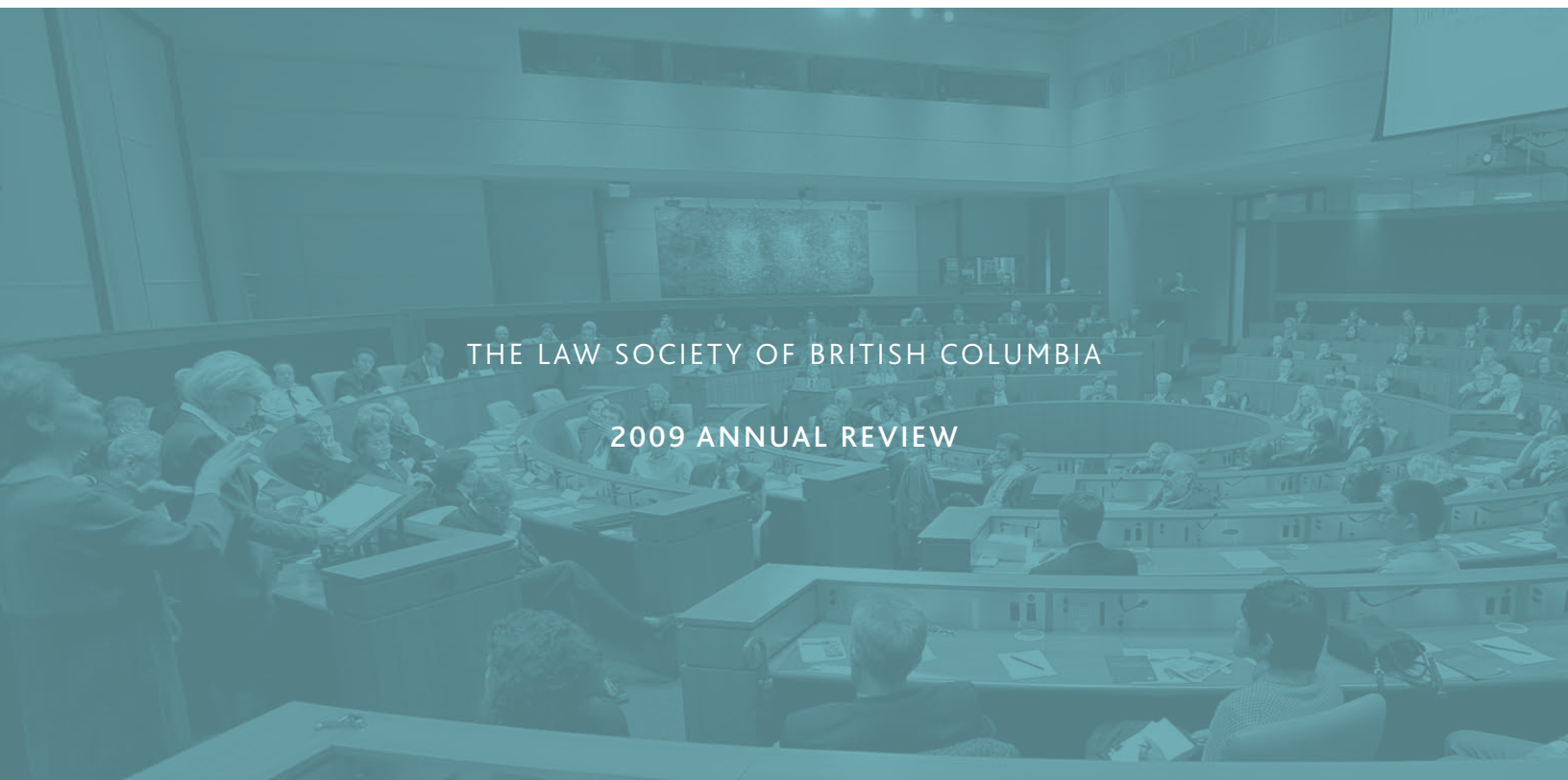




1884  
2009

REGULATING LAWYERS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST FOR 125 YEARS



THE LAW SOCIETY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  
2009 ANNUAL REVIEW

# 1884 2009

The roots of BC's legal profession can be traced back to England.

In 1858, Queen Victoria appointed Matthew Begbie as the first judge of the colony of British Columbia. Chief Justice Begbie was responsible for calling lawyers to the Bar and administering justice in BC's vast frontier.

In 1863, an English lawyer living in BC was accused of defrauding people in card games. Begbie was away conducting circuit courts in the Cariboo at the time. Out of a concern for public confidence, Henry Crease, BC's first lawyer, decided to take action.

Crease assembled the province's lawyers to collectively prevent this unsavory individual from practising law in the new colony.

This was the beginning of the self-governance of lawyers in BC.

On a summer's day in 1869, Crease brought 13 lawyers together in the City of Victoria, laying the foundation of a governing body known today as the Law Society.

In 1884, the provincial government passed the *Legal Professions Act*—legislation that incorporated the Law Society of British Columbia.





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In consideration of our environmental footprint, the 2009 Law Society Annual Review is being distributed in electronic form. The audited 2009 Financial Statements will be printed and mailed in accordance with the Law Society Rules. Both documents are available online at [lawsociety.bc.ca](http://lawsociety.bc.ca).

Cover photos:  
*(Top)* Benchers of the Law Society, 1897. Image from the Legal Archives of British Columbia  
*(Bottom)* Attendees at 2009 Law Society “Clearing the Path to Justice” public forum

The Law Society of British Columbia is the regulatory body for the BC legal profession. The primary responsibility of the Law Society under the provincial *Legal Profession Act* is to protect the public interest in the administration of justice.

The Law Society works to ensure that the public is well served by a legal profession that is honourable, competent and independent. The Law Society sets and enforces standards of professional conduct for lawyers in BC and brings a voice to issues affecting the justice system and the delivery of legal services.

#### Governance

The Law Society is governed by the Benchers. There are 25 Benchers who are lawyers—chosen by other lawyers from nine regions across BC—and up to six non-lawyer Benchers, appointed by the provincial government. The Attorney General of British Columbia is also a Bencher. Benchers serve two-year terms and can be re-elected or re-appointed. The president is the chief elected official of the Law Society, who serves a one-year term.

The Benchers govern the work of the Law Society in accordance with the *Legal Profession Act*. They establish the Law Society Rules, the *Professional Conduct Handbook* and governance policies and they oversee the implementation and administration of programs carried out by Law Society staff.

The chief executive officer of the Law Society is the Executive Director, who directs Law Society staff.

#### Core functions of the Law Society

**Admissions and Credentials** ensures new lawyers are properly qualified to practise law.

**Professional Conduct and Discipline** investigates complaints about lawyers and pursues disciplinary action.

**Practice Standards** conducts practice reviews of lawyers and monitors remedial programs.

**Trust Assurance** conducts trust fund accounting compliance audits and reviews trust accounting practices at law firms.

**Custodianships** takes custody of a lawyer's practice when a lawyer is unable to continue practising and has not made arrangements for clients.

**Continuing Professional Development** administers several educational programs and oversees the required annual ongoing development program for lawyers.

**Practice Advice** provides advice to lawyers on ethical and legal practice issues.

**Policy and Legal Services** develops policy, conducts legal research and monitors developments on issues involving professional regulation.

**Tribunals and Legislation** supports the work of Law Society hearing and review tribunals and drafts new rules and proposed amendments to the *Legal Profession Act*.

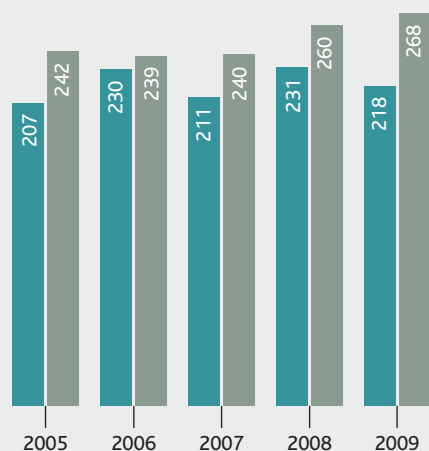
**Lawyers Insurance Fund** operates a mandatory insurance program for BC lawyers, providing liability and trust protection coverage.



