

# 2019 COMMUNITY REPORT



**GOWLING WLG**

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[gowlingwlg.com](http://gowlingwlg.com)

Gowling WLG is an international law firm comprising the members of Gowling WLG International Limited, an English Company Limited by Guarantee, and their respective affiliates. Each member and affiliate is an autonomous and independent entity. Gowling WLG International Limited promotes, facilitates and co-ordinates the activities of its members but does not itself provide services to clients. Our structure is explained in more detail on our Legal Information web page.

# ABOUT GOWLING WLG

**1,400+**

legal professionals  
across the firm

**19**

offices in cities  
around the world,  
and growing



\*Exclusive referral agreement with Naik Naik & Co.

## Our vision

A distinctive client experience

Outstanding people

Innovative solutions

A leading sector-focused international  
law firm

## Our values

The power of teamwork

No matter how talented we are as individuals, we can  
achieve even more if we work together as a team with our  
clients and colleagues.

Always striving to be better

We're constantly seeking new and more efficient, effective  
ways to help our clients achieve their goals.

We all bring something different

All of us bring unique - and equally valuable - strengths and  
perspectives to the team.

# Gowling WLG Hamilton

## Our People

25

Partners

20

Associates

2

Counsel

8

Law Clerks

90+

Admin Staff

## Our Strengths

- Advanced manufacturing
- Blockchain & smart contracts
- Class actions
- Commercial litigation
- Construction & engineering
- Corporate commercial
- Debt & recovery services
- Financial institutions & services
- Franchising
- Franchising
- Indigenous law
- Intellectual property
- Life sciences
- Private wealth
- Real estate & commercial leasing
- Restructuring, bankruptcy & insolvency
- Tech
- Wills & estates

## MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGING PARTNER

As we continue to grow and transition into our 25th anniversary in Hamilton, I'm delighted to inaugurate the tradition of creating an annual community report memorializing our journey.

We can say with considerable pride that 2019 was the most transformative year in our office's history for the reasons that are set out in the pages that follow. I would also like to take this opportunity to highlight a few significant achievements:

- With our prior growth, merger with ESB, and other additions to our complement, we have grown by over 50% in three years, with the majority of that growth taking place in 2019 alone.
- We have added new practice verticals in real estate and private wealth, while enhancing our strength in advocacy and corporate commercial law.
- We have made remarkable strides in achieving gender balance among our partners.
- Following its initial conception three years ago, we obtained Board approval and finalized planning for our new home at McMaster Innovation Park (MIP) – a first of its kind in Canada.
- Our continued work in building unprecedented regional partnerships with the City of Hamilton, MIP, McMaster University and Mohawk College has resulted in our firm being recognized as an accelerator of economic development and city-building.

These accomplishments are made possible by the dedication of our team, the support of our national colleagues from across the firm, and the encouragement of our community in welcoming our new leadership role as community builders.

I know I share your optimism over our very bright future – a future built upon the vision of putting our clients and community first.



*Louis Frapporti*

Louis Frapporti,  
Managing Partner, Gowling WLG Hamilton Office

# COMMUNITY IMPACT

Gowling WLG Hamilton is proud to support many not-for-profit and charitable organizations in our community.

Through donations, sponsorships, volunteer opportunities and other positive action, Gowling WLG staff and lawyers have contributed to a range of community-based and city-wide efforts supporting local and national causes.

Here are some of the causes we supported in 2019:

- St. Joseph's Healthcare Foundation
- Food4Kids Hamilton
- Mission Services
- United Way
- Ovarian Cancer Canada
- Men's Street Ministry
- Juravinski Cancer Centre
- Smashing Girls
- CIBC Run for the Cure
- Hamilton Bulldogs Foundation
- Neighbour2Neighbour
- St. Paul's Presbyterian Church
- McMaster Children's Hospital Foundation
- Camp Brebeuf
- Canadian Blood Services
- Heart & Stroke Foundation
- YMCA
- New Vision Church Outreach Program
- RBC Race for the Kids
- Dr. Bob Kemp Hospice

## SPOTLIGHT: SMASHING NINES

Pamela Green (Partner) and Mia Laister Peck (Partner) supported the *Smashing Girls* program at the 2019 Smashing Nines event.

