



Yan A. Besner

Partner, Real Estate

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Montréal

(514) 904-5790

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Bar Admission: Québec, 2003

Areas of Expertise

Travel and Leisure

Real Estate

Infrastructure

Retail and Consumer Products

Capital Markets

Financial Services

Commercial Real Estate

Yan is a Partner in the Real Estate Group of our Montréal office. He advises on acquisitions, dispositions, financing and leasing transactions to real estate companies and clients with core real estate assets critical to their businesses.

His clients include property owners, developers, lenders and other commercial clients. He is known for his extensive experience in advising national and international retailers, including businesses involved in franchising on their commercial real estate needs in Québec. Yan provides ongoing, day-to-day counsel to numerous major national and international retail clients on their commercial leasing needs across Canada. He also provides real estate counsel to institutional property owners and managers, REITS, family offices and governmental authorities.

Yan created and spearheaded the development of Estoppel Express, an estoppel certificate production service developed through the Osler Works platform.

An entrepreneurial, talented and energetic lawyer, Yan is recognized as a rising star in the commercial real estate sector in Quebec. He is a trusted and commercially savvy advisor to his clients, many of whom have worked with him for several years on multiple projects, as well as a key real estate resource within the firm, on both provincial and national levels.

Yan is regularly called upon to speak at the International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC) of America, of which he is an active member. He is also the 2020 Program Planning Committee Chair of the ICSC Canadian Shopping Centre Law Conference. Yan has also been a contributor to the chapter on the Landlord's Rights and Remedies in Quebec in the book Landlords Rights and Remedies in a Commercial Lease: A Practical Guide, Second Edition and taught International Finance at the Masters Level at the Faculty of Law of Université de Montréal.

Yan is repeatedly recognized as a leading lawyer by the following legal directories:

- Best Lawyers (Commercial Leasing and Real Estate Law)

- The Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory (Property Leasing)
- Lexpert US/Canada Cross-Border Guide, 2015: listed as a Corporate Lawyer to Watch.
- Lexpert Rising Stars: Leading Lawyers Under 40, 2014: Finalist.

Awards and Recognition

- **Chambers Canada: Canada's Leading Lawyers for Business:** Recognized in Real Estate (Québec)
- **The Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory:** Recognized in Real Estate – Commercial Leasing
- **Lexpert US/Canada Cross-Border Guide:** Recognized as a Corporate Lawyer to Watch
- **Lexpert: Leading Lawyers Under 40:** Recognized as a Finalist
- **Best Lawyers in Canada:** Recognized in Commercial Leasing Law; Real Estate Law
- **Euromoney LMG:** Recognized in Americas Rising Star Awards: Best in Real Estate (Shortlisted)

Community Involvement

- Member, Development Advisory Council, Farm Aid
- Member, International Council of Shopping Centers (since 2017)
- Member, Board of Directors of the Selwyn House School Association

Credentials

Education

- Université de Montréal, 2015, Juris Doctor
- Université de Montréal, 2003, D.E.S.S, Common Law
- Université de Montréal, 2001, LL.B.

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Languages

- English

- French

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Professional Affiliations

- Chair of the 2020 Program Planning Committee of the ICSC Canadian Shopping Centre Law Conference
- Member of the ICSC Canadian Shopping Centre Law Conference (since 2017)
- Member, Québec Bar
- Member, Canadian Bar Association