



Awanish Sinha

Partner Co-Lead | Public Sector

Toronto

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t. +1 416-601-8030

Bar Admission

Ontario 2001

Law School

McGill University

Industries

Public Sector

Infrastructure

Energy & Resources

Power

Cannabis

Gambling, Sports Betting, and Casinos

Practices

Litigation and Dispute Resolution

Public Law

Procurement

Strategic Issues

ESG and Sustainability

Awi solves problems.

Awi Sinha is a partner in our Toronto office. He advises major enterprises in extraordinary, high-stakes situations.

He has unique experience executing legal strategy to maximize results and reduce risk when dealing with social disruptions, political controversies, crises and scandals. Awi approaches often unprecedented legal issues with matrix thinking – multi-dimensional analysis of the special cross-pressures on legal decision making in novel circumstances. Leaders value Awi’s ability to see around corners, separate knowledge from noise and provide practical advice during uncertain times.

In 2023, Canadian Lawyer magazine named Awi to its Top 25 Most Influential Lawyers as one of the country’s five most influential lawyers in the Business category. He is also Lexpert-ranked in Commercial Litigation and Infrastructure.

He has had an outsized impact on the evolution of law over the last decade.

— CANADIAN LAWYER

Special Advisory

Some examples of Awi’s mandates are below:

Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment (MLSE) re: COVID-era “Return-to-Play” –

The first phase of the COVID pandemic was one of intense and extreme regulatory reform in real time. Awi acted for MLSE in its processes with all levels of governments and commercial partners for development of a COVID-safe strategy for the iterative return to play of the National Hockey League (NHL), the National Basketball Association (NBA) and Major League Soccer (MLS) in Canada. Awi advised on MLSE’s winning bid to the host the 2020 NHL “Playoffs Bubble” in Toronto and on the successful relocation from Tampa Bay to Canada of the Toronto Raptors after a COVID season in

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exile.

Canadian Universities re: Middle East Tensions – Awi acts as a special advisor to a number of Canadian universities dealing with a myriad of conduct controversies, security issues and academic freedom concerns arising from actions of students, faculty and campus groups regarding Middle East tensions.

Cadillac Fairview (CF) re: Freedom Convoy – When the “Freedom Convoy” parked trucks and created encampments in downtown Ottawa, the continued closure of CF Rideau Centre became a symbolic flashpoint for a national discussion on the convoy. Awi acted as special counsel for CF to coordinate with public authorities on legal strategy and practical situation management. The mandate included government relations, civil claim strategies and collaboration on an injunction application by the City of Ottawa to achieve a safe, strategic plan for reopening without any incidents.

Siemens Canada re: Nord Stream Pipeline – Awi helped the global industrial leader manage the extraordinary circumstance of holding a piece of critical European pipeline infrastructure frozen in a Canadian service dock by Canadian war sanctions and coordinating with the international diplomatic process to ensure European energy security.

Dentists of Canada – Awi acted as special counsel to a collective of national and provincial dental organizations to consult, collaborate and contribute to the new federal Canada Dental Plan.

Political law

Awi has a leading practice in lobbying law, elections law and political ethics. He advises major corporations and senior political figures on compliance strategies and acts for them in parliamentary commissioner investigations and parliamentary committee hearings. His mandates are confidential.

Crisis Law

Awi has elite experience as special counsel for enterprises facing high-stakes reputational risk, atypical threats and sensitive executive conduct

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matters. He has worked in concert with and is preferred counsel for the leading public communications and corporate issues management consultants in Canada. His mandates are confidential.

Community Champion

Awi serves as McCarthy Tétrault's ambassador to Legal Leaders in Diversity and is a prominent voice on diversity and inclusion issues in the Canadian business community.

Awi serves on the board of directors of the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF).

Awi is a former director of the Tim Horton's Foundation and the Canadian Club (Toronto).

Awards & Rankings

Canadian Lawyer's Top 25 Most Influential Lawyers in Canada - 2023

Business

Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory

Leading Lawyer: Litigation - Corporate Commercial

Lexpert Special Edition: Infrastructure

Leading Lawyer

South Asian Bar Association - 2014

Legal Excellence Award

Recent Experience

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- **National Bank of Canada enters into a definitive agreement to acquire Canadian Western Bank for approximately C\$5B**

June 11, 2024

- **Infrastructure Ontario and Metrolinx select Scarborough Transit Connect as development phase contractor for Scarborough Subway extension**

November 30, 2022

Recent Insights

- **Key Takeaways: The Impact of the U.S. Presidential Election on Canadian Business - Part 2**

November 5, 2024

- **Doing Business in Canada: Updated edition now available**

November 9, 2023

- **What you need to know before you contribute or attend fundraisers during the Ontario municipal elections**

October 20, 2022

- **What you need to know before you advertise as a third party during the municipal elections in Ontario**

October 20, 2022

Events

- **Health & Sciences Seminar Series**

June 12, 2024

- **The Reckoning of Roe v. Wade - In Conversation with Alexia D. Korberg, Co-Counsel to Jackson Women's Health Clinic before the Supreme Court of the United States in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health**

May 26, 2022

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- **Federal Budget 2022: Impacts & Implications for Doing Business in
Canada**

April 13, 2022

- **12th Annual National Retail and Consumer Markets Summit**

February 23, 2022