*Smashing Girls* is an innovative golf program designed to give girls aged 11-16 the opportunity to learn golf, meet successful women mentors and learn critical interpersonal skills.



## SPOTLIGHT: LAWYERS FEED THE HUNGRY

An initiative of the Law Society Foundation, the *Lawyers Feed the Hungry* program partners with Mission Services in Hamilton to serve meals to the vulnerable children and families in our community.

Debi Sutin (Partner), Pam Vermeersch (Partner), Mia Laister Peck (Partner), Emma Dalziel (Associate) and David Howell (Partner) participated.

# THE YEAR IN REVIEW

2019 was an exciting year for Gowling WLG Hamilton as we achieved many milestones, celebrated numerous accomplishments and forged new partnerships that supported the success of our clients and community.



## JANUARY: New Year, New Team

2019 marked a change in Hamilton's legal landscape, as Gowling WLG and Hamilton-based law firm ESB Lawyers joined forces. This represents the firm's largest merger in over 20 years, and the largest legal merger in Hamilton's history. We are proud to welcome the region's best local law firm, ESB, into our family.



## FEBRUARY: Mergers & Acquisitions (M&A) Club

Gowling WLG's Pam Vermeersch, head of the Corporate Commercial Services group, successfully established a Hamilton-based M&A Club chapter in 2019, and continues to act as Co-Chair for the initiative.



## MARCH: Aerospace Strategy Workshop

Asif Lasani (Partner) and Kevin Kolumbus (Associate) represented Gowling WLG at a workshop focused on Hamilton's future in aerospace. Hosted by our partners at the City of Hamilton and Mohawk College, the event was designed to highlight Hamilton's strengths as a potential hub for the growing aerospace industry.



## APRIL: City of Hamilton Site Visits

Gowling WLG supports the City of Hamilton's Foreign Direct Investment efforts not only from a legal perspective, but also by collaborating to connect prospective businesses with resources and expertise in Hamilton and around the world. In April, Gowling WLG provided legal presentations to four visiting companies.



## MAY: Collision Conference

*Collision*, North America's fastest growing tech conference was attended by a specialized Gowling WLG tech team including Emily Dies (Associate). The firm also sponsored the City of Hamilton's *Start-Up Island* which featured eight start-up companies from McMaster Innovation Park.



## JUNE: Innovation Corridor Summit

Gowling WLG sponsored the 2nd Annual Innovation Corridor Summit. An initiative of the Toronto, Waterloo and Hamilton Chambers of Commerce, the Summit brings together regional experts to explore strategies to accelerate the growth of businesses in the Toronto-Waterloo-Hamilton corridor.



## JULY: Commonwealth Games Federation

Officials from the Commonwealth Games Federation visited Hamilton for a three-day tour of the city hosted by "Hamilton 100" – a group who aims to bring the 2030 Commonwealth Games to Hamilton. Lou Frapporti (Managing Partner) and Pamela Green (Partner) are members of the Hamilton 100 committee.



## AUGUST: New Building Design Charette

Lead by Avison Young, the design charette helped establish a shared understanding of the vision for Gowling WLG Hamilton's new office and takes into consideration several important factors in planning for the space. Gowling WLG staff and lawyers were joined by members of the Hamilton business community.



## SEPTEMBER: LiON'S LAIR Competition

IP lawyer Alex Ross (Counsel) played a key role in the annual pitching competition that brings together Hamilton's entrepreneurs and innovators. As the 'Legal LiON' Alex was responsible for interviewing the finalists and evaluating each on the merits of their domain.



## OCTOBER: Think Global Conference

The Think Global Conference brings together companies focused on import, export and international trade. Aaron Goldstein (Associate), attended the conference alongside the Ontario Investment Alliance to speak on the topic of doing business in Ontario and Canada.



