

Agenda

Date:	Saturday, May 30, 2026		
Time:	9:00 am – Call to Order		
Location:	The Bencher Meeting is taking place as a hybrid meeting. If you would like to attend the meeting as a virtual attendee, please email BencherRelations@lsbc.org		
Recording:	<i>The public portion of the meeting will be recorded.</i>		
CONSENT AGENDA			
Any Bencher may request that a consent agenda item be moved to the regular agenda by notifying the President or the Manager, Governance & Board Relations prior to the meeting.			
1	Minutes of February 6, 2026 meeting (regular session)		
2	Minutes of February 6, 2026 meeting (<i>in camera</i> session)		
3	Minutes of April 17, 2026 meeting (regular session)		
4	Minutes of April 17, 2026 meeting (<i>in camera</i> session)		
5	Minutes of May 1, 2026 special meeting (<i>in camera</i>)		
6	Terms of Reference: Bullying Harassment and Discrimination Task Force		
7	Amendments to <i>BC Code</i> Commentary		
REPORTS			
8	President's Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benchers' Nominee for 2027 Second Vice-President • Sub-Committee of Executive Committee 	5 min	Thomas L. Spraggs, KC
9	CEO's Report	5 min	Gigi Chen-Kuo
GUEST PRESENTATION			
10	Updates from the Federation of Law Societies of Canada and Western Law Societies	20 min	Representatives from the Federation of Law Societies of Canada and the Western Law Societies

Agenda

UPDATES			
11	Articled Student Education Update	10 min	Lesley Small
DISCUSSION & DECISION			
12	Commentary for Bencher Resolution regarding Statutory Compliance	15 min	Thomas L. Spraggs, KC
13	Revisions to Bencher Expense Reimbursement Policy & Bencher Professional Development	5 min	Jeanette McPhee
14	Rule Amendments: Admission Program Transition Rules	15 min	Lesley Small
FOR INFORMATION			
15	External Appointment: Federation of Law Societies of Canada Council		
IN CAMERA			
OTHER BUSINESS			

Law Society *of British Columbia*

Bencher Meeting: Minutes (Draft)

To: Benchers

Purpose: Approval (Consent Agenda)

Date: Friday, February 6, 2026

Present:

Thomas L. Spraggs, KC, President	James A. S. Legh
Michael Welsh, KC, 1st Vice-President	Benjamin D. Levine
Katrina Harry, KC, 2nd Vice-President	Jaspreet Singh Malik
Simran Bains	Marcia McNeil
Nazanin Aram	Jay Michi
Aleem Bharmal, KC	Arun Mohan
Tanya Chamberlain, KC	David Perry
Christina J. Cook, KC	Michèle Ross
Cheryl D'Sa, KC	Gurminder Sandhu, KC
Tim Delaney, KC	Nicole E. Smith
John Greschner	Karen K.L. Tse, KC
Tanya Heuchert	James Struthers
Ravi R. Hira, KC	Natasha Tony
Sara K. Hopkins	Kevin B. Westell

Absent: Georges Rivard, KC
Kathleen Wittenberg
Michael Zimmerman

Senior and Meeting Support Staff

Gigi Chen-Kuo, Chief Executive Officer/Executive Director (CEO/ED)
 Kerryn Holt, Chief Operating Officer
 Tara McPhail, Chief Legal Officer
 Jeanette McPhee, Chief Financial Officer & Senior Director, Trust Reg.
 Su Forbes, KC, Chief Operating Officer, Lawyers Indemnity Fund
 Lesley Small, Senior Director, Credentials, Prof. Dev. & Practice Supp.

Michael Lucas, KC, General Counsel and Senior Policy Counsel
 Sherry Small, Director, Indigenous Initiatives
 Christine Tam, Director, Communications
 Adam Whitcombe, KC, Senior Advisor
 Avalon Bourne, Manager, Governance & Board Relations
 Rebecca Neal, Senior Administrator, Governance & Board Relations
 Volodymyr Burlachenko, Administrator, Governance & Board Relations
 Deborah Mah, Administrator, Governance & Board Relations

Staff present:

Bonnie Bernal	Janet Nacario
Kim de Bruijn	Rashmi Nair
Michaela David	Surindar Nijjar
Jackie Drozdowski	Sara Pavan
Jeffrey Hoskins, KC	Maryanne Prohl
Hoon Kim	Andrea Rayment
Sherry Kooner	Michelle Robertson
Alannah Korf	Carrie Robinson
Jane Ladesma	Gregory Sexton
Nicolette Lang-Andersen	Marlon Song
Kaflin Lee	Arrie Sturdivant
Mary Anne Mackenzie	Colton Tremmel
Michael Mulhern	Leanne Wood
Doug Munro	Vinnie Yen
Amanda Murphy	

Guests:

Karen St. Aubin, Director, Membership & Education, Trial Lawyers Association BC
 Dom Bautista, ED, Courts Center & ED, Amici Curiae Friendship Society
 Conor Bildfell, First Vice-President, Canadian Bar Association, BC Branch
 Ian Burns, Digital Reporter, The Lawyer's Daily
 Derek LaCroix, KC, ED, Lawyers Assistance Program of BC
 Desmond MacMillan, Assistant Dean of Law, Thompson Rivers University
 Claire Marchant, ED, Lawyers Assistance Program of BC
 Rebecca McConchie, President, Trial Lawyers Association of BC
 Mark Meredith, Board Member, Mediate BC
 Caroline Nevin, CEO, Courthouse Libraries BC
 Graeme Nunn, Guest
 Ngai Pindell, Dean of Law, Peter A. Allard School of Law
 Linda Russell, CEO, Continuing Legal Education Society of BC
 Kerry Simmons, KC, ED, Canadian Bar Association, BC Branch

Oath Of Office

1. Administer Oaths of Office

The Honourable Justice Nitya Iyer administered oaths of office (in the form set out in Rule 1-3) to President Thomas L. Spraggs, KC, First Vice-President Michael F. Welsh, KC, and Second Vice-President Katrina Harry, KC, individually and to all the Benchers en masse, whose terms began January 1, 2026.

Justice Iyer congratulated all of the Benchers elected, re-elected, appointed and re-appointed, and spoke of the importance of their service to the public and to the legal profession to protect and uphold the rule of law and the administration of justice. She wished them all the best with this work in the year to come.

2. Indigenous Welcome

Carleen Thomas, a member of the Tsleil-Waututh Nation, introduced herself to Benchers and welcomed them to the meeting and to the ancestral lands of the Tsleil-Waututh people. She spoke of her family's history and traditions and the connection with the Squamish and the Musqueam peoples. She spoke of the work that needed to be done to continue to move towards truth and reconciliation by continuing to learn the history of the land and Indigenous peoples.

3. President's Welcome and Introductory Remarks

President Thomas L. Spraggs, KC welcomed Benchers, staff, and guests to the first Bencher meeting of 2026.

Mr. Spraggs expressed his gratitude for the support he has received thus far in his transition to President for 2026. He advised that his focus and the work of Benchers over the course of the year would be guided by the Law Society's new strategic plan, as well as, protecting the rule of law and the public interest.

Mr. Spraggs spoke about some key priorities for the year, including a focus on innovation and governance, as well as a project regarding the regulation of artificial intelligence within the profession.

Consent Agenda

4. Minutes of December 5, 2025, meeting (regular session)

The minutes of the meeting held on December 5, 2025 were approved unanimously and by consent as circulated.

5. Minutes of December 5, 2025, meeting (*in camera* session)

The minutes of the *in camera* meeting held on December 5, 2025 were approved unanimously and by consent as circulated.

6. Law Society Representatives Appointed Pursuant to *King's Counsel Act*

The following resolution was passed unanimously and by consent:

BE IT RESOLVED the Benchers appoint President Thomas L. Spraggs, KC and First Vice-President Michael F. Welsh, KC as the Law Society's representatives to be consulted pursuant to section 2(2)(c) of the *King's Counsel Act*.

Reports

7. President's Report

Mr. Spraggs incorporated his report into his welcome and introductory remarks.

Mr. Spraggs advised Benchers that two calls for expressions of interest would be issued to Benchers: the first for those who wished to be considered for appointment to the new Judicial Liaison Committee, and the second for those who wished to be considered for appointment as the Law Society's member on the Federation of Law Societies of Canada ("Federation") Council, following Brook Greenberg KC's term concluding later in the year.

8. CEO's Report

Gigi Chen-Kuo, Chief Executive Officer & Executive Director, began her report by speaking about the Law Society's new 2026-2028 Strategic Plan, which would guide the work of the Law Society over the next three years. She also reflected on her first year serving as the Law Society's CEO and Executive Director.

Ms. Chen-Kuo updated the Benchers about the issuance of a public statement earlier in the week, which expressed concern regarding the provincial government's stated intention to amend the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*. She advised that the Law Society's position was to urge the provincial government to refrain from attempting to constrain the role of the courts in interpreting legislation, as this could jeopardize the independence of the judiciary. Ms. Chen-Kuo also clarified the procedure for news releases, in accordance with the Media Relations Policy.

Ms. Chen-Kuo then provided an update regarding the governance review being undertaken by the Federation. She indicated that the final report would be presented at the October Federation Council meeting.

Ms. Chen-Kuo advised that Sherry Small, Director of Indigenous Initiatives, and herself have been working on the development of an organizational training plan to advance truth and reconciliation within the Law Society, at both the staff and Bencher levels.

Ms. Chen-Kuo concluded her report with an update regarding the Employment Engagement Survey. She indicated that a two-year action plan has been finalized, and regular progress updates would be provided to staff and to Benchers.

Update

9. Walking the Path of Transformation: A Journey of Practice

Mr. Spraggs invited Sherry Small, Director, Indigenous Initiatives to address the Benchers.

Ms. Small introduced herself and gave a presentation on *Walking the Path of Transformation: a Journey of Practice*. She spoke about the purpose and intention of the presentation and outlined her leadership approach and her role within the Law Society.

Ms. Small spoke about two foundational structures that will connect directly with the Law Society's ongoing commitment to truth and reconciliation: the Journey of Practice and the internal working group established to oversee this work. She then presented an overview of the Journey of Practice as a learning pathway for the Law Society to live its commitments to Indigenous peoples and to build sustained practices in terms of the integration of Indigenous engagement and inclusion. Ms. Small emphasized the importance of continuity in the carrying out of this work; building practices that are relational and rooted in relationships, accountability, and respect and that are consistent with Indigenous worldviews; and the importance of seeking and integrating Indigenous engagement early and often. She also spoke about the strong commitment to reconciliation across the Law Society.

Ms. Small then provided an overview of the internal working group, which will serve as the operational engine of the Journey of Practice and will focus on aligning the Law Society's new strategic plan with the Indigenous Engagement in Regulatory Matters Task Force's report and recommendations.

Ms. Small then spoke about next steps in the Journey of Practice, and she indicated that regular reports would be provided to the Benchers.

Presentation

10. Lawyers Indemnity Fund: The Journey to the Present

Su Forbes, KC, Chief Operating Officer, Lawyers Indemnity Fund presented an overview of the Lawyers Indemnity Fund ("LIF"), including an overview of the team structure, the program itself, types of coverage, types of claims, causes of claims, volume of claims, and other trends. She also spoke about the work being undertaken to help prevent claims and enhance risk management, as well as the different types of policies and how these are structured.

Ms. Forbes concluded her report by providing an overview of the results received from satisfaction surveys, which have been overwhelmingly positive.

Discussion & Decision

11. Revisions to Bencher in camera Policy

Mr. Spraggs introduced the item and provided an overview of the proposed revisions to the *in camera* policy. He referenced the discussions that had taken place at the previous Bencher meeting, as well as the discussions held by the Executive Committee at their January meeting.

There was no discussion on this item, and the following resolution was passed unanimously:

BE IT RESOLVED the Benchers approve the proposed revisions to the *in camera* Policy as set out in Appendix A and B.

For Information

12. Briefing by the Law Society's Member of the Federation Council

There was no discussion on this item.

13. External Appointment: Law Foundation of BC

There was no discussion on this item.

14. 2026 Schedule of Bencher and Executive Committee Meetings

There was no discussion on this item.

15. 2027 Schedule of Bencher and Executive Committee Meetings

There was no discussion on this item.

The Benchers then commenced the *in camera* portion of the meeting.

Other Business

External appointment: Legal Aid BC

Following discussion *in camera* on this matter, the following resolution was passed unanimously:

BE IT RESOLVED the Benchers appoint Nancy Carter, KC to the LABC Board of Directors for a three-year term commencing February 12, 2026 and concluding February 11, 2028.

Oshawa Courthouse Incident

The Benchers discussed the recent incident in Oshawa Ontario, where a Black woman lawyer wearing a head scarf was reportedly subjected to physical violence by police while working at the courthouse. It was noted that the matter is being investigated and the hope is that the authorities get to the heart of what occurred and why, so that situations like this do not happen again or be forgotten.

Some Benchers commented that such incidents cause significant harm, and that it is important for the Law Society to speak out in support of racialized lawyers. The Law Society has an important role and responsibility to voice opposition to such incidents in order to protect the public interest in the administration of justice, and demonstrate its support and solidarity for all who serve within the justice system.

RN
2026-04-08

DRAFT

Law Society *of British Columbia*

Bencher Meeting: Minutes (Draft)

To: Benchers

Purpose: Approval (Consent Agenda)

Date: Friday, April 17, 2026

Present: Thomas L. Spraggs, KC, President
Michael Welsh, KC, 1st Vice-President
Katrina Harry, KC, 2nd Vice-President
Simran Bains
Nazanin Aram
Aleem Bharmal, KC
Tanya Chamberlain, KC
Christina J. Cook, KC
Cheryl D'Sa, KC
Tim Delaney, KC
John Greschner
Tanya Heuchert
Ravi R. Hira, KC
Sara K. Hopkins
James A. S. Legh
Benjamin D. Levine
Jaspreet Singh Malik
Marcia McNeil
Jay Michi
Arun Mohan
David Perry
Georges Rivard, KC
Michèle Ross
Gurminder Sandhu, KC
Karen K.L. Tse, KC
James Struthers
Natasha Tony
Kevin B. Westell
Ruth Wittenberg
Michael Zimmerman

Absent: Nicole E. Smith

Senior and Meeting Support Staff

Gigi Chen-Kuo, Chief Executive Officer/Executive Director
 Kerryn Holt, Chief Operating Officer
 Tara McPhail, Chief Legal Officer
 Jeanette McPhee, Chief Financial Officer & Senior Director, Trust Reg.
 Su Forbes, KC, Chief Operating Officer, Lawyers Indemnity Fund
 Lesley Small, Senior Director, Credentials, Prof. Dev. & Practice Supp.

