



January 22, 2021

**Sent via email**

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

**Dean Lawton, QC**  
President

Dear Jeevyn:

**Re: 2021 Mandate for Governance Committee**

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

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

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

*The mandate of the Governance Committee is to assist the Benchers in meeting their governance obligations by reviewing and advising the Benchers about governance policy and practice. The Governance Committee develops for consideration by the Benchers governance policies, practices and standards that promote and enhance effective Benchers, committee and task force deliberation, decision-making and conduct so as to ensure the Law Society fulfills its mandate.*

I expect that you will guide the Governance 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) 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 Governance 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 Governance Committee make substantial progress on the following priorities:

- 1. Review the compensation currently provided to the President and the Vice-Presidents, appointed Benchers and Tribunal Members, and consider whether there should be compensation for elected Benchers, and make recommendations to the Benchers.*
- 2. Consider the issue of changing the title "Bencher" as set out in the Legal Profession Act, to "Governor"; addressing the merits of doing so, and the process, steps, and timing needed to effect such possible change and make recommendations to the Benchers.*
- 3. Consider modernizing the Law Society's crest, and Latin motto, with consultation from lawyers in the province, and as necessary seek advice from experts, on possible alternatives to the current crest and motto and make recommendations to the Benchers.*

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

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

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Lawton". The signature is stylized with large, overlapping loops for the first few letters and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dean Lawton, QC  
President, Law Society of BC