

The Law Society  
of British Columbia



# 2017

## REPORT ON PERFORMANCE



lawsociety.bc.ca

## Our Mandate

THE LAW SOCIETY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA PROTECTS THE PUBLIC INTEREST IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE BY SETTING AND ENFORCING STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT FOR LAWYERS AND REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF LAW. WE ENSURE THE PUBLIC IS WELL SERVED BY LEGAL PROFESSIONALS WHO ARE HONOURABLE, COMPETENT AND INDEPENDENT. WE ALSO BRING A VOICE TO ISSUES AFFECTING THE JUSTICE SYSTEM AND THE DELIVERY OF LEGAL SERVICES.

The Law Society  
*of British Columbia*



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## President's Message



Every year, the Law Society strives to find ways to better serve the public. In this report, you will see evidence of solid progress in each of the strategic goals we established to achieve this end. If there is a guiding theme to the work of the Law Society in 2017, it is ensuring that the Law Society has a prominent voice in public discussions of matters that affect the public we serve.

In March, Benchers voiced the Law Society's support for publicly funded legal aid by adopting the vision and recommendations and outlined in a report prepared by the Legal Aid Task Force. Our vision is that legal aid is a crucial part of the proper administration of justice in a free and democratic society. We acted on our vision by publishing op-ed columns in support of the vision in the *Vancouver Sun*, the *Times Colonist* and a number of community newspapers across the province. It was among the topics we raised when I led a delegation of Benchers to meet with MLAs in Victoria.

The Law Society also organized two public events in support of our strategic goals. In May, nearly 170 people attended the Law Society's first annual rule of law lecture, featuring speaker Anne Egeler, the deputy solicitor general of Washington State who was part of the team challenging President Trump's executive orders. Also presenting at the lecture was Richard Gordon, QC, lead counsel for Wales in a high-profile case that successfully contested Britain's right to exit the European Union without Parliament's consent.

In November, more than 450 lawyers, judges, academics and representatives from legal and Indigenous organizations participated in the Truth and Reconciliation Symposium, hosted by the Law Society in partnership with CLEBC. The event was an opportunity to gather input from several communities and key stakeholders as the Law Society moves forward with responding to the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

Another public initiative that received tremendous support was our introduction of three new Law Society awards in 2017. Our call for nominations elicited an impressive array of submissions, and in early December the Law Society recognized three outstanding lawyers who distinguished themselves in the areas of legal aid, family law and diversity and inclusion.

The Law Society took a significant step toward proactive regulation in December, when Benchers agreed to move forward with a pilot project on law firm regulation, to be implemented in 2018. Proactive regulation reflects the fact that preventing misconduct better serves the public interest than sanctions after the fact, and other law societies will be watching British Columbia as we roll out this program.

*continued...*

## President's Message *...continued*

In December, the Benchers also approved a new three-year strategic plan outlining the Law Society's priorities and goals from 2018 through 2020. Priorities include enhancing access to justice, ensuring the public has greater confidence in the administration of justice, responding to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls to action, implementing law firm regulation and improving mental health in the legal profession.

There is much work to do in 2018 and that work will be led by incoming president Miriam Kresivo, QC, who will be supported by First Vice-President Nancy Merrill, QC, Second Vice-President Craig Ferris, QC, and Don Avison, our new executive director and chief executive officer. I want to thank Tim McGee, QC, who resigned as CEO earlier this year, after a dozen years of service

to the profession, and Adam Whitcombe for serving as interim CEO these past few months, as well as the rest of the management team and staff at the Law Society for their work throughout the past year. Lastly, thank you to my fellow Benchers, for your support, dedication and commitment to improving our profession. It has been an honour to serve with you.



**Herman Van Ommen, QC**  
*President*

## CEO's Message



In 2017, the Law Society was concluding work on one three-year strategic plan while also drafting a new strategic plan to guide the Law Society for the next three years. In these pages, you will find a summary of the outcomes for the 2015-2017 strategic plan. These include the successful completion of measures aimed at improving access to justice, ensuring that Law Society regulatory processes continue to be innovative and effective, and reinforcing public confidence in the administration of justice.

Last year's accomplishments can be attributed in large part to a strong leadership team. Adam Whitcombe, in particular, deserves recognition for ensuring the continued smooth operation of the Law Society as interim CEO, in addition to his role as chief information and planning officer role. None of last year's achievements would be possible without the dedication and commitment of the entire leadership team of Jeanette McPhee, Deb Armour QC, Alan Treleaven and Su Forbes QC. And, of course, the success of the Law Society depends on its remarkably talented and hard-working staff.

Looking to the year ahead, several priorities outlined in the new strategic plan continue to build on what is reported here. The agenda that has been set is to advance efforts to improve access to legal services, take meaningful steps to address the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, begin to address mental health issues in the profession, and implement the recommendations of the Law Firm Regulation Task Force. I am eager to make progress in each of these areas, and add to this report next year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Don Avison'.

**Don Avison**

*Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director*

## Strategic Plan Progress

This past year marked the final year of the Law Society's 2015-2017 Strategic Plan, which focused on issues directly aligned with the Law Society's responsibility under the *Legal Profession Act*, to protect the public interest in the administration of justice. The goals and initiatives outlined in the plan were in addition to the Law Society's core regulatory programs, such as discipline, credentials and practice standards.

Significant progress was achieved on the goals of the 2015-2017 plan. The 2018-2020 Strategic Plan will continue our efforts to advance the public interest in the administration of justice through effective regulation of the legal profession.



