

The Law Society  
*of British Columbia*



2019

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## 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.



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## President's Message

2019 marked the midway point of the Law Society's 2018-2020 Strategic Plan. It was a year in which we made considerable progress toward the plan's goals and initiatives. This year's annual report tells the story of the milestones and achievements in 2019, on key priorities the Benchers set for the regulator to serve the public interests of British Columbians in an honourable legal profession.

Significant progress was made on the Law Society's commitment to see improvements to our province's legal aid system. Since publishing *A Vision for Publicly Funded Legal Aid* in 2017, the Law Society has been engaging with the provincial government, justice sector stakeholders, lawyers and other community organizations about the difficulties vulnerable and marginalized British Columbians face in accessing legal assistance. In March 2019, the Benchers approved spearheading a coalition to raise public awareness about the impact of inadequate legal aid funding. In June, the Law Society made submissions to a legislative committee consulting on the next provincial budget. In October, the Law Society took part in an announcement by the Province of BC, the newly-formed Association of Legal Aid Lawyers and the Legal Services Society on agreements to address funding for the legal aid tariff and to review eligibility criteria and scope of coverage. The Law Society will ensure its voice is included in these discussions as it continues to advocate for further improvements in access to justice.

Throughout 2019, the Law Society adopted and implemented rules to prevent lawyers' trust accounts from being used for money laundering. Early in the year, the rules were amended to state explicitly that lawyers may not move funds into or out of trust accounts unless the funds are directly related to legal services provided. In July, the Benchers approved further rule amendments, including more stringent requirements regarding verification of a client's identity and more options for confirming a client's identity. The amendments also require lawyers in financial transactions to obtain additional information about a client's source of funds, and to periodically monitor and record professional business relationships with clients. Before the year's end, the Benchers established an Anti-Money Laundering Working Group to monitor and propose strategies and initiatives for future developments.



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## President's Message *...continued*

The Law Society hosted its third annual Rule of Law lecture in June 2019. The lecture featured former Chief Justice of Canada, the Right Honourable Beverley McLachlin, and Richard Peck, QC, who spoke about privacy, technology and the rule of law. Technology was also the focus of the Benchers annual retreat. The need to consider and understand how technology and change may affect the legal market also led to the Benchers establishing a Futures Task Force.

The Law Society took great strides toward addressing mental health in the legal profession. Ensuring the public is served by a competent legal profession means removing barriers to open dialogue about mental health and enhancing assistance to those lawyers who may need it. After establishing a Mental Health Task Force a year earlier, 2019 saw the Benchers agree to remove stigmatizing language from the *Code*. To encourage individuals to access the assistance they need, the amendment eliminates a requirement for a lawyer serving in the capacity of counsellor in peer assistance programs to report information about another lawyer, if that information is acquired in the course of providing peer assistance.

Pursuing innovative approaches to regulation ensures that the public continues to be served effectively. After a successful pilot in 2018, the Benchers agreed to implement a self-assessment program for all firms across the province. Starting in 2021, all firms, including sole practitioners, will be required to assess their own practice management systems, policies and procedures, with the goal of identifying problems before they affect clients or lead to complaints. In other jurisdictions this proactive approach has reduced reliance on prescriptive rules and reactive disciplinary measures.

Reconciliation with Indigenous peoples is one of the most critical obligations facing the country and the legal system. Before the end of last year, the Benchers took a critical step forward, determining that lawyer competency requires Indigenous intercultural competency. The decision to require all practising lawyers to learn about the history of Aboriginal-Crown relations, legislation regarding Indigenous peoples, and the legacy of residential schools responds to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action 27. The Benchers approved the development of an online course that will be provided to lawyers free of charge beginning in 2021.

While much was achieved on the strategic plan in 2019, there continues to be more to do in 2020. That work will be led by incoming president Craig Ferris, QC, who will be supported by First Vice-President Dean Lawton, QC, Second Vice-President Lisa Hamilton, QC, and Don Avison, QC, our executive director and chief executive officer. I want to thank Don and the rest of the management team and staff at the Law Society for their work throughout the past year. And finally, I'd like to thank my fellow Benchers for their support, and their commitment to improving our profession. It has been an honour to serve with you.



**Nancy Merrill, QC**  
*President*

## CEO's Message

Our plan to release this annual report at the end of March was disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the declaration of a state of emergency on March 18th, there has been an extraordinary level of activity within the justice sector and by the legal profession to respond to the crisis and keep things running. The use of videoconferencing and other technologies has enabled people to set up remote offices, commission affidavits and witness other legal documents, and even to hold court hearings. I expect that in next year's annual report we will have much more to say about this remarkable time, when people have stepped up to the challenges of balancing public health with the continued need for legal services.

The Law Society had a productive year in 2019, with operational plans in place to advance implementation of most of the strategic plan goals set by the Benchers. We are now two years into Strategic Plan 2018-2020, and nearly all initiatives in the plan are substantially completed or well underway. In the pages that follow, you will find data and information that demonstrates the progress that the Law Society staff and Benchers have made on the plan, and toward providing effective, efficient and transparent regulation of lawyers in the public interest.

Some of the highlights include a number of rule changes that are aimed at reducing the likelihood of money laundering through the use of lawyers' trust accounts; concluding a successful law firm self-assessment pilot; a record audience for the third annual Rule of Law Lecture delivered by the Right Honourable Beverley McLachlin and Richard Peck, QC; a breakthrough in our effort to secure additional funding support for legal aid; rule changes that improved our annual general meeting; and approval for the development of course modules that will train lawyers on the history and legacy of Indigenous-Crown relations and prepare the profession to inform and respond to changes in law that are expected to come as the provincial and federal Crown implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Persons. Several of these decisions set the stage for the work in the year ahead and for the next strategic plan.



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## CEO's Message *...continued*

At the same time as we were making progress on these initiatives, the Law Society continued to fulfill its core regulatory role and function. Enrolment in our professional training course surpassed the record that was set last year. Lawyers accessed our practice advisors for guidance and information on a broad range of professional questions and issues. The 675 trust audits conducted in 2019 amounts to a 46% increase over the previous year. The sixty-three Law Society tribunal hearings in 2019 is nearly double the number of hearings conducted the previous year. As the financials demonstrate, the Law Society managed to achieve these increases in activity while still working within the resources provided to us.

The story told by the data and information in these pages is that the Law Society is meeting or exceeding almost all of its targets as we fulfill our public interest mandate.

