



# J. Robert S. Prichard, O.C., O.Ont.

CHAIR

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CONTACT

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## Overview

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Robert Prichard is the non-executive chairman of Torys. As chairman, Rob provides advice to clients, contributes to the leadership of the firm and represents Torys in the communities we serve. He focuses on corporate governance in the private and public sectors and solving complex problems, particularly those involving regulatory issues and public policy. He regularly advises boards of directors and senior executives including on major transactions.

## Insights

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["Team Canada": Takeaways from Canada-U.S. Economic Summit](#)

[Managing uncertainty in climate change: remarks and Q&A on the OSFI discussion paper](#)

[The post-pandemic world: key considerations for business leaders](#)

[Torys Business Brief: Advice for corporate leaders at the pivot point of recovery](#)

[Trade Negotiations: The Road Ahead](#)

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## News

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[Torys Quarterly article on operating in a post-pandemic world republished by Corporate Knights](#)

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## Professional Involvement

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Prior to joining Torys as Chair in 2010, Rob had careers as a law professor, academic leader and business leader.

He was a professor of law at the University of Toronto from 1976 to 2001, specializing in law and economics. He taught torts, labour law, products liability, economic regulation and economic analysis of law. He also taught at the law schools of Yale (1982-83) and Harvard (1983-84 and 2000-01). He served as Dean of the Law School from 1984 to 1990. He was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 2008 and received the University of Toronto Law School's 2009 Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Rob served as the 13th President of the University of Toronto from 1990 to 2000 and is now President Emeritus. He also served as chair of the Council of Ontario Universities, on the boards of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada and the International Association of Universities, and on the executive committee of the Association of American Universities. In 2001, Rob received the David Smith Award for his contributions to public policy in higher education and in 2011 received the Champion of Public Education Award.

Rob's business sector experience includes serving as President and CEO of Torstar Corporation, a leading Canadian media company with newspaper and book publishing businesses, from 2002 to 2009. Rob serves as a director of Onex Corporation, Wittington Investments and Alamos Gold and is on the International Advisory Board of Barrick Gold Corporation and on the Canadian advisory board of ApplyBoard. Rob has previously served as chair of the BMO Financial group and as a director of numerous public companies, including Moore Corporation (Chairman), Four Seasons Hotels (lead director), Brascan (now Brookfield Asset Management), Barrick Gold, Imasco, Charles River Associates, Tesma International, St. Lawrence Cement, 724 Solutions, Gildan Activewear, Biochem Pharma, Enghouse Systems and Visible Genetics. Rob was elected as a Fellow of the Institute of Corporate Directors in 2016.

In the volunteer sector, Rob served as Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Hospital for Sick Children in 2019-2022. Previously he was a director of the Toronto Community Foundation, Chair of the Visiting Committee for Harvard Law School, Chair of the Ontario Innovation Trust, Vice-Chair of Canada's Science, Technology and Innovation Council, a trustee of University Health Network, a director of the Royal Ontario Museum, a governor of Upper Canada College, a commissioner of the Ontario Law Reform Commission, a member of the Greater Toronto Task Force (Golden Task Force) and a member of the Advisory Board of the World Bank Institute.

In the public sector, Rob served as Chairman of Metrolinx, the regional transportation agency of the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area from 2010 to 2018, where he served previously as President and CEO from 2009 to 2010. He also served as a member of both Canada's Economic Advisory Council and Ontario's Economic Advisory Panel. In 2016, Rob received the Public Policy Forum Testimonial Award for his outstanding contributions to the quality of public policy and good governance.

Rob has been recognized by appointment as an officer of the Order of Canada and a member of the Order of Ontario. He has also received honorary degrees from eleven colleges and universities in Canada and the United States.

# Education and Bar Admissions

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## Education

LLM (Viscount Bennett Fellowship), 1976

Yale University

LLB (Gold Medalist), 1975

University of Toronto, Faculty of Law

MBA (Finance and International Business), 1971

University of Chicago

## Bar Admissions

Ontario, 1978