



Joel Heard

Partner, Commercial

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Toronto

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Bar Admission: Ontario, 1994

Areas of Expertise

[Major Projects](#)

[Nuclear Energy](#)

[Defence, Security and Aerospace](#)

[Government and Public Sector](#)

[Hydrogen and Alternative Fuels](#)

[Renewable Energy](#)

[Power and Utilities](#)

[Energy](#)

[Mining and Natural Resources](#)

[Infrastructure](#)

[Health](#)

[Public Private Partnerships \(P3\)](#)

[Construction](#)

[Procurement](#)

Joel has more than 25 years of experience in construction and infrastructure law. He has acted for public and private-sector owners, operators, lenders, engineers, contractors, subcontractors and suppliers on capital projects across a variety of industries including energy, infrastructure, mining, manufacturing, defence, housing and healthcare.

His practice is focused on the “front-end” of projects: planning, advising on project and commercial structures and procurement, and contract drafting and negotiation, with the objective of minimizing risk and avoiding claims and disputes. Joel’s experience includes design-build (including progressive design-build), EPC, construction management (services and at-risk), public-private partnerships, joint ventures, and advising on project execution issues.

Prior to joining Osler, Joel was a partner at a major Canadian law firm and worked as in-house counsel for several years at one of the world’s largest engineering and construction companies before establishing his own boutique firm focused on construction and commercial projects.

Joel is a Fellow of the Canadian College of Construction Lawyers, and a Fellow of the Construction Lawyers Society of America, both invitation-only honorary associations of preeminent construction lawyers dedicated to promoting advocacy and ethical standards in construction law. He is the immediate past-Chair of the Project Delivery and Construction Technology Division of the American Bar Association Forum on Construction Law.

Awards and Recognition

- **Chambers Canada: Canada's Leading Lawyers for Business:** Recognized in Construction (Nationwide – Canada). Respondent comments made to Chambers:
 - “Joel Heard understands construction and manages risk and reward concepts fluidly.”
 - “Joel provides excellent and timely advice.”
 - “He is whip-smart and I can always count on him for thorough and thoughtful advice”.
- **The Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory:** Recognized in Construction Law; Infrastructure Law
- **Best Lawyers In Canada:** Recognized in Construction Law
- **Construction Lawyers Society of America:** Fellow
- **Adam Scott Collegiate Vocational Institute:** Hall of Honour

Credentials

Education

- University of Toronto, J.D.
- Queen's University, B.Comm. (with Honours)

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Professional Affiliations

- Law Society of Ontario
- Fellow, Canadian College of Construction Lawyers
- Fellow, Construction Lawyers Society of America
- Ontario Bar Association, Construction and Infrastructure Section; former Executive Member
- Canadian Bar Association, National Construction Law Section
- American Bar Association, Forum on Construction Law; Immediate Past Chair, Project Delivery and Construction Technology Division