

Lawyer Development Task Force

Terms of Reference

Updated: January 2020

Mandate

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.

Composition

1. Under Rule 1-49, the President may appoint any person as a member of a committee of the Benchers and may terminate the appointment.
2. The Chair of the Task Force must be a Bencher and should include some members who have knowledge and experience with current lawyer development programs.

Meeting Practices

1. The Task Force shall operate in a manner that is consistent with the Benchers' Governance Policies.
2. The Task Force shall meet as required.
3. Quorum consists of at least half of the members of the Task Force.

Accountability

The Task Force is accountable to the Benchers. The Task Force is responsible for fulfilling its mandate and such other tasks as the Benchers may assign during the tenure of the Task Force. If the Task Force requires direction in relation to its mandate, duties or responsibilities, the Task Force will advise the Benchers.

Reporting Requirements

The Task Force is expected to keep the Benchers advised of its progress in fulfilling its mandate and to provide a final report by July 2021.

Duties and Responsibilities

1. Take an evidenced-based data-driven outcomes-focused approach to the matters identified in the mandate and to any recommendations to the Benchers that it may make;
2. Identify the core professional competencies lawyers must possess at the various stages of their development in order to inform the educational and experiential requirements necessary to develop a well-educated and qualified BC bar;
3. Consider whether the current educational and development programs and processes develop and maintain those professional competencies lawyers must possess;
4. Take into account the work of the Federation of Law Societies of Canada, other law societies and legal professional organizations on the matters identified in the mandate;
5. Identify stakeholders in the future of the legal education in British Columbia and consult with those stakeholders, other professional organizations and experts as appropriate to ensure a broad engagement on the matters identified in the mandate; and
6. Ensure the work of the Task Force provides for input from the public, Law Society members and the Benchers in regard to matters within the Task Force's mandate.