Michael Lucas, KC, General Counsel and Senior Policy Counsel
 Sherry Small, Director, Indigenous Initiatives
 Christine Tam, Director, Communications
 Adam Whitcombe, KC, Senior Advisor
 Avalon Bourne, Manager, Governance & Board Relations
 Rebecca Neal, Senior Administrator, Governance & Board Relations
 Volodymyr Burlachenko, Administrator, Governance & Board Relations
 Deborah Mah, Administrator, Governance & Board Relations

Staff present:

Tiger Bellerose	Janet Nacario
Kim de Bruijn	Sara Pavan
Barbara Buchanan, KC	Michelle Robertson
Michaela David	Carrie Robinson
Jeffrey Hoskins, KC	Nadia Rowe
Helen Huzzey	Arrie Sturdivant
Joyce Johner	Madison Taylor
Nicolette Lang-Andersen	Teo Wong
Marina Mala	Charlene Yan
Gagan Mann	Vinnie Yuen
Doug Munro	

Guests:

Christa Akey, Representative, Aboriginal Lawyers Forum, Canadian Bar Association, BC Branch
 Rita C. Andreone, KC, Life Bencher
 Dom Bautista, ED, Courts Center & ED, Amici Curiae Friendship Society
 Conor Bildfell, First Vice-President, Canadian Bar Association, BC Branch
 Patricia D. Blair, President, Canadian Bar Association, BC Branch
 Joost Blom, KC, Life Bencher
 Ian Burns, Digital Reporter, The Lawyer's Daily
 Peter Buxton, Guest
 Karen Campbell, Executive Director, BC Law Institute
 Jennifer Chow, KC, Life Bencher
 Ronald Coke, Guest
 Jeevyn Dhaliwal, KC, Life Bencher
 Joanne Di Domenico, Guest
 Ian Donaldson, KC, Life Bencher

Craig Ferris, KC, Life Bencher
Chang Han, Guest
Brandon Hastings, Guest
Benjamin Israel, Guest
Sarah Janssens, Guest
Robert T.C. Johnston, KC, Life Bencher
Christopher Lalande, Guest
Dean Lawton, KC, Life Bencher
Peter Leask, KC, Life Bencher
Jason Levine, Guest
Jamie Maclaren, KC, Life Bencher
Desmond MacMillan, Assistant Dean of Law, Thompson Rivers University
Claire Marchant, ED, Lawyers Assistance Program of BC
Nancy G. Merrill, KC, Life Bencher
Caroline Nevin, CEO, Courthouse Libraries BC
Karen F. Nordlinger, KC, Life Bencher
Thelma J. O'Grady, Life Bencher
Tina Parbhakar, Guest
Ngai Pindell, Dean of Law, Peter A. Allard School of Law
Elizabeth Rowbotham, KC, Life Bencher
Linda Russell, CEO, Continuing Legal Education Society of BC
Tiffany Scarlett, Guest
Jane Shackell, KC, Life Bencher
Kerry Simmons, KC, ED, Canadian Bar Association, BC Branch
Barbara Stanley, KC, Life Bencher
Aaren Terrett, Guest
Kenneth M. Walker, KC, Life Bencher
Carmen Zabarauckas, Guest

Oath Of Office

1. Administer Oaths of Office

President Thomas L. Spraggs, KC administered an oath of office (in the form set out in Rule 1-3) to new Benchers Ruth Wittenberg and Michael Zimmerman.

Consent Agenda

2. Minutes of February 6, 2026 meeting (regular session)

This item was deferred to the next Bencher meeting.

3. Minutes of February 6, 2026 meeting (*in camera* session)

This item was deferred to the next Bencher meeting.

4. 2026 Annual General Meeting: Advance Voting

The following resolution was passed unanimously and by consent:

BE IT RESOLVED the Benchers authorize the Executive Director to permit members of the Society in good standing to vote by electronic means on general meeting resolutions in advance of the 2026 AGM, in accordance with Rule 1-13.1.

5. Proposed Terms of Reference: Discipline Processes Task Force

The following resolution was passed unanimously and by consent:

BE IT RESOLVED the Benchers approve the proposed Terms of Reference for the Discipline Processes Task Force, attached as Appendix A.

6. Proposed Updated Terms of Reference: Ethics and Lawyer Independence Advisory Committee

The following resolution was passed unanimously and by consent:

BE IT RESOLVED the Benchers approve the proposed updated Terms of Reference for the Ethics and Lawyer Independence Advisory Committee, attached as Appendix B.

7. Proposal to Amend Commentary [4] of BC Code Rule 3.3-3 (Future Harm/Public Safety Exception to Confidentiality)

The following resolution was passed unanimously and by consent:

BE IT RESOLVED to amend rule 3.3-3 of the Code of Professional Conduct for British Columbia, as follows:

By striking out Commentary [4] and replacing it with the following:

“[4] How and when disclosure should be made under this Code rule will depend upon the circumstances. While in all cases disclosure will arise only in rare and exceptional cases, in some cases it will be clear that disclosure is warranted. If, however, a lawyer is uncertain whether disclosure may be warranted, the lawyer should, if practicable, seek ethical advice from the Society or from a practising senior lawyer in British Columbia. When practicable and permitted, a judicial order may be sought for disclosure.”

Reports

8. President's Report

Mr. Spraggs began his report by acknowledging the recent judicial appointment of Justice Brook Greenberg. He spoke about Justice Greenberg's many contributions to the Law Society.

Mr. Spraggs spoke about the recent passing of former appointed Bencher and long-time committee member Mark Rushton. He extended his condolences to Mr. Rushton's family, on behalf of the Law Society.

Mr. Spraggs then spoke about the single legal regulator initiative and invited the provincial government to work with the Law Society to explore a path forward that genuinely serves the public interest, that respects the independence of the legal profession, and that draws on the deep competencies of the legal profession to help guide the regulation of legal services in BC.

Mr. Spraggs provided an overview of his recent activities and events, including attending a number of judicial welcome ceremonies, attending the Federation of Law Societies of Canada (“Federation”) meetings, attending the New Westminster Bar Association event, attending the Kootenay Bar Association annual event, attending the Indigenous Law Students' Association Annual Gala, and attending the West Coast LEAF Equality Breakfast, among other meetings and events.

Mr. Spraggs indicated that nominations for the Benchers' Nominee for 2027 Second Vice President will be opening the following week, and a communication will be sent to Benchers with further information regarding the process and timelines.

Mr. Spraggs informed Benchers that the work regarding the new Judicial Liaison Committee would be paused for the time being pending the outcome of the single legal regulator litigation.

Mr. Spraggs concluded his report with a reminder to Benchers about the upcoming Board Retreat. He indicated that further information would be circulated to Benchers shortly.

9. CEO's Report

Gigi Chen-Kuo, Chief Executive Officer & Executive Director began her report by welcoming new Benchers, Ruth Wittenberg and Michael Zimmerman.

Ms. Chen-Kuo provided an update on the national Rule of Law public awareness campaign that will be unfolding over the next few months. She encouraged all in attendance to help spread the message regarding the campaign.

Ms. Chen-Kuo then updated Benchers on the recent Federation meetings, including the second round of consultation regarding the proposed amendments to the Model Code, ongoing work to modernize the National Committee on Accreditation assessment process, a new online Indigenous Peoples and Laws course developed by the Canadian Center for Professional Legal Education (“CPLED”), and the conclusion of the Financial Action Task Force’s valuation of Canada's anti-money laundering regime. She indicated that a report was expected sometime this summer.

Ms. Chen Kuo updated Benchers on operational matters, including the development of a free online training course for principals of articling students; the creation of an internal Journey of Practice Working Group to ensure Indigenous-informed approaches are embedded into the Law Society's regulatory processes, organizational practices, and decision-making; and preparations that are being made in regard to the upcoming FIFA World Cup.

Ms. Chen Kuo concluded her report by introducing the Law Society’s new Director of Policy and Strategic Initiatives, Barbara Lu.

Presentation

10. AI Project Update

Mr. Spraggs welcomed Lawrence Alexander and Allan P. Seckel, KC to the meeting.

Mr. Alexander and Mr. Seckel then presented on the work they had undertaken to assess the opportunities and challenges that artificial intelligence (“AI”) creates, including understanding how AI will affect the legal system, so as to help the Law Society advance its strategic objectives and adopt responsive regulatory processes, training, and education.

Mr. Alexander and Mr. Seckel presented on their findings, as well as their methodology and approach, and their analysis of how the use of AI will affect the legal system, including current use, risks, and potential regulatory principles, and provided an overview of their recommendations, including encouraging safe use and making sure the profession and the public are aware of the risks, reviewing and updating practice advice specific to the use of AI tools, requiring a certain level of competency in the use of AI tools, encouraging more BC-based

specialty tools by implementing a non-prosecution policy from an unauthorized practice law perspective.

Benchers engaged in discussions with Mr. Alexander and Mr. Seckel regarding their presentation and findings with focus on the importance of safe and appropriate usage of AI tools, increased access to online research as a result of AI, the risks to be aware of for the profession and public, and the Law Society's plans for internal use of AI tools.

Updates

11. National Discipline Standards Report: Implementation and Update

Tara McPhail, Chief Legal Officer, provided background information regarding the National Discipline Standards and then presented the findings of the 2025 report. She indicated that in 2025, 8 additional standards were added regarding anti-money laundering, so there were now 32 standards that Law Societies have their performance measured against. Ms. McPhail reported that the Law Society met 30 of the 32, and as in previous years, the two standards not met were 9 and 10. Ms. McPhail indicated that these two standards are consistently not met, and she provided background information as to why these standards have not been met. She advised that as standard 9 is consistently not met by a number of law societies, the Federation has formed a sub-committee to consider revising the standard to extend the timelines. For standard 10, Ms. McPhail advised that the Law Society had improved significantly from prior years, even with a substantial increase in the number of complaints being received.

12. Bar Admission Training Program Transition Update

Benchers engaged in discussions with Lesley Small, Senior Director, Credentials, Professional Development, and Practice Support regarding the transition process and the level of flexibility for students asking for accommodations and the role of the Law Society in these decisions. Ms. Small advised that any students who would have been enrolled in the September session of Professional Legal Training Course ("PLTC") would have a spot in the Practice Readiness Education Program ("PREP"). She further advised that any requests for special accommodations would be dealt with by the Canadian Centre for Professional Legal Education ("CPLED").

Discussion & Decision

13. Financial Matters

Second Vice-President Michael F Welsh, KC introduced the item and thanked committee members and staff for all their efforts, which led to a clean audit.

Jeanette McPhee, Chief Financial Officer & Senior Director of Trust Regulation provided an overview of the audited financial statements and results for 2025. She noted that the general fund operations resulted in a \$3.85 million deficit, compared to a \$4.6 million deficit projected when setting the 2026 budget, and that at the end of 2025, the working capital reserves were \$16.6 million, 5.1 months of operating expenses, which is within the reserve policy limits. Ms. McPhee spoke about the number of projects and initiatives that were funded from reserves, including litigation costs, CanLII AI updates, and the potential transition to the single legal regulator. She then reviewed revenue, which was just slightly under budget. Ms. McPhee reviewed expenses, which were 2% over budget, due to external counsel fees and litigation costs, unbudgeted expenses, and overbudgeted expenses in some areas. She then reviewed TAF-related revenue, which was lower than anticipated due to market fluctuations. Ms. McPhee then reviewed the Lawyers Indemnity Fund, which was at budget. She also reviewed claims provision over the course of 2025, which was significantly below the 2024 claim provision, as well as net assets and the Lawyers Indemnity Fund investment portfolio.

Ms. McPhee provided an overview of the financial results and highlights to the end of February 2026. She reviewed the general fund forecast for 2026, which is forecasted to be in deficit, mainly due to the lower number of practising lawyers, the planned use of reserves, and one-time project costs.

The following resolution was passed unanimously:

BE IT RESOLVED to approve the Law Society's 2025 Financial Statements for the General Fund, and the 2025 Consolidated Financial Statements for the Lawyers Indemnity Fund.

Benchers discussed the deficit budget and the impact of the single legal regulator litigation and potential transition and what could be considered in order to balance the budget. Benchers also discussed communication strategies regarding the increase of fees. Mr. Spraggs advised that these matters would be considered at the Finance and Audit Committee with more information to come.

14. Governance Proposals

Mr. Spraggs introduced the item and provided some background information regarding the governance proposals, which included a proposal to amend the Annual Bencher Conflicts Disclosure Form to provide for greater clarity, and a proposal to include a Bencher Resolution authorizing the Benchers to amend the Rules to provide a process for the removal of a Bencher

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on the agenda of the 2026 annual general meeting. He spoke about the importance of accountability and governance best practices.

The following resolution was passed unanimously:

BE IT RESOLVED the Benchers approve the proposed amendment to the Annual Bencher Conflicts Disclosure Form, as outlined in Appendix C.

Benchers discussed the proposal regarding amending the Law Society Rules to provide for the removal of a Bencher, in accordance with section 12(1)(c) of the *Legal Profession Act*.

A motion was moved and seconded to adjourn the matter to a future meeting.

Some Benchers were in agreement that the removal process should be further considered prior to Benchers making a decision on this matter, while other Benchers were of the view that initiating the development of a process by having a Bencher resolution on the agenda of the 2026 annual general meeting would not preclude further consideration by Benchers.

Kerryn Holt, Chief Operating Officer provided some further background information, as this particular Rule would require the approval of the profession voting in an annual general meeting or a referendum in order for Benchers to amend it. She indicated that it would be helpful first to confirm putting forward such a proposal with Benchers, and then obtain membership approval, following which a comprehensive report for Benchers would be prepared to consider the specifics of the removal process.

The motion to adjourn the matter to a future meeting was defeated by a majority of Benchers, with two abstentions recorded.

Benchers then discussed the proposed Bencher resolution to include on the agenda of the 2026 annual general meeting. Ms. Chen-Kuo advised that staff would prepare commentary to accompany the resolution, and this would be provided to Benchers for consideration and approval at the May Bencher meeting.

Avalon Bourne, Manager, Governance and Board Relations provided some background regarding the usual language used for Bencher resolutions, as well as the process once membership approval was obtained.

The majority of Benchers agreed to include the following Bencher resolution on the agenda for the upcoming 2026 annual general meeting scheduled to take place on July 8, 2026:

BE IT RESOLVED to authorize the Benchers to amend the Rules to provide for the removal of a Bencher, so as to be in compliance with section 12(1)(c) of the *Legal Profession Act*.

For Information

15. Rule of Law Public Awareness Campaign – Update and Next Steps

There was no discussion on this item.

16. Outside Directorship Liability Insurance

There was no discussion on this item.

17. External Appointments: Law Foundation of BC

There was no discussion on this item.

The Benchers then commenced the *in camera* portion of the meeting.

