



Ian Binnie C.C., Q.C.

IAN BINNIE C.C., Q.C.
is Of Counsel to Lenczner Slaght.

One of Canada's most respected arbitrators and advocates, the Honourable Ian Binnie served for nearly 14 years as a Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada. When he retired in 2011 he was described by The Globe and Mail as "arguably the country's premier judge" and by La Presse as "peut-être le juge le plus influent au Canada dans la dernière décennie."

During his time on the country's top court (as only the fourth modern Justice appointed directly from the bar) Ian authored more than 170 opinions, including in landmark cases involving corporate and commercial disputes, issues of contractual interpretation and torts, patent interpretation and validity, aboriginal rights, copyright and protection of trade-marks, media law, punitive damages, expert evidence and many other aspects of constitutional, criminal and administrative law.

In his role, Ian shares strategic and practical advice, as well as his dispute resolution expertise, with his colleagues and the firm's clients. In doing so he draws not only on his judicial insights, but also his wealth of courtroom experience as one of Canada's top litigators. Over the course of three decades, he argued cases in most of the common law provinces and appeared regularly before the Supreme Court on a range of constitutional, civil and criminal matters.

Throughout his career as a litigator, Ian has often taken on public service roles as well. In the early 1980s he served for four years as Canada's Associate Deputy Minister of Justice. He was later appointed Special Parliamentary Counsel to the Joint Committee of the Senate and the House of Commons on the Meech Lake Accord. An elected member of the International Commission of Jurists, he has appeared before the International Court of Justice and various international tribunals in governmental litigation matters, and has acted as Canadian representative in high-profile disputes involving France and the U.S.

Education

University of Cambridge (1988) LLM
University of Toronto (1965) LLB
University of Cambridge (1962) LLB
McGill University (1960) BA

Bar Admissions

Ontario (1967)
England (1966)
International Court of Justice (1984)
Yukon (1985)
British Columbia, Alberta
(occasional), (1986)
Saskatchewan, Manitoba and
Newfoundland (occasional) (1997)

Practice Areas

Appeals
Commercial Litigation
Defamation and Media
Intellectual Property
Professional Liability and Regulation
Public Law

Contact

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RECOGNITION

- ▶ Lexpert/ROB Special Edition: Canada's Leading Litigation Lawyers (2014-2018)

- Best Lawyers in Canada (2017-2020)
Alternative Dispute Resolution, Appellate Practice
- Best Lawyers in Canada (2020)
Toronto "Lawyer of the Year" in Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Canadian Legal Lexpert® Directory (2014-2019)
Commercial Arbitration, Litigation - Corporate Commercial, Litigation - Defamation & Media, Litigation - Public Law, Professional Liability
- Chambers Canada (2016-2019)
Dispute Resolution: Most in Demand Arbitrators (Nationwide – Canada)
- Chambers Canada Lifetime Achievement Award (2018)
- Chambers Global (2017-2019)
Dispute Resolution: Most In Demand Arbitrators
Dispute Resolution: Arbitration (2017)
- Companion of the Order of Canada (2012)
- Honourary Colonel, 426 Squadron (Trenton) 2002-2005
- Honourary Doctor of Laws (2001-2013)
Law Society of Upper Canada, McGill University (2001), University of Western Ontario (2012), Trinity College, University of Toronto (2013)
- Lexpert Guide to the Leading US/Canada Cross-border Litigation Lawyers in Canada (2014-2017)
Commercial Arbitration, Corporate Commercial Litigation, Defamation & Media Litigation
- Lexpert Zenith Award (2012)
- Lexpert® Guide to the Leading US/Canada Cross-border Litigation Lawyers in Canada (2014)
International Commercial Arbitration, Corporate Commercial, Defamation & Media
- Lexpert®/American Lawyer Guide to the Leading 500 Lawyers in Canada (2015-2019)
Arbitration; Corporate Commercial Litigation
- Queen's Counsel (Ontario) (1979)
- The Advocates' Society Medal (2011)

SELECT PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- **Spring Symposium 2019** – Ian Binnie will be co-presenting at The Advocates' Society's 18th Annual Spring Symposium, on the panel "A Question of Advocacy: Handling..."
- **35th Annual Joint Colloquium on International Arbitration** – Ian Binnie and Peter Griffin presented at the 35th Annual Joint Colloquium on International Arbitration. They shared their expertise on the panel discussion *Mastering Effective Techniques for Cross-Examination*.
- **Baseball Bats and Chocolate Chip Cookies: The Judicial Treatment of DNA in the Myriad Genetics Litigation** – Ian Binnie, C.C., Q.C. and Vanessa Park-Thompson contributed an article to the Cold Spring Harbor Perspectives in Medicine publication.
- **Keep your greedy hands off my genes!** – The U.S. Supreme Court's invalidation of gene patents is a victory for basic principles of patent law, but public policy concerns remain unresolved
- **The Harold G. Fox Moot, 2014 Canadian Intellectual Property Moot** – The Honourable Ian Binnie will hold the Fox Lecture on Friday, February 21, 2014.
- **Advocacy Against the Odds** – Ian Binnie moderates the topic at The Advocates' Society 50th Anniversary Symposium, The Future of Advocacy: The Next 50 Years, held in Toronto on December 4, 2013.

