



Richard J. Balfour

SENIOR COUNSEL

Richard Balfour is a senior lawyer with extensive experience leading corporate and securities transactions both domestically and internationally.

CONTACT

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Overview

Richard's practice focuses on corporate and securities law, and he has substantial experience as lead counsel in both Canadian and international public and private mergers and acquisitions, and public and private offerings of securities, including privatizations and demutualizations. He also has deep experience advising securities regulators and governments on regulation of securities markets, including legislative drafting.

Recognition and Awards

2008-2023	<i>IFLR1000: The Guide to the World's Leading Financial Law Firms</i> —Highly regarded in M&A
2016-2026	<i>Best Lawyers in Canada</i> —Leading lawyer in corporate law, mergers and acquisitions law and securities law
2008-2026	<i>The Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory</i> —Leading lawyer in corporate commercial law, corporate finance & securities and mergers & acquisitions
2008-2020	<i>Lexpert/American Lawyer's Guide to the Leading 500 Lawyers in Canada</i> —Leading lawyer in corporate/commercial law, corporate finance and securities and in M&A
2018	<i>Lexpert/Thomson Reuters' Guide to the Leading U.S./Canada Cross-Border Corporate Lawyers in Canada</i> —Most frequently recommended lawyer in M&A
2012-2015	<i>Who's Who Legal</i> —Leading Canadian lawyer in corporate governance

News

[64 Torys lawyers ranked in the 2025 IFLR1000 Leading Lawyers guide](#)

[176 Torys lawyers recognized in the 2026 Best Lawyers guide](#)

[IFLR1000 recognizes 61 Torys lawyers as leaders in their fields](#)

[179 Torys lawyers recognized in the 2025 Best Lawyers guide](#)

[161 Torys lawyers named in the 2024 Best Lawyers guide](#)

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Professional Involvement

Richard is a member of the Legal Advisory Committee to the Canadian Securities Transition Office in the implementation of national securities regulation and he was a member of the Legal Advisory Committee to the Expert Panel on Securities Regulation in Canada.

Richard taught “The Law and Finance of Mergers and Acquisitions” at the University of Toronto Faculty of Law and "International Securities Transactions" at the Osgoode Hall Law School's Business LLM Program. In addition, he was formerly an assistant professor at Osgoode Hall Law School, where he taught corporate and property law.

In the community, Richard is Chair of The Corporation of Massey Hall and Roy Thomson Hall and sits on the Advisory Board of the Canadian Art Foundation.

Education and Bar Admissions

Education

JD, 1978

Harvard University

BLitt, 1974

University of Oxford Rhodes Scholar

AB, 1971

Princeton University

Bar Admissions

Ontario, 1980