# The Legal Profession in BC

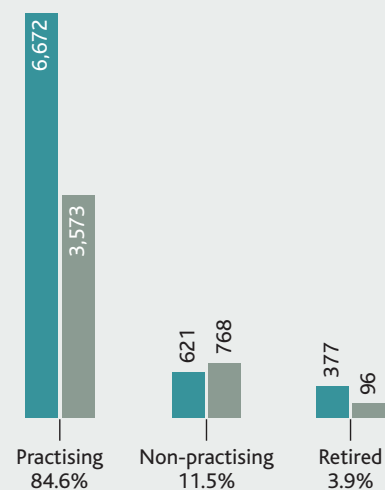
New BC lawyers

WOMEN  
MEN

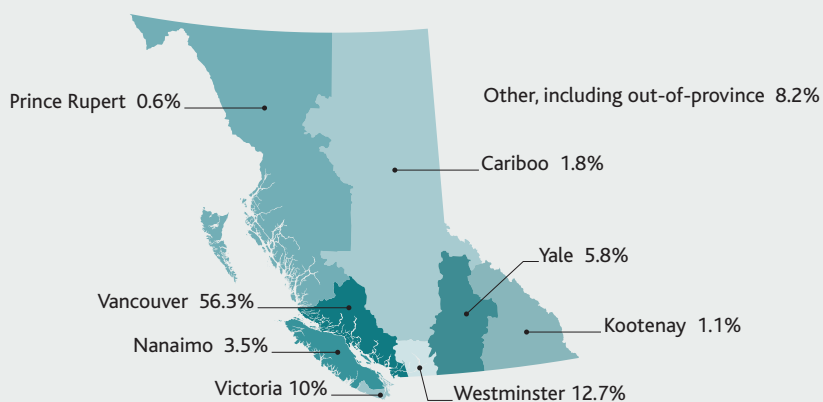


Practising BC lawyers

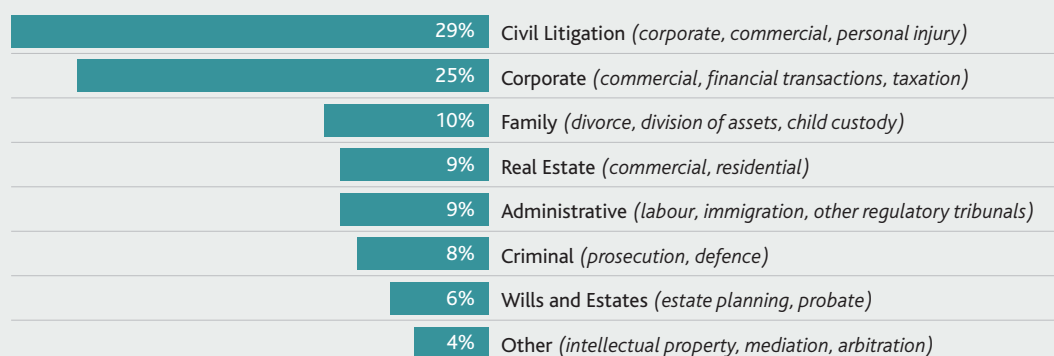
WOMEN  
MEN



Lawyers around the province  
by region



Areas of practice



### Continuing professional development for lawyers

In January 2009, the Law Society of BC was the first Canadian law society to launch a comprehensive continuing professional development program for all practising lawyers. This mandatory requirement for ongoing education assures the public that a high standard of legal practice in the province is maintained.

### Transparency in publishing discipline decisions

The Benchers decided to eliminate the option of publishing the names of lawyers who are disciplined to ensure disclosure of all discipline decisions. Anonymous publication will be permitted only when identification would cause significant harm to an individual other than the disciplined lawyer.

### Concept of ungovernability in the discipline process

The Benchers voted to incorporate the concept of ungovernability into the discipline process. The concept of ungovernability provides discipline panels with another tool to better protect the public from lawyers who repeatedly ignore regulation by the Law Society. The rule was adopted in March 2010.

### Legal advertising consistent with the public interest

The Benchers updated the provisions governing advertising by lawyers and law firms. The amended rules are shorter, more focused, and state more clearly the requirements that legal advertising must be true, accurate, verifiable and consistent with the public interest.

### Improved electronic discovery in discipline investigations

The Benchers adopted recommendations enhancing the Law Society's right to copy electronic data during Law Society investigations. Copying a lawyer's computer hard drive during a discipline investigation raises a number of issues around supporting effective investigation in the public interest while protecting privacy rights.

### Public forum on access to legal services

The Law Society hosted our fifth public forum, entitled "Clearing the Path to Justice." Over 250 people attended to hear the Chief Justice of Canada and other speakers address the topic of barriers to accessing legal services and to exchange ideas about eliminating those barriers.



Public forum participants discussing barriers to accessing legal services at Simon Fraser University's Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue.

### Public survey on access to legal services

The Benchers commissioned an Ipsos Reid survey to gain an understanding of British Columbians' use of legal services and to identify barriers to accessing legal services. The survey data will guide the Law Society in considering ways to improve access to legal services.

### Multi-disciplinary partnerships permitted

The Benchers passed rule amendments to permit lawyers to form partnerships with non-lawyers in limited circumstances. The rules, effective July 1, 2010, will provide for regulation of multi-disciplinary partnerships and ensure that the core values of the legal profession are not eroded.

### E-Brief electronic digest for BC lawyers

The Law Society introduced E-Brief as a succinct and timely way to inform lawyers of their regulatory obligations and the policy issues and decisions being addressed by the Benchers.

### President's speaking tour educates the public

President Gordon Turriff, QC conducted a province-wide speaking tour to help educate the public about the importance of the rule of law and the independence of lawyers. He visited over 20 BC communities and also travelled to Australia to give a keynote speech at the Conference of Regulatory Officers.



Gordon Turriff, QC drew a crowd to hear him speak at the New Westminster Public Library.

### Retention and advancement of women lawyers

The Benchers released a business case in July 2009 that provides a best-practices toolkit to help law firms retain and advance women lawyers. Retaining women lawyers enables the legal profession to better reflect



the society that it serves and increases access to legal services, particularly as demographic trends indicate a potential shortage of lawyers.

### Educating students about legal independence

The Law Society and the Justice Education Society partnered to produce the “docu-fiction” video, *Legal Independence: It’s Your Right*. In Fall 2009, more than 450 high school teachers in BC received this DVD and supporting teacher’s guide to educate students about lawyer and judicial independence.



Law 12 students at North Vancouver’s Windsor Secondary School participating in the legal independence lesson.

### Media and law workshop for Chinese journalists

The 13<sup>th</sup> annual Media and Law Workshop was co-hosted by the Law Society and the Jack Webster Foundation, and moderated by former Law Society President Anna Fung, QC. The workshop was designed to be relevant to Chinese-language journalists and, ultimately, to educate the public through fair and accurate legal reporting.



Reporters and assignment editors from Chinese-language media outlets taking part in the Media and Law Workshop.

### Federation of Law Societies developments

The Federation of Law Societies of Canada approved a national Model Code of Professional Conduct that sets out expected standards of ethical conduct by lawyers. The Model Code is being reviewed by the law societies across the country.

After two years of national consultations, the final report of the Task Force on the Canadian Common Law Degree, chaired by former Law Society President John Hunter, QC, was completed. The Federation referred the report to law societies for their consideration, with the aim of approving common law degrees for the purpose of entry into Canadian Bar admission programs.

The Federation designated a working group to prepare a roadmap for developing national standards for admission to the legal profession. The standards and processes currently used by law societies to regulate admission to the Bar vary from province to province.

### Honouring law students’ achievements



President Gordon Turriff, QC presents the Law Society Gold Medal to University of BC law student, Eileen Keast.



Benchers Kathryn Berge, QC presents the Law Society Gold Medal to University of Victoria law student, Diana Backhouse.



Jennifer Katherine Bond, 2009 Law Society Scholarship recipient, graduated from University of Victoria law in 2006 and plans to work on human rights issues for her graduate studies.

The Benchers began 2009 with a plan to celebrate the Law Society's 125th anniversary in a quiet but very public way.



It was not to be a year of gala dinners honouring notable lawyers and judges or a year in which legal scholars met to debate esoteric legal points. Rather, it was to be a year in which the society reconnected with the public whose interests the society exists to serve. Accordingly, during 2009 I travelled around the province, visiting over 20 communities, delivering a very particular message in dozens of presentations to people in public libraries, to service clubs and chambers of commerce, and to students in high schools, colleges and universities. I spoke about the role the Law Society plays as the regulator of lawyers in the public interest. I spoke about the fundamental need to preserve the rule of law to promote order, certainty, predictability and efficiency as we go about our complicated lives. I spoke about the importance of independent lawyers as essential rule of law guarantors, and I spoke about self-governance of lawyers as a necessary condition of lawyer independence. My audiences were surprised that I had appeared among them, and they were surprised by what I told them. I was a foreign but welcome presence. I delivered information that was new to them. They were eager to learn, and it was obvious that they are eager to learn more.

