



Richard Bell

Partner | Calgary

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Rich is a litigator specializing in corporate and commercial cases across several industries including oil and gas, manufacturing, construction and intellectual property. He has appeared before all levels of courts in Alberta, as well as the Federal Court of Canada and the Tax Court of Canada.

SELECT EXPERIENCE

Recent litigation experience includes:

- Defence of a claim for unpaid invoices and additional costs incurred by the general contractor, along with the prosecution of counterclaims, with respect to the construction of an in-situ oilsands facility for a major oilsands producer, leading to a successful settlement of all claims
- Successful prosecution of performance bond and labour and material payment bond claims regarding the failure of owners or general contractors to satisfy invoices issued by material suppliers on various Alberta construction projects
- Defence of multiple claims regarding the demolition of ammonia and methanol manufacturing plants in Kitimat, B.C. and their shipment for reassembly in China, leading to a successful resolution of all claims
- Ongoing defence of cross-jurisdictional claims involving China, Singapore and Canada involving allegations of passing off and copying of industrial design
- Successfully defending a claim over ownership and alleged unitization of a natural gas well at trial and appeal for Dominion Exploration Canada Ltd.
- Ongoing representation of a major oil and gas producer in a commercial arbitration regarding the allocation of capacities at a jointly owned processing facility
- Ongoing defence and prosecution of multiple claims regarding alleged cost overruns and billing disputes with respect to the construction of an oilsands water treatment facility near Fort McMurray, Alberta
- Successfully defending numerous claims regarding crop loss and damage against the manufacturer of various herbicides, pesticides and fungicides
- Successfully defending claims against U.S. manufacturers of recreational vehicles regarding alleged defects in design
- Ongoing and prior defence of numerous negligence claims against a U.S. manufacturer and vendor of heavy equipment
- Successful prosecution of an injunction to restrain the defendants from utilizing the trade secrets and confidential information of a manufacturer of specialized electromagnetic, downhole measurement-while-

drilling technology

- Served as expert witness on civil procedure and the law of Alberta for litigation proceedings in the Falkland Islands regarding the ownership of seismic data

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- *The Best Lawyers in Canada* (Corporate and Commercial Litigation - 2011-2020; Product Liability - 2013-2020; Construction - 2020)
- Lexology and International Law Office Client Choice Awards 2014 - International (Winner for Litigation - Canada)
- Lexology and International Law Office Client Choice Awards 2013 - USA & Canada (Winner for Litigation - Alberta)

PUBLICATIONS

[Co-author: SCC Provides Guidance on Trustees' Duty to Disclose Construction Bonds to Beneficiaries](#)
Blakes Bulletin on Construction Dispute Resolution, March 5, 2018.

[Co-author: Alberta Court Provides Clarity on Oppression Claims in CCAA Context](#)
Blakes Bulletin on Litigation & Dispute Resolution, March 13, 2017.

PROFESSIONAL APPEARANCES

Co-speaker: Termination of Construction Contracts

Blakes Business Class, Construction Dispute Resolution Seminar Series, Calgary, Alberta, November 30, 2017.

Co-speaker: Insolvency on the Construction Project

Construction Dispute Resolution Series, Blakes Business Class Seminar, Calgary, Alberta, May 25, 2017.

Co-speaker: Effectively Navigating and Managing the Change Order Process

Construction Dispute Resolution Series, Blakes Business Class Seminar, Calgary, Alberta, December 1, 2016.

EDUCATION

Admitted to the Alberta Bar - 1998

LL.B., University of Toronto - 1997

M.Phil., University of Oxford - 1993

B.A. (Hon.), University of Saskatchewan - 1991