



## Jeffrey S. Thomas

Partner

T 604.640.4203  
F 604.687.1415  
Vancouver  
[JSThomas@blg.com](mailto:JSThomas@blg.com)  
[LinkedIn](#)

[International Trade & Investment](#)  
[Competition/Antitrust and Foreign Investment](#)  
[Public Policy & Government Relations](#)  
[Corporate Commercial](#)  
[BLG Beyond Business Immigration](#)

Jeffrey has extensive experience providing legal advice in the context of large, complex, multi-party negotiations, as well as within international trade, competition law and investment law. His practice focuses in these areas, with particular emphasis in the following:

- state-to-state negotiations and dispute settlement
- trade policy
- domestic trade laws and economic and trade sanctions
- all manner of issues arising under the Competition Act

Jeffrey's practice also extends to other areas of international trade law and Investment, such as:

- international employee transfers
- in-bound and out-bound foreign investment
- Japan-related business transactions
- government relations

Additionally, Jeffrey also has a robust corporate law practice.

## Experience

- Extensive experience in advising clients engaged in or affected by large complex multi-party international and domestic negotiations, particularly trade negotiations, including NAFTA, the WTO, the Canada-EU CETA, the AIT, the CFTA, the TILMA and the NWPTA.
- Significant involvement in complex state-to-state trade disputes, including those under NAFTA, the WTO, the AIT, the TILMA and the NWPTA.
- Experience in all areas of Canadian domestic law applicable to the trade of goods, services and technology, including trade remedies, customs laws, economic and trade sanctions, and foreign anti-corruption laws.
- Experience providing trade policy advice to governmental clients respecting their international and domestic obligations.
- Extensive experience in providing advice in all areas of Canada's *Competition Act*, including, in particular, pre-merger notification and merger clearance.
- Extensive experience in the areas of foreign investment into Canada, including advice relating to the *Investment Canada Act* and all manner of international law concerning foreign investment.
- Extensive experience in all immigration-related aspects of international employee and executive movements.
- Active in all manner of government relations-related activities at the provincial and federal levels.

## Insights & Events

- Tariffs and Trade Resource Centre, BLG Perspective, April 2025
- Author, "Thriving amid tariff shifts", BLG Article, February 2025
- Author, "The federal government is finally creating a foreign influence registry — Are you ready?", BLG Article, May 2024
- Author, "External pressure: New federal foreign influence transparency registry likely to be established soon in Canada", BLG Article, July 2023
- Author, "Ratification of The Canada-EU Free Trade Deal: Current Status, Next Steps, and Important Implications for Canadian and EU Companies", BLG Article, February 2017
- Co-Author, *The New Rules of Global Trade: A Guide to the World Trade Organization*, Carswell, 1997.
- Author and Presenter, "Be Afraid, Be Very Afraid: The New Rules for Hiring Foreign Workers," client presentation, October, 2014
- Co-Author, *International Trade & Investment Law in Canada*, Carswell, 1994.

## Beyond our Walls

### Professional Involvement

- Member, Law Society of British Columbia
- Member, Vancouver Bar Association
- Member, Canadian Bar Association
- Member, American Bar Association
- Member, Roster of Dispute Settlement Panellists under the Agreement on Internal Trade, 2004 - 2018
- Roster of Dispute Settlement Panellists under the BC-Alberta Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement, 2006 - present

- Roster of Dispute Settlement Panellists under the New West Partnership Trade Agreement, 2010 - present
- Roster of Dispute Settlement Panellists under the Canadian Free Trade Agreement, 2018 - present
- Roster of Dispute Settlement Panellist under NAFTA Chapter Nineteen, 2017 - 2020
- Roster of Dispute Settlement Panellist under CUSMA Chapter Ten, 2020 - present

## Community Involvement

- Chair, British Columbia Wine Authority (independent regulatory body), 2007 - 2019
- Coach, North Shore Girls Soccer Club, 2008 - 2016

## Awards & Recognitions

- Recognized in the 2025 (and since 2013) editions of *The Canadian Legal Lexpert® Directory* (International Trade Regulation).
- Recognized in 2024 (and since 2023) as a *Thomson Reuters* Stand-out Lawyer
- Recognized in the 2023 (and since 2006) edition of *Best Lawyers in Canada* (Competition/Antitrust Law).
- Recognized in the 2023 edition (and since 2022) of *Who's Who Legal: Canada* (Trade & Customs).
- Recognized in the 2020 edition of *Who's Who Legal Guide to the World's Leading Trade and Customs Lawyers*
- Recognized in the 2017 edition of the *Lexpert® US/Canada Cross-Border Litigation Guide*.
- Recommended in the 2017 edition of the *Legal 500 Canada* (International Trade).
- Recognized in Legal Media Group's *Guide to the World's Leading International Trade Lawyers*.
- Recognized in the 2019 BC Wine Institute (now Wine Growers BC) Wine Industry Recognition Award for outstanding contribution to the BC wine Industry

## Bar Admission & Education

- Newfoundland and Labrador, 2024
- British Columbia, 1990
  
- LLM, University of Toronto, 1989
- LLB, Osgoode Hall Law School, 1988

---

## BLG | Canada's Law Firm

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 725 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.

[blg.com](https://www.blg.com)