MORE INFORMATION

2015-2017 Law Society Strategic Plan

### STRATEGIC GOAL 1: The public will have better access to justice

#### Examine the Law Society's position on legal aid

In 2017, the Benchers formally adopted A Vision for Publicly Funded Legal Aid in British Columbia, a report that the Law Society publicized widely. It marked the first time in several years that the Law Society contributed its perspective on a broader issue of public interest. The foundations of the reports began in 2015, with the creation of the Legal Aid Task Force. The "draft vision" produced by the task force was the basis of a 2016 colloquium hosted by the Law Society and attended by senior levels of government, the courts and invited members of the profession. The Law Society's Legal Aid Advisory Committee, created in 2017, developed the report and will continue to pursue related initiatives.

#### Continue work on initiatives for advancement of women and minorities, including through the Justicia Program and the Aboriginal Mentoring Program

In 2017, the Law Society continued its efforts to support women lawyers in BC. It expanded its outreach to encourage smaller and regional firms to adopt and implement model policies developed by the Justicia in BC project, a volunteer program dedicated to retaining and advancing women lawyers in private practice. The Law Society is currently developing online modules to promote the materials. The Law Society also continued to administer the Indigenous Lawyers Mentorship Program in support of Aboriginal lawyers. The Truth and Reconciliation Advisory Committee also facilitated an increase of Indigenous interest and participation in Law Society governance.

#### Develop a framework for regulating non-lawyer service providers to enhance the availability of legal services while ensuring the public continues to receive legal services and advice from qualified providers.

In 2014 the Legal Services Regulatory Framework Task Force recommended that the Benchers seek a legislative amendment to permit the Law Society to establish new classes of legal service providers, and there have been discussions with the ministries of Justice and Attorney General to that end.

## Strategic Plan Progress *...continued*

### STRATEGIC GOAL 2: The Law Society will continue to be an innovative and effective professional regulatory body

#### Conduct a review of the Continuing Professional Development program

The Lawyer Education Advisory Committee examined every facet of the existing scheme and canvassed possible alternatives before submitting a final report with 26 recommendations in December 2017. The final report supports maintaining many of the core features of the current CPD scheme, including the accreditation model, the 12 credit-hour requirement, existing subject topics and learning modes, and existing compliance and enforcement measures. The committee also proposed a number of modifications to the program that will result in an expansion of eligible learning activities and greater flexibility regarding how and when lawyers can satisfy their CPD credits.

#### Examine Practice Standards initiatives to improve the competence of lawyers by maximizing the use of existing and new data sources to identify at-risk lawyers and by creating Practice Standards protocols for remediating high-risk lawyers

The Early Intervention Working Group presented its final report to the Benchers in 2017. The group analysed discipline data to determine whether there were factors that might assist in addressing problem areas for lawyers. The group concluded that the data did not support profession-wide recommendations regarding proactive, early intervention programs.

#### Continue the Law Firm Regulation Task Force and the work currently underway to develop a framework for the regulation of law firms

In 2017 the Law Firm Regulation Task Force issued a consultation paper, conducted a survey and consulted with the profession about law firm regulation. These initiatives were part of efforts to support law firms with resources and guidance for avoiding problems that commonly lead to disciplinary processes. In December 2017, the Law Firm Regulation Task Force presented a second interim report with recommendations outlining the core elements of a framework for law-firm regulation. The Benchers agreed to implement a pilot project in 2018.

#### Respond to the calls to action in the 2015 Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Committee

In 2017 The Law Society of BC held a symposium entitled "Transforming the Law from a Tool of Assimilation into a Tool of Reconciliation" as part of an effort to advance the goals of truth and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. Featured at the symposium was a short documentary produced by a group of Indigenous lawyers with the support of the Law Society and the Continuing Legal Education Society of BC entitled "But I Was Wearing a Suit." The video is available on the [Law Society's website](#).

The symposium was organized by the Truth and Reconciliation Advisory Committee. A steering committee had been created in 2016, to help determine how best to engage with Indigenous communities and to help develop a substantive program for the 2016 Benchers' retreat. PLTC staff have also begun to modify the curriculum further to TRC Call to Action #27.

## Strategic Plan Progress *...continued*

### STRATEGIC GOAL 3: The public will have greater confidence in the administration of justice and the rule of law

Increase public awareness of the importance of the rule of law and the proper administration of justice, enhance the Law Society's voice on issues affecting the justice system, and examine the Law Society's role in public education initiatives

The Law Society of BC took several steps in pursuing its objective of increasing the public's awareness of the rule of law and contributing the regulator's voice on issues affecting the justice system. In *The Advocate*, the Rule of Law and Lawyer Independence Advisory Committee published a commentary about issues that surveillance raises for lawyers. The committee also held an essay

contest for high school students and organized the first annual Rule of Law Lecture, held in May 2017. The Law Society's position on publicly funded legal aid was widely publicized through a communications campaign that include publishing letters to the editors in newspapers throughout the province.

## Benchers

The Benchers are responsible for the Law Society Rules, the *Code of Professional Conduct for British Columbia* and governance policies, and also govern and administer the affairs of the Society. Benchers serve two-year terms and can be re-elected or reappointed for a maximum of eight years. The president is the chief elected officer of the Law Society and serves a one-year term.



### Row 1 (Front), Left To Right:

Craig A.B. Ferris, QC (Vancouver County)	Dean P.J. Lawton, QC (Victoria County)
Jeevyn Dhaliwal (Vancouver County)	ACTING CEO Adam Whitcombe
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT Miriam Kresivo, QC (Vancouver County)	Sharon Matthews, QC (Vancouver County)
PRESIDENT Herman Van Ommen, QC (Vancouver County)	C.E. Lee Ongman (Cariboo County)
SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT Nancy G. Merrill, QC (Nanaimo County)	Elizabeth Rowbotham (Vancouver County)

### Row 2, Left To Right:

Jasmin Z. Ahmad  
(Vancouver County)

Pinder K. Cheema, QC  
(Victoria County)

Sarah Westwood  
(Prince Rupert County)

Barbara Cromarty  
(Kootenay County)

Carolynn Ryan  
(Appointed Bencher)

