Commercial Agreements Bootcamp: Building Essential Negotiating and Drafting Skills

Business Law

Date: November 26, 2014 | 9:00 am to 3:30 pm
Location: Twenty Toronto Street Conferences and Events
20 Toronto Street, 2nd Floor, Toronto

Program Chair: Suhuyini Abudulai, Cassels Brock & Blackwell LLP

This program contains 6 Professionalism Hours
This program is eligible for up to 6.5 Substantive Hours

The OBA has been approved as an Accredited Provider of Professionalism Content by The Law Society of Upper Canada.

Attend this practical, “hands-on” program to gain the fundamental knowledge and strategies you need to draft, review and negotiate commercial agreements. This “how to” program is relevant to lawyers entering any area of commercial or transactional practice who are interested in improving their drafting and negotiating skills. Put the skills you have gained to use immediately by participating in valuable negotiating and drafting exercises and benefit from having your work-product reviewed and critiqued by your peers.

Register now to be a part of this interactive program that is an important primer, or refresher, for lawyers involved in negotiating and drafting key commercial agreements!

8:30 am Registration and Coffee

9:00 am Welcome and Opening Remarks

9:05 am Drafting Essentials for a Bulletproof Contract
Allan Ritchie, Looperstra Nixon LLP
Learn how to tackle any contract drafting project from start to finish. Examine specific drafting techniques and strategies that you can implement immediately to draft legal documents with confidence, including:
• The essential components of any good contract
• The ramifications of ambiguous wording and how to avoid ambiguous phrasing traps
• Common ethical errors in drafting contracts

9:50 am Effectively Using “Boilerplate” Clauses
Matthew Kindree, Baker & McKenzie LLP
Go beyond the boilerplate to gain a stronger understanding of boilerplate clauses. Review and examine standard boilerplate clauses and discuss best practices for avoiding pitfalls by drafting standard clauses to suit the particular circumstances of the transaction.

10:20 am Networking Break

10:30 am Dispute Resolution Provisions
Michael Nowina, Baker & McKenzie LLP
Examine the differences between different dispute resolution mechanisms and the factors that influence the appropriate mechanism for your contract. Review common dispute resolution provisions to understand the key elements involved in reviewing and drafting mediation and arbitration provisions.

11:00 am Essential Drafting and Negotiation Tips for Commercial Agreements
a) Non-Disclosure Agreements and Master Service Agreements (MSAs)
Learn when non-disclosure agreements, and MSAs are appropriate and analyze the different components of non-disclosure agreements, including:
• Defining “confidential information”
• Common exclusions from the definition of “confidential information”
• Use and protection of confidential information

b) Shareholder Agreements
Bruce Chaple, McMillan LLP
Examine the principle issues that arise or require consideration in drafting and negotiating shareholder agreements. Review the advantages and disadvantages of certain types of provisions and the key conversations you need to have with your client to ensure their interests are protected.

12:00 pm Lunch (Provided)

1:00 pm c) Security Agreements
Sandra Appel, Davis LLP
Learn what it takes to draft an effective security agreement. Discover the essential terms of a security agreement in the context of the provisions of the Personal Property Security Act of Ontario, the different types of security agreements and the possible additions to those essential terms.

1:30 pm d) Equipment Finance Agreements
Jonathan Fleisher, Cassels Brock & Blackwell LLP
Attend this session for a practical approach to drafting, reviewing and negotiating an equipment finance agreement. Take part in an in depth interactive discussion as to what is required in an equipment finance agreement and traps for the unwary.

2:00 pm Drafting Workshop
Put to practice what you have learned by participating in drafting exercises with your peers. Draft essential clauses and re-draft sample clauses to make sure they are bulletproof! Receive feedback from your group and walk away with practical strategies and precedents to use in your practice.

3:30 pm Closing Remarks and Program Concludes