



November 16, 2021 Bencher Election – County of Vancouver

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 1 – County of Vancouver

- D'SA, Cheryl
- GREENBERG, Brook, QC
- ARAM, Nazanin
- CHAMBERLAIN, Tanya
- PORRITT, Julian R.
- YEUNG, Gaynor C.
- DUMBRELL, Lisa
- RUSS, Kelly Harvey
- HARRY, Katrina
- CHOW, Jennifer, QC
- BLAIR, Chase
- CALLAN, Tara
- LEE, Kyla
- WESTELL, Kevin B.
- MCKOEN, Steven, QC
- MCQUEEN, Jacqueline G., QC



D'SA, CHERYL

Called to the Bar: 2008

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BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

A first generation Canadian, born and raised in Vancouver, I attended law school at UBC and was called to the Bar in 2008. I summered, articulated and practiced at a mid-sized firm before joining a plaintiff only firm. In 2013 I joined my partner to start our own firm, Narwal Litigation LLP, where I remain today as the Managing Partner. The firm is devoted to criminal defence, personal injury, professional regulation and securities litigation. I am also a mediator.

I was the first visible minority female president of the Vancouver Bar Association. For several years, I was Chair of the CBABC Solo & Small Firm Section and have held appointments to CBABC committees.

I have been a principal to several articulated students and a mentor to first-year law students, WLF members, and a guest mentor for FACL BC. I have been a guest speaker for CBABC, TLABC, SABABC and the Advocates' Society, among others. I was also a panelist for Allard Law's Mawhinney Lecture.

Business In Vancouver named me one of the Top Forty Under 40 (2019) and I received an Excellence Award in the category of Female Trailblazer of the Year (2021) by Canadian Lawyer Magazine's Canadian Law Awards.

ELECTION STATEMENT

I was elected a bencher for Vancouver County in May 2020. As an incumbent bencher, I believe my voice remains important at the table. The LSBC needs to take a more active role around the issue of Retention of Women. I have suggested and begun working on steps the LSBC should take in this respect and would be grateful for an opportunity to continue this work. Having experienced the challenges of maintaining a full-time practice while being a mother and business owner, I have a unique perspective at the bencher table. I am currently the only incumbent Vancouver County bencher with a child who is 5 or under. I understand how challenging the pandemic was, particularly on those caring

for young children and elders, and the ongoing stress worrying how our children will cope emotionally, socially and academically as the pandemic continues. I was grateful for the opportunity to co-host the LSBC's Mental Health Roundtable in May.

There are also many lawyers like me who have been greatly affected by the no-fault regime and have had to pivot practice areas. This group needs a voice at the bench table. If the LSBC seeks intervenor status in the ongoing TLABC litigation, I believe my perspective as a former insurance defence lawyer and current plaintiff lawyer will be helpful. I also understand that many lawyers who have changed practice areas or become sole practitioners out of necessity may not be fully aware of their new obligations, and the LSBC needs to be more proactive in their communications, routinely highlighting the free resources available with detailed and practical information on common disciplinary issues from trust accounting to juricert passwords. I believe in prevention and not just after the fact discipline.

As a bencher in 2020, I was appointed to Practice Standards, Access to Justice and Complainants' Review Committees. In 2021, in addition to Practice Standards, I also serve on the Equity, Diversity & Inclusion and Rule of Law Committees. I have taken many time-sensitive calls from lawyers, completed numerous articulated student interviews and conduct reviews. In my articulated student interviews, we speak about resources for practice help, lawyer wellness, the importance of professional development, mentoring and the need for our profession to do more pro bono work. We also discuss specific organizations the student may wish to join depending on whether they hope to become a litigator or solicitor to give them a network of support. I am also very willing to speak about my experiences in the profession as a parent and a visible minority. The time commitment as a bencher is often upwards of 30 volunteer hours a month and I continue to view it as a privilege to serve in this role. I would very much appreciate an opportunity to be a continued part of the table as the LSBC takes steps forward on Mental Health, Truth & Reconciliation, EDI, and Access to Justice. The public is best served by a strong and healthy profession that reflects its diversity.

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GREENBERG, Brook, QC

Called to the Bar: 1998

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BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Brook has served as an elected Bencher for Vancouver County since 2016.

He has been a member of the Litigation Department of Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP since being called to the bar in 1998. Prior to articling, Brook clerked at the B.C. Court of Appeal.

Brook’s practice focuses on complex commercial, construction, and forestry litigation. He has appeared before all levels of court, including the Supreme Court of Canada.

Brook has been the partner responsible for *pro bono* matters in Fasken’s Vancouver office for the past 14 years.

He teaches Civil Procedure as an adjunct professor at the University of British Columbia, and has done so since 2006.

From 2005 to 2012, Brook served on the board of directors of MOSAIC, a not-for-profit provider of settlement and support services for immigrants and refugees. He also served as Vice-President, President and Past-President of MOSAIC.

Brook has volunteered with the Law Students’ Legal Advice Program (“LSLAP”) since 1993, as a student clinician, clinic head and executive member, and then as a supervising lawyer at various clinics. From 2012 to present he has served as a board member, Secretary/Treasurer, President and Past-President of the Greater Vancouver Law Students’ Legal Advice Society.

ELECTION STATEMENT

Throughout my practice, community activities, and prior terms as a Bencher, I have been committed to fostering professionalism, collegiality, access to justice, and an inclusive profession. I seek re-election to a final term as a Bencher to continue to promote these values.

I have served in a number of LSBC leadership positions, including: Chair and Vice-Chair of the Discipline Committee, Vice-Chair of the Lawyer Development Task Force, and Vice-Chair of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee. I have also been a member of other LSBC committees including: Ethics; Lawyer Education Advisory; Access to Legal Services Advisory; and Unauthorized Practice. I am familiar with and have a strong understanding of the LSBC's role in regulating the profession.

My primary focus as a Bencher has been to raise awareness of and better address issues relating to mental health and substance use in the profession. I led the drive for the establishment of the LSBC's Mental Health Task Force (the "MHTF"), and have served as Chair of the MHTF from its inception in 2018 to present.

In that time, the MHTF has done important and meaningful work. Twenty recommendations for the LSBC to better address mental health and substance use issues, contained in two recommendation reports from the MHTF, have been adopted unanimously.

Recently, the MHTF delivered a third report recommending the establishment of an Alternative Discipline Process to add flexibility and a focus on remediation to the LSBC's current regulatory approaches.