- **Domestic Application of International Law: What Lawyers Need To Know** – Ian Binnie presented on the topic Domestic Application of International Law: What Lawyers Need To Know at the session hosted by The Philippe Kirsch...
- **Canada's Evidence Revolution** – Ian Binnie presented on the topic at the Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice Annual Conference *How Do We Know What We Think We Know: Facts in the Legal System* on October 9-11, 2013 in Toronto.
- **Stratford Festival - Shylock Appeals Weekend** – Alan Lenczner argues Shylock's sentence before a panel of judges, including Ian Binnie and the Chief Justice of Canada, Beverley McLachlin, as part of the Shylock Appeals Weekend at the Stratford Festival on October 5, 2013.
- **Stratford Festival - Shylock Appeals Weekend** – Ian Binnie is the guest speaker at the Exclusive Dinner at the 2013 Stratford Festival, Shylock Appeals Weekend, on October 4.
- **Wrongful Convictions and What Can be Done About Them** – Ian Binnie presented on the topic *Wrongful Convictions and What Can be Done About Them* at the Trinity High Table Dinner.
- **Parting Shots from the Supreme Court of Canada** – Ian Binnie presented on the topic *Parting Shots from the Supreme Court of Canada* at Osgoode Hall.
- **Is Arbitration an Answer to Civil Justice Reform?** – The Honourable Ian Binnie C.C., Q.C. debates the topic against The Honourable Robert Armstrong, Q.C. at the 2nd Annual Civil Litigation Summit, held in Toronto June 11, 2013.
- **The Order of Canada: Stories Behind the People** – Rex Murphy hosts the 2nd Annual Celebration of three outstanding Order of Canada recipients and extraordinary Canadians, including Ian Binnie, on May 27, 2013.
- **The Arab Spring Gives Birth to a Justice System in Crisis** – Ian Binnie presented on the topic at the Council of Canadian Administrative Tribunals international conference held in Toronto on May 26, 2013.
- **The Perils of Debating Science in the Courtroom** – Ian Binnie, C.C., Q.C. presented on the topic as the distinguished guest speaker at the annual meeting and dinner of the Medico-Legal Society of Toronto on May 22, 2013.
- **Appellate Pratfalls - Hear directly from The Hon. W. Ian C. Binnie** – Ian Binnie presented on the topic at The Advocates' Society Spring Symposium, Advocacy in the Real World: Practical Tips, Updates and Strategies, on April 26, 2013.
- **Comparing Supreme Court Practice** – Ian Binnie presented on the topic along with *The role of the Framers' Understanding of Constitutional Text in Modern Constitutional Interpretation: Rhetoric and Reality* at The Canadian Studies Program and Berkeley Law mini-conference: Constitutional Differences: Cross-Border Conversations on American and Canadian Constitutional Law and Practice, held at University of California, Berkeley on April 23, 2013.
- **Corporate Complicity in Human Rights Abuse Cases: A Canadian Perspective** – Ian Binnie presented on the topic at the CNB and the ABA Conference on *International Corporate Liability in Conflict Zones* in Paris on March 21-22, 2013.

- **Patenting Genes & Diagnostics: The Judiciary's View** – Ian Binnie presented on the topic at A Special Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Conference on Patenting in the Life Sciences, Genes & Diagnostics: A Myriad of Issues in Biotech IP in New York State March 10-13, 2013.