The success of the Benchers' anniversary initiative will be measured by the extent to which the connection made in 2009 is maintained and fostered. Recent court decisions suggest that even judges at very high levels have a limited understanding of the work law societies do. If the judges are not sure, obviously much work has to be done from the bottom up. Some of that work can be done

(and indeed has been done) in partnership with organizations like the Justice Education Society, but such organizations have broad educational mandates and limited funding. The Law Society has very specific information to convey, and it cannot wait for partnership opportunities that might lead to the achievement of only some of its educational goals. The Benchers need to make the establishment of a Law Society public education department one of their chief priorities.

The Benchers also need to make one of their chief priorities the definition of their relationship with organizations such as the Justice Education Society, the Law Foundation, the Legal Services Society and the numbers of other British Columbia organizations whose mandates overlap with the Law Society objective of protecting the public interest in the administration of justice. There are all kinds of organizations whose work complements the regulatory work the Law Society does. Their success and the success of the Law Society in achieving its goals, particularly its goal of enhancing access to justice, will be measured by the extent to which the numerous entities can work together efficiently. During 2009, the Law Society took a small first step in that direction by inviting all the legal organizations to a roundtable discussion aimed at identifying the means by which the organizations could learn to maximize their individual strengths and to recognize the parts of what they do that could be done better by someone else. It will be unfortunate if the Law Society does not continue to take a lead in this respect. It is not failure for any organization to recognize that it should give up some of its jurisdiction.

Independence of lawyers is under attack around the world. In the interest of "consumer protection," governments in England and Australia have taken steps to control the regulation of lawyers. Lawyers everywhere should be appalled by such measures, undercutting as they do the capacity of lawyers everywhere to stand up to government when their clients' interests demand challenges to state action. Fortunately, the Law Society of British Columbia has been a principal opponent of government incursion into lawyer independence. The Benchers must never compromise on this issue. If they continue their fine work as regulators, maintaining public confidence in their work by regulating plainly and obviously in the public interest, appropriately discharging their credentialing, competency and discipline functions, there will be no occasion for government in British Columbia to attempt to climb on to a consumer protection bandwagon. The fact is that regulation of lawyers by government serves government interests. Regulation of lawyers by lawyers serves the public interest.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Gordon Turriff, QC". The signature is fluid and stylized, with a large, sweeping "G" and "T".

Gordon Turriff, QC  
President



Although the Law Society celebrated its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2009, in many other ways the year 2009 was a year of firsts.



2009 was the first full year of implementing the Law Society's current three-year Strategic Plan adopted by the Benchers in 2008. The plan has three overarching goals: enhancing public confidence through appropriate and effective regulation; enhancing access to legal services; and effective education of lawyers and the public. Progress was made in all three areas.

To respond to the need for more effective regulation, the Benchers voted to introduce new rules in June 2009 regarding lawyers who are chronic repeat offenders and are therefore "ungovernable"; the new rule was adopted in March 2010. The Benchers also initiated steps to consider separating the investigative and adjudicative functions of Law Society disciplinary processes.

On a practical level, the Law Society modernized its rules relating to lawyer advertising for the first time in over 20 years to help lawyers better inform the public about the availability and nature of legal services. To facilitate greater flexibility in the choice of business structures for the delivery of legal services, the Benchers authorized the creation of multi-disciplinary partnerships.

Enhancing access to legal services includes addressing the troubling issue of women leaving the profession in increasing numbers. In 2009 the Retention of Women in the Law Task Force released its report, including a *Business Case for Retaining and Advancing Women Lawyers in Private Practice*, and this has been well received.

Further work on the strategic goal of enhancing access was undertaken by the Delivery of Legal Services Task Force, which commissioned the first comprehensive survey of the legal needs of British Columbians; this survey will guide the formulation of task force recommendations in 2010.

It was also a year of firsts for strategic initiatives centred on more effective education

of lawyers and the public. Most significant among these was the introduction of an annual 12-hour compulsory professional development requirement for all practising lawyers in BC and the President's speaking tour of the province to bring greater public awareness of the importance of an independent Bench and Bar.

As the scope and variety of these items illustrates effective regulation of the legal profession in the public interest requires the Law Society not only to address the demands of today but also to be proactive in shaping effective regulatory responses to the challenges of tomorrow.

In a very real sense 2009 was also a year of great uncertainty. The year began with the capital markets in turmoil and a broad consensus that all businesses and organizations would be managing through turbulent economic times in the year ahead. The Law Society experienced a modest trend upward in the number of complaints to our Professional Conduct department, and the Lawyers Insurance Fund experienced a similar uptick in the number of reported claims. On balance, we were able to respond to these changing conditions without significant disruption and within our budget forecasts.

We also undertook significant planning and forecasting initiatives in 2009 to ensure that the Law Society's services would be available without interruption during the unprecedented circumstances of the 2010 Olympic Winter Games happening on our doorstep. I am pleased to report that we succeeded in those efforts, while also finding time as an organization to enjoy the energy the Olympics brought to Vancouver and to celebrate Canada's many Olympic successes.

The dashboard for measuring the success of our core regulatory operations is the Law Society's Key Performance Measures (KPMs), which are reviewed elsewhere in

this report. The measures are a critical part of our regulatory transparency and demonstrate our intention to help the public, including lawyers, the media and government, understand what we are striving to achieve as regulators and to what extent we are achieving our goals. While our 2009 results indicate we are meeting or exceeding the targets we have set for the majority of our measures, we recognize that there will always be room for improvements.

The greatest strength of the Law Society is the energy, breadth and diversity of those who work to fulfill its mandate. I would like to recognize and thank all of the Benchers for their valuable contributions in 2009 and in particular President Gordon Turriff, QC for his efforts in reaching out and connecting with the public on his speaking tour. I am fortunate to work with a dedicated and talented group of colleagues at the Law Society, and to all our staff I extend my thanks for all they do. The Law Society is also blessed with a veritable army of volunteers who give unselfishly of their time bringing expertise, experience and different perspectives to the wide variety of our work.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new president for 2010, Glen Ridgway, QC and to our newly elected Benchers. As I look ahead to 2010, I am confident that the Law Society is well positioned strategically and operationally to meet its objectives and I look forward to reporting to you again next year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Timothy McGee".

Timothy E. McGee  
Chief Executive Officer

## Strategic Plan Update

Much has been accomplished in this first year of our three-year planning cycle.

Our 2009-2011 strategic plan provides a structured approach to issues that connect the public interest and the legal profession and has three main goals:



Enhance public confidence through appropriate and effective regulation



Enhance access to legal services



Effective education of lawyers and the public

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The following are highlights of the significant work by various task forces, committees and Law Society staff.

1

### Enhance public confidence through appropriate and effective regulation

Appropriate and effective regulation of lawyers continues to be our primary focus and commitment to the public. Through 2009, various committees, including Discipline, Credentials, Ethics, and the Independence and Self-Governance Advisory Committee, as well as staff working groups pursued several initiatives to improve our regulatory framework.

- A new rule regarding "ungovernability" was approved (and introduced in early 2010), which will permit hearing panels to consider whether a lawyer's prior professional conduct record establishes that the lawyer is ungovernable and to take this into account when assessing penalties.
- Lawyers will no longer have the opportunity to have their discipline decisions published anonymously based on harm to themselves.
- The Rules were amended to permit lawyers to practise in multi-disciplinary partnerships while ensuring that independence and self-governance were not compromised.
- The Québec Mobility Agreement was signed, which extends the scope of the National Mobility Agreement by facilitating reciprocal permanent mobility of lawyers between the common law jurisdictions and the civil law jurisdiction in Québec.
- Changes to rules around lawyer advertising, which are designed to improve public understanding, were implemented.

2

### Enhance access to legal services

The Delivery of Legal Services Task Force, the Retention of Women in Law Task Force, the Access to Legal Services Advisory Committee and the Equity and Diversity Advisory Committee all considered how the Law Society might help improve public access to legal services. To date, the following progress has been made:

- An extensive review of existing research and background material was conducted.
- A public survey to evaluate the incidence and types of legal problems faced by British Columbians was completed.
- A methodology to address barriers to accessing legal services and public awareness of legal options was developed.
- A means of enhancing pro bono services as well as an alternate dispute resolution methodology were recommended.
- The Report of the Retention of Women in Law Task Force, which contains a number of recommendations now being considered, and the *Business Case for Retaining and Advancing Women Lawyers in Private Practice* were developed and publicized.
- Relevant information was gathered regarding the aging of the legal profession and further analysis was recommended.
- Development of a business case for retaining Aboriginal lawyers and lawyers from diverse communities was recommended as a first step towards promoting a diverse and representative legal community.