The MHTF has organized a number of well attended and well received CPD events related to mental health and substance use issues.

The work of the MHTF has garnered national recognition. The LSBC is now acknowledged as a leader in respect of mental health and substance use issues.

The LSBC has made great progress within a short time in better dealing with mental health and substance use issues. However, there is still much more to be done to address the mental health crisis within our profession. I intend to continue to lead on these issues from within the LSBC, because it is in both the public interest and the interests of the profession to help lawyers achieve better outcomes through awareness, support, and prevention.

I have always sought to be an accessible Bencher, available to discuss any matters of concern. It has been highly rewarding to help talk through difficult issues and circumstances, and I am gratified so many of my colleagues have entrusted me with this role.

I have continued to teach Civil Procedure and volunteer with LSLAP during my terms as a Bencher. Working with law students allows me to discuss the importance of collegiality and professionalism with incoming members of the bar. It is also important for young lawyers to be encouraged to experience the benefits of incorporating *pro bono* work into their practices early in their careers.

I have greatly appreciated the opportunity to serve as a Bencher, and I seek re-election to continue addressing all of these and other important matters.

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ARAM, Nazanin

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BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

I was born and raised in Iran. I hold a Bachelor of Civil Law from Tehran University (2000) and an LLB from UBC (2004). I was called to the BC bar in 2013. I have practiced in Prince Rupert, Victoria and Vancouver and I have done both solicitor’s work and litigation in various areas. Since a few years ago, my practice has focused on insurance defence litigation. I started my own firm in late 2020. I currently practice family law and civil litigation including insurance defence, both independently and in association with Harris & Brun Law Corporation.

I have been in the past a member of TLABC and CBA and sat on the board of governors of TLABC and the CBABC auto insurance group.

ELECTION STATEMENT

With reference to the broad goals of the Law Society’s 2021-2025 strategic plan, these are my views and inclinations and I would act accordingly should I be elected:

1. Improving the regulatory framework – I support the Law Society’s stated plans. The training and practice support resources provided by the Law Society could be improved in order to make compliance easier for lawyers.
2. Reconciliation – I support cultural competency training for lawyers and increased involvement of indigenous lawyers in regulatory matters.
3. Access to justice – I am in favour of qualifying non-lawyers to provide certain legal services. The lawyers’ monopoly over legal services no longer serves society as it should.

I think the Law Society should increase its work with the government, courts, CBA and other participants in the justice system to expand legal aid and improve the court system.

4. Policy development – Equity, diversity and inclusion issues stem from the profession’s underlying cultural problems. We need a cultural shift in the profession, not only for equal treatment for marginalized groups but for a healthy and sustainable internal culture for *all* lawyers.

While the Law Society has taken very positive steps, there still needs to be more diversity at the bench table. Visible minority lawyers, sole practitioners, young lawyers and solicitors are under-represented at the bench table.

To the extent the Law Society’s decisions affect the profession generally aside from regulation and discipline, I think the benchers could make more use of consultation with the profession. In non-regulatory matters of sufficient importance, consultation with the membership could be mutually beneficial.

5. Increasing public confidence in the Law Society and administration of justice. I think more can be done in this area. The Law Society and the profession both need to align our services with modern business concepts of ‘customer service’.

I support updating the legal and regulatory framework to increase fines, increase recovery of costs, and generally ensure that the consequences of intentional professional misconduct are consistent with the severity of the harm caused to the client and the public image of the profession.

I support separation of the Law Society Tribunal from the Law Society.

I think the Law Society needs to increase and modernize its engagement with, and responsiveness to, the public. This idea may be unpopular with lawyers, but ultimately it is crucial to maintaining our self-governance. Examples of what the Law Society can do are public polls (last done in 2011) and exit surveys of lawyers and members of the public who have gone through the Law Society complaint and discipline process.

The reason I am running is my belief that there is now a need for moderate thoughtful voices to join the conversation regarding the future of our profession. There are many changes and challenges happening. It is very important in times like these to maintain moderation and a clear view of our guiding principles. We need open-mindedness, curiosity, and a genuine will to improve the profession in the lawyers who take up positions of decision-making.

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CHAMBERLAIN, Tanya

Called to the Bar: 1995

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BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Tanya Chamberlain was born and raised in Vancouver. Her formative years as a lawyer were in criminal defence, but she later chose family law as her preferred area of practice. She received her BA in History from UBC in 1991 and her LLB from the University of Saskatchewan in 1994. Tanya is a family law lawyer and Collaborative lawyer, and is accredited by the Law Society as a family law Mediator, Arbitrator, and Parenting Coordinator. She is qualified to prepare “Hear the Child” Reports. Her practice now is primarily focused on out of court settlements, but she has significant experience with family law litigation and high conflict files. She is a member of the B.C. Parenting Coordination Society, the B.C. Collaborative Roster Society, the International Association of Collaborative Lawyers, and Collaborative Divorce Vancouver. She serves on the Board of the BC Collaborative Roster Society and is the Co-Chair of the Pro-Bono Committee. She is the President of B.C. Sailing. She and her husband Ian Donaldson have raised two adult sons together. Tanya enjoys her time with family, friends, and dogs. She loves to cook, garden, read, ski, and be on the water.

ELECTION STATEMENT

I am standing for election as a Bencher to try to create and encourage a culture of civility, respect, inclusiveness, and professionalism at the Bencher table and in our profession generally. The Law Society’s mandate is to protect the public and I will work to ensure that is done with kindness, courtesy, and compassion. I will focus my efforts as a Bencher on these issues, as well as continue to support the Benchers’ present efforts relating to access to justice, inclusivity, equity and diversity. We need to do more to address the role lawyers should play in the Truth and Reconciliation process with Indigenous persons in this country. We have a duty as lawyers to educate ourselves and our profession on the truth about the colonization of Canada and the effects on Indigenous persons. We must consult with Indigenous persons to understand what our role in reconciliation is.

Too many female lawyers continue to experience pay inequity, discrimination, harassment and bullying in their employment. I wish to continue to address thoughtfully and productively the systemic barriers that continue to affect women adversely in our profession. Women lawyers of colour face significantly more discrimination and lack of respect in our profession. Women make up more than 50% of the law school classes in Canada but leave the practice of law after graduation in significant numbers. If elected I will consult with members of the Bar and try to advocate for policies that permit all lawyers to have satisfying professional and personal lives without having to choose between a legal career and a family.