SELECT NEWS ARTICLES

- **Best Lawyers in Canada Recognizes Lenczner Slaght with 100 Rankings** – In the latest edition of *Best Lawyers in Canada*, 28 Lenczner Slaght lawyers earned a total of 100 rankings, up from 86 in 2019.
- **The 2019 Lexpert Directory Recognizes Lenczner Slaght with 89 Rankings** – An increasing number of our expert litigators are recognized by their peers as the foremost practitioners in their fields.
- **Lenczner Slaght Recognized for Dispute Resolution by World-Renowned Directory** – The Chambers Global rankings are the culmination of extensive research and interviews with firm clients and legal professionals around the world who have recognized Lenczner Slaght for its extensive trial experience and commitment to delivering the best results for its clients.
- **Another Bull's-Eye for Canada's Leading Litigation Firm** – Lenczner Slaght is once again recognized as the #1 firm in Toronto for Litigation and Commercial Litigation by the 2019 Lexpert/American Lawyer Guide to the Leading 500 Lawyers in Canada.
- **Lexpert Recognizes Lenczner Slaght's Excellence in Litigation** – Our expert litigators continue to be recognized as the foremost litigators in their fields by peers and senior members of the legal profession.
- **Lenczner Slaght Recognized as a "Litigation Powerhouse"** – Canada's leading litigation firm and its expert litigators continue to be recognized by world-renowned directory, Chambers & Partners.
- **Lenczner Slaght Litigators Ranked in Best Lawyers in Canada** – Canada's leading litigation firm is proud to announce that 25 of the firm's 58 lawyers have been recognized in the *Best Lawyers in Canada 2019* publication across multiple categories.
- **Lexpert Recognizes Lenczner Slaght's Professional Excellence** – An increasing number of the firm's lawyers have been ranked by their peers as leading practitioners in their field.
- **Lenczner Slaght Ranked for the 16th Consecutive Year in Chambers Global 2018** – Canada's leading litigation firm is once again recognized in the area of Dispute Resolution by this world-renowned directory alongside notable full-service, national and international firms.
- **Lenczner Slaght Litigators Lead in the 2018 Lexpert/ALM 500 Rankings** – Canada's leading litigation firm is one of two firms with the highest number of lawyers ranked in Corporate Commercial Litigation in the 2018 Lexpert®/American Lawyer Guide to the Leading 500 Lawyers in Canada.
- **Lexpert Highlights Lenczner Slaght's Litigation Strength** – A total of 13 Lenczner Slaght litigators have once again been ranked among the foremost litigators in their field in the 2017 Lexpert/ROB Special Edition: Canada's Leading Litigation Lawyers.
- **Lenczner Slaght's Cross-Border Litigation Expertise is Highly Ranked** – Almost half of the partners at Canada's leading litigation firm are ranked with one Litigation Lawyer to Watch and 12 Leading Cross-Border Litigation Lawyers.

- **Lenczner Slaght Recognized in Chambers Canada 2018** – Canada's leading litigation firm and its expert lawyers are ranked once again by Chambers & Partners for their exceptional litigation work.
- **Lenczner Slaght Ranked Among the Best** – Almost half of the leading litigation firm's lawyers are recognized in the *Best Lawyers in Canada*.
- **Lenczner Slaght Shines in 2017 Lexpert Rankings** – Lenczner Slaght's litigators continue to be recognized by their peers as leading practitioners in their fields according to the 2017 Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory.
- **Lenczner Slaght is the Unrivaled Litigation Boutique in Chambers Global 2017** – The firm's litigators earned the top rankings alongside full-service, national and international counterparts in the litigation categories.
- **Lenczner Slaght lawyers recognized in Lexpert ALM 500 Guide** – Canada's leading litigation boutique leads all firms with 10 lawyers ranked in litigation practice areas in the 2017 Lexpert®/American Lawyer Guide to the Leading 500 Lawyers in Canada ("ALM 500")
- **16 Lenczner Slaght Lawyers Ranked as Canada's Leading Litigators** – Number of Lenczner Slaght lawyers ranked in the year-end Lexpert Special Edition published in conjunction with *Report on Business* magazine jumps to 16.
- **Peers Recognize Lenczner Slaght's Expertise in Cross-border Litigation** – Fifteen Lenczner Slaght lawyers have been ranked in the Lexpert 2016 Guide to the Leading U.S./Canada Cross-Border Litigation Lawyers in Canada
- **Lenczner Slaght Lawyers Ranked Best** – Nearly half of the firm's lawyers recognized among Canada's foremost practitioners
- **Lenczner Slaght's Ian Binnie Named Among Top 25 Most Influential** – Canada's Leading litigation practice has third lawyer ranked on Top 25 list
- **23 Lenczner Slaght Lawyers Ranked in 2016 Lexpert Directory** – This year, the Canadian Legal Lexpert® Directory increased the number of Lenczner Slaght lawyers ranked among the best in Canada to 23, up from 20 in 2015.
- **Ian Binnie's Advice to Young Lawyers - Forget it All** – On April 28, 2016, Ian Binnie C.C., Q.C. spoke at the The 4th Annual Toronto Lawyers Association Bench and Bar Young Lawyers Soirée, addressing over 140 junior lawyers. The event was featured on Precedent Magazine's website.
- **Lenczner Slaght Remains Among Top in Chambers Global Rankings** – Canada's leading litigation practice recognized in tier one for 14 consecutive years.
- **Lenczner Slaght Scores Bull's Eye in Leading 500 Lawyers in Canada** – Canada's leading litigation practice once again tops the list of litigation firms in the 2016 Lexpert®/American Lawyer Guide to the Leading 500 Lawyers in Canada.
- **Lenczner Slaght Leads in Cross-Border Litigation** – Recognition of Lenczner Slaght lawyers as Canada's Leading Cross-Border Litigators Endures
- **Lenczner Slaght Honoured by Chambers Canada for Dispute Resolution** – Canada's leading litigation firm takes first ever Chambers Canada award for Dispute Resolution Team of the Year
- **20 Lenczner Slaght Lawyers Recognized in 2015 Lexpert Directory** – Recognized by Canadian Legal Lexpert® Directory as leading practitioners.