RN
2026-05-20

Proposed Terms of Reference: Bullying, Harassment, and Discrimination Task Force

To: Benchers

Purpose: Approval (Consent Agenda)

From: Bullying, Harassment, and Discrimination Task Force

Date: May 30, 2026

Purpose

1. The Benchers are asked to approve the Terms of Reference (“ToR”) that have been prepared by the Bullying, Harassment, and Discrimination Task Force (the “Task Force”).

Background

2. The Task Force was established in January 2025. To date, it has not adopted formal ToR.
3. As the Task Force transitions into a phase of its work involving more substantive decision-making, it is timely to establish and approve ToR.

Discussion

4. The Task Force drafted ToR, attached as **Appendix A**, to further define its mandate, composition, meeting practices, accountability and reporting requirements, duties and responsibilities, and finally staff support.
5. In developing this draft, the Task Force opted to reference its mandate letter and provide a high-level summary of key priorities, rather than reproducing each mandate item in full. The mandate letter serves as the primary guiding document for the Task Force’s work and is subject to change on an annual basis in accordance with the President’s mandate. Given the Task Force’s multi-year timeline and the one-year presidential cycle, this approach was considered most practical and adaptable.
6. Key elements of the mandate letter, such as the requirement to take an evidence-based and intersectional approach, have been incorporated directly into the ToR.
7. The ToR further include a target to deliver a final recommendation report by September 2027.

Decision

8. The Bullying, Harassment, and Discrimination Task Force proposes the following resolution for Bencher approval:

BE IT RESOLVED the Benchers approve the proposed Terms of Reference for the Bullying, Harassment, and Discrimination Task Force, attached as Appendix A.

Bullying, Harassment, and Discrimination Task Force

Terms of Reference

[month] 2026

Mandate

The Bullying, Harassment, and Discrimination Task Force (“Task Force”) has been established to support the Law Society of British Columbia (“Law Society”) in fulfilling its public interest mandate. The Task Force is responsible for developing and providing recommendations to the Benchers on strategies to address bullying, harassment, and discrimination within British Columbia’s legal profession.

Bullying, harassment and discrimination, including sexual harassment, remain persistent and systemic issues in the legal profession. While the Law Society has made meaningful progress in recent years to address these concerns, continued and sustained efforts are required to ensure a safe, inclusive, and respectful professional environment for all.

In this context, the Task Force will undertake a comprehensive, evidence-based, and intersectional review of the Law Society’s regulatory framework and responses to bullying, harassment, and discrimination. This includes consideration of, but is not limited to, alternative and less adversarial processes, educational and preventative initiatives, and supports for individuals who experience or witness such conduct.

The Task Force’s work will be guided primarily by the President’s Mandate Letter, which sets out the strategic priorities and scope of the Task Force’s activities.

Composition

The Task Force shall consist of:

- a) a Chair and a Vice-Chair, or two Co-Chairs, both of whom must be sitting Benchers;
- b) at least four elected Benchers;
- c) at least one appointed Bencher; and
- d) at least two other lawyer members who are not Benchers.

The composition should also reflect as much as possible the diversity of the legal profession, including geographic diversity.

Meeting Practices

1. The Task Force operate in a manner that is consistent with the Benchers' governance policies.
2. The Task Force meet as required.
3. Meetings may be held in-person, virtually or in hybrid form.
4. For any meeting convened under these Terms of Reference, a quorum constitutes at least half of the members of the Task Force (Rule 1-17(1)).
5. Decisions of the Task Force are usually reached by consensus, but in circumstances where consensus cannot be achieved, the Task Force will vote on issues. Any disputes in process are resolved in accordance with the Law Society Rules, with reference to the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order (Newly Revised).
6. The Task Force may, from time to time, invite guests or subject-matter experts to attend meetings.

Accountability and Reporting Requirements

The Task Force is accountable to the Benchers. The Task Force is responsible for fulfilling its mandate and such other tasks as the Benchers may assign during the tenure of the Task Force. If the Task Force requires direction in relation to its mandate, duties or responsibilities, the Task Force will advise the Benchers.

The Task Force will provide interim reports as necessary to keep the board advised of progress on fulfilling its mandate.

The Task Force will provide a Final Report to the Benchers no later than September, 2027, unless otherwise directed by the Benchers.

Duties and Responsibilities

The Task Force shall:

1. take an evidenced-based, data-driven, outcomes-focused approach to the matters identified in the mandate and to any recommendations to the Benchers that it may make;

2. ensure that the assessment focuses on the risk of harm to the public, the legal professions and the justice system and that any recommendations reflect a proportionate response to the risk of harm, taking into account the regulatory impact of the recommendations;
3. ensure the work of the Task Force provides opportunities for input from the public, legal professionals, the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Advisory Committee and the Benchers in regard to matters within the Task Force's mandate;
4. take into account the work of the Federation of Law Societies of Canada, other law societies and legal professional organizations on the matters identified in the mandate; and
5. ensure the work of the Task Force provides for input and consultation with stakeholders, other professional organizations and experts as appropriate to ensure a broad engagement on the matters identified in the mandate.

Staff Support

Policy Staff (Analysts or Lawyers), Policy & Legal Services Department

Director, Policy & Strategic Initiatives

**Amendment to Commentary [4] of *BC Code*
Rule 3.3-3 (Future Harm / Public Safety
Exception to Confidentiality)**

To: Benchers

Purpose: Approval (Consent Agenda)

From: Ethics and Lawyer Independence Advisory Committee

Date: May 30, 2026

Issue

1. Benchers approved an amendment to commentary [4] to rule 3.3-3 of the *Code of Conduct for British Columbia* at the April 17 Bencher meeting.
2. Unfortunately, the amended commentary and accompanying resolution contained some surplusage.
3. The resolution passed was as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED to amend rule 3.3-3 of the Code of Professional Conduct for British Columbia, as follows:

1. By striking out Commentary [4] and replacing it with the following:

“[4] How and when disclosure should be made under this Code rule will depend upon the circumstances. While in all cases disclosure will arise only in rare and exceptional cases, in some cases it will be clear that disclosure is warranted. If, however, a lawyer is uncertain whether disclosure may be warranted, the lawyer should, if practicable, seek ethical advice from the Society or from a practising senior lawyer in British Columbia. When practicable and permitted, a judicial order may be sought for disclosure.”

4. The words “in all cases” in the second sentence of the commentary was included in error. The sentence should have read: “While disclosure will arise only in rare and exceptional cases, in some cases it will be clear that disclosure is warranted.”

Resolution

5. The Benchers are asked to pass the following resolution to correct the wording in commentary [4] as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED to amend rule 3.3-3 of the Code of Professional Conduct for British Columbia by striking the words “in all cases” from the second sentence in Commentary [4]

Law Society

of British Columbia

CEO Report

To: Benchers

Purpose: Report

From: Gigi Chen-Kuo, CEO/Executive Director

Date: May 30, 2026

1. Single Legal Regulator

Appeal of Supreme Court of BC Decision

The Law Society and the Trial Lawyers Association of BC's constitutional challenges to the *Legal Professions Act* were heard in a summary trial before Chief Justice Skolrood in the Supreme Court of BC in October 2025.

On April 29, 2026, the Court dismissed our challenge to the constitutionality of the *Legal Professions Act*. The case turned on whether the Court found the *Act* undermines the independence of the Bar, such that it is unconstitutional.

We have now filed a notice of appeal of the [April 29, 2026 decision](#). Our public statement can be found at [Law Society appeals decision on Legal Professions Act legislation](#).

It is significant to note that Chief Justice Skolrood concluded that the independence of the Bar is an unwritten constitutional principle that has both an individual and institutional component. He held that “Independence of the Bar is not an abstract concept but rather manifests itself in the work that lawyers do to advance and protect the interests of their clients” and “lawyers cannot be said to be truly independent if they are subject to regulation by a body which is itself controlled, or unduly influenced, by outside forces, particularly those exerted by the state.”

The impact of this decision on the public’s right to impartial legal advice free from external influences, and the importance of upholding the rule of law, are of such fundamental importance that further consideration by the appellate courts is warranted and in the public interest.

Transitional Board and Transitional Indigenous Council

The most recent meeting of the transitional board and the transitional Indigenous council was held on Monday, May 11, 2026. At the meeting, the transitional board and the transitional Indigenous council had a second review of the rules regarding Indemnification, Custodianships and Business Structures, along with the second review of the Code of Professional Conduct rules from Introduction to Part 3.1. A first review of the proposed Code of Professional Conduct rules dealing with conflicts was also on the agenda.

We note that Chief Justice Skolrood recognized the distinct roles of the transitional board and the transitional Indigenous council under the *Legal Professions Act*.

The transitional board has established a paralegal committee to consider the educational and experiential requirements for licensing regulated paralegals. The committee is developing a workplan and timeline to guide the work of the committee over the balance of the year, pending the determination of the scope of practice for regulated paralegals.

Operational Readiness Workplan

We continue our preparations to be operationally ready for potential amalgamation by January 1, 2028. At this time, the current draft operational workplan is being updated to reflect the revised target amalgamation date.

Our goal is to ensure that, should amalgamation occur, corporate services such as human resources, finance, operations, IT, communications, and privacy will be able to support the functions of both the Law Society and the Notaries Society. This includes harmonizing human resources and finance policies, developing shared IT systems, and preparing new websites and internal communications tools.

Our regulatory work will also become more integrated to provide a consistent experience for the public and legal professionals. This includes moving toward shared registration dates, common billing cycles, and harmonized fees. We also expect to develop a single front-end for the public registry so that all legal professionals can be found in one place.

In addition, we are working to ensure our future functions support reconciliation with Indigenous peoples and remove unnecessary barriers to practising law in BC.

2. New Trust Shortage and Cash Transaction Reporting Form

The Law Society has created an online reporting tool to assist lawyers to quickly and easily report trust shortages and cash transactions, as required under Rules 3-74 and 3-59.

The online reporting form is now available in the Member Portal under “Tools and Reporting” and includes built-in prompts to support lawyers in making complete and accurate reports.

3. 2026 Annual General Meeting

The next Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Law Society will be held virtually on Wednesday, July 8, 2026.

The business of the 2026 AGM will include the following:

- Confirmation of Second Vice-President for 2027;
- Appointment of Law Society auditors for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2026;
and
- Consideration of any Bencher and/or member resolutions.

The deadline for member resolutions is 4:30 pm on June 3, 2026 (Rule 1-8(6)). Additional information regarding member resolution guidance and requirements is provided on our website at [2026 AGM webpage](#).

4. Pulling Together Canoe Journey

This year's Pulling Together Canoe Journey will take place from August 15 to 23, 2026 in the Lower Mainland.

For over 20 years, the Pulling Together Canoe Society has organized canoe journeys, bringing together Indigenous people and organizations, police, and government and public service agencies to advance meaningful reconciliation by respectfully learning and understanding each other's cultures.

Participants include Indigenous youth, Indigenous leaders and community members, the Vancouver Police Department and other municipal police forces, RCMP, Canadian military, and various social and non-profit participants. The Law Society will be participating as a canoe family in the journey, and we are grateful for this honour. We believe participating in this journey is an important step in our work towards meaningful reconciliation.

Gigi Chen-Kuo
Chief Executive Officer/Executive Director

Articled Student Education Update

To: Benchers

Purpose: Update

From: Staff

Date: May 30, 2026

Purpose

1. The purpose of this Report is to provide the Benchers with an update on the learning and community-building initiatives being planned for articulated students in 2026 and 2027. It introduces the proposed Articling Orientation Program, with in-person learning events being piloted in late 2026.

Background

2. On October 24, 2025, the Benchers announced their decision that the Law Society:
 - a. enter into a participation agreement with the Canadian Centre for Legal Education (“CPLED”), and such other documents as may be necessary, to implement the Practice Readiness Education Program (“PREP”) as the new bar admission program in British Columbia, on terms satisfactory to the Law Society; and,
 - b. develop and implement enhanced engagement and support between articulated students and the Law Society, as regulator, which would be independent of, but complement PREP.
3. On April 17, 2026, we updated the Benchers on progress with the transition of the bar admission training program from the Professional Legal Training Course (“PLTC”) to PREP (“April Report”). At the end of the April Report, we provided preliminary information about support initiatives being explored for articulated student and, later, new lawyers. We committed to provide the Benchers with further details and project timing at the next meeting.

Learning objectives for the articulated student initiative

A competency-based approach

4. Articled students in BC gain significant knowledge, skills and abilities through the training course and their articling term. Other articulated student learning needs have been identified by the Benchers and staff. In the April Report, these needs were distilled into four areas that align with the Law Society’s mandate as a regulator. They are described below, mapped to the corresponding competencies for entry to legal practice set out in the Western Canada Competency Profile (“WCCP”).

ARTICLED STUDENT DEVELOPMENT AREA	RELEVANT WCCP COMPETENCY DOMAINS
The articling program Understand Law Society expectations of articulated students and their principals to support accountability and performance	Fulfill ethical obligations and abide by professional standards (1.1) Conduct oneself professionally (1.2) Practice Management and Well-Being (7.1 to 7.4)
Strong network	Conduct oneself professionally, which includes “seek out mentorship, professional development and

ARTICLED STUDENT DEVELOPMENT AREA	RELEVANT WCCP COMPETENCY DOMAINS
Grow the skills and confidence to build a sustainable professional network of peers and experienced lawyers	experiential learning opportunities to maintain and enhance professional practice” (1.2) Establish and maintain professional relationships (4.4)
Community connection Know the legal community and norms in your region and in your area(s) of practice, and the regional context in which you are working	Establish and maintain professional relationships (4.4) Support own well-being and that of others (7.1) Respect the rights of all people to the equal protection of the law, and <i>acknowledge the diversity of Canadian communities</i> (1.3) Understand how reconciliation can be incorporated into legal practice (3.2)
Self care Equip oneself with the tools to effectively navigate the personal and professional demands of articling	Conduct oneself professionally (1.2) Establish and maintain professional relationships (4.4) Demonstrate emotional intelligence (4.5) Support own well-being and that of others (7.1) Manage Work (7.2)

Learning delivery formats to help build network and connection

5. For each development area, we plan to create Law Society learning resources in *at least* two formats. This will allow us to provide articled students with both:
 - foundational learning (gaining know-how); and
 - experiential learning (gaining knowledge, practicing skills, and sharing feedback).
6. As a critical component of this initiative, we will prioritize experiential learning with in-person delivery wherever possible. The in-person format supports the specific professional skills being developed (especially Strong Network, Community Connection, and Self Care). It will also foster connection and community for articled students at a critical period of professional development.