## NOVEMBER: City of Hamilton India Delegation

Gowling WLG lawyers Neil Abbott, Cyrus Reporter and Travis Evens joined a trade mission to India organized by the City of Hamilton. The trip was aimed at promoting foreign direct investment, catalyzing economic activity and raising awareness of the city's many business advantages.



## DECEMBER: Hamilton Office Holiday Video

In this fun and lighthearted video, Santa gets into some trouble with the law when his workshop is shut down on Christmas Eve as a result of lacking the proper business permits. Thankfully, the Gowling WLG team steps up to save Christmas!

# GROW

Gowling WLG Realizing Opportunities for Women (GROW) enables women to connect with mentors and build relationships that enhance their professional and personal lives.

## SPRING EVENT: Networking at The Diplomat



The Hamilton GROW committee hosted their annual spring event on June 6 at The Diplomat restaurant.

The occasion brought together more than 30 clients, local female leaders, and Gowling WLG professionals for an evening of cocktails, canapés, and relaxed conversation. The event was an enjoyable opportunity to create new connections and catch up with colleagues.

## FALL EVENT: An Evening with Michelle Obama



Former First Lady Michelle Obama visited Hamilton in October for a tour following the release of her best-selling memoir in 2018. The GROW committee was able to secure tickets for this highly popular event, and hosted a special reception at the Gowling WLG Main Street Office for more than 100 attendees that included clients, lawyers and staff.

The group joined thousands of other attendees for an inspiring talk about the former First Lady's experience as a mother, a leader, and a woman of colour in the White House.

## Thank-you to the 2019 GROW Committee

- Leigh Ann Sheather
- Debi Sutin
- Sarah Wouters
- Kathy LeBlanc
- Chantal Chaves
- Kristine Leadbetter
- Lyndsay Butlin
- Victoria Owen

**"Our GROW events are immensely beneficial because of the smaller group sizes and the focus on topics that are of great interest to professional women." -- Debi Sutin (Partner)**

# STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Gowling WLG Hamilton is disrupting the legal landscape by building unprecedented relationships among clients, companies, and public and private industry.

## At Gowling WLG, we are resolved to be different.

We want to unlock Hamilton's potential by acting as an economic accelerator and a global connector. We're on a mission to do what's right – and what's next – for our clients and our community.

Gowling WLG is uniquely positioned to partner with Hamilton's private businesses and public institutions to innovate, develop and build. With over 1,400 legal professionals across 19 offices around the globe, we leverage our international networks, with touchpoints in a broad range of business sectors, to connect clients to communities – harnessing a world of opportunity.

To contribute to unlocking Hamilton's vast economic potential, we've invested in building forward-thinking partnerships with key public institutions with whom we are actively participating in a range of exciting economic development opportunities.

## OUR INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS



# PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

## New Building at McMaster Innovation Park

Gowling WLG Hamilton will soon call McMaster Innovation Park (MIP) our home – a strategic move that underscores the firm's growing role in Hamilton's flourishing innovation ecosystem.

The move will bring our team under one roof, supporting collaboration and connecting our clients with business, academic and research communities at MIP.

As the research, tech and advanced manufacturing sectors continue to thrive, our new location at MIP will enhance our institutional partnerships and the firm's ability to deliver legal services to those who are driving innovation in our region.

By supporting the renewed growth of Hamilton's flourishing hub of innovation, we can spark positive social impact by actively supporting city-building and economic development.



## 2030 Commonwealth Games Bid

Gowling WLG has formed an exciting partnership with Hamilton100 – a group actively pursuing the opportunity to bring the 2030 Commonwealth Games to Hamilton, including Pamela Green (Partner) and Lou Frapporti (Managing Partner).

Gowling WLG Hamilton is proud to support this bid and to offer our local and international networks, resources and experience to making the Games a success.

The 2030 Commonwealth Games present an unprecedented opportunity to embark on a decade-long community-building project focused on prosperity, sustainability and inclusivity – values that are deeply embedded in the group's vision.



