



CRISTINA BIRKS

Counsel

T 514.954.2533
F 514.954.1905
Montréal
CBirks@blg.com

[Litigation and Arbitration](#)
[International Arbitration](#)

Education / Bar Admissions

BCL/LLB, McGill University, 2007
Certificate in Peruvian law, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Lima, Lima, Peru, 2003
BA in English Literature and Spanish Literature (with Distinction), Georgetown University, Washington, DC, 1998
Québec, 2008

Professional Involvement

International Chamber of Commerce (Canada), Proposals Committee
Young Canadian Arbitration Practitioners, Advisory Board (President: 2015 & 2016)
Member, International Chamber of Commerce Canada
Member, International Bar Association, Young Arbitration Practitioners
Member, Asociación Latinoamericana de Arbitraje
Member, Arbitral Women
Member, London Court of International Arbitration, Young International Arbitration Group
Member, Québec Bar

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Cristina Birks is counsel in our Commercial Litigation Group in our Montréal office and is a member of our International Trade and Arbitration Group. Cristina handles various litigation files in numerous fields and pleads regularly before all judicial bodies in the province of Québec, and has also pleaded before international arbitration tribunals, including ICSID, the ICC and the ICDR. She is fluent in English, French and Spanish.

In November 2014, Cristina was awarded "Lawyer of the Year in Civil and Commercial Litigation" by the Young Bar Association of Montreal.

Prior to joining BLG, she completed an internship at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in Costa Rica. Cristina also worked at a boutique Aboriginal law firm in Montréal.

Before beginning her career in law, Cristina worked at the National Geographic Magazine in Washington, DC for two years. She also worked for a year in Hanoi, Vietnam at an elementary school implementing an English-language program for students and teachers. While living in Lima, Peru, she completed a certificate in Peruvian law at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Lima. Cristina also spent a year studying literature at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland and did a one-year exchange program in Barcelona, Spain.

REPRESENTATIVE WORK

- Cristina represented a Latin American manufacturer in an international commercial arbitration dispute under the rules of the International Chamber of Commerce.
- She represented a commercial landlord in an insurance claim in liability for approximately 5 million dollars.
- She represented an electronics manufacturer in a product liability claim for damages for approximately 25 million dollars.
- She acted for a European importer in a 5-million dollar fraud file.
- She acted for a Latin American government against a Spanish company in an investor-state dispute before the World Bank's International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes.

Member, Canadian Bar Association
Member, Young Bar Association of Montreal

Community Involvement

Member, Board of Directors, Montreal General Hospital Foundation

Member, Board of Directors, Elizabeth House

Member, Board of Directors, Hay Foundation

- She represented a group of 73 shareholders in a claim for damages in a shareholder dispute.
- She represented defendant liquidators in an Estate file in a five-week trial in a claim for damages in the amount of 15 million dollars.
- She acted for a Canadian bank before the International Chamber of Commerce's DOCDEX division.
- She acted for a Canadian manufacturer in a dispute against one of its sales agents.

PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

Publications

- "Quebec court consolidates law on third-party funding agreements: impact on commercial arbitration," *International Law Office*, June 2018.
- "A Pyrrhic Victory: Bell v. Molson" (2013) 32 Est.&Tr.J.187.

Presentations

- "Cross-Examination in International Arbitration," Speaker, International Chamber of Commerce of Mexico, Mexico City, Mexico (June 2017).
- "Recent Legislative and Judicial Developments in Latin America," Speaker, YCAP 2016 Fall Symposium in conjunction with ICC's Young Arbitrators Forum (October 2016)
- "Advantages of Regulating the Appeals Process in Arbitration," Speaker, 9^o Congreso Latinoamericano de Arbitraje, Lima, Peru (April 2015).
- "The Recognition and Enforcement of Arbitral Awards Annulled at the Seat of Arbitration," Speaker, 8vo. Congreso Latinoamericano de Arbitraje, Lima, Peru (April 2014).
- Arbitrator at the Eleventh Vis East Moot Competition in Hong Kong (2014).

RANKINGS & RECOGNITIONS

- Recognized by *Global Arbitration Review* for inclusion in *Who's Who Legal - Arbitration List of Future Leaders 2018*.
- Winner of the 2014 Lawyer of the Year in the Civil and Commercial Litigation category at the 8th "Leaders of Tomorrow" Gala (2014), sponsored by the Young Bar Association of Montreal.

ABOUT BORDEN LADNER GERVAIS LLP

Borden Ladner Gervais LLP (BLG) is a leading, national, full-service Canadian law firm focusing on business law, commercial litigation and arbitration, and intellectual property solutions for our clients. BLG is one of the country's largest law firms with more than 700 lawyers, intellectual property agents and other professionals in five cities across Canada. We assist clients with their legal needs, from major litigation to financing to trademark and patent registration.