



## **November 16, 2021 Bencher Election – County of Kamloops**

### **Candidate biographies and statements**

The candidates were invited to submit biographical information and an election statement. The views expressed are those of the candidates and do not reflect the official policy or position of the Law Society.

Candidates are listed in order of their appearance on the ballot, as determined by drawing of lots, pursuant to Rule 1-28.

### **Candidate information for District 9 – County of Kamloops**

- COOK, Camille
- CARTER, Kim
- PAUL, David A., QC



**COOK, Camille**

Called to the Bar: 2014

Ministry of Attorney General

Email: [camille.cook@gov.bc.ca](mailto:camille.cook@gov.bc.ca)

**BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

I have embraced life in Kamloops since moving here from Vancouver in 2014 for a position with the British Columbia Prosecution Service (“BCPS”). Prior to working with BCPS, I articulated for a small criminal defence firm.

My passion for providing advocacy on behalf of the vulnerable started long before law school. I worked as an advocate for indigenous accused persons and was a mental health advocate for mentally compromised accused persons in Provincial Court. These opportunities have provided me with experience and perspective on how our courts work and how lawyers can do better to protect vulnerable members of society.

I strongly believe in the importance of supporting young lawyers who are passionate about advocacy. I volunteer as a mentor for students at Thompson Rivers University Law school.

I have sought to ensure that I am up to date with evolving legislation and that remote communities and minorities can have access to justice through my work as a member of various resource counsel groups and committees with BCPS, including the Bilingual Prosecution team, Circuit Court committee, and the Indigenous Court program.

I have always felt a responsibility to work hard and remain open-minded over the course of my career.

**ELECTION STATEMENT**

Since the by-election, I have continued to build on the skills and experience needed to be your local Bencher. I have also used this time to gather feedback from lawyers in our community to help make me a better representative. Throughout my practice I have prided myself on being a mentor to younger lawyers and being an approachable and reliable colleague. As a criminal litigator and a woman, I can provide a unique voice and

experience to the Law Society. I am keenly aware that there are many issues that affect lawyers in British Columbia, and ultimately the public, but will focus here on just a few that are particularly meaningful to me.

### **Access to Justice**

As a Bencher, I will ensure that the Law Society continues to be focused on improving legal aid funding. Without adequate funding, we as a society are allowing an injustice to continue to unfold against those vulnerable citizens who desperately need our help. Our courts are overwhelmed by criminal, family and immigration issues which could be unburdened by adequately resourced lawyers. We are doing a disservice to the public if we do not continue to advocate for improved funding.

### **Equity and Diversity**

The population of British Columbia has changed over the last few decades and will only continue to do so as time goes on. To be representative of this population, the Law Society must ensure that it continues to support diversity and equity in our profession. As a Franco-British Columbian and female Bencher, I will continue to ensure that it does.

### **Mental Health**

This profession takes its toll on all of us, and those with mental health challenges are amongst those who suffer the most. The Law Society must continue to support and educate its members about the importance of maintaining healthy minds. Without this support, lawyers are doing a disservice to themselves, their families and ultimately the public. As a Bencher, I will advocate for continued mental wellness support and education for its members.

I am passionate about the law and the people who practice it. I would be honoured to serve my colleagues as a Bencher.

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**CARTER, Kim**

Called to the Bar: 2008

Legal Aid BC

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**BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

Kim Carter was called to the bar in Saskatchewan and British Columbia in 2008. Kim has practised in the areas of family law and child protection both as an associate and sole practitioner. Kim joined Legal Aid BC in 2019 and currently is the Managing Lawyer for the Parents Legal Centre.

Elected as Bencher in the June 2021 by-election, Kim currently is a member of the Credentials Committee and the Unauthorized Practice Committee.

In her professional capacity, Kim is a member of the Canadian Bar Association and is a participant in the Family Court Users committee. She frequently guest lectures at Thompson Rivers University Faculty of Law, and has participated as a keynote speaker for the Federation of Asian Canadian Lawyers BC Chapter. Kim has provided mentorship through the CBA Women Lawyers Forum and continues to provide mentorship through the CBA mentorship program. Kim also volunteers with TRU Pro Bono Students Canada.

In her community, Kim is on the Board of Directors for the Adoptive Families Association of British Columbia. She has volunteered with Motion of Colour, an organization that promotes racial equality and social justice.

Outside of work, she enjoys crossfit, hiking and spending time with her two boys.

**ELECTION STATEMENT**

In June of 2021, I was honoured to be elected as the bencher for Kamloops. I am seeking re-election, and I ask you to vote for me once again so I can continue to work with and for you as your representative at the Law Society of BC.

I'll begin by providing you with information about my background. I grew up in Kamloops, and I have spent the entirety of my 13-year law career here practising both family and child protection law, albeit in a variety of settings. I have been a sole practitioner, an associate lawyer in a small firm, and I am currently the managing lawyer with the Parents Legal Centre (PLC), a division of Legal Aid BC.

