



Chris Bennett

Partner, Financial Services

Chair: Financial Services

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Toronto

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Bar Admission: Ontario, 2001

Areas of Expertise

- Banking and Financial Services
- Construction and Engineering
- Corporate Lending
- Energy
- Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG)
- Financial Services
- Infrastructure
- Power and Utilities
- Private Equity
- Procurement
- Project Finance
- Public Private Partnerships (P3)
- Renewable Energy

Chris Bennett is Chair of the National Banking and Financial Services practice group at Osler. He also leads the firm’s Project Finance team in Toronto. Chris’ practice focuses on financial services with an emphasis on public-private partnerships, project finance, infrastructure and structured finance.

Chris has extensive experience acting for domestic and international lenders, developers, equity sponsors and other participants in connection with complex P3 and infrastructure transactions and project financings across Canada.

He has led major transactions in a variety of industry sectors and asset classes, including social infrastructure, transportation, electricity and renewable energy. Chris has closed more than 50 P3 projects over his career, and his experience includes a number of innovative, first-of-type public-private partnerships, including the first major healthcare P3 transaction in Canada to reach financial close, the first Canadian domestic monoline wrapped bank financing and the first combined bank-bond transportation project. He has represented all major categories of project finance lenders in the Canadian market, including domestic and foreign banks, private placement investors and bond underwriters. Chris is the only Canadian lawyer to be named as “Star Individual” for Project: PPP and Infrastructure by Chambers Canada.

Chris has spoken and written extensively on matters relating to project finance and public-private partnerships. Chris has been an Adjunct Professor at the University of Toronto Faculty of Law since 2007 where he teaches on the law and policy of public-private partnerships and risk transference between the public and private sectors.

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 Expert 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
- **The Lexpert/American Lawyer Guide to the Leading 500 Lawyers 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”

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