

AHSAN MIRZA

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Ahsan Mirza is a financial services and banking lawyer with particular expertise in project finance. His practice focuses on public-private partnerships (P3), public infrastructure, and secured and syndicated lending projects. He is recognized as a rising star in banking and project finance by the *IFLR1000 Financial and Corporate Guide* (2020) and as a leading lawyer in project finance by *Chambers Canada* (2021).

With extensive experience in project development and financing in the construction and energy sectors, Ahsan advises borrowers and lenders, as well as bond issuers, bond underwriters and private placement investors on a variety of domestic, cross-border and international financing transactions.

Ahsan has played a leading role in several high-profile Canadian project finance and infrastructure transactions. In addition to his in-depth knowledge of the Ontario, Alberta and B.C. public-private partnerships models, he has gained valuable experience advising on major infrastructure projects procured by the federal government, and municipal P3 projects in Toronto, Peel Region, Ottawa, Halifax, Edmonton, Victoria (Capital Regional District), Saskatoon, Calgary and Moncton. He also played a leading role in one of the largest P3 projects launched by the Government of Canada and the first P3 project undertaken by the Government of the Northwest Territories.

In addition to public infrastructure, Ahsan assists developers with creative structuring and financing solutions for private project finance transactions and renewable energy projects in Ontario and British Columbia.

Email: ahsan.mirza@mcmillan.ca

Expertise: Banking & Finance, Construction & Infrastructure, Energy, Financial Services, Project Finance & P3

Location: Toronto

Phone: 416.865.7855

Position/Title: Partner, Project Finance & P3

Directorships & Affiliations:

- Canadian Bar Association
- Ontario Bar Association

Publications:

- "[Crosslinx v. Ontario Infrastructure : Turns out the Pandemic is an Emergency...](#)", co-author with Julie Han, Jason Annibale and Tim Murphy, Canadian College of Construction Legal Update, pp 14-19 (November 8, 2021)
- "[Project Finance Comparative Guide - Canada Chapter](#)", Co-author with Julie Han, Mondaq (September 22, 2021)
- "[Public-Private Partnerships in Canada: Law Policy and Value for Money](#)," Contributing Author, Book, published by LexisNexis (May 2019)
- "[Getting the Deal Through - Banking Regulation 2017](#)," Law Business Research, (June 2017)
- "[Banking Regulation 2016, Canada chapter](#)," Getting the Deal Through, 2016
- "[Banking Regulation 2015, Canada Chapter](#)," Getting the Deal Through, 2015
- "[Banking Regulation 2014, Canada Chapter](#)," Getting the Deal Through, 2014

Education & Admissions:

Degree: Called to the Ontario bar

Year: 2011

Degree: JD

University: Osgoode Hall Law School

Year: 2010

Degree: BA

University: Carleton University

Year: 2007

Media Mentions:

- "[Legal Notes: Crosstown LRT partners entitled to claim relief due to COVID 'emergency'](#)", by John Bleasby, *Daily Commercial News/Construct Connect*, June 7, 2021

Rankings & Recognition:

- Winner in the Lexpert 2021 Rising Star Awards: Leading Lawyer Under 40
- Recognized by Chambers Canada (2022) as a leading lawyer in the area of Project Finance
- Recognized by Best Lawyers in Canada (2022) as a leading lawyer in the area of Project Finance Law
- Recognized in the 2021 Lexpert Special Edition on Canada's Leading Infrastructure Lawyers as a Infrastructure Lawyer
- Recognized in the 2021 Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory as a Repeatedly Recommended Lawyer in the areas of Banking & Financial Institutions and Infrastructure Law
- Recognized by Chambers Global (2021) as a leading lawyer in the area of Project Finance
- Recognized by Chambers Canada (2021) as a leading lawyer in the area of Project Finance
- Recognized by IFLR1000 Financial and Corporate Guide 2020 as a Rising Star in Banking and Project Finance
- Recognized by Chambers Canada (2020) as a leading lawyer in the area of Project Finance
- Recognized by IFLR1000 Financial and Corporate Guide 2019 as a Rising Star in banking and Project Finance
- Named in IFLR1000 Financial and Corporate Guide 2018 as a rising star in the areas of Banking and Project Finance

