

November 15, 2023 Bencher Election – County of Prince Rupert

Candidate biographies and statements

The candidates were invited to submit biographical information and an election statement. The views expressed are those of the candidates and do not reflect the official policy or position of the Law Society.

Candidates are listed in order of their appearance on the ballot, as determined by drawing of lots, pursuant to Rule 1-28.

Candidate information for District 8 – County of Prince Rupert

- YUEN, Jonathan
- DUCLUZEAU, Claire



YUEN, Jonathan

Called to the Bar: 2002

Yuen Westwood Law Corporation

Email: jonathanyuen@telus.net

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Called in 2002, I articulated in Kamloops until moving to Smithers in 2003 to work with Gamble & Co. on the Federal Crown Contract. Starting our own firm with Sarah Westwood in 2005, I have practiced largely as a barrister, including ad hoc Crown, criminal defence, family, and child protection cases, appearing in Provincial and Supreme Court. As counsel for the Director under the Child, Family and Community Service Act since 2009, my practice ranges throughout Prince Rupert County, with regular court appearances in almost every court in the region.

I have been active with the CBA on the Judicial Advisory Committee, and along with Sarah Westwood, organized the annual Bench, Bar and Court Users' summer barbecue and archery tournament from 2011 to 2019. I am an avid cook, reader, and an average guitar player.

ELECTION STATEMENT

Living and working in Northwestern BC, as a resident since 2003 and a practitioner present in the courthouses throughout the northwest, I am acutely aware of the challenges of practice and access to justice in rural and remote communities, and how issues of poverty, distance, and culture affect our clients and the communities in which we live and work. Practicing primarily in an area of law where Indigenous families are drastically over-represented, I have witnessed first-hand the effects and consequences of the residential schools legacy, and the need for a change in how legal services are provided. Having worked with Sarah Westwood, past Bencher, through the COVID pandemic and beyond during her time as Bencher, I am already familiar with the Benchers at the table and major issues facing lawyers and the Law Society in light of the government's "single legal regulator" legislation, the need for change to lawyer education, and other concerns. This familiarity will allow me to be an immediate and effective voice for Prince Rupert County; I already have significant insight into who the Benchers are and how they do their jobs. I know Benchers are called upon to make difficult decisions, balancing the needs of lawyers

with the requirements of the profession. These decisions have to recognize the changes wrought by legislation and the government decisions regarding regulation of the profession, as well as the importance of mental health and community in an era that has highlighted the stresses of practice and need for community. I believe the range of my practice and my personal presence in the area gives me the ideal opportunity to consult with the members of Prince Rupert County and to ensure that any decision I make is well thought out and informed by all aspects of particular concern, while maintaining the integrity of the legal profession.

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DUCLUZEAU, Claire

Called to the Bar: 1987

BC Prosecution Service

Email: Claire.Ducluzeau@gov.bc.ca

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

I articulated for Brian Jackson and Ken Westlake and continued as an associate for several years. I then shared space with Brian Jackson in the Sun Tower when I hung out my own shingle as a sole practitioner. In 1998 I joined the Legal Services Society as a staff lawyer on the criminal team first in Kamloops and then in Burnaby. In 2003 I joined the Prince Rupert Crown office. I have predominantly practiced criminal law but while in private practice I did conduct some civil trials and child protection cases. I was co-counsel on the R v Wiley case before the Supreme Court of Canada. As Crown Counsel I have had several rotations on the Haida Gwaii circuit as well as conducting major prosecution files including murder, robbery, sexual assault, and child pornography cases. I was elected as the Prince Rupert County representative of the BCCBA for 2 terms. As well I was on BCCBA committees for the REAL initiative and Court Users. I was also on the Legal Aid CBA committee. In private practice I regularly conducted pro bona trials. As Crown Counsel I was on the committee that implemented a protocol for restorative justice.

ELECTION STATEMENT

As Crown Counsel, I am now conducting evening virtual bail. Covid has jump-started the Courts in terms of using technology. I hope to make contributions about the use of technology in the legal profession. I have a strong background in criminal law and I would be very valuable as a resource for junior Crown in terms of assisting them with ethical issues. I am also interested in participating in disciplinary hearings, as well access to justice is an issue I have long since been interested in making a contribution.

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