Martin Finch, QC  
(Westminster County)

Gregory A. Petrisor  
(Cariboo County)

### Row 3, Left To Right:

Mark Rushton  
(Appointed Bencher)

Lisa Hamilton, QC  
(Vancouver County)

Michelle Stanford  
(Kamloops District)

Brook Greenberg  
(Vancouver County)

Tony Wilson, QC  
(Vancouver County)

Jamie Maclaren, QC  
(Vancouver County)

Steven McKoen  
(Vancouver County)

### Row 4, Left To Right:

Daniel Smith  
(Appointed Bencher)

J.S. (Woody) Hayes, FCPA, FCA  
(Appointed Bencher)

Tom Fellhauer  
(Okanagan District)

Christopher McPherson, QC  
(Westminster County)

Claude Richmond  
(Appointed Bencher)

### Not Pictured

Jeff Campbell, QC  
(Vancouver County)

Philip Riddell  
(Westminster County)

Satwinder Bains  
(Appointed Bencher)

# Committees, Task Forces and Working Group

Committees and task forces are comprised of Benchers and lawyers from various parts of BC, all of whom volunteer their time to the Law Society.



**Craig Ferris, QC**

*Chair*

- Ethics Committee
- Insurance Subcommittee
- Rule of Law and Lawyer Independence Advisory Committee
- Early Intervention Working Group



**Martin Finch, QC**

*Chair*

- Access to Legal Services Advisory Committee



**Brook Greenberg**

*Chair*

- Discipline Committee



**Lisa Hamilton, QC**

*Chair*

- Credentials Committee



**Carolynn Ryan**

*Chair*

- Unauthorized Practice Committee

## Committees

### Act and Rules

Recommends to Benchers amendments to the *Legal Profession Act* and Law Society Rules.

#### BENCHERS

Lee Ongman (*Chair*)  
Barbara Cromarty  
Jeevyn Dhaliwal  
Dean Lawton, QC

#### STAFF CONTACT

Jeff Hoskins, QC

### Complainants' Review

Upon complainants' request, reviews complaint files closed by staff lawyers to determine if the decision to close the file was appropriate in the circumstances.

#### BENCHERS

J.S. (Woody) Hayes, FCPA, FCA (*Co-Chair*)  
Mark Rushton (*Co-Chair*)  
Satwinder Bains  
Elizabeth Rowbotham  
Carolynn Ryan  
Herman Van Ommen, QC  
Tony Wilson, QC

#### MEMBERS

Veronica L. Jackson  
Julianne Lamb  
David A. Paul, QC

#### STAFF CONTACT

Tara McPhail

### Credentials

Oversees the enrolment, education, examination and call to the bar of articulated students, the transfer of lawyers to BC and the reinstatement of former lawyers.

#### BENCHERS

Lisa Hamilton, QC (*Chair*)  
Martin Finch, QC (*Vice-Chair*)  
Satwinder Bains  
Jeff Campbell, QC  
Pinder Cheema, QC  
Miriam Kresivo, QC  
Carolynn Ryan

#### MEMBER

Judith Macfarlane

#### STAFF CONTACT

Lesley Small

### Discipline

Reviews opinions concerning lawyers or articulated students which are referred by Law Society staff, the Complainants' Review Committee or the Practice Standards Committee and determines appropriate disciplinary outcomes, if any.

#### BENCHERS

Brook Greenberg (*Chair*)  
Claude Richmond (*Vice-Chair*)  
Barbara Cromarty  
Jeevyn Dhaliwal  
Christopher McPherson, QC  
Nancy Merrill, QC  
Lee Ongman  
Philip Riddell

#### MEMBER

Michael Feder

#### STAFF CONTACT

Deborah Armour, QC

### Ethics

Identifies current professional responsibility issues and makes recommendations on changes to the *Code of Professional Conduct for British Columbia* for consideration by the Benchers.

#### BENCHERS

Craig Ferris, QC (*Chair*)  
Sharon Matthews, QC (*Vice-Chair*)  
Jasmin Ahmad  
Thomas Fellhauer  
Steven McKoen  
Gregory Petrisor  
Elizabeth Rowbotham  
Mark Rushton

#### MEMBER

Greg DelBigio, QC

#### STAFF CONTACT

Lance Cooke

### Executive

Provides direction and oversight for the strategic and operational planning of the Law Society and develops agendas for Bencher meetings to ensure that the Benchers exercise their oversight, regulatory and policy development responsibilities.

#### BENCHERS

Herman Van Ommen, QC (*Chair*)  
Miriam Kresivo, QC (*Vice-Chair*)  
Satwinder Bains  
Thomas Fellhauer  
Craig Ferris, QC  
Nancy Merrill, QC  
Sarah Westwood

#### STAFF CONTACT

Renee Collins

### Finance and Audit

Provides oversight over the financial affairs of the Law Society, makes recommendations on annual fees, reviews annual budgets and periodically reviews financial and investment results. Oversees the external audit process and provides oversight over the internal controls and enterprise risk management of the Law Society.

#### BENCHERS

Miriam Kresivo, QC (*Chair*)  
Craig Ferris, QC (*Vice-Chair*)  
Thomas Fellhauer  
J.S. (Woody) Hayes, FCPA, FCA  
Sharon Matthews, QC  
Steven McKoen  
Nancy Merrill, QC  
Herman Van Ommen, QC

#### MEMBER

Peter Kelly

#### STAFF CONTACTS

Jeanette McPhee  
Andrea Langille

### Governance

Assesses the Law Society's current governance structure and practices to identify any areas for improvement.

#### BENCHERS

Steven McKoen (*Chair*)  
Satwinder Bains  
Lisa Hamilton, QC  
Miriam Kresivo, QC  
Jamie Maclaren, QC  
Elizabeth Rowbotham  
Sarah Westwood

#### STAFF CONTACT

Renee Collins



**J.S. (Woody) Hayes,**  
FCPA, FCA

*Co-Chair*  
• Complainants' Review  
Committee



**Grand Chief Ed John**

*Co-Chair*  
• Truth and Reconciliation  
Advisory Committee



**Miriam Kresivo, QC**

*Chair*  
• Finance and Audit Committee



**Dean Lawton, QC**

*Chair*  
• Lawyer Education Advisory  
Committee



**Steven McKoen**

*Chair*  
• Governance Committee

## Committees, Task Forces and Working Group ...continued

### Committees ...continued

#### Practice Standards

Reviews information about lawyers who may have competency-related problems and, when appropriate, orders investigations and recommends remedial measures.

##### BENCHERS

Sarah Westwood (*Chair*)  
Dean Lawton, QC (*Vice-Chair*)  
J. S. (Woody) Hayes, FCPA, FCA  
Jamie Maclaren  
Daniel Smith  
Michelle Stanford  
Tony Wilson, QC

##### MEMBER

John Waddell, QC

**STAFF CONTACT**  
Sheila Redel

#### Unauthorized Practice

Considers and makes policy decisions with respect to the unauthorized practice of law and the relevant provisions of the *Legal Profession Act*.

##### BENCHERS

Carolynn Ryan (*Chair*)  
Gregory Petrisor (*Vice-Chair*)  
Pinder Cheema, QC  
Jeevyn Dhaliwal  
Martin Finch, QC  
Lee Ongman  
Michelle Stanford

##### STAFF CONTACT

Michael Kleisinger

### Subcommittees

#### Appointments

Provides advice and guidance to the Executive Committee, the Benchers and the President for managing the Law Society's appointment of directors and governors to the boards of more than 20 organizations.

##### BENCHERS

Herman Van Ommen, QC (*Chair*)  
Miriam Kresivo, QC  
Nancy Merrill, QC

##### STAFF CONTACT

Renee Collins

#### Insurance

Reviews actuarial reports, claims data, fee recommendations, changes to scope of coverage, and other insurance matters as required, and provides recommendations to the Finance and Audit Committee.

##### BENCHERS

Craig Ferris, QC (*Chair*)  
Miriam Kresivo, QC  
Peter Lloyd, FCPA, FCA  
(*Life Bencher*)  
Herman Van Ommen, QC

##### MEMBER

Peter Kelly

##### STAFF CONTACT

Jeanette McPhee

### Litigation

Provides guidance to staff on litigation matters and determines which matters should come before the Executive Committee.

##### BENCHERS

Herman Van Ommen, QC (*Chair*)  
Miriam Kresivo, QC  
Nancy Merrill, QC

##### STAFF CONTACT

Deborah Armour, QC

### Advisory Committees

#### Access to Legal Services

Monitors and advises the Benchers on access to justice and legal services issues in BC and other jurisdictions.

##### BENCHERS

Martin Finch, QC (*Chair*)  
Jeff Campbell, QC  
Barbara Cromarty  
Christopher McPherson, QC  
Gregory Petrisor  
Mark Rushton  
Daniel Smith  
Michelle Stanford

##### MEMBERS

The Hon. Thomas Cromwell  
Claire Hunter (*Vice-Chair*)  
Jean Whittow, QC

##### STAFF CONTACT

Doug Munro

### Equity and Diversity

Reports to the Benchers on issues affecting equity and diversity in the legal profession and the justice system and assists Benchers with priority planning.

##### BENCHERS

Nancy Merrill, QC (*Chair*)  
Lisa Hamilton, QC (*Vice-Chair*)  
Jasmin Ahmad  
Brook Greenberg  
Jamie Maclaren, QC  
Christopher McPherson, QC  
Carolynn Ryan  
Daniel Smith

##### MEMBER

Linda Parsons, QC

##### STAFF CONTACT

Andrea Hilland

### Lawyer Education

Monitors developments on issues affecting lawyer education in BC, and advises the Benchers on priority planning with respect to the education of lawyers in BC.

##### BENCHERS

Dean Lawton, QC (*Chair*)  
Sarah Westwood (*Vice-Chair*)  
Jasmin Ahmad  
Thomas Fellhauer  
Brook Greenberg  
Philip Riddell  
Tony Wilson, QC

##### MEMBER

Micah Rankin

##### STAFF CONTACT

Alan Treleven



**Nancy Merrill, QC**  
*Chair*  
 • Equity and Diversity Advisory Committee  
 • Legal Aid Advisory Committee  
 • Legal Aid Task Force



**Lee Ongman**  
*Chair*  
 • Act and Rules Committee



**Mark Rushton**  
*Co-Chair*  
 • Complainants' Review Committee



**Sarah Westwood**  
*Chair*  
 • Practice Standards Committee



**Herman Van Ommen, QC**  
*Chair*  
 • Executive Committee  
 • Appointments Subcommittee  
 • Litigation Subcommittee  
 • Recruitment and Nominating Advisory Committee  
 • Law Firm Regulation Task Force  
*Co-Chair*  
 • Truth and Reconciliation Advisory Committee

## Committees, Task Forces and Working Group ...continued

### Advisory Committees

...continued

#### Legal Aid

Advise the Benchers in helping the Law Society realize the Law Society's Vision for Publicly Funded Legal Aid that the Benchers adopted on March 3, 2017.

##### BENCHERS

Nancy Merrill, QC (*Chair*)  
 Richard C.C. Peck, QC (*Vice-Chair; Life Bencher*)  
 Barbara Cromarty  
 David Crossin, QC (*Life Bencher*)  
 Christopher McPherson, QC  
 Philip Riddell  
 Sarah Westwood

##### MEMBER

Odette L. Dempsey-Caputo

##### STAFF CONTACTS

Michael Lucas  
 Doug Munro

#### Recruitment and Nominating

The Recruitment and Nominating Advisory Committee, created in 2017 to replace the Appointments Subcommittee, advises the president, the Executive Committee or the Benchers on potential appointees to other organizations and to Law Society committees, task forces and working groups.

##### BENCHERS

Herman Van Ommen, QC (*Chair*)  
 Jasmin Ahmad  
 Miriam Kresivo, QC  
 Dean Lawton, QC  
 Nancy Merrill, QC  
 Michelle Stanford

##### STAFF CONTACT

Renee Collins

#### Rule of Law and Lawyer Independence

Monitors issues and legislation affecting the rule of law and the independence and self-governance of the legal profession and reports on those matters to the Benchers.

##### BENCHERS

Craig Ferris, QC (*Chair*)  
 Mark Rushton (*Vice-Chair*)  
 Jeff Campbell, QC  
 Pinder Cheema, QC  
 Sharon Matthews, QC  
 Claude Richmond  
 Philip Riddell

##### MEMBERS

Jon Festinger, QC  
 The Hon. Marshall Rothstein, QC

##### STAFF CONTACT

Michael Lucas

#### Truth and Reconciliation

Provides guidance to the Law Society on legal issues affecting Indigenous people in the province; advises the Benchers on priority planning and develops related recommendations and initiatives.

##### BENCHERS

Herman Van Ommen, QC (*Co-Chair*)  
 Dean Lawton, QC  
 Lee Ongman  
 Daniel Smith

##### MEMBERS

Grand Chief Ed John (*Co-Chair*)  
 John Borrows  
 Judge Len Marchand  
 Michael McDonald, QC  
 Ardith Walkem, QC

##### STAFF CONTACT

Andrea Hilland

### Task Forces

#### Law Firm Regulation

Recommends to the Benchers a framework for the regulation of law firms resulting from a 2012 amendment to the *Legal Profession Act* giving the Law Society authority to regulate law firms in addition to regulating individual lawyers.

##### BENCHERS

Herman Van Ommen, QC (*Chair*)  
 Peter Lloyd, FCPA, FCA (*Vice-Chair; Life Bencher*)  
 Martin Finch, QC  
 Sharon Matthews, QC

##### MEMBERS

Jan Christiansen  
 Lori Mathison  
 Angela Westmacott, QC  
 Henry Wood, QC

##### STAFF CONTACT

Michael Lucas

#### Legal Aid

Develops a principled vision for the Law Society concerning publicly funded legal aid and identifies ways to enhance Law Society leadership in legal aid.

##### BENCHERS

Nancy Merrill, QC (*Chair*)  
 Pinder Cheema, QC  
 David Crossin, QC (*Life Bencher*)  
 Richard Peck, QC (*Vice-Chair; Life Bencher*)  
 Sarah Westwood

##### MEMBERS

Thomas Christensen, QC  
 Hon. Lance Finch, QC  
 Linda Thomas  
 Janet Winteringham, QC

##### STAFF CONTACTS

Michael Lucas  
 Doug Munro

### Working Group

#### Early Intervention

Created to identify opportunities to adapt existing or create new programs or initiatives to improve the standards of practice and help lawyers practise more competently.

##### BENCHERS

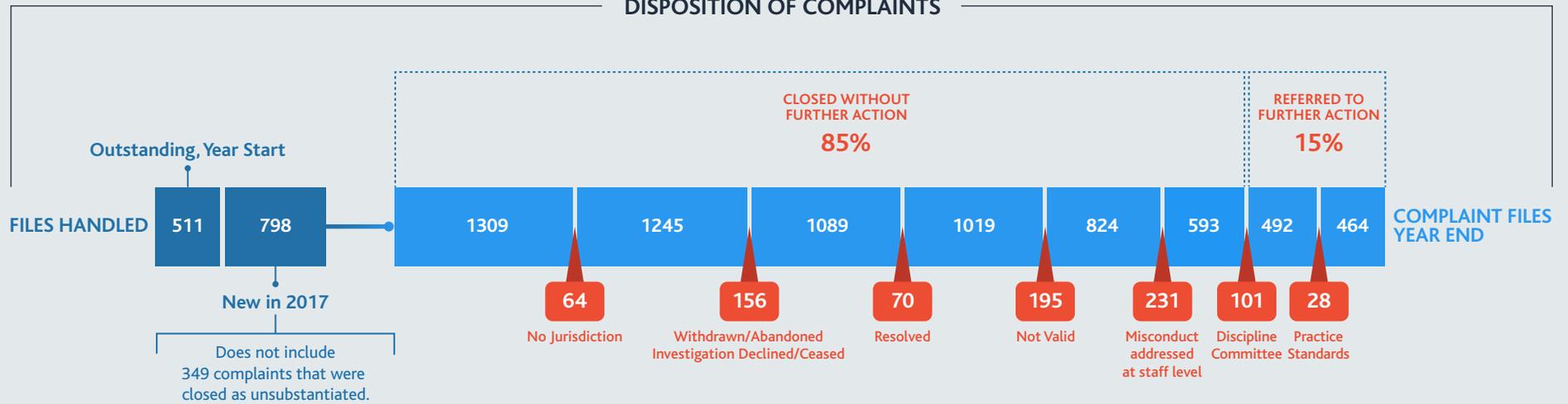
Craig Ferris, QC (*Chair*)  
 Jeff Campbell, QC  
 J.S. (Woody) Hayes, FCPA, FCA  
 Michelle Stanford

##### STAFF CONTACT

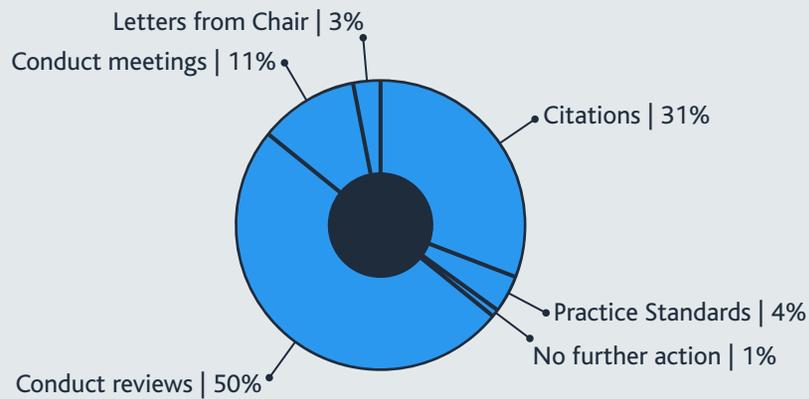
Michael Lucas

# 2017 Complaints Results

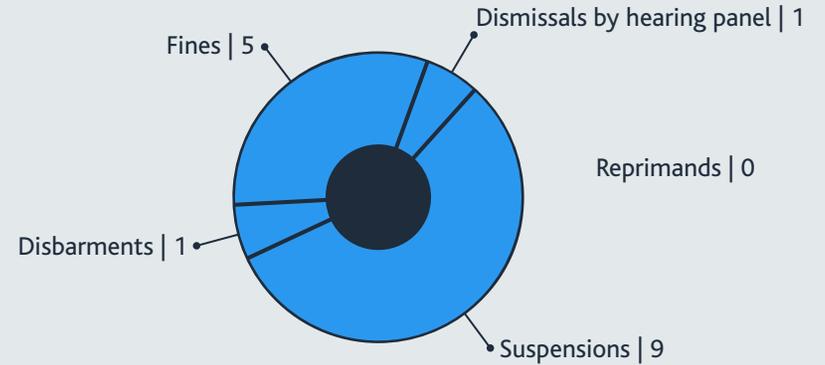
## DISPOSITION OF COMPLAINTS



## DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE DISPOSITIONS



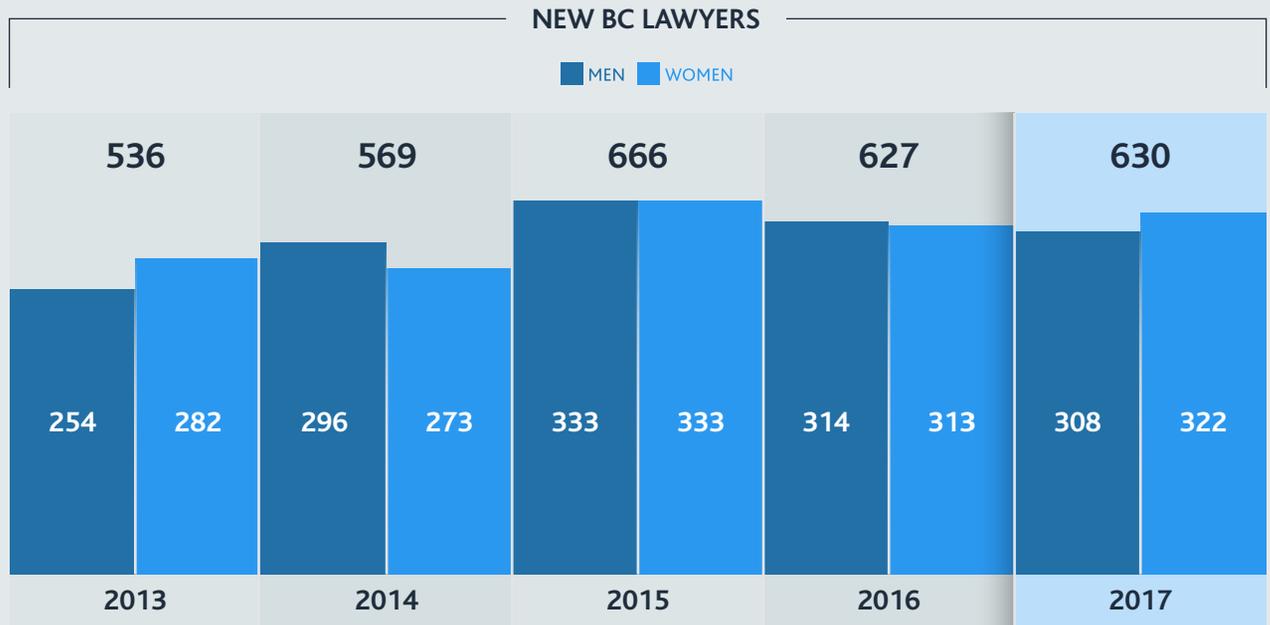
## CITATION OUTCOMES



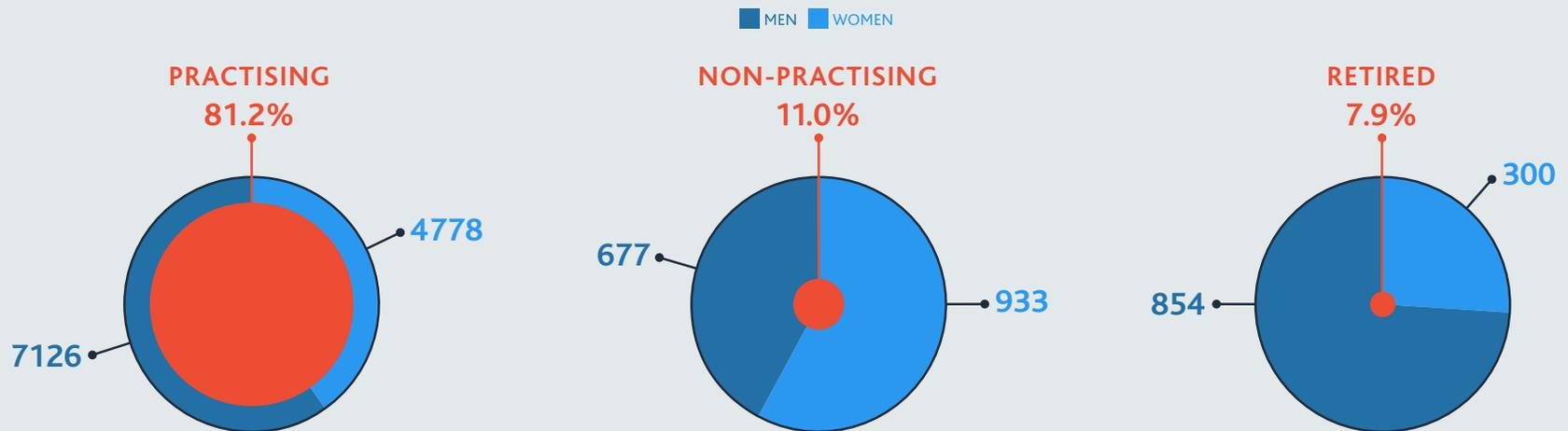
**i** MORE INFORMATION  
Complaints and discipline process