The Law Society needs to advocate for, and work with, the Courts to modernize the court registries and Rules of Court to make e-filing more efficient, to reduce the need to file paper materials, and to improve the system for setting dates for trials and hearings, all of which will enhance access to justice. I support increased use of alternative dispute resolution processes to ease the burden on courts, and the stress and cost to litigants. Family litigation can be toxic to litigants and their children, and is frequently not in society's or the family's best interests.

Small firms and sole practitioners continue to make up the majority of the profession in this Province and the Benchers table has not always reflected that reality. These practitioners provide most of the legal services in this Province, and our regulator must be mindful of the greater administrative burden placed on small firms and sole practitioners. Should I be elected, it would be a great honour to serve the profession and the public.

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PORRITT, Julian R.

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BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

My early years of practice were with a large law firm. I subsequently moved into the world of boutique law firms. Hence, I have experience in both the large firm environment and the boutique law firm environment. I have been practicing as a real estate and corporate-commercial solicitor for 37 years.

In 2002, I founded Veritas Law and I have been the responsible manager of the staff and lawyers of Veritas Law since then. Since founding Veritas Law I have experienced the wide range of challenges that all law firms experience. Staffing issues, lawyer issues, client relations, business management issues are all things that I have experienced and managed.

I am also the primary responsible solicitor for our Trust Account. Our Trust Account volume averages just a bit less than a billion dollars per year. As a result, I am also very experienced in the multitude of real-world managerial problems and solutions that arise from high volume Trust Account management.

In short, I am very experienced and knowledgeable in the real-world challenges of solicitors' practices plus the real-world managerial challenges of managing a law firm and high volume Trust Accounts.

ELECTION STATEMENT

I am running for Bencher because with my 37 years of practice experience I see a disconnection between the Law Society and the practitioners. I think I share this sense of disconnection with other practitioners.

I do not wish to simply complain about a problem. I wish to be part of the solution. I have a tremendous amount of real-world practical experience. I can bring a fresh perspective to the Benchers and the Law Society.

To my mind, pro-active education should be a primary goal of the Law Society. The Law Society has good targeted continuing legal education programs in place. With some relatively easy amendments, I believe the current Trust Accounting and Discipline “systems” could be converted into very valuable and effective pro-active education opportunities. The amendments should result in material financial savings to the Law Society. The financial savings, in turn, could be utilized for the myriad of other valuable programs that are presently seeking increased financial assistance. Further, the amendments should result in all of our staff finding their jobs a lot more fulfilling. As all of us that manage law firms know, staff happiness and the retention of good staff is fundamental to success.

A second primary goal that I would like to bring to the Law Society is to continually ask the question “does it makes sense in the real world of practice?”. We all know that the practice of law is not “one size fits all”. Family law, commercial litigation, personal injury law, taxation law, real estate, securities law, corporate law, etc., etc., etc. all have challenges and stresses that are unique to the specific area of practice. The answer for “does it makes sense in the real world of practice?” will vary from practice area to practice area.

In summary, as a Bencher I would bring a strong belief in pro-active education, real-world experience and staff satisfaction. The breadth of my knowledge and experience would be a valuable asset to add to the pool of talent within the Benchers.

Thank you

Julian R. Porritt

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YEUNG, Gaynor C.

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BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Gaynor is currently a Bencher and serves on the Practice Standards and Ethics Committees. Gaynor is a lawyer, mediator, and partner at Whitelaw Twining. Since being called to the bar in 1996, she has practiced insurance law, litigating a broad array of matters but primarily focusing on personal injury and professional negligence claims. She has defended and advanced cases at all levels of court in British Columbia. She continues to be recognized by the Best Lawyers in Canada as a leading litigator in both Insurance Law and Personal Injury Litigation.

Throughout her career, Gaynor has been an active volunteer in the legal community. In 2018, the Vancouver Bar Association recognized Gaynor with the Peter S. Hyndman Mentorship award for her work with students and junior practitioners. She continues to mentor our next generation of lawyers through the CBA Women Lawyers' Forum, the Federation of Asian Canadian Lawyers, and the Peter A. Allard School of Law (as well as guest lecturing at the university and at VBA programming). She recently completed her second term as a member of the Advisory Committee to the Judicial Council. Gaynor is a volunteer for the Lawyers' Assistance Program and Access Pro Bono.

ELECTION STATEMENT

I believe that our profession is enriched by a supportive and diverse legal community. To me, that means that its members demand from one another the highest standards of integrity, professionalism, equity, diversity, and inclusion. It means that we engage with one another to reach those standards in a compassionate manner, and that we continue to do the work to have diverse representation in our profession.

To that end, I intend to:

- Expand on the positive steps already taken by the Benchers to destigmatize mental health challenges. I will continue to amplify the importance of mental wellness in multiple aspects of our profession. For instance, acknowledging the

impact of mental health issues in my work on the practice standards committee; reducing stressors on our members by supporting alternate, modernized working arrangements (the viability of which has been proven during the pandemic); alleviating the pressures of accessing limited articling positions through the consideration of alternatives to traditional articling experiences; and supporting the continued education of practitioners and legal employers on not only destigmatizing, but prioritizing, mental wellness.

- Identify issues that impact achieving equity, diversity, and inclusion in legal workplaces, particularly in leadership roles, and seeking solutions to those issues. For instance, supporting lawyers and legal employers, who seek to be allies for change, through the provision of educational resources including continuing professional development programming.
- Lend the technical skills, which I have garnered from my experience litigating an extensive range of practice areas, to lawyers in need of assistance meeting practice standards. I commit to working with practitioners in a kind and understanding manner.

If elected, I will continue working to enable our members to practice in a safe, supportive, and diverse community.

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DUMBRELL, Lisa

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BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

I have proudly served Vancouver County as a Bencher since November 2020 and have served on three committees: Access to Justice, Credentials and the Act and Rules Committees. I was also recently appointed to the Indigenous Engagement in Regulatory Matters Task Force.

I started my career at Campney & Murphy, first as an articling student and then as a litigation associate after I was called to the Bar in 1998. In 1999, I joined the Public Prosecution Service of Canada (PPSC) as Crown Counsel. In 2015, I assumed conduct of all federal prosecutions for the North Shore, Sechelt and Pemberton areas.

