



January 22, 2021

Sent via email

Steven R. McKoen, QC
Blakes, Cassels & Graydon LLP
Suite 2600, 595 Burrard Street
P.O. Box 49314, 3 Bentall Centre
Vancouver V7X 1L3

Dear Steve:

Re: 2021 Mandate for Lawyer Development Task Force

Thank you for agreeing to accept the appointment as Chair of the Lawyer Development Task Force for 2021.

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

The mandate from the Terms of Reference for the Lawyer Development Task Force is:

A comprehensive and effective system for the development and maintenance of a competent, independent and honourable bar in British Columbia is a necessary element in protecting the public interest in the administration of justice. To that end, the Task Force will undertake an evaluation of what will be required in the future to ensure the development and maintenance of a well-educated and qualified bar to serve the public of British Columbia. The Task Force should consider the entire education and development life cycle of a lawyer rather than looking at educational programs and activities in isolation without considering how they interact. The Task Force will complete the review of the admission program currently underway while also looking at our pre-call education requirements and programs in light of developments in other Canadian jurisdictions, our continuing professional development program and the issues of re-certification and specialization.

I expect that you will guide the Lawyer Development Task Force in its work over the year in a manner that reflects its terms of reference, the Bencher

Dean Lawton, QC
President

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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 Lawyer Development Task Force to work in a professional and respectful manner with the staff assigned to support the Task Force.

During 2021, I would like to see the Lawyer Development Task Force make substantial progress on the following priorities:

1. *Review the results of surveys of current and recent articulated students, and survey responses from law firms, regarding the subject matter of Member Resolution #3 at the Law Society's 2020 Annual General Meeting and report back to Benchers no later than September 24, 2021 with recommendations regarding any proposed Rule changes, modifications to model articling agreements and any proposals with respect to Law Society expectations of principals.*
2. *As directed by the Benchers at the September 25, 2020 meeting, explore further, and report back to the Benchers, with recommendations regarding pathways to licensing that could be developed and implemented as alternatives to the current articling experience.*
3. *In considering pathways to licensing, consider an observation from Chief Justice Bauman regarding the different qualification expectations across Canadian jurisdictions of students completing judicial clerkships and make recommendations to Benchers as to whether any modifications should be made to Rule 2-63.*

4. *With support from the Chief Executive Officer and the Senior Director of Credentials, Professional Development and Practice Support, conduct an assessment of the Law Society's Professional Legal Training Course program and report back to Benchers on whether the current 10 consecutive week model remains the most effective vehicle for entry to practice education.*

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

I look forward to hearing about the work of Lawyer Development Task Force over the balance of the year and trust that you and the Lawyer Development Task Force 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