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Trade Law and Policy, Financial Services,
Competition, institution building

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INTRODUCTION

Rambod Behboodi has had a rich and varied experience in government, diplomacy, international organizations, and private practice. He has concentrated in that time on trade law, litigation, and negotiations; regulatory affairs, including technical barriers to trade, and sanitary and phytosanitary measures; institution-building; financial services regulation, and competition.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW AND POLICY

Rambod has over twenty-seven years of experience as trade lawyer, diplomat, and negotiator, and as litigator under the WTO, the Canada-US FTA, NAFTA, and the Federal Court of Appeal of Canada.

Rambod launched GenevaTradeLaw.com in 2020. He advises private sector interests on WTO developments, trade law and policy, regulatory issues, and financial services; continues to provide capacity-building and training to governments on a range of issues, in particular on WTO accession and implementation, in respect of trade remedies and services; and supports governments on institutional reform on financial services, trade remedies, climate change, and competition matters.

COUNSEL, DIPLOMAT, LITIGATOR, NEGOTIATOR

As **trade law counsel** with the government of Canada, he advised on the conformity of domestic policies with Canada's international obligations under the WTO, the NAFTA and other regional trade agreements concentrating on subsidies and trade remedies; TBT and SPS matters; dual use goods; and agricultural policies and products. He participated and advised on in bilateral and multilateral negotiations related to international trade in and regulation of hazardous chemicals, GMOs, indigenous rights, and cultural industries.

In postings to Brussels and Geneva as a **Canadian trade diplomat** he gained particular insight into multilateral and bilateral trade diplomacy as well as key issues shaping global trading relations (IP, non-tariff barriers, institutional reform, trade and environment, and regulatory cooperation).

As a **trade litigator**, he advised on or litigated cases before the NAFTA interstate dispute resolution mechanism (Chapter 20) and the WTO in respect of trade in agricultural products, complex aircraft financing and subsidies, natural resources policies and pricing, trade remedies, and health and environment policies.

INSTITUTION-BUILDING AND STRATEGIC ADVICE

Rambod was named Special Advisor to the Senior Deputy Commissioner for Criminal Matters on special assignment in 2007. He advised on approving, prioritizing, budgeting, planning, and implementing cartel investigations and reforms to the *Competition Act*; participated in anti-cartel investigations and searches; helped draft the Bureau's Leniency Policy; and finalized the Bureau's Immunity Policy.

He was appointed Counsel at the Privy Council Office (the Secretariat to the federal Cabinet and the department for the Prime Minister) in 2008, with responsibility for eight government departments and their agencies. He advised on strategic litigation, institutional reform, and interagency dispute resolution, and implemented the new Treaties in Parliament policy of the government.

SENIOR EXECUTIVE IN FINANCIAL SERVICES AND COMPETITION

In 2009 and with the Financial Crisis in full force, Rambod was promoted to **General Counsel** at Canada's Finance Ministry.

After the initial burst of regulatory activity in response to the Crisis, he supervised the drafting and delivery to the Minister of over a dozen major bills for submission to Parliament. These included a dozen omnibus Budget Implementation bills; major amendments to the *Bank Act*; bills overhauling money laundering, pensions, and payment systems; and bills related to institutional issues affecting administrative tribunals, Canada's trade remedy regime, and the competences of the Competition Bureau.

On the strength of his broad experience in management, institution-building, economic regulation, and diplomacy, in 2014 he was named the first **Deputy Commissioner for Competition Promotion** at the Competition Bureau. He established the Competition Promotion Branch, comprising five units: international cooperation and capacity building; strategic planning; economic analysis and advocacy; communications and public education; and compliance. He drafted and implemented the Bureau's first Compliance Policy, prepared its first three-year Strategic Plan, and revamped both advocacy and public education platforms and practices.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Rambod return to Geneva in 2016. As Counsellor at the WTO, he provided training and capacity-building on trade remedies and dispute settlement to developing country officials. After two years at the WTO, he accepted the position of international trade **Partner** at the global firm of King & Spalding, where he advised the government of Nigeria and the United Kingdom on trade remedy authorities (including advice on drafting legislation and regulations); advised the government of the United Kingdom on financial services trade; represented the government of Morocco in a WTO case; and advised other countries on dispute resolution and systemic issues.

Rambod has been teaching economic integration and regulation, and international trade litigation, in universities in Canada and Europe since 1994, devising original courses in French and English, and delivering to diverse audiences.