



Jonathan McDaniel

JONATHAN MCDANIEL
is a partner at Lenczner Slaght.

Jon maintains a broad litigation practice with a focus on complex commercial litigation and arbitration, and public law. His clients have included government agencies, boards of directors, oil and gas companies, regulated professionals, manufacturers, financial institutions, developers, insurers, and technology companies, among others.

Jon has appeared before all levels of court in Ontario, the Alberta Court of King's Bench, the Manitoba Court of King's Bench, the Nova Scotia Supreme Court, and various administrative tribunals including the Ontario Human Rights Tribunal. He has defended the interests of a wide range of clients at trial, on appeal, and at a variety of other hearings.

Jon obtained his law degree from the University of Toronto where he received the Laskin Prize in Constitutional Law, and previously practiced at a national firm in Calgary and Toronto.

Education

University of Toronto (2016) JD
McGill University (2012) BA (First Class Joint Honours in History, Political Science, Classics)

Bar Admissions

Ontario (2018)
Alberta (2017)

Practice Areas

Appeals
Arbitration
Class Actions
Commercial Litigation
Defamation and Media
Securities Litigation

Contact

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RECOGNITION

- Best Lawyers in Canada (2025-2026)
Ones to Watch – Corporate & Commercial Litigation

SELECT CASES

- **Annapolis Group v Halifax Regional Municipality** – Counsel to the plaintiff in an action concerning alleged de facto expropriation, misfeasance in public office, and unjust enrichment relating to the plaintiff's efforts to develop its lands within the Halifax Regional Municipality. Successfully represented the plaintiff at the Supreme Court of Canada with the Court clarifying the test for de facto expropriation and concluding that our client's claim for de facto expropriation could proceed to trial.
- **WSIB Investments (Infrastructure) Pooled Fund Trust et al v Plenary Group (Canada) Ltd. et al** – Successful trial counsel to two employee pension and injured workers funds in a breach of fiduciary duty and breach of contract claim with a manager of public infrastructure projects.
- **Zurich Insurance Company Ltd v 2442931 Ontario Inc, Bondfield Construction Company Limited, John Aquino, Vasos Georgiou and Unity Health Toronto** – Counsel to Zurich in an action to rescind surety bonds worth nearly \$300 million, and to recover over \$68 million, due to collusion and misrepresentations in the bidding process for the St. Michael's Hospital Redevelopment Project in Toronto.
- **Urban Mechanical Contracting Ltd et al v Zurich Insurance Company Ltd** – Counsel to Zurich in an appeal from several

applications brought by the lenders and subcontractors on the St. Michael's Hospital Redevelopment Project in Toronto. The lenders and subcontractors sought to prevent Zurich from seeking rescission of surety bonds worth nearly \$300 million in a separate action. The Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal, allowing Zurich to continue with its action for rescission.

- **The Mangrove Partners Master Fund v TransAlta Corporation** – Counsel to the directors of TransAlta Corporation in an oppression claim brought by a significant shareholder.
- **Zurich Insurance Company Ltd v Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre** – Counsel to Zurich in a matter arising out of the insolvency of Bondfield Construction, the general contractor for the construction of several large projects at the Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre in Toronto, relating to alleged misrepresentations by Bondfield, Sunnybrook, and certain of their executives.
- **Boyer v Callidus Capital Corporation** – Counsel to a former employee at Callidus Capital Corporation, who commenced a wrongful dismissal claim in 2017. Callidus counterclaimed against our client for \$150 million, which we successfully argued to have dismissed as an “Anti-SLAPP” proceeding at the Court of Appeal. We then obtained summary judgment in the main employment action for over \$1.3 million plus interest and successfully held the summary judgment on appeal.
- **1544656 v Independent Electricity System Operator** – Counsel for IESO in a dispute relating to the interpretation of a feed-in-tariff program contract.

SELECT PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- **Commercial List Year in Review 5-Year Retrospective (2021-2025)** – This guide offers data-driven analysis on all decisions published on CanLII from 2021-2025, an overview of the top 10 noteworthy cases, as well as key developments in insolvency matters, shareholder disputes, injunctions, and securities litigation.
- **The Hamish Stewart Cup** – Aoife Quinn, Jonathan McDaniel, Herschel Chalet, and Cat Blair appeared as judges at the University of Toronto, Faculty of Law's Hamish Stewart Cup, a criminal-constitutional moot for first-year students.
- **2025 Snapshot: Through the Lens of Lenczner Slaght** – We've released our *2025 Snapshot*, highlighting the most significant developments, decisions, and trends in litigation from the past year across 21 practice areas. Reflect on 2025 and look ahead to 2026 through the lens of our expert litigators.
- **46th Annual Intensive Trial Advocacy Workshop (ITAW)** – Lawrence Thacker, Risa Kirshblum, Monique Jilesen, Brendan Morrison, and Jonathan Chen participated as instructors at the *46th Annual Intensive Trial Advocacy Workshop (ITAW)*, hosted by Osgoode Professional Development. Jonathan McDaniel and Kate Costin also took part in *ITAW*, serving as Mock Expert Witnesses. This program gathered over 100 experts in advocacy skills training and guest speakers who are active members of the Bench and Bar. Attendees had the opportunity to develop and refine their advocacy skills.

