



## Dave Leonard

Chief Executive Officer  
Partner

Toronto

[dleonard@mccarthy.ca](mailto:dleonard@mccarthy.ca)

t. +1 416-601-7694

### Bar Admission

Ontario 1994

### Law School

University of Western Ontario

### Practices

Disputes and Litigation  
Appellate Litigation  
Professional Liability

### Industries

Pharmaceutical

## Every day, Dave executes on his vision for the future of our firm – one where clients and the industries in which they operate are paramount

As CEO, Dave leads McCarthy Tétrault's mission to be Canada's premier provider of legal services to public and private enterprises in Canada and around the world. Dave helps the firm achieve this mission by supporting our partners and professionals across the country to deliver creative solutions and exceptional business advice so that clients can achieve their objectives. He drives the firm's strategy to offer true borderless client service through our commitment to meeting client needs now and in the future.

## Bold steps and a commitment to doing things differently

As leader of one of the most storied firms in the country, and with more than 20 years of experience as a litigator, Dave is relentlessly focused on deepening client relationships and building the law firm of tomorrow. Under his leadership, the firm has realigned along the strategic issues and industry lines that matter to our clients, to better serve their needs. In January 2017, he announced McCarthy Tétrault's game-changing acquisition of MT>3 (formerly Wortzmans), the country's top e-Discovery and information governance law firm. This move brought MT>3's leading expertise in information governance, e-discovery and technology under one roof with the firm's integrated, national platform to ensure clients receive seamless and superior service. This move also served as a catalyst to the development of the firm's innovative MT#Divisions business lines – MT#3, MT#Align, MT#i plus, MT#Ventures and MT#Version – all of which are crucial to answering the needs of clients in the rapidly changing and interconnected business sphere. Additionally, in order to better serve the firm's clients with their cross-border objectives, Dave spearheaded the opening of our New York office in May 2017.

A testament to Dave's commitment to driving a firm culture of innovating to better serve our clients, he was named Most Innovative Canadian CEO and McCarthy Tétrault won Most Innovative Law Firm in Canada at the *Financial Times* Most Innovative Lawyers Awards.

Under Dave's strategic guidance, McCarthy Tétrault has built a reputation in the market as an industry-leading law firm which evolves with the pace of business, is known for attracting top talent, and for its innovative and inclusive culture. Recognizing these key attributes, the firm was the only law firm listed in the Report on Business Top 25 Best B2B Brands by *The Globe and Mail* in 2021.

## Visionary leadership founded on integrity and inclusiveness

Overseeing almost 600 lawyers and operations in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, Montréal, Québec City, New York and London (UK), Dave has made it a priority to incorporate the perspectives, experiences and insights of people across the firm to build a cohesive plan for the future of the business.

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Dave is a vocal advocate for diversity and inclusion and is particularly passionate about removing the barriers which have historically prevented women from advancing in traditional law firms. Dave's vision for ensuring that diversity, inclusion and social responsibility inform every aspect of who we are as a firm and how we do business has helped lead to McCarthy Tétrault earning back-to-back Diversity Initiative of the Year honours at the Canadian Law Awards. In 2020, the firm's industry-leading Inclusion Now program was recognized and in 2021, McCarthy Tétrault's Anti-Racism Strategy earned the award. Dedicated to diversity, inclusion and corporate social responsibility, Inclusion Now was founded and achieved tremendous results under Dave's leadership. It is the first-of-its-kind in the Canadian legal profession. In addition, Dave was recognized as Senior Executive of the Year (Eastern Region) by the Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion in 2019.

Dave is an active member of the United Way's Campaign Cabinet. As part of the firm's Inclusion Now program, Dave spearheaded the firm's commitment to donate \$5 million to United Way Centraide, over 5 years, to support United Way's efforts to ensure that background and circumstance are not barriers to opportunity.

Dave received his LLB from the University of Western Ontario in 1992 and was called to the Ontario bar in 1994. Dave practised in our litigation group, representing a wide range of clients. In 2012 he was appointed National Practice Group Leader for litigation before assuming the role of CEO in 2016.

## Awards & Rankings

### Canadian Law Awards - 2021

Managing Partner of the Year

### Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion - 2019

Senior Executive of the Year (Eastern Region)

## Recent Insights

- **Vaccines as a Catalyst for Transformation — Business Lessons Learned from Moderna Canada**  
July 06, 2021
- **ESG and Beyond: Strengthening Sustainable Capitalism in a Time of Upheaval**  
March 11, 2021
- **United Way 2019 Local Leaders List**  
November 11, 2019

## Events

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- **The Rise of Antisemitism in Canada**  
November 03, 2021
- **Vaccines as a Catalyst for Transformation - Business Lessons Learned From Moderna Canada**  
June 22, 2021
- **International Women's Day #ChooseToChallenge Panel**  
March 11, 2021