

WILLIAM PELLERIN



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William Pellerin is a partner in the international trade group. He has extensive experience litigating and advising on international trade law matters and disputes and is one of the very few private practice lawyers in Canada to have argued before the WTO Appellate Body and dispute settlement panels.

William litigates trade remedy matters regularly; he has successfully acted as counsel before the CITT and CBSA in numerous trade remedy proceedings. William also advises clients with respect to customs compliance, export controls and economic sanctions and has a thorough understanding of international trade policy and government processes.

William is also co-chair of McMillan's Sanctions Speciality niche. He advises numerous Fortune 500 companies on complex sanctions and export control matters. He is a sought-after commentator and speaker on trade and sanctions matters, and as such is frequently interviewed and cited by Canada's leading media outlets.

As former Deputy Director, Trade Remedies and North America Trade with Global Affairs Canada, William oversaw international trade disputes and appeals and coordinated Canada's response to such actions. In his prior role as counsel to the Government of Canada's Trade Law Bureau, William represented Canada in its challenge to the United States Department of Commerce's imposition of countervailing duties on softwood lumber products from Canada. He also appeared and successfully argued for Canada before the Appellate Body in 2019.

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Expertise: Food, Beverage & Agribusiness, Forest Products, Government & Public Policy, International Trade, Manufacturing

Language Spoken: English, French

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/williamPELLERIN/>

Location: Ottawa

Phone: 613.691.6150

Position/Title: Partner, International Trade

Education & Admissions:

Degree: Called to the Ontario bar

Year: 2013

Degree: JD

University: University of Ottawa

Year: 2012

Degree: B. Comm (Honours Finance)

University: University of Ottawa

Year: 2008

Media Mentions:

- "[Canada-Russia standoff over a cargo jet, explained](#)," About That, with Andrew Chang, CBC News (June 19, 2023)

- "[Russia says relations with Canada 'on the verge of being severed' as cargo plane seized](#)," by Dylan Robertson, The Canadian Press (June 14, 2023)
- "[Keeping score: A Canadian law firm tallies USMCA dispute wins, losses, more](#)," Inside U.S. Trade's (April 21, 2023)
- "[Ottawa struggles to keep up with fallout from explosion of international sanctions](#)," by Tom Blackwell, The National Post (April 6, 2023)
- "[Regime change in Moscow 'definitely' the goal, Joly says, as Canada bans Russian steel, aluminum imports](#)," by The Canadian Press, The National Post (March 10, 2023)
- "[Canada bans imports of Russian steel, aluminum as part of sanctions regime](#)," by The Canadian Press, The Globe and Mail (March 10, 2023)
- "[Canada's trade with Russia has plummeted since its invasion of Ukraine](#)," by Dylan Robertson and Mia Rabson, The Canadian Press (February 23, 2023)
- "[Ottawa wins battle to stop Iran plane crash victims from seeking damages from sale of embassy](#)," by Tom Blackwell, National Post (January 11, 2023)
- "[Ontario court blocks attempt by Flight PS752 families to seize Iranian assets](#)," by Ashley Burke, CBC News (January 10, 2023)
- "[Canada's move to seize assets from Russian oligarch could test charter law: trade lawyer](#)," by The Canadian Press, CBC News (December 22, 2022)
- "[Canada's move to seize assets from Russian oligarch Roman Abramovich could test Charter, trade lawyer says](#)," by Dylan Robertson, The Canadian Press (December 22, 2022)
- "[Efforts to remove forced labour from Canadian supply chain expected to ramp up: McMillan lawyer](#)," by Zena Olijnyk, Canadian Lawyer Magazine (July 19, 2022)
- "[Canada's forced labour laws have potential but supply chains hard to police, experts say](#)," CBC Radio (June 8, 2022)
- "[Advocates are concerned Canada's blanket forced labour law isn't being enforced](#)," The Current with Matt Galloway, CBC (June 8, 2022)
- "[Max-Atlas and China International Marine Containers: David wins against Goliath](#)," by Claude Boucher, Transport Magazine (May 2022) Translated version republished by McMillan available [here](#)
- "[Une PME se défend face à une attaque économique de la Chine](#)" by Mathieu Dion, Radio-Canada (March 2022)
- "[Western powers hit Russian central bank with sanctions](#)," by Mark Rendell, The Globe and Mail (February 2022)

Rankings & Recognition:

- Recognized by *Best Lawyers in Canada* (2024) as a leading lawyer in the area of International Trade and Finance Law

Speaking Engagements:

