

# Ken Dhaliwal

## Partner



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Toronto

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## Overview

Ken Dhaliwal is a Partner in Dentons' Toronto office; he joined the firm in 2014 from another Canadian law firm and has been practicing entertainment law for over 20 years. Ken focuses on the areas of media, entertainment and intellectual property law. Ken's national and international film, television and on-line clients are involved in a wide range of activities from financing to production and distribution. Ken acts for independent producers, Canadian and foreign broadcasters, major Hollywood studios, online providers, television and film distributors, banks, private equity as well as creators and artists.

In assisting his clients achieve their transactional goals, Ken brings his extensive industry experience, balanced approach and goal-oriented focus. He frequently advises them on the areas of Canadian tax incentives, which he combines with international incentives, treaty co-productions and co-ventures, and structuring productions to maximize the benefits of these programmes. His experience also extends to working directly and extensively with Canadian guilds and governmental and private agencies on behalf of his Canadian and foreign clients.

Ken has been peer-rated as "most frequently recommended" in the annual *Canadian Legal Lexpert® Directory* annual survey and is consistently recognized in the *Lexpert®/American Lawyer Guide to the leading 500 lawyers in Canada* and as one of Canada's leading entertainment lawyers in *Best Lawyers in Canada*. In 2014, Ken was awarded the *Lexpert® "Zenith"* award in recognition for his career accomplishments. In 2015, Ken was awarded a Crystal Mentorship award from *Women in Film and Television-Toronto*.

## Experience

A comprehensive list of Ken's representative experience can be found here.

## Recognition

- Recognized in *The Legal 500 Canada* in the area of Media and Entertainment as a "Leading Lawyer" (2018-2019)
- Recognized in *The Best Lawyers in Canada* as one of Canada's leading lawyers in Entertainment Law

(2008-2020)

- Recognized in *The Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory* as one of Canada's leading lawyers in the area of Entertainment Law (2010-2019)
- Recognized in *The Lexpert/American Lawyer Guide to the Leading 500 Lawyers in Canada* in the area of Entertainment Law (2010, 2013, 2015-2019)
- Recognized in the *Lexpert Guide to US/Canada Cross-Border Lawyers in Canada* in the area of IP & Media (2018-2019)
- Named "Lawyer of the Year" by *Best Lawyers* for Entertainment Law, Toronto (2017)
- Recognized by *Who's Who Legal* as a leading lawyer in the area of Sports and Entertainment: Entertainment (2017)
- Recognized by *Expert Guides* in the area of Technology, Media and Telecommunications: Media (2014, 2017)
- Recognized by *Who's Who Legal Canada* as a leading lawyer in the area of Sports & Entertainment (2014-2017)
- Recognized by *The Legal 500 Canada* in the area of Technology, Media and Telecoms (2015)
- Recommended by the 2011 *Guide to the World's Leading Technology, Media & Telecommunications Lawyers* in the area of Media Law

## Honors and Awards

- Received the *Women in Film & Television - Toronto* 2015 Crystal Mentorship Award
- Recipient, 2014 *Lexpert Zenith Award: Celebrating Today's Leaders in Practice Excellence*

## In the Media

- Mentioned in Ken Dhaliwal honoured for mentoring women, *Legal Post*, November 3, 2015

## Insights

- "Comparison of Canadian Content, Production Services, Co-Ventures and Treaty Co-Productions", March 2015
- "Recent Changes in Independent Production and Interim Financing of Film and Television Productions in Canada", *2005 Guide to the Leading 500 Lawyers in Canada*, Entertainment Law Section/Recent Developments of Importance, *Lexpert/American Lawyer*
- "International Treaty Co-Productions With Canada: An Overview For Producers", co-authored with Bob Tarantino in May, 2005
- "Crisis in Canadian Production: A Modest Proposal or Two", Paper co-authored with Norman Bacal, and presented at the Law Society of Upper Canada's Entertainment, Advertising and Media Law Symposium (April 2005, Toronto)
- "Soft Money - Hard Costs: Recent Changes in Independent Production and Interim Financing of Film and Television Productions in Canada", in the *2004 Guide to the Leading 500 Lawyers in Canada*, Entertainment Law Section/Recent Developments of Importance

## Activities and Affiliations

- American Bar Association
- Canadian Bar Association
- The Law Society of Upper Canada (Ontario)

## Community Involvement and Pro Bono

- Ken was a founding director of Toronto's ReelWorld Film Festival, and has sat on the board of The Factory Theatre in Toronto.
- He is presently on the Toronto Film Board, Television and Digital Media and selected industry group, which advises Toronto city council on matters of importance to the screen industries.

