DAVIES



Aaron J. Atkinson
Partner

Office
Toronto

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aatkinson@dwpv.com

Expertise
Mergers and Acquisitions
Corporate Governance
Shareholder Activism
Capital Markets and Securities
Private Equity
Life Sciences
Mining

Bar Admissions
Ontario, 2001

> “A trusted adviser with significant expertise, Aaron delivers excellent advice on complex transactions.”
>
> *Chambers Canada*

Aaron’s practice focuses on mergers & acquisitions, shareholder activism and corporate governance. Canadian and international businesses, boards and investors spanning a wide range of sectors – including mining, technology, infrastructure and private equity – count on Aaron for his business-minded and results-oriented approach to their complex legal issues.

A seasoned and strategic practitioner, Aaron has advised on many high-profile domestic and cross-border transactions, including contested matters such as proxy contests, unsolicited takeover bids and topping bids.

Well versed in corporate governance, Aaron is also regularly called upon to advise boards and board special committees on transactional matters and complex governance issues. Aaron also serves as an adjunct professor at Osgoode Hall Law School where he teaches a course focussed on public company M&A and shareholder activism.

Representative Work

Rogers Communications Inc.
Acted for **Rogers Communications Inc.** in its C$4.35 billion acquisition of Kilmer Sports’ 25% ownership stake in Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment.

Plenary Americas
Acted for **Plenary Americas** in its C$1.2-billion take-private acquisition of Information Services Corporation, a leading provider of public data registry and information management services, and its related engagement with the Government of Saskatchewan with respect to legislative amendments to facilitate the transaction.

New Gold Inc.
Acted for **New Gold Inc.** in its US$7-billion merger with Coeur Mining, Inc., creating a 100% North American precious metals producer with seven operating mines.

Special committee of the board of directors of Tidewater Midstream and Infrastructure Ltd.
Acting for the **special committee of the board of directors** of Tidewater Midstream and Infrastructure Ltd. in connection with its acquisition of Tidewater Renewables Ltd. to create a single integrated energy infrastructure and low-carbon fuels company.

Aecon Group Inc.
Acting for **Aecon Group Inc.** in its $320-million acquisition of the convertible preferred equity investment in Aecon Utilities Group Inc. held by funds managed by the Power Opportunities strategy of Oaktree Capital Management, L.P.

Bird Construction Inc.
Acting for **Bird Construction Inc.** in connection with the proposed issuance of warrants pursuant to a strategic partnership with Bell AI Fabric for the delivery of AI data centre projects over a five-year period.

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McCormick & Company

Acting as Canadian counsel for **McCormick & Company** in its US$44.8-billion merger with Unilever Foods, creating a global flavour leader.

Aecon Utilities Group Inc.

Acted for **Aecon Utilities Group Inc.** in its acquisition of KPC Power Electrical Ltd. and KPC Energy Metering Solutions Ltd., a high-voltage testing, commissioning and metering solutions contractor.

Dye & Durham Limited

Acted for **Dye & Durham's board** in responding to major shareholder OneMove Capital Ltd. and co-founder Tyler Proud's nomination of directors at the 2025 AGM, which culminated in a settlement agreement that provided for a refreshed board, together with a standstill and voting commitment from OneMove in connection with the 2025 AGM.

Aecon Group Inc.

Acted for **Aecon Group Inc.** in its acquisition of Bodell Construction Company, an industrial construction company headquartered in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Dye & Durham Limited

Acted for **Dye & Durham**'s board in responding to actions by major shareholder Plantro Ltd. and former CEO Matthew Proud, leading to a cooperation agreement under which Plantro appointed an independent director and Dye & Durham initiated a strategic review process.

Rogers Communications Inc.

Acted for **Rogers Communications Inc.** in its C$4.7 billion acquisition of BCE Inc.'s ownership stake in Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment.

New Gold Inc.

Acted for **New Gold Inc.** in its US$300-million acquisition of the remaining 19.9% free cash flow royalty interest in New Afton Mine from Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan, consolidating New Gold's ownership to 100%.

SPS Commerce Inc.

