



## Rambod Behboodi

### Senior Counsel

T 613.369.4770  
F 613.230.8842  
Ottawa  
[RBehboodi@blg.com](mailto:RBehboodi@blg.com)  
[LinkedIn](#)

[International Trade & Investment](#)  
[Government & Public Sector](#)  
[Anti-Dumping, Anti-Subsidy & Safeguards](#)  
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[Competition & Foreign Investment Review](#)  
[Environmental](#)

Rambod is recognized as one of Canada's most knowledgeable and experienced trade lawyers.

He has extensive experience advising on and arguing North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) cases and World Trade Organization (WTO) cases, participating in multilateral environmental negotiations, and advising on issues including agricultural trade, subsidies and antidumping, export controls, and technical barriers to trade. Rambod has also served on postings to the WTO and the European Union, and as Counsellor at the WTO, advising on antidumping disputes.

In addition to his trade expertise, Rambod has significant experience in financial regulation. As General Counsel at Finance Canada during the financial crisis, Rambod gained unique insight into the Department's non-tax business lines, in particular regulation of financial institutions, anti-money laundering measures, and trade in financial services. He has advised finance ministries and central banks in both advanced and developing countries.

Rambod was named the Canadian Competition Bureau's first Deputy Commissioner for Competition Promotion in 2014, where he helped establish the branch. In this role, he was responsible for economic analysis and advocacy, compliance, and international cooperation.

Prior to joining BLG, Rambod worked at a global firm in Geneva, providing policy and legal advice to public and private sector interests on a range of access, regulatory, litigation and institutional issues.

Rambod has taught international economic regulation and litigation at various universities in Canada, the United States and Europe throughout his career.

Rambod is fluent in English, French and Farsi.

## Experience

- *Barrister*
- **Government of Morocco** in a WTO dispute against Tunisia in respect of Morocco's antidumping practices; the dispute is under appeal
- **Government of Canada** in various WTO disputes:
  - *Canada – Wheat Board*, head of delegation in the first ever dispute on the scope of state-trading enterprise obligations of the WTO Agreement, secured significant win for Canada.
  - *U.S. – Final Determination of countervailing measures on softwood*, head of delegation in the first ever dispute before the Appellate Body of the WTO on the scope of "in-country" benchmarks for subsidies cases and the definition of "goods" in the SCM Agreement
  - *U.S. – Byrd Amendment*, head of delegation, first ever disputes on what constitutes "specific action against a subsidy" with important and far-reaching consequences for subsidy disciplines
  - *Canada – Measures Affecting Export of Civilian Aircraft (21.5)* co-counsel in systemically important case clarifying the scope of obligation of a state in implementing panel reports
  - *Brazil – Export Financing Programme for Regional Aircraft (21.5)* lead counsel, first case on the legal test for meeting the requirements of key exception to the prohibition on export subsidies in the SCM Agreement
  - *Canada – Measures Affecting Export of Civilian Aircraft* co-counsel, first case on the scope of *de facto* export subsidy disciplines of the SCM Agreement, and the export financing activities of Export Development Canada
  - *Brazil – Export Financing Programme for Regional Aircraft* lead counsel, first case on the scope of a developing country's obligations under the SCM Agreement, as well as key systemic findings on procedural questions
- *Solicitor and litigation manager*
- **Government of Canada**, in various domestic public law litigation:
  - *Reference re Securities Act*, [2011] 3 SCR 837: Series of constitutional references dealing with Parliament's jurisdiction to regulate securities to ensure national financial stability.
  - *Canada (Attorney General) v. Federation of Law Societies of Canada*, [2015] 1 SCR 401: Long-running case involving the interaction between Canada's money laundering regime, internationally-agreed financial monitoring and reporting requirements, and constitutionally protected rights related to solicitor-client privilege
  - *Bank of Montreal, et al. v. Réal Marcotte, et al.*, 2013 CanLII 18832 (SCC): Canada participated as intervenor at various levels leading to the Supreme Court to safeguard Parliament's authority over consumer protection in respect of banking
- **The International Trade Centre:**
  - Advised the Central Bank, the Finance Ministry, and the Trade Ministry of Uzbekistan on WTO accession services trade negotiations, in particular in respect of financial services liberalization, and strategic aspects of multilateral negotiations.