Speaking Engagements:

- P3 Litigation: Tackling and Resolving Disputes - OBA Construction Law Program, Toronto, Ontario
- December 5, 2017

Representative Matters:

- Counsel to VanCity Community Investment Bank on its \$32.5 million refinancing of Six Nations of the Grand River Development Corporation (SNGRDC) interest in the 230 MW Niagara Region Wind Farm
- Burnaby Hospital Redevelopment Project – Counsel to the Lenders to EllisDon Infrastructure in the design and build of the \$1.4 billion phase 1 redevelopment of the hospital
- Alberta High Schools Project – Counsel to Concert-Bird Partners in the \$300 million project to design, build, finance, and maintain for five Alberta high schools
- Orleans Health Hub Project – counsel to the project finance lenders, Bank of Montreal & BMO Capital Markets, in connection with the \$59.7 million build-finance project
- Ottawa LRT Stage 2 (Trillium Line South Extension) Project – Counsel to the lenders to SNC-Lavalin Capital Inc., The Toronto-Dominion Bank and The National Bank of Canada, in the \$1.6 billion project to

design and build approximately 44 kilometres of new rail and 24 new stations to extend the O-Train network in Ottawa

- Acted as legal counsel to Canada Infrastructure Bank (CIB) in its \$100 million financing of La SOFIAC (Société de financement et d'accompagnement en performance énergétique) for energy efficiency retrofit projects in commercial, industrial and multi-residential buildings in Québec.
- Acted as legal counsel to VanCity Community Investment Bank (VCIB) in connection with the project financing provided to Noventa Energy Partners for the development of the \$42.9 million energy transfer project to be constructed at Toronto Western Hospital, part of the University Health Network (UHN).
- Counsel to Bird Construction Inc. as borrower under a \$200 million syndicated credit facility with Bank of Montreal as lead arranger, bookrunner and administrative agent, and The Toronto-Dominion Bank, ATB Financial and Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce as lenders.
- Finch West LRT (Light Rail Transit) Project – Counsel to bond underwriters and bank lenders on the \$2.5 billion project to design, build, finance, operate and maintain a new 11 kilometer dedicated light rail transit extension in Toronto, Ontario
- OPP Modernization Phase 2 Project – Counsel to bank lenders on this project to design, build and finance nine separate Ontario Provincial Police facilities across Ontario
- Gordie Howe International Bridge Project – Counsel to bond underwriters and bank lenders in connection with the RFP bid submission by Legacy Link Partners for the over \$5 billion project procured by the Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority (WDBA)
- CRD Residuals Treatment Facility Project – Counsel to the equity sponsors in the \$126.8 million project to design, build, finance, operate and maintain a residuals treatment facility in Saanich, B.C.
- Hamilton Biosolids Management Project – Counsel to the equity sponsors in the \$106 million project to design, build, finance and maintain a biosolids management facility in the City of Hamilton
- Counsel to CWB Maxium Financial Inc. in connection with the secured project financing of renewable energy projects developed by Community Energy Development Co-operative
- New Bridge for the St. Lawrence Corridor (Champlain Bridge) Project – Counsel to bond underwriters and bank lenders in the \$3.9 billion PPP project for the design, build, financing, operation, maintenance and rehabilitation of an approximately 3.4 km long new bridge across the St. Lawrence river to replace the existing Champlain Bridge
- North Commuter Parkway Project – Counsel to the equity sponsors (Graham Capital and BBGI SICAV S.A.) in the \$264 million project to design, build, finance and maintain a new traffic bridge and related infrastructure in the City of Saskatoon
- Highway 407 East Phase 2 Project – Counsel to the bond underwriters and bank lenders in the \$722 million project to design, build, finance and maintain a 22.1 kilometre easterly extension of the Highway

