

James Little

Partner

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

James Little is a Partner in the Construction and Infrastructure Practice Group at Singleton Urquhart Reynolds Vogel LLP. For his expertise and reputation in construction law, James has been ranked by *Chambers Global*, *Who's Who Legal*, *Legal 500*, *Benchmark Litigation* and *Best Lawyers*. These rankings are based on comments from his clients recognizing his "keen mind", his "innovative" strategies, "impeccable" preparedness and "unmatched" work ethic.

As a leading practitioner in his field, James has developed a growing practice where he advises on domestic and international construction disputes, including court proceedings, negotiation, arbitration and other dispute resolution alternatives for a wide variety of construction industry clients. He regularly advises clients on a variety of different types of projects including major national and international infrastructure projects, mining projects, hospitals and commercial construction. James is often called upon to advise on construction projects during the pre-construction, design and construction phases, including advice in respect of risk mitigation, dispute avoidance and claims management. His focus is on providing a high level of service through effective and timely advice and advocacy while managing and resolving disputes.

James is also a committed contributor within the construction bar. He is the current Vice-Chair of the Society of Construction Law of North America and a member of the Ontario Bar Association Construction and Infrastructure Executive. James is focused on developing himself as a thought leader by providing perspectives in respect of construction law in Canada through his work on case notes, papers and journal articles.

In his spare time, James enjoys exploring Ontario with his two primary-age boys.

RANKINGS + RECOGNITION

- Recognized as the Top Construction Lawyer in Ontario by the *Lexology Client Choice Awards*.
- Recognized as a Rising Star by the *Canadian Legal Lexpert® Directory*
- Recognized as a *Lexology Legal Influencer* for Q2, 2023 for Dispute Resolution - Canada.
- Recognized as a Next Generation Partner in Canadian construction by *The Legal 500*.
- Recognized in *Chambers Canada — Canada's Leading Lawyers for Business (Construction)* in the area of Construction Law (Band 5).
- Recognized in *Benchmark Canada* - The Definitive Guide to Canada's Leading Litigation Firms & Attorneys as a "Future Litigation Star".
- Recognized in *Who's Who Legal* - Construction.
- Recognized as a leading lawyer in the *Lexpert® Globe and Mail Report on Business Special Edition on Infrastructure*.
- Ranked in the area of Construction Law by *Best Lawyers Canada®*.
- Recognized in Benchmark Litigation's 40 & Under Hot List.
- *Award of Excellence, 2019* (The Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors "RICS" and the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators "CI Arb.").

MEMBERSHIPS

- Vice Chair, Society of Construction Law North America
- Past Member, Ontario Bar Association Construction and Infrastructure Section Executive
- Member, Canadian Bar Association



Construction and Infrastructure
Law
Commercial and Business
Litigation
Domestic and International
Arbitration
Public Policy

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EDUCATION

- Called to the Ontario Bar, 2014
- Juris Doctor, University of Windsor, 2013
- Bachelor of Engineering Science, University of Western Ontario, 2008

- Member, Ontario Bar Association

EXPERIENCE

- Representing owners, developers, general contractors, subcontractors and suppliers in dispute resolution, including mediation, arbitration and litigation.
- Drafting and negotiating various forms of construction contracts on behalf of owners, developers, general contractors, subcontractors and suppliers.
- Representing surety bonding companies in claims related to construction projects, including performance bond claims and labour and material payment bond claims.
- Advising construction clients in respect of construction projects in Canada, the United States and internationally.
- Advising owner clients and owner representatives in relation to major transit projects and related claims.
- Advising contractor clients in relation to termination and default issues.
- Involved in construction cases involving multiple parties and large volumes of documents, including:
- Counsel to a general contractor in respect of various Claims for Lien and a breach of trust action on a multi-million dollar project.
- Advising an EPCM Project Manager in relation to a CDN\$300 Million ICC Arbitration regarding an international mining dispute.
- Advising on a CDN\$40 Million hospital transformation project.
- Representing an infrastructure client in relation to a multi-Billion cross-border transportation project.

