

The Law Society
of British Columbia



2018 ANNUAL REPORT

lawsociety.bc.ca

© Law Society of British Columbia



Our Mandate

THE LAW SOCIETY WAS CREATED BY THE LEGAL PROFESSION ACT, WHICH GIVES IT THE AUTHORITY TO DETERMINE THE QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED TO PRACTISE LAW IN BC, TO ESTABLISH RULES AND A CODE OF CONDUCT FOR LAWYERS, AND TO ENFORCE THOSE RULES. BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY, THE OPENING LINES OF THE ACT SPECIFY THAT ALL OF THESE RESPONSIBILITIES FALL UNDER A BROADER MANDATE “TO UPHOLD AND PROTECT THE PUBLIC INTEREST IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.” BEYOND ITS CORE MANDATE OF SETTING STANDARDS AND ENFORCING RULES, THE LAW SOCIETY SPEAKS OUT ON BEHALF OF THE PUBLIC ON ISSUES AFFECTING THE JUSTICE SYSTEM IN BC AND THE DELIVERY OF LEGAL SERVICES IN THIS PROVINCE.

President’s Message	3
CEO’s Message	5
Strategic Plan Progress	6
Key Performance Indicators	8
Legal Profession in BC	13
Benchers	16
Committees, Task Forces and Working Groups	17
Hearing Panel Pools	20
Life Benchers	21



President's Message

2018 was a busy and productive year as the Law Society reached important milestones toward meeting the goals of its 2018-2020 Strategic Plan.

Early in the year the Benchers established a task force to address mental health in the legal profession, one of the priorities in our current strategic plan. The task force examined ways to reduce the stigma of mental health issues and the potential role our admissions and discipline processes may have in supporting a healthy profession that better serves the public. In December, all of the recommendations in the task force's first interim report were approved, including designing educational training programs for Law Society employees and establishing a communications strategy to enhance awareness of the issue.

The Law Society engaged with the provincial government on a range of issues. I met with Attorney General David Eby, QC, a number of times throughout the year. Each time we met, I stressed the importance of adequate public funding for criminal and family legal aid in BC. I was heartened by the support of Law Society members, who at the December AGM passed a resolution calling for the

Benchers to continue advocating for legal aid funding as well as to encourage lawyers to perform pro bono work.

Over the course of the year, the Law Society moved ahead with regulatory innovation, completing a law firm regulation pilot project. The pilot tested the functionality of its online registration and self-assessment platforms. The completed assessments of policies and processes at select BC firms will help the Law Society as it takes the next steps toward implementing law firm regulation.

In July, the Benchers adopted a Truth and Reconciliation Action Plan which will guide the Law Society in its ongoing response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls to action. Concrete steps that we took in 2018 include approving Indigenous intercultural competence training as a component of continuing professional development, and adding Indigenous intercultural competence, Indigenous child welfare, and Indigenous sentencing sessions to the Professional Legal Training Course. A key part of the action plan addresses increasing Indigenous representation in all aspects of the Law Society, including on the committees that advise the Benchers on key regulatory responsibilities, such as lawyer education, staff recruitment, legal aid, and the Law Society's ongoing work at responding to the commission's calls to action.



continued...



President's Message *...continued*

The Law Society hosted two important public events in the year. In June, the second annual Rule of Law lecture addressed the intersection of social media and the rule of law. The lecture featured former Supreme Court of Canada Justice Binnie, QC, as well as Peter A. Allard School of Law Dean Dr. Catherine Dauvergne, and journalist Jonathan Kay. In November, the Second Legal Aid Colloquium was moderated by the Honourable Bruce Cohen, QC, and brought together a range of views and perspectives from communities and service agencies outside the legal profession that will help inform the Law Society's efforts to improve legal aid funding through engagement with the profession, the public and the provincial government.

Throughout the year, the Law Society worked closely the Federation of Law Societies of Canada as it drafts national standards on regulations aimed at combating money laundering. In addition to consulting with the profession on new draft rules, the Law Society took steps to ensure the profession is well aware of all the anti-money laundering rules that apply to trust funds, and increased audits of lawyer trust accounts to ensure compliance.

The Alternate Legal Service Provider Working Group that I chaired launched a consultation on a draft proposal on what services might be provided by members of a new category of licensed professional in the area of family law. This sparked an important conversation in the profession, providing valuable input to the Benchers as they continue to work toward drafting a framework for licensing and regulating new categories of licensed paralegals.

It was a busy and productive year, and I know that 2019 President Nancy Merrill, QC, will ensure continued progress toward meeting the goals of our strategic plan. She will be supported by Craig Ferris, QC, as first vice-president and Dean Lawton, QC, as second vice-president, along with CEO Don Avison and the dedicated staff of the Law Society. I would like to thank Don and all of the outstanding Law Society staff, for their help and support, and my fellow Benchers for their commitment and hard work.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MK', is positioned above the name of the president.

Miriam Kresivo, QC
President



CEO's Message

2018 was a year of change for the Law Society. The year began with me assuming my role and a new strategic plan that keeps us focused on protecting consumers of legal services while also improving the availability of legal services to the public. Over the course of the year, we welcomed new staff and new members to our governing board of Benchers, and we revitalized engagement with a new provincial government. It was a year that invited everyone to look at things with fresh perspective.

Throughout these changes, the Law Society continued to fulfil its core regulatory responsibilities. Our professional training course accommodated increasing numbers of law students seeking to become licensed lawyers. Practice advisors provided guidance to lawyers seeking information on new and challenging professional issues. We completed another audit cycle of all law firms and initiated a more stringent audit program for law firms working in areas more vulnerable to organized criminals looking to launder illicit funds. We continued to investigate every complaint we received and to reduce the time to resolution.

In the pages that follow, we provide data and information that demonstrates the progress made on our strategic goals this year. We have introduced new, objective

measures of accountability. For example, the charts on page 11 illustrate the effectiveness of our audit program, with 463 audits in 2018 resulting in 74 referrals to professional conduct investigation. We are also introducing new accountability measures, illustrated on pages 9 and 10, which demonstrate the effectiveness of our investigation and resolution of complaints.

Beyond our core regulatory processes, we also are reporting on the substantial progress made this past year toward goals set out in the strategic plan. On pages 6 and 7 you will find a summary of the initiatives, including our Truth and Reconciliation Action Plan, our vision for legal aid, and our mental health initiative.

All of these initiatives and the progress that we made on them are only possible because of the hard-working people at the Law Society. They continue to be focused on our top priority of serving the interests of British Columbians, while understanding the realities of the legal profession. They, and I, remain dedicated to supporting lawyers in providing competent, honourable, professional services.



Don Avison
Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director

Strategic Plan Progress 2018

The Law Society is governed by the *Legal Profession Act*, which requires that it:

- protect the rights and freedoms of all persons;
- ensure the independence, integrity, honour and competence of lawyers;
- establish standards and programs for the education, professional responsibility and competence of lawyers;
- regulate the practice of law; and
- support lawyers in fulfilling their duties in the practice of law.

The 2018-2020 Strategic Plan identifies areas within this mandate that require particular attention, sets out goals and outlines initiatives aimed at achieving those goals. In 2018 the Law Society reached the following milestones toward fulfilling those goals.