I am a member of the PPSC’s Diversity & Inclusion Committee and have previously served on the PPSC’s Gender Equity Committee. I am a member of the Vancouver Criminal Law subsection of the Canadian Bar Association of British Columbia (CBABC), and I am enrolled as a mentor in the CBABC mentoring program.

I volunteer with the Canadian Cancer Society, the Harvest, Aunt Leah’s Society and the North Shore Girls’ Soccer Club, and I am currently on the Board of Directors for the Club. I am a proud mum to two wonderful daughters and step-mum to two more.

ELECTION STATEMENT

1. Experience and Trust

This past year as a new bencher has been a privilege and has given me an immersive experience in the workings of the LSBC and the profession.

In the criminal bar, I am known as fair and collaborative despite the adversarial environment. Respect, trust, good judgment and integrity have guided my career and continue to guide me as a bencher.

I am proud of my participation on the PPSC Diversity & Inclusion Committee and my work in Indigenous People's Court. These commitments demonstrate my support for increased diversity of underrepresented and marginalized applicants to the profession. I am also aware of my privilege and good fortune in this profession, particularly as a government lawyer.

2. Streamlined Audit and Trust Accounting and Access to Bookkeeping services.

As Crown Counsel, I do not have traditional clients nor do I manage trust accounts. I do appreciate, however, that current regulations provide challenges to many lawyers, particularly felt by sole practitioners and smaller firms. These requirements create an access to justice issue, as compliance requires additional non-billable time and expenses which raise the cost of legal services to clients.

I support simplification of the trust reporting rules and the need for accessible trust accounting training. I will continue to push for improved communication with trust accounting and audit departments to reduce the obstacles and stress caused by compliance requirements.

3. Support for students and young lawyers through mentoring, new pathways to licensing and flexible practice models.

As a bencher, I have had the opportunity to meet with students virtually during the pandemic. Without question, most of them have had a far more difficult and uncertain articling year than I had in 1997.

I am pleased that the LSBC's Development Task force has advanced the issue of the application of the Employment Standards Act to articulated students. I support these protections and I will continue to voice my support to developing alternative pathways to licensing lawyers.

Young lawyers require more support, particularly recent entrants to the profession. The pandemic has significantly impacted their ability to benefit from the mentoring and professional connections fundamental in early years of practice. I support investment into increased mentoring and financial support for new counsel. We must also continue to ensure that women lawyers have the resources required to stay in the profession.

4. Mental Health Awareness and Support

Notwithstanding the stresses of the pandemic, lawyers know too well the financial and related mental health implications of an already stressful profession. With my experience on conduct reviews and on the Credentials Committee, I have seen how good mental health is key to assisting counsel in making sound professional decisions. I commend the work of the LSBC's Mental Health Task Force and support the development of an alternative discipline process for lawyers dealing with mental health or substance abuse concerns.

I look forward to continuing to work with my bencher colleagues and LSBC staff and to serving you as a bencher.

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RUSS, Kelly Harvey

Called to the Bar: 1994

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BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

I was born in Old Massett, Haida Gwaii and raised in Prince Rupert. I have a JD from UVic and a LLM from UBC. I work in the areas of family law, child protection, immigration, and human rights. I am the proud father of two children who have now left the nest.

I have worked as a lawyer and mediator in family law, family mediation and child protection for 25 years. In recent years, I have also represented clients before the Immigration Refugee Board and Refugee Appeal Board. From 1998 to 2007, I was a member of the Canadian Human Rights Commission and worked on the repeal of s. 67 of the *Canadian Human Rights Act*. The repeal of s. 67 had far reaching implications including enabling the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada and the Assembly of First Nations to successfully obtain a decision to help Indigenous children in care.

I spent 13 years in foster care, have fostered various Indigenous children, and currently do battle with two cats on a daily basis. The cats are winning.

ELECTION STATEMENT

I ask for the most precious commodity you have as members of the LSBC: your vote for LSBC Bencher (County of Vancouver). I will dedicate myself to your well-being and make our honourable profession more inclusive and accepting of lawyers seeking to serve those in need. Our profession is changing around us and I want to work with the LSBC to ensure that the practice and the business of law works for all our members.

I am passionate about issues of diversity within the profession at all levels. I am committed to advancing the hard work of Karen Snowshoe and others in the LSBC's work of implementing relevant recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action. I am committed to working with the LSBC for the betterment of our profession and our community as a whole.

I am committed to enhancing the health and mental well-being of all members of the profession and I want to continue and support the work of the LSBC Mental Health Task Force.

As an experienced family law lawyer, mediator and human rights advocate, I will strive to ensure that the “public interest” component of the Law Society’s mandate evolves to ensure quick and efficient resolution of complaints made against members of our profession. Through my work on the Canadian Human Rights Commission, I learned skills which are directly applicable to the fair and impartial consideration required of Law Society matters, including hearings and conduct reviews.

I am committed to enhancing the well-being of the business of law for our profession. I understand the business of the law and the unique challenges of being a sole practitioner.

I have been practicing for over 25 years and have the knowledge, skills and experience to bring a unique perspective to the bench table.

As an Indigenous person and a lawyer, I see the issue of reconciliation from different perspectives, and I will continue the reconciliation work undertaken by the LSBC. As a human rights and children’s advocate, I understand the powerful position our profession plays in our community and individual lives. I believe that the LSBC can both fulfil its mandate of protecting the public, while still supporting and fostering the betterment of our members.

Howaa (thank you).

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HARRY, Katrina

Called to the Bar: 2006

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BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

I was called to the bar in 2006, and I work in the areas of child protection and family law. I am the Manager of Indigenous Services at Legal Aid BC and I oversee 10 Parents Legal Centres across the province, managing 19 lawyers and 22 staff. I created the first Parents Legal Centre in 2014 as a way for parents to resolve their child protection matters early and collaboratively. Prior to my work with Legal Aid BC, I maintained a sole practice in Vancouver, with occasional files across BC.

I have presented and chaired various programs, including guest lecturing at UBC Law and PLTC, and co-chairing both a working group for the BC Law Institute and for the Continuing Legal Education child protection conferences.

I sat on the Leadership Group for Access to Justice BC, served as board member for both Battered Women’s Support Services and Community Legal Assistance Society, and I have been a committee member on the Truth and Reconciliation Advisory Committee of the Law Society for the last 3 years.

I am a proud member of the Shuswap nation, and I enjoy cooking and hosting, and time at the soccer pitch with my 3 children.