3

### Effective education of lawyers and the public

The Lawyer Education Advisory Committee and Law Society staff addressed a number of important strategic initiatives supporting career-long training for lawyers and greater public confidence in the legal profession.

- The lawyer mentoring program, identified in 2008 as potentially one of the most effective ways to impart knowledge about the practice of law to lawyers, was developed during 2009 and came into effect on January 1, 2010.
- The Professionalism Working Group assessed issues regarding lawyer professionalism as pre-work to the establishment of future continuing professional development courses.
- The Advocacy Working Group considered the barriers to young lawyers obtaining early courtroom experience and will make recommendations on how best to fulfill this need.
- An instructional video entitled *Legal Independence: It's Your Right*, was created for use in high schools and was widely distributed to teachers throughout the province.
- President Gordon Turriff, QC embarked on a province-wide speaking tour to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the Law Society and address various topics related to regulation of the legal profession.

## 2009 REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE

In 2008, the Law Society introduced key performance measures to evaluate the effectiveness of its core functions and to assure stakeholders that the Law Society was fulfilling its mandate. Work continues to refine these measures, and to date they have provided valuable insight into our work and targets for continued improvement.

### Admissions and Credentials

The Admissions program involves evaluating the credentials of those seeking admission to the profession, overseeing the articling program and conducting the Professional Legal Training Course (PLTC). The major innovation in 2009 was the newly introduced Continuing Professional Development (CPD) program.

The number of PLTC students continued to increase steadily, from 390 in 2008 to 410 in 2009.

The CPD program was launched on January 1, 2009, requiring all practising lawyers in BC to complete 12 hours of educational activity annually. The Law Society of BC was the first Canadian law society to launch a comprehensive CPD program. An accredited mentoring program is another way for lawyers to fulfill their CPD requirements beginning on January 1, 2010.

#### GOAL

To ensure that new lawyers are appropriately qualified when they become licensed to practise law in BC by preparing and assessing applicants for call and admission to the Law Society, and licensing them to practise.

#### 2009 KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURE RESULTS

The number of students achieving an initial pass in PLTC has exceeded the key performance measure of 85% in each of the past five years.

Students rated PLTC's value in preparing them for the practice of law an average of 3.5 or higher on a five-point scale while both articulated students and their principals rated the preparatory value of the articling experience an average of 3.5 or higher. These evaluations meet our key performance targets.

A full 100% of the principals declared that their students were fit to practise law, exceeding the performance goal of 98%.

#### Admissions and Credentials

Professional Conduct and Discipline

Practice Standards

Custodianships

Practice Advice

Trust Assurance

Policy and Legal Services

Tribunals and Legislation

Lawyers Insurance Fund



•1858

*Colony of British Columbia established. Matthew Baillie Begbie appointed Chief Justice.*

•1869

*Henry Crease, BC's first lawyer, assembles 13 barristers and solicitors to establish an association called the Law Society.*

•1884

*The Law Society is incorporated by an Act of the Legislature.*

## ■ Professional Conduct and Discipline

The Law Society determines standards of professional conduct and responsibility for BC lawyers and articulated students and ensures adherence with those standards through its complaints and discipline process.

Professional Conduct considers all complaints received about the professional conduct and competency of BC lawyers. Staff members in the department include lawyers and paralegals who are assisted by commercial crime investigators and forensic accountants. Discipline counsel represent the Law Society in disciplinary proceedings against lawyers.

In 2009, Professional Conduct opened 1,233 complaint files and closed 1,312 complaint files. Some of these closed files were active files opened in previous years. About 85% of complaints are resolved in less than a year, while some take longer due to their complexity and evidence-gathering requirements.

The Law Society is examining a goal of a one-year timeline for closing complaint files at the staff level or else referring them to the Discipline Committee. The changes to our processes and resources that are needed to achieve this goal are being identified and recommendations will be made in 2010.

Professional Conduct increased its efficiency in 2009. Over 100 more complaints were received in 2009 compared to 2008, yet there were 78 fewer open files at year end than at the beginning of the year.

### GOAL

To handle complaints about lawyers in a fair, effective and timely manner and to maintain a regulatory process that is fair, consistent, thorough and transparent.

### 2009 KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURE RESULTS

In 2009, the frequency of complaints referred to the Discipline Committee as a percentage of all complaints received by Professional Conduct increased to 12.1%, compared to 11.1% in 2008. The analysis of these complaints did not demonstrate any significant change in the nature or types of complaints, which suggests the increased frequency may be a year over year anomaly.

The department met or exceeded most of its targets for complainant satisfaction. Seventy per cent of complainants were satisfied with the fairness of the process and 93% expressed satisfaction with the courtesy extended to them, surpassing our goals of 65% and 90% satisfaction, respectively. In terms of the thoroughness with which complaints were managed, 76% of complainants were satisfied, again exceeding our objective of 65%. Seventy-four percent of complainants expressed satisfaction with timeliness in the handling of their complaints, slightly below our target of 75%. Sixty-six percent of complainants would recommend the complaint process to someone else, over our goal of 60%.

Admissions and Credentials

Professional Conduct and Discipline

Practice Standards

Custodianships

Practice Advice

Trust Assurance

Policy and Legal Services

Tribunals and Legislation

Lawyers Insurance Fund

...continued on page 12

• 1897  
Law Society seal unveiled.

• 1912  
Mabel Penery French is the first woman called to the Bar in BC

• 1914  
Law schools open in Vancouver and Victoria, sponsored by the Law Society.

...continued from page 11,  
Professional Conduct and Discipline

Admissions and Credentials

## • Professional Conduct and Discipline

Practice Standards

Custodianships

Practice Advice

Trust Assurance

Policy and Legal Services

Tribunals and Legislation

Lawyers Insurance Fund

The number of open files older than one year was reduced by 60% compared with 2008.

The provincial Ombudsperson and the Complainants' Review Committee continued to be satisfied with the department's complaints-handling process and procedure. Five inquiries concerning our complaint investigation process were received from the Office of the Ombudsperson. The Law Society satisfactorily addressed the issues raised in each case. The Complainants' Review Committee considered 73 complaints that were closed by staff without further action against the lawyer. The Committee ultimately determined that the Law Society's staff assessments were appropriate in all of these cases.

### THE COMPLAINTS PROCESS

All complaints about lawyer conduct and competency are thoroughly reviewed and assessed. If there is no proper basis for investigation under the Law Society Rules, the complaint file will be closed. If warranted, Professional Conduct will investigate then take one of four steps upon completion of that investigation:

1. No further action.
2. Assist with the reconciliation and resolution of the concerns between the lawyer and client, if it is not an issue of professional conduct.
3. Refer competency concerns to the Practice Standards Committee to determine if the lawyer needs to upgrade skills or receive law practice guidance.
4. Refer substantiated complaints of professional misconduct or breaches of the rules to the Discipline Committee.

In most cases, if a complainant is dissatisfied with the decision to take no further action on a complaint, a review by the Complainants' Review Committee can be sought and conducted, chaired by a non-lawyer Benchers. That Committee may refer the complaint to a Law Society committee for further action or otherwise uphold the staff decision to close the complaint without further action.

### THE DISCIPLINE PROCESS

The Discipline Committee, made up of Benchers and non-lawyer appointed Benchers, reviews complaints referred by Professional Conduct, the Practice Standards Committee and the Complainants' Review Committee. The Discipline Committee considers the referral and decides how it should be handled, based on the following options:

1. No further action.
2. Authorize the Chair of the Discipline Committee to send a letter to the lawyer.
3. Require the lawyer to attend a meeting to discuss his or her conduct with one or more Benchers.
4. Refer the matter to the Practice Standards Committee.
5. Require the lawyer to attend a formal review of his or her conduct by one or more Benchers and senior lawyers.
6. Recommend that a citation be issued against the lawyer, which leads to a formal hearing.

A hearing panel may dismiss a citation against the lawyer, impose a fine or conditions, suspend the lawyer from the practice of law for a period of time, or disbar the lawyer.

1926

Conference of Representatives of the Governing Bodies of the Legal Profession in the Provinces of Canada (now the Federation of Law Societies of Canada) formed.