MORE INFORMATION

2018-2020 Law Society Strategic Plan

Goal: Ensure the public has better access to justice

The Law Society continued to pursue the Vision for Publicly Funded Legal Aid in BC that was approved by the Benchers in 2017. President Miriam Kresivo met with Attorney General David Eby on several occasions, and at each occasion stressed the importance of adequate public funding for legal services

The Law Society sought input on a draft proposal regarding a new category of licensed professional in the area of family law. This sparked an important conversation within the profession, which will guide the Benchers as they continue to consider both the challenges and the opportunities that licensed paralegals present in addressing the need for better access to justice.

Access to Justice

The Law Society provided \$2.5 million in funding for Courthouse Libraries of BC. Through its expanding digital collections, online training, and 30 physical locations, CLBC provides lawyers and the public with access to legal information and help finding and using that information. The Law Society also provided \$365,000 in funding for pro bono and access to legal services programs administered by the Law Foundation of BC.

Goal: Identify and implement appropriate responses to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's calls to action

The Benchers approved a Truth and Reconciliation Action Plan. Developed in consultation with Indigenous community leaders, it will guide the Benchers as they continue to respond to the findings of the commission.

Indigenous intercultural competence training was approved as a component of the continuing professional development program for lawyers. Sessions relating to intercultural competence and multiple aspects of the law as it relates to Indigenous people were incorporated into the Professional Legal Training Course required of new lawyers entering the profession.

Truth and Reconciliation

At the 2018 retreat in Osoyoos, the Benchers learned about local Indigenous laws and traditions from Dr. Jeanette Armstrong, a Syilx First Nation leader and Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Knowledge and Philosophy at UBC-Okanagan. Truth and Reconciliation Commissioner Dr. Marie Wilson shared her perspective on challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

Strategic Plan Progress 2018 *...continued*

Goal: Mitigate risk, prevent misconduct and improve regulatory outcomes

The Law Society successfully rolled out a trial of its proposed regulatory framework for law firms. A sample group of law firms registered online and completed a self-assessment aimed at helping firms assess their management policies and processes.

The Benchers approved the recommendations of the first interim report of the Mental Health Task Force. These include, among other things, providing discipline and credentials staff with training to improve awareness of mental health and substance use issues, and working with the Credentials Committee to re-evaluate the Law Society's approach to inquiries into mental health and substance use in its admission program.

Goal: Ensure that appropriate standards are maintained for ethical and professionally responsible practice of law

The Law Society contributed significantly to the Federation of Law Societies of Canada's revision of its model rules aimed at combatting money laundering. The federation adopted updated model rules in October and these will guide the Acts and Rules Committee as it drafts revisions to Law Society Rules, expected to be presented to the Benchers for consideration in the coming year.

Goal: Assist lawyers in fulfilling their duties

The Mental Health Task Force interim report approved by Benchers in December includes recommendations aimed at helping lawyers with mental health and addiction issues, including encouraging practice advisors to discuss availability of confidential consultations and referral resources.

Goal: Ensure the public has greater confidence in the rule of law and the administration of justice by identifying opportunities for public discussion

The Law Society hosted two public events: the second annual Rule of Law lecture addressed the role of technology and social media; and the second Legal Aid Colloquium produced a range of perspectives that will help the Law Society as it continues to promote its Vision for Publicly Funded Legal Aid in BC. It also sponsored its third annual essay contest for high school students on the topic of social media and the rule of law.

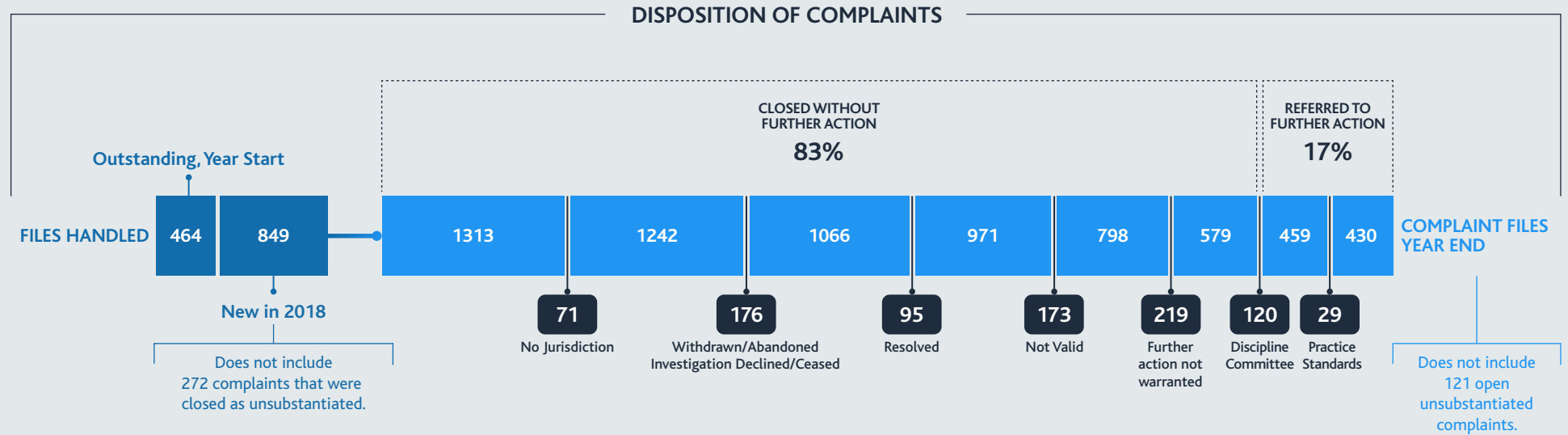
Proactive Regulation

The Law Society successfully completed a law firm regulation pilot project. Select firms were asked to register and complete self-assessments of their policies and processes. The Law Society will take results of the pilot into consideration as it considers next steps in this proactive approach to regulation.

Key Performance Indicators

Key performance indicators provide a statistical snapshot of outcomes in key areas relating to the Law Society’s regulatory mandate.

PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE



i MORE INFORMATION
Complaints and discipline process

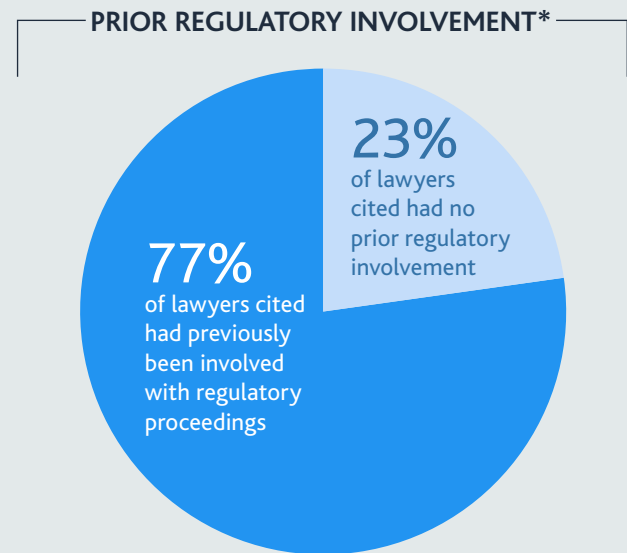
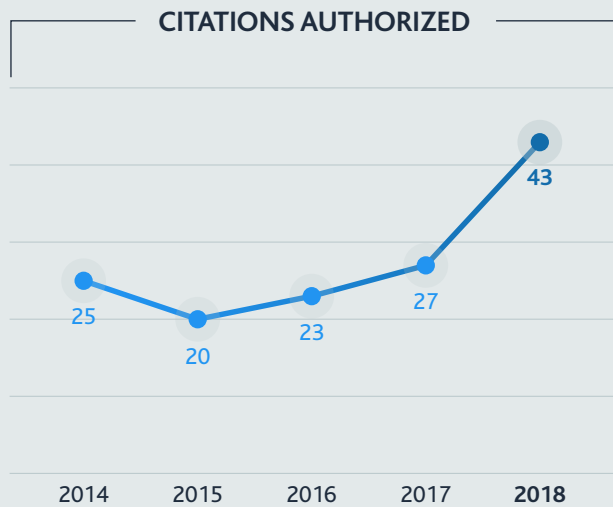
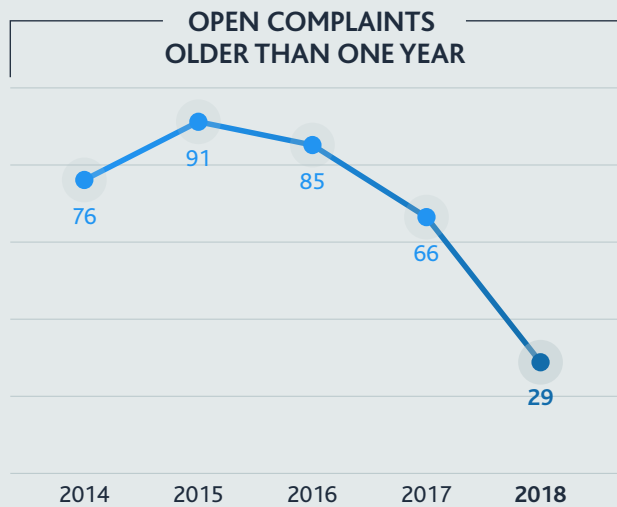
Key Performance Indicators *...continued*

PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE

National Standards: In 2018 the Federation of Law Societies of Canada approved National Discipline Standards, including the following:

- 80% of all complaints are resolved or referred for a disciplinary or remedial response within 12 months
- 90% of all complaints are resolved or referred for a disciplinary or remedial response within 18 months

Law Society of BC: 88% of complaint files closed in 2018 were closed within one year; 92% were closed within 18 months



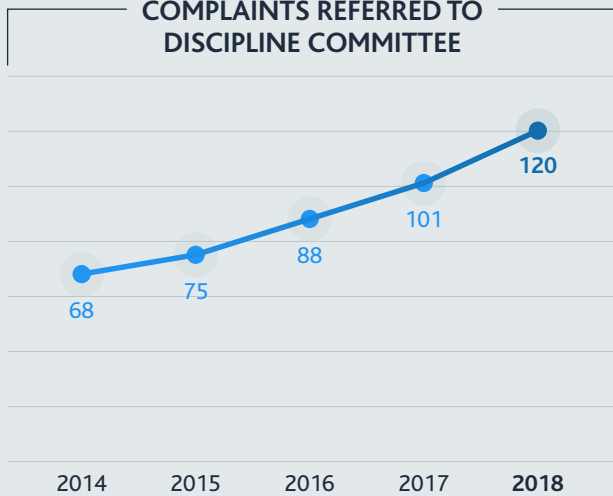
*prior regulatory involvement includes: interim proceedings, administrative suspensions, Custodianship involvement, Credentials involvement, referrals to Practice Standards, and referrals to the Discipline Committee. Also included are interim undertakings given during the course of an investigation

i MORE INFORMATION
Complaints and discipline process

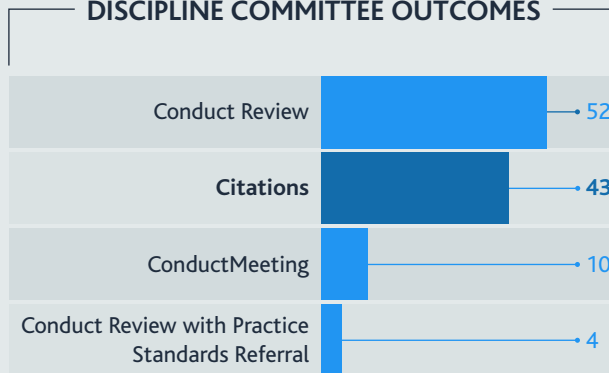
Key Performance Indicators *...continued*

PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE

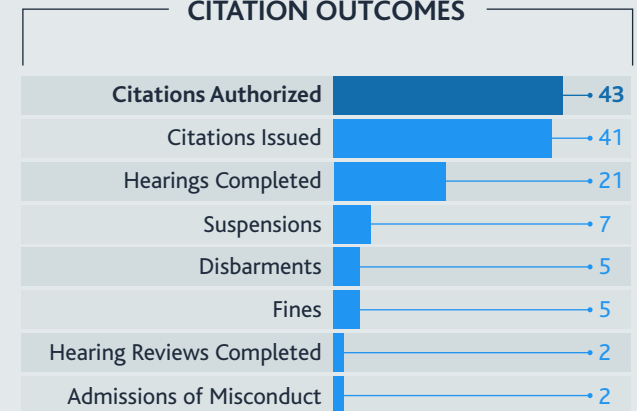
COMPLAINTS REFERRED TO DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE



DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE OUTCOMES



CITATION OUTCOMES



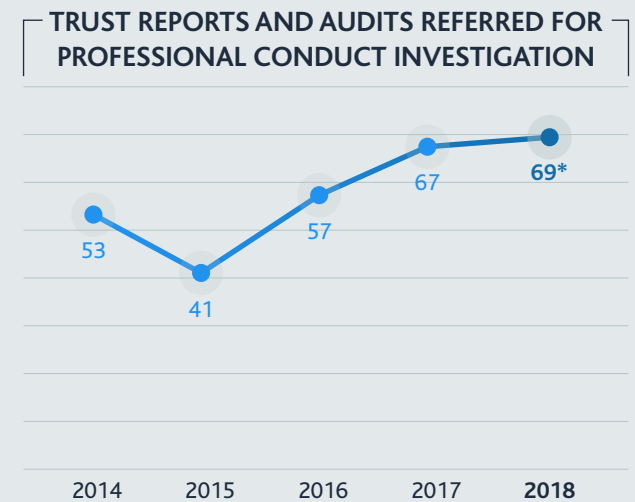
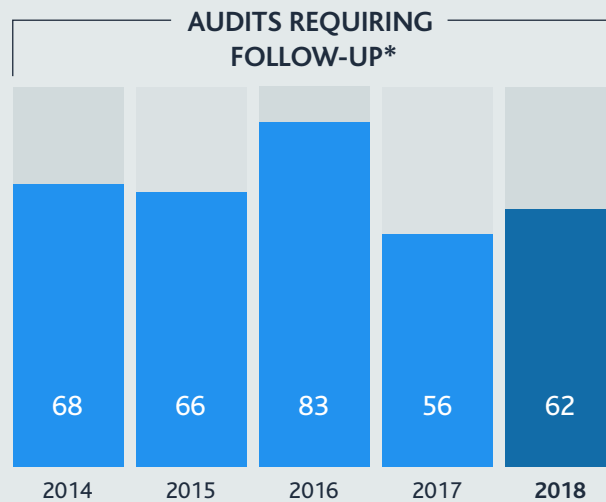
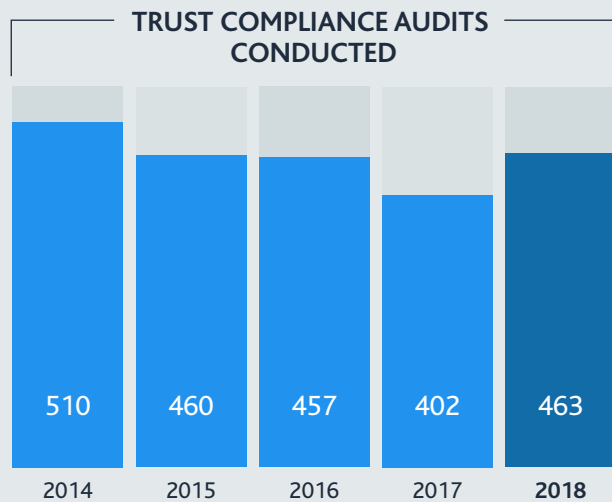
 **MORE INFORMATION**
Complaints and discipline process

Key Performance Indicators *...continued*

TRUST ASSURANCE

All law firms are subject to accounting and reporting standards set out in the Law Society Rules. Every firm must file an annual trust report and is subject to compliance audits.