- Canada's Three-Pronged Approach to Forced & Child Labour: An Update on Mandatory Reporting, Import Bans, and CORE Investigations

- October 5, 2023

- <https://www.aima.org/event/sanctions-screening--canadian-q-a.html>

- Knowledge Group sanctions, Trade Challenges and Opportunities Amid the Wide-Ranging Economic Sanctions

- June 20, 2023

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<https://www.mondaq.com/canada/export-controls--trade--investment-sanctions/1327102/webinar-future-series-mastering-canadian-sanctions-compliance-advanced-insights-and-strategies-for-global-business>

- Mondaq Worldwide: Webinar: Future Series: Mastering Canadian Sanctions Compliance: Advanced Insights And Strategies For Global Business

- June 7, 2023

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<https://www.mondaq.com/canada/export-controls--trade--investment-sanctions/1327102/webinar-future-series-mastering-canadian-sanctions-compliance-advanced-insights-and-strategies-for-global-business>

- IE Canada 2022 Fall International Trade Summit

- November 29-30, 2022

- <https://www.aima.org/event/sanctions-screening--canadian-q-a.html>

- Sanctions Screening: Canadian Q&A webinar

- October 26, 2022

- <https://www.aima.org/event/sanctions-screening--canadian-q-a.html>

- 12th Annual U.S. Export & Re-Export Compliance for Canadian Operations - WEB

- https://issuu.com/c5group/docs/856123_web

- The Canadian Institute, Global Economic Sanctions, "The RCMP and The Canadian Sanctions Enforcement Landscape"

- September 22-23, 2022

- <https://www.canadianinstitute.com/global-economic-sanctions/agenda/>

- Canadian Apparel Federation, Forced Labour and Apparel Imports: New U.S. supply chain and legislation, Canadian policy and the Impact on apparel supply chains, starting at 52 min

- July 14, 2022

- <https://register.gotowebinar.com/recording/4859253580451400203>

- Ontario Bar Association's Sanctions and Export Controls Program

- May 11, 2022

- https://www.cbapd.org/details_en.aspx?id=ON_ON22INT02X

Representative Matters: WTO and Trade Remedy Matters

- United States — Countervailing Measures on Softwood Lumber from Canada, DS533. Successfully represented the Government of Canada before WTO dispute settlement panel in relation to the U.S. imposition of countervailing duties on softwood lumber from Canada
- United States — Countervailing Measures on Supercalendered Paper from Canada, DS505. Successfully represented the Government of Canada before WTO dispute settlement panel in relation to the U.S. imposition of countervailing duties on Supercalendered paper products from Canada. Subsequently represented the Government of Canada before the WTO Appellate Body on appeal by the United States of the panel's decision
- Crystalline Silicon Photovoltaic Cells Safeguard Measure, USA-CAN-2021-31-01. Policy lead for the Government of Canada in its appeal of U.S. imposition of safeguard tariff on Canadian imports of solar products
- Fresh, Chilled, or Frozen Blueberries (Safeguard), Inv. No. 201-TA-077. As policy lead for the Government of Canada, coordinated Canada's successful litigation effort in the United States International Trade Commission safeguard investigation on fresh and frozen blueberries
- Acted for the Canadian producers of solar modules in the successful anti-dumping and countervailing investigation and inquiry before the Canada Border Services Agency and the Canadian International Trade Tribunal

- Acted for the Canadian producers of silicon metal, steel plate, aluminium extrusions and unitized wall modules in various anti-dumping and countervailing complaints, investigations, inquiries and expiry reviews

Economic Sanctions Matters

- Advised a leading global mining company in assessing and revising business relationships and contracts with entities owned in part by sanctioned individuals;
- Advised a leading commodity trading company. Requested and successfully obtained sanctions permit authorization for the importation of Russian goods arising from Canada's prohibition on the docking of certain vessels;
- Advised a company in the fertilizer industry and provided advice on complex business restructuring activities arising from relationships with sanctioned entities;
- Advised a leading Canadian manufacturer of medical equipment in respect of contractual obligations and seized bank payments;
- Advised a leading petroleum producer in respect of advice on Canadian prohibitions on the import of oil products;
- Advised a leading global automaker in respect of the application of Canadian sanctions to commercial and financial activities;
- Advised a hedge fund in respect of the designation of the Russian Central Bank as a Schedule 1 designated entity by Canada and in relation to trading in Russian sovereign debt in the secondary market.

Industries: Food, Beverage & Agribusiness, Forest Products, Manufacturing

Practices: Government & Public Policy, International Trade