



## Imran Ahmad

Partner | Toronto

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Imran has a business law practice with a specialization in technology, cybersecurity and privacy law.

As part of his cybersecurity practice, Imran works closely with clients to develop and implement practical strategies related to cyber threats and data breaches. He advises on legal risk assessments, compliance, due diligence and risk allocation advice, security, and data breach incident preparedness and response.

In addition, Imran acts as “breach counsel” in the event of a cybersecurity incident, such as a data or privacy breach. He also provides representation in the event of an investigation, an enforcement action or a litigation.

Imran is the author of Canada’s first legal incident preparation and response handbook titled *Cybersecurity in Canada: A Guide to Best Practices, Planning, and Management* (LexisNexis, August 2017).

Imran has an active technology practice. He advises on licensing, outsourcing and service-provider arrangements, as well as on other commercial matters with respect to carrying on business over the internet, the cloud and the digital environment.

In his privacy law practice, he advises clients on compliance with all Canadian federal and provincial privacy and data management laws. He has a particular focus on cross-border data transfer issues and enterprise-wide governance programs related to privacy and information governance.

Imran is fluent in English, French and Hindi.

### SELECT EXPERIENCE

- Acted as breach coach to a global auto-parts manufacturer that was affected by a large-scale ransomware attack
- Advised Canadian health-care service provider in dealing with a cybersecurity incident involving personal health information
- Advised provincial government agency on its digital transformation initiative, including on issues related to data transfers
- Acted as breach counsel to global professional services firm on a cybersecurity incident affecting its Canadian operations
- Represented a technology firm in the context of the federal Privacy Commissioner’s investigation into its use of personal information in connection with biometric data analysis

### AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Imran is recognized as a leading lawyer in:

- *The Legal 500 Canada 2020* (Technology)
- *Chambers Canada: Canada's Leading Lawyers for Business 2020* (Privacy and Data Protection)
- *The Best Lawyers in Canada 2020* (Information Technology Law; Privacy and Data Security Law)

## PUBLICATIONS

[Co-author: What Canadian Businesses Need to Know about the California Consumer Protection Act](#)

Blakes Bulletin on Privacy, November 12, 2019.

[Co-author: One Year into Mandatory Reporting, Canada's Privacy Commissioner Releases Key Data Breach Trends](#)

Blakes Bulletin on Privacy, November 7, 2019.

[Co-author: When Cyber Threatens Your Deal: 5 Cybersecurity Tips That Could Save Your M&A Transaction](#)

Blakes Bulletin on Cybersecurity, October 21, 2019.

[Co-author: Leading the Defence: 5 Practical Strategies to Respond to a Cybersecurity Incident](#)

Blakes Bulletin on Cybersecurity, October 15, 2019.

[Co-author: Infrastructure Update: New NERC Directive Emphasizes Cyber Planning and Reporting for Electrical Energy Sector](#)

Blakes Bulletin on Cybersecurity, August 26, 2019.

[Co-author: Public Safety Canada Releases New Guide on Cybersecurity for Critical Infrastructures](#)

Blakes Bulletin on Cybersecurity, May 28, 2019.

[Co-author: OSFI Releases Advisory on Technology and Cybersecurity Incident Reporting Obligations](#)

Blakes Bulletin on Privacy, January 28, 2019.

[Author: Cybersecurity in Canada: A Guide to Best Practices, Planning, and Management](#)

LexisNexis, August 2017.

## PROFESSIONAL APPEARANCES

[Speaker: Preparing and Responding to Cybersecurity Incidents](#)

NAV Canada's 2019 Cyber Summit: Stronger & Safer Together, Ottawa, Ontario, June 11, 2019.

[Panellist: Payments Fraud and Cybersecurity: Managing Cyberthreats and Data Breaches](#)

Treasury Management Association of Canada, Toronto, Ontario, April 11, 2019.

[Panellist: Communications and the Media NetDiligence](#)

Cyber Risk Summit, Toronto, Ontario, April 5, 2019.

[Speaker: Cybersecurity and Data Protection: Mitigating Potential Risks](#)

Conference for Controllers 2019, CPA Ontario, Mississauga, Ontario, March 27, 2019.

[Chair: Protecting Digital Assets Through Cybersecurity and Intellectual Property Law](#)

Information Technology and Intellectual Property Law Program, Ontario Bar Association, Toronto, Ontario, February 8, 2019.

[Panellist: Cybersecurity for Arbitrators](#)

ADRIC Annual Conference, ADR Institute of Canada, Montréal, Quebec, November 2018.

**Panellist: Data Security**

Ontario Trial Lawyers Association, November 2018.

**Panellist: The Regulatory and Legal Landscape for Business**

Cybersecurity for Business Leaders Summit, The Globe and Mail, November 2018.

**Author: 2018 CHIMA Conference**

Canadian Health Information Management Association, Niagara Falls, Ontario, September 2018.

**PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

Imran is an adjunct professor at the University of Toronto's Faculty of Law, where he teaches cybersecurity and privacy law.

He is a board member of the Canadian Advanced Technology Alliance's (CATA) Cyber Council, which advises the Government of Canada on cybersecurity matters. He is also the current chair of the Executive Committee of the Ontario Bar Association's Privacy and Access to Information Law Section and a member of the Canadian Bar Association and the Toronto Region Board of Trade.

Imran provides pro bono legal services to the Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative.

**EDUCATION**

Admitted to the Ontario Bar - 2008

Admitted to the Alberta Bar - 2008

LL.M., University of Ottawa - 2008

LL.B., Université de Montréal - 2005

D.E.S.S., Common Law, Université de Sherbrooke - 2005