Every law firm that handles trust funds is audited at least once every six years. In 2019 the Law Society will increase the audit cycle to every four years for areas of practice considered to be at elevated risk.



*As the result of an audit, further action may be required, including a request for further documentation, a visit to the firm, or a requirement to complete an accountant's report.

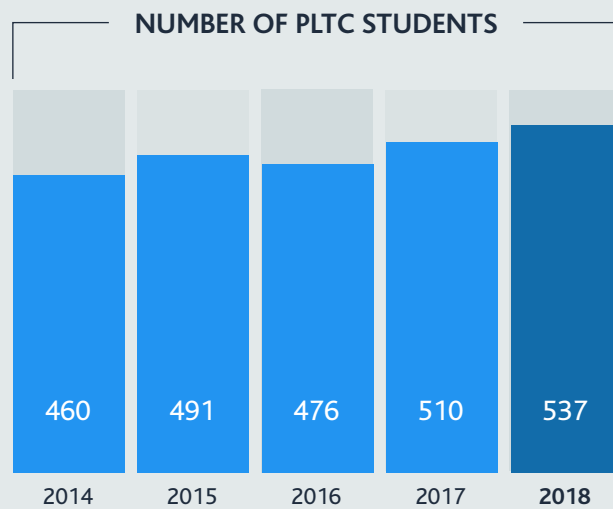
*projected



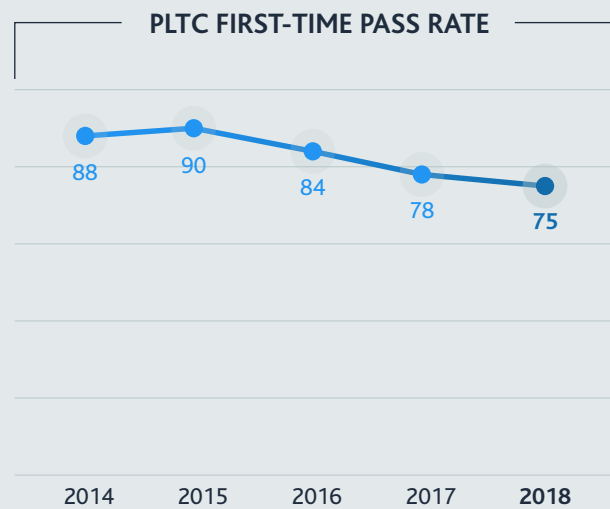
Key Performance Indicators *...continued*

PROFESSIONAL LEGAL TRAINING COURSE

All new lawyers in BC must pass the Professional Legal Training Course, a full-time, ten-week program aimed at helping new lawyers bridge the gap between law school and practice.



The number of students has been rising due to an increase in referrals from the National Committee on Accreditation and graduation of the first cohort of Thompson Rivers University law students in 2014.

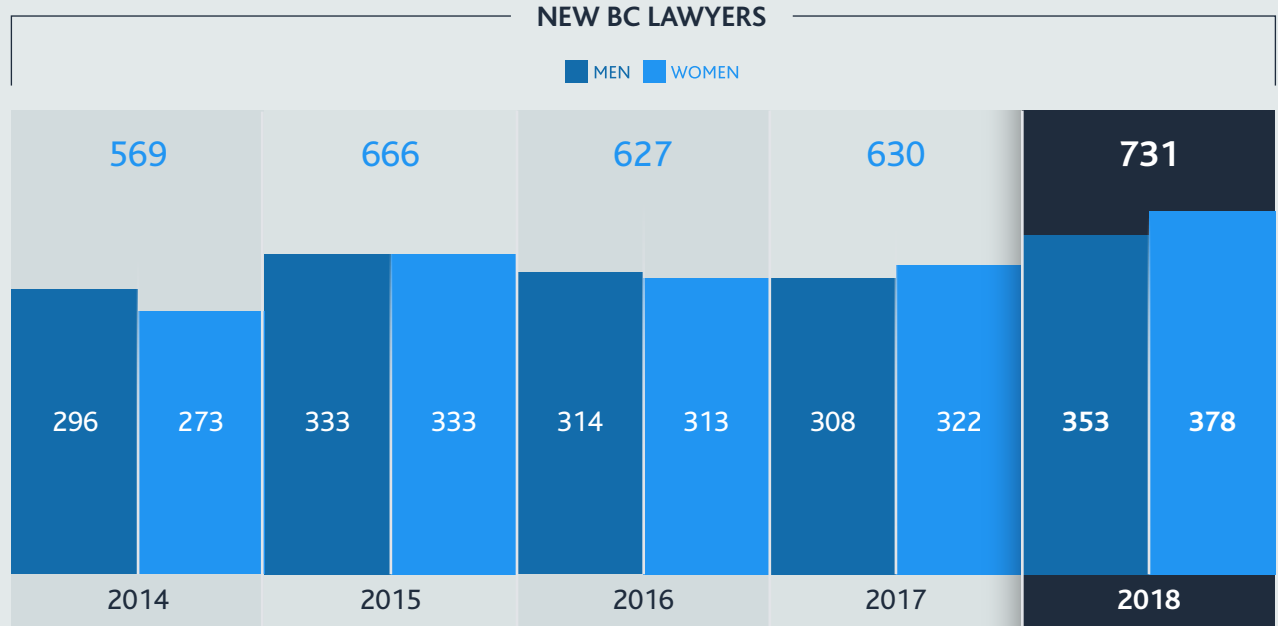


PLTC has tightened its pass criteria in recent years.

