



Governance Committee

Terms of Reference

Updated: October 2015

Mandate

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 Bencher, committee and task force deliberation, decision-making and conduct so as to ensure the Law Society fulfills its mandate.

Composition

1. The Committee shall include at least one member from among the President, Vice-Presidents and the President-Elect, two other elected Benchers and at least one appointed Bencher.
2. The Committee shall meet as required.
3. Quorum is at least half the members of the Committee (Rule 1-16(1)).

Meeting Practices

The Committee shall operate in a manner that is consistent with the Benchers' governance policies.

Accountability

The Committee is accountable to the Benchers as a whole.

Reporting Requirements

The Chair shall report regularly to the Benchers on the work of the Committee and the Committee shall provide written recommendations and reports to the Benchers as and when required to fulfill the Committee's mandate.

Duties and Responsibilities

The Governance Committee shall develop recommendations for the Benchers and regularly review:

1. The Bencher governance manual documenting the Bencher governance policies and procedures;
2. The Bencher's current approach to governance to ensure the Benchers are aware of governance trends and best practices;
3. The mandate of the Law Society, the position descriptions of the President and Benchers and the terms of reference for the Committees;
4. The essential and desired experiences and skills for Benchers;
5. The orientation, training, coaching, and mentoring for Benchers to develop their skills as Benchers;
6. The evaluation process for the Benchers;
7. The criteria Benchers consider government should apply when selecting appointed Benchers;
8. The Conflict of Interest guidelines and policies; and
9. The adequacy of the quality, timeliness and relevance of information provided to the Benchers and Committees.