



January 22, 2021

Sent via email

Jeevyn Dhaliwal, QC
Larlee Rosenberg, Barristers & Solicitors
Suite 600, Randall Building
555 West Georgia Street
Vancouver V6B 1Z5

Dear Jeevyn:

Re: 2021 Mandate for Ethics Committee

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

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

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

The Ethics Committee identifies issues of professional responsibility and develops recommendations on policies concerning substantive matters of professional responsibility for consideration by the Benchers. The Committee also interprets existing rules and provides advice to individual members and to the members at large on matters of professional responsibility and publishes Committee opinions of general interest to members in the Benchers' Bulletin.

I expect that you will guide the Ethics 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 Ethics 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 Ethics Committee make substantial progress on the following priority:

Examine the commentaries to the Code of Professional Conduct for B.C. and update them as necessary to reflect current case authorities and Law Society Rules, keeping in mind the role of the Federation of Law Societies of Canada in relation to the Model Code of Professional Conduct.

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

I look forward to hearing about the work of Ethics Committee over the balance of the year and trust that you and the Ethics 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