

# VANIA DRAGUIEVA

• Toronto • 416 820 4899 • [vania@draguieva.com](mailto:vania@draguieva.com) • [linkedin.com/in/vaniadraguieva](https://www.linkedin.com/in/vaniadraguieva) •

---

I am a lawyer admitted to the Ontario Bar in 2013, with over 13 years of experience in industries as diverse as construction, consulting, environmental services, professional regulation, and water and wastewater industries. I have gained experience in several areas of law, including construction, contracts, civil litigation, health and safety, privacy, procurement, regulatory, technology, and class actions. Along with drafting legal pleadings, memoranda, and opinion pieces, I also appear in court and settle cases. As a licensed professional, certified risk manager, and published legal author, I deliver excellent general counsel support in identifying and preventing multi-area legal risks to minimize loss exposure and optimize performance.

---

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**SENIOR LEGAL COUNSEL**, Metrolinx, Ontario Line, Toronto

**2024-2026**

### CONSTRUCTION LAW AND CLAIMS

- Resolved diverse construction-related claims, such as contract disputes, delay claims, holdback releases, owner-side liens, personal injury cases, noise and vibration concerns, business losses, and environmental matters
- Responded directly to client inquiries to address complex or highly sensitive complaints
- Delivered high-quality, timely legal and strategic advice, research, opinions, and guidance on large capital infrastructure projects, including contract and claims management
- Collaborated independently and within project teams to develop and manage key commercial contracts
- Drafted and negotiated complex commercial agreements, memoranda of understanding, and other legal documentation
- Worked closely with internal and external stakeholders, including engineers, program managers, financial analysts, consultants, and executives
- Directed and managed external counsel across multiple projects

**SENIOR ASSOCIATE COUNSEL**, The Regional Municipality of York, Newmarket

**2023-2024**

### CONSTRUCTION LAW

- Advised Regional departments, corporations, boards, and related entities on applicable laws and regulations
- Developed and implemented risk management strategies
- Provided guidance on Regional Council obligations and compliance requirements
- Drafted and negotiated agreements and other legal instruments for municipal services, project implementation, and operational needs
- Represented the Region and its boards and corporations in negotiations, dispute resolution, litigation, and proceedings before courts and administrative tribunals
- Prepared and reviewed reports for Regional Council and Committees
- Participated in Committee and departmental meetings as required

**LEGAL COUNSEL**, Ontario Clean Water Agency, Toronto

**2021-2023**

### CONSTRUCTION LAW, CLAIMS AND PROCUREMENT

- Resolved complex claims involving water and wastewater projects, contract terminations, and insurance disputes
- Performed research and provided strategic legal advice to senior management in the following areas of law: contracts, construction, environmental law, health and safety, international law (CETA and CFTA) IP, insurance, privacy (FIPPA and CASL), procurement, regulatory, statutory interpretation, technology, water and wastewater, and among others
- Interpreted OCWA's enabling statute, the *Capital Investment Plan Act*, the *Environmental Protection Act*, the *Safe Drinking Water Act*, the *Ontario Water Resources Act*, the *Ontario Health and Safety Act*, and other existing and proposed legislation to devise a risk management strategy
- Negotiated, drafted, or amended over a hundred agreements, whether with suppliers, municipal or industrial clients, or First Nations, including agreements pertaining to operation and maintenance, project management, construction management, commercial leases, consulting, IT, engineering services, and research agreements
- Prepared and advised on Request for Proposals, Request for Tenders, and Request for Quotations
- Drafted successful legal representations before the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario
- Successfully drafted approximately a hundred applications to the Treasury Board Secretariat under section 28 of the Ontario *Financial Administration Act* to mitigate legal risks for the Province of Ontario

---

<b>LEGAL OFFICER</b> , The Law Society Referral Service, The Law Society of Ontario, Toronto	<b>2015-2020</b>
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drafted legal memos and performed research in privacy, administrative, constitutional, and human rights law</li> <li>• Drafted memos to examine the referral service’s history and acquired goodwill to maintain members’ loyalty</li> <li>• Drafted emails in response to members of the public to refer them to a lawyer</li> <li>• Expertly interviewed thousands of potential clients to refer them to an appropriate lawyer</li> <li>• Interpreted the Law Society’s enabling statute and drafted legal memos to ensure compliance</li> <li>• Applied de-escalating techniques and empathy in managing people in crisis</li> </ul>	
<b>BARRISTER AND SOLICITOR</b> , The Advantage Group International, Inc., Toronto	<b>2013-2015</b>
CORPORATE/COMMERCIAL LAW	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reported directly to the CFO, oversaw, managed, and identified the legal issues in all departments</li> <li>• Drafted and managed the execution of contracts, pleadings, policies, and corporate records</li> <li>• Led successful legal contract negotiations with global manufacturing companies’ C-suite teams</li> <li>• Advised in corporate governance, IP, data protection (PIPEDA), technology (SaaS), marketing and advertising (CASL), competition law (Competition Act), and human rights</li> <li>• Appeared at a pre-trial settlement conference and successfully settled the matter</li> <li>• Monitored competition law compliance at the Annual Board Meeting</li> </ul>	
<b>STUDENT-AT-LAW</b> , MAG, Ontario Ministry of Education, Toronto	<b>2013</b>
CLASS ACTIONS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examined evidence to determine relevance to the issues in a class-action lawsuit against the Crown</li> <li>• Performed legal research in the area of employment law</li> <li>• Managed the workload and set realistic goals with the team for completion of the evidence review</li> </ul>	
<b>LEGAL RESEARCHER</b> , The Supreme Court of the Northern Mariana Islands, Saipan, USA	<b>2012</b>
CONSTITUTIONAL LAW	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conducted legal research in constitutional law and legislative interpretation</li> <li>• Drafted a legal memorandum to determine whether a local bill related to gambling is constitutional without the necessary approval of the CNMI Senate</li> </ul>	

---

## PUBLICATIONS

<b>AUTHOR</b> , Practical Guidance, LexisNexis Canada Inc., Toronto	<b>2021-pr.</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Software Acquisition and Grant-Back Licence Agreement” (Annotated)</li> <li>• “Cyber Incident Response Plan” (Annotated)</li> </ul>	

---

## EDUCATION

Bachelor of Laws, University of Ottawa, Common Law Program	<b>2007-2010</b>
Bachelor of Arts, McGill University, Political Science/History	<b>2003-2007</b>

---

## LAW-RELATED CERTIFICATES

Public Procurement Law: The Rules in Practice, Osgoode Professional Development	<b>2023</b>
Environmental Compliance 101, The Ontario Clean Water Agency	<b>2023</b>
Foundations in Judicial Competences Certificate, The Ontario Bar Association	<b>2020</b>
Civil Litigation Certificate, The Advocates’ Society	<b>2018-2019</b>
Risk Management Certificate, University of Toronto	<b>2018</b>
Dealing with Difficult People Certificate, University of Windsor	<b>2017</b>

---

## VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

<b>TUTOR</b> , Barrister Examinations, the Law Society of Ontario	<b>2024-pr.</b>
<b>ADVOCATE</b> , Diversity and Inclusion Committee, the Law Society of Ontario	<b>2017-2020</b>
<b>FUNDRAISER</b> , Justice for Children and Youth	<b>2019-2020</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supported the cause of justice for homeless children and youth by fundraising (ran a marathon)</li> </ul>	
<b>LEGAL COUNSEL (PRO BONO)</b> , Pro Bono Ontario, Law Help Ontario's Self-help Centre, Toronto	<b>2015</b>
CIVIL LITIGATION, SMALL CLAIMS COURT	