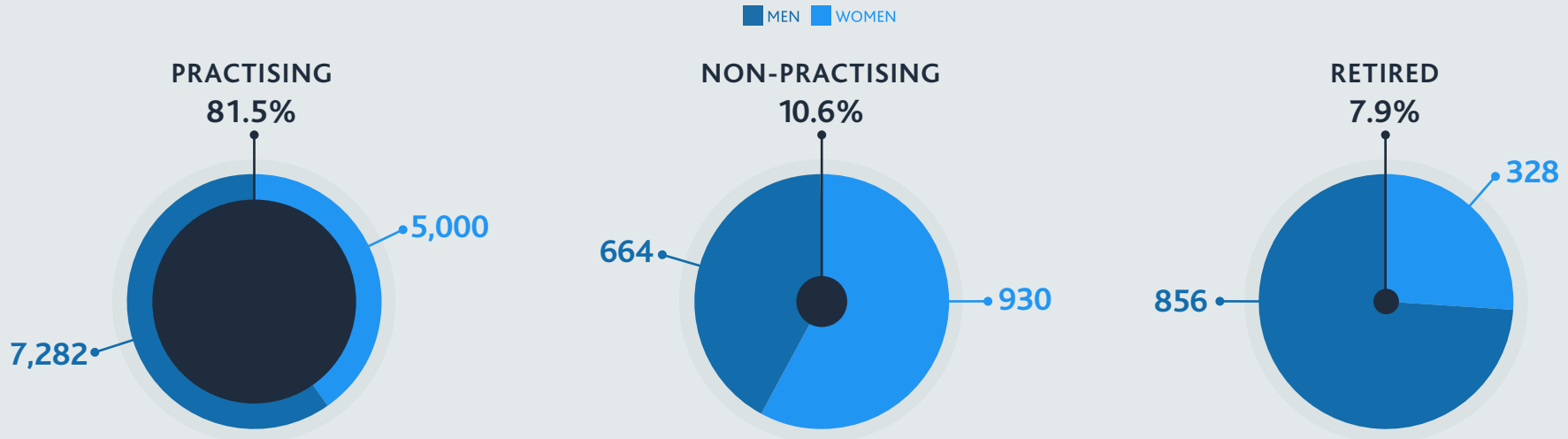
 **MORE INFORMATION**
Professional Legal Training Course

Legal Profession in BC

Our statistics show trends that may influence the delivery of legal services by BC lawyers in the future. The Justicia program was initiated by the Law Society and is designed to address disparities related to gender.

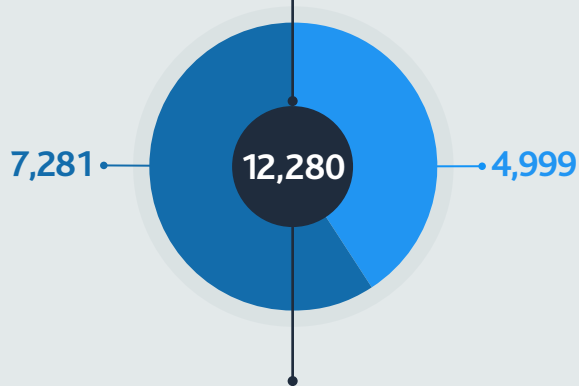
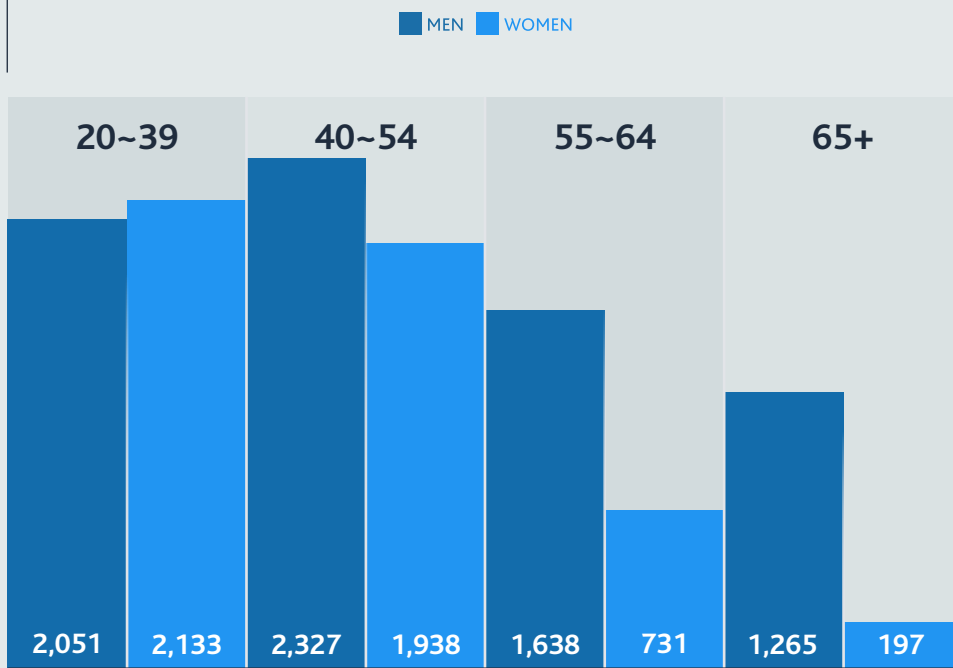


