



Kevin Wright

Partner

CHAIR, CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL TRADE, REGULATORY AND GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS GROUP

kevin.wright@dlapiper.com

Vancouver

T: +1 604 643 6461

F: +1 604 605 3577

Kevin Wright is an experienced competition law and class action defence lawyer.

In his 25 year career, he has covered all aspects of competition law from complex international and national cartel (price fixing) investigations and defence of criminal charges: merger clearance, abuse of dominance investigations, advice on marketing and distribution practices and compliance programs. He has acted in two of the six fully litigated merger cases before the Competition Tribunal, including an appearance in the Supreme Court of Canada and the successful defence of vendors against the proposed dissolution of a merger. While on a secondment early in his career, he was involved in significant merger cases before the European Commission and in the United States.

Kevin has been lead counsel in the defence of over 30 class actions across the country. His class action experience covers a variety of industries, including automotive, technology, manufacturing, electronics, transportation services, food and petroleum.

He has acted in other regulatory proceedings and civil litigation including intellectual property disputes, and appearances before regulatory agencies and a utilities commission.

Kevin has been an active member of the Canadian Bar Association National Competition Law Section throughout his career. He currently serves as a Vice-Chair of its International Committee. He has served in the past as Chair of its Legislation and Policy, Economics and Law, Mergers and Criminal Matters Committees.

He has spoken and lectured on competition law, class actions and intellectual property law to professional and business audiences on various occasions.

For eight years, Kevin has been an adjunct professor at the University of British Columbia Faculty of Law where he teaches competition law.

RELATED SERVICES

- Antitrust and Competition
- Intellectual Property and Technology
- Litigation, Arbitration and Investigations
- Regulatory and Administrative Law

LANGUAGES SPOKEN

English

LANGUAGES SPOKEN

- English

EXPERIENCE

-
- Defence counsel in many class actions involving alleged anticompetitive conduct, including in respect of Automobile Parts, Ocean Shipping Services, Bearings, Optical Disc Drives, Ramen Noodles, Capacitors, Resistors, Lithium Ion Batteries, Diesel Engine Emissions, DRAM, SRAM, Flash Memory, Smart Card Chips
 - Defence counsel in class actions involving allegations of copyright infringement, breach of fuel supply contracts, and improper collection of excise taxes
 - Counsel to the Vendor Respondents before the Competition Tribunal in CCS/Tervita merger case
 - Counsel to the Competition Bureau in the Southam Newspapers merger case (including appearance before the Supreme Court of Canada)
 - Appearance before the British Columbia Utilities Commission Inquiry into Gasoline and Diesel Prices in British Columbia
 - Acted for Autopro Automation Consultants Ltd. in three-party acquisition transaction with Universal mCloud Corp. and Fulcrum Automation Technologies.
 - Acted for CDW Canada Corp. in its acquisition of Scalar Decisions Inc., a leading technology solutions provider in Canada
 - Acted for [Sumitomo Metal Mining Co., Ltd. and Sumitomo Corporation in the September 2018 acquisition of the Pogo Gold Mine in Alaska by Northern Star Resources for US\\$260 million](#)
 - Advised Nippon Paper Industries Co., Ltd., Marubeni Corporation and Daishowa North America Corporation in the \$465 million acquisition of Daishowa-Marubeni International Ltd. by Mercer International Inc.
 - Defence of patent infringement litigation involving oil and gas drilling operations, safety-system devices, sawmills, and helicopter logging

CREDENTIALS

Admissions

- British Columbia, 1994

Recognitions

- *Canadian Legal Lexpert® Directory* (Competition Law), 2010-2020
- *Chambers Canada* (Competition/Antitrust), 2016-2021
- *Chambers Global* (Competition Law), 2015; (Competition and Antitrust), 2018-2021
- *The Legal 500 Canada* (Competition and Antitrust), 2016-2021; (Dispute Resolution), 2018-2019
- *Best Lawyers in Canada* (Competition / Antitrust Law), 2021
- *Expert Guides: Guide to Competition and Antitrust*, 2014
- *The International Who's Who of Business Lawyers* (Competition Lawyers & Economists), 2013-2017
- *Lexpert® Guide to the Leading US/Canada Cross-border Litigation Lawyers in Canada*, Competition Law, 2012, 2014, 2017
- *Lexpert Canada's Leading Litigation Lawyers*, 2020
- *Who's Who Legal Canada - Competition*, 2016-2018
- *Who's Who Legal Competition: Lawyers*, 2016-2020

Education

- J.D., (Honours), University of Toronto, 1993
- B.A., (Honours), University of Western Ontario, 1990

Memberships

- Member, Law Society of British Columbia

- Member, Canadian Bar Association, Competition Law, Administrative Law and Civil Litigation Subsections
- (Current) Vice-Chair, International Committee, Canadian Bar Association National Competition Law Section
- Past Chair, Economics and Law Committee, Canadian Bar Association National Competition Law Section
- Past Chair, Mergers Committee, Canadian Bar Association National Competition Law Section
- Past Chair, Criminal Matters Committee, Canadian Bar Association National Competition Law Section
- Past Chair, Legislation and Policy Committee, Canadian Bar Association National Competition Law Section

Other Activities

- Adjunct Professor, University of British Columbia Faculty of Law, 2011-2020
- Lecturer, British Columbia Institute of Technology, New Media Course, 2010

INSIGHTS

Publications

Not quite business as usual: Canadian Competition Bureau on merger control and competitor collaborations and enforcement amid COVID-19

14 APR 2020

Antitrust and Competition: Novel Issues in a Post-Coronavirus World

Competition agencies worldwide have grappled with two types of questions arising out of COVID-19:

- How does the pandemic affect the agency's ability to review mergers and other conduct?
- Should enforcement of competitor collaborations, pricing and other conduct be less rigorous (i.e. because urgent cooperation is required) – or stricter (i.e. guarding against opportunism)?

