



John A. Terry

PARTNER

A leading lawyer in his field and a strategic partner to clients on high-profile international matters, John is recognized for his long track record of work on arbitrations, trade disputes and Indigenous consultation.

CONTACT

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Overview

John's practice focuses on public, business and international trade and investment law. He regularly advises businesses and governments on trade law issues, and has a leading practice acting for claimants and respondents in investment arbitrations, and set aside and enforcement proceedings, under various bilateral and multilateral treaties.

John also has a significant practice in Indigenous matters, with extensive experience on issues respecting the duty to consult with Indigenous communities and representing parties and negotiating in disputes regarding Indigenous issues, often on high-stakes or sensitive matters. He also routinely provides guidance to natural resource and energy companies on corporate social responsibility issues.

John has appeared as counsel at all levels of court in Ontario, at the Federal Court and Federal Court of Appeal, before the Supreme Court of Canada, in commercial and investment arbitrations and before a variety of administrative tribunals.



John Terry is a masterful practitioner and is very skilled.'

—CHAMBERS CANADA, 2023

Featured Work

United Mexican States v. Burr

Torys acted as counsel to over 35 American investors with interests in Mexican gaming operations, in successfully resisting an application brought by the United Mexican States—with the support of Canada and the United States—to set aside a NAFTA arbitral tribunal award alleging discriminatory interference in the investors' facilities and business operations

Trans Mountain Expansion Project

Torys acted as counsel to Government of Canada in the re-initiated consultation process with 129 potentially affected Indigenous groups on the Trans Mountain Expansion Project

58 MW Bow Lake Wind Project

Torys acted as counsel to NKLP, a partnership between Batchewana First Nation and BluEarth Renewables Inc., in successfully resisting applications for judicial review brought by the Michipicoten First Nation alleging that the provincial government failed in its duty to consult prior to issuing approvals for the Bow Lake Wind Project near Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario

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 Kirazli, Ağı Dağı and Çamyurt gold mines in Çanakkale Province, Türkiye

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

Windstream Energy, a U.S. offshore wind project developer, in its successful arbitral NAFTA investment claim against the Government of Canada in connection with Ontario's moratorium on offshore wind development

Infito 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

Dundee Precious Metals in its arbitral claim against the Republic of Bulgaria, under the Canada-Bulgaria Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT), in connection with its approval to develop the Chelopech and Krumovgrad gold mining projects, as well as a copper and gold ore smelting joint venture project in Bulgaria

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Recognition and Awards

2016-2026 *Chambers Canada*—Leading lawyer in Aboriginal law, dispute resolution: arbitration and international trade/WTO

2009-2024 *Chambers Global*—Leading lawyer in dispute resolution: arbitration

2018-2026 *Benchmark Canada: The Definitive Guide to Canada's Leading Litigation Firms and Attorneys*—Litigation Star (arbitration)

2025 *Best Lawyers in Canada*—Lawyer of the Year for Aboriginal Law / Indigenous Practice

2010-2026 *Best Lawyers in Canada*—Leading lawyer in Aboriginal Law / Indigenous Practice, international arbitration and environmental law

2022, 2024	<i>Best Lawyers in Canada</i> —Lawyer of the Year for International Arbitration
2011-2026	<i>The Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory</i> —Leading lawyer in Aboriginal law, commercial arbitration, international trade regulation, litigation: regulatory and public law
2014-2022	<i>Who's Who Legal</i> — Global and National leading lawyer in arbitration and commercial litigation
2018	Lexpert/Thomson Reuters' <i>Guide to the Leading U.S./Canada Cross-Border Corporate Lawyers in Canada</i> —Most frequently recommended in dispute resolution
2015	Lexpert/American Lawyer's <i>Guide to the Leading 500 Lawyers in Canada</i> —Leading lawyer in arbitration
2013-2014	Lexpert's <i>Guide to the Leading US/Canada Cross-border Litigation Lawyers in Canada</i> —Leading lawyer in international commercial arbitration
2013	<i>Guide to the World's Leading Experts in Commercial Arbitration</i>

Insights

President Trump's April 2 reciprocal tariffs exempt Canada

President Trump's latest executive order calls for a suite of global tariffs, broadening his tariff strategy, from all countries ranging from 10% to 49%.

Disruption and opportunity: impact of U.S. tariffs on Canadian energy and natural resources

While the current trade war is creating short-term challenges, a longer view may give rise to a host of new opportunities for Canada.

[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](#)

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

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

[Recent Indigenous rights cases relevant to major project development](#)

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News

***Benchmark Litigation* recognizes 22 Torys lawyers in its 2026 guide**

***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.

179 Torys lawyers recognized in the 2025 *Best Lawyers* guide

Six Torys partners were also named Lawyer of the Year in their respective field.

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

[23 Torys litigators recognized in the 2025 Benchmark Litigation guide](#)

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

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

[161 Torys lawyers named in the 2024 Best Lawyers guide](#)

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Professional Involvement

Before joining Torys, John worked as a constitutional lawyer with the Ontario government and senior policy adviser with the Ontario Cabinet Office. He also spent two years teaching international trade law, international commercial arbitration and international human rights law at Otago University in New Zealand. Further, he served as a clerk to Mr. Justice Cory of the Supreme Court of Canada and the judges of the Ontario Court of Appeal.

John teaches International Commercial and Investor-State Arbitration and Public International Law at the University of Toronto Faculty of Law as an Adjunct Professor and teaches advocacy with the Foundation for International Arbitration advocacy in Geneva.

He is the co-author of the forthcoming *Canadian Encyclopedia Digest's International Law Title* as well as three other books: *Creditors' Remedies in Ontario*; *Interlocutory Proceedings: Strategy and Practice*; and *The Emotional Consequences of Personal Injury: A Handbook for Psychiatrists and Lawyers*. He has also written numerous other articles and delivered speeches, primarily on international law and constitutional issues.

Education and Bar Admissions

Education

LLM, 1989

Harvard Law School

LLB, 1987

University of Toronto, Faculty of Law

Bar Admissions

Ontario, 1991