

2021 COMMUNITY REPORT



GOWLING WLG

A MESSAGE FROM OUR MANAGING PARTNER



PAM VERMEERSCH

Managing Partner
Gowling WLG Hamilton Office

Hamilton 2021 highlights

- Forged **429 new client partnerships**
- Hosted **50 external events and webinars**
- Welcomed **15 new employees**, including a new office general manager
- Witnessed more than half our legal professionals receive **industry awards and recognition**
- Proudly supported our community through dozens of **philanthropic endeavours**

Adapting to change continues to be top-of-mind as we reflect on the past year at Gowling WLG Hamilton. That sentiment rings true for our team, our clients, our community, and just about everyone we've had the pleasure of liaising with.

I began my term as office managing partner in January 2021, as the world was preparing to enter a second year of the COVID-19 pandemic. With cautious optimism, our firm continued to embrace new ways of doing business while providing an exceptional level of service to our clients. They, too, found creative and inspiring ways of dealing with a host of personal and professional challenges. In many instances, I'm proud to say we succeeded in facing these challenges together.

All told, Gowling WLG Hamilton continues to reach above and beyond the status quo. In recent years, we've seen significant growth, placed a strong focus on community engagement, strengthened relationships with many of the city's key institutions, and received recognition from both legal and business institutions. I'm thrilled that last year was no exception.

Looking at Hamilton's future, we're proud to play a role in deepening global connections to the city and accelerating economic activity. To that end, we're excited to move into our new home at the McMaster Innovation Park in the near future, where our team will be situated near some of Canada's leading innovators and entrepreneurs.

As we move ahead, our team remains committed to maximizing the impact of our legal services in Hamilton and beyond.



WELCOME STEVE MCKERSIE

CEO
Gowling WLG (Canada) LLP

We are pleased to welcome Steve McKersie in his new role as CEO of Gowling WLG (Canada) LLP, effective January 1, 2022.

McKersie has spent his entire career with Gowling WLG and is an accomplished business lawyer based in Toronto, where he oversees a robust corporate and commercial law practice.

McKersie will serve a six-year term, and succeeds previous CEO Peter Lukasiewicz. Looking ahead, McKersie will focus on supporting the firm's continued development by building client relationships, developing new leaders, and supporting strategic firm initiatives.

Giving back to our community

Through donations, sponsorships 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 2021:

DONATIONS

- Dundas Valley School of Art
- Fanconi Anemia Research Fund
- Law Society Foundation
- United Way
- Hamilton FoodShare
- YWCA Chill Zone
- Hamilton Health Sciences Foundation
- The Good Shepherd
- Hamilton Foundation for Student Success
- BASEF Competition

SPONSORSHIPS

- Hamilton-Burlington SPCA
- Women's Network
- Rev. John C. Holland Youth Achievement Awards
- Dr. Bob Kemp Hospice
- YWCA Walk a Mile in her Shoes
- St. Joe's Handbags for Hospice
- Thrive Group
- Synapse Life Sciences Competition
- Lion's Lair
- YWCA Women of Distinction
- Hamilton Bulldogs Foundation
- Women to Women Symposium

THANK YOU

We'd like to recognize the outstanding efforts of our staff and legal professionals, whose dedication and adaptability allowed us to continue effectively serving our clients through another challenging year.

RESPONDING TO COVID-19

LEGAL INSIGHTS & RESOURCES

Gowling WLG has developed an online hub of information to help businesses feel confident in making decisions as they tackle what seems like the impossible.

These resources are freely available to businesses and individuals at www.gowlingwlg.com/COVID-19

Our legal professionals are regularly updating this hub with resources to help businesses navigate the impacts of COVID-19, and to ensure they can remain responsive and successful.

HELPING HAMILTON GET BACK TO BUSINESS

As the economy gradually recovers from COVID-19, we know businesses need support and guidance to recover quickly and effectively.

No matter the size or nature of a business, Gowling WLG Hamilton is ready to advise on challenges related to keeping or rehiring employees, securing critical financing, pursuing new partnerships, adapting a business model, or expanding across borders – to name a few.

Please don't hesitate to connect with one of our local professionals at www.gowlingwlg.com/hamilton

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Our office leveraged online events as a platform to share ideas, strengthen relationships and generate opportunities for collaboration.

GROW VIRTUAL EVENTS

Our GROW professional women's network helps to build connections between legal professionals and clients who identify as women. To engage with our clients virtually, we hosted some truly unique and interactive events in 2021: a Coffee Tasting Workshop, a Charcuterie Board Workshop, and a Floral Arrangement Workshop.

For each event, guests received a customized event kit and then came together online for a hands-on activity and networking. These exclusive workshops were attended by nearly 200 guests and received rave reviews from our clients.



ECONOMIC UPDATE WITH BENJAMIN TAL

Our Recovery Services Practice Group welcomed more than 280 guests for a special virtual seminar with sought-after speaker Benjamin Tal, Deputy Chief Economist with CIBC Capital Markets.

Well known for his groundbreaking published research on labour market dynamics, real estate, credit markets, international trade and business economic conditions, Tal shared his views on the current economy and what mortgage lenders might expect in the wake of COVID-19.



PRACTICAL LEGAL ESSENTIALS FOR COMMERCIAL LENDERS

Building on the momentum of our annual Cross-Institutional Lending Conference, our Real Estate & Lending groups hosted a special virtual learning event attended by more than 220 mid-market commercial lenders.

The event featured open networking and engaging back-to-back presentations designed to empower attendees to effectively structure security for lending transactions.



Congratulations to Matthijs van Gaalen on being named among Canada's Top 25 Most Influential Lawyers 2021

AWARDS & RANKINGS

Our team of legal professionals received a range of accolades from our peers in the legal industry:

- 14** listed in the 2021 *Lexpert Directory*
- 12** ranked among *Canada's Best Lawyers*
- 2** identified as leaders in IP through *IAM rankings* and *IP Stars*
- 1** named among *Canada's Top 25 Most Influential Lawyers*
- 1** recognized among Canada's leading infrastructure lawyers
- 1** ranked among *Chambers Canada*
- 1** recognized among Canada's leading tech lawyers
- 1** inducted into the *Legal Eagles Hall of Fame*
- 1** received a President's Award from the Federation of Ontario Law Associations

OUR 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, arranging for financing, and also supports business growth through franchising.



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, this team assists clients in a wide range of business and commercial issues at every level of court in the country.



INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY SERVICES

Unique to this community, the IP team offers a full suite of services to secure and defend patent, trademark, copyright and design protection both locally and internationally.

The established IP group is well-positioned to identify and attain the IP protection appropriate to safeguard the key components of a business.



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.



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.



WILLS, ESTATES & PRIVATE CLIENT SERVICES

This 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.

OUR PROFESSIONALS

Click on any of our professionals to learn more about their legal practice, skills and expertise. Follow us on [LinkedIn](#) or visit gowlingwlg.com/hamilton for news and updates.

ADVOCACY



CORPORATE COMMERCIAL



RECOVERY SERVICES



INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY



WILLS & ESTATES

REAL ESTATE & LENDING



Questions about collaboration, partnerships or sponsorship opportunities?



Contact Kristine Leadbetter-Gold
Business Deveelopment &
Marketing Manager

kristine.leadbetter@gowlingwlg.com