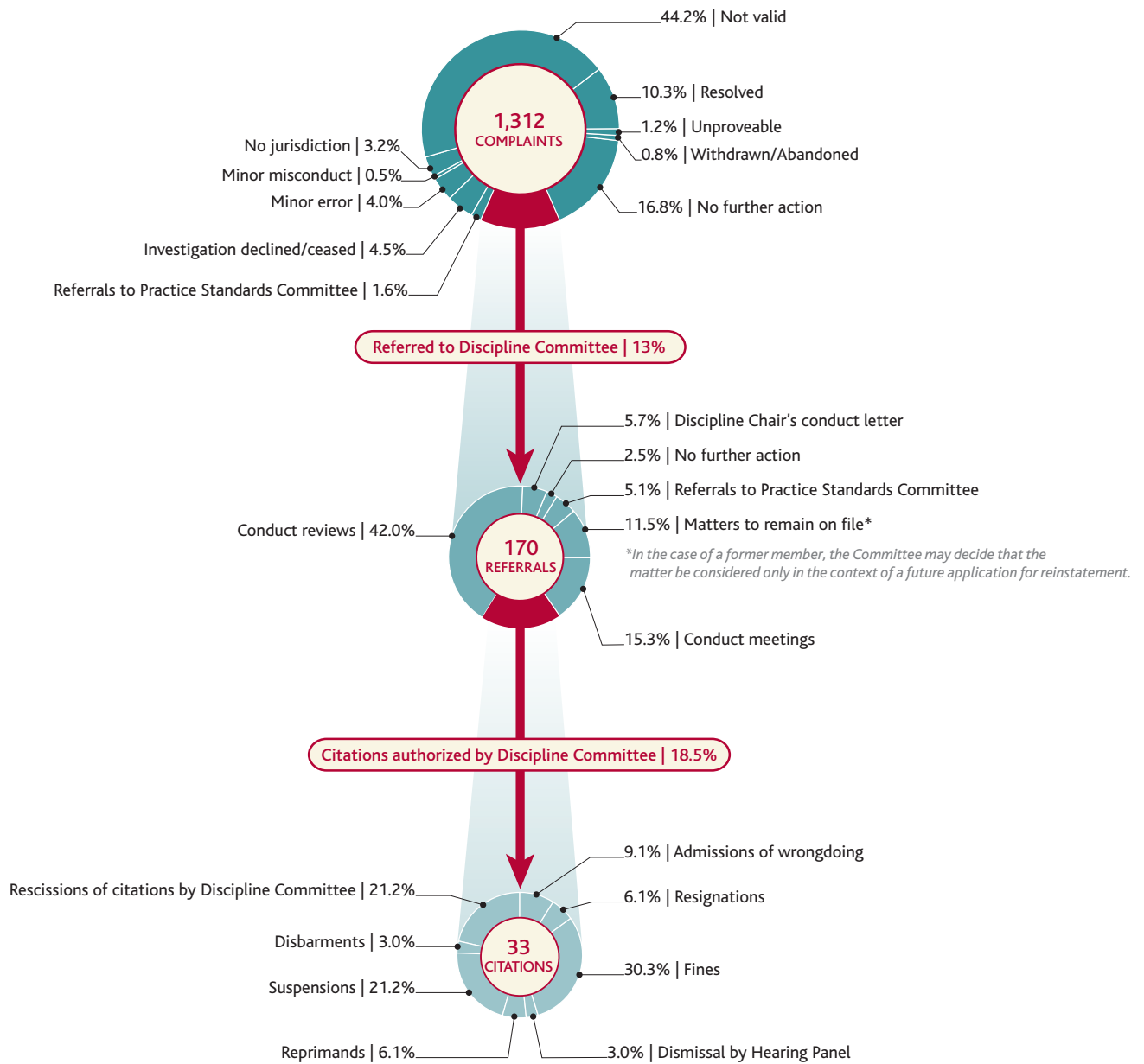
1945

University of British Columbia Faculty of Law opens.

1947

Special Compensation Fund established to ensure the public is compensated as a result of negligence or theft by a BC lawyer.

## DISPOSITION OF 2009 COMPLAINT FILES



## DISPOSITION OF CITATIONS

Please note that while this graph attempts to demonstrate proportion, it is not to scale.

• 1949

Court library system expansion begins.

• 1953

Andrew Joe is the first Chinese Canadian to be called to the Bar in BC.

• 1957

Edsworth McAuley Searles is the first Black person called to the Bar in BC.

Admissions and Credentials

Professional Conduct and Discipline

• Practice Standards

Custodianships

Practice Advice

Trust Assurance

Policy and Legal Services

Tribunals and Legislation

Lawyers Insurance Fund

## ■ Practice Standards

The Practice Standards program ensures that lawyer competency issues are addressed with educational resources and law practice management support, including online support resources, such as the Small Firm Practice Course, the Practice Refresher Course, the Practice Locum Program, the Bookkeeper Support Program, and the Succession and Emergency Planning Assistance Guide.

On the regulatory side, any complaints referred to the Practice Standards Committee are considered and investigated where necessary. The Committee then does one or more of the following: makes recommendations to improve the lawyer's practice, arranges for the lawyer to meet with a committee-designated lawyer or Benchers to discuss the complaint, orders a practice review (upon finding reasonable grounds to believe the lawyer is practising law incompetently), refers the complaint to the Discipline Committee or, where appropriate, decides that no further action need be taken. In 2009, Practice Standards took action on 64 files.

### GOAL

To achieve a measurable increase in lawyer competency as a result of remedial measures taken with lawyers whose competency is in question, and obtain positive feedback on the value of the online practice resources.

### 2009 KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURE RESULTS

Of the lawyers who completed their referral, 100% demonstrated an improvement in competency of at least one rating point on a five-point scale, demonstrating the effectiveness of the practice standards programs and meeting the key performance goal of at least 66% of participants showing a one point improvement.

Lawyers responding to a survey of their satisfaction with the online resources showed increased satisfaction in 2009 over 2008. However, though satisfaction ratings of our four program offerings were high, ranging from 82% to 86%, the key performance target of 90% satisfaction was not met.



•1959

*Continuing Legal Education program begins.*

•1962

*Alfred J. Scow is the first Aboriginal person called to the Bar in BC.*

•1969

*Law Society proposes a Legal Aid Society.  
Law Foundation established.*

## ■ Practice Advice

The Practice Advice program helps the legal profession serve the public effectively by providing advice and assistance to lawyers on ethical, practice and office management issues. Lawyers have access to the Law Society's in-house advisors for confidential guidance and practice support resources. Our in-house advisors also regularly speak and write on current topics related to ethics, practice and practice management.

The three Practice Advisors, and occasionally other staff lawyers, handled a total of 6,122 telephone and email inquiries in 2009. This represented an increase of 15% over the 5,322 inquiries in 2008.

### GOAL

To deliver high quality advice and information to lawyers on matters of practice and ethics in a responsive and timely fashion.

### 2009 KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURE RESULTS

In response to a survey of lawyers assessing the effectiveness of the Practice Advice program, 90% of lawyers rated the timeliness of the advice a three or higher on a five-point scale, meeting the performance target. Eighty-nine percent similarly rated the quality of the advice while 88% were satisfied with the quality of the resources to which they were referred and 89% were satisfied overall with the program, all just slightly below the 90% objective.

Admissions and Credentials  
Professional Conduct and Discipline  
Practice Standards  
Custodianships  
**Practice Advice**  
Trust Assurance  
Policy and Legal Services  
Tribunals and Legislation  
Lawyers Insurance Fund

•1970

Law Society publishes Professional Conduct Handbook.

•1971

Conduct Review Committee established.

Mary Southin, QC is the first woman elected a Bencher of the Law Society.

•1975

BC Law Library Foundation (later Courthouse Libraries BC) incorporated.

University of Victoria Faculty of Law opens.

Admissions and Credentials

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• Custodianships

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Policy and Legal Services

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Lawyers Insurance Fund

## Custodianships

When a lawyer cannot continue his or her practice due to illness, death or disciplinary action, the Law Society may apply to the court to have a custodian appointed. Custodians handle urgent matters on behalf of the lawyer's clients, ensure that trust funds are properly accounted for and disbursed, and help clients find a suitable new lawyer.

In 2009, the Law Society was appointed as an in-house custodian for 11 law practices and also coordinated locum placements to eliminate the need for another 17 custodianships. Fifteen custodianships were completed in 2009, and there were 39 active custodianships at year end compared with 43 at the end of 2008.

### GOAL

To provide cost-effective custodianships, to reduce the use of private lawyers and standardize and centralize procedures and administrative services.

