

John Doolan

Partner

Vancouver

OFFICE

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Industries & Expertise

INDUSTRIES

Banking and Financial Services | Transactions & Leasing | Major Projects | Real Estate

EXPERTISE

Aboriginal Law | Municipal, Planning & Land Development | Real Estate | Transactions & Leasing

Biography

BAR ADMISSION

British Columbia, 1987

EDUCATION

- LL.B., University of British Columbia

LANGUAGES SPOKEN

English

John Doolan is a senior real estate lawyer, with extensive experience in Indigenous business law matters. He acts for national First Nation governance organizations, First Nation governments, First Nation economic development organizations, financial institutions, developers, lessees and the provincial government on a broad range of Indigenous business matters. Mr. Doolan leads Miller Thomson's Aboriginal Business Law

Group. John has been ranked in several recognized industry directories for his experience and proficiency in Aboriginal business law. He has dedicated most of his career to promoting and supporting economic development projects and activities related to Indigenous groups in Canada. He has acted on many of the most significant Indigenous business transactions in Canada and his deep knowledge and proficiency are widely recognized. Mr. Doolan is considered a trusted and strategic advisor to his clients.

Industry involvement

Recognition

- *Best Lawyers in Canada*, Real Estate Law, 2018 – 2025; Aboriginal/Indigenous Practice, 2020 – 2025
- *Chambers Global* and *Chambers Canada*: Aboriginal Law, 2018 – 2022
- *The Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory*, Indigenous Law; Property Development; Property Leasing

Notable Matters

- Acting as general commercial counsel to Tsawwassen First Nation on structuring, planning, development approval and regulation, economic development, joint ventures, requests for proposals, leasing and commercial matters in the implementation of its 2009 treaty, including advising on their industrial lands developments and the new Tsawwassen Mills shopping centre development;
- Advising on the establishment of the Tsuut'ina Nation – Canderel Real Estate limited partnership for the development of 1,200 acres of Tsuut'ina Nation reserve land and related structuring, planning, leasing and development matters;
- Acting for CMHC as project leader on the 11 tower Senakw development on 10.5 acres of Squamish Nation lands in downtown Vancouver;
- Advising lending syndicates on structuring, capacity, contracting, security and legal opinion issues in connection with utility infrastructure projects in Ontario involving First Nation participants;
- Advising lending syndicates on First Nations' issues in connection with the financing of a major resort and casino project on First Nation reserve land in Alberta;
- Advising, energy, utility and forestry companies on First Nations' issues, including relationship-building and agreements, land tenures, additions to reserve lands and treaty issues;
- Acting for Whistler/Blackcomb on Ski Area Development Agreements, real estate developments, public offerings, going private and syndicated financing transactions;
- Advising a variety of other business clients on due diligence, structuring, financing, joint ventures, partnerships, land tenure and security matters in connection with business ventures involving First Nations and projects on First Nation land;
- Preparing requests for proposals and responses to requests for proposals on major projects, including destination casino, sewage treatment plant and infrastructure projects on First Nation land;

- Assisting with the establishment of the federal First Nations Tax Commission and the development and implementation of its corporate governance policies;
- Acting as counsel to the First Nations Tax Commission on the proposed new federal Indigenous Land Title Act and regulations;
- Advising on the implications of modern First Nation legislation, including the Indian Oil and Gas Act, and First Nations Commercial and Industrial Development Act, First Nations Fiscal Management Act, First Nations Land Management Act and on modern First Nations' treaties;
- Advising Tk'emlups te Secwepémc (Kamloops) on relations and agreements with governments and developers and a broad range of real property and commercial matters, including reserve land leasing matters, the establishment of a development approval process, the structuring and implementation of comprehensive real estate developments and the acquisition of a major ranch property to be added to the First Nation's reserve lands;
- Advising the developer of the Kicking Horse Mountain Resort near Golden, British Columbia on all real estate development and regulatory matters from resort start-up, including negotiating its Ski Area Development Agreement with the Province of British Columbia and establishing water and sewer utilities and a regime for the mountain's regulation of real estate development; and
- Advising developers and First Nations on the structuring and implementation of multi-phase, commercial, residential and mixed-use leasehold developments on First Nation land.

Community roles

- British Columbia Minor Hockey Coach, 2010 – 2020

Memberships & affiliations

- Canadian Bar Association
- Law Society of British Columbia