ELECTION STATEMENT

As a bencher my priorities are:

- Access to Justice
- Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) and Reconciliation
- Mental Health and Mentorship
- Good Governance

As a Bencher I will strive to represent you and give you a voice at the Law Society of BC with dedication and commitment. I have significant board and management experience, as well as strong collaborative skills. I will be an effective advocate and governor for the

protection of the public as well as working to support lawyers and furthering the initiatives meant to address the issues facing our bar today.

Access to Justice: I often worked with clients who have few resources and little support, financial or otherwise. My clients are often impoverished, marginalized, racialized, and struggling with addiction, mental health issues, homelessness, and family violence. I see every day how these barriers to access to justice impact clients and limit the way lawyers can provide services. I am passionate about finding ways to provide a better access to justice. I believe that access to justice is fundamental to ensuring justice and equality before the law. One of the ways I have worked to address this issue was in the creation of the Parent Legal Centres. I believe as a Bencher I have the experience and passion to make valuable contributions to the LSBC's Access to Justice Initiatives.

Mental Health: The pandemic has grossly exacerbated existing and underlying mental health issues and increased the stress of our lawyers. I believe that we need to make greater efforts to ensure the practice of law is not harmful to our lawyers. I support and would like to contribute to the LSBC's Mental Health Task Force.

Mentorship: I am a strong advocate for mentorship for junior lawyers, articled students and law students as it helps build a solid and positive future for our profession. I have benefited greatly from various mentors in our profession and see how their guidance and support helped me find my place in our profession. I also believe that mentorship provides an opportunity for senior lawyers to better understand the challenges and concerns of today's students and junior lawyers and are often able to use their seniority or position to address the issue or advocate for change.

D&I and Reconciliation: Diversity and inclusion are essential to our profession. Diversity creates a complete and well-rounded profession, one that is reflective of the clients we are serving. The LSBC is currently undertaking various reconciliation efforts which are ultimately governed and overseen by the Benchers. As an Indigenous lawyer, I have a distinct perspective and Indigenous community connections and experience to bring to the Bencher table.

Good Governance: As a manager with Legal Aid and sole practitioner, I understand and appreciate the business of law and importance of good governance at the LSBC. I believe the LSBC needs to ensure it protects the public, while ensuring practice fees are spent reasonably and our members are respected and heard.

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CHOW, Jennifer, QC

Called to the Bar: 1990

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BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Jennifer Chow QC is Senior Counsel at the Department of Justice, focussing on constitutional, administrative, indigenous and commercial litigation.

Her work has included:

- Chair and Vice-Chair, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee
- Member, Access to Justice Advisory Committee
- Former member, Governance Committee
- Former member, Practice Standards Committee
- Former member, Ethics Committee
- Former member, Rule of Law and Lawyer Independence Advisory Committee
- Moderator, Rule of Law Lecture Series: Social Justice and the Rule of Law 2018 and Privacy, Technology and the Rule of Law 2019
- Former member, Judging Panel, Rule of Law high school essay contest
- Chair, various Disciplinary Panel Hearings
- Chair, various Conduct Reviews
- Former member, Tribunal Recruitment Working Group

Other:

- First visible minority president, Canadian Bar Association BC Branch, 2015-16
- Served six years on Executive Committee, Canadian Bar Association BC Branch, 2011-17
- Current member, Trauma Informed Practice Project Steering Committee
- Current member: Canadian Bar Association BC Branch, Trial Lawyers Association, Federation of Asian Canadian Lawyers BC and Vancouver Bar Association
- Inaugural Diversity and Inclusion Award, Law Society of BC, 2017
- Queen's Counsel, 2016

- Community Service Award, CBABC, 2010

Jennifer is an active mentor and principal. She regularly contributes to continuing legal education and is a kitesurfer.

ELECTION STATEMENT

I am honoured and privileged to be serving as an elected bencher for Vancouver County over the past four years. If re-elected for a third term, I will continue to bring a unique perspective to the Bencher's table on important issues affecting the legal profession and the public interest. I will continue to champion diversity issues, access to justice issues and a positive image of the legal profession through outreach and other initiatives.

The past two years have been challenging given Covid-19 restrictions. Despite that, it has busier than ever. As your elected bencher, these past two years, I have focussed on:

- Supporting initiatives that provide assistance to lawyers affected by Covid-19 including practice fee adjustments and mental health initiatives;
- As chair of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion committee, supporting diversity by promoting the gathering of demographic data by the Law Society to ensure an accurate data baseline for identification of barriers and supporting the use of gender inclusive pronouns in the legal profession;
- Speaking out against racism, including speaking at UBC's National Forum on Anti-Asian Racism and supporting initiatives by FACL BC and others; supporting the development of the Indigenous Intercultural Competency and Awareness Course; and
- Promoting access to justice in the profession, including family law initiatives; attending an access to justice committee town hall meeting and supporting other initiatives regarding mental health issues and articling students concerns.

My general duties have included: addressing ethical and practice-related issues raised by lawyers and students; meeting new articulated students at bencher interviews; attending bencher meetings, committee meetings, an access to justice town hall meeting, working group meetings; championing diversity; promoting demographics update of the legal profession and supporting other organizations in their work on diversity issues.

Anti-Racism. The issue of structural barriers in the legal profession is a continuing concern, particularly at the senior levels of the profession. I will continue to champion an analysis of the changing demographics to identify trends and benchmarks. I will also continue to speak out against racism, discrimination and stereotyping within the legal profession and more generally.

Access to justice. I will continue to support our work to identify structural barriers within the legal profession and court system and support greater accessibility to the courts by videoconference where doing so, may provide greater access to those in smaller communities and by disadvantaged groups.

Protection of the public. Over the past few years, we have heard from the Cullen Commission about how money laundering and similar issues have adversely affected the public interest, including possibly the public perception of lawyers. As a bencher, I will support initiatives that foster greater public confidence in the legal profession.

Thank you. I hope to continue serving you as an elected bencher.

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BLAIR, Chase

Called to the Bar: 2020

Department of Justice Canada

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BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

After graduating from Thompson Rivers University Faculty of Law, I articulated with the BC Regional Office of the Department of Justice. Since being called to the BC Bar in 2020, I have served as Counsel for two years at the Department of Justice, practicing in the areas of Aboriginal law and civil litigation. I am seeking your vote to be one of the Benchers for District No. 1: Vancouver County.

