

# John R. Sandrelli

## Office Managing Partner



Office Managing Partner

Vancouver

D +1 604 443 7132

M +1 604 889 3792

john.sandrelli@dentons.com

## Overview

John is the Managing Partner of Dentons' Vancouver office and a partner in Dentons' Restructuring, Insolvency and Bankruptcy group. An accomplished business leader, John brings many years of leadership experience to the firm as well as more than 25 years of experience in corporate restructuring and reorganization matters to his clients. Prior to becoming Managing Partner of the Vancouver office, John held several leadership roles within the Firm as a member of the Canada Region Board and globally in roles on the Advisory Board of the Asia Pacific Region of Dentons and our Global Advisory Committee. Highly regarded for his work in restructuring, insolvency and bankruptcy matters, John regularly acts for companies in need of restructuring as well as for trustees, receivers, financial institutions, commercial lenders, noteholders and other creditors. John has practised exclusively in the insolvency area for more than 26 years, spending the first part of his career in Toronto, until he relocated to Vancouver in 1997.

John has extensive experience with restructurings under both the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act* and the Canadian *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act* and has been involved in numerous real estate, technology, forestry and mining industry matters in the last several years. He also has a working familiarity with the United States Bankruptcy Code in the context of his cross border experience and cases. Additionally, in his practice, John regularly advises internationally-based companies on lending and remedy issues in Canada and is frequently retained by other international law firms on Canadian bankruptcy issues.

Having been involved in most of the major restructurings and insolvency cases in British Columbia in the last several years, John has extensive experience in mining, forestry, real estate, aviation, energy, retail, media and technology as well as manufacturing.

John has authored, presented and published several articles and papers in the insolvency and creditors' rights areas. He is a past contributing author to the Annual Review of Insolvency Law. As well, John is a member of the editorial boards of the National Insolvency Review and National Creditor Debtor Review, and is a member (and recently appointed board member) of the Insolvency Institute of Canada. He is also a Board member of the Risk Management Association, a member of the International Insolvency Institute, the insolvency sections of the Turnaround Management Association, the International Bar Association and the American Bankruptcy Institute.

John has been recommended as leading lawyer for Insolvency/Restructuring in *Who's Who Legal: Canada*, *The Canadian Legal Expert Directory*, *The Best Lawyers in Canada*, *Global Insolvency and Restructuring Review*,

# Experience

- **Rokstad Power Corporation & Affiliates:** Advising the corporation and affiliates in re-acquiring from the Carillion Group full ownership of the businesses and undertakings of the Rokstad Power Group of Companies, enabling the business to continue as a recognized leader in the industry who provides full suite of power line construction and maintenance services, using a pre-packaged CCAA proceeding to effect a complex transaction.
- **Western Concord Manufacturing:** Advising with respect to the proposal proceeding commenced pursuant to the *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act* (Canada) for the restructuring of the debtors' plastic packaging and related product business, operating in British Columbia and Alberta.
- **Confidential Technology Company:** Acting as counsel to the Senior Secured Lenders in this growth company's out of Court restructuring.
- **PricewaterhouseCoopers Inc.:** Advising as counsel to the firm in its role as the Court-appointed Monitor of Sunrise/Saskatoon Apartments Limited Partnership (and other members of the Sunrise corporate group) in the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act* restructuring of their multi-unit residential rental business, involving the restructuring of over CA\$200 million in secured debt.
- **GuestLogix Inc:** Acting as counsel to a BC based growth capital fund in connection with the successful restructuring and sale process of this onboard retail and payment technology company under the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act*.
- **Veris Gold Group of Companies:** Acting as counsel for the Monitor in connection with the Group's CCAA proceedings in Canada as well as Chapter 15 proceedings in the U.S. and with respect to the disposition of the Veris Gold USA Inc. operating and real estate assets to Whitebox Advisors LLC. Advising on all aspects of the restructuring and sale which involved properties on both sides of the border including, notably, the operating gold and milling project in Nevada with annual revenue in the range of US\$200 million. This deal has won Mining Deal of the Year, Cross Border Restructuring Deal (up to US\$100M) and Real Estate Deal of the Year by M&A Advisor and Judicial Restructuring of the Year award for Small Markets by Global M&A Network.
- **Vistara Capital Partners:** Acting as counsel in its capacity as lender, DIP Lender and as agent for itself and Beedie Capital Partners in the CCAA restructuring of GuestLogix Inc. and its affiliates.
- **Confidential Forestry Company:** Acting as counsel for this British Columbia based integrated forestry business with operations in multiple Provinces in its out of court restructuring and sale process.
- **Confidential client:** Acting as counsel for this British Columbia based integrated forestry business with operations in multiple Provinces in its out of court restructuring and sale process.
- **North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd:** Acting as counsel for the Company in all aspects of the restructuring proceedings under the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act* . North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. is the Western World's largest producer of tungsten concentrate, a strategic industrial metal required in a wide variety of products ranging from jet turbine engines and high-speed cutting tools to electronic circuitry and surgical instruments.
- **Procon Mining and Tunneling Ltd.:** Acting as counsel to the main mine contractor during the restructuring proceedings under the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act* involving Yukon Zinc Corporation.
- **Catalyst Paper Group of Companies:** Acting as counsel for the First Lien Secured Noteholders in the Group's high profile and complex successful restructuring under the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act* in Canada as well as Chapter 15 proceedings in the U.S.
- **Bison Properties:** Advising the Senior Lenders in the Receivership and realization and restructuring

