



Simon C. Knowling

PARTNER

A leading corporate and capital markets lawyer with deep industry experience in real estate and REITs, Simon Knowling is trusted for his pragmatic advice and vast domestic and cross-border experience, counselling clients in their offerings, financings and other transactional work.

CONTACT

Toronto: [416.865.7374](tel:416.865.7374)

sknowling@torys.com

Overview

Simon is head of Torys' REITs practice, with a long track record of advising real estate companies and REITs in all aspects of securities law, commercial transactions and joint ventures/partnerships. He frequently acts for issuers and underwriting syndicates in public and private equity and debt financings involving real estate companies and REITs, including initial public offerings.

Simon also has comprehensive insight into commercial law, securities law, commercial real estate, private mergers and acquisitions, and bank financing. With long-standing relationships with leading Canadian and multinational companies, Simon has an impressive track record of helping clients grow their operations and expand their footprint, including assisting First Capital REIT in all of its capital markets transactions, public and private, since 2005; Amica Senior Lifestyles Trust on acquisition, financing, development and partnership arrangements relating to multiple portfolios of seniors housing facilities located across Canada; and Automotive Properties REIT on its IPO, multiple public offerings and in many acquisitions.

“

He is technically outstanding and brings a good business, operational, and strategic aspect to a deal. I respect his skillset and approach, it's outstanding service across the board.’

—CHAMBERS CANADA, 2023

Featured Work

C\$4.6 billion sale of luxury seniors housing communities

Torys is acting as counsel to Amica Senior Lifestyles in its C\$4.6 billion sale by Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan Board to Welltower Inc. and related acquisition by Welltower of a minority interest in Amica's management platform

Flagship Communities REIT IPO

Torys acted as counsel to Canaccord Genuity, BMO Capital Markets and the syndicate of underwriters in Flagship Communities REIT's US\$107.8 million initial public offering of trust units

First Capital REIT conversion

Torys acted as counsel to First Capital Realty in its reorganization and conversion from a corporation to a REIT structure

Extendicare in its C\$450 million private placement offering of its investment grade senior unsecured notes, due 2031

Extendicare in its C\$570 million acquisition of CBI Home Health LP and its subsidiaries, one of Canada's largest homecare and specialized community services providers, operating in more than 800 communities

CIBC Capital Markets, BMO Capital Markets and the syndicate of underwriters in GO Residential Real Estate Investment Trust's US\$410.1 million initial public offering of trust units on the Toronto Stock Exchange, as well as in its concurrent US\$90 million private placement in the United States to investment vehicles managed by Cohen & Steers Capital Management, Inc.

Amica Senior Lifestyles Trust (formerly BayBridge Seniors Housing Trust) in its acquisition, financing, development and partnership arrangements in respect of a number of portfolios of seniors housing facilities located across Canada

Extendicare in its innovative long-term care agreements with Revera Inc., including the acquisition of a 15% managed interest in 24 long-term care homes currently co-owned with Axiom Infrastructure Inc. and operational management agreements and redevelopment arrangements in respect of 32 additional long-term care homes in Ontario and Manitoba, as well as the establishment of a redevelopment joint venture with Axiom to redevelop certain long-term care properties owned by Extendicare in Ontario

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Recognition and Awards

2016-2026 *Chambers Canada*—Leading lawyer in REITs

2012-2016 *Chambers Global*—Leading lawyer in real estate

2019-2023	<i>IFLR1000: The Guide to the World's Leading Financial Law Firms</i> —Notable practitioner in M&A and capital markets: debt and equity
2015-2026	<i>Best Lawyers in Canada</i> —Leading lawyer in corporate law and securities law
2026	<i>Best Lawyers in Canada</i> — Leading lawyer in real estate law
2012-2023, 2026	<i>The Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory</i> —Leading lawyer in corporate finance & securities

Insights

[COVID-19 and Canada's Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance Program: application portal to open May 25](#)

[Rent relief for small businesses: COVID-19 and Canada's Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance Program](#)

[Key trends in Canadian real estate investment](#)

[Disclosure Expectations Outlined for Real Estate Reporting Issuers](#)

[RealREIT Conference](#)

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News

***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.

[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](#)

[81% of Torys' Canadian partners ranked by Chambers Canada](#)

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

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Education and Bar Admissions

Education

LLB, 1994

Osgoode Hall Law School

BA, 1991

Carleton University

Bar Admissions

Ontario, 1996