



Chris Barnett

Partner, Municipal, Land Use Planning and Development; Real Estate
Chair: Municipal, Land Use Planning and Development

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Toronto

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Bar Admission: Ontario, 1996

Areas of Expertise

Government and Public Sector

Real Estate

Infrastructure

Regulatory, Indigenous and Environmental

Municipal, Land Use Planning and Development

Commercial Real Estate

Chris practices in the areas of administrative and regulatory law, with a focus on municipal and planning advice, environmental approvals, and expropriations. As a trusted advisor, Chris specializes in providing clients in both the public and private sectors with strategic advice on coordinating and addressing the various levels of approvals required for complex projects.

He advises clients on a broad range of matters, including municipal governance, heritage, growth management, cultural heritage, parkland dedication/valuations, employment land, and aggregate resource policies. Chris also advises landowners and authorities on expropriations under both federal and provincial statutes.

His clients include large landowner groups, governments and individual clients whom he advises on development charges and cost-sharing matters, environmental assessment processes and approvals, and the implications of provincial policies and initiatives.

Chris appears regularly before the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) and municipal councils. He advises clients on potential remedies in the courts, representing both the private sector and municipalities in bringing and responding to applications for judicial review of municipal and government decisions. He also acts as appellate counsel on appeals or reviews of OLT decisions.

Chris has been recognized in the *Lexpert/ALM 500 Leading 500 Lawyers in Canada* in the area of Property Development. He is a regular speaker at continuing legal education events, and has provided annual case law updates to the Ontario Bar Association for more than 15 years. Chris also teaches Planning Law at the Toronto Metropolitan University School of Urban and Regional Planning.

Awards and Recognition

- **Chambers Canada: Canada's Leading Lawyers for Business:** Recognized in Real Estate Ontario: Zoning/Land Use (Band 1)
- **The Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory:** Recognized in Real Estate – Property Development; Toronto's leading property development lawyers in 2021
- **Best Lawyers in Canada:** Recognized in Municipal Law; Real Estate Law; "Lawyer of the Year", Municipal Law (2023)

Community Involvement

- Chair, Board of Directors, Interprovincial Music Camp

Credentials

Education

- Osgoode Hall, York University, LL.B.
- University of Toronto, B.A. (Political Science and History)

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Languages

- English

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Professional Affiliations

- Member, Advocates Society