An Articling Orientation Program

7. We plan to introduce the Articling Orientation Program (the “Orientation Program”) as a framework for the Law Society’s education initiatives for articled students. The Orientation Program will supplement the learning in PREP and the experiential learning during the articling term, providing in-person learning opportunities where possible.
8. The Orientation Program will consist of a series of 4-6 practice topics based on the development areas set out in paragraph 4. Practice topics we are exploring include: *Finding Mentors and Other Professional Supports; Growing Your Professional Network; Managing Your Mental Health.*

9. As noted in paragraph 5, each practice topic will include foundational learning and experiential learning components.
10. As a very preliminary example, here is how a practice topic on *Growing Your Professional Network* could be structured:
- **Attend an in-person *Growing Your Professional Network* workshop in your regional district (the number held each year will depend on size and demand).** Engaging, interactive, with structured networking exercises and “next steps” planning. Law Society presenter, and possible involvement by local Benchers and other members of the profession.
 - **Complete a short, mandatory online module before attending the workshop.** The module will be linked to WCCP competencies with foundational learning about what a professional network is, why it is important at each stage of practice, and the different approaches to building and maintaining these connections.
 - **Access additional resources at any time.** For example, (a) a tool for assessing your existing network and planning next steps for growth; (b) tips for discussing this practice topic with your Principal or other supportive lawyer(s); (c) a tool to help prepare for a networking event.
11. We will consult with internal and external interest holders to finalize the first generation of mandatory practice topics. Our plan is to have them all live with the mandatory components in effect by the end of 2027.

In-person workshop pilots in November 2026

12. Developing the learning framework for the Orientation Program and building the mandatory practice topics are critical professional development priorities for 2026 and 2027. While that project unfolds, we want to get started with creating in-person connection opportunities for articulated students.
13. In late November 2026, we will pilot Orientation Workshops on a community-building practice topic in late November 2026. The objectives of the pilot workshops are:
- a) Start to build a pre-admission learning culture that includes in person and (where required for accessibility reasons) synchronous, one-on-one connections;
 - b) Obtain input from Benchers about customizing events within their local communities;
 - c) Obtain critical feedback from participants about the structure (format length, timing, geographic distribution) of the workshops; and
 - d) Engage participants in discussions about the wider range of practice topics and learning modules for the Program, and further opportunities for experiential learning
14. Based on the distribution of articulated students across the province, the number and locations of the pilot workshops will largely depend on demand and the number of participants in each region. Beyond geographical considerations, staff will also take into account students’ working

environments, recognizing that those in smaller firms often have fewer built-in networking opportunities than their peers at larger firms.

15. The workshops will be scheduled for after the September 2026 PREP session that ends in mid-November 2026. This will ensure that we are not disrupting articulated students in the training course who wish to attend a workshop.
16. We will communicate the Orientation Program and the optional pilot workshops to articulated students in September 2026. All current articulated students will be eligible to register.

Next Steps

17. Staff will:
 - a) continue to consult on and develop the learning framework for the Orientation Program, including the training modules and experiential learning opportunities that will make up the practice topics;
 - b) by September 1, 2026, take the necessary steps outlined in paragraph 13 to complete the design and the logistics (dates, locations and venues, speakers, registration) of the in-person workshop pilots that will be offered to BC articulated students in November 2026; and
 - c) explore other options for in-person and “live” experiential learning initiatives to support the identified development areas, such as peer-to-peer mentoring, for rollout in 2027.
18. Staff will provide the Benchers with an update on the workshop pilots and the Orientation Program in the Fall.

Commentary for Bencher Resolution regarding Statutory Compliance

To: Benchers

Purpose: Discussion & Decision

From: Executive Committee

Date: May 30, 2026

Purpose

1. This memorandum provides draft commentary for the Benchers' consideration, which would accompany the Bencher resolution regarding statutory compliance, to be included on the agenda of the 2026 annual general meeting ("AGM").

Background

2. At the April 17 Bencher meeting, the Benchers agreed to include a Bencher resolution on the agenda of the 2026 AGM, requesting membership approval to authorize the Benchers to amend the Rules to provide for the removal of a Bencher, so as to be in compliance with section 12(1)(c) of the *Legal Profession Act* (the "Act").
3. In the course of considering this matter during the April 17 Bencher meeting, Benchers also agreed that it would be helpful to review the commentary that would accompany the resolution prior to it being included on the AGM agenda.

Discussion

4. Commentary for past Bencher resolutions has tended to provide a straightforward overview of the matter seeking to be addressed, the rationale behind the resolution, and reference to s.12 of the *Act*, which requires the approval of two-thirds of members voting in a general meeting or referendum to permit the Benchers to make Rule changes with respect to the matter in question.
5. For example, at the 2020 AGM, a Bencher resolution was included on the agenda requesting the membership to authorize the Benchers to amend the Rules respecting AGMs to provide for meetings to be conducted virtually. The commentary referenced the unprecedented circumstances in regard to COVID-19 and the rationale for proposing an amendment to the Rules¹. The full text of the commentary is below:

Note:

Section 12 of the Legal Profession Act requires the approval of two-thirds of members voting in a general meeting or referendum to permit the Benchers to make rule changes with respect to general meetings.

Commentary:

¹ This Bencher resolution was approved by the membership.
DM5286240

Following an unprecedented year due to COVID-19 and in light of the public health limits on events, the Executive Committee determined, as permitted by Ministerial Order M167, that the 2020 Annual General Meeting would be held through an electronic communications medium without physical locations. While the present pandemic is not expected to continue in the long term, the Benchers agreed to propose a Bencher Resolution for consideration and approval by the members that would allow future Annual General Meetings to be held through an electronic communications medium, in whole or in part, should circumstances justify it.

6. Similarly in 2021, two Benchers resolutions were included on the agenda. The first requested that the membership authorize the Benchers to amend the Rules respecting AGMs to increase the number of signatories required to submit a member resolution². The commentary referenced the low threshold required to submit a member resolution, and how this requirement was not in alignment with other provisions in the *Act* and Rules. The full text of the commentary is included below:

Note:

Section 12 of the Legal Profession Act requires the approval of two-thirds of members voting in a general meeting or referendum to permit the Benchers to make rule changes with respect to general meetings.

Commentary:

Law Society Rule 1-8(6) presently requires that only two members of the Society in good standing are required in order to put forward a member resolution for consideration at an annual general meeting. Other provisions in the Act and Rules require the participation of at least 5% of the members to require a referendum to enforce a member resolution that has not been substantially implemented by the Benchers and at least 5% of the members to call for a special general meeting. The Bencher resolution to require 50 members to support including a member resolution on the annual general meeting agenda is intended to ensure that the resolution has the support of a meaningful constituency and not just two members while also ensuring the process is still reasonably accessible to members.

7. The second requested that the membership authorize the Benchers to amend the Rules respecting AGMs to provide the President with the authority to determine whether or not a member resolution submitted for consideration at the AGM is in order³. The commentary referenced that the Rules already provide for the President to decide questions of procedure to be followed at AGMs (not otherwise provided for in the *Act* or the Rules), and that this

² This Bencher resolution was not approved by the membership.

³ This Bencher resolution was not approved by the membership.

extension of authority would help ensure that member resolutions reasonably relate to matters within the jurisdiction and authority of the Law Society and the Benchers. The full text of the commentary is included below:

Note:

Section 12 of the Legal Profession Act requires the approval of two-thirds of members voting in a general meeting or referendum to permit the Benchers to make rule changes with respect to general meetings.

Commentary:

Law Society Rule 1-13(13) provides that the President can decide questions of procedure to be followed at a general meeting not otherwise provided for in the Act or the Rules. The extension of that Rule to the current annual general meeting process would allow the President to decide whether a resolution is in order prior to the present process for notification and comment on member resolutions. However, for certainty, this Bencher Resolution proposes to ensure that member resolutions reasonably relate to matters within the jurisdiction and authority of the Law Society and the Benchers. The Bencher resolution would provide the President with the authority to determine in advance of any notification and comment whether a member resolution is reasonably related to the mandate or responsibilities of the Law Society or the Benchers, or to the regulation of the legal profession.

8. With these above examples in mind, staff have drafted the following commentary to explain the rationale for the proposed Rule amendment to provide for the removal of a Bencher. The draft commentary is provided for the Committee's consideration and discussion:

Note:

Section 12 of the Legal Profession Act requires the approval of two-thirds of members voting in a general meeting or referendum to permit the Benchers to make rule changes with respect to the removal of a bencher.

Commentary:

Section 12(1) of the Legal Profession Act states that the Benchers "must make rules respecting the following ... (c) the removal of the president, first vice-president, second vice-president or a bencher." While a process for the removal of a President or Vice-President is provided for in Rule 1-6, and Rule 1-7 provides a process for the resignation of a Bencher, currently there is no rule that provides a process for the removal of a Bencher, should one be needed. This Bencher Resolution would provide Benchers with

the authority to set out a process for the removal of a Bencher, consistent with the Act and in alignment with the best practices of other law societies and regulatory bodies.

9. The Executive Committee considered the draft commentary at the May 14, 2026 Committee meeting, and was in agreement with the proposed wording.

Decision

10. The Executive Committee recommends to Benchers for approval, the following commentary to accompany the Bencher resolution to be included on the agenda of the upcoming 2026 AGM scheduled to take place on July 8, 2026:

BE IT RESOLVED to authorize the Benchers to amend the Rules to provide for the removal of a Bencher, so as to be in compliance with section 12(1)(c) of the *Legal Profession Act*.

Note:

Section 12 of the Legal Profession Act requires the approval of two-thirds of members voting in a general meeting or referendum to permit the Benchers to make rule changes with respect to the removal of a bencher.

Commentary:

Section 12(1) of the Legal Profession Act states that the Benchers “must make rules respecting the following ... (c) the removal of the president, first vice-president, second vice-president or a bencher.” While a process for the removal of a President or Vice-President is provided for in Rule 1-6, and Rule 1-7 provides a process for the resignation of a Bencher, currently there is no rule that provides a process for the removal of a Bencher, should one be needed. This Bencher Resolution would provide Benchers with the authority to set out a process for the removal of a Bencher, consistent with the Act and in alignment with the best practices of other law societies and regulatory bodies.

Revisions to Bencher Expense Reimbursement Policy

To: Benchers

Purpose: Discussion & Decision

From: Executive Committee

Date: May 30, 2026

Purpose

1. This memorandum outlines recommendations to update the Bencher Expense Reimbursement Policy to provide further clarification and guidance on reimbursable expenses. The Benchers are asked to approve the updated policy.

Discussion

2. As the Bencher Expense Reimbursement Policy has not been updated for a number of years, the policy has been reviewed and changes are suggested to improve clarity and consistency, and to provide additional guidance on reimbursable expenses based on questions that have arisen over the years.
3. The main changes are:
 - To provide a definition of what Law Society business is to provide clarity on when reimbursement of expenses occurs.
 - To provide guidance on who to contact if alternate travel arrangements are required due to time constraints or other unusual circumstances, and obtain prior approval.
 - The Group Meals guidance has been removed as these events are now arranged by the Law Society.
 - To provide guidance that meals are not provided for virtual attendance at meetings, or if the meals have already been provided by the Law Society.
 - To provide guidance on the maximum per diem amount for Appointed Benchers.
 - To document the addition of a Bencher professional development allowance to a maximum of \$1,000 per year, along with guidelines for use.
 - The addition of Appendix B - Bencher Expense Matrix to provide further guidance on reimbursable expenses when Benchers are travelling for Law Society business.

Decision

4. The Executive Committee recommends to the Benchers to the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Benchers approve the updates to the Bencher Expense Reimbursement Policy.

Policy

Bencher expense reimbursement

~~March 2024~~ May 2026

1 Policy

1.01 ~~As a~~ Benchers, ~~you~~ are entitled to be reimbursed by the Law Society for reasonable expenses incurred in conducting Law Society business.

2 Purpose

2.01 The purpose of this Policy is to:

- a) Provide guidelines for Benchers with respect to reimbursable expenses in conducting Law Society business,
- b) Reflect the obligation of the Law Society to be accountable for the expenditure of all funds,
- c) Assist the Law Society in overseeing Bencher expenses,
- d) Outline the required supporting documentation to ensure sufficient back-up is provided for annual audit and CRA compliance purposes.

3 Scope

3.01 This Policy applies to all current Benchers when conducting Law Society business. Law Society business is defined as official meetings organized by the Law Society where Benchers are invited to attend, and specific other meetings if asked by the President or Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer (“ED/CEO”) (or delegate) to attend in the capacity as a Bencher, or a meeting organized by an external party that the President or ED/CEO (or delegate) requests a Bencher to attend.

4 Responsibility

4.01 Benchers are responsible for:

- a) Following the policy and guidelines for expenses.
- b) Retaining and submitting, in a timely manner, all original detailed receipts along with a completed Law Society Bencher Expense claim form (Appendix A) and the necessary information to allocate costs to the relevant Law Society business

- conducted. ~~Electronic submission is preferred.~~
~~Please Note: Credit card receipts alone are not sufficient back-up for audit and CRA compliance purposes.~~
- b)c) ___ When applicable, Benchers are expected to apportion expenses incurred between Law Society business and other business being conducted.
- 4.02 The Chief Financial Officer (“CFO”) or delegate is responsible for:
- a) Providing guidance to Benchers regarding appropriate types and levels of expenses.
- b) Reporting on Bencher expenses to the President and management as required.
- b)c) Approving Bencher expenses that are in conformance with the policy.
- 4.03 The President and/or ~~Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer (ED/CEO)~~ is responsible for Approving exceptions to the Bencher Expense Reimbursement Policy, where the policy guidelines are exceeded due to extenuating circumstances, and communicating those decisions to the CFO/Director of Finance.
- 4.04 The Chair of Finance and Audit Committee and the CFO are responsible for approval of the President’s expenses.

5 Allowable Law Society business expenses

- 5.01 Travel
- a) The Law Society reimburses reasonable ~~recognizes the following as reimbursable~~ travel expenses related to Law Society business in the following categories:
- (i) Airfare
 - (ii) Ferries
 - (iii) Airport fees
 - (iv) Public transportation costs
 - (v) Parking
 - (vi) Taxi fares, including gratuity, to and from, airport, hotel or residence
 - (vii) Use of a Bencher’s personal vehicle for business travel will be reimbursed on a per kilometer basis at the current automobile allowance rate prescribed by the Canada Revenue Agency.
- b) Flights under 4 hours should be booked as Economy Class. ~~For flights more than 4 hours, if no coupons are available to upgrade to Executive Class, flights~~ can be

booked as ~~Executive-Premium Economy or Business~~ Class for ~~the Benchers and ED/CEO, the Executive Committee, and/or Benchers~~ travelling on official Law Society business.

- c) If Benchers require alternate methods of travel that would be not be considered direct travel arrangements due to time constraints or other circumstances, prior approval should be obtained from Governance and Board Relations or the CFO, prior to the expense being incurred. For example, this would include travelling for Law Society business from a location other than their home residence or not flying direct to the location of the Law Society business.

