



Blair W. Keefe

PARTNER

A preeminent figure in the financial services industry, Blair has decades of experience advising Canada's leading financial institutions on regulatory matters and industry best practices, and has acted as counsel on some of the country's most complex and novel issues in his field.

CONTACT

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Overview

Blair is co-head of the firm's Financial Services, Bank Regulatory and Insurance Regulatory practices. He advises on corporate and regulatory issues relating to financial institutions, as well as on mergers and acquisitions and corporate finance in the financial services industry.

Blair is known for his in-depth understanding of all matters relating to the *Bank Act*. In addition, he has extensive experience in insurance and bank regulatory matters, banking and debt finance as well as payments and cards.



Blair is the top bank regulatory lawyer in Canada. He's very experienced, practical, very responsive and always available.

—CHAMBERS CANADA, 2024

Recognition and Awards

2016-2025 *Chambers Canada*—Leading lawyer in banking and finance: financial services regulation and insurance: transactional and regulatory

2008-2025 *Chambers Global*—Leading lawyer in banking and finance: financial services

2015-2025	<i>The Legal 500</i> —Hall of Fame in banking and finance, and leading partner in insurance
2008-2023	<i>IFLR1000: The Guide to the World's Leading Financial Law Firms</i> —Highly regarded in financial services regulatory
2006-2025	<i>Best Lawyers in Canada</i> —Leading lawyer in banking and finance law
2008-2024	Lexpert/American Lawyer's <i>Guide to the Leading 500 Lawyers in Canada</i> —Leading lawyer in banking & financial institutions
2008-2023	<i>The Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory</i> —Leading lawyer in banking & financial institutions and financial institutions regulation
2008-2023	<i>Who's Who Legal</i> —Global Elite Thought Leader in banking regulatory (a recognition given to fewer than 5% of all lawyers ranked by <i>Who's Who Legal</i>), Thought Leader in Global Banking Regulation Review, Global and National leading lawyer in insurance & reinsurance and banking
2018	Lexpert's <i>Guide to the Leading U.S./Canada Cross-Border Corporate Lawyers in Canada</i> —Most frequently recommended lawyer in financing

Insights

Foreign interference regulation in Canada: financial institutions

The federal government has introduced several key regulatory efforts to combat foreign interference.

[CCUA's National Conference for Canada's Credit Unions](#)

[Breaking down the barriers to interprovincial provision of financial services](#)

[Canada's regulatory regime does not disadvantage U.S. banks](#)

[Should OSFI rethink AT1 capital requirements, particularly for federal credit unions?](#)

[Fall Economic Statement promises changes to banking, consumer protection, AML and payments](#)

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News

***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.

81% of Torys' Canadian partners ranked by *Chambers Canada*

We are pleased to share that 130 Torys partners and 38 of our practice areas have been recognized in this year's guide, including 15 Band 1 rankings.

IFLR1000 recognizes 61 Torys lawyers as leaders in their fields

179 Torys lawyers recognized in the 2025 Best Lawyers guide

Seven Torys partners listed in the Hall of Fame of The Legal 500 Canada 2024 edition

161 Torys lawyers named in the 2024 Best Lawyers guide

Torys recognized as Tier 1 in eight practice areas by IFLR1000

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Professional Involvement

Blair was a member of the Regulatory Advisory Group to the Task Force for the Payments System Review in 2011, providing advice on regulatory and legal issues related to the payments industry in Canada.

Blair also recently provided advice to the Canadian life insurance industry on the insurance holding company capital regime, and, over the last several years, has provided advice to the Canadian life insurance industry on various government bills, which contained amendments to the financial institutions statutes.

In his capacity as Co-Chair of the Financial Services Legislative Reform Committee of the Canadian Bar Association, Blair appeared as a witness before the House of Commons Finance Committee on Bill C-67 (which implemented branch banking in Canada for foreign banks in 1999).

While on secondment to the Canadian Bankers' Association, he testified before parliamentary committees, drafted amendments to the legislation and advised the Canadian Bankers' Association on revisions to the legislation affecting federal financial institutions.

Education and Bar Admissions

Education

LLM (Banking and Financial Services), 1997

Osgoode Hall Law School

MBA/LLB (International Finance), 1987

Dalhousie University

BBusAdm, 1983

University of Prince Edward Island

Bar Admissions

Ontario, 1989