"Gowling WLG coming to MIP is a fantastic step forward for the innovation ecosystem in Hamilton. As we develop the park and as our community grows further, Gowling WLG's global network and legal services will play an integral role in fostering commercialization and job creation."

-- Ty Shattuck  
CEO, McMaster Innovation Park



"The Commonwealth Games are about so much more than sports. They are a platform to raise awareness around some of the world's most intractable problems – challenges like affordable housing, green transportation and sustainable development – and a catalyst to help solve them."

-- Lou Frapporti  
Gowling WLG Hamilton's Managing Partner & Hamilton 100 member



# PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

## Edge Factor Career Profiles

In collaboration with the Industry-Education Council of Hamilton (IEC), Edge Factor is using the power of cinematic storytelling to tackle workforce development challenges, inspire students, connect with job seekers and build relationships between local employers and schools.

Edge Factor has taken a unique, dynamic approach to showcasing local opportunities in training and career pathways.

Gowling WLG has partnered with Edge Factor to create three career profile videos featuring Gowling WLG's Emily Dies (Business Law Associate), Kristine Leadbetter (Business Development & Marketing Manager), and Harleen Khanijoun (IP Associate).

We are excited to continue these efforts by promoting local skilled trades opportunities as part of our communications campaign for the construction of our new building at MIP.



## The Agency at Mohawk College

The Agency is an experiential learning facility where students from a variety of academic programs collaborate in developing real-world marketing and communications solutions.

Gowling WLG worked with a group of students from the Public Relations program to complete two projects in 2019:

### *Communications Audit*

The students examined internal communications and conducted a survey among our professionals and staff to uncover current challenges and perceptions of the organization.

### *Fundraising Project*

In support of the CityKidz Hamilton annual Gift of Christmas event, the students hosted a bake sale that raised \$130.



"The IEC has been working with educators and the broader community to enhance learning opportunities through various programs over many years, and Edge Factor provides a very dynamic way of informing our youth about local career opportunities."

-- Cesare Di Donato  
Executive Director, Industry-Education Council of Hamilton



"We're looking forward to this collaboration with Gowling WLG. We feel that it provides a lot of opportunities for us to forge new relationships - not only with Gowling WLG - but with various other partners, locally and globally."

-- Joseph Duda  
Manager, The Agency at Mohawk College



# KEY SERVICE AREAS

Gowling WLG Hamilton's highly capable legal team includes six key practice areas that represent our firm's many areas of experience.

## CORPORATE COMMERCIAL SERVICES

The Corporate Commercial team offers a long list of services that range from simple incorporations to more complicated restructurings.

This group supports clients through buying or selling a business, negotiating commercial agreements, helps arrange for financing, and also supports business growth through franchising.



*"Whatever your current needs, you depend on trusted lawyers who can be flexible and available to match the job at hand. We pride ourselves on providing great advice and timely service, based on a sound understanding of your business needs."*

-- Pam Vermeersch  
Partner & Practice Area Lead, Corporate Commercial Services

### SPOTLIGHT: TIM ROSS IN DUBAI

Tim Ross (Partner) represented the corporate finance group on a trip to London, Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Kuwait City.

Along with lawyers from Gowling WLG's London and Dubai offices, the group co-hosted an event in Dubai on Canadian healthcare initiatives in the Middle East.



## INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY SERVICES

The IP team offers a full suite of services including the support necessary to secure patent, trademark and design protection, both locally and internationally, for the key components of a business.

The IP group is well-positioned with strong connections to Hamilton's growing community of entrepreneurs, academics, and researchers.

*"As the only IP practice in Hamilton, we are excited at the prospect of getting to know you, keen to learn about your business, and eager to help you secure effective intellectual property to support your success."*

-- Susan Tandan  
Partner & Practice Area Lead, Intellectual Property Services



## REAL ESTATE & LENDING SERVICES

The Real Estate & Lending groups guide clients through every stage of their real estate transactions.

The team provides assistance with a variety of financing, leasehold improvements, land development and planning applications, land acquisitions and assemblies, as well as other specialty areas.

