

Peter Dillon

Partner - Franchise, Technology, Privacy, and Cybersecurity

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Licensed in both Canada and the United States, Peter provides legal services to start-ups and established national and international businesses. Peter heads the firm's technology, franchise and privacy law groups.

Education

University of Toronto, B.A.

Queen's University, LL.B.

Called to the Bar in Ontario, 1988; New York, 2005

About

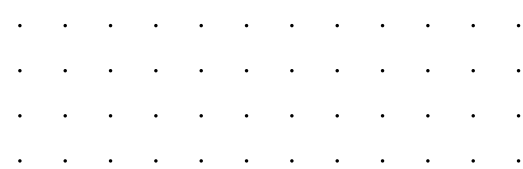
Peter Dillon advises Canadian, U.S., and international businesses on how to structure and execute decisions that carry material legal and economic risk.

His practice is focused on situations where the consequences of getting it wrong are disproportionate—cross-border expansion, franchise system design, technology transactions, and regulatory exposure in areas such as privacy and cybersecurity. He is most often engaged before commitments are made, when structure, sequencing, and risk allocation determine whether a strategy will succeed or fail.

Peter is widely recognized for his work with foreign franchisors entering Canada. He advises on the design and implementation of franchise systems that comply with Canada's fragmented disclosure regime, manage statutory rescission risk, and address the personal liability exposure of directors and officers. His work in this area is not limited to documentation; it centers on building legally and commercially coherent systems that can withstand regulatory scrutiny and operational stress.

In addition to his franchise practice, Peter advises on mergers and acquisitions, technology licensing, distribution structures, and enterprise-level risk management. He acts regularly for founders, CEOs, and boards on matters that affect enterprise viability, including data protection, cybersecurity preparedness, and cross-border regulatory compliance under regimes such as PIPEDA and GDPR.

Peter is the author of Franchise Legislation in Canada (Thomson Reuters), the leading annotated text on Canadian franchise law. He has served as the Canadian governmental expert to UNIDROIT in connection with the development of a model international franchise law, and as the only Canadian member of the Franchise Advisory Board of the North American Securities Administrators Association.



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He has extensive prior experience in litigation and insolvency, with reported decisions in the Tax Court of Canada, the Canadian International Trade Tribunal, and the Ontario Superior Court (in bankruptcy). That background informs a practical approach to risk: legal structures are assessed not only for compliance, but for how they will perform under stress.

Peter is frequently engaged as a trusted advisor on strategic business decisions, particularly where legal, commercial, and operational considerations intersect. His role is not to document decisions after the fact, but to shape them at the point where outcomes are determined.

Memberships and Associations

- Canadian Technology Law Association, Member
- Tech Alliance, Member
- Toronto Computer Lawyers Group, Member
- Legal Hackers, Member
- Blockchain Canada, Member
- American Bar Association Forum on Franchising, Member
- Canadian Bar Association, Past Member
- Canadian Franchise Association, Past Member
- Franchise Law Group, Commercial Law Affiliates, Commercial Law Affiliates, Past Chairman
- Ontario Bar Association, Past Member, Executive of the Ontario Bar Association Subcommittee on Franchising, Government Liaison

Awards and Recognition

Peter has received the following distinguished appointments:

- By the Deputy Attorney General for the State of Maryland to the Franchise and Business Opportunities Advisory Board of NASSA (the North American Securities Administrators Association) in Washington, D.C., as the only non-American representative.
- By the Government of Canada to the Committee of Governmental Experts of UNIDROIT (the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law) in Rome, in connection with the preparation by UNIDROIT of a Model Franchise Law recommended for adoption by all nations.

In Autumn 2022, Peter was named to the Mondaq Thought Leadership Awards in Data Protection for his authorship of Data Privacy Comparative Guide

Peter is named in the Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory as a consistently recommended practitioner for his expertise in assisting franchisor-side law.

Listed in Who's Who Legal

Named "Franchise Lawyer of the Year – Canada" in 2017 by CorporateINTL



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Notable Work and Decisions

Prior experience with litigation an insolvency law, with reported decisions in the Tax Court of Canada, the Canadian International Trade Tribunal, and the Ontario Superior Court (In Bankruptcy).

Publications and Speaking

- Franchise Legislation in Canada, Canada's leading legal commentary on provincial franchise legislation, published by Canada Law Book.
- Contributing Editor to the Lexis/Nexis Siskinds Netletter on Franchise Law
- Contributing Editor to the Journal of Franchise and Distribution
- Author of more than 40 other published articles

Community Involvement

- Tech Alliance, Board of Directors
- 1855 Accelerator, Board of Directors
- Neighbourhood Association, President
- London Community Foundation, Past Director
- Junior Achievement, Past Director