

M. Gordon Hearn

Partner and Co-Chair, Transportation and Logistics Group

Get in touch

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Executive summary

Gordon advises domestic and international clients involved in the transportation, supply chain, and distribution of goods on a wide range of litigation, regulatory, and contractual matters. His practice is focused on helping businesses manage risk and resolve disputes arising from the movement of goods across borders and within Canada.

Gordon works closely with shippers, receivers, carriers, logistics providers—including third-party logistics, supply chain and fulfillment providers, freight forwarders, load brokers, customs brokers, and warehouse operators—as well as their insurers. He advises on legal exposure and commercial risk in international, cross-border, and domestic carriage of goods by all modes of transportation.

His experience includes cross-border and domestic commercial litigation, cargo and products liability claims, insurance and casualty matters, and regulatory compliance issues affecting transportation operations and licensing. Gordon also assists clients with the drafting and negotiation of transportation and commercial contracts, advises on insurance coverage matters, and provides guidance on domestic and international sale of goods, including multi-modal and inter-modal carriage involving ocean, air, rail, and road transportation.

EDUCATION

University of Windsor, LLB, 1985
Western University, BA, 1982

BAR ADMISSION

Ontario, 1987

Expertise

Transportation & Logistics

Litigation & Dispute Resolution

Insurance

Representative work

- Represented numerous manufacturing, consumer products, agri-business and pharmaceutical companies from “start ups” to “Fortune 500” in transit, handling and storage risk identification and related risk management best practices, including the preparation of and implementation of

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international and domestic supply chain logistics and purchase and sale agreements

- Acted as lead counsel on a wide array of international and domestic litigation matters including transportation casualty incidents, cargo loss, damage and delay claims, product liability and commercial disputes and related insurance coverage matters
- Provided conflict resolution, regulatory and contracting advice for a broad range of transportation service providers including national trucking fleets, international freight forwarders and a Class 1 U.S. railroad

Insights

Publications

A Moveable Feast: A Cookbook for Cross-Border Claims Involving Cuisine Article published The Transportation Lawyer, April 2022

Doing Business in Canada: Freight Broker Framework – Industry “white paper” sponsored by the Transportation Freight Intermediaries Association and Canadian International Freight Forwarders Association, April 2021

Presentations

Innovating Your Freight Brokerage Against Potential Risk – Presentation to the Transportation Intermediaries Association Capital Ideas Conference, April 2022

Blogs

Freight Brokers and Risk Management in the Post-Montgomery World

2 July 2026

Looking Ahead to 2026: Freight Brokers, Motor Carrier Casualty Claims and the United States Supreme Court

2 January 2026

Freight Brokers Take Note: Pending Amendments to the Freight Broker Regulations in the United States

2 June 2025

The Tragedy of Ukraine International Airlines Flight PS 752 and the Montreal Convention: A Case Study

23 August 2024

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Canadian Law Update: You've paid your customer's cargo claim. will you be able to recover from the responsible carrier?

4 December 2023

News

Fernandes Hearn LLP Joins Gardiner Roberts LLP

10 November 2022

Memberships and recognition

Board memberships

- Transportation Lawyers Association (President 2012 – 2013)
 - Conference of Freight Counsel
 - Transportation Intermediaries Association
 - Canadian Transport Lawyers Association
 - Canadian Board of Marine Underwriters
 - Marine Club (President 2000-2001)
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Recognition

- *Martindale Hubbell Peer Review*: 2025 AV "Preeminent"
 - *Avvo Rated Top lawyer* 2025 - "Superb Attorney"
 - *Chambers Canada* – (Transportation: Rail & Road, Nationwide – Canada)
 - *The Legal 500 Canada* – "Leading Lawyer" (Road and Rail)
 - *Best Lawyers in Canada* 2008-2026 (Transportation Law)
 - *Best Lawyers in Canada* 2006-2026 (Maritime Law)
 - *Best Lawyers in Canada (Insurance Law)* 2026
 - *Who's Who Legal Canada* (Shipping Law)
 - *Lexpert* (Road and Rail) – 2025 "Most Frequently Recommended"
 - *Lexpert* (Shipping and Maritime Law) – 2025 "Repeatedly Recommended"
 - *Doyles Guide* – Leading Transport Lawyers – Canada: Preeminent
 - *Best Lawyers in Canada* Transportation Law Lawyer of the Year – Toronto (2015, 2021)
 - *Best Lawyers in Canada* Maritime Law Lawyer of the Year – Toronto (2013)
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