*"Our highly-qualified team is here to guide you through any number of development processes, whether you are looking to build the foundation for your success, or are ready to seize the next opportunity."*

-- Pamela Green  
Partner & Practice Area Lead, Real Estate & Lending Services



### SPOTLIGHT: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Lori Hall (Partner) and Peter Milne (Partner) represented the firm at the annual *International Federation of Intellectual Property Attorneys* conference in Vienna, Austria.

The conference brings together leading IP professionals and focuses on important developments in the field of IP law, and their impact on day-to-day practice.

### SPOTLIGHT: AWARDS & ACCOLADES

Emily Dies (Associate) received a Precedent Innovation Award for her role in developing an innovative online reference manual used by law clerks at major financial institutions.



Gowling WLG also received a Gold award in the category of Best Real Estate Law Firm from Hamilton's Readers' Choice Awards.



## ADVOCACY SERVICES

The Advocacy team represents clients involved in a dispute, arbitration or lawsuit.

From local start-ups to large multinational companies, and from individuals to institutions, the team assists clients in a wide range of business and commercial issues at every level of court in the country.

*"We recognize that our clients put a great deal of trust in us, and we honour that by prioritizing your success, and striving for continuous improvement to serve you better."*

-- Michael Bordin  
Partner & Practice Area Lead, Advocacy Services



## RECOVERY SERVICES

The Recovery Services team provides nation-wide coverage for all forms of mortgage and small business loan recovery.

The team also connects clients with the right supports to anticipate and overcome hurdles during the recovery process – whether those challenges are municipal issues, natural disasters or other obstacles.

*"We understand that lending is your business, and we never lose sight of the fact that we are dealing with your clients. We treat them like they are our own - with sensitivity and respect."*

-- Amanda Jackson  
Partner & Practice Area Lead, Recovery Services



### SPOTLIGHT: SUPREME COURT OF CANADA

Michael Bordin (Partner) and Jordan Diacur (Associate) successfully represented the plaintiff in *Fleming v. Ontario*, a landmark Supreme Court of Canada civil liberties case that gave new clarity to the limits of police powers.

### SPOTLIGHT: YMCA CHILL ZONE

Lawyers and staff from the Recovery Services team and other areas of the firm supported the YMCA's annual *Chill Zone* holiday event.

The volunteers from Gowling WLG Hamilton showed off their artistic skills by face painting for children.



## WILLS, ESTATES & PRIVATE CLIENT SERVICES

This knowledgeable team is focused on helping clients plan how they will distribute their estates after they die, ensuring their final wishes are clearly laid out and efficiently accomplished.

The team also provides support in the event a Will or Power of Attorney is challenged.

*"We want you to have peace-of-mind knowing that you have a plan in place. Our promise to our clients is to ensure that your final wishes are honoured, and to do so with respect and compassion, always."*

-- Sandra Stephenson  
Practice Area Lead, Wills, Estates & Private Client Services



## INDIGENOUS LAW

Working alongside First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples, our National Indigenous Law Group provides sophisticated legal advice in every aspect of Indigenous law.

Our award-winning team applies in-depth expertise to support clients in negotiating self-government agreements, litigating historic cases in the Supreme Court, advising on economic development projects, providing complex commercial structuring, and more.



*"As the needs and aspirations of Indigenous communities continue to grow in scope and complexity, we support the vision and goals of our clients through a collaborative, flexible and responsive approach."*

-- Jaimie Lickers  
Partner & National Leader of Indigenous Law Group



### SPOTLIGHT: THEATRE AQUARIUS SESSION

The team hosted a session on estate planning at Hamilton's Theatre Aquarius. The session focused on the importance of having a Will and Powers of Attorney, and included theatre volunteers, donors and patrons.

This session was connected to the Ontario Bar Association's efforts to encourage proper planning through their annual "Make a Will" campaign.

### SPOTLIGHT: TOP 25 MOST INFLUENTIAL

Jaimie Lickers was voted one of Canada's Top 25 Most Influential Lawyers - a recognition honouring lawyers who have made outstanding contributions to the law, the justice system and the legal profession.