My involvement in the legal community has focused on the fight to improve working conditions for articulated students. In 2020, I spearheaded a resolution with this goal in mind. The resolution sought to ensure articulated students were guaranteed basic labour rights, including a minimum wage, overtime, and statutory holiday pay. Throughout the drafting process, I consulted with law students and colleagues, soliciting feedback and improving the resolution. The resolution succeeded at the 2020 LSBC AGM, passing with 57% of the vote, pressuring the Law Society to take action. As a result of the resolution, the Law Society conducted a survey, providing valuable data, illustrating the extent of the exploitation of articulated students, and serving as a catalyst for change.

ELECTION STATEMENT

I am seeking your vote to be a Bencher for Vancouver County. The core tenants of my platform are (1) articling reform, and (2) democratizing the Law Society (LSBC).

(1) The LSBC survey of articulated students and those called within the last three years detailed the unfavourable working conditions they faced. 26 people didn't receive a salary. 50% worked 10+ hours per day and 44% worked 6+ days per week. Change is clearly needed. People deserve to be compensated for the hours they clock.

Members of the legal profession are in favour of granting articulated students basic labour protections. Members voted YES to the resolution, but the LSBC has not implemented this demand for change. Recently, the Lawyer Development Taskforce suggested that minimum standards of compensation be delayed at least two more years, and a

framework for a maximum number of hours be delayed at least a year. People are suffering now, and action is needed now. In response, I propose the following solutions:

- Require all articling agreements signed after January 1, 2022 to comply with section 16 and Parts 4 and 5 of the *ESA*;
- Enfranchise articulated students for Benchers elections, as articulated students should be able to vote for those making the rules that govern them;
- Create the position of Young Lawyer Representative (less than 3 years of call), elected for a two-year term by articulated students and young lawyers, to serve on the Credentials Committee;
- Allow articulated students to article with three legal employers, splitting costs between employers and fostering a more varied articling experience;
- Allow articulated students who fail a PLTC assessment or exam for a third time further attempts without having to redo their articling term, enabling articulated students to be called to the bar sooner, as the access to justice crisis requires that more lawyers enter the legal profession;
- Foster the creation and implementation of a grants system where employers who wish to hire articulated students, but demonstrate a financial inability to do so, apply for supplemental funding from the LSBC.

(2) The governance of the LSBC is highly centralized, and often occurs behind closed doors. LSBC governance must be transparent and accountable. In response, I propose the following solutions:

- Direct election of the three Benchers (non-President/VP/VP-elect) serving on the Executive Committee, a powerful committee that establishes the LSBC's priorities;
- Record and publicize how each Bencher votes on resolutions or rule changes discussed at each month's Benchers meeting, ensuring transparency;
- Require that Benchers' resolutions brought forward for a vote at the AGM be subject to the same submission process, and membership comment period, as those introduced by members.

If you'd like to have a new, young, class-conscious voice at the Benchers' table, I ask that you vote Chase Blair for Bencher for Vancouver County.

If you would like to view further details regarding my election platform, have any questions, or have any ideas, please copy and paste the following link into your browser:
www.linkedin.com/in/chase-blair-a31393b4.

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CALLAN, Tara

Called to the Bar: 2002

Ministry of Attorney General (Legal Services Branch)

Email: tara.callan@gov.bc.ca

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Since 2002, Tara has been employed with the Litigation Group of the Ministry of Attorney General (Legal Services Branch) and focusses her practice on government liability in a variety of litigation settings.

Tara runs a busy litigation practice and has had conduct of several hundred litigation files since she was called to the bar. Many of these files involve representing the Ministry of Health or the BC Prosecution Service. Her files are often complex, difficult and strategically important to government. She is also the Community of Practice Team Lead for Corrections and Law Enforcement within the Litigation group of the Ministry of Attorney General (Legal Services Branch).

Tara is a recipient of the 2018 Attorney General and Public Safety and Solicitor General’s Leadership Award, and frequently mentors lawyers both within and outside of government.

Tara is a firm believer in a healthy work/life balance, has a great sense of humour, and enjoys spending time with her family, skating and biking.

ELECTION STATEMENT

I am seeking election as a bencher in the upcoming election.

Since I was called to the bar in 2002, I have been a lawyer with the Ministry of Attorney General (Legal Services Branch) and currently have a diverse litigation practice. I am a hardworking lawyer and focus on trying to solve difficult problems for my client.

Since March of 2020 the practice of law has changed dramatically, both from a demographic and technological perspective. I believe these changes will likely be permanent and the Law Society needs to evolve in a way that safeguards the public interest while embracing new technological innovations.

I would like to work within the Law Society to modernize the practice of law and facilitate adoption of electronic tools to help lawyers be more productive while maintaining their high ethical standards required of our profession.

I believe the Law Society is required to meet the needs of all our members and want to adopt measures that reduce barriers and facilitate equality for our membership. In that regard, as a first step, I am fully supportive of adding tools to the members directory to remove these barriers. I am also concerned about the poor retention rate of lawyers in our practice and want to find ways to keep our skilled lawyers working productively in the practice of law especially given the pandemic and how this has disproportionately affected working parents.

I am also supportive of putting tools together on cultural sensitivity and reviewing systemic barriers that are currently in place for our membership and identify ways to remove those barriers.

It would be my honour to be elected as a bencher in the upcoming election.

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LEE, Kyla

Called to the Bar: 2012

Acumen Law

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BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

In the famous words of Chumbawumba's Tubthumpin', I get knocked down, but I get up again. And here I am running for Bencher again.

I am passionate about the law. My practice focuses on defending driving offences. I am Métis and proud of my heritage.

I am a member of the TLABC Board of Governors, and serve on the Criminal Law and PAC Committees, and the Editorial Board for The Verdict. I am heavily involved with the CBA, serving as an officer on three national executives and am involved with several committees. I am on the Board of Directors and Executive for the BCCLA.

Internationally, I am the CLE Co-Chair and on the Board of Directors for the DUIDLA. I am a National Ambassador to the Universal Women's Network.

In 2019, I was recognized as one of the Top 25 Most Influential Lawyers in Canada and awarded the UWN Indigenous Leader Award. I was named the recipient of the DUIDLA BadAss award. In 2020, I was named a regional finalist in the RBC Women Entrepreneur Awards.

During the pandemic, I wrote two textbooks published by LexisNexis, Cross-Examination: The Pinpoint Method, and Immediate Roadside Prohibitions in Western Canada.

ELECTION STATEMENT

We are in the midst of a divide as a profession. Our interactions have become more divisive. The recent events surrounding the resolution discussion at the AGM have shown how far apart we all are. We need to do more to bring the profession back together, and to recognize our important goals as a legal community. I want to work with the Law Society to make that happen.

The Law Society's role as a regulator puts it in a complex position vis a vis lawyers needing help from the regulator. If elected, I will create more avenues for lawyers to seek support from the Law Society. Assisting lawyers who are struggling ultimately protects the public. More mental health supports, peer support groups, and better access to services from LSBC will improve on this and reduce disciplinary issues arising from mental health struggles.

The regulatory framework in place disproportionately affects small and solo practitioners. These lawyers are underrepresented at the Benchers table. The trust accounting rules must be simplified to make them easier to understand and reflect the increasingly digital way that we conduct business. Client identification and verification rules must be modernized in order to allow remote lawyers to properly identify clients.

LSBC has a need to improve digitization and technology. I will mandate more technology at LSBC to streamline applications, processing, and decisions on discipline and professional conduct.

To help bring a voice to issues affecting justice and delivery of legal services, I will introduce initiatives to help lawyers facing financial difficulty in implementing technological solutions at their firms, by creating a fund to assist with staffing, technology, and overhead for a set period. This will allow lawyers to deliver services to more people, without being limited by financial barriers.

I will advocate for changes to the Code that would require any Discipline and Credentials Committee members to receive cultural sensitivity training, and ensure the Code reflects the need to consider systemic discrimination when determining a fit sanction. This includes both when considering the lawyer's circumstances and when considering any potential victims of a lawyer's misconduct. Recent disciplinary decisions have drawn attention to failures of the Code in this regard, and it is past time for those to be corrected.

With this in mind, I will also work with LSBC to create more alternative measures for lawyers facing first-time or unique discipline issues.

I will work with LSBC to create more fee categories, recognizing the different types of risk that practice areas present and that high fees serve as barriers to entering and remaining in the profession.

Online marketing continues to be under-regulated, with confusing and vague regulations. Change is necessary to clarify the appropriate standards for lawyers in online activities. As someone with a background in marketing, I am well-positioned to advocate for sensible changes in this respect.

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WESTELL, Kevin B.

Called to the Bar: 2009

Pender Litigation

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BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

1. It continues to be my honour to serve as Bencher for Vancouver County. Since my election last fall, I have sat on both the Access to Justice Advisory and Ethics Committees and have also acted as the LSBC representative to the CBABC Provincial Council.
2. As a proud Vancouverite and founding partner at Pender Litigation, I practice criminal and regulatory law. Apart from my defence work, I act occasionally as ad hoc Crown Counsel, amicus curiae, and as counsel for vulnerable witnesses. I represent clients at all levels of court in BC.
3. My volunteer experience includes instructing on trial advocacy and ethics within many forums including UBC's McEachern Course in Trial Advocacy and PLTC. I have also served the profession as President of the Advocates Club, Chair of the CBABC Vancouver Criminal Subsection, Chair of the TLABC Criminal Committee, and as Regional Rep for CDAS.
4. I was recognized by Best Lawyers in Canada© for 2022 and named to Business in Vancouver's top Forty under 40 list for 2020.
5. Outside of law, I have also volunteered on the board for both the Strathcona Community Centre and the Crisis Intervention and Suicide Prevention Centre of BC.

ELECTION STATEMENT

6. Over the past year it has been my pleasure to represent Vancouver County as Bencher. I seek re-election and hope to continue that important work on behalf of the bar and in the public interest.

7. My favourite part of being a Bencher has been receiving calls from lawyers and students seeking advice on difficult (and time-sensitive) ethical problems. I consider it a privilege to be asked to assist colleagues in need and each call presents an opportunity to problem-solve and learn about the issues faced by our members.

Access to Justice, Covid-19, and the Future

8. If re-elected I will continue to champion technological and systemic innovations that improve and simplify access to justice. The pandemic has introduced great change to our profession. As Bencher, I participated in consultations with members of the bar to determine how to enhance measures adopted in response to the pandemic. Those consultations affirmed my belief that the Law Society must lead in this area.

Discipline

9. If re-elected I will seek to effect changes to the Law Society's Discipline processes that will make the system more responsive to the realities of modern practice as well as the expectations of the bar and the public we serve.
10. Undoubtedly, strong responses must be enforced upon those who willfully and selfishly flout the Law Society's rules. But many disciplinary matters arise from the conduct of practitioners who have fallen short due to mental illness and substance abuse issues caused by job-related stressors.
11. In response to the latter, I support the continued development of an Alternative Discipline Process, as presented at the September Bencher's meeting, which incorporates aspects of restorative justice into the disciplinary framework.
12. If re-elected I will work tirelessly toward the update and improvement of our discipline process toward a more holistic approach, consistent with the public's interest in a healthy and thriving bar. This approach recognizes the harshest penalties should be reserved for those whose conduct requires meaningful denunciation while also accounting for members whose misconduct is attributable to personal crises or other manifestations of vulnerability and suffering.

Protecting Students While Maintaining the Bar's Independence

13. If re-elected I will prioritize the Law Society's ongoing effort to ensure that articling students are treated respectfully, compensated fairly, and protected from exploitation. This effort must involve consultation with the bar and students so

that innovation in this area does not create disincentives for firms to provide articling placements. The issue is complex but important. What we as a profession do (or fail to do) to protect the next generation will greatly affect the future of our profession. I am committed to an approach tailored to the legal profession that accounts for the realities of small firms who provide irreplaceable value to students despite limited resources. If re-elected, I will continue to make this issue a priority.

Conclusion

14. I can think of no greater professional honour than the opportunity to continue serving the public and our bar as a Bencher.

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MCKOEN, Steven, QC

Called to the Bar: 1998

Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP

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BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Steven McKoen, QC is a solicitor and a partner at Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP, practising in the areas of securities, mergers and acquisitions, and corporate governance.

First elected a Bencher for 2016, Steve is currently Chair of the Unauthorized Practice Committee and the Lawyer Development Task Force, Vice-Chair of the Credentials Committee, and a member of the Ethics Committee and Anti-Money Laundering Working Group. He has been a member of the Executive Committee for four years.

Steve is active in the community. He has provided legal advice to hundreds of artists and not-for-profits through a pro bono clinic, has been an adjunct professor in the faculties of law at both UBC and UVic and is the current chair of the Burnaby Hospital Foundation. Steve grew up in Port Alberni and Nanaimo, attended law school at UVic and was called to the bar in BC in 1998 and New York in 2002. He is married and is the proud father of two daughters.

