



John Paul (JP) Smith

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PRACTICE AREAS

Business Law

Defence & Security

Construction, Development & Infrastructure

Securities & Capital Markets



Practical advice. Strategic thinking. Results-driven execution.

JP is a Partner at McLeod Law who helps businesses get complex deals done and deliver major projects with confidence. He advises energy, infrastructure, construction, mining, and defence clients on corporate and commercial matters, negotiating and structuring transactions that have to work on paper, in the field, and in front of boards, lenders, and counterparties. Clients engage JP to shape mergers and acquisitions and strategic investments, financings and securities matters, procurement driven projects, and the contracting frameworks that sit underneath them, including RFP strategy, prime and subcontract structures, flow down terms, and disciplined risk allocation. He delivers plain language, boardroom tested advice that supports decisive execution.

In regulated and government facing environments, JP focuses on seamless interfacing with regulators and key stakeholders. He builds clear, defensible positions, anticipates disclosure and compliance pressure points, and aligns legal strategy with business reality so approvals, reporting, and oversight stay on track. JP also leads investigations and compliance mandates, including internal investigations, risk assessments, and response planning for matters involving regulatory exposure, corruption allegations, and heightened government attention, helping clients protect credibility and maintain momentum.

When he is not in the office, JP is a proud hockey dad to three boys and recharges on his ranch north of Calgary.

Education

2014 University of Calgary, JD

2009 University of Calgary, BA

2007 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, BA

Admission

2015 Alberta

Experience

Clients turn to JP for practical, business-minded counsel that keeps deals moving. He draws on deep private practice experience and senior executive roles to help clients negotiate and structure transactions that work in the real world, not just on paper. His work includes M&A and strategic investments, corporate and commercial agreements, financings and securities matters, procurement and RFP strategy with prime and subcontract risk allocation, governance and board support, and investigations and compliance mandates where regulatory exposure and stakeholder expectations are high.

Memberships

- **Law Society of Alberta**
 - **Calgary Bar Association**
 - **Canadian Bar Association**
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Alberta’s iGaming Market on the Eve of July 13: What It Means for Operators and How Counsel Can Help

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Canada’s Defence Industrial Strategy: What Has Actually Happened Since February

MARCH 5, 2026 | ARTICLE



Canada’s Defence Industrial Strategy (“Security, Sovereignty and Prosperity”): What it Means for Industry and How Counsel Can Help
