



Dennis E. Mahony

PARTNER

A leading lawyer in his field, Dennis has specialized knowledge in environmental law. From regulatory compliance to courtroom advocacy, Dennis works closely with clients on bespoke tactics to mitigate risk and maximize opportunity in environmental matters impacting clients' operations, projects and transactions.

CONTACT

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Overview

Dennis is the head of Torys' Environmental, Health and Safety Practice, the Co-Chair of the firm's interdisciplinary Climate Change and Emissions Trading Practice, and certified by the Law Society of Ontario as a Specialist in Environmental Law.

Dennis provides comprehensive environmental, health and safety advice to a broad range of public- and private-sector clients, including public and private companies, federal government agencies, Crown corporations, provincial bodies and municipalities. The scope of his counsel covers virtually every industrial sector: transportation, utilities, non-renewable and renewable energy, pulp and paper, mining, chemicals and plastics, water and waste water treatment and disposal, manufacturing, financial institutions and real estate development.

On projects, Dennis works alongside developers, lenders, technical consultants, regulators and other project stakeholders to plan, develop, permit and defend complex projects, often through sensitive environmental habitats. He regularly advises from the project planning stage through the approval and construction stages and into operation. His broad advice to clients spans regulatory compliance, major and minor environmental assessment and other approvals, strategic stakeholder management, and litigation before environmental tribunals and courts. Over the past several years, Dennis and various Torys teams have successfully advised and defended more major projects than any other environmental team in the country.

Dennis also assists buyers, sellers, lenders and investors through all environmental aspects of a transaction: from acquisition diligence and agreement negotiation, to the design and coordination of deal-specific environmental liability assessments, negotiation of agreements and in handling closing and post-closing details.

Dennis has a broad regulatory practice that involves technical and strategic advice spanning the full range of issues in the environmental, health and safety field. In particular, he advises on federal and provincial environmental assessments and other approvals, contaminated sites, quasi-criminal, civil and administrative liability assessments, transportation of dangerous goods and waste, climate change, general legal compliance, legislative initiatives and Canada-U.S. cross-border issues. His work regularly involves litigation, covering environmental assessment and approval hearings, appeals of administrative orders, quasi criminal defence work and civil litigation.

With respect to climate change and emissions trading, Dennis helps clients navigate through this evolving area, including keeping them informed on the numerous domestic and international developments in the area and working on project-specific teams for everything from assessing securities disclosure requirements to emissions trading.



Dennis is a strategic wizard, putting the pieces of the puzzle together efficient and effectively. His awareness of our business combined with his legal prowess puts him in a league of his own.’

—CHAMBERS CANADA, 2023

Featured Work

Milton Logistics Hub Project

Torys acted as counsel to CN Rail on all aspects of its Milton Logistics Hub Project, a major new rail facility in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area, including acting as the legal lead in the complex, multi-year federal environmental approval process and high-profile public hearing, as well as several related court proceedings

Nation Rise Wind Farm REA Appeal

Torys acted as counsel to EDP Renewables in an appeal of its Renewable Energy Approval (REA) for the 100 MW Nation Rise Wind Farm in the Township of North Stormont, Ontario, including its successful application for judicial review before the Ontario Divisional Court of a decision by the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks on procedural grounds

Orion Resource Partners in its joint venture arrangements with Vale Base Metals Limited, Exiro Minerals Corp. and Canada Growth Fund Inc. to own and operate the Thompson Mine Complex in north central Manitoba

Alto (formerly VIA HFR) in the impact assessment and regulatory review processes, as well as the consultation and engagement with over 40 Indigenous communities, for the proposed Alto High-Speed Rail project, a network of dedicated and electrified railway lines spanning more than 1,000 km through Ontario and Québec, a project which won the 2025 Best Transportation Project from P3 Awards

Capstone Infrastructure in an appeal of its Renewable Energy Approval (REA) for the Settlers Landing Wind Park energy project in Kawartha Lakes, Ontario

NextEra Energy Canada in the development and construction of its 102 MW Goshen Wind Energy Centre in southwestern Ontario, including the renewable energy approval (REA) application, the related permitting and approval processes, as well as land and municipal road approvals

a clean energy generator in appeals brought by various parties, including First Nations organizations, concerning the Renewable Energy Approval (REA) for several of its wind energy projects

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Recognition and Awards

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

2014-2024 *Chambers Global*—Leading lawyer in environment

2015-2026 *The Legal 500*—Hall of Fame in environment

2006-2026 *Best Lawyers in Canada*—Leading lawyer in environmental law

2014-2023, 2026 *The Canadian Legal Expert Directory*—Leading lawyer in environment

2014-2022 *Who's Who Legal*—Global and Notational leading lawyer in environment and climate change

2017-2018 *Guide to the World's Leading Energy and Environment Lawyers*

Insights

Federal cabinet issues new directive for clean growth projects

Canada reveals the latest government framework aimed at accelerating and supporting projects aligned with a net-zero future.

[A carbon and crude compromise: Canada-Alberta agreement on oil pipeline, pathways and carbon pricing](#)

[Powering Canada Strong: Canada launches National Electricity Strategy for consultation](#)

[Canada proposes reforms to accelerate trade and transport projects](#)

[Canada proposes major reforms to project approval regime](#)

[Giving fast lane permitting a test drive](#)

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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.

***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.

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

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

[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](#)

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Professional Involvement

Dennis is the former co-editor in chief of University of Toronto *Faculty of Law Review* and is an adjunct professor at the University of Toronto Faculty of Law, where he teaches climate change law. He regularly chairs and speaks at environmental, health and safety law conferences in Canada and the U.S., and has authored and co-authored numerous articles.

Dennis is the Co-Chair of the International Outreach Task Force, as well as a member of the Section of Environment, Energy and Resources (SEER) for the American Bar Association. He was also the International Vice-Chair for SEER and the Energy and Environmental Markets and Finance Committee for the American Bar Association, as well as the Immediate Past Chair for the Canadian Bar Association. He is also the Executive for the Environmental Section for the Ontario Bar Association, in addition to being a member of the International Bar Association and the American Society of International Law.

Education and Bar Admissions

Education

LLB, 1993

University of Toronto, Faculty of Law

BA, 1990

University of Calgary

Bar Admissions

Ontario, 1995