



John Emanoilidis

PARTNER

Advising on mergers and acquisitions, corporate finance transactions and other significant corporate matters across industries, John is co-head of the firm's M&A Practice and is widely recognized as one of Canada's leading corporate and securities lawyers, with deep deal acumen and strong technical skill to advance clients' business strategies.

CONTACT

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Overview

John has a broad range of experience in complex M&A, transactional, securities, private equity, regulatory, governance, activism and compliance matters. With an international range of clients, John represents domestic and foreign acquirors, private equity sponsors, targets, special committees, boards of directors and investment banks in all aspects of M&A (both public and private), including hostile takeover bids, strategic review processes, spinoffs, proxy contests, going-private transactions, private equity transactions and negotiated acquisitions.

John regularly advises companies, directors and shareholders on corporate governance, crisis management, activism, compliance and other critical situations. He also has extensive experience in corporate finance transactions, representing issuers, underwriters and investors in domestic and international debt and equity public offerings and private placements.



John Emanoilidis 'has terrific business and legal sense. He is extremely smart, very experienced and always available.' He is well versed in handling M&A and securities transactions across a number of industries.

—CHAMBERS CANADA, 2024

Featured Work

Creation of a Canadian banking leader with growth priorities across Canada

Torys acted as counsel to Canadian Western Bank in its C\$5.3 billion sale to National Bank of Canada, one of the six largest banks in Canada

CN proposed combination with Kansas City Southern

Torys acted as counsel to CN Rail in its proposed US\$33.6 billion merger with Kansas City Southern to create a premier railway for the 21st century connecting ports in the United States, Canada and Mexico

Rogers and Shaw combine in C\$26 billion transaction

Torys acted as counsel to Rogers Control Trust in Rogers Communications Inc.'s C\$26 billion acquisition of Shaw Communications Inc.

[the special committee of Parkland Corporation in its US\\$9.1 billion sale to Sunoco LP](#)

[Crestpoint and the Minto Group in the proposed C\\$2.3 billion transaction to acquire all issued and outstanding trust units of Minto Apartment Real Estate Investment Trust](#)

[Fairstone Bank of Canada in its proposed C\\$1.9 billion acquisition of all issued and outstanding common shares of Laurentian Bank of Canada](#)

[the special committee of the Board of Maple Leaf Foods Inc. in its division into two independent publicly-traded companies, including the return of capital spin-off of its world-leading pork business, now Canada Packers Inc.](#)

[Mithaq Capital, as the largest shareholder of Aimia Inc., in connection with its proxy contest to nominate six directors for election at Aimia's annual meeting of shareholders](#)

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Recognition and Awards

2016-2026 *Chambers Canada*—Leading lawyer in corporate/commercial (Ontario) (Band 1)

2014-2025 *Chambers Global*—Leading lawyer in corporate/M&A (Band 1)

2015-2025 *The Legal 500*—Hall of Fame and leading lawyer in corporate and M&A

2016-2025 *IFLR1000: The Guide to the World's Leading Financial Law Firms*—Highly regarded in M&A

2014-2026	<i>Best Lawyers in Canada</i> —Leading lawyer in corporate law, mergers and acquisitions law, and securities law
2018-2026	Lexpert's <i>Leading 500 Cross-border Lawyers in Canada</i> —Leading lawyer in corporate commercial law, corporate finance & securities, and mergers & acquisitions
2012-2025	<i>The Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory</i> —Most frequently recommended lawyer in mergers and acquisitions, corporate finance and securities, and corporate commercial law
2025	<i>MergerLinks</i> —Top Ten M&A Lawyer in Canada
2024-2026	Thomson Reuters Stand-Out Lawyer—Independently Rated Lawyer (as nominated by senior in-house counsel)
2026	<i>Lexology Index</i> — Client Choice Award for top M&A lawyer in Canada (Ontario)
2017-2025	<i>Lexology Index (formerly Who's Who Legal)</i> — Thought Leader in M&A and corporate governance; recommended lawyer in capital markets
2017-2024	<i>Who's Who Legal</i> —Global leading lawyer in M&A and National leading lawyer in corporate, M&A, and capital markets
2020-2021	<i>Expert Guides</i> —Leading lawyer in mergers and acquisitions
2015-2021	Lexpert's <i>Special Law Inserts</i> appearing in <i>The Globe and Mail's Report on Business Magazine</i> —One of Canada's leading corporate finance, technology, and M&A lawyers
2018-2020	Lexpert's <i>Guide to U.S./Canada Cross-Border Lawyers in Canada</i> —Leading lawyer in mergers & acquisitions, corporate finance & securities, and most frequently recommended lawyer in business issues
2018	Global M&A Network—Top 50: Americas M&A Dealmakers
2015-2017	Corporate LiveWire Legal Award—M&A Lawyer of the Year (Canada)
2012	Lexpert's <i>Rising Stars: Leading Lawyers Under 40</i> —One of Canada's leading lawyers under 40
2012	<i>The M&A Advisor</i> —40 Under 40 Award (only Canadian recipient in 2012)

Insights

Rising activism and board readiness

As Canada's reputation as an "activist friendly" jurisdiction continues to grow, boards need to prepare for expected and unexpected shareholder activist campaigns.

[Canadian M&A outlook for 2026](#)

[A turning point for Canadian M&A: rebound and resiliency characterize Q3 findings](#)

[Financial services dealmaking trends: developments and considerations in M&A transactions](#)

[M&A outlook for 2025](#)

[Canadian poison pills in the spotlight: Bitfarms and Greenfire](#)

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News

John Emanoilidis receives *Lexology Index* Client Choice Award in M&A

John has been named the sole honoree of the 2026 Client Choice Award in the M&A category for Canada (Ontario).

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

We are pleased to share that 127 Torys lawyers and 40 practice areas have been recognized in this year's guide, including 16 Band 1 rankings.

The Legal 500 recognizes 68 Torys lawyers and 27 practice areas in 2025 edition

Seven Torys lawyers were also listed in the 2025 Hall of Fame.

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

[Canadian M&A spikes in Q3 driven by "strategic transactions"](#)

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

[Canadian M&A volume remains consistent in the first half of 2025](#)

[M&A activity slows amidst U.S. tariffs](#)

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Professional Involvement

John has been elected to the American College of Governance Counsel 2021 Class of Fellows for his outstanding work in advising boards, officers and shareholders on best governance practices and helping businesses navigate major governance issues.

John is an Adjunct Professor at the University of Toronto Faculty of Law, an Executive Fellow and Instructor at the University of Ottawa Faculty of Law, and has also taught as a guest lecturer at Queen's University Law School. He is a past member of the Toronto Stock Exchange Listing Advisory Committee.

John was the Editor-In-Chief of the Canadian Institute's *M&A/Corporate Financing Journal* and a Contributing Editor of Federated Press' *Corporate Financing Journal and Merger and Acquisitions Journal*. In addition, he was a co-editor of the 15th edition of the *Consolidated Bank Act and Regulations* (Carswell, 2003) and of the seventh edition of the *Consolidated Trust and Loans Companies Act and Regulations* (Carswell, 2002).

Education and Bar Admissions

Education

LLB, 1997

Osgoode Hall Law School

BA (With High Distinction), 1994

University of Toronto

Bar Admissions

Ontario, 1999