Acted for **SPS Commerce, Inc.** in its US$210-million acquisition of Carbon6 Technologies Inc., a provider of software tools to Amazon sellers.

Mantle Ridge LP

Acted for **Mantle Ridge LP** in its successful proxy contest against Air Products and Chemicals Inc., resulting in the election of three new directors to the board and the appointment of a new CEO.

Engine Capital LP

Acting for U.S. activist shareholder **Engine Capital LP**, which holds 2.5% of Parkland Corporation's shares, in its call for a shareholder-driven board reconstitution.

Engine Capital LP

Acted for U.S. activist shareholder **Engine Capital LP** in connection with its successful proxy contest at Dye & Durham Limited, a TSX-listed global provider of legal software and technology solutions, resulting in the election of Engine's entire slate of six directors to the seven-person board and the resignation of the incumbent CEO.

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Aecon Utilities Group Inc.
Acted for **Aecon Utilities Group Inc.** in its acquisition of Ainsworth Power Construction, an electrical services and power systems business, from GDI Integrated Facility Services Inc.

Sleep Country Canada Holdings Inc.
Acted for **Sleep Country Canada Holdings Inc.** in its C$1.7-billion sale to 16133258 Canada Inc., a newly-formed and wholly owned subsidiary of Fairfax Financial Holdings Limited, implemented by way of a court-approved plan of arrangement under the *Canada Business Corporations Act*.

Generac Power Systems, Inc.
Acted for **Generac Power Systems, Inc.** in its purchase of Powerplay Battery Energy Storage Systems, a division of SunGrid Solutions Inc.

Riot Platforms Inc.
Acted for **Riot Platforms Inc.**, a Bitcoin mining and digital infrastructure company, in connection with its successful application to the Capital Markets Tribunal of Ontario to cease trade the 15% trigger poison pill adopted by Bitfarms Ltd., a Toronto-based bitcoin mining company, in response to Riot's unsolicited strategic pursuit of Bitfarms and shareholder meeting requisition. This decision was named one of the top 10 business decisions of 2024 by *Law360 Canada*.

Aecon Utilities Group Inc.
Acted for **Aecon Utilities Group Inc.**, in its acquisition of Xtreme Powerline Construction, an electrical distribution utility contractor, for US$73 million with the potential for additional contingent proceeds.

Riot Platforms Inc.
Acted for **Riot Platforms Inc.** in connection with its strategic pursuit of change at Bitfarms Ltd., including its shareholder meeting requisition and successful challenge to Bitfarms' 15% trigger poison pill at the Ontario Capital Markets Tribunal, which culminated in the parties entering into a settlement agreement and Riot's director nominee being appointed to Bitfarms' board.

New Gold Inc.
Acted for **New Gold Inc.** in its US$255-million partial repurchase of a free cash flow royalty interest in New Afton mine from its strategic partner, Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan, reducing the royalty to 19.9%.

Camac Partners, LLC
Acted for **Camac Partners, LLC** in connection with its shareholder engagement with Rocky Mountain Liquor Inc. regarding board composition, governance and strategic matters, which culminated in an agreement to appoint two of Camac's nominees to the Rocky Mountain board.

Stonehouse Capital Management Inc.
Acting for **Stonehouse Capital Management** in connection with Stonehouse's successful engagement with D-Box Technologies Inc. for board change.

Whitefort Capital Management, LP
Acting for **Whitefort Capital Management, LP** in its shareholder engagement with Arbutus Biopharma Corporation regarding strategic direction and capital allocation.

Kroll, LLC

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Acted for **Kroll**, the independent financial advisor to Hut 8, in connection with its merger with U.S. Data Mining Group, Inc. doing business as US Bitcoin Corp, to establish “New Hut”, a large scale, publicly traded Bitcoin miner.

Aecon Group Inc.

Acted for **Aecon Group Inc.** in the C$150-million strategic preferred equity investment in Aecon Utilities Group Inc. by funds managed by the Power Opportunities strategy of Oaktree Capital Management, L.P.

Partners Value Investments LP and Partners Value Investments Inc.

Acted for the special committees of **Partners Value Investments LP** and **Partners Value Investments Inc.** in a reorganization with Partners Limited, to be implemented by way of a court-approved plan of arrangement.