Since I was elected Bencher in the June 2021 election, I have been hard at work on your behalf with the Law Society. I currently sit on the Credentials committee and the Unauthorized Practice committee. During meetings, I have been a voice for the Kamloops Bar, reminding the Law Society how certain policies and proposals will impact lawyers and students in smaller centres differently than lawyers and students practising in larger centres. My lived and professional experience has enabled me to understand, appreciate and have a broader perspective in participating in the discussions and the decision making process.

Additionally, the Law Society has been proactively addressing mental health and mental health supports in our profession. The pandemic has made us all too aware of how our mental health is affected when we are worn down by the pressures of our practice but also dealing with unprecedented situations. If I am re-elected I hope to contribute to the Mental Health Task Force, as well as continue to advocate for mental health supports that are tailored to the needs of Kamloops lawyers (ie. engaging local supports) as well as continue to provide information on resources such as the Lawyer Assistance Program (LAP).

Here in Kamloops, I have organized opportunities for professional development such as the Bencher Lunch-and-Learns. I have met with lawyers and students personally to become better aware of the issues and concerns practitioners (be it the solicitors, litigators, or mediators) are facing.

As a racialized women, single mother, and lawyer who works for Legal Aid BC, there are issues that I am passionate about on both a personal and professional level. Weaving the principles of Truth and Reconciliation into the practise of law, increasing access to justice, the retention of women in the practise of law, and increasing equity, diversity and inclusion in our profession are matters that, if I am re-elected, I intend on developing or supporting initiatives that increase inclusion and fairness in both our profession and our community.

Please cast your vote for me in the upcoming election. I am eager to continue the work I have begun on your behalf, and to be your voice at the Law Society of BC. Thank you so much.

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**PAUL, David A., QC**

Called to the Bar: 1987

Paul and Company

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Website: [www.kamloopslaw.com](http://www.kamloopslaw.com)

**BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

As a lifelong Kamloops resident, my legal resume spans 34 years of practice and service to our profession and community. Besides running a busy litigation and mediation practice, I have served broadly in professional roles including President of the Kamloops Bar Association, President of the BC Branch of the CBA, and President of the Lawyers Assistance Program of BC. I have also led two national conferences of the CBA.

My practice and academic articles span a similar breadth and include publications in Canadian Lawyer Magazine, The Lawyers Weekly, The Advocate, Bar Talk, and the Harvard Negotiation Law Review. Additionally, I have presented at CLEs sponsored by the Kamloops Bar Association, CBA, CLEBC, Mediate BC, the Law Society of British Columbia, Trial Lawyers Association of BC, BC Courthouse Libraries, and the International Academy of Mediators.

For over a decade, I instructed TRU students in the areas of criminal law, family law, fundamental legal skills, and dispute resolution. I have also mentored students and young lawyers and served the community through pro bono assistance to Japanese Canadians respecting redress applications. Additionally, I served as a board member on the Thompson Rivers University Foundation Board, including two terms as chair.

**ELECTION STATEMENT**

The interests of our profession parallel the interests of society generally. Benchers best protect the public through encouraging and supporting a strong, vibrant, inclusive, and respected profession. The Law Society best achieves this goal by allowing us to serve our clients while promoting competency, efficiency, and effectiveness. Over-regulation can translate into increased legal costs and less public benefit. My experience informs a view that a mindful and respectful approach is required in the role of bencher. The time has

come for me to use my experience to advocate for an effective law society and to foster professional growth for both new and experienced lawyers by guiding them in their relations with our regulating body.

As a litigator, I share the struggles we have experienced in providing access to justice due to the lack of legal aid funding and, more recently, the introduction of no-fault insurance. My work with Lawyers Assistance Programs across Canada has helped me appreciate how a legal career can impact a colleague's physical and mental health. I also understand the positive difference a knowledgeable mentor can have on a lawyer's life and career. As a bencher, I will continue to support programs that promote health, happiness, and work-life balance.

Employing and mentoring articling students and associates has allowed me to recognize and value what we can all gain from fresh and diverse perspectives. Through my role as CBABC president, I encouraged and supported the inclusion of a young lawyers' and equality representative on the board. Promoting inclusivity, diversity, and equality improves access to justice, creates new opportunities, fosters better employee engagement and retention, and translates into happiness and success within our members' workplace and personal lives. Benchers serve as important sounding boards for lawyers early in their careers. As your representative, I will continue to support those efforts which attract diverse candidates by removing barriers and positioning all lawyers with the opportunity to flourish within the profession.

We share a duty to protect the public from unqualified practitioners because we share a value that only competent and ethical lawyers should represent clients. We recognize that non-lawyers lack our competence, training, and professional standards. As professionals, we promote the effective administration of justice through our education, training, and ongoing skills development. Our independent professional society ensures we meet standards related to lawyer-client privilege and confidentiality and the management of trust monies. We carry professional liability insurance and contribute to a victim compensation fund to address rare instances of misappropriation. As your bencher, I will continue the LSBC's efforts to develop policies designed to improve access to justice through the use of lawyers while preventing unqualified and uninsured individuals from offering legal services.

Benchers make significant decisions about the practice of law. My experience and commitment to my community, the profession, legal education, access to justice, and lawyers' health and well-being will serve me well in the role of bencher.

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