- Advised the Finance Ministry and the Trade Ministry of the Republic of Iraq on WTO accession services trade negotiations, in particular in respect of financial services liberalization.
- **ACT for Living Wages**, advised on due diligence implementation and the structure of dispute settlement mechanisms in the textile sector in Cambodia and Türkiye

## Insights & Events

- Author, "No taxation without presentations: Canada to launch public consultations on possible tariff hikes on Chinese EVs", BLG Article, June 2024
- Co-Author, "[An international standard for nomad visas.](#)" Plumia.org, May 2024
- Speaker, "A New Multilateral Standard for Nomad Visas," Morocco Connect Summit, May 2024
- Speaker, "Revival of ADR in Trade Disputes," WTO Dispute Settlement Reform: The Road So Far, Graduate Institute, April 2024
- Speaker, "Uzbekistan: Financial Services and Liberalization," Webinar on Uzbekistan Financial Services Privatization, March 2023
- Author, "[Financial Services Reform in Pakistan: Structures, prospects, and Recommendations in the context of the WTO Agreement.](#)" Criterion Quarterly, November 2023
- Speaker, "Institutionalizing ADR in a reformed WTO dispute settlement mechanism," Hybrid Webinar on WTO Dispute Settlement Reform organized by the WTO Mission of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, October 2023
- Co-Author, "[Tackling Subsidies for Plastic Production.](#)" Centre for International Environmental Law (CIEL), October 2023
- Speaker, "An accessible WTO dispute settlement framework," Webinar on International Organisations and Global Governance, August 2023
- Speaker, "Comment Rendre Accessible le mécanisme du règlement des différends de l'OMC," Cours avancé de la politique commerciale : Défis Actuels pour le Système de Règlement des Différends de l'OMC, OMC, July 2023
- Speaker, "Conciliation and Mediation as Accessible Dispute Resolution," World Trade Institute's advanced master's course on International Economic Dispute Resolution, May 2023
- Author, "[Dispute Resolution in the Textiles Sector.](#)" STTI, January 2023
- Speaker, "How to address accessibility in WTO dispute resolution," Round Table discussion on DS Reform as part of the WTO's Advanced Dispute Settlement Course, December 2022
- Speaker, "Towards sustainable and inclusive dispute resolution," WTO Public Forum, September 2022
- Speaker, "Non-tariff Barrier in African Export Trade," Webinar on Standards and Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) in International Trade, August 2022
- Speaker, "Gender Equality in International Trade and Business," OWIT Webinar on Supporting Women in Trade, March 2022
- Speaker, "Domestic Regulation and Financial Services," Webinar on "Services Liberalization and Iraq's Access to the WTO, March 2022
- Speaker, "Services Sector Liberalization: Benefits and Advantages," in-Person session offered in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, November 2021
- Speaker, "First mover advantage for a Crypto-SRO," Parliamentary Intelligence-Security Forum webinar on Bitcoin Illicit Finance, March 2021
- Author, "[Competition Law and Trade Policy: 'Never the twain shall meet?'](#)," Antitrust Law Journal 127 Volume 84, 2021

## Beyond Our Walls

### Professional Involvement

- Member, Law Society of Ontario
- Previous Member, Ordre des avocats de Genève

### Community Involvement

- Board Member, Tastakel for Peace Education (Geneva)

## Awards & Recognitions

- Received the 2014 APEX Award
- Received the 2013 and 2012 Justice Canada Portfolio Excellence Award
- Received the 2008 Minister's Award for Trade Service (DFAIT)
- Received the 2000 Head of the Public Service Award Minister's Citation for Trade Service (DFAIT)
- Received the 1999 Award of Excellence (Treasury Board Secretariat)
- Received the 1998 Award of Merit (DFAIT)

## Bar Admission & Education

- Ontario, 1994
- LLM, University of Toronto, 1992
- LLB, University of Toronto, 1991
- BA, University of Toronto, 1988

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