



January 19, 2022

Sent via email

Lisa Dumbrell
415 5th Street East
North Vancouver, BC V7L 1M3

Dear Lisa:

Lisa Hamilton, QC
President

Re: 2022 Mandate for Access to Justice Advisory Committee

Office Telephone
604.605.5394
Office Email
president@lsbc.org

Thank you for agreeing to accept the appointment as Chair of the Access to Justice Advisory Committee for 2022.

The 2021-2025 Strategic Plan and the Terms of Reference along with the particular priorities outlined below should guide the Access to Justice Advisory Committee in its work this year.

The mandate of the Access to Justice Advisory Committee is:

Access to justice is an existential issue for the legal profession in British Columbia and requires that the Law Society actively engage in review and reform of the administration of justice to ensure that it works for all citizens of British Columbia. The Committee should monitor and advise the Benchers about key access to justice issues, with particular emphasis on access to legal services, and on legal aid issues and recommend to the Benchers as necessary actions or initiatives to address issues as they arise. This advisory function supports the Law Society's strategic planning process and the Vision for Publicly Funded Legal Aid and ensures the Society is addressing its part in ensuring access to justice.

I expect that you will ensure that all members of the Access to Justice Advisory Committee understand the Terms of Reference, the Benchers Code of Conduct and the Law Society's workplace policies and abide by them. I also expect that in your deliberations and decisions, the Access to Justice Advisory Committee will expressly include consideration of the goals of facilitation of truth and reconciliation and diversity and inclusion. Finally, I

expect that you will ensure the Access to Justice Advisory Committee acts in the public interest and makes data-driven, evidence-based decisions that take into account the impact of the decisions on the public and the profession.

In particular, please keep in mind that the Benchers have directed that:

- a) Bencher committees are to help the Benchers do their job, not to help the staff do its jobs. Committees ordinarily will assist the Benchers by preparing policy alternatives and implications for Bencher deliberation.
- b) Bencher committees do not exercise authority over staff.
- c) In keeping with the Benchers' broader focus, Bencher committees will normally not have direct dealings with current staff operations.

I expect you and the members of Access to Justice Advisory Committee will work in a professional and respectful manner with our staff.

During 2022, I would like to see the Access to Justice Advisory Committee make substantial progress on the following:

1. *Consider how to encourage the profession to provide more pro bono legal services, including whether pro bono work should count towards lawyers' annual continuing legal education requirements and if so provide recommendations to the board by April 2022.*
2. *Consider ways to promote, improve and increase access to unbundled services and make any necessary recommendations to the board.*
3. *Consider whether there is sufficient evidence in respect of the scope and nature of unmet needs for legal services in British Columbia, including the extent that unmet needs may undermine the goals of facilitating both truth and reconciliation and equity, diversity and inclusion and if the Committee concludes there is not sufficient evidence, and make recommendations to the board on obtaining the necessary information.*
4. *Consider how the Law Society should engage government to create an improved network for the provision of legal aid, including the provision of "triage hubs" and make any necessary recommendations to the board.*

5. *Continue to provide input as needed regarding the implementation of any approved recommendations contained in the Committee's report on COVID Measures and Barriers to Access.*
6. *Continue to provide input as needed regarding the implementation of the approved recommendations contained in the Committee's October 2021 report to the board on Increasing Access to Non-adversarial Processes in Family Law Matters.*
7. *Prepare a workplan for the committee for 2022 which sets out what the committee plans to accomplish and the dates for doing so and submit to the Executive Committee by March 30, 2022. The workplan is intended to be a plan, not a commitment, so it should be both reasonably aspirational and achievable.*
8. *Prepare and submit to the Executive Committee by December 9, 2022, an updated workplan for the committee which sets out what the committee has accomplished in 2022, and provide a draft, suggested workplan for the committee for 2023, including both what the committee believes it should accomplish and the dates for doing so next year.*

I look forward to hearing about the work of Access to Justice Advisory Committee over the balance of the year and trust that you and the Access to Justice Advisory Committee will make substantial progress on the matters I've suggested in this letter.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Lisa Hamilton', with a stylized, cursive script.

Lisa Hamilton, QC
President, Law Society of BC