



GEORGE J. EYDT

Toronto Office Managing Partner, Canada-U.S. Cross-Border and Franchise & Distribution Practices Leader

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George is managing partner of the firm's Toronto office and leader of the firm's Canada/U.S. Cross-Border Practice, a team of U.S. lawyers dedicated to serving the needs of Canadian and other international companies and their professional advisors relative to business expansion into the United States. He provides cross-border advice on a wide variety of issues, including franchise and other distribution relationships, structuring of U.S. business expansion, and mergers and acquisitions.

Prior to law school, George worked for eight years in both sales and corporate planning with integrated steel producer Dofasco Inc. of Hamilton, Ontario. Although he is a member of the Ontario Bar, George exclusively practices U.S. law and is admitted to practice in New York State. George spent three years at Hodgson Russ's headquarters in Buffalo and now works from the firm's Toronto office.

Honors

- Listed, *Best Lawyers in Canada* (Corporate Law and Franchise Law), 2016 - 2020

Experience

Hodgson Russ assisted a midsize Canada-based foam products manufacturer with an asset purchase. This was the client's first U.S. acquisition. As a result, we also advised them with respect to tax structuring, implemented a U.S. structure, obtained U.S. work visas, and provided other general U.S. legal advice.

Hodgson Russ assisted in-house counsel at N. Harris Computer Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of Constellation Software Inc., with its \$80 million acquisition of QuadraMed Corporation, a portfolio company of Francisco Partners and provider of mission critical information technology selections for the health care market.

Practice restricted to U.S. law
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Practices & Industries

Corporate & Business
Canada-U.S. Cross-Border
International-U.S. Cross-Border
Franchise & Distribution
Food & Beverage
India-U.S. Cross-Border
Manufacturing
Mergers & Acquisitions
Professional Services
Retail Sector
Wine, Beer & Spirits

Admissions

New York
Ontario (*practice restricted to U.S. law*)
Foreign Legal Consultant, Law Society of Ontario

Education

York University, B.A.
Schulich School of Business, M.B.A.

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Handled importation issues, brokerage agreements, distribution agreements and keg handling agreements for a Canadian-based brewing company.

Hodgson Russ acts as counsel for the U.S. subsidiary of a Canadian aircraft maintenance company after having successfully assisted with the purchase of U.S. assets.

Hodgson Russ acts as outside counsel to a Germany-based manufacturer and retailer of luxury consumer products with respect to U.S. distribution law matters.

Hodgson Russ assists a Canadian importer and distributor of food products with U.S. corporate formations and compliance, restructuring, bank financings, and other commercial matters.

Hodgson Russ advises a Canada-based pub and casual dining franchise system on compliance with U.S. franchise law.

Hodgson Russ advised our client, a Canadian-based software venture capital firm, on its \$750,000 Series A-1 investment. Hodgson Russ negotiated all transaction documents, including the stock purchase agreement, term sheet, management rights letter, investor rights agreement, indemnification agreement and CEO employment agreement.

When a European-based heavy machinery manufacturer sought to strengthen its presence in North America, it saw in a U.S. company the perfect opportunity to expand its product line and distribution capabilities in the United States. With the help of Hodgson Russ, the U.S. division of this manufacturer completed the acquisition of this company and its complementary product line, thereby significantly increasing the size of its U.S. operations and positioning itself for future growth in this market. The acquisition — valued at approximately \$43 million, combining a cash purchase price and assumption of debt — is the multinational manufacturer's largest U.S. acquisition to date. The company's U.S. employee base more than quadrupled with the addition of the U.S. company's approximately 400 employees, and it added locations in Alabama, Florida, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, and other states to its manufacturing and distribution network. Prior to this acquisition, Hodgson Russ handled the incorporation of the European manufacturer's U.S. division and its acquisition of a smaller U.S. manufacturing company. In connection with this expansion, we designed and drafted restricted stock plans to incentivize their key employees. Since this transaction, Hodgson Russ has represented this client in two additional acquisitions, one on the East Coast and one on the West Coast.

Osgoode Hall Law School, L.L.B.

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Hodgson Russ represents Pita Pit, Inc., a quick service restaurant franchise system founded in Canada, with respect to U.S. franchise law compliance. Our attorneys act as coordinating legal counsel for Pita Pit International Inc.'s global expansion.

Hodgson Russ acted as U.S. counsel for TriWest Capital Partners, a Calgary-based private equity firm, on a) its \$75 million investment in a building components manufacturer with U.S. operations in and b) its \$60 million investment in an oil and gas related service provider with U.S. operations.

Hodgson Russ acts as U.S. legal counsel to Canadian-based Viziya Corporation and its U.S. subsidiary, Global PTM, Inc., a provider of software products to enhance ERP-based asset maintenance systems, on a wide variety of U.S. corporate and commercial matters. Viziya ranked number 17 in the Deloitte Fastest Growing Canadian Technology Companies for 2014.

