

# Gary R. Sollis

## Partner



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Vancouver

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## Overview

Gary represents clients in the areas of corporate and securities law, with a focus on acquisitions, financings and reorganizations. He has acted for a variety of public and private companies in financing transactions, including public offerings, private placements of debt and equity, special warrant financings and public and private limited partnership offerings.

Gary is an adjunct professor of securities regulation at Faculty of Law at University of British Columbia and has also lectured on corporate and commercial law topics for the Continuing Legal Education Society and the British Columbia Professional Legal Training Course.

Gary has also assisted clients in connection with takeover bids, mergers, proxy contests, spin-offs, joint ventures and acquisitions of private businesses.

## Experience

- **Confidential Client:** Advising a British Columbia based retail company in its cross-border sale to a US private equity firm for a total transaction value of more than US\$200 million.
- **Procon Mining & Tunnelling Ltd.:** Advising this Canadian mining contractor on the sale of control to a subsidiary of China CAMC Engineering Co., Ltd., a Chinese SOE.
- **Veris Gold Group of Companies:** Acting as counsel for the Monitor in connection with the disposition of the Veris Gold USA Inc. operating and real estate assets to Whitebox Advisors LLC.
- **North Country Gold Corp.:** Advising the Canada-based precious metals explorer that controls a large greenstone belt with a known gold resource located within Canada's Nunavut Territory, in its CA\$20.4 million acquisition by Auryn Resources Inc. under a plan of arrangement.
- **Ad Hoc Group of First Lien Lenders of Catalyst Paper Corporation:** Advising bondholders on the restructuring of Catalysts' Canadian paper manufacturing operations.
- **American Bullion Minerals Ltd.:** Advising with respect to acquisition by Imperial Metals Corporation of the

shares of ABML not already owned by Imperial.

- **Copper Canyon Resources Ltd.:** Advising in connection with acquisition by NovaGold Resources Inc. by way of plan of arrangement.
- **G & T Metallurgical Services Ltd.:** Advising this BC based specialty metal laboratory on its sale to Alex Stewart Group Ltd.
- **Explorator Resources Inc.:** Advising with respect to the CA\$55 million acquisition by Sociedad Punta del Cobre (Pucobre) by way of plan of arrangement of the 83% of Explorator shares not already owned by Pucobre.
- **Nyrstar NV:** Acting as counsel on its CA\$409 million acquisition of Farallon Mining Ltd. by way of takeover bid.
- **Confidential client:** Advising a private equity sponsored business based in the U.S. on its acquisition of several recycling businesses in Canada.
- **Confidential client:** Advising the owners of two privately owned drilling services companies with operations in Canada, Argentina, Chile and Mexico in connection with the sale of their companies to a U.S.-based public company.
- **Confidential client:** Advising public and private biotechnology companies in connection with their financings, strategic alliances, restructurings and acquisitions.
- **Confidential client:** Advising U.S. and European pharmaceutical companies in connection with their acquisition of Canada-based biotechnology companies.
- **Athabasca Potash Inc. (API):** Advising in connection with its CA\$341 million acquisition by BHP Billiton by way of plan of arrangement.
- **Confidential client:** Advising a local B.C. investor group and CHEK Victoria employees on the acquisition of one of the oldest, and one of the first privately owned B.C. television stations from CanWest Global Communications.
- **Inspectorate:** Advising with respect to its acquisition of PRA Labs, a B.C. based metal laboratory.
- **BMO Nesbitt Burns Inc.:** Advising in connection with the CA\$20 million private placement of a TSX-listed communications and media company.
- **CHIP REIT:** Advising in connection with the CA\$1.2 billion acquisition by British Columbia Investment Management Corporation.
- **US Gold Corporation:** Advising its successful completion of simultaneous take-over bids for three TSX-V-listed gold exploration companies with an aggregate transaction value of US\$160 million.
- **Confidential client:** Advising a major British Columbia based integrated forest products company on the spin-off of its pulp operations and its barge transportation division.

## Recognition

- Recognized in *The Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory* as one of Canada's leading lawyers in the areas of Corporate Commercial Law (2014–2019), Corporate Mid-Market (2012–2019), Corporate Finance & Securities (2014, 2015, 2017–2019) and Mergers & Acquisitions (2018–2019)
- Recognized in the *Lexpert Special Edition on Canada's Leading Corporate Lawyers* (2018, 2019)
- Recognized in *The Best Lawyers in Canada* as one of Canada's leading lawyers in Corporate Law (2016–2020), Mergers and Acquisitions Law (2014–2020), Mining Law (2016–2020) and Securities Law (2013–2020)

- Recognized in *The Legal 500 Canada* in the area of Energy and Natural Resources – Mining (2014, 2019)
- Recognized in *Lexpert Special Edition – Leading Canadian Lawyers in Global Mining* (2017, 2018)
- *Martindale-Hubbell* Distinguished BV Peer Review Rating

## Honors and Awards

- M&A Advisor Award in the category of Real Estate Deal of the Year, November 2015

## In the Media

- "Dentons' Vancouver team honoured for real estate deal and other legal moves and grooves this week," *Financial Post*, November 24, 2015
- Quoted in "Proxy battles set to heat up; Down market" by Drew Hasselback and Peter Koven, *Financial Post*, March 5, 2013

## Insights

- "Reduced CFO and CEO Certification for Venture Issuers," *Focus on Securities*, December 2007
- Shareholder Agreements
- Overview of the New British Columbia *Business Corporations Act*

## Activities and Affiliations

- Member of the Business and Securities Sections, B.C. Branch, Canadian Bar Association
- Member of the Business Law Section of the American Bar Association
- Member of the Mergers & Acquisitions Committee of the American Bar Association

## Presentations

- "The Top 10 Tips for a Successful M&A," *FMC Mining Seminar*, September 28, 2011
- "Customizing Shareholder Agreements to Maximize Your Protection and Avoid Future Problems," Canadian Institute, Negotiating and Drafting Key Business Agreements, March 2, 2006
- "Shareholders Agreements," Insight, Negotiating and Drafting Key Business Agreements, March 6, 2006

## Areas of focus

### Practices

- Corporate Governance
- Mergers and Acquisitions
- Securities and Corporate Finance

### Industry sectors

- Mining

- Manufacturing
- Retail

## Education

- Dalhousie University, 1977, LLB
- University of Victoria, 1974, BA

## Admissions and qualifications

- British Columbia, 1978