We could not do any of this without the significant contribution of volunteers who serve as members of committees, task forces or working groups, guest instructors or authors of our course materials, fee mediators, and event panellists and advisors on special projects. I am equally indebted to the approximately 225 staff who are dedicated to serving the public interest and assist me with implementing our plans. We are grateful for the direction and guidance that is provided by the Benchers. I would like to thank our outgoing president, Nancy Merrill, QC, for her commitment to advancing Reconciliation and work toward improving legal aid resources. As we look to 2020, I am delighted to welcome Craig Ferris, QC as president and look forward to making further progress on key priorities in the year ahead.



**Don Avison**

*Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director*

## Strategic Plan Progress 2019

The Law Society is governed by the *Legal Profession Act*, which requires 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.

Strategic Plan 2018-2020 identifies areas within this mandate that require particular attention, sets out goals, and outlines initiatives aimed at achieving those goals. In 2019, the Law Society reached the following milestones in regard to those goals.

### GOAL: Ensuring the public has better access to justice

The Law Society engaged the provincial government, including several cabinet ministers and members of the legislative assembly, to raise awareness of the difficulties marginalized and vulnerable British Columbians face accessing legal services without adequate funding for legal aid. By mid-year, the Attorney General and the Legal Services Society established an interim agreement with the newly formed Association of Legal Aid Lawyers that eventually led to an agreement in October that addresses long-standing issues with funding levels for service providers.

The province of BC announced on October 15, 2019 that it had concluded an agreement with the Association of Legal Aid Lawyers and the Legal Services Society, marking the first significant progress in decades toward sustainable legal aid funding. The increased funding addresses a long-standing issue regarding the legal aid tariff, which will help attract and retain more lawyers to deliver legal aid services to those who need them.

### GOAL: Encourage all lawyers in BC to be educated and trained in Indigenous intercultural competency

In December, the Benchers approved a requirement for all practising lawyers to complete Indigenous intercultural competency training through a course that will be developed and available beginning in January 2021. The course will be responsive to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls to action and provide lawyers with baseline information and education of Indigenous-Crown relations, the history and legacy of residential schools, and law and policies directed specifically at Indigenous peoples, as well as preparing lawyers who will inform and respond to changes in law as a result of the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

### Truth and Reconciliation

In 2018, the Benchers adopted a Truth and Reconciliation Action Plan that proposes more than 50 actions and initiatives that the Law Society can take to advance reconciliation. By the end of 2019, action on almost all of the plan was underway, with over 35 initiatives fully or substantially implemented.



#### MORE INFORMATION

2018-2020 Law Society Strategic Plan

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

Throughout 2019, the Law Society continued to examine its rules and the BC Code of Professional Conduct in order to improve regulatory oversight that is intended to reduce the risk of lawyers, either intentionally or unwittingly, facilitating the laundering of money. Changes adopted over the course of the year include improvements to client identification and verification rules, source of money and cash transaction rules, as well as a rule clarifying that a lawyer's trust account may only be used where the funds deposited into it are directly related to the provision of legal services.

In addition to rule changes, the Law Society has allocated significant resources to investigation and enforcement of rules to prevent illicit money passing through lawyers' trust accounts. In 2019, these resources include a team of 15 auditors, four forensic accountants, two forensic analysts, a former RCMP senior investigator who is a certified fraud examiner and has experience in criminal proceeds of crime investigations, as well as lawyers in investigations, monitoring and enforcement who have experience with money laundering matters.

## GOAL: Mitigate risk, prevent misconduct and improve regulatory outcomes

Building on the feedback gathered from a law firm self-assessment pilot, in October the Benchers approved a plan to phase in profession-wide law firm self-assessment starting in 2021. Self-assessment is a pivotal part of a framework to help law firms manage and address certain concerns directly, without involving the Law Society beyond the model policies and resources that it develops to support the firms.

Practice Advisors of the Law Society responded to over 4,800 inquiries from members of the legal profession who contacted them to clarify their professional obligations and avoid risk. Professional conduct and ethics, Law Society Rules, conflicts, confidentiality, and client identification and verification were the leading areas for inquiries.

In 2020, the Law Society will make modifications to improve the law firm self-assessment based on feedback obtained during the pilot. One-third of law firms will be contacted to complete self-assessment in 2021, with another one-third contacted in 2022 and the final one-third in 2023. Firms will be required to complete self-assessment on this rolling basis once every three years.

## GOAL: Improve the mental health of the legal profession

In 2019, the Law Society has focused on reducing stigma of mental health and substance use issues, in order to encourage lawyers to seek assistance, and on reviewing the Law Society's admission and discipline processes as they relate to mental health and substance use issues that may be affecting applicants and lawyers. Progress was made on improving awareness and understanding among Law Society staff dealing with lawyers affected by these issues, and significant communications and outreach initiatives helped facilitate dialogue and improve awareness about these issues and the support and resources that are available to members of the legal profession.

In December, the Benchers approved amendments to the BC Code of Professional Conduct that remove potentially stigmatizing language to the "duty to report" rule and related commentary. These amendments remove barriers faced by lawyers who are avoiding seeking help to address their mental health issues.