STATUS OF LAWYERS REGISTERED WITH THE LAW SOCIETY



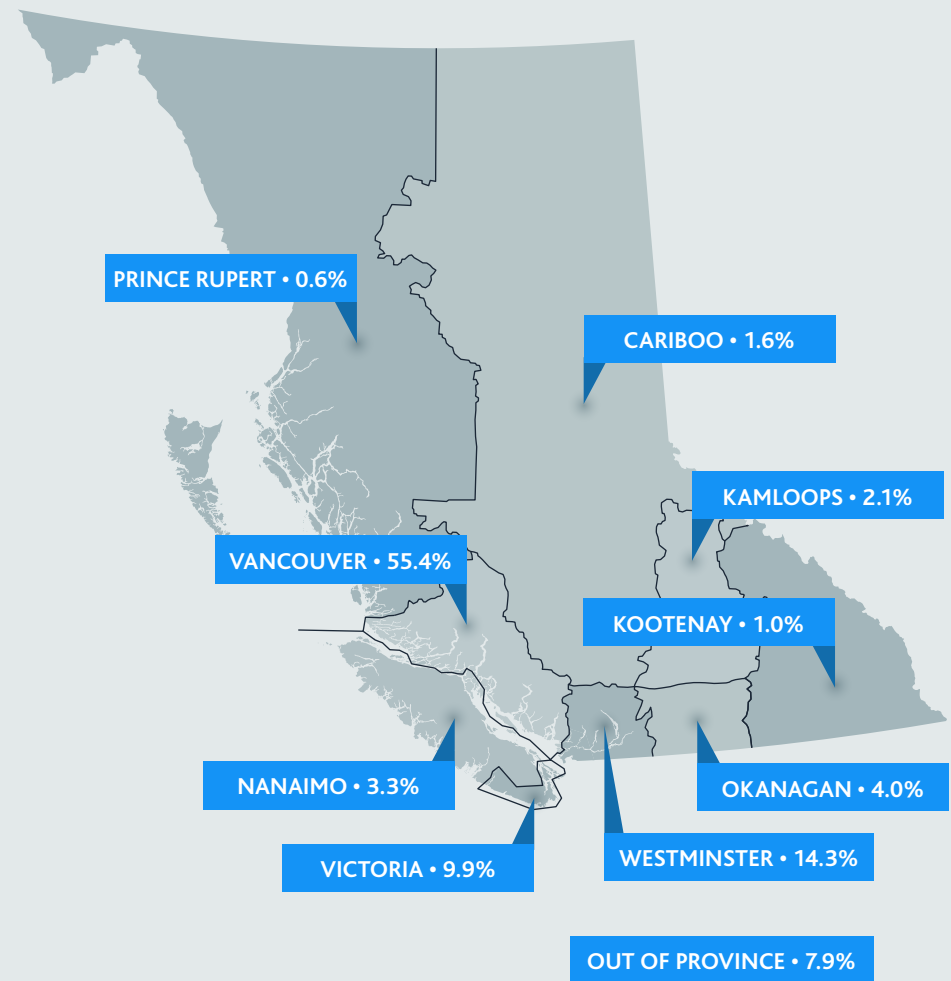
Legal Profession in BC *...continued*

AGE DEMOGRAPHIC OF PRACTISING BC LAWYERS



TOTAL PRACTISING LAWYERS IN 2018

PRACTISING LAWYERS BY ELECTORAL DISTRICT



Legal Profession in BC *...continued*

AREAS OF LEGAL PRACTICE IN BC

Number of lawyers who reported performing any work in the following areas

Civil litigation – plaintiff <i>(including commercial, other non-motor vehicle)</i>	3,033
Corporate	2,732
Civil litigation – defendant <i>(including commercial, other non-motor vehicle)</i>	2,384
Wills and estates	2,215
Administrative <i>(including labour, immigration, regulatory bodies)</i>	2,191
Commercial – other	1,851
Real estate – residential <i>(including lending)</i>	1,726
Family <i>(excluding incidental real estate, wills and estates)</i>	1,704
Motor vehicle – plaintiff	1,426
Real estate – commercial <i>(including development)</i>	1,226
Commercial lending transactions – borrower <i>(may include a real estate component)</i>	1,110
Criminal	966
Creditors' remedies – plaintiff <i>(including builders' liens, foreclosure, insolvency)</i>	916
Commercial lending transactions – lender <i>(may include a real estate component)</i>	815
Motor vehicle – defendant	633
Creditors' remedies – defendant <i>(including builders' liens, foreclosure, insolvency)</i>	602
Mediation/Arbitration	557
Securities <i>(reporting companies)</i>	463
Intellectual property	424
Tax	351
Property Mgmt. – residential or commercial	171

Benchers

The Benchers are responsible for the Law Society Rules, the *Code of Professional Conduct for British Columbia* and governance policies, and also govern and administer the affairs of the Society. Benchers serve two-year terms and can be re-elected or reappointed for a maximum of eight years. The president is the chief elected officer of the Law Society and serves a one-year term.



Row 1 (Front), Left To Right:

Barbara Cromarty <i>(Kootenay County)</i>	CEO Don Avison
VICE-PRESIDENT Nancy G. Merrill, QC <i>(Nanaimo County)</i>	Anita Dalakoti <i>(Appointed Bencher)</i>
PRESIDENT Miriam Kresivo, QC <i>(Vancouver County)</i>	Elizabeth Rowbotham <i>(Vancouver County)</i>
Dean P.J. Lawton, QC <i>(Victoria County)</i>	Pinder Cheema, QC <i>(Victoria County)</i>
Sarah Westwood <i>(Prince Rupert County)</i>	

Row 2, Left To Right:

Jennifer Chow, QC
(Vancouver County)

Jeevyn Dhaliwal
(Vancouver County)

Carolynn Ryan
(Appointed Bencher)

Tony Wilson, QC
(Vancouver County)

Christopher McPherson, QC
(Westminster County)

Heidi Zetzsche
(Cariboo County)

Row 3, Left To Right:

Jeff Campbell, QC
(Vancouver County)

Brook Greenberg
(Vancouver County)

Jasmin Z. Ahmad
(Vancouver County)

Lisa Hamilton, QC
(Vancouver County)

Roland Krueger, CD
(Appointed Bencher)

Row 4, Left To Right:

Claire Marshall
(Appointed Bencher)

Karen Snowshoe
(Vancouver County)

Jamie Maclaren, QC
(Vancouver County)

Michael Welsh, QC
(Okanagan District)

Steven McKoen, QC
(Vancouver County)

Geoffrey McDonald
(Cariboo County)

Mark Rushton
(Appointed Bencher)

Martin Finch, QC
(Westminster County)

Philip Riddell, QC
(Westminster County)

Not Pictured

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT
Craig A.B. Ferris, QC
(Vancouver County)

Satwinder Bains
(Appointed Bencher)

Sharon Matthews, QC
(Vancouver County)

Claude Richmond
(Appointed Bencher)

Michelle D. Stanford, QC
(Kamloops County)

Guangbin Yan
(Appointed Bencher)

Committees, Task Forces and Working Groups

Law Society committees have specialized roles that carry out many of the regulatory functions of the Law Society and assist with policy development. Committees and task forces are comprised of Benchers and lawyers from all over BC, all of whom volunteer their time to the Law Society.

Committees

Act and Rules Committee

Recommends to Benchers amendments to the *Legal Profession Act* and Law Society Rules.

BENCHERS

Pinder Cheema, QC (*Chair*)
Michelle Stanford, QC (*Vice-Chair*)
Jeevyn Dhaliwal
Geoffrey McDonald
Michael Welsh, QC
Tony Wilson, QC

STAFF CONTACT

Jeff Hoskins, QC

Complainants' Review Committee

Upon complainants' request, reviews complaint files closed by staff lawyers to determine if the decision to close the file was appropriate in the circumstances.

BENCHERS

Martin Finch, QC (*Co-Chair*)
Mark Rushton (*Co-Chair*)
Sharon Matthews, QC
Elizabeth Rowbotham
Heidi Zetzsche
Claude Richmond
Anita Dalakoti
Pinder Cheema, QC
Geoffrey McDonald

MEMBERS

Veronica L. Jackson
Nicole Cederberg

STAFF CONTACT

Karen Mok

Credentials Committee

Oversees the enrolment, education, examination and call to the bar of articulated students, the transfer of lawyers to BC and the reinstatement of former lawyers.

BENCHERS

Lisa Hamilton, QC (*Chair*)
Jeff Campbell, QC (*Vice-Chair*)
Anita Dalakoti
Geoffrey McDonald
Sharon Matthews, QC
Mark Rushton
Michelle Stanford, QC
Karen Snowshoe

MEMBERS

Michael McDonald, QC
Judith Macfarlane

STAFF CONTACT

Lesley Small

Discipline Committee

Reviews opinions concerning lawyers or articulated students which are referred by Law Society staff, the Complainants' Review Committee or the Practice Standards Committee and determines appropriate disciplinary outcomes, if any.

MEMBERS

Christopher McPherson, QC (*Chair*)
Brook Greenberg (*Vice-Chair*)
Barbara Cromarty
Carolynn Ryan
Roland Krueger, CD
Dean Lawton, QC
Jasmin Ahmad
Heidi Zetzsche

MEMBERS

Michael Feder, QC
Julie Lamb, QC

STAFF CONTACTS

Deborah Armour, QC
Gurprit Bains

Ethics Committee

Identifies current professional responsibility issues and makes recommendations on changes to the *Code of Professional Conduct for British Columbia* for consideration by the Benchers.

BENCHERS

Craig Ferris, QC (*Chair*)
Philip Riddell, QC (*Vice-Chair*)
Pinder Cheema, QC
Jennifer Chow, QC
Jeevyn Dhaliwal
Claire Marshall
Elizabeth Rowbotham
Tony Wilson, QC

MEMBERS

Bruno De Vita, QC
Greg DelBigio, QC

STAFF CONTACT

Lance Cooke

Executive Committee

Provides direction and oversight for the strategic and operational planning of the Law Society and develops agendas for Benchers meetings to ensure that the Benchers exercise their oversight, regulatory and policy development responsibilities.

