DAVIES



Sarbjit S. Basra
Managing Partner

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Expertise
Private Equity
Capital Markets and Securities
Mergers and Acquisitions
Corporate

Bar Admissions
Ontario, 1994

"The strength of our firm – and the value we provide to clients – depends on the strength of our people. We foster an environment that inspires our people to thrive and remain singularly focused on our clients' success."

Managing Partner in Toronto, Sarb leads the firm's strategic direction. He sets the standard for our partnership with his commitment to excellence and client service.

For over two decades, leading private equity firms and institutions have trusted Sarb for his ongoing advice on private fund formation, the creation of pooled investment vehicles and investment transactions – both in Canada and internationally. He is known for providing innovative solutions to clients' most complex business initiatives – whether structuring a private fund or leading a private equity or M&A transaction.

Clients consider Sarb a "senior and strategic" lawyer who "looks after relationships really well," describing him as "phenomenal" and "the best in Canada." (*Chambers Canada*)

Sarb is a key adviser to governments on the establishment of private sector–led funds of funds designed to spark venture capital investment by the private sector. Most recently, he advised the Business Development Bank of Canada on the formation of four funds of funds as part of its Venture Capital Catalyst Initiative.

Representative Work

Northleaf Capital Partners
Acted for **Northleaf Capital Partners** in its strategic sale of a non-controlling interest to Mackenzie Financial Corporation, a subsidiary of IGM Financial Inc., and Great-West Lifeco Inc.

InstarAGF Asset Management Inc.
Acted for **InstarAGF Asset Management Inc.** in the formation of US$1.2-billion InstarAGF Essential Infrastructure Fund II, an infrastructure fund focused on investments in North America, with limited partners from Canada, U.S., Europe and Asia.

Canadian Business Growth Fund
Acted for **Canadian Business Growth Fund** in connection with its investment in Lift Auto Group, a consolidator of automotive collision repair centres, and its investment in PayBright, a technology-enabled point-of-sale consumer payments and lending platform.

Canadian Business Growth Fund
Acted for Canada's leading banks and insurance companies to form the **Canadian Business Growth Fund**, an independent evergreen fund with a national mandate to provide long-term patient, minority capital to entrepreneurs pursuing growth and expansion strategies.

Business Development Bank of Canada
Acting for **Business Development Bank of Canada** in connection with the Government of Canada's Venture Capital Catalyst Initiative, which involves the formation of certain venture capital fund-of-funds. Northleaf Venture Catalyst Fund II, HarbourVest Canada Growth Fund II, Teralys Capital Innovation Fund and Kensington

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Venture Fund II, four of the five venture capital fund-of-funds established under the VCCI program, had their final closings in 2019.

Northleaf Capital Partners

Acted for **Northleaf Capital Partners** in connection with the formation of its closed-end private credit program and its open-ended, evergreen private credit investment fund.

Northleaf Capital Partners

Acted for **Northleaf Capital Partners** in connection with the establishment of a US$1.4-billion Northleaf global private credit program and Northleaf's related acquisition, through a new Northleaf-managed investment fund, of a 16% equity stake in Antares Holdings from CPPIB Credit Investments Inc.

Breton Hill Capital Ltd.

Acted for **Breton Hill Capital Ltd.**, a Canadian investment firm managing approximately US$2 billion in client assets, in its sale to Neuberger Berman Group LLC, a global, independent, employee-owned investment manager.

B+H International GP Ltd.

Acted for **B+H Architects**, a leading architecture and design firm, in connection with a significant investment by Surbana Jurong Private Limited in B+H Architects, and the sale by Arcterra Limited Partnership of its interest in B+H Architects to Surbana Jurong Private Limited.

Recognitions

Chambers Canada
Investment Funds: Fund Formation
Band 1

IFLR1000
Investment Funds; Private Equity

Lexpert 500 Cross Border
Corporate Commercial Law; Investment Funds & Asset Management: Investment Funds; Private Equity

Lexpert Special Edition
Finance; M&A

Lexpert (CLLD)
Corporate Commercial Law; Investment Funds and Asset Management: Investment Funds; Private Equity
Most Frequently Recommended

Lexpert (CLLD)
Corporate Mid-Market; Corporate Finance and Securities; Mergers and Acquisitions

Best Lawyers Canada
Securities Law; Venture Capital Law

Best Lawyers Canada
Corporate Law; Leveraged Buyouts and Private Equity Law; Private Funds Law

Best Lawyers Canada
Venture Capital Law

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Lawyer of the Year 2025, Toronto

Best Lawyers Canada
Private Funds Law
Lawyer of the Year 2017, 2019, 2021 and 2023, Toronto

Expert Guides
Private Equity

Insights

Davies Lawyers Recognized by *Best Lawyers*
Sep 3, 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

Lexpert 500 Guide Recognizes Davies
Jan 14, 2026

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

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

Education

Osgoode Hall Law School, LLB, 1992
University of Alberta, BComm, 1992

Bar Admissions

Ontario, 1994

Professional Affiliations

Canadian Venture Capital and Private Equity Association