Legion Partners Asset Management

Acted for U.S. activist shareholder **Legion Partners Asset Management** in connection with its campaign for operational change and board seats on the board of Primo Water Corporation, a TSX-NYSE listed pure-play water solutions provider in North America and Europe. Legion’s campaign included the commencement by Legion of an oppression Application in the Superior Court of Ontario concerning the legality of Primo’s Advance Notice By-Laws. It culminated in an agreement to appoint two Legion nominees to the Primo board and Primo agreeing to adopt certain corporate governance enhancements, including changes to its advance notice bylaw provisions.

Aecon Group Inc.

Acted for **Aecon Group Inc.** in the sale of its Aecon Transportation East roadbuilding, aggregates and materials business in Ontario to Green Infrastructure Partners Inc. for C$235 million in cash.

Agnico Eagle Mines Limited

Acted for **Agnico Eagle Mines Limited** in its joint topping bid with Pan American Silver Corp. for the US$4.8-billion acquisition of Yamana Gold Inc., pursuant to which Pan American acquired all of the issued and outstanding common shares of Yamana and Agnico Eagle acquired Yamana's Canadian assets (including its interest in the Canadian Malartic mine).

Cornerstone Capital Resources Inc.

Acted for **Cornerstone Capital Resources Inc.** in its merger with SolGold plc under a court-approved plan of arrangement, consolidating ownership of the Cascabel project in northern Ecuador.

Camac Partners, LLC

Acted for **Camac Partners, LLC**, in its shareholder engagement with Gold Reserve Inc. regarding board composition, governance and strategic matters.

SPS Commerce, Inc.

Acted for **SPS Commerce, Inc.**, an American retail cloud services company, in its US$49-million acquisition of InterTrade Systems Inc., a Canadian SaaS commerce technology solutions company, from mdf commerce inc.

BMO Capital Markets

Acted for **BMO Capital Markets**, in connection with its formal valuation and fairness opinion to the special committee of Aris Gold Corporation, regarding Aris Gold's

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merger with GCM Mining Corp. to create a leading American gold producer.

Elliott Investment Management L.P.
Acting for **Elliott Investment Management L.P.** in its shareholder engagement with Kinross Gold Corporation regarding capital allocation.

Elliott Investment Management L.P.
Acted for **Elliott Investment Management L.P.** in its accumulation of a material stake in Suncor Energy and subsequent engagement with Suncor culminating in an agreement (i) to appoint three new directors immediately with a potential fourth to be added depending on Suncor's performance against its peers, (ii) to participate on Suncor's CEO search committee, and (iii) to form a board committee to conduct a strategic review of Suncor's downstream retail business.

Points.com Inc.
Acted for **Points.com Inc.**, the global leader in powering loyalty commerce, in its sale by plan of arrangement to Plusgrade Parent L.P. in an all-cash transaction valuing Points at US$385 million.

IAMGold Corporation
Acted for **IAMGold Corporation** in its engagement with Resource Capital Fund and subsequent entry into a Collaboration Agreement to appoint additional independent directors to the board.

Mantle Ridge LP
Acted for **Mantle Ridge LP** in its accumulation of a material equity stake in Dollar Tree and subsequent engagement with Dollar Tree culminating in an agreement to appoint seven new directors, including Richard Dreiling, as executive chair, and Paul Hilal, founder and CEO of Mantle Ridge LP, as vice chair.

Generac Holdings Inc.
Acted as Canadian counsel to **Generac Holdings Inc.**, a leading energy technology company, in its US$770-million acquisition of ecobee Inc., a leader in sustainable smart home solutions.

Nova Metrix LLC
Acted for **Nova Metrix LLC** in the sale of its subsidiary, FISO Technologies Inc., to Resonetics LLC, a portfolio company of GTCR.

Greenhill & Co. Canada, Ltd.
Acted for **Greenhill & Co. Canada, Ltd.**, in its provision of a long form fairness opinion to the board of directors of Score Media and Gaming, Inc. (theScore), a leading digital media and sports betting and technology company, in theScore's acquisition by Penn National Gaming, Inc. for approximately US$2 billion in cash and stock.

