



November 16, 2021 Bencher Election – County of Westminster

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 4 – County of Westminster

- JUNG, Lynett
- JANZEN, Paul
- SANDHU, Gurminder
- LESTER, Doug, QC
- SPRAGGS, Tom



JUNG, Lynett

Called to the Bar: 1993

BC Prosecution Service, Ministry of Attorney General and Responsible for Housing

Email: lynett.jung@gov.bc.ca

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

I have primarily worked in the County of Westminster since my call to the bar in 1993. From 1993 to 1997, I worked in Surrey (civil litigation and prosecuting drug offences) and moved to the (now) BC Prosecution Service (“BCPS”) in 1997. I worked as a trial prosecutor until 2011, when I moved into legal education, becoming the Professional Development Crown Counsel and then Deputy Director, Legal Resources, Learning and Development. I manage the BCPS professional development program for lawyers and staff, the High-Risk Offenders team, the knowledge management system, and publications subscriptions. I serve or have served on BCPS committees related to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion; Gender Equity and Advancement; and Information Management and Information Technology. I have helped coordinate programming on Indigenous cultural competency/safety and trauma informed practice.

I have served on multiple CBABC committees including chairing the Professional Development Committee and co-chairing the CBABC Branch Conference. I am the co-chair of the international section of the Association of Continuing Legal Education (ACLEA) and on the planning committees for the ACLEA Annual Conference and the International Society for the Reform of Criminal Law Conference (both in Vancouver in July 2022).

ELECTION STATEMENT

I am committed to serving Westminster County through member engagement and updates on Law Society business. I am ready to take on the Benchers’ important work of regulating the legal profession and protecting the public interest. I look forward to contributing to the Law Society’s work in:

1. **Lawyer Wellness:** Law practice is demanding. Healthy lawyers are more effective and better serve the community and the justice system. I have been working to promote wellness, greater awareness of vicarious trauma and lawyer

support resources since 2014 and would like to continue this work as a Benchler. Global pandemic challenges have weighed heavily on lawyers. It is essential that we reduce stigma associated with getting professional health assistance. We must foster a culture of self-care within the legal profession.

2. **Access to Justice:** Obtaining legal representation and going to court can be prohibitively expensive. Technology and responsible modernizations in both practice and the courts can address access to justice obstacles while enhancing lawyers' abilities to both have a successful practice and serve their clients and community.
3. **Truth and Reconciliation:** The Law Society's work to eliminate systemic racism and educate lawyers about the impacts of colonization and build intercultural competency is vital. I have worked with Indigenous communities and a team at the BC Prosecution Service to design and coordinate Indigenous cultural safety professional development programs for lawyers and staff. My experience will assist the Law Society in making progress toward addressing the TRC Calls to Action.
4. **Support for Lawyer Competency and Development:** I have developed expertise in continuing legal education. I am committed to using my experience to assist with the evolution of Law Society programming and services. I will work to promote a culture of continuous learning within the legal profession and to create the resources lawyers need.

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JANZEN, Paul

Called to the Bar: 1991

Begbie Court Law

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BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

In my 30 years of practice, I have gained a wide range of experience in diverse practice areas and work environments that I believe makes me well-suited to represent your interests as a Bencher.

I received an LL.B. from Queen's University in 1990. I articulated at McCarthy Tetrault and was called to the Bar in 1991. I worked downtown at McCarty Tetrault, Crossin & Scouten and Burns, and Fitzpatrick Rogers & Schwartz. During this period, my practice ranged from large scale, complex commercial and civil litigation to insurance defense, plaintiff personal injury and general commercial litigation.

In 2005, I established a practice in New Westminister. I maintain a busy trial practice, appearing before the Provincial and Supreme Courts and administrative tribunals representing clients charged with criminal offences or related civil or regulatory matters. Since 2017 I have practiced with Begbie Court Law.

I also enjoy volunteering in the community. I am a Trustee of Shiloh-Fifth Avenue United Church and a Starter for the B.C. Speed Skating Association. I have coached minor lacrosse in New Westminister, served as Chair of the Queensborough Special Programs Committee and as a member of the City of New Westminister Community and Social Issues Committee.

