



Eric S. Charleston

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Eric is a cybersecurity lawyer who helps clients with every aspect of cybersecurity compliance, including overcoming cyber incidents such as ransomware, data breach and business email compromise.

He brings a results-driven, big-picture perspective to incident response, ensuring that no time is wasted, tasks are appropriately prioritized, legal privilege is preserved, and the client's core constituencies are protected.

Eric routinely advises clients on complex cross-border incidents and liaises with federal, provincial and sectoral regulators in Canada and abroad. He has overseen national and international breach notification campaigns, all while minimizing brand impact whenever possible.

Eric also prepares clients, pre-breach, for cybersecurity incidents. He advises clients on their data practices, including collection, retention, destruction and mapping. He prepares client-specific incident response plans, evaluates cyber hygiene and conducts preparedness exercises, including attack simulation.

Eric regularly provides transactional advice regarding cyber and privacy risk. He has worked with clients in virtually every sector of the Canadian economy, including public, private, not-for-profit, energy, finance, insurance, education, healthcare, retail, technology, and professional service firms.

He is a certified information privacy professional (CIPP/C), with extensive knowledge of Canada's evolving privacy law landscape.

Eric is also a cyber insurance expert, and has represented insurers on some of Canada's largest cyber claims.

Experience

- Canadian engineering firm on complex ransomware attack, including notification to federal and provincial regulators and impacted individuals.
- North American retailer on complex data theft, including notification to Canadian, American and Mexican regulators and impacted individuals.
- Canadian university on complex ransomware attack, including notification to ministry and provincial regulators.
- Canadian investment dealer on business email compromise, including notification to regulators and individuals.
- Coverage counsel to numerous insurers on cyber insurance claims, including some of the largest in Canada's history.

Insights & Events

- Author, "No need for access, theft or disclosure: encryption of data is notifiable under PHIPA and CYFSA", BLG Article, September 2025
- Author, "Year 2024 in review and trends for 2025: Major developments in cybersecurity and personal information protection", BLG Article, January 2025
- Author, "Bill 194 - The new Enhancing Digital Security and Trust Act, 2024 and changes to Ontario's Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act", BLG Article, May 2024
- Thought Starters, BLG Perspective, September 2023
- Author, "Province releases cyber incident response standard for Ontario school boards", BLG Article, April 2023
- Author, "Ransomware attacks – Tips from the trenches", BLG Article, April 2023
- Author, "Cyber incidents: the role of legal counsel and the first 24 hours ", BLG Article, January 2023
- Author, "Ontario Court of Appeal rules against plaintiffs in trilogy of privacy class actions", BLG Article, December 2022
- 3 steps to lower your cyber liability insurance cost, BLG Video, September 2022
- Cyber attack insurance: Will your business interruption claim for labour costs be covered?, BLG Video, September 2022
- Cyber liability insurance exclusions: Is this upgrade covered?, BLG Video, September 2022
- Author, "Business interruption and cyber insurance: What's covered after a cyber attack?", BLG Article, September 2022
- Author, "Cyber insurance exclusions: 4 examples of upgrades a policy may not cover after a breach", BLG Article, September 2022
- Author, "How to lower your cyber insurance costs: 3 key steps", BLG Article, September 2022
- Author, "OSFI's new Guideline B-13 – Managing technology and cyber risks", BLG Article, August 2022
- Author, "An update on new Québec confidentiality incidents and record-keeping requirements", BLG Article, July 2022
- Author, "Canada's Consumer Privacy Protection Act (Bill C-27): Impact for businesses", BLG Article, June 2022
- Author, "The cyber incident response plan: The power is in the process", BLG Article, May 2022
- Author, "Mind your spreadsheets: Tips to improve your data governance before an incident", BLG Article, May 2022
- Author, "Cyber hygiene checklist: Tick these boxes to lower your cybersecurity risk and insurance costs", BLG Article, February 2022

- Author, "Healthcare cyber attacks: Lessons for Canada from Ireland's HSE attack", BLG Article, January 2022
- Business insurance trends, Part 3: Cyber insurance, smart equipment, shipping and a plug for insurance reviews, BLG Perspective, December 2021

Beyond Our Walls

Professional Involvement

- Canadian Advisory Board, International Association of Privacy Professionals
- Member, Law Society of Ontario

Awards & Recognition

- Recognized in the 2026 edition of *Chambers Canada* (Privacy & Data Protection (Nationwide - Canada))
- Recognized in the 2025 edition (and since 2023) of *The Canadian Legal Lexpert® Directory* (Data Protection & Privacy)
- Recognized in the 2025 edition (and since 2023) of *Lexpert Special Edition: Technology*.
- Recognized in the 2024 edition (and since 2023) of *Lexpert Special Edition: Health Sciences*

Bar Admission & Education

- Ontario, 2019
- New York, 2009 (inactive)
- JD, Georgetown University Law Center, 2008
- BFA, Syracuse University, 2002
- Fellow, Loyola University Institute of Politics, 2014

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As the largest, truly full-service Canadian law firm, Borden Ladner Gervais LLP (BLG) delivers practical legal advice for domestic and international clients across more practices and industries than any Canadian firm. With over 800 lawyers, intellectual property agents and other professionals, BLG serves the legal needs of businesses and institutions across Canada and beyond – from M&A and capital markets, to disputes, financing, and trademark & patent registration.

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