



T. Ryan Lax

COUNSEL

CONTACT

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Overview

Ryan's civil litigation practice focuses on public, commercial, and international investment law, most often in relation to the development and operation of major infrastructure, energy and resource projects, and related Indigenous rights.

Ryan has extensive experience advising governments, Crown corporations and project proponents on developing meaningful relationships and partnerships with Indigenous communities, as well as on the duty to consult and accommodate; this includes advising on some of Canada's most complex, high-profile and contentious consultations. He also has extensive experience litigating and negotiating disputes involving Indigenous matters and major projects, often on high-stakes or sensitive matters.

Ryan also regularly advises businesses on international trade and investment law issues. He has an active practice acting for claimants in international investment arbitrations under various bilateral and multilateral treaties. He also routinely provides guidance to natural resource, infrastructure and energy companies on sustainability issues.

Ryan has appeared as counsel before all levels of court in Ontario, the Federal Court and the Supreme Court of Canada, in arbitrations under the ADRIC, ICC, ICSID, LCIA and UNCITRAL rules, and in ad hoc arbitrations.



Ryan is a fantastic lawyer, an amazing individual and a pleasure to work with. He is a great project manager and very detail-oriented.

CHAMBERS CANADA, 2026

Featured Work

Alamos Gold in its arbitral claim brought by its Netherlands subsidiaries against the Republic of Türkiye, under the Netherlands-Türkiye Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT), alleging expropriation and unfair and inequitable treatment in connection with the development of its Türkiye project – the Kirazlı, Ağrı Dağı and Çamyurt gold mines in Çanakkale Province, Türkiye

Evolugen in successfully resisting an application for judicial review brought by Mississauga First Nation alleging that public authorities did not discharge the duty to consult in respect of historical impacts associated with the construction of hydroelectric facilities on the Mississagi River

Scotiabank in its arbitral claim against the Republic of Peru, under the Canada-Peru Free Trade Agreement, alleging unfair and inequitable treatment, expropriation, and breach of national treatment in connection with a constitutional court proceeding challenging the accrual of default interest during a period of delay caused by the state

a school board Trustee in a successful anti-SLAPP motion in the Ontario Superior Court dismissing in full a defamation claim brought by former Cabinet Minister Joe Volpe and Corriere Canadese, an Italian-language daily newspaper, in connection with the Trustee's statements defending LGBTQ2S+ inclusion measures in Catholic schools

Infinito Gold in its ICSID arbitral claim against the Republic of Costa Rica, under the Canada-Costa Rica Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT), concerning the expropriation of the Crucitas gold mining project

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Recognition and Awards

2024-2027 *Chambers Canada*—Leading lawyer in Aboriginal law

2027 *Chambers Canada*—Up and coming lawyer in dispute resolution: arbitration

2024-2026 *Lexology Index* (formerly *Who's Who Legal*)—Leading lawyer in arbitration

2024-2025 *Who's Who Legal*—Future leader in arbitration

Insights

The right moment for big ambitions: Accelerating national priority projects

Now is the time for Canada to seize the moment and drive national priority projects. Our multidisciplinary team provides their analysis of the next steps that Canadian industry, government and business can take.

[Bill C-39, the Building Canada Strong Act, tabled to accelerate project reviews and attract investment](#)

[Government of Canada makes significant changes to energy project approvals process](#)

[Bill C-35: preventing goods made with forced labour from entering the Canadian market](#)

[Drilling down on deference: The Federal Court of Appeal upholds approval for Bay du Nord offshore drilling project](#)

[Supreme Court of Canada declines to hear Wolastoqey Nation appeal addressing Aboriginal title and private property rights](#)

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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.

Torys announces new partners and counsel

Torys is excited to announce the promotion of eight of our lawyers to partner and three of our lawyers to counsel.

[IP protections and upcoming CUSMA joint review](#)

[Chambers Canada ranks 81% of Torys' Canadian partners in its 2026 guide](#)

[Evaluating the impacts of the U.S. April 2 reciprocal tariffs](#)

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

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Professional Involvement

Ryan is engaged in arbitration policy advocacy and reform in Canada, as a member of the Board of Directors of the Young Canadian Arbitration Practitioners and is serving a three year term on the arbitrator nominations committee of ICC Canada.

Ryan sits on the OBA Aboriginal Law section executive and is a member of The Advocates' Society.

Education and Bar Admissions

Education

JD, 2012	University of Toronto, Faculty of Law
MA (International Relations), 2012	University of Toronto
B.S.F.S., 2009	Walsh School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University

Bar Admissions

Ontario, 2013	Northwest Territories, 2021
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