



January 22, 2021

Sent via email

Elizabeth Rowbotham
Ministry of Justice - Legal Services
1301 - 865 Hornby Street
Vancouver V6Z 2G3

Dear Elizabeth:

Re: 2021 Mandate for Act and Rules Committee

Dean Lawton, QC
President

Thank you for agreeing to accept the appointment as Chair of the Act and Rules Committee for 2021.

Office Telephone
604.605.5394
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president@lsbc.org

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

The mandate from the Terms of Reference for the Act and Rules Committee is:

The Act and Rules Committee implements decisions by the Benchers that require amendments to the Legal Profession Act (the “Act”) and the Law Society Rules (the “Rules”). The Committee also monitors the Act and Rules with the view to correcting non-substantive errors and generally identifying and recommending non-substantive improvements to the Act and the Rules. The goal is to have Rules that are easy to navigate and easy to understand for all users.

I expect that you will guide the Act and Rules Committee in its work over the year in a manner that reflects its terms of reference, the Benchers Code of Conduct and the Benchers governance policies regarding committees, always ensuring we remain committed to evidence-based decision-making that takes into consideration the impacts of policies on our members and the public and that we act in the public interest.

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

- a) Benchers 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 Benchers deliberation.

- b) Benchers committees do not exercise authority over staff.
- c) In keeping with the Benchers' broader focus, Benchers committees will normally not have direct dealings with current staff operations.

I expect you and the members of Act and Rules Committee to work in a professional and respectful manner with the staff assigned to support the Committee.

During 2021, I would like to see the Act and Rules Committee make substantial progress on the following priorities:

1. *Consider recommendations to the Benchers to ensure internal consistency in the Rules; assess and update defined terms in the Rules as the committee may recommend; and*
2. *In the event Rule changes are recommended or directed by the Benchers during the year and sent to the committee for drafting, examine those changes in the context of existing Rules with the objective of avoiding inconsistencies, ambiguities, or unintended consequences.*

As Chair of Act and Rules Committee, please ensure that all members of the Act and Rules Committee understand they are expected to abide by the Benchers Code of Conduct and the Law Society's workplace policies and that the Act and Rules Committee is expected to act within its Terms of Reference.

I look forward to hearing about the work of Act and Rules Committee over the balance of the year and trust that you and the Act and Rules Committee will make substantial progress on the priorities in this letter.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Lawton', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Dean Lawton, QC
President, Law Society of BC