



January 22, 2021

Sent via email

Jacqueline G. McQueen, QC
Aaron Gordon Daykin Nordlinger LLP
1100-777 Hornby Street
Vancouver V6Z 1S4

Dear Jacqui:

Re: 2021 Mandate for Practice Standards Committee

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

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

The mandate from the Terms of Reference for the Practice Standards Committee is:

The Practice Standards Committee has a statutory responsibility to investigate the competence of lawyers brought to its attention, and to recommend to those lawyers the steps they should take to improve their knowledge, attitude or skill in practising law. The Committee deals with those lawyers who appear to have fallen below appropriate standards of competence. The Committee also approves programs and activities directed to lawyers requiring remediation, and to all practicing lawyers to assist lawyers to become and remain competent in their chosen fields of practice.

I expect that you will guide the Practice Standards 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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- 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 Practice Standards 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 Practice Standards Committee make substantial progress on the following priority:

With the assistance of the CLO and staff, continue the work started last year in considering whether the current Practice Standards model is achieving the expected results based on the available data and evidence, and if not, consider whether there is a better model.

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

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