5.02 Accommodation

The Law Society ~~recognizes the following as reimbursable~~ reimburses reasonable accommodation expenses related to Law Society business, including the following:

- a) ~~Where-When~~ an overnight stay in Vancouver is necessary, hotel ~~overnight~~ accommodation will be reimbursed for a standard single room equivalent at one of the Law Society's pre-approved hotels at the negotiated rates. Please follow the instructions on the corporate hotel listing document to ensure the Law Society corporate rate is obtained.
- b) Appendix C contains further details on corporate hotel rate information and will be updated and published by the Law Society periodically.
- c) Hotel expenses will be covered for one night per meeting day, unless flight schedules or ground transportation do not permit earlier travel, or if the scheduled timing of the ~~meeting or event~~ Law Society business requires arrival the night before the meeting. If this occurs, the expense claim should note why this exception occurred.

5.03 Meals and Beverages

- a) The Law Society reimburses reasonable meals and beverage costs incurred while travelling for or conducting Law Society business. If the Law Society is already providing a meal (breakfast, lunch or dinner), additional meal or beverage costs ~~should not be claimed~~ will not be reimbursed for these meals.

Original detailed restaurant meal receipts including details on meals and beverages purchased, must be submitted along with the expense reimbursement claims forms. Please Note: Credit card receipts alone are not sufficient back-up for audit and Canada Revenue Agency compliance purposes. The names of all ~~individuals~~ Benchers in attendance, that are included in the reimbursable cost of the meal, must be listed on the expense claim-reimbursement form or written on the back of the original receipt.

- b) Daily Limit for Bencher Meals and Beverages - ~~You~~ Benchers will be reimbursed for reasonable meals and beverages costs, up to a maximum of \$125 per day ~~for meal and beverage costs~~, inclusive of tips and tax, which are incurred while travelling for or conducting Law Society business. The daily limit amount includes breakfast, lunch and dinner. For all meals, other than those organized by the Law Society ~~other than group meals~~, Benchers ~~you~~ must pay for their ~~your~~ meals separately and submit individual meal and beverage expense receipts. Daily meals and beverages costs will be reimbursed only based on receipted amounts, up to the maximum daily limit.
- ~~e) Group Meals—A group meal is defined as any meal or dinner at which there are six or more Bencher attendees. At group meals, reasonable meals and beverages costs will be reimbursed, and the President or the most senior Bencher in attendance should pay for the group meal. Group meals include Bencher dinners which occur after Thursday night committee meetings and after Executive Committee meetings, and any year end dinners organized by the Law Society, at a restaurant outside the Law Society building.~~
- c) Reimbursement for alcoholic beverages is not permitted on individual expense claims. Alcoholic beverages will be reimbursed for Group Meals.
- d) Meal and beverage expenses are not reimbursed for virtual attendance at Bencher, committee or other meetings.
- e) Meal and beverage expenses are not reimbursed if meals and beverages were already provided by the Law Society.

5.04 Child Care and Dependent Adult Care

- a) Reasonable child care and/or dependent adult care expenses incurred by ~~you~~ Benchers conducting Law Society business and during the time taken to travel to and from attending Law Society business, when they are in addition to what would normally be incurred will be reimbursed by the Law Society. ~~for those related expenses incurred during the hours of scheduled Law Society committee meetings or Law Society business and during the time taken to travel to and from such meetings, where they are in addition to what would normally be incurred by you.~~
- b) If ~~a Bencher is you~~ are attending scheduled Law Society meetings ~~business~~ away from their ~~your~~ hometown, reasonable related child care and/or dependent adult care expenses incurred due to the absence will be reimbursed for any time spent overnight in order to attend ~~a~~ Law Society function, hearing or committee meeting ~~business~~, where they are in addition to when doing so would incur additional costs beyond what would normally be incurred ~~by you~~. ~~The caregiver should be a non-family member.~~
- c) The receipt ~~You~~ should indicate the number of hours and hourly rate and be attached

~~receipts~~ to the ~~Bencher Expense Claim reimbursement Form~~.

5.05 Other Reimbursable Expenses

The Law Society will reimburse reasonable miscellaneous expenses incurred ~~in~~ when conducting Law Society business such as:

- a) Communication costs such as fax, long distance telephone charges, teleconferences and cellular phone usage.
- b) Administration costs such as postage and courier.

In an effort to reduce the impact on the environment, ~~it is we~~ encouraged to the reduction of photocopying and printing wherever possible. If a Bencher cannot you are unable to view ~~the~~ meeting materials in an electronic format, a printed hard copy can be provided upon request.

5.06 Non-reimbursable Expenses

The Law Society does not reimburse expenses incurred for hospitality gifts, meals, accommodation or other expenses ~~where~~ when you ~~Benchers~~ are hosted by family or friends or staying in your own secondary residence instead of a hotel.

5.07 ~~Spousal/Benchers and~~ Guest Travel Expenses

Benchers may be required to travel for official Law Society business and ~~The~~ Law Society occasionally hosts functions that are designated by the President or ED/CEO as events to which a Bencher may bring a guest. Bencher expenses and ~~A~~ additional expenses that are incurred for a guest to travel to a designated event will be reimbursed in accordance with this policy. ~~See~~ Guest Travel Policy Bencher Expense Matrix (Appendix B) for further information.

For Benchers who receive remuneration, by honorarium or per diem, the amount that is reimbursed for guest travel will be considered a taxable benefit. For additional information please contact the CFO/Director of Finance.

5.08 ~~Per Diems* for Appointed Benchers attending Bencher Day, committee meetings, and other Law Society requested meetings and events~~ Per Diems* for Service

- a) All Appointed Benchers are eligible to receive \$450 for every full day and \$225 for every half-day during which they ~~attend any meeting or other event at the request of the Law Society. Meetings and events are conducting Law Society business. Law Society business~~ lasting more than 4 hours will be considered a full day event and less than 4 hours will be considered a half day event.
- b) The maximum per diem a Bencher can be reimbursed is \$450 per day, regardless of the number of meetings or events held on that day.

~~a)c)~~ In addition, any out-of-town Appointed Benchers are eligible to receive \$150 when they must travel for an extended period of time, for the purpose of attending a full day or half day event outside of their hometown. Appointed Benchers are eligible for the travel per diem to and from home, on the day the travel takes place including when travel takes place the same day as the event.

~~b)d)~~ Time spent preparing for ~~meetings or other events~~ Law Society business is eligible for half the per diem amount for each meeting.

5.09 Per Diems* for **Appointed Benchers** attending hearings as public adjudicators

The rates for remuneration, types of eligible expenses, and the maximum claimable amounts for appointed Benchers when acting as appointee adjudicators are set out in the Appointee Adjudicator Remuneration and Expense Policy.

Please note that per diems and expenses incurred when acting as appointee adjudicators must be submitted using the *Committee Member, Appointee Adjudicator & Volunteer Expense Claim Form* and submitted to TribunalRegistry@lsbc.org.

5.10 Professional Development Allowance

Benchers may claim up to \$1,000 per year for professional development with the possibility of carrying over any unused funds to following years within the Bencher's term.

Benchers seeking to claim professional development expenses must first obtain the written approval of the President and ED prior to registering to ensure that the professional development activity is sufficiently connected to Benchers' governance duties and responsibilities.

Possible professional development activities could include completing courses offered by the Institute of Corporate Directors, attending workshops related to governance best practices, or attending training on topic areas that are highly relevant to the Law Society's governance mandate.

*T4's will be issued for all per diems that are paid during the year.

6 Submission of expense ~~claims~~ reimbursement forms

6.01 Submission of ~~e~~Expense Claimsreimbursement forms

a) Original detailed receipts and boarding passes must be submitted with either a completed Bencher ~~E~~expense Claim reimbursement Fform, ~~or a Committee Member, Public Adjudicator & Volunteer Expense Claim Form (if the claim is for an Appointed Bencher is attending a Hearing as a public adjudicator)~~. Electronic submission of expense claims is preferred, by sending the scanned expense claim form and receipts to ap@lsbc.org, ~~h~~HHowever, paper expense reports and receipts are

- also accepted.
- b) The Bencher ~~Expense Claim-reimbursement Form / Committee Member, Public Adjudicator & Volunteer Expense Claim Form~~ should include the purpose for incurring the expense(s) such as attending a Bencher or Committee meeting, attending a Call Ceremony, etc.
 - c) Receipts supporting a business meal should comply with the requirements set out in paragraph 5.03. ~~indicate the reason for the business meeting and the names of those in attendance. Original detailed receipts must be submitted along with the expense reimbursement claims.~~
 - d) Claims for reimbursement should be submitted on a monthly basis.

7 Reporting

7.01 Reporting

- a) In accordance with the Law Society's internal control and governance processes, reports on Bencher expenses will be produced as required.
- b) On an annual basis, a summary of reimbursed Bencher expenses by individual will be posted ~~on~~ within the Members Only Portal section of the Law Society website.

Appendix A - Bencher expense ~~claim~~ reimbursement form

Sample ~~reimbursement claim~~ form shown below. Please use the latest ~~claim~~ reimbursement form available under Bencher Resources on the Law Society website. Electronic submission is preferred.

Notes:

- (1) One event per form.
- (2) Fill in the shaded areas.

Event Date	
Event Description	
Place of Event	
Name of Airline	
Name of Hotel	

DESCRIPTION	NET	GST	TOTAL
Meals & Entertainment (60025)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Airfare (60010)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hotel (60015)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Taxi Fare (60010)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Parking (60010)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ferry (60010)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Car Rental (60010)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Car Mileage (60010)(To/From)			
	0.00	0.00	0.00
km @ \$0.XX/km			
Telephone (60040)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Photocopying/Fax (60040)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Courier/Postage (60040)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Per Diem (62205) None	0.00	0.00	0.00
Per Diem (62205) None	0.00	0.00	0.00
Per Diem (62205) None	0.00	0.00	0.00
Per Diem (62205) None	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other:	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other:	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Name of Payee

Signature of Payee

DM5002672

Approval

Appendix B – Guest travel approval

Event	President	First VP	Second VP	ED/CEO	Benchers
Benchers Retreat	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Welcome/Farewell Dinner	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Certificate Luncheon	N	N	N	N	N
Federation Conferences (x 2)	Y	N	N	N	N/A
Bench & Bar Dinner	N	N	N	N	N
CBA Annual Meeting	Y	N	N	N	N
Alberta Benchers Retreat	Y	N	N	N	N/A
HLACE ¹ Annual Meeting	N/A	N/A	N/A	Y	N/A
International Conference (yearly)	Y	N	N	N	N
Functions in LSBC official capacity with a Guest	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y ²
All Other Functions, Conferences, Events ³	N	N	N	N	N

Notes

1— International Institute of Law Association Chief Executives

2— If substituting for one of the Ladder

3— Unless pre-approved by Executive Committee

Appendix B – Bencher Expense Matrix

Category / Expense type (FOR BENCHERS)	Travel (inc. mileage, airfare, parking) <i>*see notes below</i>	Accommodation <i>*if essential for out of town Benchers - see corporate rates document</i>	Meals & non-alcoholic beverages <i>*if not already catered and incurred while travelling</i>	Spouse/Guests <i>*if noted as 'yes', only 1 guest unless otherwise stated or agreed.</i>	Per Diem <i>*Appointed Benchers only</i>
Internal Meetings to include:					
Bencher Meeting					Yes
Committee Meeting					Yes
Annual Budget Information Session	in-person only*	in-person only*	in-person only*	No	Yes
Conduct Review					Yes
Annual General Meeting (only the President attends in-person)					Yes
New Bencher Orientation					Yes
Internal Lunches and Dinners to include:					
Executive Committee Dinners					
Regular Bencher Dinners	Yes*	Yes*	in-person only*	No	No
Staff and Bencher Lunch					
Year-end Bencher Dinner					
Year-end Committee Dinner					
Internal Events to include:					
Welcome/Farewell				Yes*	
Welcoming Ceremonies	Yes*	Yes*	in-person only*	No	No
Life Bencher Event				No	
Call Ceremonies (Bencher attendance at call ceremonies in their region.				No	
Others by Law Society of BC invitation)				No	
Board Retreat:					
	in-person only*	No (arranged by staff)	No (arranged by staff)	Yes*	Yes - see policy
KC reception (by Law Society of BC invitation only):					
Potential invitees: The President, First Vice-President, ED/CEO	in-person only	Yes*	in-person only*	No	No
External Events (by Law Society of BC invitation only) to include:					
CBABC Bench & Bar Dinner				No	No
External events, for which the Law Society purchases tables				No	No
Local Bar events	Yes*	Yes*	in-person only*	No	No
Other Law Society Retreats				No	Yes - see policy
Federation (FLSC) Meetings				No	Yes - see policy
International Conferences					
President - One international conference per year					
First VP - One international conference per year	Yes*	Yes*	Yes*	Yes*	N/A
ED/CEO - Annual International Institute of Law Association Chief					
Executives conference and one international conference per year					
Courses/Training (by Law Society of BC invitation only):					
Task Force / Committee Training	in-person only*	in-person only*	in-person only*	No	Yes
New Bencher Orientation					Yes
Adjudicator Training					Yes

Key notes
Please refer to **notes* in each heading item
Always refer to the expense policy available in the member portal and complete expense form
If unsure about expense eligibility or which form to complete on, contact ap@lsbc.org
Electronic submission is preferred: ap@lsbc.org
Per diems are for appointed Benchers only
Travel: Please book most cost-effective travel method. For specific eligible travel, refer to policy

Appendix C - Corporate hotel rates

For a list of hotels, rates and discount codes, please see “Corporate Hotel Rates” under the Bencher Resources section of the law Society website, or attached to the [bB](#) Bencher orientation package.

Policy

Bencher expense reimbursement

May 2026

1 Policy

- 1.01 Benchers are entitled to be reimbursed by the Law Society for reasonable expenses incurred in conducting Law Society business.

2 Purpose

- 2.01 The purpose of this Policy is to:
- a) Provide guidelines for Benchers with respect to reimbursable expenses in conducting Law Society business,
 - b) Reflect the obligation of the Law Society to be accountable for the expenditure of all funds,
 - c) Assist the Law Society in overseeing Bencher expenses,
 - d) Outline the required supporting documentation to ensure sufficient back-up is provided for annual audit and CRA compliance purposes.

3 Scope

- 3.01 This Policy applies to all current Benchers when conducting Law Society business. Law Society business is defined as official meetings organized by the Law Society where Benchers are invited to attend, and specific other meetings if asked by the President or Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer (“ED/CEO”) (or delegate) to attend in the capacity as a Bencher, or a meeting organized by an external party that the President or ED/CEO (or delegate) requests a Bencher to attend.