RIV Capital Inc.
Acted for **RIV Capital Inc.**, an acquisition and investment company specializing in cannabis, in connection with the US$150-million strategic investment by The Hawthorne Collective, a subsidiary of The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company.

Roxgold Inc.
Acted for **Roxgold Inc.** in its C$1.1-billion business combination with Fortuna Silver Mines Inc. to create a premier growth-oriented global intermediate gold and silver producer.

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IAMGold Corporation

Acted for **IAMGold Corporation** in negotiating and entering into a voting support agreement in connection with the acquisition by Dundee Precious Metals Inc. of all of the outstanding shares of INV Metals Inc. not already owned by Dundee Precious Metals.

Rothschild & Co.

Advised **Rothschild & Co.** in its provision of a long form fairness opinion to the special committee and board of directors of GT Gold Corp. in GT Gold's acquisition by Newmont Corporation for approximately $393 million.

Aleafia Health Inc.

Advised the **board of directors of Aleafia Health Inc.**, a Canadian cannabis company, in connection with an agreement between Aleafia and shareholders representing 15.6% of the shares to appoint two directors and enter into customary standstill and voting covenants.

Jefferies LLC

Acted for **Jefferies LLC**, as financial advisor to Aphria Inc., in the merger of Aphria and Tilray, Inc. to create the world's largest global cannabis company based on pro forma revenue.

Special Committee of RIV Capital Inc. (formerly Canopy Rivers Inc.)

Acted as counsel to the special committee of **RIV Capital Inc. (formerly Canopy Rivers Inc.)**, a venture capital firm specializing in cannabis, in its plan of arrangement with Canopy Growth Corporation, involving the collapse of its dual-class share structure and the transfer of three of its portfolio assets for a total transaction value of approximately $297 million.

Cornerstone Capital Resources Inc.

Acted for **Cornerstone Capital Resources Inc.** in its successful defence of the hostile bid launched by SolGold plc for Cornerstone, including Cornerstone's proposed requisition of a meeting of SolGold to change the board of SolGold.

Glanbia plc

Acted for **Glanbia plc**, a global nutrition group, in its acquisition of Foodarom Group, a Québec-based specialist flavours solutions business.

Turquoise Hill Resources Ltd.

Acted for **Turquoise Hill Resources Ltd.**in connection with Pentwater Capital Management's activist campaign and proxy contest with respect to Turquoise Hill's contested 2020 annual and special meeting.

SEMAFO Inc.

Acted as counsel to **SEMAFO Inc.** in its US$2.1-billion business combination with Endeavour Mining Corporation by way of plan of arrangement under the *Business Corporations Act* (Québec).

BMO Capital Markets

Acted for **BMO Capital Markets**, in its fairness opinion to the board of directors of Equinox Gold Corp., regarding its plan of arrangement with Leagold Mining Corporation.

Mantle Ridge LP

Acted for **Mantle Ridge LP** in its accumulation of a material equity stake in Aramark

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and subsequent agreement with Aramark providing for the appointment of 6 new directors, including John Zillmer who was also appointed CEO, and Paul Hilal, founder and CEO of Mantle Ridge LP, who was also appointed as Vice Chairman of the board.

BMO Capital Markets

Acted for **BMO Capital Markets** in connection with substantial issuer bids by each of Power Corporation and Power Financial Corporation by way of a modified Dutch auction.

M&G Investment Management Limited

Acted for **M&G Investment Management Limited**, a U.K.-based investment manager with US$338 billion of assets under management, in its proxy campaign with respect to Methanex Corporation at the company's 2019 annual general meeting. The contest was successfully settled with M&G gaining two seats on the board of Methanex.

Lundin Mining Corporation

Acted for **Lundin Mining Corporation** in its AUD$4.3-million subscription for 14.3% of the shares of PolarX Limited, which secures an option for Lundin Mining to earn a 51% interest in PolarX's Stellar Project by staged spending of US$24 million on exploration and staged payments to PolarX of US$20 million over three years.

