



Backgrounder – Justicia Project

November 19, 2012

The Justicia Project in BC is a precedent-setting initiative created in response to evidence that women lawyers leave private practice at a higher rate than their male counterparts in their first 10 years of practice.

Encouraged by the success of the Justicia Project in Ontario, the Law Society of BC, on the recommendation of the Retention of Women in Law Task Force, launched its own two-phase program.

Phase one is directed at national law firms with offices in BC that are already participants in Justicia in Ontario and Alberta, as well as large regional firms who may be interested in the project. Phase two will be directed at all other BC firms.

Shayne Strukoff, managing partner at Gowlings, and Helena Plecko, associate at Gowlings, volunteered to drive the initiative on behalf of the Law Society of BC. The project is further supported by the Law Society's Equity and Diversity Advisory Committee, as well as members of the Justicia working group, McCarthy Tétrault's Lisa Vogt and Blakes' Bill Maclagan, who is also a member of the Law Society's board of governors.

Lawyers or law firms with questions about Justicia or how to participate should contact Michael Lucas, Manager, Policy & Legal Services at the Law Society of BC at MLucas@lsbc.org.

See the [Law Society of Upper Canada's website](#) for more information about the Justicia Project in Ontario.

See the [Law Society of BC's website](#) for information on equity and diversity in BC's legal profession.

See the Law Society of BC's [Report of the Retention of Women in Law Task Force](#).