Steve is recognized as a leading lawyer by the following publications: The Lexpert/American Lawyer Guide to the Leading 500 Lawyers in Canada 2021, The Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory 2021, and The Best Lawyers in Canada 2022. In 2018, Steven was appointed Queen's Counsel.

ELECTION STATEMENT

I am asking you to re-elect me for a fourth (and final!) term as a bencher. I have worked hard over the past six years to advance the Law Society's mandate to protect the rights and freedoms of all people by ensuring an independent and honourable legal profession. If re-elected, I will continue to work to improve all members of the public's access to independent legal advice. While I strive to bring focus and quality input wherever I am asked to, two key areas I hope to continue to work on in the next term are:

Lawyer Development Task Force: LSBC needs to take responsibility for the current state of articles

Our articling program has produced excellent results and has benefitted numerous people by giving them good, practical training that complements the academic training provided by the law schools. However, the Law Society has clear evidence that it has also resulted in numerous students having to take unpaid articles, underpaid articles and articles of questionable teaching value where they are required to spend a substantial amount of time performing non-legal roles more suited to non-legal staff. It is time to reform our licensing system so finding an articling position is not the only choice available.

I am not advocating abolishing articles. I think that most of the time they are excellent, and provide key experiential learning that has not traditionally been made available elsewhere. However, whether through teaching law clinics similar to teaching hospitals, expanded law school programs, enhanced use of shared articles or whatever other great ideas the profession can generate, I am working, as the current chair of the Lawyer Development task force, to develop a consensus that will make it possible for great alternatives to get approved.

The Regulatory Sandbox: Clearing barriers to services lawyers don't provide

I participated on the Futures Committee that brought the "Sandbox" concept to BC. The Sandbox allows lawyers and others to ask for permission to provide new and useful services that may involve legal services, but don't need the involvement of a lawyer to protect the public's interest in the quality of legal services performed in the province. As a direct result of the Sandbox, for example, we cleared the way for a charity that provides assistance to elder citizens with dementia with legal matters like filling out basic government forms that people without dementia would never hire assistance for. That is a clear win for the public in this province. However, the Sandbox has a slippery-slope potential. I will continue to work with the law society to monitor the Sandbox and ensure that it is being used to assist the public and not to degrade the protection the profession and the public expects from the Law Society.

I believe that the Law Society, through leadership, advocacy, rule-making and education, can enhance our ability to provide legal services to more people. I hope to reward your continued support. Thank you.

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MCQUEEN, Jacqueline G., QC

Called to the Bar: 1995 (Ontario), 1996 (BC), 2001 (New Zealand)

Aaron Gordon Daykin Nordlinger LLP

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Website: www.agdnlaw.ca

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Elected Bencher in November 2018, I have served on the following committees:

- a) Practice Standards – Chair: 2020-2021, Member 2019
- b) Rule of Law and Lawyer Independence – Vice-Chair 2021, Member, 2020
- c) Executive – Member 2021
- d) Access to Legal Services Advisory – Member 2019-2020
- e) Unauthorized Practice – Member 2019

Raised in BC, I completed my B.A. at York University and LL.B. at Osgoode Hall Law School (1993). I was called to the Bar in BC in 1996 (Ontario 1995, New Zealand 2001). I practice family law, but have practiced family and general civil litigation in both small and mid-sized firm settings. I am a qualified mediator and a partner at Aaron Gordon Daykin Nordlinger LLP. I am mother to three boys.

I have engaged in a variety of CBA Vancouver subsections, including at executive level. I have been a mentor through CBA Women Lawyers Forum, and informally. I was a member of the BCLI Pension Division Review Committee.

I have volunteered with CLEBC as contributing author to Annotated Family Practice, CLEBC and TLABC as a course presenter, as a moot court judge in the PLTC program and in pro-bono legal advice programs. I have participated on the boards of community organizations.

ELECTION STATEMENT

As a Bencher since January 2019, I have sought to bring a thoughtful, measured and compassionate approach to governance issues.

My experience is in private practice, in small and mid-sized firms. I understand the pressures inherent in combining full-time practice and volunteer roles with significant family commitments. My experiences inform my views and approach.

My committee work includes three years on Practice Standards, the last two as Chair. Practice Standards provides remedial support to members of the profession, assisting them to gain competency and tools to practice more effectively. We have undertaken a broad review of the program over the last two years, seeking to be more proactive and responsive to the profession. I hope to continue in this work.

I was elected to the Executive Committee in 2021, and in this role have learned more about how strategic decisions and priorities are set by the LSBC.

In approving a Governance Review in 2021, with report and recommendations expected before the end of the year, 2022 and 2023 will be critical years organizationally. The Benchers will need to find a way forward, meeting the core mandate to regulate in the public interest. This will require fearless self-reflection and a willingness to embrace change for the benefit of the public and ultimately, the profession. The Benchers of the next term, as caretakers of the public interest in a time of change, will bear the responsibility of ensuring the LSBC becomes the innovative and inclusive regulator it aspires to be.

I believe the Benchers should take immediate practical steps in the following areas:

- Ensuring that the LSBC Rules are understandable, and that the LSBC is not inadvertently creating traps with rules that are unduly complicated or lack clarity
- Exploring alternate means of resolution for technical rule breaches
- Reducing the time between complaint and final resolution, particularly with respect to matters that are referred for Conduct Review
- Engaging pro-actively to provide support for lawyers, through Practice Standards or otherwise, where to do so would be in the public interest

Access to justice is a significant concern. The Benchers must think strategically about the tools available to them and engage in meaningful efforts on a variety of tracks, including continued advocacy around Legal Aid funding. To take practical and meaningful steps, the Bencher's must seek to understand:

- barriers in accessing advice and support
- barriers to lawyers working with those in need
- the impact of self-represented litigants

Those established in the profession can assist new lawyers to receive the practical training, mentorship and the support needed to develop into productive professionals, able to fulfill the role of advocates in a complex environment. Providing this support will ensure a more diverse and representative bar.

Fundamentally, the Bencher table must be a place for respectful debate, exploration of ideas, and careful consideration of the public interest. Encouraging a culture of open debate

and trust at the Bencher table, and in staff/Bencher relations, is a goal all Benchers must embrace.

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