



## Jonathan Cocker

### Counsel

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Jonathan provides advice and representation to multinational companies on a variety of environmental and product compliance matters, including extended producer responsibilities, dangerous goods transportation, GHS, regulated wastes, consumer product and food safety, and contaminated lands matters. He assisted in the founding of one of North America's first Circular Economy Producer Responsibility Organizations and provides advice and representation to a number of domestic and international industry groups in respect of resource recovery obligations.

Jonathan is a Partner and a member of the firm's [Environmental, Social & Governance \(ESG\)](#) leadership team. He is a frequent speaker and writer on environmental issues and has authored numerous publications.

As the International Bar Association's first Sustainability Officer, Jonathan is spearheading a strategic relationship with the World Business Council Sustainable Development on its Circular Economy Program. Prior to joining BLG, he headed a national firm's Environmental practice group.

Jonathan is actively involved in numerous initiatives across the environmental industry, including:

#### **Plastics and packaging**

- International project development for regional/global plastic waste management
- Works with consulting firms for plastic packaging projects, including beverage containers and legacy plastics pollution risk management

### **Electronics**

- Creating independent producer responsibility organizations to meet regulated resource recovery obligations for hardware and lighting
- Advises appliance sector industry association in Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act obligations

### **Automotive**

- Founding member of one of North America's first producer responsibility organizations under end-of-life tire laws
- Advises industry on regulated resource recovery obligations for EV batteries and tires
- Part of strategic international working group on tire environmental market opportunities

### **Aviation**

- Actively involved with International Aviation Waste Management Association
- Provided airport waste assessment for public and private industry stakeholders

### **Textiles and apparel**

- Founded international joint venture for Canada's first circular economy clothing project
- Strategic advisor to Canada's principal textile recycling proponent

### **Commercial food**

- Together with a European Commission research organization, advancing commercial food packaging standards for industry use in biogas production

### **Healthcare**

- Represent a principal Canada-wide proponent of recycling certain medical devices

### **Agriculture**

- Represent anaerobic digestion proponents in international renewable natural gas markets

### **Waste to energy**

- In Sault Ste. Marie, negotiated Canada's first municipal solid waste to energy agreement
- Represent proponents in Canada's two legally-mandated Renewable Natural Gas markets

## **Experience**

- Advised and counseled on environmental compliance issues for resource, energy manufacturing and other production facilities, including matters involving air emissions, water discharges, the management, transportation and disposal of waste, and occupational health and safety obligations across Canada.

- Managed environmental liabilities under provincial/territorial and federal statutory and tort law, including purchase, sale, lease, project development, and exit matters.
- Prepared product safety notifications, recalls and other negotiated resolutions with Health Canada, including those under the *Canada Consumer Product Safety Act*.
- Advised on *Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act* matters, including import, safety documentation, labeling and transit requirements.
- Counseled on Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System compliance, including Globally Harmonized System implementation and related Hazardous Products Act requirements.
- Assisted with product certification/labelling, including under the *Canada Consumer Packaging and Labelling Act*.
- Designed and implemented environmental compliance programs, sustainability policies and corporate audit initiatives.
- Advised and represented importers and retailers on waste diversion and extended producer responsibility obligations under a myriad of provincial and territorial programs, including waste electronics and electrical equipment, on- and off-road tires, used oils, paints, batteries, printed paper and packaging, and other municipal hazard/special waste streams.
- Made strategic voluntary disclosures and negotiated compliance agreements under the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* and provincial/territorial equivalents for new substances, notified chemicals, toxic substances and other regulated materials.
- Defended resource development, energy and industrial operations in government enforcement actions under federal/provincial/territorial environmental protection acts and related environmental quality statutes.
- Managed food contamination matters with Health Canada and provincial/territorial food safety authorities.
- Negotiated with federal port authorities under the Canada Port Authority Environmental Assessment Regulations in permitting, compliance and redevelopment matters.
- Advocated before environmental review/appeals tribunals, provincial offences and civil courts on EHS matters.
- Provided industry product compliance advice for electronics, chemicals/polymers, automotive, toys, food, pharmaceuticals and other controlled substances.
- Managed food production licensing, permits and compliance with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and provincial equivalents.
- Audited facilities and projects for EHS compliance.
- Completed project development work on energy conservation, smart metering and demand management projects in Canada and the Caribbean.
- Advised and represented clients on *Radiocommunications Act* requirements for radio-emitting devices.
- Participated on behalf of industry groups in federal and provincial regulatory standards and policy-making processes, including occupational exposure limits and waste diversion plan content.
- Completed renewable energy project work for solar, wind, biomass, municipal solid waste-to energy and energy storage projects in Canada, United States, Latin America, Caribbean, European Union, China and Southeast Asia, including Canada's first direct MSW-to-energy sourcing agreement.
- Provided compliance advice on *Radiation Emitting Devices Act* obligations.
- Advised on *Energy Efficiency Act* and Regulations requirements and related provincial requirements.

