Blaney McMurtry LLP



John C. Wolf

Partner

P: 416-593-2994 M: 416-722-3439
F: 416-596-2044
JWOLF@BLANEY.COM

ADMITTED TO THE LAW SOCIETY OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1991

CALLED TO THE BAR OF ONTARIO, 1989

EDUCATION

- Arbitration, School of Continuing Legal Studies,University of Toronto, 1993
- LL.M.,International Business Transactions,London School of Economics, 1991
- J.D.,Queen's University, 1987
- B.A.,Queen's University, 1985

PRACTICE AREAS

- Commercial Leasing
- Commercial Litigation

John's practice focuses on serving the needs of a sophisticated group of major institutional, public and private real property clients and entrepreneurs including owners, commercial property advisory services, in house counsel and their asset managers and property managers.

John's role usually emphasizes problem solving what his clients consider to be difficult, sensitive and complex matters with a view to expeditiously and cost effectively achieving targeted business objectives and advancing business interests. This involves:

- Commercial contract interpretation and enforcement, particularly with a litigation emphasis; and
- Crisis, risk and reputational management & strategic advice

John's experience has earned him the respect of a coveted group of top tier real estate professionals who consider him a member of their legal team and a trusted and valued first rate business advisor and strategist whom they look to and rely upon to develop creative interest based resolutions that meet their carefully analyzed business objectives.

John's clients have described him as "a brilliant strategist", "always thinks outside the box to develop strategies other lawyers often

would never think of", "a key strategic advisor on one of Canada's most complex real estate portfolios", as someone who "oozes integrity, humility and wisdom", a "core part of our risk and strategic decision making process" , and "completely trusted" and "invaluable". John's highly-esteemed career earns him many referrals and recommendations from other field-leading practitioners. A 25+ year client recently described him as "an individual that takes pride in his work, takes time to educate his clients and a true top notch professional in his field".

John's experience in commercial, industrial and office lease matters includes: tenancy negotiation, amendment, interpretation and enforcement; monetary default remedies including distraint and collection strategies; non-monetary defaults such as environmental contamination and repair and restoration issues; rights and remedies in Bankruptcy and CCAA restructurings; labour and employment issues, construction liens, provincial offences, and any other matter related to the ownership of real property and commercial contracts. In particular, John has developed considerable expertise assisting clients to manage crises, especially where reputational risk exists.

John's practice has taken him to a variety of Courts and Tribunals. He is also admitted to practice law as a solicitor in England and Wales, and is involved with alumnus of the London School of Economics where he earned a Master of Laws.

John is frequently sought after to speak on commercial tenancy issues at numerous conferences including those hosted by the Law Society of Ontario and ICSC. John is also invited to attend the Georgetown University Law Center's Advanced Commercial Leasing Institute an event which is by invitation only to the most senior commercial tenancy lawyers in the United States and Canada.

John has been requested by his partners to be: the Chairman of the firm's Conflict Committee; the firm's Ethics and Risk Management Committee; the firm's Senior Lateral Recruitment Committee (2014) as well as Chairman of the firm's 2019 Governance Committee. He is a past member of the firm's Executive Committee.

RECOGNITION

- Named as a Thomson Reuters Stand-out Lawyer, 2026
- Named as a Thomson Reuters Stand-out Lawyer, 2025
- Martindale Hubbell Silver Client Champion Award, 2020
- Martindale Hubbell BV rating

MEMBERSHIPS

- Law Society of Ontario
- Law Society of England and Wales
- Ontario Bar Association
- Toronto Lawyers Association
- International Council of Shopping Centres (ICSC)

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

- November 12, 2025
  Ontario Commercial Court Declines the Hudson Bay's Proposed Sale and Forced Assignment of Leases Under Subsection 11.3 of the CCAA: Key Guidance for Landlords

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Director & Secretary, Toronto Ski Club
- Director, PRANCE (Pegasus Riding Academy Nurturing Challenged Equestrians), 2005 to 2008
- Director (and former Vice President), Southampton Residents Association, 2009-2018
- Appointed by the Town of Saugeen Shores to the Adhoc Waterfront Committee to prepare a ten year waterfront renewal plan, April 2011 to September 2013
- Attended as an invited committee member of a committee formed pursuant to the requirements of the Police Services Act, to make recommendations in respect of the development of a 3 Year Business Plan (2011-2013) for the town of Saugeen Shores Police Service, October 27 and 30, 2010
- Former Vice President, Director, Secretary, and a member of the Executive and Finance Committees of the Asthma Society of Canada 1999-2007
- John and his wife Margot have actively supported numerous charities and not for profit groups, including in particular the Centennial Infant Development Centre, the Canadian Cancer Society, the Salvation Army, and the Front Street Association
- John has always been committed to volunteering his time, business experience, and legal background to supporting deserving charities and individuals in need of and deserving pro bono help