- **Lenczner Slaght Remains at the Centre of the Lexpert Bull's-Eye** – Canada's leading litigation practice is once again ranked #1 in The 2015 Lexpert/American Lawyer Guide to the Leading 500 Lawyers in Canada.
- **A Leader in Cross-Border Litigation** – 14 Lenczner Slaght litigators ranked in Lexpert 2014 Guide to the Leading U.S./Canada Cross-Border Litigation Lawyers in Canada.
- **Recognized as Canada's Leading Litigators** – Lenczner Slaght Lawyers listed in the year-end Lexpert Special Edition published in conjunction with Report on Business magazine.
- **Lenczner Slaght Increases Rankings in 2014 Lexpert Directory** – Canada's leading litigation practice continues to add new names to the list.
- **Lenczner Slaght Celebrates the Winners of Western Law's 2014 Lenczner Slaght Advocacy Competition in Legal Ethics Moot** – Lenczner Slaght is a proud supporter of Western Law's 5th annual "Lenczner Slaght Advocacy Competition in Legal Ethics and Professionalism Moot".
- **Lenczner Slaght is at the Centre of the Lexpert Bull's-Eye** – Canada's leading litigation practice is once again ranked #1 in *The 2014 Lexpert/American Lawyer Guide to the Leading 500 Lawyers in Canada*.
- **Honouring the Courageous Defenders of Rights, Dignity, and Freedom** – Ian Binnie is an honouree for Excellence in Advocacy at the Canadian Civil Liberties Association Third Annual Gala Dinner held in Toronto on May 29, 2013.
- **Lexpert Zenith Awards** – Ian Binnie and Alan Lenczner win Lexpert Zenith awards.
- **GG honours accomplishments in politics, sports, journalism, and the arts.** – Ian Binnie, Q.C. is honoured by the Governor General as a Companion of the Order of Canada
- **Newest Order of Canada recipients include former Alberta premier Ralph Klein, ex-NHL coach Pat Quinn.** – Ian Binnie, Q.C., former Supreme Court Justice, is included as a recipient of the latest additions to the Order of Canada
- **Justice on the Charter** – Ian Binnie, Q.C. speaks to Heather Hiscox on CBC News Now about the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.
- **Former Canadian Supreme Court Justice Joins Toronto Litigation Boutique** – Peter Griffin and Ian Binnie, Q.C. speak to American Lawyer Magazine about the former Justice's return to the practice of law. The article appeared in the...
- **House Additions- Charter of Rights and Freedoms, mandatory minimums and judicial activism.** – Ian Binnie, Q.C. speaks to Evan Soloman on CBC's radio show The House and shares his thoughts on the impact of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms,...
- **The former Supreme Court justice reflects on his career** – Ian Binnie, Q.C. joins Evan Soloman on CBC's Power and Politics to reflect on his career.
- **Justice debate** – Ian Binnie, Q.C. speaks to Evan Soloman on CBC's Power and Politics. Former justice Ian Binnie, Q.C. joins Evan Solomon to discuss the Conservative...
- **The Supreme Court's retired, but hardly retiring, Ian Binnie, Q.C.** – Ian Binnie, Q.C. talks to the Globe and Mail about returning to the practice of law and the shifting legal landscape. The article appears in the April 11...

- **Supreme Court Justice Ian Binnie, Q.C. Joins Lenczner Slaght –**
Lenczner Slaght welcomes The Honourable Ian Binnie, Q.C.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- International Commission of Jurists (Geneva)
Commissioner
- United Nations Internal Justice Council
Chair
- American College of Trial Lawyers
Fellow
- Commercial Bar Association (U.K.)
- Middle Temple Inns of Court (U.K.)
Member
- Canadian Council on International Law
- Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice
- Canadian Forum on Civil Justice
- The Advocates' Society
- Canadian Bar Association
- L'Association des juristes d'expression française de l'Ontario
- The Philippe Kirsch Institute
Faculty