

# Volterra Fietta hires Canadian government lawyer

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Christophe Bondy

After eight years as senior counsel and deputy director of Canada's Trade Law Bureau, **Christophe Bondy** is joining Volterra Fietta in London as the firm's fifth partner.

Bondy, who starts on 1 July, will work alongside firm co-founders **Robert Volterra** and **Stephen Fietta** and fellow partners **Graham Coop** and **Patricio Grané Labat**, who previously worked at the Energy Charter Secretariat in Brussels and at Arnold & Porter in Washington, DC, respectively.

In a press release, Bondy says that he was attracted to Volterra Fietta's focus on public international law and its successful track record in complex and high-stakes work.

A Canadian national, Bondy has worked at Torys in Toronto and in the international arbitration groups of Shearman & Sterling and Hughes Hubbard & Reed in Paris. He has been at the Trade Law

Bureau, a joint unit of the Department of Justice and the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development in Ottawa, since 2007.

Among his successes at the bureau, he convinced a NAFTA tribunal chaired by Swiss arbitrator **Gabrielle Kaufmann-Kohler** to dismiss claims brought against Canada by US chemical company Chemtura over a ban on the pesticide Lindane. The tribunal also awarded the state costs.

Bondy also helped to secure the withdrawal of US\$275 million in claims against Canada by US cement company St MarysVCNA in another NAFTA case.

More recently, he acted as lead counsel to Canada in its NAFTA arbitration with US pharmaceuticals company Eli Lilly. The arbitral proceedings, which arose after the state cancelled patents for the drugs Strattera and Zyprexa, began in 2013; the value of the claim has since risen to over US\$480 million.

In addition to his international arbitration work, he has represented Canada in several treaty negotiations, including discussions over the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), Canada's first transatlantic trade agreement.

Volterra describes Bondy as a “natural fit” for the firm and a “veteran” of the Trade Law Bureau, which he calls an elite group of public international law practitioners with “deep knowledge” of trade and investment disputes.

A graduate of the University of Ottawa, Bondy obtained his juris doctor from the University of Toronto. His degrees include a master of philosophy in international relations from Cambridge, a postgraduate diploma in European studies from the School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences in Paris and a master of arts from the Courtauld Institute of Art in London.

He began his career at Torys in 1996 before moving to Shearman & Sterling in 2000 and to Hughes Hubbard & Reed in 2004.

He speaks English, French, Spanish and German.

Volterra Fietta’s recent work includes helping a subsidiary of US bottlemaker Owens-Illinois win US\$455 million in a claim against Venezuela, one of the largest ICSID awards on record. The firm also teamed up with Herbert Smith Freehills to help Malaysia prevail last year in a billion-dollar dispute with Singapore over land taxes, which went before the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague.