



The Law Society of BC regulates the legal profession to uphold and protect the public interest in the administration of justice. Clearing the path to justice follows the Law Society's previous public forums on youth justice, citizenship and the law, and access for persons with disabilities. The forums are designed to promote the rule of law among the community at large.

The Legal Services Society is the organization that provides legal aid in BC. Legal aid includes representation by a lawyer, legal advice and legal information. Priority is given to people with low incomes, but many of its services are available to all British Columbians.

S.U.C.C.E.S.S. is a non-profit, charitable multi-service agency. Established in BC in 1973, its mandate is to promote the well being of all Canadians and immigrants through advocacy for positive policy changes and delivering services in five major areas: social, employment, business and economic development, training and education, and health services.

The Western Canada Society to Access Justice operates more than 60 clinics across BC. The Society aims to provide first-class free legal assistance to people who can't get legal aid or afford a lawyer. In 2008, 317 volunteer lawyers served 4,300 clients at Access Justice clinics.

The Law Society
of British Columbia



845 Cambie Street
Vancouver, British Columbia
Canada V6B 4Z9
Telephone: 604-669-2533
Facsimile: 604-669-5232
Toll-free within BC: 1-800-903-5300
TTY: 604-443-5700

lawsociety.bc.ca

The Law Society
of British Columbia



presents

Clearing the path to justice

A free public forum exploring
the **barriers** to accessing
the justice system and
creative solutions to
break down obstacles

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue
Simon Fraser University
580 West Hastings Street

6:00 to 8:00 pm
Registration 5:30 pm

MEDIA PARTNERS



THE GEORGIA
straight

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Legal
Services
Society



S.U.C.C.E.S.S.



ACCESS
JUSTICE
JUSTICE FOR ALL

Clearing the path to justice

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



The Right Honourable Beverley McLachlin

Chief Justice McLachlin, PC, became the first female Chief Justice of Canada in 2000. She began her law career in Alberta in 1969 and moved to BC in 1971. In 1974 she started teaching law at UBC and did so until her appointment as a judge in 1981. She was the first female Chief Justice of the BC Supreme Court and in 1985 became the first woman appointed to the BC Court of Appeal. She was appointed to the Supreme Court of Canada in 1989.

While many British Columbians like to claim the Chief Justice as their own, she was born and raised in southern Alberta. She earned a BA, MA in Philosophy and LL.B at the University of Alberta in Edmonton. Chief Justice McLachlin has spoken passionately across the country about the need to increase Canadians' access to the justice system.

MODERATOR



Mark Forsythe

Mark Forsythe is host of BC Almanac, which airs weekdays from 12:00 to 2:00 pm on CBC Radio One, 690 am. He is an award-winning journalist who has been broadcasting in BC for more than 30 years. Forsythe is author of several books -- the latest is *The Trail of 1858: British Columbia's Gold Rush Past*, which is about the 150th anniversary of the province's gold rush. He also teaches a writing for the media course at BCIT. Forsythe's off-air passions include running, fly fishing, photography and music.

OPENING REMARKS



Gordon Turriff, QC

Gordon Turriff, QC, the Law Society's President for 2009, is senior counsel to Stikeman Elliott LLP in Vancouver. Elected a Bencher of the Law Society in 2002, Turriff serves as Chair of the society's Executive Committee and as a member of the Equity and Diversity Committee and Civil Justice Reform Task Force. He is also the Bencher's representative on the Federation of Law Societies of Canada National Committee on Accreditation.

PANEL DISCUSSION

Grand Chief Edward John

Grand Chief Edward John of the First Nations Summit is a lawyer and a Hereditary Chief of the Tl'azt'en Nation, located on the banks of Stewart Lake in Northern BC. He has both an LL.B and BA from UBC. Chief John was a member of the tripartite BC Claims Task Force, which recommended the establishment of the independent BC Treaty Commission to facilitate negotiations between First Nations, Canada and BC. In September 1992, he signed the historic agreement that created the Commission. Chief John is currently serving his eighth consecutive term as a member of the First Nations Summit Political Executive. Chief John is a passionate advocate for access to justice for First Nations people and all Canadians.

Judge M. Sue Talia

Based in Danville, California, Judge Talia spent 20 years in complex family law litigation. In 1997 she became a private judge; in California, both sides of a family law case can choose to use a private judge, rather than a publicly appointed one. Judge Talia is a nationally recognized expert on unbundling. She is Chair of the Limited Representation Committee of the California Commission on Access to Justice, member of her state bar's Standing Committee on the Delivery of Legal Services and member of numerous other organizations dedicated to improving access to justice through creative delivery models for legal assistance. She travels throughout North America to speak and teach about unbundling and other access to justice issues and is author of several books, including *How to Avoid the Divorce from Hell (and dance together at your daughter's wedding)* and *Unbundling Your Divorce: How to Find a Lawyer to Help You Help Yourself*.

Lyall Knott, QC

Lyall Knott, QC, is a member of the Board of Directors for SUCCESS, which runs legal clinics for Korean, Mandarin and Japanese speakers in conjunction with Access Justice. Knott is also a senior partner of Clark Wilson LLP's Business Law Group. He was born and raised in Vancouver, studied at UBC and obtained a Bachelor of Commerce degree in 1971 and an LL.B in 1972. In 1973 he graduated with a Masters of Law from the University of London in England. He was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1985. Knott was named Honorary Consul for the Republic of Tunisia in British Columbia and Yukon in 1993. He became a recipient of the Commonwealth Medal for the Queen's Golden Jubilee in 2002, and he received the medal of Merit Award for outstanding citizenship in 2003.

CLOSING REMARKS

Hon. Wally Oppal, QC

Wally Oppal, QC is Attorney General and Minister responsible for Multiculturalism for the Province of British Columbia. Born in Vancouver, Oppal attended law school at UBC, then practised law for 14 years. He was appointed to the County Court of British Columbia in 1981 and to the Supreme Court of British Columbia in 1985. In 2003, he was appointed to the Court of Appeal for BC. He was elected MLA by the people of Vancouver-Fraserview on May 17, 2005 and appointed Attorney General on June 16, 2005.