proceedings involving the iconic Oak Bay Hotel in Victoria, BC. The proceedings led to the successful acquisition of the Hotel by the Lenders.

- **Deloitte Restructuring Inc.:** Advising the Court-appointed Monitor in the Stanfield Mining Group's restructuring under the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act*. After more than three years in creditor protection, Stanfield's plan of compromise and arrangement provided the opportunity for over 3500 investors in the business of the Stanfield Group, who had invested approximately CA\$140 million, to participate in the future success of the mine.
- **Ernst and Young Inc.:** Advising the Receiver in relation to the Receivership and sale of the SOPA Square mixed use development in Kelowna, BC.
- **Vitol Inc.:** Acting as counsel in the CCAA proceedings involving Arthon Group and Coalmount Industries.

## Recognition

- Recognized in *The Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory* as one of Canada's leading lawyers in the area of Insolvency & Financial Restructuring: Financial Restructuring (2012-2019)
- Recognized by *Chambers Canada* as a leading lawyer in the area of Restructuring/Insolvency (2016-2020)
- Recognized in *Chambers Global* as a leading lawyer in the area of Restructuring/Insolvency -Canada (2008–2019)
- Recognized in *The Legal 500 Canada* as a “Leading Lawyer” in the area of Restructuring and Insolvency (2018, 2019) and as a ranked lawyer (2015, 2016)
- Recognized in *The Best Lawyers in Canada* as one of Canada's leading lawyers in Insolvency and Financial Restructuring Law (2006–2020)
- Recognized by *Who's Who Legal in its Thought Leaders: Global Elite 2019* guide
- Recognized by *Who's Who Legal* as a Thought Leader – Global Elite in the area of Restructuring & Insolvency (2018)
- Recognized by *Who's Who Legal Canada* as a leading lawyer in the area of Restructuring & Insolvency (2011-2018)
- Recognized by *Who's Who Legal* as the most highly regarded Canadian lawyer in the area of Restructuring & Insolvency (2017)
- Recognized in *Lexpert Special Edition – Leading Canadian Lawyers in Global Mining* (2017, 2018)
- Recognized by the *Lexpert Special Edition – Canada's Leading Corporate Lawyers* (2017)
- Recognized by the *Lexpert Guide to the Leading US/Canada Cross-Border Corporate Lawyers in Canada* (2015-2017)
- Recognized by *Benchmark Litigation* as a Local Litigation Star (British Columbia) (2012-2015) and as a Litigation Star in the areas of Insolvency (2013, 2014 and 2017) and General Commercial (2017)
- Recognized by *Expert Guides* as a leading lawyer in the area of Insolvency and Restructuring (2016)
- Recognized as one of *Global M&A Network's* Top 100 Restructuring & Turnaround Professionals (2016)
- Recipient of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal for contributions to his colleagues and community
- Named "Lawyer of the Year" by Best Lawyers for Insolvency and Financial Restructuring, Vancouver (2012)
- Recognized by *The International Who's Who of Business Lawyers ("Who's Who Legal") 2012* as a lawyer in the area of Insolvency & Restructuring