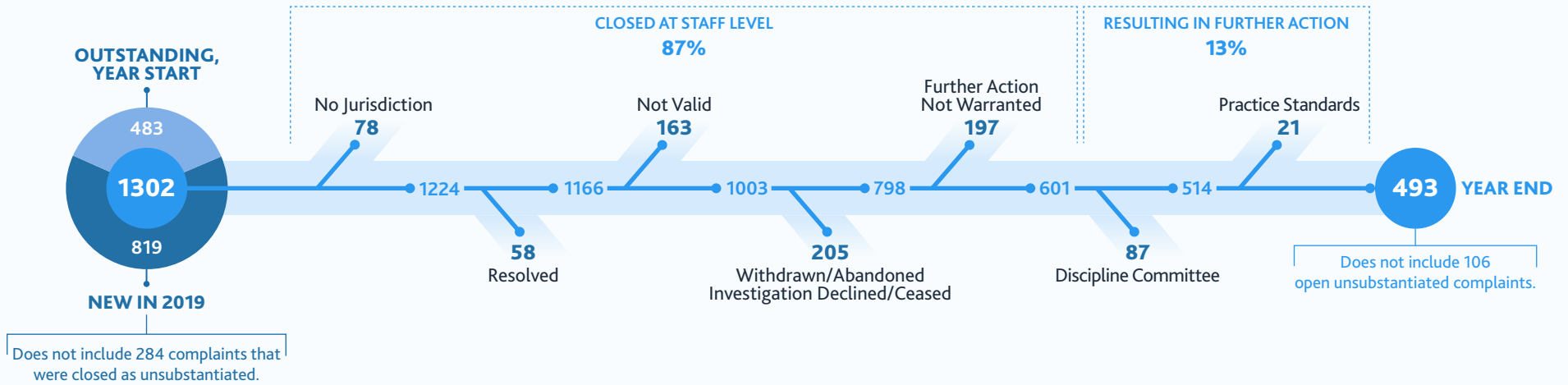


# Key Performance Indicators

## PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE

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

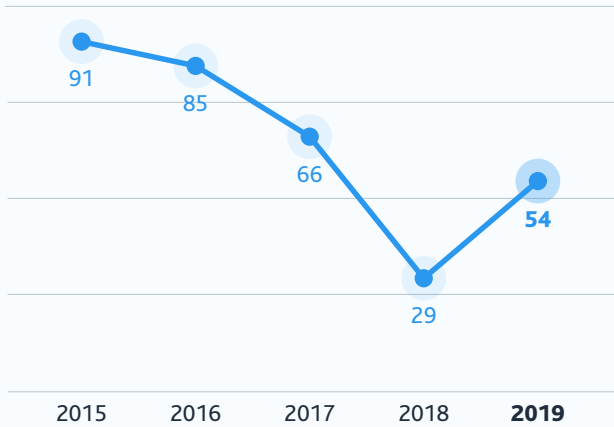
### 2019 COMPLAINTS RESULTS



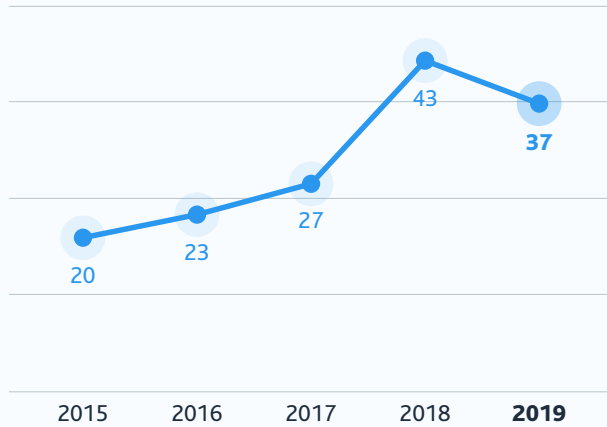
# Key Performance Indicators

## PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE

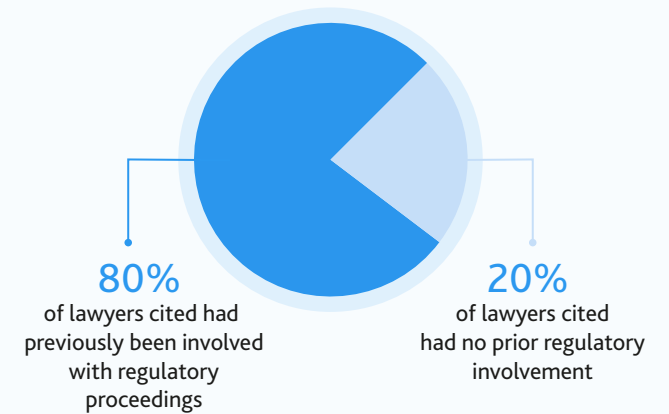
OPEN COMPLAINTS OLDER THAN ONE YEAR



CITATIONS AUTHORIZED



PRIOR REGULATORY INVOLVEMENT\*

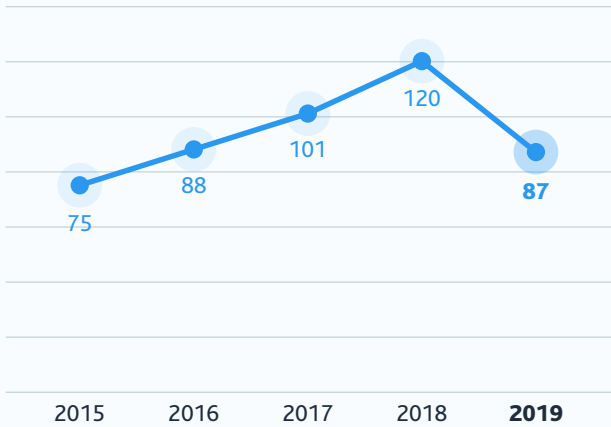


\*prior regulatory involvement includes: interim proceedings, administrative suspensions, Custodianship involvement, Credentials involvement, referrals to Practice Standards, and referrals to the Discipline Committee. Also included are interim undertakings given during the course of an investigation

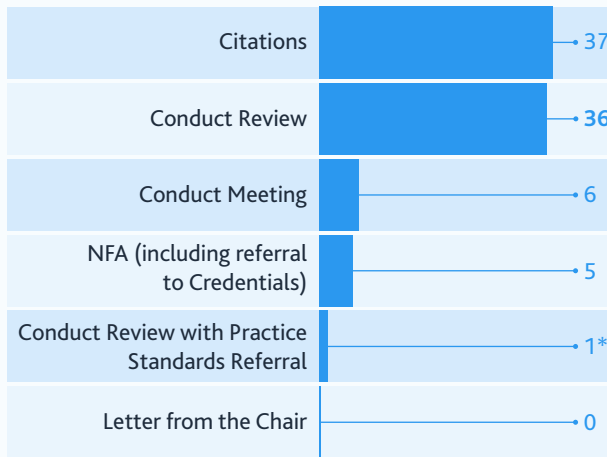
# Key Performance Indicators

## PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE

### REFERRALS TO DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE

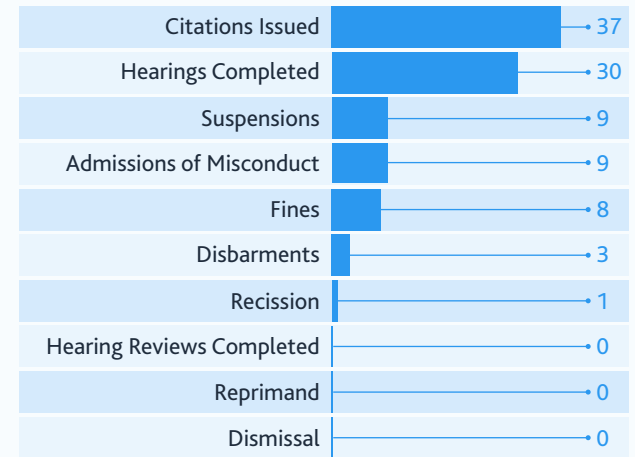


### DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE RESULTS



\* There was also one referral to Practice Standards on its own and three further referrals to Practice Standards from Conduct Review subcommittees arising out of 93 files referred to the Discipline Committee

### HEARING OUTCOMES



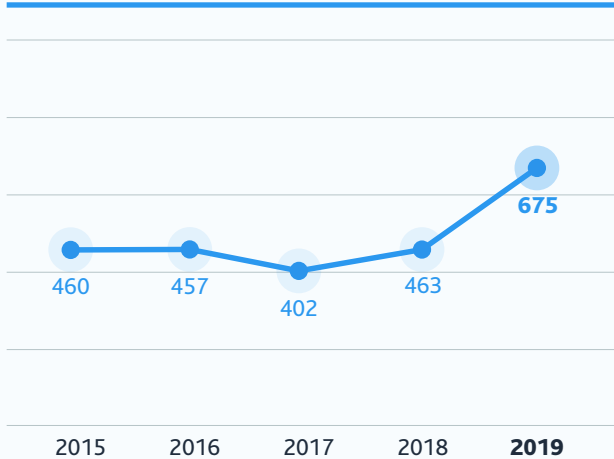
# Key Performance Indicators

## TRUST ASSURANCE

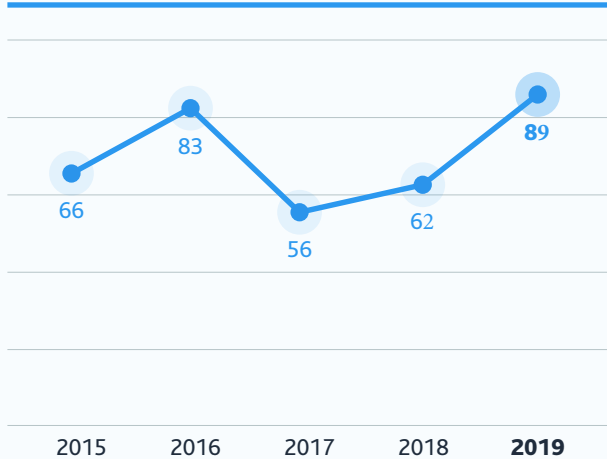
All law firms are subject to accounting and reporting standards set out in the Law Society Rules. Every firm must file an annual trust report and is subject to compliance audits.

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.

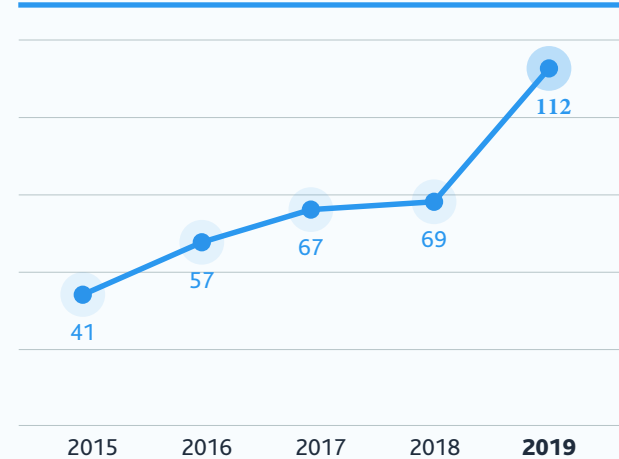
TRUST COMPLIANCE AUDITS CONDUCTED



AUDITS REQUIRING FOLLOW-UP\*



TRUST REPORTS AND AUDITS REFERRED FOR PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT INVESTIGATION



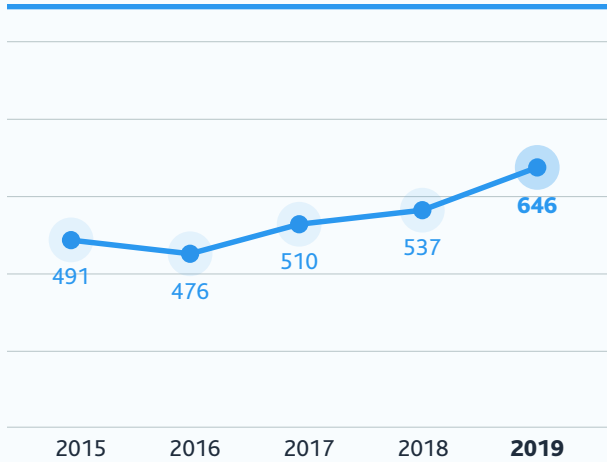
\* As the result of an audit, further action may be required, including a request for further documentation, a visit to the firm, or a requirement to complete an accountant's report.

# Key Performance Indicators

## PROFESSIONAL LEGAL TRAINING COURSE

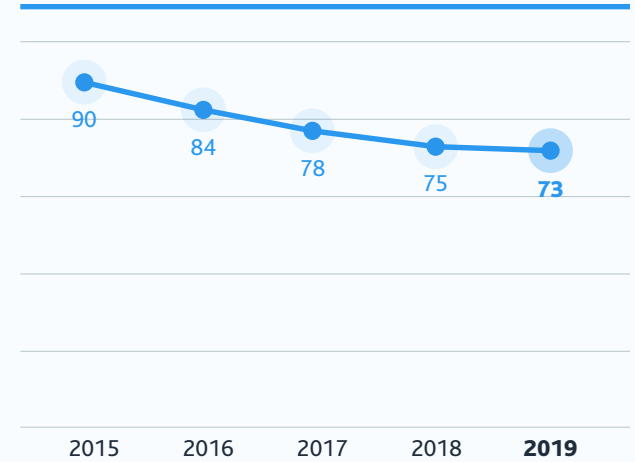
All new lawyers in BC must pass the Professional Legal Training Course, a full-time, ten-week program aimed at helping new lawyers bridge the gap between law school and practice.

NUMBER OF PLTC STUDENTS



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 FIRST-TIME PASS RATE

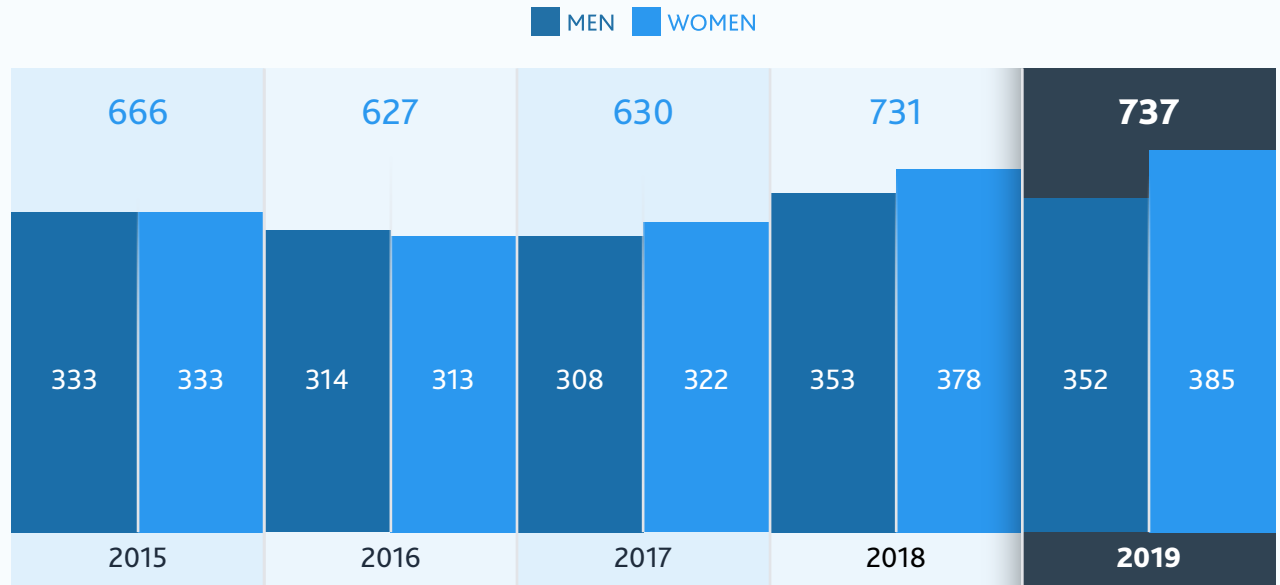


PLTC has tightened its pass criteria in recent years.

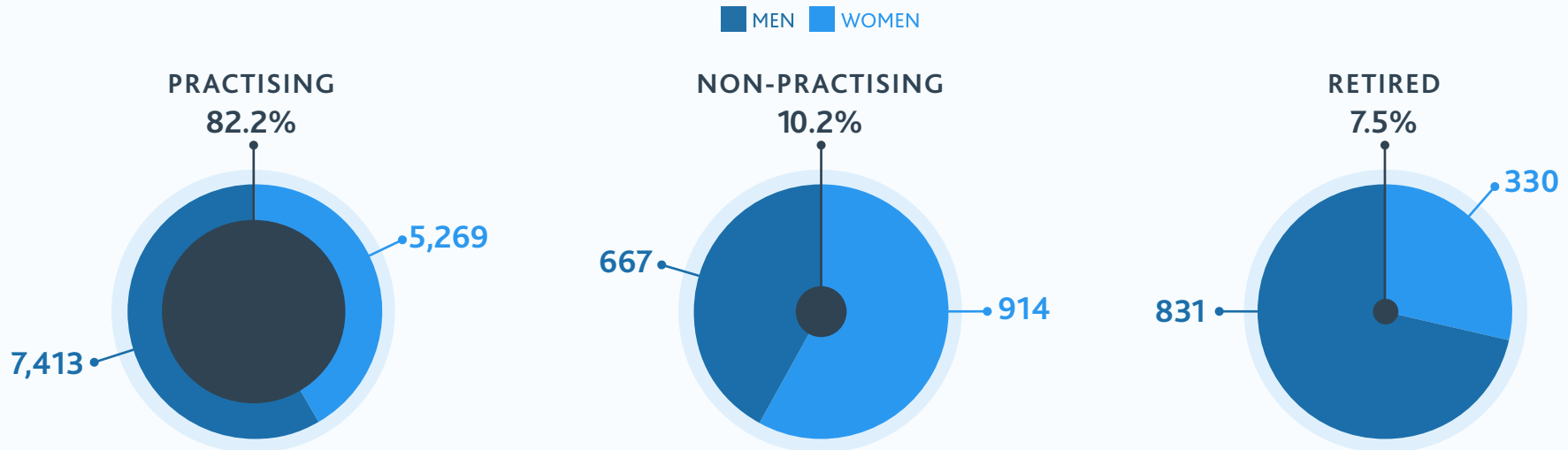
## Legal Profession in BC

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.

NEW BC LAWYERS

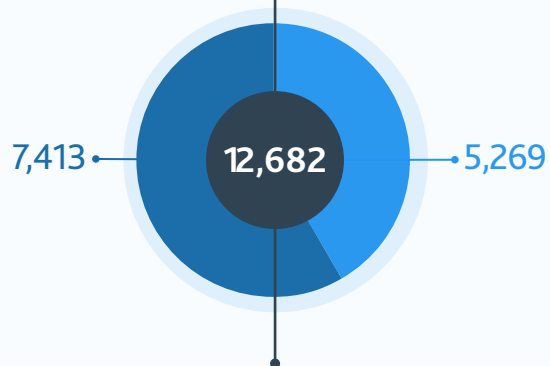
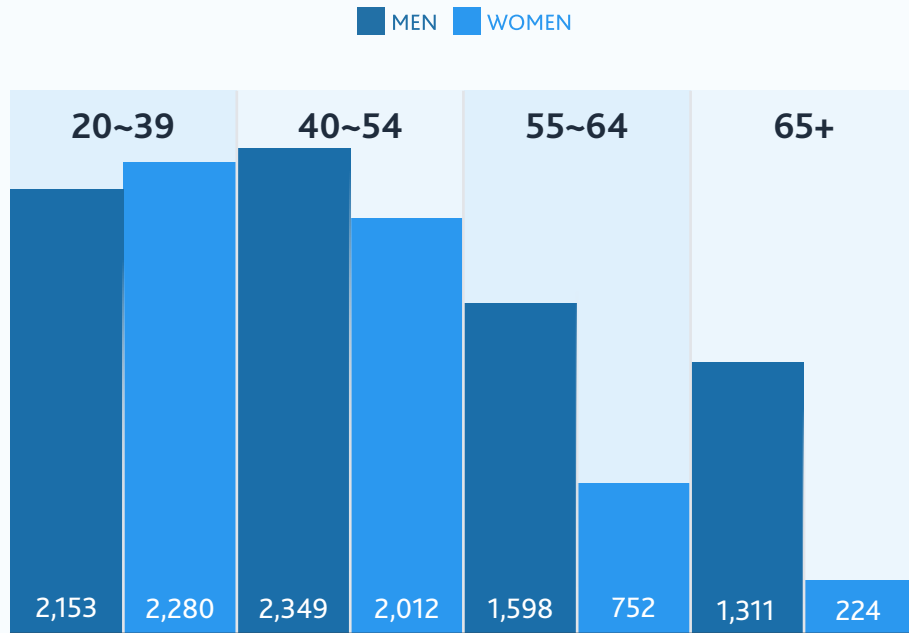


