



Blakes Means Business



Laura Cundari, FCI Arb

Partner | Vancouver

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About Laura

Laura is an experienced advocate, appearing as lead counsel at all levels of court in Canada, as well as before arbitral and administrative tribunals. She has extensive experience litigating and arbitrating disputes relating to major projects in the energy, mining, construction and infrastructure industries.

Laura has particular expertise in the arbitration of complex disputes and regularly advises clients on all aspects of international and domestic arbitration proceedings, including drafting arbitration clauses, interim orders, hearing processes and the enforcement of arbitral awards.

Select Experience

Major Projects Litigation and Arbitration

- *Acting for Suncor Energy Inc., Imperial Oil Limited, Husky Oil Operations Limited, Cenovus Energy Inc. and Canadian Natural Resources Limited in a successful ruling at the Supreme Court of Canada against B.C. blocking the Trans Mountain expansion project*
- *Acting as arbitration counsel to a major utility corporation in a dispute involving delay and disruption claims in connection with the construction of significant energy infrastructure*
- *Acting as arbitration counsel in a LCIA arbitration involving the sale of mining assets in Mongolia*
- *Advising clients in the finance, retail, mining and aerospace industries on arbitration procedures and drafting arbitration clauses for inclusion in transactional and consumer contracts*
- *Acting as arbitration counsel to a contractor in a dispute regarding the construction of a high voltage transmission line*
- *Assisting clients to efficiently resolve urgent issues such as lien claims, project disruptions and bond claims*

Complex Commercial Litigation and Arbitration

- *Successfully defending a claim brought against a vendor corporation for a C\$17-million brokerage fee arising from the sale of a business following a 43-day trial*
- *Successfully defending class actions brought against major retailers and financial industry participants, including dismissal at the certification stage*
- *Acting as litigation and arbitration counsel in a wide range of shareholder disputes*

Awards & Recognition

Laura has been recognized as a leading lawyer in the following publications:

- *The Best Lawyers in Canada 2020 (Corporate and Commercial Litigation)*
- *Benchmark Canada: The Definitive Guide to Canada's Leading Litigation Firms and Attorneys - 2018 & 2019 Editions (Future Litigation Star - Litigation & Dispute Resolution)*
- *Benchmark Litigation, 40 & Under Hotlist – Canada, 2018 & 2019*

Laura is part of the legal team that has been recognized as “Arbitration Firm of the Year” by Benchmark Litigation in 2018 and 2019.

Professional Activities

Laura is a fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CI Arb) and a director of both the Canada Branch and the Vancouver Chapter of the Canadian Branch of the CI Arb. She is a director of the British Columbia International Commercial Arbitration Centre and an invited member of the Western Canada Commercial Arbitration Society (WCCAS). Laura is also an expert annotator for Quickscribe, a legislative publishing company, in the areas of domestic and international arbitration legislation.

Laura regularly speaks at legal conferences and contributes her time as a guest instructor on topics related to civil procedure. She coaches Allard Law School's Willem C. Vis International Arbitration Moot team, and has been a guest instructor for Allard Law School's Trial Advocacy Course and the Professional Legal Training Course (the Law Society of BC's Bar admission course).

Publications

- *Examination in chief and Re-examination*
The Law of Objections in Canada: A Handbook, LexisNexis Canada, Published November 30, 2019.
- *Canada: International Arbitration*
The Legal 500 & The In-House Lawyer Comparative Legal Guide, (4th ed.), November 2019.
- *What Law is it Anyways? An Overview of the Systems of Law in Arbitration*
Commercial Litigation and Arbitration Review, (2019) 8:3, 29 August 1, 2019.
- ***Court of Appeal Unanimously Rules Against B.C. Blocking Trans Mountain Pipeline*** (<https://www.blakesbusinessclass.com/court-appeal-unanimously-rules-b-c-blocking-trans-mountain-pipeline/>)
Blakes Bulletin on Litigation & Dispute Resolution, May 28, 2019.
- ***B.C. Supreme Court Extends Arbitration Agreement to Non-Signatories*** (<http://www.blakesbusinessclass.com/b-c-supreme-court-extends-arbitration-agreement-to-non-signatories/>)
Blakes Bulletin on Arbitration, November 29, 2017.
- ***Supreme Court Rejects First Nation's Spiritual Objection to Ski Resort*** (<http://www.blakesbusinessclass.com/supreme-court-rejects-first-nations-spiritual-objection-to-ski-resort/>)
Blakes Bulletin on Aboriginal Law, November 3, 2017.
- ***Accessing Justice from Your Smartphone: The Civil Resolution Tribunal*** (<http://www.blakesbusinessclass.com/accessing-justice-from-your-smartphone-the-civil-resolution-tribunal/>)
Blakes Bulletin on Litigation & Dispute Resolution, April 13, 2017.

Professional Appearances

- *Direct Examination Skills Workshop*
The Advocates' Society, Vancouver, British Columbia, November 13, 2019.
- *Tour d'horizon: New Developments in International Arbitration*
ICC Canada International Arbitration Conference, Banff, Alberta, October 18, 2019.
- *From Plan to Action: Building Successful ADR Counsel and Neutral Practices*
The 2019 ADR BC Symposium - The Differences that Unite Us!, ADR Institute of BC, Vancouver, British Columbia, June 11, 2019.
- *The Art of Arbitration*
Blakes Business Class Seminar, Vancouver, British Columbia, November 21, 2017.
- *Aboriginal and Environmental Law 2017: Legal Reforms and Nation to Nation Consultants*
Pacific Business and Law Institute, Vancouver, B.C., October 10-11, 2017.
- *Blakes Annual Aboriginal Law Update*
Blakes Business Class Seminar, Vancouver, B.C., February 23, 2017.

Education

Admitted to the British Columbia Bar - 2008

J.D., University of Victoria - 2007

B.A. (Class 1 Distinction), University of British Columbia - 2004