### 2009 KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURE RESULTS

Factoring in the use of locums to manage practices in place of custodianships, the average cost of custodianships in 2009 was reduced to \$54,615 compared with an average over the previous seven years of \$84,968.

The average time to complete a custodianship also decreased significantly because of more timely resolution of custodianships managed by Law Society lawyers compared with outsourcing. The duration of custodianships due to death or disability issues were reduced from a historical average of 24 months to 14 months in 2009, while the duration of custodianships arising from disciplinary action decreased from a historical average of 48 months to 16 months.

• 1977

*Mary Southin, QC is the first woman Treasurer (later President) of the Law Society.*

• 1983

*First Benchers' Bulletin published.*

*Professional Legal Training Course commences.*

## ■ Trust Assurance

The Trust Assurance program is responsible for ensuring that law firms comply with the Law Society's rules regarding proper handling of clients' trust funds and trust accounting records. The trust assurance program's objective is to improve compliance through annual trust report filings, in-field compliance audits for all BC law firms holding trust funds, and the provision of trust accounting information and educational resources to lawyers.

In 2009, there were 3,260 trust reports reviewed, approximately the same number as 2008. The Law Society has performed just over 1,000 compliance audits since the start of the trust assurance program in 2006. The Trust Assurance department is on target to complete a compliance audit for each law firm in the province holding trust funds at least once every six years.

Results for 2009 indicate a continuing awareness of trust regulations by lawyers, ensuring that the number of financial suspensions imposed by Trust Assurance remains very low and stable over the last three years.

### GOAL

To ensure all law firms scrupulously follow the rules for the proper receipt and handling of trust funds.

### 2009 KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURE RESULTS

After an initial increase in referrals to Professional Conduct, following the full implementation of the trust assurance program, increased compliance with the trust accounting rules resulted in only 29 lawyers being referred to Professional Conduct in 2009, compared with 49 in 2008. Even though the goal to reduce the number of financial suspensions issued by the trust assurance program was not met, the number remains low at only four suspensions in both 2008 and 2009.

Based on the last completed trust reporting year, the number of lawyers filing a trust report, which is designed to keep lawyers informed of their trust responsibilities, increased from 87% to 91%. The remaining lawyers were required to file an Accountant's Report.

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• 1988

Jack Webster, Mayor Anne Clarke and Dr. Anne Autor appointed first Law Society Lay Benchers.

Complainants' Review Committee established.

• 1994

Discrimination ombudsperson (now the equity ombudsperson) appointed.

• 1996

Linda Loo, QC is elected the first Chinese Canadian Benchers.

Admissions and Credentials  
Professional Conduct and Discipline  
Practice Standards  
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Practice Advice  
Trust Assurance

## • Policy and Legal Services

Tribunals and Legislation  
Lawyers Insurance Fund

## ■ Policy and Legal Services

Policy and Legal Services develops policy on matters of concern or interest to the Law Society and ensures that Benchers have sufficient information to keep abreast of key issues and make informed policy decisions.

In fulfilling its role, the department carries out policy development and legal research. It also monitors developments involving regulation of the legal profession, independence of the Bar and the judiciary, access to justice, and equity and diversity in the legal profession.

Policy and Legal Services provided the Benchers with sound guidance in 2009, which included assisting the Retention of Women in Law Task Force with the development of the Business Case for Retaining and Advancing Women Lawyers in Private Practice.

### GOAL

To provide timely, relevant and balanced information, analysis and advice to the Benchers, committees, task forces and tribunals.

### 2009 KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURE RESULTS

Ninety-five per cent of the decisions made by the Benchers were made on the basis of information provided by the department. By way of a survey, the Benchers believe that the department met its targets in supplying adequate, relevant and timely information to support their decision-making.



• 1999

*Membership in the Law Society  
reaches 10,000.*

• 2002

*Pro Bono Law of BC  
society formed.*

## Tribunals and Legislation

Tribunals and Legislation supports the work of Law Society discipline and credential hearing panels and decision review tribunals, drafts new rules and proposed amendments to the Legal Profession Act, enforces the provisions that prohibit unqualified individuals from practising law and ensures the Law Society's compliance with information and privacy legislation.

### GOAL

To contribute to sound hearing panel and review tribunal decisions by ensuring Benchers have adequate administrative and legal support in their role as adjudicators.

### 2009 KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURE RESULTS

The Law Society evaluates the rigour of its hearing decision process by noting how many requests for reviews are made and the outcome of those reviews. A review is in the nature of an appeal and can be requested by the lawyer who is the subject of the hearing or the responsible Law Society committee. The Benchers then hold a review hearing and, if they decide that the original hearing panel was not correct in its decision, they may substitute their own. Individuals also have a right of appeal to the BC Court of Appeal. A reversal of a decision upon review or appeal is not necessarily a problem in itself. However, if such reversals were occurring with undue frequency, it could be an indication of a problem requiring attention.

In 2009, 36 decisions were made and seven were reviewed or appealed. In all cases, the Benchers or the Court of Appeal agreed with the original decision, an indication of the overall sound nature of the process as well as the ability of the tribunal to properly communicate the basis for its original decision.

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Policy and Legal Services  
**Tribunals and Legislation** •  
Lawyers Insurance Fund

•2007

*Anna Fung, QC is first Chinese Canadian President of the Law Society.*

•2009

*Law Society launches mandatory Continuing Professional Development program.*

*Law Society celebrates 125th anniversary*

Admissions and Credentials  
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Practice Advice  
Trust Assurance  
Policy and Legal Services  
Tribunals and Legislation

• **Lawyers Insurance Fund**

## ■ Lawyers Insurance Fund

The Lawyers Insurance Fund (LIF) provides professional liability and misappropriation insurance for all BC lawyers in private practice. This ensures that the public is reasonably compensated if a lawyer has been negligent or if they suffer a financial loss as a result of theft by a BC lawyer.

The LIF policy provides broad coverage for the protection of clients and lawyers. The limits for negligence and theft and the member deductible are comparable with the 13 other Canadian law societies. However, the insurance fee includes the risk of theft claims, unlike other law societies that charge a separate fee for this, making the cost of this protection comparatively very affordable.

In 2009, the internationally recognized LIF guide, *Beat the Clock—Timely Lessons from 1,600 Lawyers*, was honoured by the Risk and Insurance Management Society, Inc. with the Arthur Quern Quality Award, which recognizes quality and innovation in risk management.

### GOAL

To ensure clients are reasonably compensated if a lawyer is negligent or misappropriates trust funds.

### 2009 KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURE RESULTS

In addition to meeting our goal of providing comparable policy limits, insurance coverage and deductibles to other similar programs in Canada, all meritorious insurance claims were settled with the consent of the claimant or paid after judgment, and no claimant sued LIF directly for compensation for an unrecovered loss. Fully 97% of the lawyers represented by LIF gave the program high marks of four or five on a five-point scale, well exceeding the key performance measure of 80%.



## MANAGEMENT BOARD

Timothy E. McGee  
*Chief Executive Officer and  
Executive Director*

Stuart Cameron  
*Director of Discipline/Litigation Counsel*

Susan Forbes, QC  
*Director, Lawyers Insurance Fund*

Jeffrey Hoskins, QC  
*Tribunal and Legislative Counsel*

Howard Kushner  
*Chief Legal Officer*

Jeanette McPhee  
*Chief Financial Officer*

Alan Treleaven  
*Director, Education and Practice*

Adam Whitcombe  
*Chief Information Officer*

## Thank you

The Law Society management and staff would like to recognize the Benchers for their valuable service in 2009 and their strong commitment to the goals and objectives of the Law Society. As governors of the Law Society and working entirely on a voluntary basis, the Benchers contribute many hours of their time and play a pivotal role in ensuring the Law Society fulfills its public interest mandate.

The Benchers, in turn, thank and congratulate all those in the profession and the legal community who volunteered their time and energy to the Law Society in 2009. Whether serving as members of committees, task forces or working groups, PLTC guest instructors or authors, fee mediators, event panellists or advisors on special projects, volunteers are critical to the success of the Law Society and its work.