BENCHERS

Miriam Kresivo, QC (*Chair*)
Nancy Merrill, QC (*Vice-Chair*)
Craig Ferris, QC
Lisa Hamilton, QC
Dean Lawton, QC
Steven McKoen, QC
Carolynn Ryan

STAFF CONTACTS

Renee Collins
Kerryn Garvie

Finance and Audit Committee

Provides oversight over the financial affairs of the Law Society, makes recommendations on annual fees, reviews annual budgets and periodically reviews financial and investment results. Oversees the external audit process and provides oversight over the internal controls and enterprise risk management of the Law Society.

BENCHERS

Craig Ferris, QC (*Chair*)
Steven McKoen, QC (*Vice-Chair*)
Nancy Merrill, QC
Lisa Hamilton, QC
Roland Krueger, CD
Miriam Kresivo, QC

MEMBER

Peter Kelly

STAFF CONTACTS

Jeanette McPhee
Andrea Langille

Governance Committee

Assesses the Law Society's current governance structure and practices to identify any areas for improvement.

BENCHERS

Steven McKoen, QC (*Chair*)
Jamie Maclaren, QC (*Vice-Chair*)
Haydn Acheson
Lisa Hamilton, QC
Carolynn Ryan
Tony Wilson, QC

STAFF CONTACTS

Adam Whitcombe, QC
Renee Collins
Kerryn Garvie

Practice Standards Committee

Recommends standards of practice, develops programs to help lawyers practise competently and recommends remedial measures for lawyers who do not meet accepted standards.

BENCHERS

Sarah Westwood (*Chair*)
Steven McKoen, QC (*Vice-Chair*)
Jamie Maclaren, QC
Martin Finch, QC
Michael Welsh, QC
Guanbin Yan

MEMBERS

John Waddell, QC
Patricia Barkaskas

STAFF CONTACT

Sheila Redel

Unauthorized Practice Committee

Considers and makes policy decisions with respect to the unauthorized practice of law and the relevant provisions of the *Legal Profession Act*.

BENCHERS

Carolynn Ryan (*Chair*)
Martin Finch, QC (*Vice-Chair*)
Jeevyn Dhaliwal
Heidi Zetzsche
Barbara Cromarty

STAFF CONTACT

Michael Kleisinger

Committees, Task Forces and Working Groups...continued

Subcommittees

Insurance Subcommittee

Reviews actuarial reports, claims data, fee recommendations, changes to scope of coverage, and other insurance matters as required, and provides recommendations to the Finance and Audit Committee.

BENCHERS
Craig Ferris, QC (*Chair*)
Miriam Kresivo, QC

MEMBER
Peter Kelly

STAFF CONTACT
Jeanette McPhee

Litigation Subcommittee

Provides guidance to staff on litigation matters and determines which matters should come before the Executive Committee.

BENCHERS
Miriam Kresivo, QC (*Chair*)
Nancy Merrill, QC
Craig Ferris, QC

STAFF CONTACT
Deborah Armour, QC
Gurprit Bains

Advisory Committees

Access to Legal Services Advisory Committee

monitors and advises the Benchers on access to justice and legal services issues in BC and other jurisdictions.

BENCHERS
Jeff Campbell, QC (*Chair*)
Brook Greenberg
Philip Riddell, QC
Michelle Stanford, QC

MEMBERS
The Hon. Thomas Cromwell
Claire Hunter, QC (*Vice-Chair*)

STAFF CONTACT
Doug Munro

Equity and Diversity Advisory Committee

Reports to the Benchers on issues affecting equity and diversity in the legal profession and the justice system and assists Benchers with priority planning.

BENCHERS
Jasmin Ahmad (*Chair*)
Brook Greenberg (*Vice-Chair*)
Jennifer Chow, QC
Jamie Maclaren, QC
Elizabeth Rowbotham
Guangbin Yan
Karen Snowshoe

MEMBERS
Tina Dion, QC
Linda Parsons, QC

STAFF CONTACT
Andrea Hilland

Lawyer Education Advisory Committee

Monitors developments on issues affecting lawyer education in BC, and advises the Benchers on priority planning with respect to the education of lawyers in BC.

BENCHERS
Dean Lawton, QC (*Chair*)
Sarah Westwood (*Vice-Chair*)
Barbara Cromarty
Michael Welsh, QC

MEMBERS
Celeste Haldane, QC
Rolf Warburton

STAFF CONTACT
Alan Treleaven

Lawyer Education Advisory Committee

The Lawyer Education Advisory Committee was asked evaluate articling in BC and to consider potential alternatives. The committee drew up plans for a focus group and designed a survey aimed gathering information from young lawyers regarding their articling experience. The survey and focus group are expected to be rolled out in 2019.

Legal Aid Advisory Committee

Monitors issues and legislation affecting the rule of law and the independence and self-governance of the legal profession and reports on those matters to the Benchers.

BENCHERS
Jeff Campbell, QC (*Chair*)
Brook Greenberg
Philip Riddell, QC
Michelle Stanford, QC

MEMBERS
The Hon. Thomas Cromwell
Claire Hunter, QC (*Vice-Chair*)

STAFF CONTACT
Doug Munro

Legal Aid Advisory Committee

The Legal Aid Advisory Committee held its second colloquium in 2018. The Honourable Bruce Cohen, QC, moderated discussions that brought together a variety of views and perspectives that will help inform the Law Society's efforts to improve legal aid funding through engagement with the profession, the public and the provincial government.

Recruitment and Nominating Advisory Committee

Advises the president, the Executive Committee or the Benchers on appointees to other organizations and to Law Society committees, task forces and working groups.

BENCHERS
Miriam Kresivo, QC (*Chair*)
Nancy Merrill, QC (*Vice-Chair*)
Jeff Campbell, QC
Craig Ferris, QC
Dean Lawton, QC
Ardith Walkem, QC
Sarah Westwood

STAFF CONTACTS
Renee Collins
Kerryn Garvie

Rule of Law and Lawyer Independence Advisory Committee

Monitors issues and legislation affecting the rule of law and the independence and self-governance of the legal profession and reports on those matters to the Benchers.

BENCHERS
Jeff Campbell, QC (*Chair*)
Christopher McPherson, QC
Jennifer Chow, QC
Jeevyn Dhaliwal
Mark Rushton

MEMBERS
Jon Festinger, QC
The Hon. Marshall Rothstein, QC

STAFF CONTACT
Michael Lucas

Truth and Reconciliation Advisory Committee

Provides guidance to the Law Society on legal issues affecting Indigenous people in the province; advises the Benchers on priority planning and develops related recommendations and initiatives.

BENCHERS
Nancy Merrill, QC (*Co-Chair*)
Craig Ferris, QC
Dean Lawton, QC
Claire Marshall

MEMBERS
Grand Chief Ed John (*Co-Chair*)
John Borrows
Michael McDonald, QC
Ardith Walkem, QC

STAFF CONTACT
Andrea Hilland

Committees, Task Forces and Working Groups...continued

Task Forces

Law Firm Regulation Task Force

Recommends to the Benchers a framework for the regulation of law firms resulting from a 2012 amendment to the *Legal Profession Act* giving the Law Society authority to regulate law firms in addition to regulating individual lawyers.

