



## Graeme A. Hamilton

Partner and National Leader, White Collar Criminal Defence & Corporate Investigations Focus Group

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[White Collar Criminal Defence and Corporate Investigations](#)

[International Trade & Investment](#)

[Administrative and Public Law](#)

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Graeme leads BLG's White Collar Criminal Defence and Corporate Investigations and International Trade and Investment focus groups. He is a very experienced trial and appellate advocate in the areas of white collar criminal defence, international trade and investment law, and public law.

Graeme is widely recognized as one of Canada's leading white collar criminal defence practitioners. He has been counsel in several of the most notable white collar and regulatory investigations and prosecutions in recent Canadian history, defending corporations and individuals in landmark cases involving allegations of bribery and corruption, tax evasion, anti-money laundering and securities law violations. In addition, Graeme is frequently retained by companies to conduct internal investigations and instructed in related civil litigation.

Graeme additionally specializes in international trade law, where his practice encompasses litigation, investigations, transactional advice and compliance advice in regard to economic sanctions, export controls, customs laws, trade remedies, and anti-corruption laws. Graeme regularly acts for Canadian and multinational companies in litigation before the Federal Court and the Canadian International Trade Tribunal; in audits, inspections and administrative proceedings conducted by the Canada Border Services Agency; and with respect to trade law issues implicated in domestic and cross-border transactions.

Graeme also has substantial and varied public law experience. He represents and advises public sector organizations, professional regulatory bodies and private sector clients on a range of administrative and

constitutional law issues, and has appeared before numerous administrative tribunals and on judicial reviews before the provincial superior courts and the Federal Court. His notable cases include precedent-setting matters concerning freedom of the press, the open court principle, the application of the Charter to regulatory investigations, and the scope and limits of judicial oversight over administrative bodies.

Graeme taught Trial Advocacy at the University of Toronto Faculty of Law for several years. He also previously taught Evidence at Osgoode Hall Law School as an adjunct professor. In addition, Graeme has testified as an expert witness on criminal and constitutional law issues before the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs on multiple occasions.

## Experience

- **White Collar Criminal Defence**
  - Confidential client – counsel to cryptocurrency payment gateway in Federal Court appeal of administrative monetary penalties imposed by FINTRAC for alleged violations of the *Proceeds of Crime (Money Laundering) and Terrorist Financing Act*.
  - Counsel to Amazon in Commissioner of Competition’s appeal to Federal Court of Appeal of lower court’s refusal to grant production order in “online reviews” inquiry under deceptive marketing provisions of the *Competition Act*.
  - Counsel to commercial mortgage firm in Lavallée application arising out of the execution of search warrants in Revenu Québec tax evasion investigation.
  - [\*Binance Holdings Limited v. Ontario Securities Commission\*](#) – counsel to Binance Holdings Limited in successful challenge to investigative summons as overbroad and violative of section 8 of the Charter.
  - Counsel to an individual in a high-profile prosecution for alleged tax evasion arising out of the *Panama Papers*.
  - Successful defence of multinational aerospace company facing charges in relation to a workplace critical injury.
  - Counsel to audit committee of a public company in internal investigation into certain related-party transactions.
  - [\*R. v. Barra\*](#) – successful defence of an individual prosecuted under the *Corruption of Foreign Public Officials Act* in landmark bribery prosecution.
- **International Trade and Investment Law**
  - Counsel to Whirlpool Canada LP in appeal to Canadian International Trade Tribunal concerning tariff classification of washers and dryers.
  - Counsel to construction company in successful challenge to imposition of \$52 million in anti-dumping and countervailing duties, interest and taxes on imported steel products.
  - Counsel to online retailer in low value courier shipment audit under the *Customs Act*.
  - Counsel to electronics company in internal investigation and voluntary disclosure to the Canada Border Services Agency regarding *Customs Act* non-compliance.
  - Advised numerous companies on compliance with economic sanctions imposed under the *Special Economic Measures Act* and the *Justice for Victims of Corrupt Foreign Officials Act*.
  - Successful defence of wholesale food distributor in prosecution under the *Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act*.
  - Represented individual founders of a technology company in internal investigation into alleged economic sanctions violations.
  - Advised numerous companies on blocking measures in relation to Cuba.
- **Public Law**

- [Reference re iGaming Ontario](#) – counsel to NSUS in reference to Ontario Court of Appeal concerning the legality of Ontario’s proposed model for online gaming and sports betting.
- [Heidelberg Materials Canada Limited v. Toronto Port Authority \(PortsToronto\)](#) – counsel to heavy building materials company in Federal Court judicial review of a decision of the Minister of Transport under the *Canadian Navigable Waters Act*.
- *Commisso v. Department of Justice* – counsel to York Regional Police Services Board in successful challenge to Charter application based on doctrine of prematurity.
- [P1 v. XYZ School](#) – counsel in precedent-setting case concerning media’s ability to challenge interlocutory publication ban and balancing of open court principle against privacy of minors.
- Counsel to a multinational company in an investigation by the Office of the Integrity Commissioner of Ontario into alleged violations of the *Lobbyists Registration Act*.
- [Ontario \(Attorney General\) v. Bogaerts](#) - counsel to the Canadian Civil Liberties Association as intervener in a section 7 challenge to animal welfare legislation.