## Presentations

- Trans Atlantic Partners ( Erich Pommer Institut, Munich): Expert presenter on multiple topics regarding Canada and Canadian film financing incentives, Munich, Germany, June, 2016
- Panama International Film Festival 2016: co-presented on a panel focusing on legal matters with co-productions
- Certificate in Entertainment Law, Osgoode Hall: presentation of Canadian film industry overview, Toronto, January, 2016
- Producers Lab, Toronto International Film Festival: presented on the topic of legal and practical considerations of using various Canadian sources with international treaty co-productions, Toronto, September 2015
- Shanghai International Film Festival: presented at the offices of 大成 on the topic of international treaty co-productions with Canada, and a special focus on the Canada-China treaty, Shanghai, June 2015
- Panama International Film Festival 2015: co-presented a panel focusing on treaty co-productions with Canada
- Certificate in Entertainment Law, Osgoode Hall: presented an overview of the Canadian film industry, Toronto, February, 2015
- Rio International Film Festival / RioMarket 2014; participated in presentations relating to International Treaty Co-Productions
- Producers Lab, Toronto International Film Festival: presented on the topic of Canadian financing options such as tax credits and soft monies with international treaty co-productions, Toronto, September 2014
- Certificate in Entertainment Law, Osgoode Hall: presented an overview of the Canadian film industry, Toronto, February, 2014
- Rio International Film Festival / RioMarket 2013; participated as a moderator for a case study of film “*Mama*”, which was a Canada-Spain treaty co-production, October, 2013 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- Trans Atlantic Partners (Erich Pommer Institut, Berlin); Expert presenter on multiple topics regarding Canada and Canadian film financing incentives, Berlin, Germany, June, 2013
- Producers Lab, Toronto International Film Festival: presented on the topic of Canadian film financing options available to treaty co-productions, Toronto, September 2013
- Certificate in Entertainment Law, Osgoode Hall: presented an overview of the Canadian film industry, Toronto, February, 2013
- International Treaty Co-Productions with Canada: An Overview for Producers, Heenan Blaikie, November 2012

- Rio International Film Festival / RioMarket 2012; Participated as a panelist for the session on the topic of “Business Opportunities Between Canada and Latin America in the Audiovisual Market” discussing a wide range of topics including the Canadian legal framework, Canadian incentives and the existing frameworks of production in Canada, on October 3, 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- Comparison of Canadian Content, Co-Ventures and Treaty Co-Productions, Heenan Blaikie, June 2012
- Trans Atlantic Partners (Erich Pommer Institut, Berlin); Expert presenter on multiple topics including: (i) Canadian Audio Visual Landscape; (ii) Canadian Incentives and Co-Productions with Canada; and (iii) Case study on the film “A Dangerous Method”, Berlin, Germany, on June 23-28, 2012
- International Co-Production Summit in Berlin organized by Unverzagt Von Have; Participated as a panelist speaking about the current status of the available subsidiaries, rebates and other incentive programs in Canada for foreign and domestic productions in Berlin, Germany on February 13, 2012
- Networking Seminars / Film Production & Finance Summit in New York; Moderator on Update on U.S. and Canadian Tax Incentives discussing U.S. State and Canadian tax incentives, credits and rebates, including how such incentives are typically administered and financed, on October 24, 2011  
Networking Seminars / Film Finance Summit in New York (April 26, 2010); Moderator on the topic of
- International Financing for Film & Television Productions – an insider’s look at an international financing and the various players from a film discussing the advantage and disadvantages in filming in various countries as well as accessing funds, grants, treaties, tax credits and shelters available globally.
- Film/TV Production & Finance Summit in Los Angeles; Spoke on U.S.-Canadian Co-Ventures and the opportunities and challenges that exist when a production is relying on soft money sources from different jurisdictions, on March 23/24, 2009.
- Film/TV Production & Finance Summit; Moderator on the topic of “Accessing Incentives in Multiple Jurisdictions” using the film Outlander as the case study, Los Angeles, CA, April 10-11, 2008
- Film/TV Production & Finance Summit; Moderator on the topic of “Case Study & Overview of Multi-Jurisdictional Financing” using the film Eastern Promises as the case study, New York, NY, October 22-23, 2007
- 7th Annual International Film and TV Finance Summit (Atlas Information Group); Panellist speaking on the topic of multi-jurisdictional financings, Los Angeles, CA, February 5-7, 2007
- 2006 Cannes Film Festival (May 2006, Cannes, France): Producers Network — Presented on the topic of Interim Financing of Production Incentives Available in Canada
- 6th Annual International Film and TV Finance Summit (Atlas Information Group); Panellist discussing a case-study of multi-jurisdictional co-production Where The Truth Lies, Los Angeles, CA, January 30 - February 2, 2006
- 2005 Atlantic Film Festival (September 2005, Halifax, Nova Scotia): Strategic Partners - participated in a panel presentation exploring soft money opportunities such as tax credits, loan supports, subsidies, service discounts, international co-productions to the best advantage and how to make foreign instruments fit the Canadian paradigm
- National Screen Institute (August 2005, Toronto): Presentation on Treaty Co-Productions with Royal Bank of Canada
- Canada-India: Moving Forward on Opportunities in the Plastics Sector (June 2005, Toronto) Presentation sponsored by Economic Development Canada on the Protection of Intellectual Property Rights in India
- 2005 Cannes Film Festival (May 2005, Cannes, France): Producers Network-Presented on the topic of : “A ‘How To’ on Partnering with Banks”
- Telefilm Canada Media Entrepreneur Incubator (May 2005, Toronto): Chaired a panel and presentation to

select group of Canadian producers on the topic of Co-Productions and International Partnerships and the benefits and drawbacks of these types of relationships

- Atlas International Film and Television Finance Summit (March 2005, New York, NY): Presented a case-study of the Canada-UK-Hungary treaty co-production of Being Julia
- 2004 Cannes Film Festival (May, 2004, Cannes, France): Producers Network- Presented on the topic of Keys to Financing English language Co-productions

## Areas of focus

### Practices

- Banking and Finance
- Securities and Corporate Finance
- Intellectual Property and Technology
- Copyright
- Finance

### Industry sectors

- Media, Entertainment and Sports
- Film & Television

## Education

- University of Western Ontario, 1991, LLB
- York University, 1988, BA

## Admissions and qualifications

- Ontario, 1993

## Languages

- English