## Insights & Events

- Author, "Canada's path to net zero: The latest on clean electricity regulations and oil & gas emissions", BLG Article, March 2024

- Thought Starters, BLG Perspective, September 2023
- Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Trends: Why it's important and what you need to know, BLG Perspective, June 2023
- Presenter, "Preparing for The Future Custody of Carbon", 2022 Value of BioGas West Conference, November 1, 2022.
- Author, "More than marketing How to share your ESG story with investors", BLG Article, June 2022
- Author, "Ontario Ministry of Energy proposes growing hydrogen economy through reduced electricity rates", BLG Article, May 2022
- Author, "2030 Emissions reduction plan and Canada's journey to net zero", BLG Article, April 2022
- Author, "Indigenous-led Clean Fuels Program", BLG Article, April 2022
- APPrO & BLG webinar series: Power-to-X, BLG Video, March 2022
- Author, "Canada needs Power-to-X strategy", BLG Article, March 2022
- Author, "AG biogas in the bio-economy", BLG Article, March 2022
- Author, "Top energy issues of 2021, with implications for 2022 and beyond", BLG Article, March 2022
- Author, "Québec enters complex low carbon fuel crediting field", BLG Article, February 2022
- Author, "Energy transition: Fueling a new economy in Canada", BLG Article, January 2022
- Author, "Canada forges ahead with single-use plastics ban despite legal challenges", BLG Article, December 2021
- The Energy Transition Series, BLG Video, December 2021
- The Energy Transition Series: Canadian Clean Fuels, BLG Video, November 2021
- Author, "Producer Responsibility Organizations should aggregate environmental improvements", BLG Article, October 2021
- The Energy Transition Series: Green Building, BLG Video, October 2021
- Author, "Hydrogen storage but not necessarily storing hydrogen", BLG Article, October 2021
- Author, "Same, same but different: U.S. business and the 2021 Canadian election", BLG Article, September 2021
- Author, "Ammonia Energy: From H2 Carrier to Low Carbon Fuel", BLG Article, September 2021
- The Energy Transition Series: Smart cities, BLG Video, September 2021
- Author, "The business of B.C.'s hydrogen strategy", BLG Article, August 2021
- The Energy Transition Series: Energy transformation and battery recycling, BLG Video, June 2021

## Beyond Our Walls

### Professional Involvement

- Member, Law Society of Ontario
- Member, Canadian Bar Association, Environmental Law Section
- Member, International Bar Association, Environmental Health and Safety
- Sustainability Officer, International Bar Association
- Member, Ontario Textile Diversion Collaborative
- Member, Ontario Waste Management Association, Resource Recovery/Energy from Waste
- Member, Consortium of Researchers for International Collaboration
- Officer, International Bar Association, Environmental Health and Safety Committee
- Partner, Realizing the Transition to the Circular Economy (ReTraCe), European Commission
- Founding Member, International Aviation Waste Management Association
- Member, National Zero Waste Council
- Member, International Waste Working Group
- Member, European Union Circular Economy Platform

## Awards & Recognitions

- Recognized in the 2025 edition of *The Best Lawyers in Canada* (Environment Law).
- Recognized in the 2024 edition (and since 2023) of *Who's Who Legal: Canada* (Environment & Climate Change).

## Bar Admission & Education

- Ontario, 1998
- LLB, Osgoode Hall Law School, 1996
- BA, University of Western Ontario, 1993

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