She was recognized in the "Changemakers" category as the first Indigenous woman admitted to Gowling WLG's partnership and the first Indigenous professional to hold a firm management position.



# AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Gowling WLG Hamilton and its team of legal professionals are honoured to receive accolades from our peers in the legal industry and from the community we serve.

## Firm Awards & Recognition

- City of Hamilton Business Appreciation Award
- Readers' Choice Award: Best Real Estate Law Firm (Gold)
- Shortlisted for Financial Times Innovation Award

## Lawyer Awards & Recognition

- Emily Dies (Associate): Precedent Innovation Award
- Mark Giavedoni (Partner): President of the Hamilton Law Association
- Lou Frapporti (Managing Partner): Nominated for Citizen of the Year Award
- Lori Hall (Partner): Ranked in World Trademark Review 1000
- Harleen Khanijoun (Associate): Featured as an Expert for *Lexis Practice Advisor in IP*
- Jaimie Lickers (Partner): Under 40 Hot List, *Benchmark*  
Top 25 Influential Lawyers, *Canadian Lawyers Magazine*  
Recommended by *Legal 500 Canada 2020*
- Peter Milne (Partner): Named among Leading Practitioners by *WIPR*
- Debi Sutin (Partner): Ranked in World Trademark Review 1000  
Named "Legal Eagle" by the *Franchise Times* (fifth year in a row)  
Listed in *Chambers Canada 2020*
- Susan Tandan (Partner): Ranked among Top Patent Professionals, *IAM Canada*
- Pam Vermeersch (Partner): Featured in the *Lexpert* Special Edition  
Canada's Leading Energy Lawyers 2019



### Best Lawyers in Canada 2020:

- Scott Beattie (Partner)
- Michael Bordin (Partner)
- Louis Frapporti (Managing Partner)
- Jaimie Lickers (Partner)
- Peter Milne (Partner)
- Tim Ross (Partner)
- Leigh Ann Sheather (Partner)
- Sandra Stephenson (Partner)
- Debi Sutin (Partner)

# STAFF SERVICE AWARDS

The Staff Service Awards recognize our valued team members who have reached significant milestones in their time with Gowling WLG. In 2019, there were 24 staff celebrated for their years of service.

## 5 Years

- Katherine Tanner
- Sharon Clarke
- Jean Richards
- Christoph Heinemann
- Stephanie Fuca

## 10 Years

- Maribel Wray
- Dana Turple
- Kirsty Vandermeulen
- Melissa Lusted
- Penny Fede
- Chantelle Gruba

## 15 Years

- Debbie Leslie
- Cherie Mitchell

## 20 Years

- Adrienne Clark
- Stacie Pennisi
- Lisa Allen
- Karen Pagliaro
- Betty Hutchison
- Monique O'Neill
- Donna Woodill
- Janice May
- Danielle McManus

## 30 Years

- Lisa Double

## 40 Years

- Elizabeth Babcock



*Elizabeth Babcock*

## Sharon Mitchell Award Recipient: Betty Hutchison



*Betty Hutchison*

The Sharon Mitchell Award is presented annually to the staff member who most exhibits the following qualities:

- Demonstrates collegiality and genuine respect for all
- Supports and assists others and is a team player
- Makes outstanding client service a priority
- Embraces and enhances diversity in our workplace
- Participates in and contributes to Firm or Office initiatives

Recipients of the Sharon Mitchell Award are nominated by their peers and selected by a special committee.

**Congratulations to Betty Hutchison on receiving this award for 2019!**

# EVENTS

Events help build up the profile of the firm, strengthen relationships, and generate opportunities for collaboration. Overall, Gowling WLG Hamilton participated in more than 80 events in 2019.