PUBLICATIONS

- Co-author, "*Bennington Financial Corp. v. Medcap Real Estate Holdings Inc.*: The Limits of the Immediate Disclosure Rule," March, 2024
- Co-author, "*Ledore v Dixin*: Procedural Fairness and the Limits of Rough Justice," February, 2024
- Co-author, "*Viceroy Homes v Jia Development Inc*: The Consequences of Frivolous, Vexatious, or Abusive Liens," January, 2024
- Co-author, "*Tenoos Construction v Pinto*: The Importance of Compliance with Timetables in Construction Lien Actions," January, 2024
- Co-author, "*Backyard XP Inc v. Cesario-Valela*: Limitations on Issuance of Third Party Claims Under the Construction Act," December, 2023
- Co-author, "Update: Federal Prompt Payment Legislation Comes Into Force," December, 2023
- Co-author, "*Gay Company Limited v. 962332 Ontario Inc*: The Meaning of "Registration" under the Construction Act and Land Titles Act," December, 2023
- Co-author, "*Symtech Innovations Ltd. v. Siemens Canada Limited*: The Importance of Giving Timely Notice of Claims in Ontario," November, 2023
- Co-author, "The Implications of Repeat Arbitral Appointments: *Aroma Franchise Company v Aroma Espresso*," The Canadian Journal of Commercial Arbitration, Volume 4, Issue 1, October, 2023
- Co-author, "*Sjostrom Sheet Metal v Kelson*: Transparency and Effective Communication in Non-Fixed Price Construction Contracts," October, 2023
- Co-author, "*Sundance Development Corporation v. Islington Chauncery Residences Corp.*: The Risks of Accepting an Uncertain "Repudiation" of Contract," October, 2023
- Co-author, "*Devlan Construction Ltd v SRK Woodworking Inc*: Joinder of Trust and Lien Claims is Not Permissible Under Ontario's Construction Act," July, 2023
- Co-author, "*Arad Incorporated v Rejali et al*: Court Wary of Returning Security in Lien Claims on the Sole Basis of Statutory Adjudication," July, 2023
- Co-author, "*Bhatnagar v. Cresco Labs Inc.*: Clarifying the Duty of Honest Performance and the Presumption of Loss," June, 2023
- Co-author, "*Haider v Rizvi*: Implications of Failing to Prescribe Form and Content of a Release," June, 2023
- Co-author, "*Kingsgate Property Ltd. v. Vancouver School District No. 39*: Issue Estoppel and Prior

Arbitrations under the Same Agreement," May, 2023

- Co-author, "*Husky Food Importers & Distributors Ltd v. JH Whittaker & Sons Limited: Ontario's New Test for Staying Litigation in Favour of Arbitration to Determine the Validity of an Arbitration Agreement*," May, 2023
- Co-author, "*Limits on the Presumption of Consistent Expression in Contracts: Baffinland Iron Mines v. Tower-EBC*," April, 2023
- Co-author, "*Judicial Support for Expert Determination as a Dispute Resolution Alternative: KHM Cardiology Centres v Lambardar*," April, 2023
- Co-author, "*Aroma Franchise Company v Aroma Espresso: Guidance and Questions on Disclosure Obligations and Reasonable Apprehension of Bias in Arbitration*," March, 2023
- Co-author, "*Getting Paid: The Migration of Prompt Payment and Adjudication Across Canada*," ReNew Canada, January/February, 2023
- Co-author, "*Rare Example of Partial Summary Judgment in a Construction Matter Upheld*," January, 2023
- Co-author, "*Alternative Dispute Resolution Methods – When does it make sense to use them and which should you use?*," On-Site Magazine, June, 2022
- Co-author, "*Delay claims: What documents do you really need?*," On-Site Magazine, December, 2020
- Co-author, "*The Emergencies Act and the Construction Industry*," May, 2020
- Co-author, "*Construction Act to be Exempt from Suspension of Procedural Time Limits*," April, 2020
- Co-author, "*Extended Hours for Construction of Essential Projects in the Health Care Sector*," April, 2020
- Co-author, "*Consolidation of Adjudications under Ontario's New Construction Act*," Journal of the Canadian College of Construction Lawyers, April, 2020
- Co-author, "*When You Win: Enforcing The Adjudicator's Decision*," Construction Law Letter | Volume 36, December, 2019
- Leadership Review, "*Interview with James Little, Emerging Leader*," Construction Economist, Spring, 2019
- Co-author, "*Nova Scotia to Modernize its Construction Legislation and Introduce Prompt Payment and Adjudication*," April, 2019
- Co-author, "*SLAPP in the Face – Bondfield Prevails in Anti-SLAPP Motion*," April, 2019
- Co-author, "*A Report on the Introduction of Prompt Payment and Adjudication: Legislation in The Province of Ontario*," The International Construction Law Review, January, 2019
- Co-author, "*Singleton Reynolds' Report on Ontario Prompt Payment and Adjudication is featured in the International Construction Law Review Journal*," January, 2019
- Co-author, "*Fall Economic Statement 2018: Federal Prompt Payment and Adjudication To Be Introduced*," November, 2018
- Co-author, "*Prompt Payment and Adjudication in Manitoba: The Ontario Approach Adopted*," November, 2018
- Co-author, "*I Once Was Lost But Now I'm Found: Ontario Government to Amend the Construction Act via Bill 57, the Restoring Trust, Transparency and Accountability Act*," November, 2018
- Author, "*A Bargain Struck: Surety Bonds under Ontario's New Construction Act*," September, 2018
- Co-author, "*A New Construction Act – What Has Changed and How Will It Affect P3 Projects?*," *Lexpert* Special Edition on Infrastructure, September, 2018
- Co-author, "*Discretion and Fairness in Contractor Debarment: Interpaving Limited v City of Greater Sudbury, 2018 ONSC 3005*," August, 2018
- Co-author, "*Ontario's New Construction Act: Key Changes Coming into Force on Canada Day*," June, 2018
- Co-author, Case Study, "*Developing Public Policy*," June, 2018
- Co-author, "*Somewhat Lost in Transition?*," May, 2018