Recognitions

Chambers Global
Corporate/M&A

Chambers Canada
Corporate/Commercial: Ontario; Corporate/Commercial: Shareholder Activism & Takeover Defence: Ontario

IFLR1000
Mergers and Acquisitions

Legal 500 Canada
Corporate and M&A
Leading Partner

Lexpert 500 Cross Border
Corporate Commercial Law; Corporate Finance & Securities; Corporate Mid-Market

Lexpert 500 Cross Border
Mergers and Acquisitions; Private Equity

Lexpert Special Edition
Agribusiness and Cannabis; Finance; M&A; Mining; Technology

Lexpert (CLLD)
Corporate Commercial Law; Corporate Mid-Market; Corporate Finance and Securities
Most Frequently Recommended

Lexpert (CLLD)
Mergers and Acquisitions; Private Equity
Most Frequently Recommended

Lexpert (CLLD)

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Mining

Best Lawyers Canada
Corporate Governance Practice; Leveraged Buyouts and Private Equity Law

Best Lawyers Canada
Mergers and Acquisitions Law; Securities Law

Lexpert Rising Stars
Leading Lawyers 40 and Under

External Engagements

In the News
Interview, *The Deal***, "Q&A: Canada Derivatives Plan Could Reshape Activist Campaigns" Web Publication**
Sep 25, 2026
Read the article

Speaking Engagement
Diligent Market Intelligence, Stewardship Series, "The Latest Activist Tactics"; New York, NY
Feb 25, 2025

Speaking Engagement
Activist Investor Conference, "Are You Equipped for Conflict? Prevailing in High Stakes Battles"; New York, NY
Mar 21, 2024

Guide
Public Mergers and Acquisitions in Canada: Overview, co-author
Nov 1, 2021
Practical Law – *Mergers and Acquisitions Global Guide* (Thomson Reuters)

Speaking Engagement
Osgoode Professional Development, Advising the Public Company Board of Directors, "Shareholder Activism & Engagement: Strategies and Approaches"; Toronto, ON
Oct 22, 2019

Speaking Engagement
Osgoode Professional Development, Intensive Course in Canadian Securities Law and Practice, "Mergers & Acquisitions—The Essentials and Emerging Issues"; Toronto, ON
Jun 12, 2019

Speaking Engagement
Moderator, 13D Monitor, Active-Passive Investor Summit, "Serving on a Board as a Result of an Activist's Initiative"; New York, NY
Apr 16, 2019

Speaking Engagement
The Canadian Institute of Chartered Business Valuators, 2017 National Business Valuation Conference, "Dual Class Share Structures and Double-Edged Swords: Observations on Value and Governance"; Québec City,

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QC
Jun 15, 2017

Speaking Engagement
The Canadian Investor Relations Institute, "Responding to an Activist Shareholder: The Playbook"; Toronto, ON
Jan 26, 2016

Speaking Engagement
Activist Investing in Canada 2015 Conference, "Proxy Contests and Hostile Take-Over Bids in Canada: A Look at the Facts"; Toronto, ON
Oct 6, 2015

Speaking Engagement
Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada, Directors Source Webinar Series, "Special Committees: Bulletproofing Your Process"; Toronto, ON
Oct 30, 2013

Speaking Engagement
Canadian Bar Association, "Panel on Shareholder Activism"; Montréal, QC
Sep 23, 2013

Speaking Engagement
Finance Executives International Canada, National Conference, "Activist Investing"; Lake Louise, AB
Jun 6, 2013

Insights

Groundbreaking Securities Commission Decision Reviews Defensive Tactics in Proxy Contests
Nov 2, 2026

Canada Derivatives Plan Could Reshape Activist Campaigns
Sep 29, 2026

Davies Comments on Ontario's Proposed Beneficial Ownership Registry
Sep 11, 2026

Davies Lawyers Recognized by *Best Lawyers*
Sep 3, 2026

Lexpert Recognizes Davies' Expertise in Mining
Sep 2, 2026

Davies Comments on Proposed Changes to Canadian Securities Rules
Aug 25, 2026

Governance Insights: Mission Critical: CEO Succession Planning and Board Stewardship
Jul 22, 2026