- **2024 Snapshot: Through the Lens of Lenczner Slaght** – Lenczner Slaght launches our *2024 Snapshot*, which highlights the most significant developments, decisions, and trends in litigation from the past year across 20 areas of expertise. Reflect on 2024 and look ahead to 2025 through the lens of our expert litigators.
- **A New Handbook for All Litigators** – Jonathan McDaniel and Samantha Hale co-authored the article "A New Handbook for All Litigators", published in *The Advocates' Journal*. In this article, Jonathan and Samantha review Robert Harrison and Richard Swan's book, *Skillful Witness Examinations in Civil and Arbitration Cases*, exploring witnesses, counsel, documents, and expert reports in the case of *Laveneer Inc v Svengali Ltd*, and providing a new take on a litigator's go-to handbook.
- **2023 Snapshot: Through the Lens of Lenczner Slaght** – Lenczner Slaght launches our *2023 Snapshot*, a look at the most significant developments, decisions, business takeaways, and trends in litigation from the last year, across 15 practice areas. Revisit 2023 and look ahead to 2024 through the lens of our expert litigators.

BLOG POSTS

- **5-Year Retrospective: Securities Litigation** – The blog, *5-Year Retrospective: Securities Litigation*, co-authored by Brian Kolenda and Jonathan McDaniel was published on commercialist.com as part of the Commercial List Year in Review: 5-Year Retrospective (2021-2025) guide. In this blog, they clarify the important points for issuers, underwriters, and securities lawyers to keep in mind in all kinds of securities litigation and regulatory proceedings — from when the OSC can have a receiver appointed, to underwriters' indemnity rights, to how securities class actions can proceed against insolvent issuers.
- **Up-Front Evidence: A New Era in Discovery Proposed by the Civil Rules Review in Ontario** – Following their April 2025 proposals, the Ontario Superior Court of Justice and the Ministry of the Attorney General have proposed final reforms to the *Rules of Civil Procedure* in the Civil Rules Review Final Policy Report. The Working Group responsible for the Civil Rules Review is rethinking the system of civil litigation in Ontario "from the ground up" to ensure accessible and expeditious justice for all.
- **The Digital Shift in Ontario Courts: Proposed Rules for a Tech-Driven Future** – The proposed reforms to Ontario's *Rules of Civil Procedure* (which we summarize [here](#)) includes innovative ways to better harness technology, making the litigation process quicker, simpler, and more accessible. The ongoing Civil Rules Review Working Group has proposed several enhancements to build on the steps our courts have taken since the pandemic, using more electronic means for filings, hearings, and civil litigation overall. These proposed changes aim to streamline legal processes and improve access to justice through the effective use of technology.
- **The Trade and (E-)Commerce Power: Federal Court of Appeal Affirms the Constitutionality of Canada's Anti-Spam Legislation** – The Federal Court of Appeal has affirmed the constitutionality of Canada's federal anti-spam legislation ("**CASL**") in *3510395 Canada Inc v Canada (Attorney General)*, on both federalism and *Charter* grounds.

SELECT NEWS ARTICLES

- **Lenczner Slaght Litigators Featured Among Best Lawyers in Canada** – The 2026 edition of *Best Lawyers in Canada* recognizes Lenczner Slaght with 180+ rankings, featuring 48 of our expert litigators across 27 practice areas.
- **Landmark Electronic Trial Produces \$259 Million Award for Lenczner Slaght Client** – *WSIB Investments (Infrastructure) Pooled Fund Trust v Plenary Group (Canada) Ltd* is featured in the January 2025 edition of *Bare Bones Briefs* by LegalWriter.net. This case was the first fully electronic trial in the Manitoba Court of King's Bench, lasting seven weeks. It culminated in a \$259 million judgment for WSIB Investments (Infrastructure) Pooled Fund Trust, represented by Peter Griffin, Dena Varah, Meghan Bridges, Jonathan McDaniel, Andrew Locatelli, and Madeleine Andrew-Gee.
- **Lenczner Slaght's Trial Lawyers Successful in \$259 Million Judgment for Public Sector Funds** – In *WSIB Investments (Infrastructure) Pooled Fund Trust v Plenary Group (Canada) Ltd*, our expert litigators were successful in obtaining a \$259 million judgment in disgorgement for our clients, two employee pension and injured workers funds, against the Defendants for breach of fiduciary duty, knowing assistance, and knowing receipt. The 7-week trial before the Manitoba Court of King's Bench was the first fully electronic trial to be completed in the province.
- **Lenczner Slaght Litigators Recognized as the Best Lawyers in Canada** – In the 2025 edition of *Best Lawyers in Canada*, Lenczner Slaght is proud to receive 168 total rankings, with 45 of our expert litigators recognized for their expertise across 25 practice areas.
- **Introducing Our New Partners** – Canada's leading litigation firm is proud to announce the promotion of Meghan Bridges, Madison Robins, and Jonathan McDaniel to its partnership.
- **Our Bench Strength Gets Stronger** – Canada's leading litigation firm continues to attract top legal talent, with the addition of three exceptional new associates.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- The Advocates' Society
- Ontario Bar Association
- American Bar Association