



## Chris Bennett

Partner and Co-Lead, Project Development & Finance

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**Toronto**

(416) 862-5992

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Bar Admission: Ontario, 2001

### Areas of Expertise

Major Projects

Defence, Security and Aerospace

Data Centres

Private Equity

Renewable Energy

Banking and Financial Services

Power and Utilities

Energy

Infrastructure

Project Finance

Public Private Partnerships (P3)

Corporate Lending

Financial Services

Procurement

Chris Bennett is a partner in the Financial Services practice group at Osler and co-leads the firm’s national Project Development & Finance practice. Widely recognized as one of the foremost authorities on major projects in Canada, Chris focuses his practice on complex project finance, structured finance, and infrastructure development.

Chris is a market leader in structuring highly innovative, first-of-their-kind financings. He has extensive experience acting for a sophisticated spectrum of clients—including domestic and international lenders, developers, equity sponsors, debt agents and bond underwriters—navigating high-stakes transactions across Canada.

While holding a deep track record in public-private partnerships (P3s), Chris’s practice spans the full range of major asset classes. He routinely advises on complex initiatives across a variety of sectors, including transmission, renewable energy, nuclear power, transportation and transit, social infrastructure, and Canada’s rapidly expanding digital infrastructure networks.

Chris’s market-leading expertise is consistently validated by global legal directories. He is dual Band 1 ranked by *Chambers Canada* in both Project Finance and P3 & Infrastructure, a testament to his reputation as a go-to strategist for Canada’s most significant capital projects. He is also Most Frequently Recommended by *Lexpert* in multiple finance related fields.

A thought leader in his field, Chris has spoken and written extensively on project finance and risk allocation. Since 2007, he has served as an Adjunct Professor at the University of Toronto Faculty of Law, teaching the next generation of legal talent on the law, policy, and dynamics of risk transference in major infrastructure projects.

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## Awards and Recognition

- **Chambers Canada: Canada’s Leading Lawyers for Business:** Recognized in Project Finance (Band 1) and Projects: PPP & Infrastructure (Star Individual); Projects & Energy Lawyer of the Year 2021
- **Chambers Global: The World’s Leading Lawyers for Business:** Recognized in Project Finance (Band 1) and in Projects: PPP & Infrastructure (Star Individual)
  - “[Chris is] one of the most talented lawyers in the market, if not the most talented project finance and infrastructure lawyer in Canada.”
  - “He’s among the best in the space in terms of finance. He’s very articulate and knowledgeable about the documents. He’s a very good advocate for his clients.”
- **The Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory:** Recognized in Project Finance; Infrastructure Law; [Toronto’s leading infrastructure lawyers in 2021](#); [Toronto’s top infrastructure lawyers in 2021](#); Banking & Financial Institutions; Corporate Commercial Law
- **Lexpert’s Leading 500 Cross-Border Lawyers: A Guide to Doing Business in Canada:** Recognized in Banking; Project Finance
- **Best Lawyers in Canada:** Recognized in Banking and Finance Law; Construction Law; Project Finance Law; “Lawyer of the Year”, Project Finance Law (2021); “Lawyer of the Year”, Project Finance Law (2023)
- **The Legal 500:** Recognized in Leading Lawyer in the area of Banking & Finance, Infrastructure & Projects
- **IFLR 1000: The Guide to the World’s Leading Financial Law Firms:** Recognized in Project Finance (Highly Regarded)
- **Who’s Who Legal:** Recognized in Canada – Government Contracts; Project Finance; International – Government Contracts; Project Finance; Canada – Banking
- **Thomson Reuters:** “Stand-out Lawyer”

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## Credentials

### Education

- University of Toronto, LL.B.
  - Queen’s University, B.A. (Hons.)
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## Languages

- English

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## Professional Affiliations

- Canadian Bar Association
- Ontario Bar Association
- Canadian Infrastructure Law Forum, 2016 Steering Committee