407 over a period of 30 years

- City of Moncton Downtown Centre Project – Counsel to the Bird Construction Inc. in the successful financial close of the Moncton Downtown Project
- Calgary Composting Facility Project – Counsel to the Bird Construction Inc. in the successful financial close of the \$143 million PPP project to design, build, finance and operate a composting facility in the City of Calgary
- Eglinton Crosstown LRT PPP Project – Counsel to Crosstown Transit Partners (consortium consisting of Fengate Capital, OHL Concesiones, STRABAG, Bechtel Developments and Obayashi Canada) in its response to Infrastructure Ontario's RFP for Eglinton LRT
- Casey House Hospice Redevelopment Project – Counsel to lenders in the \$32 million, 58,000-square-foot build-finance PPP project involving renovation of the existing heritage property and the construction of a new facility for the hospice
- Saskatoon Civic Operations Centre Project – Counsel to equity sponsors (EllisDon Capital Inc. and Fengate Capital Management Inc.) in the \$128 million project to design, build, finance and operate a transit and snow management facility for the City of Saskatoon
- Mackenzie Valley Fibre Link Project – Counsel to lenders in the \$82 million project to design, build, finance, operate and maintain a 1,400 kilometre long fibre-optic cable link between High Level, Alberta and Inuvik, Northwest Territories
- John Hart Generation Station Replacement Project – Counsel to lenders and bond underwriters in the \$1.1 billion project to design, build, finance and maintain the John Hart Generation Station Replacement
- Counsel to Sun Capital Partners in the acquisition financing of Invensys Appliances and amalgamation of Invensys and Robertshaw Controls Company
- Counsel to Fengate Capital Management in respect of the development and financing of a 40 MW biomass powerplant in Fort St. James, British Columbia
- Counsel to Royal Bank of Canada as administrative agent for a syndicate of lenders providing a \$35 million syndicated credit facility and as a bilateral lender providing \$27 million bilateral loan facility to a North American regional airline
- Canadian counsel to JPMorgan Chase Bank as administrative agent for a syndicate of lenders providing \$350 million credit facilities to an international clothing and fashion retailer
- Counsel to Potentia Solar Inc. in the development and financing of 33.6MW portfolio of solar generation projects to be located on 311 Toronto District School Board rooftops
- Canadian counsel to Premier Farnell PLC in respect of the Canadian aspects of a £200 million multicurrency syndicated revolving credit facility and \$235 million of five to ten year US Private Placement Notes

- Counsel to GE Capital as administrative agent for a syndicate of lenders providing \$120 million credit facilities to a leading North American wholesale food company
- Counsel to Fengate Capital Management in connection with a \$235 million renewable electricity generation powerplant in Merritt, British Columbia
- Counsel to equity sponsors in respect of the \$830.5 million St. Joseph Healthcare project – a project to design, build, finance and maintain two new mental health care facilities in London and St. Thomas, Ontario
- Counsel to Potentia Solar Inc. in the \$89 million syndicated term loan facility in connection with the acquisition and development of a portfolio of 130 solar rooftop facilities under the Ontario Feed in Tariff (FIT) Program
- Canadian counsel to GENIVAR Inc. as borrower on a \$400 million credit facility and a \$225 million bridge facility from Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce as administrative agent for a syndicate of lenders in connection with its acquisition of WSP Group PLC, a multi-disciplinary professional services consultancy based in London, UK
- Canadian counsel to Sun Capital Partners, Inc. on the €200 million and \$385 million senior secured notes offering by Albéa Beauty Holdings S.A. in connection with its acquisition of Rexam Personal Care, Cosmetic Division
- Canadian counsel to a syndicate of lenders providing \$100 million term loan and \$95 million revolving credit facilities to a major North American recycling and reprocessing company
- Counsel to Comerica Bank on a \$40 million credit facility provided to DragonWamanave Inc. in connection with its acquisition of Nokia Siemens Networks' microwave transport business
- Highway 407 East Extension Phase 1 – Counsel to syndicate of bank lenders and bond underwriters in connection with the RFQ and RFP bid submissions by 407 GreenLink Partners for the \$1 billion Highway 407 East extension project (Phase 1)

Industries: Banking & Finance, Construction & Infrastructure, Energy, Project Finance & P3

Practices: Financial Services