## 2009 BENCHERS AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



### First, left to right:

David M. Renwick, QC  
(Westminster County)  
Second Vice-President  
Gavin H.G. Hume, QC  
(Vancouver County)  
First Vice-President  
G. Glen Ridgway, QC  
(Nanaimo County)  
President Gordon Turriff, QC  
(Vancouver County)  
Bruce A. LeRose, QC  
(Kootenay County)  
CEO Timothy E. McGee

### Second, left to right:

Richard N. Stewart, QC  
(Victoria County)  
Rita C. Andreone  
(Vancouver County)  
Suzette Narbonne  
(Prince Rupert County)  
Barbara Levesque  
(Appointed Benchers)  
Marguerite (Meg) E. Shaw, QC  
(Okanagan District)  
David W. Mossop, QC  
(Vancouver County)  
Thelma O'Grady  
(Vancouver County)

### Third, left to right:

Stacy Kuiack  
(Appointed Benchers)  
Patrick Kelly  
(Appointed Benchers)  
James D. Vilvang, QC  
(Vancouver County)  
Peter B. Lloyd  
(Appointed Benchers)  
Leon Getz, QC  
(Vancouver County)  
Arthur E. Vertlieb, QC  
(Vancouver County)

### Last, left to right:

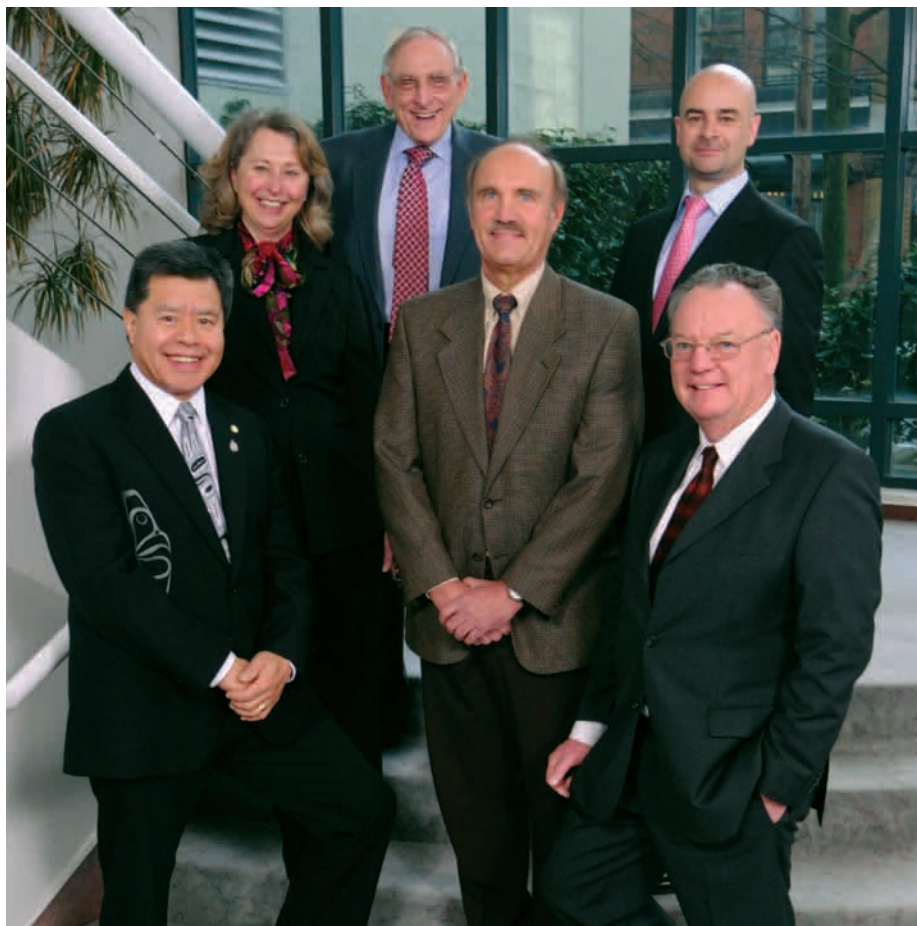
Robert C. Brun, QC  
(Vancouver County)  
Kathryn Berge, QC  
(Victoria County)  
Haydn Acheson  
(Appointed Benchers)  
Terence E. La Liberté, QC  
(Vancouver County)  
Herman Van Ommen  
(Vancouver County)  
Dr. Maelor Vallance  
(Appointed Benchers)  
Kenneth M. Walker  
(Kamloops District)  
Joost Blom, QC  
(Vancouver County)  
William F.M. Jackson, QC  
(Cariboo County)

### Not pictured:

Carol W. Hickman  
(Westminster County)  
Jan Lindsay, QC  
(Westminster County)  
Robert D. Punnett, QC  
(Prince Rupert County)  
Ronald S. Tindale  
(Cariboo County)  
David A. Zacks, QC  
(Vancouver County)



## APPOINTED BENCHERS



The six appointed Benchers, referred to until September 2009 as lay Benchers, are non-lawyers appointed by the provincial government and represent a cross-section of professions and backgrounds. All appointed Benchers are actively involved in the community and serve on numerous boards and committees.

The appointed Benchers bring a non-lawyer's perspective to the regulation of the legal profession and ensure that the public interest is always paramount. They are accorded the same opportunity as the elected Benchers to participate in policy debates, disciplinary hearings and all committees.

### From left...

Patrick Kelly is a consultant in the areas of community planning, organizational development, facilitation and communications.

Barbara Levesque is the Executive Director of the John Howard Society of North Okanagan/Kootenay.

Dr. Maelor Vallance is a psychiatrist at St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver and a Clinical Professor Emeritus in the UBC Faculty of Medicine.

Haydn Acheson, a retired airline captain, is President of Harmony Airways and an executive with DTK HO Enterprises Ltd.

Stacy Kuiack is a corporate finance consultant and an Executive in Residence with the University of Victoria Faculty of Business.

Peter B. Lloyd retired as an office managing partner with Grant Thornton, a Canadian accounting and advisory firm.

## Committees

### Executive

#### *Benchers:*

Gordon Turriff, QC (Chair)  
Glen Ridgway, QC (Vice-Chair)  
Carol Hickman  
Gavin Hume, QC  
Patrick Kelly  
Bruce LeRose, QC  
Art Vertlieb, QC

### Audit

#### *Benchers:*

David Zacks, QC (Chair)  
Peter Lloyd (Vice-Chair)

#### *Non-Benchers:*

Paul Albi  
Deborah Armour  
Ted Strocel

### Complainants' Review

#### *Benchers:*

Dr. Maelor Vallance (Chair)  
Barbara Levesque (Vice-Chair)  
Robert Brun, QC  
Ronald Tindale  
Kenneth Walker

#### *Non-Bencher:*

Peter Gorgopa

### Credentials

#### *Benchers:*

Richard Stewart, QC (Chair)  
Carol Hickman (Vice-Chair)  
Bruce LeRose, QC  
Barbara Levesque  
Thelma O'Grady  
David Renwick, QC  
Glen Ridgway, QC  
Ronald Tindale  
Dr. Maelor Vallance  
Anna Fung, QC (Life Bencher)

#### *Non-Benchers:*

Myron Claridge  
John Leathley, QC  
Dennis Quinlan  
Patsy Scheer

### Discipline

#### *Benchers:*

Art Vertlieb, QC (Chair)  
Robert Punnett, QC (Vice-Chair January-June),  
Kenneth Walker (Vice-Chair June-December)  
Patrick Kelly  
Stacy Kuiack  
Terence LaLiberté, QC  
Jan Lindsay, QC  
Suzette Narbonne  
Jane Shackell, QC (Life Bencher)

#### *Non-Benchers:*

Dan Bennett  
Jo Ann Carmichael, QC  
Jennifer Duncan  
Stephen Richards

### Ethics

#### *Benchers:*

Gavin Hume, QC (Chair)  
Joost Blom, QC (Vice-Chair)  
Leon Getz, QC  
David Mossop, QC  
Herman Van Ommen  
James Vilvang, QC,  
Ian Donaldson, QC (Life Bencher)  
William Sullivan, QC (Life Bencher)

#### *Non-Benchers:*

Patricia Bond  
Christine Elliott  
Peter Ramsay, QC  
Anne Stewart, QC  
Bruce Woolley, QC

### Finance

#### *Benchers:*

Glen Ridgway, QC (Chair)  
Gavin Hume, QC (Vice-Chair)  
Kathryn Berge, QC  
Stacy Kuiack  
Bruce LeRose, QC  
David Zacks, QC

### Practice Standards

#### *Benchers:*

Rita Andreone (Chair)  
Robert Brun, QC (Vice-Chair)  
Haydn Acheson  
Kathryn Berge, QC  
William Jackson, QC  
Peter Lloyd  
Meg Shaw, QC  
David Zacks, QC  
Gerald Kambeitz, QC (Life Bencher)