PRESENTATIONS

- Speaker, "*Adjudicator Decisions Finally Reviewed by Ontario Courts: Understanding the Impact of Recent Case Law on the Construction Industry*," 16th National Conference on Navigating Risk in Construction Contracts & Projects (Ontario General Contractors' Association/Canadian Institute),

February, 2024

- Panelist, "Cross-Industry Perspectives on P3 Projects," 2nd annual Society of Construction Law – North America Conference, July, 2023
- Panelist, "Case Studies by Region: COVID and Developing Uncertainty in Construction," Society of Construction Law North American Inaugural Annual Conference, July, 2022
- Speaker, "Construction Act Adjudication," Ontario General Contractors' Association 13th Construction Symposium, April, 2022
- Panelist, "[Federal and Ontario Prompt Payment](#)," Construction and Infrastructure Law Online Symposium, Canadian Bar Association, October, 2021
- Keynote Speaker, CIQS Prompt Payment & Adjudication Webinar Event, June, 2020
- Presenter and Moderator, Ontario General Contractor Association 11th Annual Construction Symposium, April, 2019
- Presenter, "What Happens After Adjudication?," Osgoode Hall Law School Professional Development, April, 2019
- Presenter, "Prompt Payment and Adjudication: Are You and Your Clients Ready?," Ontario Bar Association, May, 2019
- Presenter and Moderator, "The New Construction Act: What you Need to Know," Lexpert® Executive Course, November, 2018
- Speaker, "A Guide to the Construction Act of Ontario: Modernizing the Lien Act," The Building Show (Ontario General Contractors Association Seminar), November, 2018

NEWS + INSIGHTS

- [Bennington Financial Corp. v. Medcap Real Estate Holdings Inc.: The Limits of the Immediate Disclosure Rule](#) - Mar 4, 2024 • Co-authored
- [Ledore v Dixon: Procedural Fairness and the Limits of Rough Justice](#) - Feb 20, 2024 • Co-authored
- [Viceroy Homes v Jia Development Inc: The Consequences of Frivolous, Vexatious, or Abusive Liens](#) - Jan 15, 2024 • Co-authored
- [Tenoos Construction v Pinto: The Importance of Compliance with Timetables in Construction Lien Actions](#) - Jan 5, 2024 • Co-authored
- [Backyard XP Inc v. Cesario-Valela: Limitations on Issuance of Third Party Claims Under the Construction Act](#) - Dec 14, 2023 • Co-authored
- [Update: Federal Prompt Payment Legislation Comes Into Force](#) - Dec 13, 2023 • Co-authored
- [Gay Company Limited v. 962332 Ontario Inc: The Meaning of "Registration" under the Construction Act and Land Titles Act](#) - Dec 6, 2023 • Co-authored
- [Symtech Innovations Ltd. v. Siemens Canada Limited: The Importance of Giving Timely Notice of Claims in Ontario](#) - Nov 6, 2023 • Co-authored
- [Sjostrom Sheet Metal v Kelson: Transparency and Effective Communication in Non-Fixed Price Construction Contracts](#) - Oct 24, 2023 • Co-authored
- [Sundance Development Corporation v. Islington Chauncery Residences Corp.: The Risks of Accepting an Uncertain "Repudiation" of Contract](#) - Oct 12, 2023 • Co-authored
- [Devlan Construction Ltd v SRK Woodworking Inc: Joinder of Trust and Lien Claims is Not Permissible Under Ontario's Construction Act](#) - Jul 28, 2023 • Co-authored
- [Arad Incorporated v Rejali et al: Court Wary of Returning Security in Lien Claims on the Sole Basis of Statutory Adjudication](#) - Jul 17, 2023 • Co-authored
- [Bhatnagar v. Cresco Labs Inc.: Clarifying the Duty of Honest Performance and the Presumption of Loss](#) - Jun 19, 2023 • Co-authored
- [Haider v Rizvi: Implications of Failing to Prescribe Form and Content of a Release](#) - Jun 13, 2023 • Co-authored
- [Kingsgate Property Ltd. v. Vancouver School District No. 39: Issue Estoppel and Prior Arbitrations under the Same Agreement](#) - May 30, 2023 • Co-authored
- [Husky Food Importers & Distributors Ltd v. JH Whittaker & Sons Limited: Ontario's New Test for Staying Litigation in Favour of Arbitration to Determine the Validity of an Arbitration Agreement](#) - May 23, 2023 • Co-authored
- [Limits on the Presumption of Consistent Expression in Contracts: Baffinland Iron Mines v. Tower-EBC](#) - Apr 24, 2023 • Co-authored

- Judicial Support for Expert Determination as a Dispute Resolution Alternative: KHM Cardiology Centres v Lambardar - Apr 11, 2023 • Co-authored
- Aroma Franchise Company v Aroma Espresso: Guidance and Questions on Disclosure Obligations and Reasonable Apprehension of Bias in Arbitration - Mar 24, 2023 • Co-authored
- Rare Example of Partial Summary Judgment in a Construction Matter Upheld - Jan 11, 2023 • Co-authored

COMMUNITY + VOLUNTEERING

- Chair, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee, Singleton Urquhart Reynolds Vogel LLP