia, 2000
- LLB, University of Victoria, 1999
- BA, University of Ottawa, 1995

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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