



January 22, 2021

Sent via email

W. Martin Finch, QC
Baker Newby LLP
9259 Main Street
P.O. Box 390
Chilliwack V2P 6K2

Dear Martin:

Re: 2021 Mandate for Discipline Committee

Thank you for agreeing to accept the appointment as Chair of the Discipline Committee for 2021.

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

The mandate from the Terms of Reference for the Discipline Committee is:

The Discipline Committee reviews and assesses complaints regarding alleged misconduct by and incompetence of lawyers, former lawyers, visiting lawyers, articulated students and practitioners of foreign law and determining the appropriate disposition of complaints. The Committee also approves or rejects proposed consent resolutions of citations and determines various applications made under the Rules or referred by the President. The Committee does not make policy and all policy issues are referred to the Executive Committee.

I expect that you will guide the Discipline 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:

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President

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- 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 Discipline 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 Discipline Committee make substantial progress on the following priority:

Continue to assist the CLO and staff in bringing forward any necessary Rule changes to continue to improve the professional conduct process.

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

I look forward to hearing about the work of Discipline Committee over the balance of the year and trust that you and the Discipline 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 long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dean Lawton, QC
President, Law Society of BC