The Law Society of British Columbia

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Sent via email

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Dear Steve:

Re: 2022 Mandate for Credentials Committee

Thank you for agreeing to accept the appointment as Chair of the Credentials Committee for 2022.

The 2021-2025 Strategic Plan and the Terms of Reference should guide the Credentials Committee in its work this year.

The mandate of the Credentials Committee is:

The Credentials Committee has the statutory responsibility for overseeing the enrolment, education, examination and call to the bar of articled students, the transfer of lawyers to B.C. and the reinstatement of former lawyers. When the character or fitness of an applicant for admission, readmission or transfer needs to be addressed, the Committee considers the application directly or orders a formal credentials hearing. The Committee is also responsible for reviewing applications relating to a student's failed standing in PLTC and for considering any matters arising from the articling system. The Committee further assists the Benchers in setting credentials policy and ensuring that this policy is adhered to and assists in credentials program planning, evaluation and budget.

I expect that you will ensure that all members of the Credentials Committee understand the Terms of Reference, the Bencher Code of Conduct and the Law Society's workplace policies and abide by them. I also expect that in

your deliberations and decisions, the Credentials 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 Credentials Committee acts in the public interest and makes 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 Credentials Committee will work in a professional and respectful manner with our staff.

I look forward to hearing about the work of Credentials Committee over the balance of the year.

Yours truly,

Lisa Hamilton, QC
President, Law Society of BC