## Insights & Events

- Author, "A big win for Ontario: Court of Appeal decision allows international “pooled liquidity” in online gaming", BLG Article, November 2025
- Tariffs and Trade Resource Centre, BLG Perspective, August 2025
- Author, "Reprieve or escalation? “Reciprocal” and automobile-specific tariffs", BLG Article, April 2025
- Author, "Canada-U.S. tariff war resumes", BLG Article, March 2025
- Co-Author, 'Managing the intersection of export controls and economic sanctions: Implications for legal and compliance teams and best practises for strengthening cross-departmental coordination', Journal of Financial Compliance, March 2025
- Author, "Thriving amid tariff shifts", BLG Article, February 2025
- Author, "Canada tariffs on Chinese EVs, steel and aluminum: Feds introduce remissions request process to ease transition", BLG Article, October 2024
- Author, "No taxation without presentations: Canada to launch public consultations on possible tariff hikes on Chinese EVs", BLG Article, June 2024
- Author, "Punishing the crime, not the process: key considerations when investigating and reporting white-collar crime", BLG Article, November 2023
- Author, "Canada considers amendments to sanctions regime targeting Russia", BLG Article, February 2022
- Author, "Effective advocacy in investigations", BLG Article, July 2021
- Author, "Investigation and enforcement powers under Ontario’s new “stay-at-home” order", BLG Article, January 2021
- Author, "Adapting U.S. compliance programs to incorporate Canada’s foreign corruption law", BLG Article, December 2020
- Coffee Break with BLG: Session 2, BLG Video, October 2020
- Author, "Corporate communications with government in the pandemic: Maintaining compliance with lobbying laws", BLG Article, April 2020
- Author, "Coronavirus and criminal law: What you need to know ", BLG Article, March 2020
- Author, "Remediation agreement guideline for Canadian prosecutors", BLG Article, February 2020
- Co-Author, "[Multinational Companies Overlook Canada’s Foreign Corruption Law at their Peril.](#)" Global Investigations Review, January 2020
- Speaker, “Extradition and Red Notices: The Long Arm of the Law is Getting Longer”, American Bar Association Third Global White Collar Crime Institute, June 2019.

- Co-Author, "Civil Enforcement of Canada's Foreign Corruption Law?", FCPA Professor Blog, January 18, 2019.
- Author, "Anti-Money Laundering And Fraud In Canada", BLG Article, January 2019
- [Co-author, "Civil Enforcement of Canada's Foreign Corruption Law?" FCPA Professor, January 2019](#)
- Co-author, "Canada" chapter, The Practitioner's Guide to Global Investigations, Third Ed., Global Investigations Review, 2019
- Co-author, "Supreme Court Clarifies Process for Challenging Production Orders," BLG Bulletin, December 2018
- Author, "Deferred Prosecution Agreements are Coming to Canada", BLG Article, September 2018

## Beyond Our Walls

### Professional Involvement

- Member, Advocates' Society
- Member, Criminal Lawyers' Association
- Member, American Bar Association, Criminal Justice Section
- Member, International Bar Association
- Teaching Advisor, Trial Advocacy, University of Toronto Faculty of Law, 2018-2021

## Awards & Recognition

- Recognized in the 2026 edition (and since 2020) of *Chambers Canada – Canada's Leading Lawyers for Business* (White-Collar Crime & Government Investigations (Nationwide - Canada)).
- Recognized in the 2026 edition (and since 2025) of *The Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory* (White Collar Defence & Investigations).
- Recognized in the 2025 edition (and since 2021) of *Benchmark Canada – The Definitive Guide to Canada's Leading Litigation Firms & Attorneys* as a Litigation Star.
- Recognized in the 2025 edition (and since 2022) of *Lexology Index* (previously *Who's Who Legal*) for Business Crime Defence.
- Recognized in the 2020 edition (and since 2018) of the *Benchmark Canada 40 and Under Hotlist*.
- Recognized in the 2020 edition (and since 2018) of *Benchmark Canada - The Definitive Guide to Canada's Leading Litigation Firms & Attorneys* as a Future Star.

## Bar Admission & Education

- Ontario, 2009
- LLM, Harvard Law School, 2010
- JD, University of Toronto, 2008
- MA in Economics, University of Toronto, 2008
- BSc in Mathematics and Engineering, Queen's University, 2003



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