- Recommended by *PLC Which lawyer?* in the *PLC Restructuring and Insolvency Multi-Jurisdictional Guide 2012* in the area of Restructuring and Insolvency Law
- Recommended by *PLC Which Lawyer? 2011* in Restructuring & Insolvency
- Recognized by *The International Who's Who of Insolvency & Restructuring Lawyers 2011* as a leading lawyer in Insolvency and Financial Restructuring
- Recognized in *Who's Who Legal: The International Who's Who of Business Lawyers*
- Recognized by *The Guide to the World's Leading Insolvency and Restructuring Lawyers*, one of Euromoney's *Expert Guides*, published by Legal Media Group
- Recognized by the *Global Insolvency and Restructuring Review* as one of the top 40 insolvency and restructuring lawyers under the age of 40 years old in the world

## Honors and Awards

- Named Global M&A Network's Top 100: Restructuring and Turnaround Professionals, 2016
- M&A Advisor Award in the category of Real Estate Deal of the Year, November 2015

## In the Media

- Quoted in "Sandrelli new managing partner of Dentons' Vancouver office", *The Lawyer's Daily*, July 2017
- "Dentons' Vancouver team honoured for real estate deal and other legal moves and grooves this week", *Financial Post*, November 24, 2015
- Quoted in "Ian Mulgrew: Land Conservancy's asset sale mired in legal proceedings ", *Vancouver Sun*, November 19, 2013
- Quoted in "Weekend Extra: Vancouver's urban office market warms up", *Vancouver Sun*, August 26, 2013
- Quoted in "Mining market expected to 'get a lot worse' – Dentons ", *Mining Weekly.com*, June 14, 2013
- FMC's John Sandrelli discusses " Vancouver's Modern Office ", *Vancouver Sun*, January 19, 2013
- Quoted in "Leading by Design", *Knowledge Leader*, February 20, 2012
- Quoted in "Meet the developers willing to dive into distress", *The Globe and Mail*, October 16, 2009

## Insights

- Co-author, "Powers of a Section 46 Interim Receiver", *Lexis Practice Advisor*, 2018 Update
- Co-author, "What Happens When a Securities Firm is Bankrupt", *Lexis Practice Advisor*, 2018 Update
- Co-author, "Super Priority Status for Unpaid Wages and Unpaid Pension Plan Contributions in a Bankruptcy", *Lexis Practice Advisor*, 2018 Update
- Co-panelist, "Innovative Ways to Restructure", *Canadian Association of Insolvency and Restructuring Professionals Annual Conference*, Kelowna, August 2017
- Co-author with Cindy Cheuk, Jordan Schultz and Tevia Jeffries, "Staying Set-Off Rights in CCAA: Case Comment on North American Tungsten Corporation v Global Tungsten and Powders Corp.", *National Insolvency Review*, December 2015
- Co-author, "Contingency Planning at the Coalface," *Mining Journal*, June 19, 2015
- "Insolvency Tools to Change Course on Difficult Seas: Navigating Mining Companies in Volatile Times",