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SANDHU, Gurminder

Called to the Bar: 2000

Hamilton Duncan

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BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

I grew up in B.C., went to UBC law school and currently practice general litigation at Hamilton Duncan. I strongly believe in “giving back” to my community and working to make the legal profession better for all lawyers.

Public service is something that I valued from a young age. As a child, I saw my father provide meals to the less fortunate. This act of “giving back” resonated with me deeply.

In my career, I have strived to listen, to help and to treat people as equals. I believe in being accessible. My colleagues will attest that I have always returned their calls for support.

In serving the legal community, I have acted in the following roles over the past 20 years:

- Volunteer, Salvation Army Legal Clinic
- Volunteer, LSLAP
- Volunteer, PLTC
- Volunteer, CBA Practice Panel
- Mentor, TRU Law
- Mentor, UBC Law
- Secretary, South Asian Bar Association
- Executive, CBA Research Section
- Member, CBA BarTalk
- Elected Representative, CBA Provincial Council
- Member, Provincial Judicial Committee
- Member, Federal Judicial Committee

I believe in working collegially with lawyers on all sides. Whether volunteering or dealing with opposing parties, I strive to find solutions. As a Bencher, I will similarly work hard and effectively for you.

ELECTION STATEMENT

My goal in becoming your Bencher is to promote issues and concerns that are important to lawyers in Westminster County. I will always be available and answerable to you with the same diligence which I have strived to demonstrate throughout my career. The issues affecting our community will be raised and advocated on your behalf.

I will report to you quarterly with Law Society news. I will set aside one day per month to meet with members to listen to your issues and concerns.

As your Bencher, I seek to promote the following goals:

- Ensuring that the LSBC is relevant and reflective of all members.
- Advocating for increased legal aid for people who do not have the resources to hire lawyers.
- Addressing the stresses of sole practitioners and new lawyers by developing a mentorship plan pairing lawyers so that we can help each other.
- Maintaining Law Society fees at a moderate level by identifying inefficiencies in Law Society operations and by focusing on core functions.
- Encouraging pro bono targets.
- Advocating technology changes to improve the practice of law.
- Promoting mental health issues and working to de-stigmatize mental health conditions within the profession.

These issues are important and complex – they affect our community, and need to be addressed meaningfully. I am up for the challenge.

Please reach out to me if you wish to discuss these issues or any concern of importance to you. I would be honoured to be your Bencher.

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LESTER, Doug, QC

Called to the Bar: 1986

RDM Lawyers LLP

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BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

I have been the Managing Partner at RDM Lawyers in Abbotsford since 2009. My practice is in civil litigation with wide variance – having practiced for over 35 years, I’m closing in on everything under the sun. For the past 15 years, I have focused primarily on personal injury.

I am a member of the Trial Lawyers Association of British Columbia and enjoy mentoring up-and-coming litigators.

In 2016, I was appointed Queen’s Counsel and achieved the designation of Chartered Professional in Human Resources (CPHR) of British Columbia & Yukon.

I was born and raised in Maple Ridge. I studied radio and television arts at Ryerson Polytechnical Institute and then returned home. In 1985, I obtained my law degree from UBC and in 1986 I joined RDM upon my call to the BC Bar.

I have been an active member of the community, having coached many of the sports my fiercely independent three (now adult) daughters played and served on the Boards of Directors of the Reach Gallery, Fraser Valley Health Care Foundation, Lower Mainland Ringette League and Abbotsford Minor Hockey Association.

In my spare time, I enjoy cooking, golfing, fishing, hiking and foraging for wild mushrooms.

ELECTION STATEMENT

Over the years, I have seen the governance of our profession as a task taken on by dedicated and respected members. I know that I have the dedication and hope you agree that throughout my career I have earned the respect deserving of the position.

The role of bencher is, in part, to serve a constituency which, in this case, is primarily the Fraser Valley, outside of Vancouver. My deep connection to the Fraser Valley, having lived and worked here for almost my entire life, makes me particularly well-positioned to serve in this role.