4 Responsibility

- 4.01 Benchers are responsible for:
- a) Following the policy and guidelines for expenses.
 - b) Retaining and submitting, in a timely manner, all original detailed receipts along with a completed Law Society Bencher Expense claim form (Appendix A) and the necessary information to allocate costs to the relevant Law Society business

- conducted.
- c) When applicable, Benchers are expected to apportion expenses incurred between Law Society business and other business being conducted.
- 4.02 The Chief Financial Officer (“CFO”) or delegate is responsible for:
- a) Providing guidance to Benchers regarding appropriate types and levels of expenses.
 - b) Reporting on Benchers expenses to the President and management as required.
 - c) Approving Benchers expenses that are in conformance with the policy.
- 4.03 The President and/or ED/CEO is responsible for Approving exceptions to the Benchers Expense Reimbursement Policy, where the policy guidelines are exceeded due to extenuating circumstances, and communicating those decisions to the CFO/Director of Finance.
- 4.04 The Chair of Finance and Audit Committee and the CFO are responsible for approval of the President’s expenses.

5 Allowable Law Society business expenses

5.01 Travel

- a) The Law Society reimburses reasonable travel expenses related to Law Society business in the following categories:
 - (i) Airfare
 - (ii) Ferries
 - (iii) Airport fees
 - (iv) Public transportation costs
 - (v) Parking
 - (vi) Taxi fares, including gratuity, to and from, airport, hotel or residence
 - (vii) Use of a Benchers personal vehicle for business travel will be reimbursed on a per kilometer basis at the current automobile allowance rate prescribed by the Canada Revenue Agency.
- b) Flights under 4 hours should be booked as Economy Class. Flights more than 4 hours can be booked as Premium Economy or Business Class for Benchers and ED/CEO travelling on official Law Society business.
- c) If Benchers require alternate methods of travel that would be not be considered direct

travel arrangements due to time constraints or other circumstances, prior approval should be obtained from Governance and Board Relations or the CFO, prior to the expense being incurred. For example, this would include travelling for Law Society business from a location other than their home residence or not flying direct to the location of the Law Society business.

5.02 Accommodation

The Law Society reimburses reasonable accommodation expenses related to Law Society business, including the following:

- a) When an overnight stay in Vancouver is necessary, hotel accommodation will be reimbursed for a standard single room equivalent at one of the Law Society's pre-approved hotels at the negotiated rates. Please follow the instructions on the corporate hotel document to ensure the Law Society corporate rate is obtained.
- b) Appendix C contains further details on corporate hotel rate information and will be updated and published by the Law Society periodically.
- c) Hotel expenses will be covered for one night per meeting day, unless flight schedules or ground transportation do not permit earlier travel, or if the scheduled timing of the Law Society business requires arrival the night before the meeting. If this occurs, the expense claim should note why this exception occurred.

5.03 Meals and Beverages

- a) The Law Society reimburses reasonable meals and beverage costs incurred while travelling for or conducting Law Society business. If the Law Society is already providing a meal (breakfast, lunch or dinner), additional meal or beverage costs will not be reimbursed.

Original detailed restaurant meal receipts including details on meals and beverages purchased, must be submitted along with the expense reimbursement forms. Please Note: Credit card receipts alone are not sufficient back-up for audit and Canada Revenue Agency compliance purposes. The names of all Benchers in attendance that are included in the reimbursable cost of the meal, must be listed on the expense reimbursement form or written on the back of the original receipt.

- b) Daily Limit for Benchers Meals and Beverages - Benchers will be reimbursed for reasonable meals and beverages costs, up to a maximum of \$125 per day, inclusive of tips and tax, which are incurred while travelling for or conducting Law Society business. The daily limit amount includes breakfast, lunch and dinner. For all meals, other than those organized by the Law Society, Benchers must pay for their meals separately and submit individual meal and beverage expense receipts. Daily meal and beverage costs will be reimbursed only based on receipted amounts, up to the maximum daily limit.

- c) Reimbursement for alcoholic beverages is not permitted on individual expense claims.
- d) Meal and beverage expenses are not reimbursed for virtual attendance at Bencher, committee or other meetings.
- e) Meal and beverage expenses are not reimbursed if meals and beverages were already provided by the Law Society.

5.04 Child Care and Dependent Adult Care

- a) Reasonable child care and/or dependent adult care expenses incurred by Benchers conducting Law Society business and during the time taken to travel to and from attending Law Society business, when they are in addition to what would normally be incurred will be reimbursed by the Law Society.
- b) If a Bencher is attending Law Society business away from their hometown, reasonable related child care and/or dependent adult care expenses incurred due to the absence will be reimbursed for any time spent overnight in order to attend Law Society business, when doing so would incur additional costs beyond what would normally be incurred.
- c) The receipt should indicate the number of hours and hourly rate and be attached to the expense reimbursement form.

5.05 Other Reimbursable Expenses

The Law Society will reimburse reasonable miscellaneous expenses incurred when conducting Law Society business such as:

- a) Communication costs such as fax, long distance telephone charges, teleconferences and cellular phone usage.
- b) Administration costs such as postage and courier.

In an effort to reduce the impact on the environment, it is encouraged to reduce photocopying and printing wherever possible. If a Bencher cannot view meeting materials in an electronic format, a printed hard copy can be provided upon request.

5.06 Non-reimbursable Expenses

The Law Society does not reimburse expenses incurred for hospitality gifts, meals, accommodation or other expenses when Benchers are hosted by family or friends or staying in a secondary residence instead of a hotel.

5.07 Benchers and Guest Travel Expenses

Benchers may be required to travel for official Law Society business and the Law Society occasionally hosts functions that are designated by the President or ED/CEO as events to which a Bencher may bring a guest. Bencher expenses and additional expenses that are

incurred for a guest to travel to a designated event will be reimbursed in accordance with this policy. See Benchers Expense Matrix (Appendix B) for further information.

For Benchers who receive remuneration, by honorarium or per diem, the amount that is reimbursed for guest travel will be considered a taxable benefit. For additional information please contact the CFO/Director of Finance.

5.08 Appointed Benchers Per Diems* for Service

- a) All Appointed Benchers are eligible to receive \$450 for every full day and \$225 for every half-day during which they are conducting Law Society business. Law Society business lasting more than 4 hours will be considered a full day event and less than 4 hours will be considered a half day event.
- b) The maximum per diem a Bencher can be reimbursed is \$450 per day, regardless of the number of meetings or events held on that day.
- c) In addition, any out-of-town Appointed Benchers are eligible to receive \$150 when they must travel for an extended period of time, for the purpose of attending a full day or half day event outside of their hometown. Appointed Benchers are eligible for the travel per diem to and from home, on the day the travel takes place including when travel takes place the same day as the event.
- d) Time spent preparing for Law Society business is eligible for half the per diem amount for each meeting.

5.09 Per Diems* for **Appointed Benchers** attending hearings as public adjudicators

The rates for remuneration, types of eligible expenses, and the maximum claimable amounts for appointed Benchers when acting as appointee adjudicators are set out in the Appointee Adjudicator Remuneration and Expense Policy.

Please note that per diems and expenses incurred when acting as appointee adjudicators must be submitted using the *Committee Member, Appointee Adjudicator & Volunteer Expense Claim Form* and submitted to TribunalRegistry@lsbc.org.

5.10 Professional Development Allowance

Benchers may claim up to \$1,000 per year for professional development with the possibility of carrying over any unused funds to following years within the Bencher's term.

Benchers seeking to claim professional development expenses must first obtain the written approval of the President and ED prior to registering to ensure that the professional development activity is sufficiently connected to Benchers' governance duties and responsibilities.

Possible professional development activities could include completing courses offered by the Institute of Corporate Directors, attending workshops related to governance best

practices, or attending training on topic areas that are highly relevant to the Law Society's governance mandate.

*T4's will be issued for all per diems that are paid during the year.

6 Submission of expense reimbursement forms

6.01 Submission of expense reimbursement forms

- a) Original detailed receipts and boarding passes must be submitted with either a completed Bencher expense reimbursement form. Electronic submission of expense claims is preferred, by sending the scanned expense claim form and receipts to ap@lsbc.org. However, paper expense reports and receipts are also accepted.
- b) The Bencher expense reimbursement form should include the purpose for incurring the expense(s) such as attending a Bencher or committee meeting, attending a Call Ceremony, etc.
- c) Receipts supporting a business meal should comply with the requirements set out in paragraph 5.03.
- d) Claims for reimbursement should be submitted on a monthly basis.

7 Reporting

7.01 Reporting

- a) In accordance with the Law Society's internal control and governance processes, reports on Bencher expenses will be produced as required.
- b) On an annual basis, a summary of reimbursed Bencher expenses by individual will be posted within the Members Portal section of the Law Society website.

Appendix A - Bencher expense reimbursement form

Sample reimbursement form shown below. Please use the latest reimbursement form available under Bencher Resources on the Law Society website. Electronic submission is preferred.

Notes:

- (1) One event per form.
- (2) Fill in the shaded areas.

Event Date	
Event Description	
Place of Event	
Name of Airline	
Name of Hotel	

DESCRIPTION	NET	GST	TOTAL
Meals & Entertainment (60025)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Airfare (60010)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hotel (60015)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Taxi Fare (60010)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Parking (60010)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ferry (60010)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Car Rental (60010)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Car Mileage (60010)(To/From)			
	0.00	0.00	0.00
km @ \$0.XX/km			
Telephone (60040)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Photocopying/Fax (60040)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Courier/Postage (60040)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Per Diem (62205) None	0.00	0.00	0.00
Per Diem (62205) None	0.00	0.00	0.00
Per Diem (62205) None	0.00	0.00	0.00
Per Diem (62205) None	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other:	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other:	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Name of Payee

Signature of Payee

Approval

Appendix B – Bencher Expense Matrix

Category / Expense type (FOR BENCHERS)	Travel (inc. mileage, airfare, parking) <i>*see notes below</i>	Accommodation <i>*if essential for out of town Benchers - see corporate rates document</i>	Meals & non-alcoholic beverages <i>*if not already catered and incurred while travelling</i>	Spouse/Guests <i>*if noted as 'yes', only 1 guest unless otherwise stated or agreed.</i>	Per Diem <i>*Appointed Benchers only</i>
Internal Meetings to include:					
Bencher Meeting					Yes
Committee Meeting					Yes
Annual Budget Information Session	in-person only*	in-person only*	in-person only*	No	Yes
Conduct Review					Yes
Annual General Meeting (only the President attends in-person)					Yes
New Bencher Orientation					Yes
Internal Lunches and Dinners to include:					
Executive Committee Dinners					
Regular Bencher Dinners	Yes*	Yes*	in-person only*	No	No
Staff and Bencher Lunch					
Year-end Bencher Dinner					
Year-end Committee Dinner					
Internal Events to include:					
Welcome/Farewell				Yes*	
Welcoming Ceremonies	Yes*	Yes*	in-person only*	No	No
Life Bencher Event				No	
Call Ceremonies (Bencher attendance at call ceremonies in their region.				No	
Others by Law Society of BC invitation)				No	
Board Retreat:	in-person only*	No (arranged by staff)	No (arranged by staff)	Yes*	Yes - see policy
KC reception (by Law Society of BC invitation only):					
Potential invitees: The President, First Vice-President, ED/CEO	in-person only	Yes*	in-person only*	No	No
External Events (by Law Society of BC invitation only) to include:					
CBABC Bench & Bar Dinner				No	No
External events, for which the Law Society purchases tables				No	No
Local Bar events	Yes*	Yes*	in-person only*	No	No
Other Law Society Retreats				No	Yes - see policy
Federation (FLSC) Meetings				No	Yes - see policy
International Conferences					
President - One international conference per year					
First VP - One international conference per year	Yes*	Yes*	Yes*	Yes*	N/A
ED/CEO - Annual International Institute of Law Association Chief					
Executives conference and one international conference per year					
Courses/Training (by Law Society of BC invitation only):					
Task Force / Committee Training	in-person only*	in-person only*	in-person only*	No	Yes
New Bencher Orientation					Yes
Adjudicator Training					Yes

Key notes

Please refer to **notes* in each heading item

Always refer to the expense policy available in the member portal and complete expense form

If unsure about expense eligibility or which form to complete on, contact ap@lsbc.org

Electronic submission is preferred: ap@lsbc.org

Per diems are for appointed Benchers only

Travel: Please book most cost-effective travel method. For specific eligible travel, refer to policy

Appendix C - Corporate hotel rates

For a list of hotels, rates and discount codes, please see “Corporate Hotel Rates” under the Bencher Resources section of the law Society website, or attached to the Bencher orientation package.

Rule Amendments: Admission Program Transition Rules

To: Benchers

Purpose: Discussion & Decision

From: Executive Committee

Date: May 30, 2026

Purpose

1. This memorandum presents the rule amendments required to implement the Benchers' decision to transition from the Professional Legal Training Course ("PLTC") to the Practice Readiness Education Program ("PREP") as the bar admission program in British Columbia.

Discussion

2. In July 2025, the Benchers resolved to enter into a participation agreement with the Canadian Centre for Professional Legal Education ("CPLED"), and such other documents as may be necessary, to implement PREP as the new bar admission program in British Columbia, on terms satisfactory to the Law Society.
3. Students in British Columbia who have not already commenced PLTC, will commence PREP in September 2026.
4. In order to implement the Benchers' decision to transition from PLTC to PREP, Michael Lucas, KC, General Counsel/Senior Policy Counsel, has prepared a number of Rule amendments.
5. The Rule amendments include transition provisions for those who are already enrolled in the current admission program to complete PLTC, which will need to extend past the implementation date for transition to requiring new applicants to enroll in PREP as their required training course.
6. The Executive Committee considered these amendments to the Rules at its meeting on May 14, 2026, and resolved to refer them to the Benchers for approval.
7. Red-lined and clean versions of the proposed rule amendments are attached as **Appendices B** and **C**, together with Mr. Lucas' Drafting Notes (attached as **Appendix A**).

Decision

8. The Executive Committee recommends the Benchers approve the resolution attached as **Appendix D** to these materials.



Drafting Notes – Admission Program Transition Rules

To: Benchers

Purpose: Information

From: Michael Lucas

Date: May 30, 2026

Background

1. The attached rules amendments to Part 2 of the rules, and necessary consequential amendments, have been prepared to implement the Benchers' decision to transition from the current required training course necessary for call and admission, the Professional Legal Training Course (PLTC), to the Practice Readiness Education Program (PREP) that is offered by the Canadian Centre for Professional Legal Education.
2. In order to do so, however, provisions were required to permit those applicants who are already enrolled in the current admission program to complete PLTC, which will need to extend past the implementation date for transition from PLTC to PREP, which (assuming the attached rule amendments are passed at the May 31 Bencher meeting), will be June 1, 2026.