STATUS OF LAWYERS REGISTERED WITH THE LAW SOCIETY



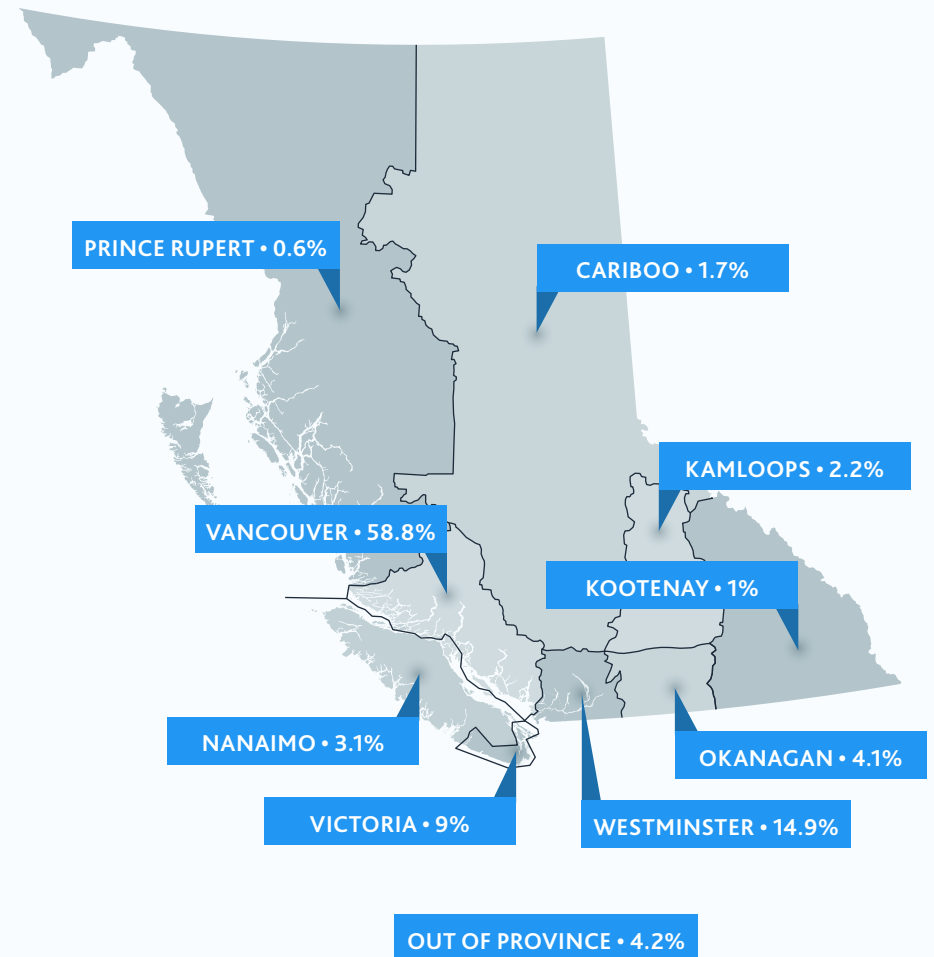
## Legal Profession in BC...continued

AGE DEMOGRAPHIC OF PRACTISING BC LAWYERS



TOTAL PRACTISING LAWYERS IN 2019

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>	3,573
Corporate	3,203
Civil litigation – defendant <i>(including commercial, other non-motor vehicle)</i>	2,796
Wills and estates	2,621
Administrative <i>(including labour, immigration, regulatory bodies)</i>	2,563
Commercial – other	2,193
Real estate – residential <i>(including lending)</i>	2,051
Family <i>(excluding incidental real estate, wills and estates)</i>	2,024
Motor vehicle – plaintiff	1,699
Real estate – commercial <i>(including development)</i>	1,487
Commercial lending transactions – borrower <i>(may include a real estate component)</i>	1,327
Criminal	1,143
Creditors' remedies – plaintiff <i>(including builders' liens, foreclosure, insolvency)</i>	1,098
Commercial lending transactions – lender <i>(may include a real estate component)</i>	960
Motor vehicle – defendant	751
Creditors' remedies – defendant <i>(including builders' liens, foreclosure, insolvency)</i>	694
Mediation/Arbitration	662
Securities <i>(reporting companies)</i>	533
Intellectual property	470
Tax	407
Property Management – residential or commercial	197



## Benchers

The members of the Law Society's governing board are called Benchers. The Benchers are responsible for the Law Society Rules, the *Code of Professional Conduct for British Columbia*, and governance policies for the administration of the Society. Twenty-five Benchers are elected by members of the legal profession and six are members of the public who are appointed by the provincial government. The president of the Law Society is a Bencher and serves a one-year term.



### Front Row, Left To Right:

Jennifer Chow, QC  
(Vancouver County)

Anita Dalakoti  
(Appointed Bencher)

Jeevyn Dhaliwal, QC  
(Vancouver County)

Lisa Hamilton, QC  
(Vancouver County)

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

PRESIDENT  
Nancy G. Merrill, QC  
(Nanaimo County)

SECOND  
VICE-PRESIDENT  
Dean P.J. Lawton, QC  
(Victoria County)

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Don Avison, QC

Barbara Cromarty  
(Kootenay County)

Elizabeth J. Rowbotham  
(Vancouver County)

Heidi Zetzsche  
(Cariboo County)

### Second Row, Left To Right:

Roland Krueger, CD  
(Appointed Bencher)

Claire Marshall  
(Appointed Bencher)

Michelle D. Stanford, QC  
(Kamloops County)

Brook Greenberg  
(Vancouver County)

Jasmin Z. Ahmad  
(Vancouver County)

Tony Wilson, QC  
(Vancouver County)

Geoffrey McDonald  
(Cariboo County)

Pinder K. Cheema, QC  
(Victoria County)

Jeff Campbell, QC  
(Vancouver County)

### Third Row, Left To Right:

Michael F. Welsh, QC  
(Okanagan District)

Christopher McPherson, QC  
(Westminster County)

Carolynn Ryan  
(Appointed Bencher)

Guangbin Yan  
(Appointed Bencher)

Karen Snowshoe  
(Vancouver County)

Sarah Westwood  
(Prince Rupert County)

### Back Row, Left To Right:

Mark Rushton  
(Appointed Bencher)

Jamie Maclaren, QC  
(Vancouver County)

Steve McKoen, QC  
(Vancouver County)

Philip A. Riddell, QC  
(Westminster County)

Martin Finch, QC  
(Westminster County)

Jacqui McQueen  
(Vancouver County)

## 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.

Jeevyn Dhaliwal, QC (*Chair*)  
Elizabeth Rowbotham (*Vice-Chair*)  
Geoffrey McDonald  
Michael Welsh, 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.

Geoffrey McDonald (*Co-Chair*)  
Mark Rushton (*Co-Chair*)  
Nicole Bresser  
Pinder Cheema, QC  
Anita Dalakoti  
Lisa Hamilton, QC  
Jamie Maclaren, QC  
Daniele Poulin  
Puneet Sandhar  
Guangbin Yan

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.

Michelle Stanford, QC (*Chair*)  
Mark Rushton (*Vice-Chair*)  
Anita Dalakoti  
Jeevyn Dhaliwal, QC  
Geoffrey McDonald  
Michael McDonald, QC  
Philip Riddell, QC  
Elizabeth Rowbotham  
Tony Wilson, QC

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.

Christopher McPherson, QC (*Chair*)  
Jasmin Ahmad, QC (*Vice-Chair*)  
Barbara Cromarty  
Mike Feder, QC  
Roland Krueger, CD  
Claire Marshall  
Iain McIver  
Heidi Zetzsche

STAFF CONTACT  
Natasha Dookie

#### 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.

Pinder Cheema, QC (*Chair*)  
Martin Finch, QC (*Vice-Chair*)  
Nicole Cederberg  
Jennifer Chow, QC  
Greg DelBigio, QC  
Brook Greenberg  
Lisa Hamilton, QC  
Dean Lawton, QC  
Jamie Maclaren, QC  
Steven McKoen, 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 Bencher meetings to ensure that the Benchers exercise their oversight, regulatory and policy development responsibilities.

Nancy Merrill, QC (*Chair*)  
Craig Ferris, QC (*Vice-Chair*)  
Lisa Hamilton, QC  
Roland Krueger, CD  
Dean Lawton, QC  
Steven McKoen, QC  
Michelle Stanford, QC

STAFF CONTACT  
Kerryn Holt

#### 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.

Craig Ferris, QC (*Chair*)  
Steven McKoen, QC (*Vice-Chair*)  
Roland Krueger, CD  
Dean Lawton, QC  
William Maclagan, QC  
Nancy Merrill, QC  
Guangbin Yan

STAFF CONTACTS  
Jeanette McPhee  
Andrea Langille

#### Governance Committee

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

Steven McKoen, QC (*Chair*)  
Pinder Cheema, QC (*Vice-Chair*)  
Jasmin Ahmad, QC  
Craig Ferris, QC  
Claire Marshall  
Linda Parsons, QC  
Philip Riddell, QC

STAFF CONTACTS  
Adam Whitcombe, QC  
Kerryn Holt

#### 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.

Sarah Westwood (*Chair*)  
Jeff Campbell, QC (*Vice-Chair*)  
Christine Elliott  
Jacqui McQueen  
Carolynn Ryan  
Karen Snowshoe  
Michael Welsh, QC  
Chelsea Wilson  
Guangbin Yan

STAFF CONTACT  
Alan Treleaven

#### 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*.

Barbara Cromarty (*Chair*)  
Carolynn Ryan (*Vice-Chair*)  
Anita Dalakoti  
Jamie Maclaren, QC  
Jacqui McQueen

STAFF CONTACT  
Gavin Hoekstra

## 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.

Craig Ferris, QC (*Chair*)  
Steve McKoen, QC (*Vice-Chair*)  
Peter Kelly  
Dean Lawton, QC

STAFF CONTACTS  
Su Forbes, QC  
Jeanette McPhee

#### Litigation Subcommittee

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

Nancy Merrill, QC (*Chair*)  
Craig Ferris, QC  
Dean Lawton, QC

STAFF CONTACTS  
Tara McPhail

### 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.

Michelle Stanford, QC (*Chair*)  
Claire Hunter, QC (*Vice-Chair*)  
Jeff Campbell, QC  
The Honourable Thomas Cromwell  
Lisa Hamilton, QC  
Jacqui McQueen  
Karen Snowshoe

STAFF CONTACT  
Doug Munro

#### Equity, Diversity and Inclusion 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.

Jasmin Ahmad, QC (*Chair*)  
Jennifer Chow, QC (*Vice-Chair*)  
Beatriz Contreras  
Jeevyn Dhaliwal, QC  
Tina Dion, QC  
Brook Greenberg  
Jamie Maclaren, QC  
Elizabeth Rowbotham

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.

Tony Wilson, QC (*Chair*)  
Sarah Westwood (*Vice-Chair*)  
Barbara Cromarty  
Celeste Haldane, QC  
Rolf Warburton  
Michael Welsh, QC  
Heidi Zetzsche

STAFF CONTACTS  
Alan Treleaven  
Alison Luke

#### Legal Aid Advisory Committee

Monitors and advises the Benchers on key matters relating to the state of legal aid in British Columbia.

Nancy Merrill, QC (*Chair*)  
Richard Peck, QC (*Vice-Chair*)  
Gary Bass  
Odette Dempsey-Caputo  
Richard Fowler, QC  
Christopher McPherson, QC  
Philip Riddell, QC  
Sarah Westwood

STAFF CONTACTS  
Michael Lucas, QC  
Doug Munro

#### 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.

Jeff Campbell, QC (*Chair*)  
Christopher McPherson, QC (*Vice-Chair*)  
Jennifer Chow, QC  
Jon Festinger, QC  
Martin Finch, QC  
Patrick Kelly  
The Honourable Marshall Rothstein, QC  
Mark Rushton

STAFF CONTACT  
Michael Lucas, QC

#### 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.

Dean Lawton, QC (*Co-Chair*)  
Michael McDonald, QC (*Co-Chair*)  
Martin Finch, QC  
Katrina Harry  
Claire Marshall  
Karen Snowshoe  
Ardith Walkem, QC  
Rosalie Yazzie

STAFF CONTACT  
Andrea Hilland

## Committees, Task Forces and Working Groups...continued

### TASK FORCES

#### Futures Task Force

Identifies the anticipated changes in the legal profession assesses the impact on the delivery of legal services and on future regulation, and reports its findings to the Benchers.

Craig Ferris, QC (*Chair*)  
 Jeevyn Dhaliwal, QC (*Vice-Chair*)  
 Lawrence Alexander  
 Lynne Charbonneau  
 Dr. Cristie Ford  
 Steven McKoen, QC  
 Dr. Katie Sykes  
 Tony Wilson, QC  
**STAFF CONTACT**  
 Adam Whitcombe, QC

#### 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.

Steven McKoen, QC (*Chair*)  
 Jasmin Ahmad, QC (*Vice-Chair*)  
 Martin Finch, QC  
 William Maclagan, QC  
 Angela Westmacott, QC  
 Henry Wood, QC  
**STAFF CONTACT**  
 Michael Lucas, QC

#### Licensed Paralegal Task Force

Explores the areas of unmet legal need and the potential role for licensed paralegals to address that need, operating under a professional regulatory structure created and overseen by the Law Society.