- "The View From Canada: American Municipal Bankruptcies", Published by *The Annual Review of Insolvency Law*, 2014
- "*Century Services Inc. v. Canada (Attorney General)*", Published by *The International Who's Who of Insolvency & Restructuring Lawyers*, July 2011
- "Review of the Jameson House Restructuring," *National Insolvency Review*, Vol. 27, No. 2, April 2010
- "The Role of Liquidating CCAAs." Canadian Association of Insolvency and Restructuring Professionals (CAIRP) Rebuilding Success magazine, Vol. 9, Issue 1, pp. 43-44, Spring 2010
- "Review of the Jameson House Restructuring", *Focus on Real Estate* - November 2009
- RRSPS in British Columbia Receive Legislative Protection from Creditors
- "Receivership and Insolvency: When Things Go Bad", Canadian Institute's Western Forum On Commercial Loan Finance & Security Conference, May 28 & 29, 2007
- "Proposals - The Now and The Future," Continuing Legal Education - Bankruptcy & Insolvency Practice 2006 Update, Vancouver, November 3, 2006
- "Cross-Border Income Trusts: Restructuring Issues", *INSOL Seminar*, Toronto, October, 20, 2006
- Lending Without Losing & What You Need To Know: Fraser Milner Casgrain's Financial Services Seminar, September 2006
- "Licensing Intellectual Property In Bankruptcy - The Changing Landscape in Canada," *Focus on FMC Vancouver*, May 2006
- Investigation and Pursuit - on the Asset Trail, Unique Canadian Tools and Issues
- "Canadian Landscape Changing for IP Licenses in Bankruptcy", published in *The Journal of Corporate Renewal*, Turnaround Management Association, March 2006
- "Cross-Border Insolvency Remedies in Canada", presented to the *19th Annual Northwest Bankruptcy Institute*, Portland, Oregon, April 14-15, 2006 (Published, Oregon State Bar [2006])
- "Jurisdiction of the Court in CCAA Proceedings: Inherent Jurisdiction vs. Statutory Discretion", presented to the *Canadian Bar Association Pan-Canadian Conference on Bankruptcy and Insolvency Law*, Québec City, September 2005
- The Year in Review from British Columbia: Significant Cases in Commercial Insolvency and Corporate Restructuring
- Statutory Considerations When Dealing with Agricultural Insolvencies
- Ability to Register in Personal Property Registry Not Automatically Stayed by CCAA Initial Order - Case Comment: Re. Western Express Airlines Inc.
- "Remedies Under Security Interests in Canada: An Overview", *International Bar Association*, July 2002 (Published: I.M. Fletcher and O. Swarting, "Remedies Under Security Interests", Kluwer Law International and International Bar Association [2002])
- "Canada-U.S. Cross-Border Insolvencies: Ancillary Proceedings", *National Insolvency Review*, Volume 19, Number 3, June 2002
- "True Leases vs. Financial Leases: Competing with CCRA", *National Creditor Debtor Review*, Volume 16, Number 4, December 2001

# Activities and Affiliations

- Board Member, Insolvency Institute of Canada
- Board Member, Risk Management Association
- Member, Law Society of British Columbia, 1997 to present
- Member, Law Society of Upper Canada, 1991 to present
- Member, International Bar Association, Section of Insolvency, Restructuring and Creditors' Rights
- Member, The American Bankruptcy Institute
- Member, Editorial Board of the *National Creditor Debtor Review*
- Member, The Turnaround Management Association
- Past Executive of the Insolvency Subsection of the Canadian Bar Association, B.C. Branch
- Member, The Leaders Network/MacKay CEO Forums

## Community Involvement and Pro Bono

- Member of the Campaign Cabinet of the United Way of the Lower Mainland
- National Centre of Business Law Dean's Advisory Committee
- Former Board Member, North Shore Winter Club and current member of the Hockey Committee and Governance Committee of the Board
- Member of the Strategic Planning Committee and Governance Committee of the Shaughnessy Golf and Country Club
- Minor Hockey Coaching, North Shore Winter Club
- Former Board of Trustees member of the B.C. Sports Hall of Fame and Museum
- Lead role in coordinating Dentons Canada LLP's participation in the United Way, Prostate Cancer Canada and JDRF Vancouver Ride for Diabetes Research campaigns
- Provides pro-bono advice regarding proposed by-Law changes and general governance matters for Shaughnessy Golf and Country Club, North Shore Winter Club and the Capilano Rugby Football Club

## Presentations

- Co-panelist, "Innovative Ways to Restructure", Canadian Association of Insolvency and Restructuring Professionals Annual Conference, Kelowna, August 2017
- Co-chair, Insolvency Institute of Canada Annual Conference and Meeting, Vancouver, Canada, September 2014
- Co-chair, *Annual Review of Insolvency Law Conference*, Vancouver, Canada, February 2014
- Co-author, article published in legal journal: Annual Review of Insolvency Law, Presented paper: "The View From Canada: American Municipal Bankruptcies" at 2014 Annual Review of Insolvency Law Conference
- Panelist, "Business and Human Resources Trends in the Legal Marketplace", Canadian Bar Association Webinar, March 7, 2013
- Co-chair, Insolvency Institute of Canada Annual Conference and Meeting, Whistler, Canada, September 2012

