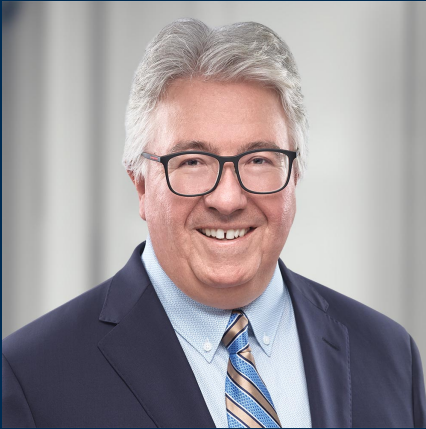




John J. Tobin

PARTNER

Offering creative advice and skilled advocacy, John is a leading tax lawyer, advising many of Canada's largest businesses and financial institutions.

CONTACT

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jtobin@torys.com

Overview

John solves tax problems with his notably broad experience covering transactional work, planning and counsel roles, and tax controversy/transfer pricing for many of Canada's largest businesses and financial institutions. Multinational and Canadian organizations in the private and public sectors have worked closely with John across a broad mix of tax matters, including tax structuring, international transactions, transfer pricing, tax controversy, corporate finance, derivatives, securitization and mergers and acquisitions.

John has represented international and domestic businesses, banks, financial institutions, mutual funds and government agencies in a wide range of matters. From domestic and cross-border transactions, infrastructure, energy (including wind, solar and hydro) and public private partnerships, to financial products, lending and securitizations, income funds, managed assets and leasing, John's multidimensional experience benefits clients across industries. John has also worked extensively in the areas of federal and provincial income tax, international tax, sales and use tax, goods and services tax and harmonized sales tax.



Clients enthuse: 'He is practical and a pleasure to deal with.'

—CHAMBERS CANADA, 2021

Featured Work

Cross-border auction process for Toys "R" Us Canada

Torys acted as counsel to Fairfax Financial in its C\$300 million acquisition of Toys "R" Us Canada Ltd. pursuant to a cross-border auction process under both the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act* and Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code

Fairfax to create world leader in property and casualty insurance, reinsurance and investments

Torys acted as counsel to Fairfax Financial in its US\$4.9 billion acquisition of Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG

Brookfield Renewable in the sale of a 25% interest in a 413 MW Canadian hydroelectric portfolio to a consortium of buyers

Fairfax Financial in its US\$575 million acquisition with Sagard Capital Partners of Performance Sports Group Ltd., including its Bauer and Easton Sports brands

Fortified Trust and the Bank of Montreal, as special tax counsel, in the Trust's C\$1.5 billion public multiclass serial offering of Series 2016-2 real estate secured line of credit backed notes, secured by Bank of Montreal backed receivables

Bank of Montreal, as special tax counsel, in the formation of Fortified Trust, a special purpose entity issuing notes backed by "undivided co-ownership interests in a revolving pool of receivables generated in certain real estate secured line of credit accounts" from the bank funded by notes sold to institutional and retail investors and in the Trust's subsequent C\$780 million public multiclass serial offering of Series 2016-1 real estate secured line of credit backed notes, secured by Bank of Montreal backed receivables

Meridian Credit Union in its acquisition of Roynat Lease Finance from Roynat Inc., a subsidiary of Scotiabank

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Recognition and Awards

2020-2027 *Chambers Canada*—Leading lawyer in tax

2021-2025 *Chambers Global*—Leading lawyer in tax

2023-2025 *ITR World Tax*—Highly regarded in general corporate tax

2025 Ontario Bar Association—OBA Award of Excellence in Taxation Law

2026 *Best Lawyers in Canada*—Lawyer of the Year in equipment finance law

2006-2027 *Best Lawyers in Canada*—Leading lawyer in structured finance law, alternative dispute resolution, and equipment finance law

2018-2021 *Lexpert/American Lawyer's Guide to the Leading 500 Lawyers in Canada*—Leading lawyer in corporate tax

2012-2023 *The Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory*—Leading lawyer in asset securitization, asset equipment finance/leasing, corporate tax and derivative investments

2018	Lexpert/Thomson Reuters' <i>Guide to the Leading U.S./Canada Cross-Border Corporate Lawyers in Canada</i> —Most frequently recommended lawyer in tax
2018	<i>Best Lawyers in Canada</i> —Equipment Finance Law Lawyer of the Year in Toronto
2002	Lexpert's <i>Rising Stars: Leading Lawyers Under 40</i> —One of Canada's leading lawyers under 40

Insights

CRA requests for lawyers' trust ledgers

Recent civil litigation decision may strengthen protections for lawyers' accounting records.

[Canada Revenue Agency rules on novel mutual fund trust reorganization](#)

[To gate or not to gate](#)

[2026 IFA Canada International Tax Conference](#)

[Alternative asset managers in the quest for capital: attracting Canadian retail investors through mutual fund trusts](#)

[A Kafkaesque tax quagmire: why we need to defer or abandon the failed capital gains changes](#)

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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.

Seven partners ranked by *ITR World Tax*

In addition, Torys was ranked Tier 1 in three practice areas.

John Tobin receives the 2025 OBA Award of Excellence in Taxation Law

[Best Lawyers recognizes 177 Torys lawyers in its 2027 guide](#)

[Torys recognized in four categories at the 2026 Canadian Law Awards](#)

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

176 Torys lawyers recognized in the 2026 Best Lawyers guide

New report calls on government to abandon capital gains inclusion rate increases

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Professional Involvement

John is a current governor of the Canadian Tax Foundation and a current director of the International Fiscal Association (Canada Branch). He is the past Chair of the Board of the Michael Garron Hospital (formerly Toronto East General Hospital), as well as the former Chair of its Construction Redevelopment Committee, currently building a \$500 million addition.

John is a Tax Committee Member of both the Canadian Finance and Leasing Association and the Investment Funds Institute of Canada.

In addition, John served in the Adjunct Faculty of Law at Osgoode Hall Law School (2012-2016) (teaching International Tax Seminar), was the President of the Osgoode Hall Law School Alumni Association 2009 to 2012 and a guest lecturer for the University of Toronto Corporate Tax Law course.

Further, John is a member of the Canadian Finance and Leasing Association, the Investment Funds Institute of Canada, the Canadian Tax Foundation and the International Fiscal Association. He is also a member of Canada Company, which is a liaison group between Canadian business leaders and the Canadian Forces.

Education and Bar Admissions

Education

LLB, 1987

Osgoode Hall Law School

Bar Admissions

Ontario, 1989