



David Bish

PARTNER

David is one of Canada's leading insolvency lawyers. He brings highly experienced counsel in insolvency and restructuring mandates, with a focus on creative solutions and practical perspective for clients navigating distressed circumstances.

CONTACT

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Overview

As the head of Torys' Corporate Restructuring and Advisory Practice, David regularly advises across all aspects of bankruptcy, proposals, wind-ups, liquidations, reorganizations, restructurings, receiverships and security enforcement, and advises boards of directors on corporate governance issues in distressed circumstances. He has extensive expertise in plenary and ancillary cross-border insolvency and restructuring matters, and brings a wealth of experience to commercial financing, private equity and M&A transactions.

David's long track record as corporate and litigation counsel to a wide range of parties—leading corporations, financial institutions, distressed investors and accounting firms—gives him a nuanced perspective of stakeholder interests on large, complex insolvency and restructuring transactions, helping clients navigate challenges and advance their business objectives.

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David is a phenomenal lawyer and partner and someone who is respected by everyone, regardless of what side of the table they are on. We are truly fortunate to have him as our counsel.

—CHAMBERS CANADA, 2026

Recognition and Awards

2016-2027 *Chambers Canada*—Leading lawyer in restructuring/insolvency

2008-2026	<i>Chambers Global</i> —Leading lawyer in restructuring/insolvency
2021-2026	<i>The Legal 500</i> —Leading partner in restructuring and insolvency
2008-2025	<i>IFLR1000: The Guide to the World's Leading Financial Law Firms</i> —Highly regarded in restructuring & insolvency and financial restructuring
2014-2025	<i>Benchmark Canada: The Definitive Guide to Canada's Leading Litigation Firms and Attorneys</i> —Litigation Star (insolvency)
2026	<i>Best Lawyers in Canada</i> —Lawyer of the Year in Insolvency and Financial Restructuring Law
2010-2026	<i>Best Lawyers in Canada</i> —Leading lawyer in insolvency and financial restructuring law
2016-2026	Lexpert/American Lawyer's <i>Guide to the Leading 500 Lawyers in Canada</i> —Leading practitioner in insolvency and financial restructuring
2016-2026	<i>The Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory</i> —Leading lawyer in financial restructuring
2019-2022	<i>Who's Who Legal</i> —Global and National leading lawyer in insolvency and restructuring and most highly regarded Canadian lawyer in insolvency and restructuring
2018-2026	Lexpert/Thomson Reuters' <i>Guide to the Leading U.S./Canada Cross-Border Corporate Lawyers in Canada</i> —Most frequently recommended in insolvency
2014-2018	Lexpert's <i>Guide to the Leading U.S./Canada Cross-Border Corporate Lawyers in Canada</i>
2010	Lexpert's <i>Rising Stars: Leading Lawyers Under 40</i> —One of Canada's leading lawyers under 40

Insights

Governance in the zone of insolvency: what changes?

For directors facing distressed circumstances, a strong governance model allows risks to be managed rather than feared.

23rd Annual Review of Insolvency Law Conference

Details matter: Court of Appeal of Alberta upholds decision that royalty was not an interest in land in Invico Diversified Income Limited Partnership v. Newgrange Energy Inc.

Insolvency litigation: year in review

Lion Electric tests the limits of Directors' and Officers' releases under the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act

HBC adds an important chapter to the law on forced assignments of contracts and ipso facto clauses

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News

83% of Torys' Canadian partners are recognized in *Chambers Canada* 2027

Congratulations to our ranked lawyers and practice groups on earning industry-leading recognition, including 19 Band 1 rankings.

Benchmark Litigation recognizes 22 Torys lawyers in its 2026 guide

Torys honoured in multiple categories at 2026 Benchmark Litigation Canada Awards

64 Torys lawyers ranked in the 2025 IFLR1000 Leading Lawyers guide

Chambers Canada ranks 81% of Torys' Canadian partners in its 2026 guide

176 Torys lawyers recognized in the 2026 Best Lawyers guide

23 Torys litigators recognized in the 2025 Benchmark Litigation guide

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Professional Involvement

As a leading practitioner, David is sought after as a speaker on insolvency and restructuring law and has been a guest lecturer at several Canadian law schools. He has been a lecturer since 2002 at the CNIE (Chartered Insolvency and Restructuring Professional Qualification Program [CQP] National Insolvency Examination) administered by the Canadian Association of Insolvency and Restructuring Professionals (CAIRP). He is a past instructor of insolvency law at the Bar Admission Course for the Law Society of Upper Canada.

David is the author of *Canadian Bankruptcy and Insolvency Law for Commercial Tenancies* (LexisNexis) and has authored numerous articles and has contributed to various publications, including by the Insolvency Institute of Canada (IIC), the Canadian Bankruptcy Reports (CBRs), INSOL International and the World Bank. He is a contributing author to *Halsbury's Laws of Canada: Bankruptcy and Insolvency* and is a member of the editorial board and contributing author to the *Canadian Commercial Law Guide* published by CCH Canadian.

David is a past or present member of numerous legal and professional organizations in the field of bankruptcy and insolvency law, including the Insolvency Institute of Canada (IIC) – Member and Board Member of the Board of Directors; Turnaround Management Association (TMA) – Past Secretary and Member of the Board of Directors, Co-Chair of

Newsmaker Committee, Education Committee, Networking Committee, and a member of Symposium Committee; International Insolvency Institute (III) “Next Gen” Leadership Program (Class I); Canadian Insolvency Foundation (CIF); National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges (NCBJ) "Next Gen" Leadership Program; and Insolvency Section, Ontario Bar Association.

Education and Bar Admissions

Education

LLB, 1997

Osgoode Hall Law School

MBA, 1997

York University

BComm (Honours), 1993

McMaster University

Bar Admissions

Ontario, 1999