- Panelist, "Creditors' Committees - Do They Add Value?", *9th Annual Review of Insolvency Law Conference*, Vancouver, February 10, 2012
- Panelist, "Insolvency of Financial Institutions", *17th Global Insolvency and Restructuring Conference*, Paris, May 24, 2011
- Presenter, "An Overview of Restructurings under the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act (CCAA)*", How to Succeed in a Real Estate Restructuring: The Jameson House Experience, Vancouver, October 27, 2009
- Presenter, "Liquidating CCAAs - Do They Have a Future?" *Insolvency Institute of Canada Annual Conference and Meeting*, Ottawa, October 2009
- Presenter, "Managing Insolvency in Construction Projects", *Construction Law Strategies for 2009: Risk Redefined*, Vancouver, April 29, 2009
- Presenter, "Insolvency Issues for Public Companies", Continuing Legal Education Society of B.C. seminar: *Advanced Securities Law 2009 - Practical Information in Challenging Times*, Vancouver, February 27, 2009
- Presenter, "Watch for Falling Rock: Insolvency & Restructuring for Mining Companies", *FMC Annual Mining Seminar Series*, Vancouver, January 15, 2009
- Presenter, "Shifting Priorities? Review of Amendments to BIA and CCAA", *Insight Information Conference*, Vancouver, November 5, 2008
- Panelist, "Cross Canada Review", *19th Annual IIC Conference & General Meeting*, Montebello, QC, September 25-28, 2008
- Co-Chair, *CBA 4th Annual Pan-Canadian Insolvency and Restructuring Conference*, Vancouver, September 18, 2008
- "Receivership and Insolvency: When Things Go Bad", presented to the *Western Forum on Commercial Loan Finance and Security Conference*, The Canadian Institute, Calgary, May 29, 2007
- "Cross-Border Income Trusts", presented to the *INSOL International Toronto Seminar*, Toronto, October, 2006
- "Cross-Border Insolvency Remedies in Canada", John R. Sandrelli and Christopher J. Ramsay, presented to the *19th Annual Northwest Bankruptcy Institute*, Portland, Oregon, April 14-15, 2006 (Published, *Oregon State Bar* [2006])
- "The Year in Review from British Columbia: Significant Cases in Commercial Insolvency and Corporate Restructuring", presented to the *Canadian Bar Association Pan-Canadian Conference on Bankruptcy and Insolvency Law*, Québec City, September 2005
- "Jurisdiction of the Court in CCAA Proceedings: Inherent Jurisdiction vs. Statutory Discretion", presented to the *Canadian Bar Association Pan-Canadian Conference on Bankruptcy and Insolvency Law*, Québec City, September 2005
- "Case Study: Commercial Restructuring", presented to the *Canadian Association of Insolvency and Restructuring Professionals Annual Conference*, Kelowna, August 2005
- "Statutory Considerations When Dealing with Agricultural Insolvencies", John R. Sandrelli and Christine N. Matthews, presented to the *Canadian Bar Association Legal Conference and Expo 2005*, Vancouver, August 2005
- "Investigation and Pursuit - on the Asset Trail, Unique Canadian Tools and Issues", presented to a conference of the *Insolvency, Restructuring and Creditors' Rights Section of the International Bar Association*, Salzburg, Austria, May 2005
- "The Role of Court-Appointed Officers in the Governance of Financially Distressed Corporations", presented to the *UBC Conference on Corporate Governance*, February 8-9, 2002 (Revised for publication September 3, 2002) (Published: J. Sarra, "Corporate Governance in Global Capital Markets", *UBC Press* [2003])

- “Canada-U.S. Cross-Border Insolvencies: Ancillary Proceedings”, presented as part of the Continuing Legal Education Society of B.C., Bankruptcy & Insolvency Practice, May 17, 2002

\*practising through a law corporation

## Areas of focus

### Practices

- Restructuring, Insolvency and Bankruptcy

### Industry sectors

- Financial Institutions
- Gaming
- Manufacturing
- Media, Entertainment and Sports
- Mining
- Forest Products and Agribusiness
- Private Equity
- Retail

## Education

- University of Toronto, 1989, LLB

## Admissions and qualifications

- British Columbia, 1997
- Ontario, 1991

## Languages

- English