Coronavirus COVID-19 and the extension of the Consortia Block Exemption Regulation

30 March 2020

Antitrust and Competition: Novel Issues in a Post-Coronavirus World

The European Commission has decided to prolong the block exemption for liner shipping consortia.

In line with its proposal, the Commission announced on Tuesday 24 March a second extension of Regulation 906/2009, known as the Consortia Block Exemption Regulation (CBER),¹ until 25 April 2024.²

We have provided further details and some hints as to how this will play out in the current coronavirus COVID-19 crisis.

The Supreme Court of Canada “levels” class certification

30 SEP 2019

Class actions are often complex: thousands if not millions of putative class members may unite, seeking millions if not billions of dollars. With so much at stake, there is often a fierce initial battle at the class certification stage over whether the diverse individual claims are sufficiently common to proceed together.

-
- Co-author, "The Supreme Court of Canada 'Levels' Class Certification," *Class Action Defence Quarterly*, Vol 14, No. 2, December 2019 [Reprinted by permission of LexisNexis Canada Inc., from the Class Action Defence Quarterly Edited by Eliot N. Kolers, Copyright 2019]
 - Co-author, "On the 'Level' After Godfrey: Proving Liability in Canadian Price Fixing Class Actions," *Class Action Defence Quarterly*, Vol 12, No. 2, December 2017 [Reprinted by permission of LexisNexis Canada Inc., from the Class Action Defence Quarterly Edited by Eliot N. Kolers, Copyright 2017]
 - Chapter author, *Fundamentals of Canadian Competition Law* (1st, 2nd and 3rd editions)

NEWS

DLA Piper (Canada) LLP recognized by *Chambers Global 2021*

19 February 2021

DLA Piper (Canada) LLP and nine of its practitioners have been recognized in the 2021 edition of *Chambers Global*.

DLA Piper (Canada) LLP recognized in the 2021 edition of the *Legal 500 Canada*

13 November 2020

DLA Piper (Canada) LLP and its lawyers have been recognized as industry leaders across multiple practice areas in the latest edition of the *Legal 500 Canada*.

DLA Piper (Canada) LLP joins Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Ontario Premier Doug Ford in congratulating Sumitomo Metal Mining on official ground-breaking for Côté Gold Project

15 September 2020

DLA Piper (Canada) LLP congratulates our valued client, Sumitomo Metal Mining Co., Ltd., together with its joint venture partner, IAMGOLD Corporation, on the occasion of the official ground-breaking ceremony at the Côté Gold Project.

DLA Piper (Canada) LLP recognized by *Chambers Canada 2021*

10 September 2020

DLA Piper (Canada) LLP is pleased to see 25 of our lawyers recognized across 16 practice areas in the 2021 edition of *Chambers Canada*.

DLA Piper Canada increases rankings in 2021 edition of *Best Lawyers in Canada*

28 AUG 2020

DLA Piper (Canada) LLP is pleased to see 79 of our lawyers across 35 practice areas recognized in the 2021 *Best Lawyers in Canada* guide, resulting in our best showing with the guide since its inception.

DLA Piper (Canada) LLP increases rankings in the 2020 *Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory*

24 APR 2020

DLA Piper (Canada) LLP is pleased to announce that we have significantly increased the number of lawyers ranked as leading practitioners in the 2020 edition of the Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory.

DLA Piper (Canada) LLP recognized by *Chambers Global 2020*

20 FEB 2020

DLA Piper (Canada) LLP and nine of its practitioners have been recognized in the 2020 edition of *Chambers Global*.

DLA Piper (Canada) LLP recommended in the 2020 edition of the *Legal 500 Canada*

14 NOV 2019

DLA Piper (Canada) LLP has been recommended across a broad range of practice areas in the latest edition of the *Legal 500 Canada*.

DLA Piper (Canada) LLP recognized by *Chambers Canada 2020*

20 Sep 2019

DLA Piper (Canada) LLP is pleased to be recognized as an industry leader in the 2020 edition of *Chambers Canada*.

DLA Piper (Canada) LLP acted for Autopro Automation Consultants Ltd. in completion of acquisition by Universal mCloud Corp.

17 JUL 2019

DLA Piper (Canada) LLP acted for Autopro Automation Consultants Ltd. in completion of its acquisition by Universal mCloud Corp. in a three party transaction also involving Fulcrum Automation Technologies Ltd.

DLA Piper (Canada) LLP acting for Autopro Automation Consultants Ltd. in three-party transaction with Universal mCloud Corp. and Fulcrum Automation Technologies

26 APR 2019

Universal mCloud Corp., Fulcrum Automation Technologies and Autopro Automation Consultants Ltd. have announced the signing of letters of intent for a transaction under which Autopro and Fulcrum will be acquired by mCloud for consideration of cash and shares. DLA Piper Canada is acting on behalf of Autopro in this three-party transaction.