## Hosted

- BDO/Gowling WLG Networking Event
- Western/Windsor Law Student Tour
- Lunch & Learn: Working in Dubai
- Board of Trustee Meeting & Reception
- Cranson Capital Networking Event
- LRT Community Open Houses
- GROW Spring Event
- Hamilton Tiger Cats Games
- First Ontario Credit Union Networking Event
- Connie Smith - Public Speaking Lunch & Learn
- National Indigenous Peoples Day Lunch & Learn
- Client Appreciation Taco Party
- GROW Fall Event
- Brexit Seminar
- Cross Institutional Lending Conference
- Private Screening of *Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker*

## Sponsored

- Hamilton Law Association Annual Dinner
- Blockchain & AI Workshop
- Collision Conference
- Mohawk Partnership Dinner
- Moving to Make it Happen - Thrive Group
- Innovation Corridor Summit
- MIP Golf Tournament
- Lion's Lair
- St. Joseph's Healthcare Foundation Annual Gala
- Hearts Wide Open Gala
- Hamilton Health Sciences Foundation Gala
- Innovate Niagara Hot Desk
- Innovate Niagara
- Paris to Ancaster Bike Race
- McMaster Therapeutics Symposium by MILO
- RBC Race for the Kids

## Attended/Supported

- Life Sciences Ontario Gala Dinner
- Success in the City
- YWCA Women of Distinction
- Aerospace Workshop
- Women as Career Coaches
- Hamilton Business Awards
- Doing Business in India CEO Roundtable
- Ukraine IT Mission Business Panel
- Hamilton Mayor's Breakfast
- McMaster/DeGroote Networking Reception
- ACCE Gala
- Annual Canadian AURP Conference
- Manufacturing Forum & Industry Open House
- Hamilton ELE Seminar
- National Tech Group Meeting in London
- Dundas Smashing Nines Golf Event
- MILO Regulatory Hacking Session
- BEDC's Annual Open House
- DeGroote Women's Professional Network Events
- Hamilton Lawyers Feed the Hungry
- Hamilton Law Association AGM
- HLA 140th Anniversary Luncheon
- Paris Air Show
- Future of Health Summit
- Deloitte Networking Event
- University of Western Vanguard Patent Awards
- Hamilton Lawyers' Club Annual Picnic
- Oakville Smashing Nines Golf Event
- Hamilton 100 Commonwealth Games Bid Meeting
- MIP Biergarten Launch Party
- MIP AutoLex Forum
- TD/Gowling WLG End of Summer Social
- MIP Annual Tenant BBQ
- Elevate Tech and Innovation Conference
- Fostering a Culture of Innovation: Alfredo Tan & The Ritz Carlton Hotel Toronto
- RBC Canadian Women Entrepreneur Awards Gala



MIP Open House



Hamilton TiCats Game



RBC Canadian Women Entrepreneur Awards



MIP Golf Tournament



Annual Canadian AURP Conference



Fostering a Culture of Innovation Event

# EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

## Cross-Institutional Lending Conference

Coordinated by Gowling WLG's Financial Services Group, the inaugural Cross-Institutional Lending Conference drew attendees from 17 different financial institutions to share fresh perspectives on trends in the rapidly evolving financial services sector.

Held on November 7, this first-of-its-kind event brought together more than 80 commercial lenders and legal professionals from the Hamilton region.

The conference featured a panel of Hamilton-based Gowling WLG lawyers who covered a range of timely topics relevant to mid-market lending transactions, including emerging topics like cryptocurrency and legislative changes that impact the financial and legal industries.

Special thanks to Ruth Liebersbach, keynote speaker and CFO of McMaster Innovation Park, and to the Gowling WLG presenters who helped make the conference possible:

- Pam Green (Partner)
- Richard Dusome (Counsel)
- Thomas Subic (Partner)
- Emily Dies (Associate)
- Jordan Diacur (Associate)
- Matthijs Van Gaalen (Associate)
- Travis Evens (Associate)



## Law Student Tour of MIP

Gowling WLG Hamilton welcomed 29 law students from Western University, Lakehead University, and University of Windsor as part of an annual student recruitment event. Coordinated by the universities, this unique event provides students with tours of major law firms based in Hamilton.

To introduce the group to Gowling WLG and showcase our collaborative vision for the future of the legal industry, our team hosted the group at McMaster Innovation Park, rather than simply invite the students to our office.