Drafting Notes

“Admission Program” becomes “enrolled as an articulated student”

3. The current “admission program” includes both articling and PLTC.
4. The amended rules will change that. The “training course” (defined to be a course designated by the Credential Committee for the purposes of qualifying for call and admission) is now distinct from the articling period.
5. The amended rules therefore remove the “admission program” and replace it with enrolment as an articulated student. Applicants will now be “enrolled as an articulated student” with the Law Society, instead of in the “admission program.” Enrolment as an articulated student does not, in other words, include enrolment in PREP.

Changes to recognize that PREP is not operated by the Law Society

6. The existing rules address PLTC (referred to in the existing rules as “the training course”). As the Law Society does not operate PREP, the amended rules have very little reference to the new training program other than to make its successful completion a requirement for call and admission to the bar.
7. Applicants will enrol in PREP through the processes set by PREP. Failed standings in PREP, or remedial work necessary to complete PREP, are set out by PREP and are no

longer part of the Law Society Rules. All the amended rules require is that to qualify for call and admission, an applicant needs to have completed PREP.

8. In the result, the Law Society's rules will limit themselves to the requirements for the "articling term." Those have largely remained the same in the amended rules.
9. A new rule is included to ensure that students who enrolled in the old "admission program" are deemed to have enrolled as an articling student under the new rules. "Admission program" remains a defined term for this purpose, but is defined noting that it is the program that ends on the coming into force of these rules (designated as June 1, 2026, assuming the amended rules are approved at the May 31 bench meeting).

Provisions for those students currently in PLTC

10. Because there are a number of students who are currently enrolled in the "admission program" and who are therefore enrolled in PLTC, the amended rules continue PLTC for those students. Completion of PLTC will still qualify those students for call and admission.
11. The amended rules also continue the existing remedial processes for students who, having been enrolled in PLTC, were not fully successful in completing that program in order to allow them to complete it under the existing provisions.
12. PLTC will cease being offered by the Law Society following the designation of PREP, however. Consequently, a student that completely fails PLTC to the extent that they would be required to retake the entire course will be required to enrol in and complete PREP instead.

Call and admission

13. Currently, a student cannot take PLTC prior to enrolment in the admission program. Because PLTC is currently part of the admission program, there were limits on when the course could be taken prior to call and admission.
14. To enrol in PREP, on the other hand, one will not need to be enrolled as an articulated student. In theory, one could take the training program some considerable time before becoming an articulated student, meaning what was learned in the training course might be out of date, but because the applicant had completed the course, the applicant would have met that requirement for call and admission.

15. The rule on call and admission (Rule 2-76) has therefore been amended to set out an admission period within which the students articling term and completion of PREP must be completed for the purposes of qualification for call and admission. That period has been set at two years to parallel current requirements that, if the student has not completed the admission period within two years, the student is terminated from the articling program.

Consequential amendments

16. References to the “admission program” have had to be removed and replaced with “enrolled as an articulated student” throughout the rules.
17. Some consequential amendments to the Fee Schedules have been required as there will no longer be a fee charged for enrolling in PLTC. Fees will be charged by PREP, but those are administered by PREP so are no longer set in the Law Society Rules. Fees for some remedial requirements for PLTC will remain until the last of the currently enrolled students in PLTC complete that program.
18. The opportunity was also taken to recommend some amendments to the “leave” provisions in Rule 2-69. The provisions that are proposed to be removed are entitlements that the law otherwise entitles for prospective parents.
19. The proposed deletion of Rule 2-72 (2) - (4) is needed because, after the Credentials Committee designates PREP as the training course, there will be no further ability to register in PLTC.

Subsequent steps

20. At the point of time that all students currently enrolled in PLTC have completed the program, the rules should be amended again to remove references to that program, which will no longer have any purpose. That is expected to happen sometime later in the spring of 2027. Until then, though, it is necessary to keep references to the existing program.

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RULE 1 – DEFINITIONS

Definitions

1 In these rules, unless the context indicates otherwise:

“**admission program**” means the program administered by the Society for articulated students that existed prior to June 1, 2026~~administered by the Society or its agents, commencing on an articulated student’s enrolment start date and including the period during which the student is~~

~~(a) articulated to a principal, or~~

~~(b) registered in the training course;~~

“**applicant**” means a person who has applied under Part 2 [*Membership and Authority to Practise Law*] for enrolment as an articulated student, for call and admission or for reinstatement;

“**articling agreement**” means a contract in the prescribed form executed by an applicant for enrolment as an articulated student and the applicant’s prospective principal;

“**articling start date**” means the date on which an articulated student begins employment with the student’s principal~~the articling term~~;

“**articled student**” means a person who is enrolled in the admission program with the Society as an articulated student pursuant to Rule 2-54 [Enrolment as an articulated student];

“**articling term**” means the 9 month period referred to in Rule 2-59 [*Articling term*];

“**clerkship term**” means the period during which a law clerk is employed to work for a judge, not including any period of vacation or leave of absence;

~~“**enrolment start date**” means the date on which an articulated student’s enrolment in the admission program becomes effective;~~

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“**law clerk**” means a law clerk employed to work for a judge appointed under section 96 of the *Constitution Act, 1867*, or a judge of the Supreme Court of Canada, the Federal Court, the Federal Court of Appeal or the Tax Court of Canada;

“**professional conduct record**” means a record of all or some of the following information respecting a lawyer:

- (c) a decision by a panel or a review board to reject an application for enrolment as an articulated student, call and admission or reinstatement;

~~“**professional legal training course**” means the course required of applicants for call and admission who were enrolled in the admission program and includes any assessments, examinations or remedial work required during or after the course. includes any assessments, examinations or remedial work taken during or after the training course, or an educational program required by the Credentials Committee~~

“**principal**” means a lawyer who is qualified to employ and employs an articulated student;

~~“**training course**” includes any assessments, examinations or remedial work taken during or after the training course, or an educational program required by the Credentials Committee; means the course designated by the Benchers that is required of applicants prior to call and admission.~~

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PART 2 – MEMBERSHIP AND AUTHORITY TO PRACTISE LAW

Division 1 - Practice of Law

Member Information

Practice history

- 2-12 (1) In this rule, “practice history” means a record of
- (a) the dates and places that a lawyer or former lawyer has practised law or been enrolled ~~in the admission programs~~ as an articulated student, including the name of the firms through which the lawyer or former lawyer practised law, and
 - (b) dates of any periods since call and admission during which the lawyer or former lawyer has been a non-practising or retired member or a former member.
- (2) At the request of any person, the Executive Director may disclose all or part of the practice history of any member or former member of the Society.

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Division 2 – Admission and Reinstatement

Powers of Credentials Committee

2-52 (1) The Credentials Committee may

- (a) exercise the authority of the Benchers to call and admit barristers and solicitors, and
- ~~(b) implement, administer and evaluate a training course and examinations, assignments and assessments for all articled students,~~
- ~~(c) establish standards for passing the training course and examinations, assignments and assessment,~~
- ~~(d) establish procedures to be applied by the Executive Director and faculty of the training course for~~
 - ~~(i) the deferral, review or appeal of failed examinations, assignments and assessments, and~~
 - ~~(ii) remedial work in the training course or examinations, assignments and assessments, and~~
- [(b) – (d) rescinded]
- (e) review, investigate and report to the Benchers on all aspects of legal education leading to call and admission.

(1.1) For the purposes of applicants who have completed or are completing the professional legal training course, the Credentials Committee may continue to

- (a) implement, administer and evaluate the professional legal training course and examinations, assignments and assessments for all articled students
 - (b) establish standards for passing the professional legal training course and examinations, assignments and assessment, and
 - (c) establish procedures to be applied by the Executive Director and faculty of the professional legal training course for
 - (i) the deferral, review or appeal of failed examinations, assignments and assessments, and
 - (ii) remedial work in the professional legal training course or examinations, assignments and assessments.
- (2) When the Credentials Committee is empowered to order a hearing under this division, it may do so even though the application has been withdrawn.
- (3) The Credentials Committee may, with the consent of the person concerned, vary or remove practice conditions or limitations imposed by the Committee under this division.

Admission Program Articling

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Enrolment ~~in as an the admission-articled student program~~

- 2-54 (1) An applicant may apply for enrolment ~~in the admission as an articled student program at any time~~ by delivering to the Executive Director the following:
- (a) a completed application ~~for enrolment~~ in the prescribed form, including a written consent for the release of relevant information to the Society;
 - (b) proof of academic qualification under subrule (2);
 - (c) an articling agreement stating a proposed enrolment start date not less than 30 days from the date that the application is received by the Executive Director;
 - (d) other documents or information that the Credentials Committee may reasonably require;
 - (e) the application fee specified in Schedule 1.
- (2) Each of the following constitutes academic qualification under this rule:
- (a) successful completion of the requirements for a bachelor of laws or the equivalent degree from an approved common law faculty of law in a Canadian university;
 - (b) a Certificate of Qualification issued under the authority of the Federation of Law Societies of Canada;
 - (c) approval by the Credentials Committee of the qualifications of a full-time lecturer at the faculty of law of a university in British Columbia.
- (3) For the purposes of this rule, a common law faculty of law is approved if it has been approved by the Federation of Law Societies of Canada unless the Benchers adopt a resolution declaring that it is not or has ceased to be an approved faculty of law.
- (4) An official transcript of the applicant's grades at each approved faculty of law at which the applicant studied is proof of academic qualification under subrule (2) (a).
- (5) The Credentials Committee may approve academic qualifications under subrule (2) (c) if the applicant
- (a) has been a full-time lecturer at a common law faculty of law in a Canadian university for at least 5 of the last 8 years, and
 - (b) has been found by the Credentials Committee to have an adequate knowledge of the common law.
- (6) An articled student who as of June 1, 2026 was enrolled in the admission program is deemed to have been enrolled as an articled student for the purposes of these Rules.

Re-enrolment

- 2-55 (1) This rule applies to a person
- (a) whose application for enrolment ~~as an articled student~~ has been rejected by a panel that is not satisfied that the person is of good character and repute and fit to become a barrister and solicitor of the Supreme Court,

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- (b) whose enrolment has been set aside by a panel under section 38 (6) (d) [*Discipline hearings*], or
 - (c) who, ~~having been registered in the training course or the professional legal training course, has received a failed standing, failed to complete the training course satisfactorily.~~
- (2) A person referred to in subrule (1) (a) or (b) may not apply for enrolment until the earlier of
- (a) the date set by a panel acting under subrule (1) (a) or (b), or
 - (b) 2 years after the date of the event referred to in subrule (1) (a) or (b).
- (3) A person referred to in subrule (1) (c) may not apply for enrolment for 1 year after the later of
- (a) the date on which the Executive Director issued the transcript of failed standing, or
 - (b) the failed standing is confirmed under Rule 2-74 (7) (a) [*Review of failed standing*].

Consideration of application for enrolment

- 2-56** (1) The Executive Director must consider an application for enrolment by a person meeting the academic qualifications established under Rule 2-54 [*Enrolment in the admission program as an articulated student*], and may conduct or authorize any person to conduct an investigation concerning the application.
- (2) On an application for enrolment as an articulated student, the Executive Director may
- (a) enrol the applicant without conditions or limitations effective the ~~enrolment-articling~~ start date proposed in the application, or
 - (b) refer the application to the Credentials Committee.
- (3) When the Executive Director refers an application to the Credentials Committee under subrule (2), the Committee may
- (a) enrol the applicant effective on or after the proposed ~~enrolment-articling~~ start date without conditions or limitations,
 - (b) enrol the applicant effective on or after the proposed ~~enrolment-articling~~ start date with conditions or limitations on the activities of the applicant as an articulated student, if the applicant consents in writing to those conditions or limitations, or
 - (c) order a hearing.

Principals

- 2-57** (1) A lawyer engaged in full-time practice may act as principal to no more than 2 articulated students at one time.

- (1.1) In this rule

“**associated activities**” includes practice management, administration and promotion and voluntary activities associated with the practice of law;

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“**full-time practice**” means the practice of law and associated activities for an average of more than 25 hours per week;

“**part-time practice**” means the practice of law and associated activities for an average of not more than 25 hours per week.

- (2) Subject to subrules (2.1) and (3), to qualify to act as a principal, a lawyer must
- (a) have engaged in full-time practice in Canada for 5 of the 8 years immediately preceding the articling start date,
 - (b) have spent at least 3 years of the time engaged in the practice of law required under paragraph (a) in
 - (i) British Columbia, or
 - (ii) Yukon while the lawyer was a member of the Society, and
 - (c) not be prohibited from practising law under Rule 2-89 [*Returning to practice after an absence*].
- (2.1) When a lawyer engages in part-time practice
- (a) any period in which the lawyer engages in part-time practice is counted at a rate of 50 per cent for the purposes of the full-time practice requirement in subrule (2), and
 - (b) the 8-year period in subrule (2) (a) is extended by the length of the period in which the lawyer engages in part-time practice, provided that the aggregate time in which the lawyer was not engaged in the practice of law does not exceed 3 years in the 5 years immediately preceding the articling start date.
- (3) In exceptional circumstances, the Credentials Committee may allow a lawyer
- (a) who does not qualify under subrule (2) to act as principal to an articulated student, or
 - (b) to act as principal to more than 2 articulated students at one time, despite subrule (1).
- (4) On the recommendation of the Discipline Committee or Practice Standards Committee, or on its own motion, the Credentials Committee may inquire into a lawyer’s suitability to act or to continue to act as principal to an articulated student and may do any of the following:
- (a) conduct or authorize any person to conduct an investigation concerning the fitness of the lawyer to act as a principal;
 - (b) require the lawyer to appear before the Credentials Committee and to respond to questions of the Committee;
 - (c) order the lawyer to produce any documents, records or files that the Credentials Committee may reasonably require.
- (5) After allowing the lawyer to make submissions, the Credentials Committee may do any of the following:
- (a) permit the lawyer to act as a principal to an articulated student;
 - (b) permit the lawyer to act as a principal to an articulated student subject to conditions or limitations;
 - (c) order that the lawyer not act as a principal to an articulated student.

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- (6) The onus is on the lawyer to show cause why an order should not be made under subrule (5) (b) or (c).

Hiring articulated students

- 2-58** (1) This rule does not apply to temporary articles under Rule 2-70 [*Temporary articles*].
- (2) This rule applies to all lawyers practising in a firm that maintains an office in the city of Vancouver north of False Creek and west of Carrall Street.
- (3) The Credentials Committee may designate an offer date in each calendar year.
- (4) A lawyer must not offer articles to a student of any law school unless the offer is to remain open at least until the offer date designated under subrule (3).
- (5) As an exception to subrule (4), the Credentials Committee may allow a lawyer to withdraw an offer of articles before the offer date designated under subrule (3).
- (6) If the Credentials Committee designates an offer date that is before September 1, subrule (4) does not apply to a student who has begun the third year of studies at any law school.