#### *Non-Benchers:*

Charlotte Morganti  
Mark Skwarok

### Special Compensation Fund

#### *Benchers:*

David Renwick, QC (Chair)  
Bruce LeRose, QC (Vice-Chair)  
Patrick Kelly  
Richard Stewart, QC  
Patricia Schmit, QC (Life Bencher)

#### *Non-Benchers:*

Azim Datoo, QC  
Peter Ramsay, QC

### Unauthorized Practice

#### *Benchers:*

William Jackson, QC (Chair)  
Ronald Tindale (Vice-Chair)  
Kathryn Berge, QC  
Robert Brun, QC  
Stacy Kuiack

#### *Non-Benchers:*

Fred Hansford, QC  
Roderick Henderson  
Ken Kramer  
Angela Westmacott,  
Joseph Zak

## Subcommittees

### Act and Rules

#### *Benchers:*

Leon Getz, QC (Chair)  
Rita Andreone  
David Renwick, QC

### Appointments

#### *Benchers:*

Gordon Turriff, QC (Chair)  
Robert Brun, QC  
Meg Shaw, QC

### Advisory Committees

#### Access to Legal Services

##### *Benchers:*

Robert Punnett, QC (Chair January-June)  
David Mossop, QC (Chair June-December)  
Stacy Kuiack  
Suzette Narbonne  
Glen Ridgway, QC  
Kenneth Walker

##### *Non-Benchers:*

Jane Milton, QC (Vice-Chair)  
Stanley Lanyon, QC  
Dr. Carol Matusicky  
Marina Pratchett, QC  
Wayne Robertson

#### Equity and Diversity

##### *Benchers:*

Patrick Kelly (Chair)  
Thelma O'Grady (Vice-Chair)  
Meg Shaw, QC  
Gordon Turriff, QC  
June Preston, MSW (Life Bencher)

##### *Non-Benchers:*

Jennifer Chow  
Brenda Edwards  
Elizabeth Hunt  
Lila Quastel

#### Independence and Self-Governance

##### *Benchers:*

Jan Lindsay, QC (Chair)  
James Vilvang, QC (Vice-Chair)  
Haydn Acheson  
Rita Andreone  
Terence La Liberté, QC  
Herman Van Ommen  
Art Vertlieb, QC

##### *Non-Benchers:*

Craig Dennis  
Robin Elliot  
Prof. Hamar Foster  
J. Cameron Mowatt

#### Lawyer Education

##### *Benchers:*

Bruce LeRose, QC (Chair)  
Leon Getz, QC (Vice-Chair)  
Joost Blom, QC  
Suzette Narbonne  
Thelma O'Grady  
Robert Punnett, QC  
John Hunter, QC (Life Bencher)  
Patricia Schmit, QC (Life Bencher)

##### *Non-Bencher:*

Johanne Blenkin  
Jim Herperger

### Task Forces

#### Alternative Dispute Resolution

##### *Benchers:*

Ralston Alexander, QC (Chair, Life Bencher)  
John Hunter, QC (Life Bencher)

##### *Non-Benchers:*

Stanley Lanyon, QC  
Jerry McHale, QC

#### Civil Justice Reform

##### *Benchers:*

Joost Blom, QC (Chair)  
Jan Lindsay, QC  
Robert Punnett, QC  
Meg Shaw, QC  
Gordon Turriff, QC,  
Art Vertlieb, QC  
John Hunter, QC (Life Bencher)

#### Delivery of Legal Services

##### *Benchers:*

Art Vertlieb, QC (Chair)  
Haydn Acheson  
Carol Hickman  
William Jackson, QC  
David Mossop, QC  
Robert Punnett, QC  
James Vilvang, QC

##### *Non-Bencher:*

Stanley Lanyon, QC

#### Family Law

##### *Benchers:*

Carol Hickman (Chair)  
Kathryn Berge, QC  
Joost Blom, QC  
Robert Punnett, QC  
Meg Shaw, QC  
Richard Stewart, QC  
Dr. Maelor Vallance  
Patricia Schmit, QC (Life Bencher)

#### Retention of Women in Law

##### *Benchers:*

Kathryn Berge, QC (Chair)  
Gavin Hume, QC  
Jan Lindsay, QC  
Richard Stewart, QC

##### *Non-Benchers:*

Jennifer Conkie, QC  
Anne Giardini, QC  
Rosanne Kyle  
Maria Morellato, QC  
Elizabeth Vogt

### Equity Ombudsperson



The Law Society provides BC law firms with the services of Equity Ombudsperson, Anne Bhanu Chopra.

Lawyers, articled students or staff who may be experiencing harassment or inequity in a legal workplace may contact Ms. Chopra for confidential and non-judgmental support. Ms. Chopra also helps law firms prevent discrimination, resolve concerns over possible discrimination, and promote a healthy work environment.

## LIFE BENCHERS

Arthur M. Harper, QC  
(1959-1969)

The Honourable Charles C. Locke, QC  
(1961-1973)

The Honourable A. Brian B. Carrothers, QC  
(1963-1973)

The Honourable Kenneth E. Meredith  
(1964-1973)

The Honourable Peter J. Millward, QC  
(1965-1975)

The Honourable Hugh P. Legg, QC  
(1969-1976)

The Honourable Mary F. Southin, QC  
(1971-1980)

Norman Severide, QC  
(1975-1981)

H. Allan Hope, QC  
(1974-1982)

Brian W.F. McLoughlin, QC  
(1974-1984)

The Honourable Thomas R. Braidwood, QC  
(1973-1975; 1979-1985)

The Honourable Jack L.T. Edwards, QC  
(1978-1985)

The Honourable Dr. James J. Gow, QC  
(1978-1985)

The Honourable Mr. Justice Bruce I. Cohen  
(1978-1986)

Marvin R.V. Storrow, QC  
(1980-1987)

Dennis J. Mitchell, QC  
(1980-1988)

R. Paul Beckmann, QC  
(1980-1989)

Robert M. Dick, QC  
(1983-1991)

The Honourable Mr. Justice Peter Leask  
(1984-1992)

Brian J. Wallace, QC  
(1985-1993)

John M. Hogg, QC  
(1984-1993)

P. Michael Bolton, QC  
(1985-1993)

The Honourable Mr. Justice Robert T.C. Johnston  
(1986-1994)

The Honourable Mr. Justice Grant D. Burnyeat  
(1988-1995)

Donald A. Silversides, QC  
(1984-1995)

Gary L.F. Somers, QC  
(1984-1995)

James M. MacIntyre, QC  
(1986-1995)

Cecil O.D. Branson, QC  
(1988-1995)

Alan E. Vanderburgh, QC  
(1989-1995)

Karen F. Nordlinger, QC  
(1988-1996)

Benjamin B. Trevino, QC  
(1991-1997)

Richard C.C. Peck, QC  
(1988-1997)

Leonard T. Doust, QC  
(1990-1997)

William M. Trotter, QC  
(1990-1997)

Trudi L. Brown, QC  
(1992-1998)

Warren T. Wilson, QC  
(1991-1999)

The Honourable Ujjal Dosanjh, QC  
(1995-2000)

Karl F. Warner, QC  
(1994-2000)

Richard S. Margetts, QC  
(1995-2001)

Gerald J. Lecovin, QC  
(1994-2001)

Emily M. Reid, QC  
(1994-2001)

Jane S. Shackell, QC  
(1994-2001)

Ann Howard  
(1992-2002)

Marjorie Martin, MSW  
(1992-2002)

Richard C. Gibbs, QC  
(1996-2002)

Howard R. Berge, QC  
(1992-2003)

Russell S. Tretiak, QC  
(1992-2003)

Robert D. Diebolt, QC  
(1996-2003)

Gerald J. Kambeitz, QC  
(1996-2003)

G. Ronald Toews, QC  
(1996-2003)

William J. Sullivan, QC  
(1997-2003)

Master Peter J. Keighley  
(1996-2004)

William M. Everett, QC  
(1998-2004)

Ralston S. Alexander, QC  
(1999-2005)

Patricia L. Schmit, QC  
(1998-2005)

Ross D. Tunnicliffe  
(1998-1999; 2000-2005)

Robert W. McDiarmid, QC  
(1998-2006)

Anna K. Fung, QC  
(1998-2007)

Ian Donaldson, QC  
(2000-2007)

June Preston, MSW  
(2001-2008)

John J.L. Hunter, QC  
(2002-2008)



The Law Society  
*of British Columbia*



845 Cambie Street, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada V6B 4Z9

Telephone 604-669-2533 | Facsimile 604-669-5232

Toll-free within BC 1-800-903-5300 | TTY 604-443-5700

[lawsociety.bc.ca](http://lawsociety.bc.ca)