



Christopher Richter

Partner

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Education

LLB/BCL, 1995, McGill University

BA, 1990, University of Toronto

Bar Admission

Québec, 1996

Ontario, 1999

British Columbia, 2014

Practice

Christopher is an experienced trial and appellate lawyer who practises in the fields of civil, corporate and commercial litigation and dispute resolution. His practice includes class actions, securities litigation, professional liability, product liability and employment law. He has appeared before the Québec courts of first instance and of appeal, the superior courts of several other provinces, the Federal Court and Federal Court of Appeal, the Supreme Court of Canada, and numerous administrative tribunals and arbitration panels.

Christopher is also valued for his advisory and risk-analysis work for leading Canadian and international companies regarding their interests and operations in Québec. He has an interest and recognized expertise in transnational disputes and matters of private international law. Christopher has acted as arbitrator in numerous disputes (sole arbitrator, or member or chair of a panel), both domestic and international (including ICC and ICDR arbitrations).

Christopher is fluently bilingual in English and French.

Recognition

Chambers Canada—Leading lawyer in litigation, Québec (2013-2020)

The Legal 500 Canada—Leading lawyer in dispute resolution (2019-2020)

Benchmark Canada: The Definitive Guide to Canada’s Leading Litigation Firms and Attorneys—Litigation Star (Commercial, Class Actions, Securities and Arbitration) (2018-2020)

Best Lawyers in Canada—Leading lawyer in alternative dispute resolution, class action litigation, corporate and commercial litigation (2015-2021)

Best Lawyers in Canada—2020 Alternative Dispute Resolution Lawyer of the Year in Montréal

Best Lawyers in Canada—2017 Class Action Litigation Lawyer of the Year in Montréal

Lexpert/Thomson Reuters' *Guide to the Leading U.S./Canada Cross-Border Corporate Lawyers in Canada*—Most Frequently Recommended lawyer in dispute resolution (2018)

The Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory—Leading lawyer in commercial arbitration; litigation - corporate commercial (2018-2020), litigation - securities (2018)

Representative Work

- Ticketmaster Canada, Live Nation Entertainment, Inc. and other related entities in proposed consumer protection class actions in Ontario and Québec concerning its refund policy for events postponed, rescheduled or canceled as a result of COVID-19
- a Canadian Schedule I bank in a proposed class action in Québec alleging violations to federal banking regulations and consumer protection legislation in connection with credit card over-limit fees
- a Canadian Schedule I bank in a class action in Québec alleging violations to consumer protection legislation in connection with chequing account NSF fees
- Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association as an intervener in a reference to the Québec Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court of Canada regarding the constitutional validity of sections 1 to 7 of the *Genetic Non-Discrimination Act*
- Crane Canada in a dispute before the Québec Superior Court regarding the supply of materials for the construction of the new super-hospital in Montréal
- Scientific Games in defense of a motion for an interlocutory and permanent injunction, and damages before the Superior Court of Québec relating to allegations of a breach of distributorship agreements, and cross claims relating to the unauthorized distribution of products protected by trademark
- Ticketmaster Entertainment (now Live Nation Entertainment) and related entities in proposed class actions in Saskatchewan, Ontario, Québec and British Columbia concerning violations to the Competition Act and consumer protection legislation in connection with secondary market ticket sales practices
- Cerenis Therapeutics in a claim for C\$44 million before the Québec Superior Court regarding the management and supervision of international clinical trials, and the analysis of the results, including breaches of Good Clinical Practices (GCP)
- Ticketmaster Entertainment (now Live Nation Entertainment) and related entities in class actions in Québec and Alberta concerning violations to the *Competition Act* and consumer protection legislation in connection with the disclosure of fees and other amounts charged in connection with primary and secondary market ticket sales
- a major Canadian securities firm in an internal investigation into allegations of insider trading
- Costco Wholesale Canada, as an interested party, in numerous hearings before the Québec Energy Tribunal in connection with retail gasoline pricing
- Rothmans, Benson & Hedges in defense of a C\$60 billion claim brought by the Province of Québec under the *Tobacco-related Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act* against various tobacco manufacturers alleging, inter alia, failure to adequately warn consumers of health risks