Trudi Brown, QC (*Chair*)  
 Michael Welsh, QC (*Vice-Chair*)  
 John-Paul Boyd, QC  
 Nancy Carter  
 Didi Dufresne  
 David Dundee  
 Joanna Cranmer Recalma  
 Michele Ross  
 Ashley Silcock  
**STAFF CONTACT**  
 Michael Lucas, QC

#### Mental Health Task Force

Helps the Law Society identify ways to reduce the stigma of mental health and substance use issues within the profession and review related regulatory approaches to discipline and admissions.

Brook Greenberg (*Chair*)  
 Michelle Stanford, QC (*Vice-Chair*)  
 Phil Dwyer  
 The Honourable Chief Judge Melissa Gillespie  
 The Honourable Madam Justice Nitya Iyer  
 Derek LaCroix, QC  
 Christopher McPherson, QC  
 Kendra Milne  
**STAFF CONTACTS**  
 Michael Lucas, QC  
 Alison Luke

### WORKING GROUPS

#### Annual Fee Review Working Group

Investigates charging different practice and insurance fees to different categories of lawyers.

Dean Lawton, QC (*Chair*)  
 Jeff Campbell, QC  
 Barbara Cromarty  
 Roland Krueger, CD  
 Philip Riddell, QC  
**STAFF CONTACT**  
 Lance Cooke

## 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  
 E. Nanette (Nan) Bennett  
 Clarence Bolt  
 Paula Cayley  
 Carol Gibson  
 Dan Goodleaf  
 Darlene Hammell  
 John Lane  
 Brendan Matthews  
 Linda Michaluk  
 Laura Nashman  
 Lance Ollenberger  
 Paul Ruffell  
 Thelma Siglos  
 Robert Smith

### Non-Bencher Lawyers

Ralston Alexander, QC  
 Gillian Dougans  
 Eric Gottardi  
 Carol W. Hickman, QC  
 Dennis K. Hori, QC  
 Gavin Hume, QC  
 David Layton, QC  
 Lindsay R. LeBlanc  
 Bruce LeRose, QC  
 Shona Moore, QC  
 H. Nina Purewal  
 Carol Roberts  
 Shannon N. Salter  
 John Waddell, QC  
 Sandra Weafer

## 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 Mary F. Southin, QC	(1971-1980)	Ann Howard	(1992-2002)	Joost Blom, QC	(2004-2011)
H. Allan Hope, QC	(1974-1982)	Richard C. Gibbs, QC	(1996-2002)	Carol W. Hickman, QC	(2004-2011)
The Honourable Thomas R. Braidwood, QC	(1973-1975; 1979-1985)	Howard R. Berge, QC	(1992-2003)	Bruce A. LeRose, QC	(2004-2012)
The Honourable Bruce I. Cohen, QC	(1978-1986)	Russell S. Tretiak, QC	(1992-2003)	Art Vertlieb, QC	(2004-2013)
Marvin R.V. Storrow, QC	(1980-1987)	Robert D. Diebolt, QC	(1996-2003)	Rita C. Andreone, QC	(2006-2013)
R. Paul Beckmann, QC	(1980-1989)	G. Ronald Toews, QC	(1996-2003)	Kathryn Berge, QC	(2006-2013)
Robert M. Dick, QC	(1983-1991)	Gerald J. Kambeitz, QC	(1996-2003)	Leon Getz, QC	(2006-2013)
The Honourable Peter Leask, QC	(1984-1992)	William J. Sullivan, QC	(1997-2003)	Thelma O'Grady	(2006-2013)
John M. Hogg, QC	(1984-1993)	Master Peter J. Keighley	(1996-2004)	David Renwick, QC	(2006-2013)
P. Michael Bolton, QC	(1985-1993)	William M. Everett, QC	(1998-2004)	Richard Stewart, QC	(2006-2013)
The Honourable Mr. Justice Robert T.C. Johnston	(1986-1994)	Ralston S. Alexander, QC	(1999-2005)	Jan Lindsay, QC	(2006-2014)
The Honourable Grant D. Burnyeat, QC	(1988-1995)	Patricia L. Schmit, QC	(1998-2005)	Kenneth M. Walker, QC	(2007-2015)
Donald A. Silversides, QC	(1984-1995)	Robert W. McDiarmid, QC	(1998-2006)	Peter B. Lloyd, FCPA, FCA	(2008-2015)
James M. MacIntyre, QC	(1986-1995)	Anna K. Fung, QC	(1998-2007)	David W. Mossop, QC	(2008-2015)
Alan E. Vanderburgh, QC	(1989-1995)	Ian Donaldson, QC	(2000-2007)	Haydn Acheson	(2008-2015)
Karen F. Nordlinger, QC	(1988-1996)	June Preston, MSW	(2001-2008)	The Honourable Mr. Justice E. David Crossin	(2010-2016)
Richard C.C. Peck, QC	(1988-1997)	The Honourable Mr. Justice John J.L. Hunter	(2002-2008)	Herman Van Ommen, QC	(2009-2017)
Leonard T. Doust, QC	(1990-1997)	Gordon Turriff, QC	(2002-2009)	C.E. Lee Ongman, QC	(2010-2017)
William M. Trotter, QC	(1990-1997)	Terence E. La Liberté, QC	(2000-2001, 2004-2009)	Thomas P. Fellhauer	(2010-2017)
Trudi L. Brown, QC	(1992-1998)	James D. Vilvang, QC	(2002-2009)	Gregory A. Petrisor	(2010-2017)
Warren T. Wilson, QC	(1991-1999)	David A. Zacks, QC	(2002-2009)	Satwinder Bains	(2010-2018)
The Honourable Ujjal Dosanjh, QC	(1995-2000)	The Honourable Judge William F.M. Jackson	(2003-2009)	Claude H. Richmond	(2010-2018)
Karl F. Warner, QC	(1994-2000)	Patrick Kelly	(2002-2010)	Miriam Kresivo, QC	(2012-2018)
Richard S. Margetts, QC	(1995-2001)	Dr. Maelor Vallance	(2002-2010)	Nancy G. Merrill, QC	(2011-2019)
Gerald J. Lecovin, QC	(1994-2001)	G. Glen Ridgway, QC	(2002-2010)	Tony Wilson, QC	(2011-2019)
Emily M. Reid, QC	(1994-2001)	Gavin Hume, QC	(2004-2011)	Philip Riddell, QC	(2011-2019)
Jane S. Shackell, QC	(1994-2001)				

*The dates in parentheses represent years of service as a Bencher.*