# Legal Profession in BC

Our statistics show trends that may influence the delivery of legal services by BC lawyers in the future. The Justicia program was initiated by the Law Society and is designed to address disparities related to gender.

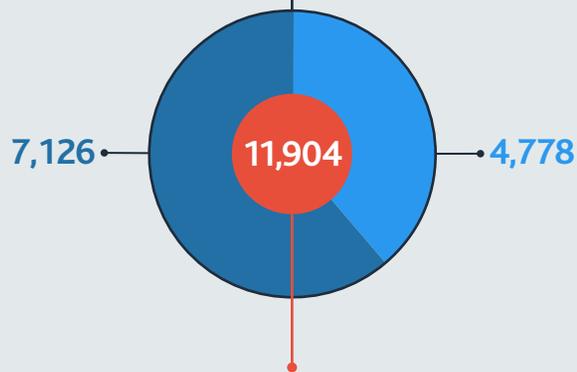
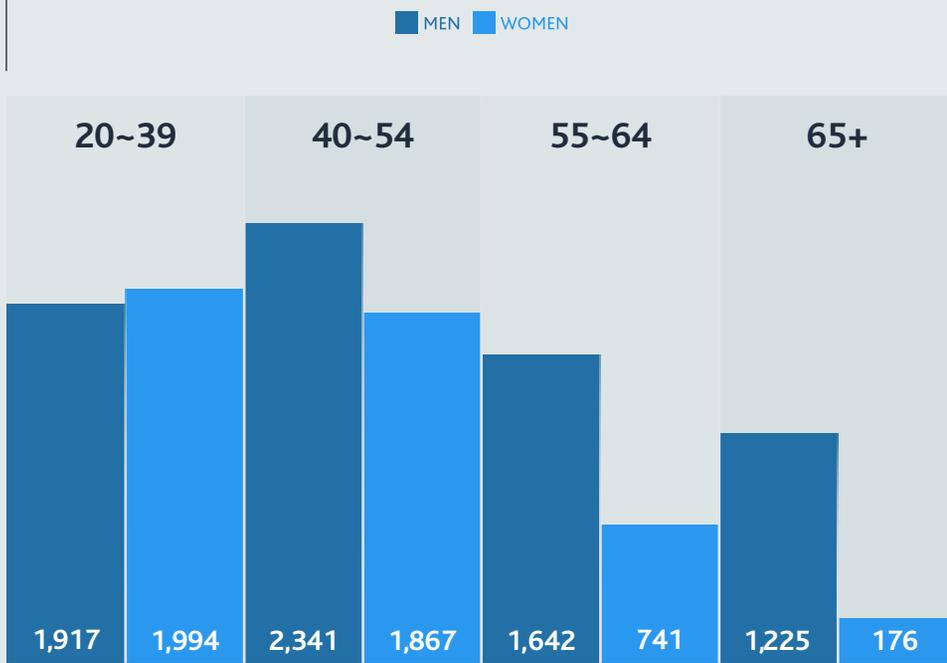


