




RODNEY NORTHEY


Partner


Certified Specialist (Environmental Law)

Speaks: English

Year of Call: 1990 - Ontario

 +1 416-369-6666

 +1 604-891-2763

 +1 416-862-7661

 rodney.northey@gowlingwlg.com

Primary office: Toronto

Secondary office:
Vancouver

Rodney Northey

Rod Northey is head of Gowling WLG's Practice Group for Environmental Law.

He is in his 30th year of private practice in environmental law and certified by the Law Society of Ontario as a specialist in this field. His current practice focuses on regulatory approvals and strategies across the full range of approval regimes involving the environment — including environmental assessment, land use, endangered species, cultural heritage, energy, resource extraction, transportation, waste management, and water approvals.

Rod's strategic work in environmental assessment is widely acknowledged. From August 2016 to March 2017, Rod was a member of the expert panel appointed by the federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change to carry out a Canada-wide consultation and review of Canada's environmental assessment process. Similarly, from May 2016 to May 2017, Rod was a member of the GTA West Advisory Panel appointed by the Ontario Minister of Transportation to conduct a strategic review of a major environmental assessment for future transportation infrastructure in the GTA West corridor.

Clients facing novel regulatory challenges retain Rod for his innovative regulatory strategies.

Ongoing client work has Rod leading legal teams for several major environmental assessments in the transportation, energy and mining sectors across Ontario and in Nunavut:

- Five Ontario municipalities participating in a federal environmental assessment hearing and a court challenge over constitutional issues
- A northern Inuit government proposing a port and all-season road
- A northern Ontario First Nation proposing an all-season road within its traditional territory

As litigation counsel, Rod has been involved in dozens of tribunal and court appeals, including more than 40 reported environmental law decisions before federal and Ontario trial and appellate courts, and Ontario environmental and land use tribunals, including acting for the applicant in Ontario's first renewable energy approval hearing, and leading the City of Burlington through a 100-day resource extraction hearing on the Niagara Escarpment.

Throughout his career, Rod has been active in environmental law reform. He was a member of the 2004 Ontario executive panel appointed by the Minister of the Environment to reform Ontario environmental assessment for green energy, transit, and waste management. He was also a member of the Ontario task force to develop the province's two-million-acre greenbelt. Rod has been retained by the federal government to deal with

law reform on the precautionary principle, applying environmental assessment to Crown corporations. For several years in the late 1990s and early 2000s, Rod provided advice and assistance to the then-Canadian International Development Agency on applying environmental assessment to projects outside Canada, including review of international and global assessment regimes and attendance at international discussions. He has also appeared before parliamentary and senate committees on the topics of environmental assessment and constitutional law.

Rod is an adjunct faculty member at Osgoode Hall Law School's Energy and Infrastructure Law LLM program for its course on environmental protection. He is recognized by his peers in national and international listings, for environmental law, including Lexpert, Who's Who Legal: The International Who's Who of Business Lawyers and The Best Lawyers in Canada.

Rod is author of the Guide to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (LexisNexis Canada), published annually, as well as the 1995 Annotated Canadian Environmental Assessment Act and EARP Guidelines Order (Carswell). He is also author of law journal articles on the integration of environmental and planning law in Ontario infrastructure, federalism and environmental law, the role of municipalities in Canada's energy strategies, and the fading role of alternatives in federal environmental assessment.

Affiliations (Selected)

Panelist, Expert panel on Canada's environmental assessment process, appointed by the federal Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, 2016-2017

Panelist, Advisory panel on GTA West, appointed by the Ontario Minister of Transportation, 2016-2017

Chair, Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation and Greenbelt Fund, 2012-2016.

Adjunct Faculty Member for Osgoode Hall Law School, LL.M. programs for Municipal Law and Infrastructure, for courses on environmental protection, 2008-present

Expertise

Natural Resources

Infrastructure

Energy

Climate Change and Environmental Law

Indigenous Law

Government Affairs

Private Equity

Canada North

Municipal Law

Career & Recognition

2020

April

Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory 2020

March

Lexpert Special Edition: Mining 2020

2019

November

Legal 500 Canada 2020

October

Who's Who Legal: Environment 2019

September

Lexpert Special Edition – Canada's Leading Infrastructure Lawyers 2019

September

Chambers Canada 2020

August

The Best Lawyers in Canada 2020

August

Lexpert Special Edition – Canada's Leading Energy Lawyers 2019

April

Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory 2019

2018

December
Legal 500 Canada 2019

September
Chambers Canada 2019

September
Lexpert's Leading Canadian Lawyers in Global Mining 2018/2019

September
Lexpert/ROB Special Edition on Infrastructure: Canada's Leading Infrastructure Lawyers
2018

August
Lexpert/ROB Canada's Leading Energy Lawyers 2018

August
The Best Lawyers in Canada 2019

August
Who's Who Legal: Environment 2018

June
2018 Lexpert Zenith Awards

April
Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory 2018

2017

December
Legal 500 Canada 2018

September
Chambers Canada 2018

August
The Best Lawyers in Canada 2018

May
Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory 2017

February
Client Choice Awards 2017

2016

November
Legal 500 Canada 2017

October
Who's Who Legal: Environment 2016

September
Lexpert's Leading Canadian Lawyers in Global Mining 2016/2017

August
The Best Lawyers in Canada 2017

June
Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory 2016

Panelist, Advisory panel on GTA West, appointed by the Ontario Minister of Transportation, 2016–2017

Panelist, Expert panel on Canada's environmental assessment process, appointed by the federal Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, 2016–2017

2015

December
Who's Who Legal: Canada 2015

December
Lexpert's Leading Lawyers in Energy 2015

November
Who's Who Legal: Environment 2015

October
Lexpert's Leading Canadian Lawyers in Global Mining , 2015-2016

September
The International Who's Who of Business Lawyers 2015

September
The Best Lawyers in Canada 2016

September
Lexpert/ROB Special Edition on Infrastructure: Canada's Leading Infrastructure Lawyers

July
Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory 2015

2014

December
Lexpert lists Gowlings as the top environmental law firm in Toronto

November
Lexpert's Leading Lawyers in Energy 2014

October
Lexpert's Guide to Canada's Leading Infrastructure Lawyers 2014

October

Who's Who Legal: Canada 2014

September

The Best Lawyers in Canada 2015

September

Who's Who Legal: The International Who's Who of Business Lawyers 2014

July

Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory 2014

2013

November

Who's Who Legal: Canada 2013

October

Who's Who Legal - The International Who's Who of Environment Lawyers 2013

September

The Best Lawyers in Canada 2014

July

Who's Who Legal: The International Who's Who of Business Lawyers 2013

2012

December

Who's Who Legal: Canada 2012

The Best Lawyers in Canada 2013

Chair, Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation and Greenbelt Fund, 2012–2016

2008

Adjunct Faculty Member for Osgoode Hall Law School, LL.M. programs for Municipal Law and Infrastructure, for courses on environmental protection, 2008–present

2005

Certified Specialist - Environmental Law

1990

Year of Call, Ontario

1988

September
Osgoode Hall Law School, LL.M.

July
York University, MA, Philosophy

1987

July
Dalhousie University, LL.B.

1983

July
Queen's University, BA (Hons), Philosophy