- Tyco Electronics (now TE Connectivity) in a dispute before the Québec Superior Court involving allegations of design and construction defects for a refrigeration system used in the storage of pharmaceutical products in Montréal
- Voyageur Marine Transport in successfully resisting authorization of a proposed class action in Québec alleging negligence by a ship-owner following damage to the St-Louis de Gonzague Bridge in a maritime incident
- Fairfax Financial in the proceedings before the Bureau de décision et de révision (BDR) concerning the hostile takeover of Fibrek Inc.
- State of New Jersey in the dismissal of a defamation case before the Québec Court of Appeal, citing false and defamatory statements made in connection with a written submission, on the basis of state immunity
- Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan and the other members of the investor group in proceedings brought by a group of debentureholders before the Québec Superior Court, the Québec Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court of Canada challenging the approval of one of the largest proposed leveraged buyouts in history
- Honda Canada in successfully resisting authorization of a proposed product liability class action in Québec alleging the use of defective paint on certain vehicle models
- Cinegrand Montreal in a dispute before the Québec Superior Court and the Québec Court of Appeal regarding the construction of a cinema and entertainment complex in Montréal
- professional engineers in a dispute before the Québec Superior Court regarding the design and construction of a shopping centre in Québec City
- Lac d'amiante du Québec in its successful dismissal of an appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada concerning a decision made in a contractual dispute, arguing that in Québec the implied rule of confidentiality is applicable to the content of examinations on discovery under the *Code of Civil Procedure*
- a major multinational in a claim before the Superior Court of Québec for damages resulting from the alleged breach of a distribution contract for infant formula

Professional Involvement

Christopher taught civil procedure at both McGill University and the Université de Montréal. Active for many years in the Canadian Bar Association, Christopher was Québec branch chair of the International Law Section and chair of the Business Dispute Resolution Committee of the National ILS. He was also the secretary of the Consumer Litigation Committee of the International Bar Association.

Memberships and Affiliations

Christopher is a member of The Advocates' Society, The London Court of International Arbitration, the International Centre for Dispute Resolution and the ICC Canada Arbitration Committee. Christopher is also the past President of the University Club of Montreal.

Insights

Genetic discrimination: it's criminal!

July 14, 2020

COVID-19 as force majeure in Québec: key considerations, implications, and practical tips

March 31, 2020

What happens in Québec: Stays in overlapping multijurisdictional class action proceedings in Québec

Co-author, *Annual Review of Civil Litigation 2019*

October 25, 2019

The new consumer protection regime in Québec

May 28, 2019

Canadian Bar Association: Annual Review of Québec Private International Law

April 17, 2019

10 décisions essentielles rendues en 2018 ayant un impact sur la pratique en contentieux

February 28, 2019

A Primer on the Regulation Respecting the Application of the Consumer Protection Act — Getting Ahead of Anticipated Consequences to FRFIs

February 26, 2019

Canadian Bar Association: Annual Review of Québec Private International Law

February 21, 2018

Top 10 Court Decisions from 2017 Affecting Your In-House Practice

February 14, 2018

2017 Annual IBA Conference

October 9, 2017

A Canadian perspective on the Hague Convention of 30 June 2005 on Choice of Court Agreements

Speaker, IBA Conference on Private International Law, Milan

2016

Life cycle of a product part 4 – the end-user

Co-chair, IBA Annual Conference, Washington, D.C.

2016

Market misconduct in the insurance industry

Co-chair, IBA Annual Conference, Washington, D.C.

2016

Smarter Ways to Educate Your Court
Co-chair, IBA Annual Conference, Vienna
2015

The Public Interest in Securities Adjudication: Past, Present and Future
Panelist, Osgoode PD Conference, Toronto
2015

Class Actions in Québec and Class Actions in Canadian Common Law Provinces
Speaker, CAP Annual Convention, Montréal
2015

Recent Developments in Private International Law
Speaker, Canadian Bar Association (Québec), Conference Luncheon, Montréal
Annually since 2002

Media

August 7, 2020: Québec court rules force majeure prevented commercial tenant from paying rent

July 28, 2020: Torys insight featured in media coverage of *Genetic Non-Discrimination Act* ruling

November 1, 2019: Chris Richter speaks on risk-based underwriting

October 3, 2019: Christopher Richter speaks on defining practice areas of financial planning

April 12, 2018: Montréal's Fifth Anniversary Lauded by *Le Monde Juridique*

July 14, 2017: Christopher Richter Joins Torys