### STATUS OF LAWYERS REGISTERED WITH THE LAW SOCIETY



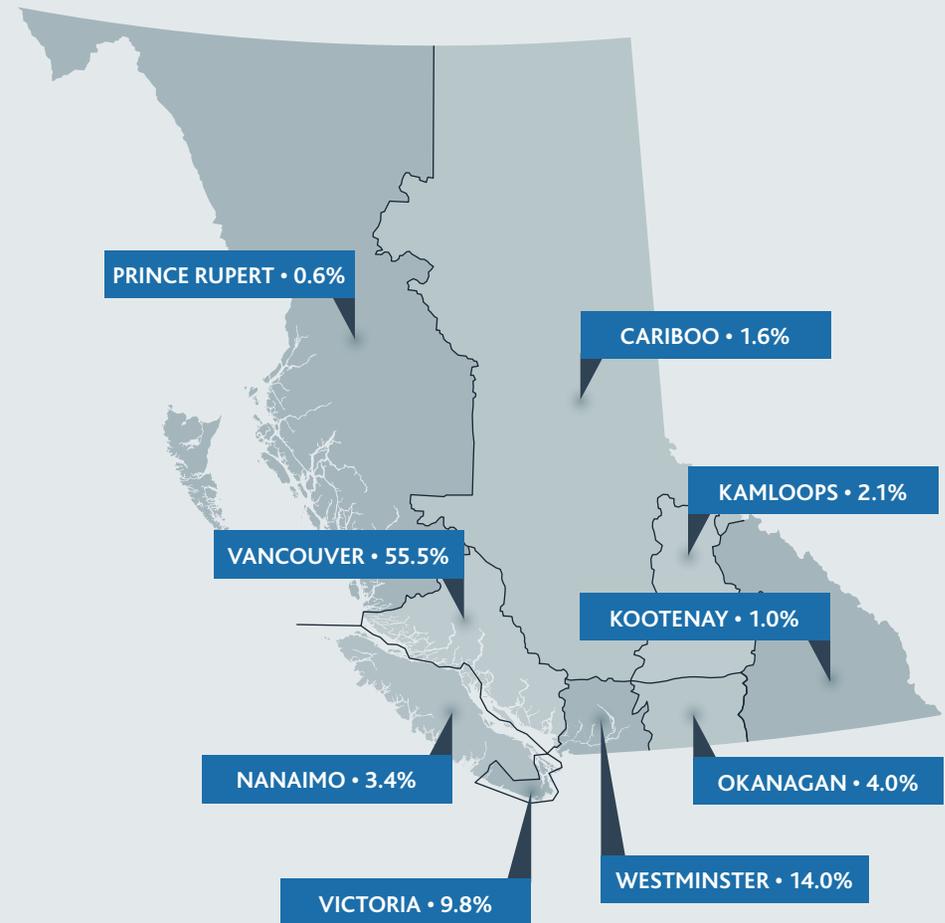
# Legal Profession in BC *...continued*

AGE DEMOGRAPHIC OF PRACTISING BC LAWYERS



TOTAL PRACTISING LAWYERS IN 2017

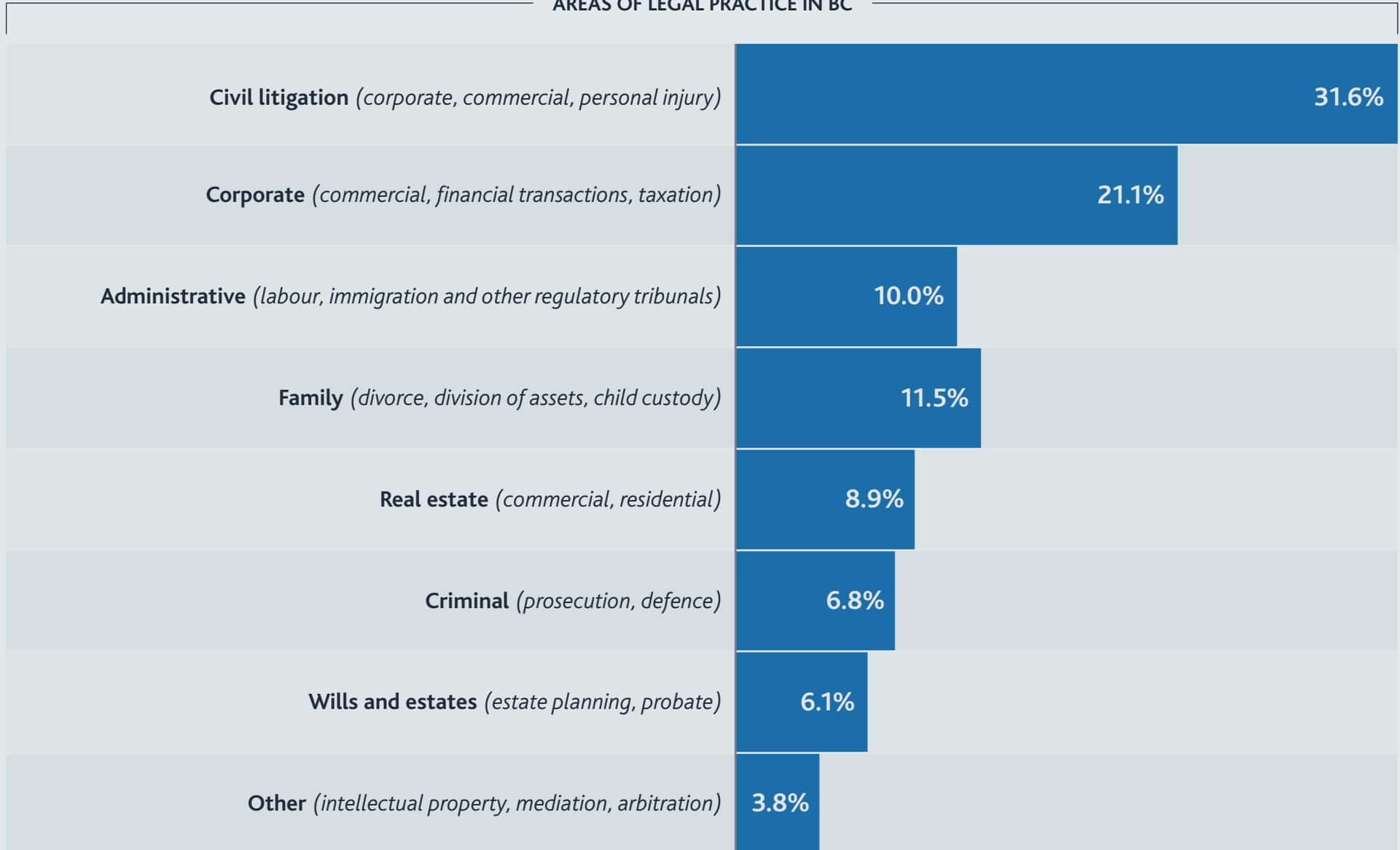
PRACTISING LAWYERS BY ELECTORAL DISTRICT



\*OUT OF PROVINCE • 8.0%

## Legal Profession in BC *...continued*

### AREAS OF LEGAL PRACTICE IN BC



## Hearing Panel Pools

The hearing panel pools demonstrate the Law Society's commitment to maintaining public confidence and transparency.

Lawyers and members of the public from around the province volunteer to be part of the Law Society's hearing panel pools. Panel members are selected, based on established criteria, from a public (non-lawyer) pool and a lawyer (non-Bencher) pool to help adjudicate all discipline and credentials hearings.

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