



Melissa Ghislanzoni

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Melissa has over 15 years of experience as a trusted legal advisor in the investment management and capital markets industry, providing strategic advice and insight to issuers, fund managers, portfolio managers and dealers.

Melissa combines her passion for policy development, knowledge management, and client engagement with her industry expertise to stay up-to-date on the latest emerging industry trends and developments and their impact on market participants. Her expertise in this regard ranges from legal, compliance and regulatory changes to corporate governance best practices, ESG, privacy, and anti-money laundering and anti-terrorist financing matters.

Prior to joining BLG, Melissa was general counsel to a highly respected national portfolio management association, with over 300 member firms collectively managing over \$3 trillion in assets. Melissa served as a dedicated legal and regulatory resource for member firms, drafting and developing a wide variety of legal, regulatory and compliance communications and advocacy letters. In this role, Melissa developed an excellent reputation in the industry as a highly knowledgeable speaker and author on matters of importance to investors, including on derivatives law, the importance of succession planning and compliance best practices.

Melissa also has experience as legal counsel at the Toronto Stock Exchange where she advised Listed Issuer Services and Compliance & Disclosure on a wide variety of novel legal and policy issues.

Melissa also obtained valuable experience in private practice, having practiced corporate and commercial law as well as securities law at national law firms for 6 years.

Insights & Events

- Author, "Court opens the door to a finding of fiduciary duty in relation to non-managed accounts", BLG Article, June 2024
- Author, "ESG-related investment fund disclosure in 2024: "Walk your talk"", BLG Article, May 2024
- Author, "18-year check up: Continuous disclosure review and guidance for IRCs", BLG Article, April 2024
- Author, "Private equity and venture capital sponsors: Are supply chain/modern slavery reporting requirements on your radar?", BLG Article, April 2024
- Author, "Responsible use of artificial intelligence: Best practices for Canadian asset managers", BLG Article, March 2024
- Author, "Do Canada's modern slavery reporting requirements impact investment managers?", BLG Article, February 2024
- Navigating the currents of ESG expectations: Survey Report on ESG perceptions and practices of Canadian Fund Managers, BLG Perspective, November 2023
- Author, "Common ground: new report provides standard definitions for key responsible investment terms", BLG Article, November 2023
- Author, "OSC issues new summary report with guidance for investment fund and structured product issuers", BLG Article, November 2023
- Author, "Understanding what the derivatives business conduct rule means for your business", BLG Article, November 2023
- Author, "ETFs in the spotlight: The CSA review exchange-traded funds", BLG Article, October 2023

Beyond Our Walls

Professional Involvement

- Past Member, Registrant Advisory Committee – Ontario Securities Commission
- Member, Securities Law Subcommittee, Ontario Bar Association

Community Involvement

- Corporate Secretary, Adoption Council of Ontario
- Member, Board of Directors and Governance Committee, Adoption Council of Ontario

Awards & Recognition

- Women's Law Associated of Ontario Community Contribution Award

Bar Admission & Education

- Ontario, 2007
- LLB, University of Western Ontario, 2006
- MA, English Literature, University of Toronto, 2003
- BA (Honours), Queen's University, 2002



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As the largest, truly full-service Canadian law firm, Borden Ladner Gervais LLP (BLG) delivers practical legal advice for domestic and international clients across more practices and industries than any Canadian firm. With over 725 lawyers, intellectual property agents and other professionals, BLG serves the legal needs of businesses and institutions across Canada and beyond – from M&A and capital markets, to disputes, financing, and trademark & patent registration.

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