




Maria Ruberto
Lead Partner

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 [Online Profile](#)

EDUCATION

B.A. (Hons.), York University (2000)

LL.B., University of Ottawa (2004)

Called to the Ontario Bar, 2005

RELEVANT DESIGNATIONS

Recognized as a Leading Practitioner in the area of Construction Law by the Canadian Legal LEXPERT Directory

Practice

Maria Ruberto is the Head of Pallett Valo's Construction Group and a Member of the Commercial Litigation Group.

She has a specialized practice focusing on the resolution of disputes in the construction industry, representing all players in the construction industry including owners, contractors, subcontractors, suppliers, and bonding companies.

Maria appears regularly before all Courts in the Province of Ontario, including the Construction Master's court in Toronto, on motions, applications, and trials, and represents clients in various forms of alternative dispute resolution including mediation and arbitration.

Maria provides legal advice and representation on a wide variety of construction and infrastructure matters. She is typically involved in complex multi-party proceedings where liability is hotly contested. Her practical advice is regularly sought in the areas of liens, breach of trust, performance bonds, labour & material payment bonds, contract preparation and the resolution of all types of construction disputes whether by way of litigation or by other dispute resolution mechanisms. Maria has been appointed as carriage counsel representing multiple subcontractor lien claimants on complex construction lien litigation matters.

Experience

Construction and Infrastructure Law

- Acted as carriage counsel for subcontractor lien claimants in multi-party lien action, which resulted in interim payment of holdback funds to the subcontractor lien claimants. See reported decision *Urbacon Buildings Group Corp. v. City of Guelph*, 2009
- Successfully represented client against Receiver in Bankruptcy on a contested issue of whether the services and material supplied by the client (lien claimant) were lienable under the *Construction Lien Act*. See reported decision *The Toronto Dominion Bank v. Chartrand Equipment*, 2016 ONSC 4908
- Preserves, perfected and litigated countless liens in respect of various projects, including but not limited to subway/LRT projects, solar fields, wind turbine farms, schools, hospitals, bridges, roads, municipal lands, commercial lands, and condominiums
- Advanced and defended lien claims, delay and impact claims, scope disputes, construction contract disputes, performance bond disputes and labour and material payment bond disputes
- Has conducted and continues to conduct seminars on the amendments to the *Construction Act* for various associations in the construction industry, organizations, credit groups and clients.
- Was a member of the executive of the Ontario Bar Associations Construction and Infrastructure Law Section for 6 years until 6 year term ended in 2018

Professional Memberships

- Member, Canadian Bar Association
- Member of the Construction and Infrastructure Law Section of the Ontario Bar Association
- Member, Peel Law Association
- Member, Vaughan Chamber of Commerce

News and Publications

- 5th Annual Managing Risk in Construction Contracts & Projects, April 1, 2020, Speaker on panel titled “Common Project Pitfalls and Frequently Litigated Disputes”
- Pallett Valo Business Law Summit Series: Construction and Employment Law Seminar, May 22, 2019, Speaker
- Construction and Infrastructure Section, OBA Seminar: Key Update on the New Construction Act, April 19, 2018, Speaker on panel titled “Overview of the New Regulations”
- Construction and Infrastructure Law Section of OBA Seminar: The Authoritative View of The *Construction Lien Amendment Act*, Bill 142, October 3, 2017 – Program Co-Chair
- Advocates’ Society Seminar: Construction Law: Lien and Arbitration Advocacy, April 21, 2017 – Speaker on panel titled “Top Construction Cases: How Have Courts Balanced the Right to Litigate with Contract Provisions Directing the Parties to Arbitration?”
- OBA Institute Program – Construction and Infrastructure Law Section: Navigating Everyday Construction Law Landmines – Best Practices for Smooth Digging, February 7, 2017 – Program Co-Chair
- Construction and Infrastructure Law Section of the OBA Seminar: The Essential Construction Lien Update, October 7, 2015, Speaker on two topics: (1) The Role of Carriage Counsel in a multi-party complex lien proceeding; and (2) The need for a Practice Direction re Construction Lien Matters in the Superior Court of Justice, Central West Region
- [Bill 119 - WSIB mandatory coverage in construction comes into effect on January 1, 2013 - are you affected?](#) - January 2013

