



Steven Willard

Partner

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Expertise

Commercial Real Estate

Bar Admissions

Ontario, 1999

A specialist in real estate law, Steven brings a practical and insightful approach to his clients' important transactions.

Steven advises on commercial and industrial real estate sales, purchases, financing and leasing – across Canada and in the United States. He specializes in the review of title issues on real property across Canada. Clients also turn to Steven for guidance on mining and riparian law matters.

Steven is certified by the Law Society of Ontario as a Specialist in Real Estate Law. For many years, he has chaired and spoken at various conferences on title issues.

Prior to being called to the bar of Ontario, Steven was elected Reeve of Amherst Island and subsequently Warden of the United Counties of Lennox and Addington, making him the youngest elected head of a government in Canadian history.

Steven is on the board of directors of Orange Insurance and is the company's president.

REPRESENTATIVE WORK

Red 5 Limited

Acted as Canadian counsel to Red 5 Limited, an Australia-based gold miner, in a merger of equals with Silver Lake Resources, creating a leading mid-tier gold company with a combined value of approximately A\$2.2 billion.

TPG

Acted as counsel to TPG in its acquisition (and related financings) from Oxford Property Group of a 75% interest in two Class-A industrial business parks in the Greater Toronto Area valued at C\$1.3-billion.

Umicore SA

Acted for Umicore SA/NV, a circular materials technology company headquartered in Belgium, in the development and construction of a first-of-its kind EV battery materials manufacturing plant in Loyalist Township, Ontario, that will be 100% fuelled by renewable energy from the start of production. This project won Infrastructure Deal of the Year at the 2024 Canadian Law Awards.

Fengate Asset Management Ltd.

Acted for Fengate Asset Management Ltd. in the C\$50.2-million sale of 60 MW Sault Ste. Marie solar portfolio located in northwestern Ontario to Innergex Renewable Energy Inc.

Fengate Asset Management Ltd.

Acted for Fengate Asset Management Ltd. in the sale of a 75% interest in the 40 MW Grand Valley III wind project in Ontario to Axium Infrastructure.

Resolute Forest Products

DAVIES

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Acted for affiliates of Resolute Forest Products Inc. in their sale of the international bridge linking Fort Frances, Ontario and International Falls, Minnesota to Aazhogan Limited Partnership, a joint venture between Rainy River First Nations and the BMI Group.

Ceská zbrojovka Defense SE

Acted as Canadian counsel for Česká zbrojovka Group SE (CZG), a firearms manufacturer based in the Czech Republic, in its acquisition of 100% of the outstanding equity interest in Colt Holding Company LLC, the parent company of the storied U.S. firearms manufacturer Colt's Manufacturing Company LLC, as well as its Canadian subsidiary, Colt Canada Corporation.

Spruce Partners Inc.

Acting for Spruce Partners Inc. in its formation of a development general partnership with Amico Properties Inc. and Amica Senior Lifestyles Trust and the acquisition by the general partnership of a real estate property in Burlington, Ontario.

Resolute FP Canada Inc.

Acted for Resolute FP Canada Inc., a subsidiary of Resolute Forest Products Inc., in the sale of its pulp and paper mill located in Thorold, Ontario, to Bioveld Canada Inc., a subsidiary of Riversedge Developments Inc.

Alimentation Couche-Tard Inc.

Acting for Alimentation Couche-Tard Inc. in the strategic disposition of its operating gas station sites operating under the banners Circle K and Couche-Tard in prime locations in Ontario and Québec.

RECOGNITIONS

The Canadian Legal Expert Directory—Property Leasing

The Best Lawyers in Canada—Corporate Law

INSIGHTS

Doing Business in Canada 2023, contributor
Nov. 14, 2023

EDUCATION

University of Windsor, LLB, 1997
Queen's University, BA (Honours), 1993

BOARD MEMBERSHIPS

Orange Insurance