Plenary Acquires ISC in $1.2 Billion Deal
Jul 8, 2026

Lexpert Recognizes Davies' Technology Expertise
Jun 5, 2026

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CSA Propose Changes to Issuer Bid, Take-over and Ownership Regimes
May 22, 2026

Lexpert Recognizes Davies' Finance Expertise
Apr 15, 2026

Lexpert Recognizes Davies' M&A Expertise
Apr 15, 2026

Lexpert Affirms Davies' Position as a Leading Firm
Mar 17, 2026

Governance Insights: Shareholder Activism in Canada: Surprising Resilience and Shifting Dynamics
Mar 2, 2026

Governance Insights: A Preview of 2026
Jan 26, 2026

Lexpert 500 Guide Recognizes Davies
Jan 14, 2026

New Gold to Merge with Coeur
Nov 4, 2025

Lexpert Recognizes Davies' Expertise in Mining
Sep 3, 2025

Lexpert Special Edition Recognizes Davies' Expertise in Technology
Jun 4, 2025

Lexpert Special Edition Recognizes Davies' Expertise in Finance
Apr 16, 2025

Lexpert Special Edition Recognizes Davies' Expertise in M&A
Apr 16, 2025

Governance Insights: What GCs, Boards and Investors Need to Know
Jan 28, 2025

Engine Capital's Activist Campaign Concludes in Resounding Victory
Jan 8, 2025

Governance Insights: A Review of Shareholder Activism in Canada for 2024: Key Decisions and Trends to Watch for in 2025
Dec 19, 2024

Capital Markets Tribunal Establishes New Framework for Evaluating Poison Pills
Nov 21, 2024

Taking AIM at the Mithaq Decision: A Critique
May 28, 2024

In a Win for Shareholders, B.C. Securities Commission Provides Joint Actor Guidance for Proxy Contests
Jan 26, 2024

Governance Insights: 10 Trends that GCs and Boards Need to Know
Jan 24, 2024

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"Con Ed" Damages in Canadian Public M&A: Revisiting *Cineplex v Cineworld* in Light of Recent Delaware Case Law
Jan 10, 2024

Governance Insights: Get Smart on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Corporate Governance: Key Considerations for Boards of Directors
Dec 7, 2023

Guide to Shareholder Activism and Proxy Contests in Canada
Nov 16, 2023

As the Pandemic Abates, Activists Advance: Shareholder Activism Rebounds in Canada
Oct 20, 2023

Time (and Process) of the Essence: Ontario Court Accelerates Timing of Requisitioned Meeting
Feb 8, 2023

Davies Governance Insights – September 2022
Sep 6, 2022

10 Years After: The Proxy Contest at Pacific Railway Reverberates to This Day
Jun 9, 2022

If It Ain't Broke… Davies Comments on Draft Capital Markets Act
Feb 25, 2022

Nine Davies Lawyers Recognized as Leaders in Health Sciences
Jun 10, 2021

Canadian Mergers & Acquisitions: A Guide for Foreign Investment Banks and Bidders, 9th Edition
Jun 1, 2021

Roxgold and Fortuna Combining to Create Premier Gold and Silver Producer
Apr 27, 2021

Ten Davies Partners Recognized as Technology Leaders
Feb 19, 2021

Davies Governance Insights 2020
Oct 5, 2020

The Hostile Bid Is Dead. Long Live the Hostile Bid?
Jun 15, 2020

Policy Prevails over Fine Print: Successful Ambush in British Columbia Clarifies the Use of Blank Proxies
May 6, 2019

Education

University of Windsor, LLB (Gold Medallist), 1999
University of Windsor, BA (Hons), 1996

Bar Admissions

Ontario, 2001

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Teaching Engagements

Aaron is an adjunct professor at Osgoode Hall Law School where he teaches the Advanced Business Law Workshop. He has served as a lecturer in Osgoode's Corporate Remedies LLM course and taught "Mergers and Acquisitions: Emerging Strategies and Regulatory Issues" for the Intensive Course in Canadian Securities Law and Practice, part of Osgoode's Professional Development Program. Previously, Aaron taught Corporate Finance and M&A for eight years at the University of Windsor Faculty of Law.