BENCHERS

Steven McKoen, QC (*Chair*)
Jasmin Ahmad (*Vice-Chair*)
Martin Finch, QC

MEMBERS

William Maclagan, QC
Angela Westmacott, QC
Henry Wood, QC

STAFF CONTACT

Michael Lucas

Mental Health Task Force

Help the Law Society identify ways to reduce the stigma of mental health issues and review related regulatory approaches to discipline and admissions

Brook Greenberg (*Chair*)
Michelle Stanford, QC (*Vice-Chair*)
Carolynn Ryan
Christopher McPherson, QC

MEMBER

Derek LaCroix, QC

STAFF CONTACT

Michael Lucas
Alison Luke

Working Groups

Alternate Legal Service Provider Working Group

Examines the proposed scope of practice, credentialing and regulation of alternate legal service providers in the area of family law

BENCHERS

Miriam Kresivo, QC (*Chair*)
Jeff Campbell, QC (*Vice-Chair*)
Craig Ferris, QC
Lisa Hamilton, QC
Nancy Merrill, QC

STAFF CONTACT

Doug Munro
Michael Lucas

Annual Fee Review Working Group

Investigate providing public interest practitioners with reduced rates of practice fees and insurance fees

Dean Lawton, QC (*Chair*)
Barbara Cromarty
Roland Krueger, CD
Jamie Maclaren, QC
Philip Riddell, QC

STAFF CONTACT

Lance Cooke

Mental Health Task Force

The Benchers unanimously approved the Mental Health Task Force's first [interim report](#), including 13 recommendations. Measures were taken immediately to implement staff training to improve awareness of mental health and substance use issues, and to work with the Credentials Committee to re-evaluate the Law Society's approach to inquiries into mental health and substance use in its admission program.

Hearing Panel Pools

The hearing panel pools demonstrate the Law Society's commitment to maintaining public confidence and transparency.

Lawyers and members of the public from around the province volunteer to be part of the Law Society's hearing panel pools. Panel members are selected, based on established criteria, from a public (non-lawyer) pool and a lawyer (non-Bencher) pool to help adjudicate all discipline and credentials hearings.

Members of the Public

Donald Amos, *Sidney*
 E. Nanette (Nan) Bennett, *West Vancouver*
 Clarence Bolt, *Sidney*
 Paula Cayley, *Lions Bay*
 Carol Gibson, *Vancouver*
 Dan Goodleaf, *Vancouver*
 John Greschner, *Victoria*
 Darlene Hammell, *Victoria*
 John Lane, *Cobble Hill*
 Brendan Matthews, *Kamloops*
 Linda Michaluk, *North Saanich*
 Laura Nashman, *Victoria*
 Lance Ollenberger, *Fort St. John*
 Paul Ruffell, *Qualicum Beach*
 Thelma Siglos, *New Westminster*
 Robert Smith, *Surrey*

Non-Bencher Lawyers

Ralston Alexander, QC, *Victoria*
 Gillian Dougans, *Kelowna*
 Eric Gottardi, *Vancouver*
 Carol W. Hickman, QC, *New Westminster*
 Dennis K. Hori, QC, *Kamloops*
 Gavin Hume, QC, *Vancouver*
 David Layton, QC, *Vancouver*
 Lindsay R. LeBlanc, *Victoria*
 Bruce LeRose, QC, *Trail*
 Shona Moore, QC, *Vancouver*
 H. Nina Purewal, *Smithers*
 Carol Roberts, *Vancouver*
 Shannon N. Salter, *North Vancouver*
 William Sundhu, *Kamloops*
 John Waddell, QC, *Victoria*
 Sandra Weafer, *Vancouver*

Life Benchers

Benchers who have volunteered for four terms or have served as president of the Law Society are recognized with the title Life Bencher.

The Honourable Peter J. Millward, QC	(1965-1975)	Richard S. Margetts, QC	(1995-2001)	David A. Zacks, QC	(2002-2009)
The Honourable Mary F. Southin, QC	(1971-1980)	Gerald J. Lecovin, QC	(1994-2001)	The Honourable Judge William F.M. Jackson	(2003-2009)
Norman Severide, QC	(1974-1981)*	Emily M. Reid, QC	(1994-2001)	Patrick Kelly	(2002-2010)
H. Allan Hope, QC	(1974-1982)	Jane S. Shackell, QC	(1994-2001)	Dr. Maelor Vallance	(2002-2010)
The Honourable Thomas R. Braidwood, QC	(1973-1975; 1979-1985)	Ann Howard	(1992-2002)	G. Glen Ridgway, QC	(2002-2010)
The Honourable Bruce I. Cohen, QC	(1978-1986)	Marjorie Martin, MSW	(1992-2002)	Gavin Hume, QC	(2004-2011)
Marvin R.V. Storrow, QC	(1980-1987)	Richard C. Gibbs, QC	(1996-2002)	Joost Blom, QC	(2004-2011)
R. Paul Beckmann, QC	(1980-1989)	Howard R. Berge, QC	(1992-2003)	Carol W. Hickman, QC	(2004-2011)
Robert M. Dick, QC	(1983-1991)	Russell S. Tretiak, QC	(1992-2003)	Bruce A. LeRose, QC	(2004-2012)
The Honourable Peter Leask, QC	(1984-1992)	Robert D. Diebolt, QC	(1996-2003)	Art Vertlieb, QC	(2004-2013)
John M. Hogg, QC	(1984-1993)	G. Ronald Toews, QC	(1996-2003)	Rita C. Andreone, QC	(2006-2013)
P. Michael Bolton, QC	(1985-1993)	Gerald J. Kambeitz, QC	(1996-2003)	Kathryn Berge, QC	(2006-2013)
The Honourable Mr. Justice Robert T.C. Johnston	(1986-1994)	William J. Sullivan, QC	(1997-2003)	Leon Getz, QC	(2006-2013)
The Honourable Mr. Justice Grant D. Burnyeat	(1988-1995)	Master Peter J. Keighley	(1996-2004)	Thelma O'Grady	(2006-2013)
Donald A. Silversides, QC	(1984-1995)	William M. Everett, QC	(1998-2004)	David Renwick, QC	(2006-2013)
James M. MacIntyre, QC	(1986-1995)	Ralston S. Alexander, QC	(1999-2005)	Richard Stewart, QC	(2006-2013)
Alan E. Vanderburgh, QC	(1989-1995)	Patricia L. Schmit, QC	(1998-2005)	Jan Lindsay, QC	(2006-2014)
Karen F. Nordlinger, QC	(1988-1996)	Master Robert W. McDiarmid	(1998-2006)	Kenneth M. Walker, QC	(2007-2015)
Richard C.C. Peck, QC	(1988-1997)	Anna K. Fung, QC	(1998-2007)	Peter B. Lloyd, FCPA, FCA	(2008-2015)
Leonard T. Doust, QC	(1990-1997)	Ian Donaldson, QC	(2000-2007)	David W. Mossop, QC	(2008-2015)
William M. Trotter, QC	(1990-1997)	June Preston, MSW	(2001-2008)	Haydn Acheson	(2008-2015)
Trudi L. Brown, QC	(1992-1998)	John J.L. Hunter, QC	(2002-2008)	David Crossin, QC	(2010-2016)
Warren T. Wilson, QC	(1991-1999)	Gordon Turriff, QC	(2002-2009)	Herman Van Ommen, QC	(2009-2017)
The Honourable Ujjal Dosanjh, QC	(1995-2000)	Terence E. La Liberté, QC	(2000-2001, 2004-2009)	Claude H. Richmond	(2010-2018)
Karl F. Warner, QC	(1994-2000)	James D. Vilvang, QC	(2002-2009)	Satwinder Bains	(2010-2018)

The dates in parentheses represent years of service as a Bencher. | *The Law Society was saddened by the passing of Life Bencher Norman Severide, QC, in 2018