In the News

Thought Leaders - Canadian Border Remains Cloudy Issue for Economy
Buffalo Business First, July 28, 2021

Top 10 New Client Legal Needs in Canada
Lexpert, October 19, 2015

Consul General of Canada in NY: Good Things Ahead for U.S., Canada Economies
Buffalo Law Journal, October 31, 2014

Attorney: More Firms Practicing Out of U.S.
Buffalo Law Journal, May 16, 2014

Canada Offers Towering Opportunity
Buffalo Law Journal, February 21, 2013

Franchise Law Grows in Complexity
Lexpert, October 2011

Cross-Border Expansion Looks Promising
Buffalo Business First, May 13, 2011

Firm Sponsors Canadian Club of Toronto Luncheon, Rings TSX Opening Bell
December 2, 2009

Hodgson Russ Finds Canadian Niche
Canadian Lawyer, July 2006

Press Releases

Hodgson Russ Attorney Named to *Best Lawyers in Canada* 2021 Listing
Hodgson Russ Press Release, August 27, 2020

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Hodgson Russ Attorney Named to *Best Lawyers in Canada* Listing
Hodgson Russ Press Release, September 13, 2019

Fifty-two Hodgson Russ Attorneys Named to 2018 *Best Lawyers* Listing, Five Included in “Lawyer of the Year” Categories
Press Release, August 15, 2017

2017 *Best Lawyers* Names Fifty-four Hodgson Russ Attorneys From Multiple Offices
Hodgson Russ Press Release, August 18, 2016

Hodgson Russ Attorney George Eydt Named to *Best Lawyers in Canada*
Press Release, September 2, 2015

Hodgson Russ Celebrates 25 Years With an Office in Canada
Press Release, March 20, 2014

Publications

New York State Liquor Authority Moves to Tackle Backlog of Items
Hodgson Russ Wine, Beer & Spirits Practice, November 29, 2023

What’s in Your “Secret Sauce?” The FTC’s Proposed Rule to Ban Noncompetes and Considerations for Food and Beverage Businesses
Hodgson Russ Food & Beverage Alert, May 3, 2023

Chick-fil-A Confirms Data Breach
Hodgson Russ Food & Beverage Alert, March 20, 2023

McDonald’s Faces Class Action Lawsuit Over Sexual Harassment, Hostile Work Environment Accusations
Hodgson Russ Food & Beverage Alert, January 4, 2023

Are Your Labels Allergy-Friendly? Major Change Looming for Food and Drink Labels in the United States
Hodgson Russ Food and Beverage Alert, September 12, 2022

Does Your Website Comply With U.S. Law and The Implications if it Does Not
Hodgson Russ Canada-U.S. Cross-Border and Cybersecurity & Privacy Alert, July 7, 2022

New COBRA Premium Subsidies Recently Enacted as Part of American Rescue Plan Act
Hodgson Russ Food & Beverage Alert, May 21, 2021

Possible Changes to Food Labeling Under the Biden Administration
Hodgson Russ Food and Beverage Alert, May 10, 2021

Restaurant Revitalization Fund Applications
Hodgson Russ Food and Beverage Alert, April 30, 2021

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Do Your Food Labels Need to be Updated?
Hodgson Russ Food and Beverage Alert, April 19, 2021

Presentations & Events

Canada Practice Webinar Series
November 17, December 1 & 15, January 5 & 19

Business Law Refresher 2020
Law Society of Ontario, June 23, 2020

Business Law Refresher 2019
Toronto, Ontario, April 9, 2019

Recent U.S. Tax Developments: How Key Provisions affect Canadian Businesses and their U.S. Shareholders
Vantage Venues, 27th Floor, 150 King Street West, 27th Floor, Toronto, ON, M5H 1J9, May 2, 2018

Optimizing Your Cross-Border Business: Trends in Cross-Border Business Structuring and Operations
Oakville, ON, September 24, 2015

Ontario Bar Association/New York Bar Association Legal Summit: The Evolving Practice of Transnational Law
Toronto, ON, March 28, 2014

Law Society of Upper Canada Seminar: Operating in a Foreign Jurisdiction
Toronto, ON, February 26, 2014

Ontario Bar Association Seminar: Common International Agreements - Selecting the Right Provisions
Toronto, ON, February 6, 2014

U.S. Legal Considerations for Cross-Border Businesses and Individuals
Hodgson Russ, Montreal, QC, March 14, 2013

How the U.S. Election May Affect Cross-Border Business in 2013 and Beyond
Toronto, ON, November 15, 2012

Professional Affiliations

- American Bar Association
- New York State Bar Association
- Canadian Bar Association
- Ontario Bar Association

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Community & Pro Bono

- Member, Board of Directors: Central Canadian Public Television Association
- Member, Board of Directors: ESM Metallurgical Products, Inc.
- Organizer & Participant: Bay Street Charity Cycling Challenge - established in 2014, this is an indoor cycling event which raises funds for the Jack Project.