The event highlighted how the firm is playing a growing role in Hamilton's innovation ecosystem and creating a culture that sees business sense in creating social impact.



## Board of Trustees Reception at MARC

Gowling WLG's Board of Trustees visited Hamilton for their April 2019 Board meeting, and were welcomed with a special reception at the McMaster Automotive Resource Centre (MARC) at McMaster Innovation Park.

This special event was a unique opportunity for the Board to meet renowned researchers, such as Dr. Ali Emadi who is a leading hybrid vehicle researcher right here in our community.

This visit and MARC reception is a testament to Gowling WLG's firm-wide commitment to collaboration and our excitement around Hamilton's growth and success.



# IN THE MEDIA

Gowling WLG uses a range of communications tools to tell important stories and share information with our clients and community.

## Podcast: Accelerating Business

In December 2019, the Gowling WLG Hamilton office launched a new Podcast series on iTunes and other digital platforms.

*Accelerating Business* explores the challenges and opportunities facing businesses and business leaders in today's global landscape. Each episode features the change-makers, industry disruptors, transformational businesses and their leaders who are reshaping the way we work, live, and play.

Tune in throughout 2020 to hear the full series of *Accelerating Business* episodes.



Special guests include:



Alfredo Tan  
*Chief Digital & Innovation Officer*  
WestJet Airlines



Rob Maclsaac  
*President and CEO*  
Hamilton Health Sciences



Franck Arnold  
*General Manager*  
The Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Toronto



## Gowling WLG Hamilton LinkedIn Page

A dedicated LinkedIn page for the Hamilton office was created in October 2019. To date, efforts have been focused on building up an audience of followers and developing new types of content to share with our network.



## Office Webpage Revamp

An update of the Gowling WLG Hamilton webpage is in the works, set to launch in 2020. The objective of this renewal is to enable the Hamilton team to share a broader variety of content and to enhance the experience of our clients, colleagues and community members who visit the site.



## Hamilton Spectator

### *New Building Announcement*

The news of our planned move to McMaster Innovation Park was shared in a feature article in the Hamilton Spectator. The article underscores the firm's growing role in Hamilton's business and innovation communities, and celebrates the upcoming relocation.

### *Op-Ed on Hamilton's delegation to India*

Authored by Lou Frapporti, Gowling WLG Hamilton's Managing Partner, the Hamilton Spectator published a piece about the importance of international trade delegations in Hamilton's growing economy.



## Globe & Mail

### *Perspective Magazine*

Gowling WLG was featured in a special report on business growth and economic development in Hamilton, distributed with the Globe & Mail. The article discussed how the firm is adapting to the changing legal industry, while accelerating growth in our community and redefining what's possible by connecting our clients with business, academic and research communities.



## Video Projects

Leveraging video as a powerful engagement tool, the Gowling WLG Hamilton team was featured in video projects by our strategic partners and also produced several of our own videos in 2019:

- Two Strategic Partnerships Overview Videos
- Six Service Area Introduction Videos
- Three Edge Factor Career Profile Videos
- City of Hamilton Economic Sectors Video
- City of Hamilton Invest in Canada Video
- Foreign Investment Video: Turkish Robotics Company
- Hamilton Office Holiday Video

# SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The Social Committee plans and executes several fun events throughout the year, aimed at helping create a more collaborative and engaged workplace. Here's a look back at social events from the past year:

- St. Patrick's Day Staff Treat
- Lunch & Luau
- Staff Appreciation Week
- Mohawk Raceway – Staff Summer Event
- Hamilton TiCats Game
- WeTheNorth Day
- Halloween Parade
- Hamilton Club Cocktail Social
- Holiday Party



Equal Parts Hospitality delivering lunches to the Main Street office



# THANK YOU

to our clients, community,  
staff and legal professionals  
for a successful 2019.



We look forward to building on the year's  
momentum with you in 2020, as we celebrate  
25 years in Hamilton.

Discover what we're up to:  
[www.gowlingwlg.com/hamilton](http://www.gowlingwlg.com/hamilton)