The role of bencher ought not be limited to that of liaison between members of the profession and the Law Society. Equally, the role of the Law Society, the governance of the profession and the reputation of lawyers in general should all have a nexus with the community at large. As lawyers, we live and work in our community and I have, too often, witnessed and perceived a disconnect between the public and the legal profession. I believe this disconnect needs to be fixed and demystified. Having built longstanding relationships in the business community as well as with legal colleagues, I can successfully navigate this divide.

I also consider that the role of bencher is one of mentorship. In recent years I have played an increasing role as a mentor, not only to members of my own firm but also to other lawyers in my community. I have assisted the Law Society with practice reviews and have seen firsthand the significant need for ongoing guidance for lawyers. As a bencher I would consider mentorship to be an important part of my duties.

I strongly believe in the importance of integrity and professionalism within the profession and one of my strengths lies in instilling these values in young lawyers. I feel integrity and professionalism are important not only between members of the bar but also with members of the public.

Over the years, access to justice has continued to erode resulting in increased numbers of self-represented litigants. Win or lose, a self-represented litigant will come away from a dispute with an impression of both the lawyer with whom they dealt as well as “the system”. If that impression can be positive, it can only serve to enhance the reputation of our profession in the community. Thus, I believe that our role as lawyers is to treat members of the public with equal dignity and respect as we would our colleagues within the profession. This is often overlooked with the urge to win. It should not be forgotten that while we strive to represent our clients’ best interests, it’s also our job to give our clients sound legal advice and to solve whatever problem they may have effectively and efficiently. That doesn’t mean winning at all costs.

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SPRAGGS, Tom

Called to the Bar: 2003

Spraggs Law

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BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Having the honour and privilege of serving as a Bencher for the last two years, Tom is seeking re-election to continue the efforts to support the Law Society to fulfill its public interest mandate.

When his father suffered serious injuries in a motor vehicle collision in 2005, Tom assumed full leadership of their firm, Spraggs Law.

Under his continued guidance, the firm responds to the changing practice and marketplace challenges on a daily basis. Tom views innovation and modernization of the practice of law as a fundamental necessity to meet current and future challenges in the legal profession.

Tom is also an active part of the broader community having served as a former director at Douglas College and the past Chair of the British Columbia Law Institute.

A resolute supporter of the rule of law, Tom maintains a passion for governance, law, and technology and is a leading voice in the legal technology community.

ELECTION STATEMENT

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as one of your Benchers for Westminster County over the last two years. I am seeking re-election to continue the work at the Law Society towards increased fairness, continued innovation, governance reform, and support for improved and enhanced access to justice.

Having served on the Ethics Committee, Credentials Committee, Lawyer Development Task Force, Practice Standards Committee, Unauthorized Practice Committee, and the

Indigenous Engagement in Regulatory Matters Task Force, I seek the opportunity to continue efforts to fulfill the mandate of the Law Society.

It is my sincere belief that in order to effectively fulfill the public interest mandate of the Law Society, an understanding of practice pressures is valuable at the Benchers table. An understanding of the challenges and realities that lawyers and firms face in practice is crucial as the Law Society is directed in the interpretation and application of various rules and policies.

With a strong, competent, and collegial legal community, the Law Society better fulfills its purpose. There has been some excellent work undertaken at the Law Society and we know there is always more to be accomplished. The data driven approach to policy is an example of how technology intersects with practice to better serve not only members, but simultaneously the public interest.

Going forward there are continued opportunities to enable and support significant reforms in the Law Society including the Indigenous Engagement in Regulatory Matters Task Force, the Lawyer Development Task Force and enhancing overall fairness and wellness.

As you know, I began serving as your Benchers just prior to the pandemic fully taking hold on our world. Both personally and professionally we have all been living through one of the most anxious and fearful times in recent history. We have had to rapidly adapt our work to ensure we continue to meet the needs of our clients. Our technological advances to date have proven beneficial and some are likely to remain in place as we hopefully begin to transition out of the pandemic. However, there remains much work to be done. Access to justice during these times has been an increased challenge for some. As a profession, we need to take the adaptive measures that we have developed during COVID-19 to further enhance our communities' need for legal services.

I am asking for your vote in order to continue working together to bring about the changes that are needed to ensure we are providing legal services of the highest standard.

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