OSLER

Tommy Gelbman

Partner, Disputes

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Calgary

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Bar Admission: Alberta, 2007 | British Columbia, 2015 | Ontario, 2024

Areas of Expertise

Tax Disputes

Tax Litigation

Government and Public Sector

Banking and Financial Services

Power and Utilities

Technology

Energy

Mining and Natural Resources

Environmental

Indigenous

Disputes

Environmental Disputes and Enforcement

Privacy and Data Security Disputes

Franchise

Corporate and Commercial Disputes

Tommy litigates complex, high-stakes corporate disputes, predominantly in the natural resources, petrochemical and financial services industries. He has extensive experience in judicial review and appeals of government decision making, civil fraud, class action defence, tax dispute resolution, and disputes arising from M&A transactions, joint ventures and other complex commercial arrangements.

He is a trusted advisor to several significant natural resource development clients in managing their potential dispute risks arising from transactions, joint ventures, government decision-making, regulatory proceedings, and industrial incidents.

Tommy has a proven track record of understanding and advancing clients' corporate interests with a strategic and persistent focus on achieving their objectives, whether in the courts or by way of negotiated resolution. He always manages files with a view to ensuring efficient and cost-effective resolutions to disputes, often under alternative fee arrangements. He skillfully assembles integrated lawyer teams, often drawing from across Osler's offices, to ensure that the proper resources are dedicated to the dispute.

Tommy regularly argues cases in jurisdictions across Canada, in both the provincial superior courts and the federal courts system. Highlights of his most recent work include: representing Primerica in a dispute arising from defamation and breaches of the Competition Act by a third party, representing BBB Industries in a complex civil fraud perpetrated by former employees and others, successfully representing TikTok in the defence of two privacy class proceedings, successfully representing Imperial Oil in a price fixing class proceeding related to gasoline pricing in British Columbia, representing CNOOC Petroleum in a contractual dispute, and representing NaturEner in a post-closing transaction related to windfarms in southern Alberta.

Tommy supports Osler's community involvement activities by sitting as a member of Osler's Pro Bono Committee, taking on regular pro bono files, and volunteering as Civil Claims Duty Counsel at the Calgary Provincial Court.

Awards and Recognition

- **The Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory:** Recognized in Franchise Law – Franchisor
- **Benchmark Litigation Canada:** Recognized in Construction; Dispute Resolution; Securities; Environmental; Commercial; Oil and Gas; Energy (Litigation Star)
- **Best Lawyers in Canada:** Recognized in Appellate Practice

Community Involvement

- Member of Osler's Pro Bono Committee
- Civil Claims Duty Counsel, regular volunteer to assist individuals with limited means with civil litigation matters.
- Represented an individual in a dispute with Alberta Health Services regarding the inappropriate use of personal medical information. Represented the Canadian Civil Liberties Association as an intervenor in the appeal of Pridgen v. University of Calgary. Pridgen v. University of Calgary, 2012 ABCA 139.
- Represented an individual in his capacity as Administrator Ad Litem of his deceased daughter's estate in a leave to appeal application to the Supreme Court of Canada arising from a breach of fiduciary duty claim.

Credentials

Education

- University of Ottawa, LL.L.
- University of Ottawa, LL.B.
- Trinity College, Dublin, M. Phil.
- University of Western Ontario, B.A.

Languages

- English

Professional Affiliations

- Law Society of Alberta
- Law Society of British Columbia
- Law Society of Ontario
- Canadian Bar Association