Articling term

- 2-59** (1) ~~Unless the articling period is changed under Rules 2-59~~ Subject to this rule and to Rules 2-62 to 2-65, an articulated student must work in the office of the student's principal for a period of not less than 9 months the articling term.
- (2) Unless otherwise permitted in this division, the articling term must be continuous, except that this period may be interrupted by
- ~~attendance participation in either at~~ the professional legal training course or the training course,
 - annual vacation of up to 10 working days at the discretion of the principal, or
 - a leave of absence as permitted under Rule 2-69 [*Leave during articles*].
- (3) Any time taken for matters referred to in subrule (2) must not be included in the calculation of the articling term.
- (4) Except in the case of an application made under Rule 2-63 (1) [*Law clerks*], the articling term must not be reduced by more than 5 months under any other rule or the combined effect of any rules.
- (5) The Credentials Committee may increase the articling term to not more than 2 years if
- the articulated student's performance has been unsatisfactory,
 - the articulated student has not completed the student's obligations under the articling agreement, or
 - other circumstances justify an increase.

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- (6) If it would result in the articulated student qualifying for call and admission within 2 years of the student's first enrolment start date, a student enrolled for a second time is entitled to credit for
- (a) successful completion of the training course or the professional legal training course, as applicable, and
 - (b) time spent in articles.
- (7) If an articulated student is enrolled for a second or subsequent time, the Credentials Committee may grant credit for successful completion of the training course or the professional legal training course, as applicable, and some or all time spent in articles when the articulated student was previously enrolled.

Legal services by articulated students

- 2-60** (1) Subject to subrule (2) or any other prohibition in law, an articulated student may provide all legal services that a lawyer is permitted to provide, but the student's principal or another practising lawyer supervising the student must ensure that the student is
- (a) competent to provide the services offered,
 - (b) supervised to the extent necessary in the circumstances, and
 - (c) properly prepared before acting in any proceeding or other matter.

- (2) An articulated student must not
- (a) appear as counsel without the student's principal or another practising lawyer in attendance and directly supervising the student in the following:
 - (i) an appeal in the Court of Appeal, the Federal Court of Appeal or the Supreme Court of Canada;
 - (ii) a civil or criminal jury trial;
 - (iii) a proceeding by way of indictment,
 - (b) give an undertaking unless the student's principal or another practising lawyer supervising the student has also signed the undertaking, or
 - (c) accept an undertaking unless the student's principal or another practising lawyer supervising the student also accepts the undertaking.
- (3) Despite subrule (2) (a) (iii), an articulated student may appear without the student's principal or another practising lawyer in attendance and directly supervising the student in a proceeding
- (a) within the absolute jurisdiction of a provincial court judge, or
 - (b) by way of indictment with respect to
 - (i) an application for an adjournment,
 - (ii) setting a date for preliminary inquiry or trial,
 - (iii) an application for judicial interim release,
 - (iv) an application to vacate a release or detention order and to make a different order, or

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- (v) an election or entry of a plea of Not Guilty on a date before the trial date.

Mid-term report

- 2-61** (1) This rule does not apply to
- (a) temporary articles under Rule 2-70 [*Temporary articles*], or
 - (b) articles when the articling term is reduced to less than 6 months.
- (2) Before the student has completed 60 per cent of the student's articling term, the principal and the student must deliver to the Executive Director a joint report on the student's progress to date in articles in the prescribed form.
- (3) A report under this rule must include a plan for completing the obligations of the principal and student under the articling agreement.

Part-time articles

- 2-62** (1) An applicant for enrolment as an articulated student may apply to complete some or all of the applicant's articles part-time by submitting the following to the Executive Director not less than 2 months before the enrolment-articling start date:
- (a) the documents and information required under Rule 2-54 (1) [*Enrolment ~~in the admission program~~ as an articulated student*];
 - (b) the application fee specified in Schedule 1;
 - (c) an articling agreement that includes all of the following:
 - (i) the prospective principal's express approval of the part-time arrangements;
 - (ii) the type of experience to be provided to the applicant;
 - (iii) the hours per day to be worked by the applicant;
 - (iv) the length of the proposed articling term.
- (2) An articulated student may apply to change the student's articles to part-time articles by submitting to the Executive Director the articling agreement referred to in subrule (1) (c).
- (3) The Executive Director may approve an application made under subrule (1) or (2) if
- (a) the proposed articling term is a continuous period that would give work experience in the office of the principal equivalent to that required under Rule 2-59 (1) [*Articling term*], and
 - (b) the student or applicant's articles will be completed within 2 years of the articling start date.
- (4) The part-time equivalent of the articling period-term is calculated on the following basis:
- (a) 8 hours of scheduled work equals one day of articles;
 - (b) no additional credit is allowed for more than 8 hours per day.
- (5) If the Executive Director refers an application under this rule to the Credentials Committee, the Committee must consider the applicant's submissions and may
- (a) approve the application without conditions or limitations,

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- (b) approve the application, subject to any conditions or limitations it considers appropriate, or
- (c) reject the application.

Law clerks

- 2-63** (1) An articled student who has been employed as a law clerk may apply in writing to the Executive Director for a reduction in the articling term by an amount of time equal to the time served as a law clerk.
- (2) [rescinded]
- (3) An application under subrule (1) must be accompanied by
- (a) a written report on the student's character and competence from the judge to whom the articled student clerked, and
 - (b) other documents or information that the Credentials Committee may reasonably require.
- (4) A law clerk may apply for call and admission under Rule 2-77 [*First call and admission*] without enrolment ~~in the admission program~~ as an articled student or completion of the articling term provided the law clerk otherwise qualifies for call and admission under Rule 2-76 [*Call and admission*].

Articles in another Canadian jurisdiction

- 2-64** An articled student or applicant for enrolment as an articled student who has served a period of articles in another Canadian jurisdiction immediately before or after the student's period in articles in British Columbia, may apply in writing to the Executive Director for a reduction in the articling term by an amount of time equal to the time served in articles in the other jurisdiction.

Practice experience in a common law jurisdiction outside Canada

- 2-65** (1) An articled student or applicant for enrolment as an articled student who holds professional legal qualifications obtained in a common law jurisdiction outside Canada and has been in the active practice of law in that jurisdiction for at least one full year, may apply in writing to the Executive Director for a reduction in the articling term.
- (2) The Executive Director may reduce an articling term under this rule by up to one month for each full year of active practice of law in another jurisdiction.

Secondment of articles

- 2-66** (1) With the principal's consent, an articled student may work in the office of another lawyer qualified to act as a principal, for not more than a total of 8 weeks of the student's articling ~~period~~ term.

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- (2) The Executive Director may permit an articled student to work in the office of a lawyer qualified to act as a principal, other than the student's principal for a period or periods exceeding 8 weeks of the student's articling ~~period~~term.
- (3) If the Executive Director grants permission under subrule (2), the Executive Director may set conditions or limitations as appropriate.

Assignment of articles

- 2-67 (1) An articled student may apply for permission to assign the ~~student's articles~~balance of a student's articling term to another lawyer qualified to act as a principal by filing with the Executive Director, not later than 7 days after commencing employment at the office of the new principal,
- (a) an assignment of articles in the prescribed form,
 - (b) a declaration of principal in the prescribed form, and
 - (c) statements from the previous principal and from the articled student setting out the reasons for the assignment.
- (2) If the articled student does not apply to the Executive Director within the time specified in subrule (1), the time between the date the student left the previous principal's office and the date the student filed the application for assignment is not part of the articling ~~period~~term, unless the Credentials Committee directs otherwise.
 - (3) If the previous principal does not execute one or more of the documents referred to in subrule (1), the Executive Director may dispense with the filing of those documents.
 - (4) If the proposed principal is qualified to act as principal to an articled student, the Executive Director may approve an application under this rule.
 - (5) If the Executive Director refers an application under this rule to the Credentials Committee, the Committee must consider the student's submissions, and may
 - (a) approve the application without conditions or limitations,
 - (b) approve the application, subject to any conditions or limitations it considers appropriate, or
 - (c) reject the application.
 - (6) An application under this rule must be approved effective on or after the date on which the articled student began employment at the office of a new principal.

Other employment

- 2-68 During the articling ~~period~~term and the professional legal training course, an articled student is not permitted to accept employment from any person other than the student's principal or the person to whom the student's articles are seconded under Rule 2-66 [*Secondment of articles*], except with the approval of the Executive Director.

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Leave during articles

- 2-69 (1) ~~In the period from an articulated student's enrolment start date until call and admission~~During the articling term, the an articulated student may take a leave of absence ~~from articles~~, provided
- (a) the total time of leaves of absence, ~~other than maternity and parental leaves~~, during the period does not exceed 22 working days,
 - (b) if applicable, the leave of absence does not affect the student's attendance at the professional legal training course as required, and
 - (c) if any part of the leave is to take place during the articling term~~when the student is required to work in the office of a principal~~, the principal consents to the leave in advance.
- (2) Any time taken for a leave of absence under this rule is not part of the articling ~~period~~term.
- ~~(3) An articulated student who becomes a natural or adoptive parent during or within 12 weeks before the articling period is entitled to 12 weeks or, if the student is the primary caregiver of the child, 16 weeks parental leave.~~
- ~~(4) An articulated student is entitled to 18 weeks maternity leave during the period from 11 weeks before to 17 weeks after giving birth, in addition to the student's entitlement under subrule (3).~~
- ~~(5) If maternity or parental leave causes an articulated student to fail to attend any part of the training course, the Credentials Committee may require the student to attend all or part of the course at a session held after the completion of the student's maternity or parental leave.~~
- ~~-(3) – (5) rescinded]~~
- (6) An articulated student who takes a leave of absence under subrule (1) must notify the Executive Director in writing ~~in advance~~.
- ~~(7) An articulated student who takes a leave of absence under subrule (3) or (4) must notify the Executive Director in writing as soon as possible. [(7) rescinded]~~
- (8) On the written application of an articulated student, the Executive Director may allow the student to take a leave of absence that is not otherwise authorized by this rule, provided that the articulated student will be eligible for call and admission within 2 years of the student's enrolment ~~in the admission program~~as an articling student.
- (9) On the written application of an articulated student, the Credentials Committee may allow the student to take a leave of absence that the Executive Director has not approved, including a leave that will result in the student not being eligible for call and admission within 2 years of the student's enrolment ~~in the admission program~~as an articling student.

Temporary articles

- 2-70 (1) A person may apply for enrolment in temporary articles by filing the following with the Executive Director, not less than 30 days before the enrolment start date:

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- (a) an application for enrolment in the prescribed form, including a written consent for the release of relevant information to the Society;
 - (b) an articling agreement in the prescribed form;
 - (c) the application fee for temporary articles specified in Schedule 1.
- (2) The Executive Director may enrol the following in temporary articles:
- (a) a student at a common law faculty of law in a Canadian university;
 - (b) a person whose application for enrolment as an articulated student has been approved, but whose articling term has not yet begun;
 - (c) a person who is qualified to practise law in a Commonwealth country and has actually practised law in that country for 2 years or more.
- (3) Temporary articles granted under subrule (2) (a) are void if the student ceases to be a student at a common law faculty of law in Canada.
- (4) The Executive Director may only grant temporary articles under subrule (2) (a) that are subject to a definite termination date.
- (5) The Executive Director must not grant temporary articles under subrule (2) (b) effective more than 6 weeks before the beginning of the person's articling term.
- (6) The Executive Director must not grant temporary articles under subrule (2) (c) for a period exceeding 3 months.
- (7) Time spent in temporary articles is not part of the articling term.
- (8) Except as otherwise specified in these rules, a person enrolled in temporary articles has the rights, privileges and responsibilities of an articulated student.
- (9) The Credentials Committee may revoke temporary articles at any time for any reason without giving notice to the temporary articulated student and without holding a hearing.

Court and tribunal appearances by temporary articulated students

- 2-71** (1) Despite Rule 2-60 [*Legal services by articulated students*], a person enrolled in temporary articles must not appear as counsel before a court or tribunal without the student's principal or another practising lawyer in attendance and directly supervising the student except
- (a) in the Supreme Court of British Columbia in Chambers on any
 - (i) uncontested matter, or
 - (ii) contested application for
 - (A) time to plead,
 - (B) leave to amend pleadings, or
 - (C) discovery and production of documents, or
 - (iii) other procedural application relating to the conduct of a cause or matter,
 - (b) before a registrar or other officer exercising the power of a registrar of the Supreme Court of British Columbia or Court of Appeal for British Columbia,

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- (c) in the Provincial Court of British Columbia
 - (i) on any summary conviction proceeding,
 - (ii) on any matter that is within the absolute jurisdiction of a provincial court judge,
 - (iii) on any matter in the Family Division or the Small Claims Division, or
 - (iv) when the Crown is proceeding by indictment or under the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (Canada) in respect of an indictable offence, only on
 - (A) an application for an adjournment,
 - (B) setting a date for preliminary inquiry or trial,
 - (C) an application for judicial interim release,
 - (D) an application to vacate a release or detention order and to make a different order, or
 - (E) an election or entry of a plea of Not Guilty on a date before the trial date,
 - (d) on an examination of a debtor,
 - (e) on an examination for discovery in aid of execution, or
 - (f) before an administrative tribunal.
- (2) A person enrolled in temporary articles is not permitted under any circumstances to do any of the following in a Supreme Court proceeding:
- (a) conduct an examination for discovery;
 - (b) represent a party who is being examined for discovery;
 - (c) represent a party at a case planning conference, trial management conference or settlement conference.

Professional legal Training-training course

- 2-72 (1) The Executive Director may set the dates on which sessions of the professional legal training course will begin and may set the dates for all exams and assessments that form part of the course.
- ~~(2) The Credentials Committee may direct that a student be given priority in selection of the training course session that the student wishes to attend if the student is or will be~~
- ~~(a) articling outside the Lower Mainland,~~
 - ~~(b) articling as the only student in a firm, or~~
 - ~~(c) employed as a law clerk.~~
- ~~(3) Before registering in the training course,~~
- ~~(a) an articled student or applicant, other than a law clerk, must make application for enrolment under Rule 2-54 (1) [Enrolment in the admission program], and~~
 - ~~(b) a law clerk must deliver to the Executive Director written confirmation from the applicable court of the law clerk's acceptance as a law clerk.~~
- ~~(4) To register in a training course session, an articled student, law clerk or applicant must~~

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- ~~(a) pay to the Society the fee for the training course specified in Schedule 1, and~~
- ~~(b) deliver to the Executive Director

 - ~~(i) an application for training course registration, and~~
 - ~~(ii) in the case of an articled student, the principal's consent to the training course session chosen.~~~~

~~[(2) – (4) rescinded]~~

[these are rescinded because after June 1, 2026, there will be no further registration in PLTC]

- (5) The Executive Director must deliver to each student who was registered in a professional legal training course session and to each student's principal, if applicable, a transcript stating whether the student passed or failed the professional legal training course.
- (6) [rescinded]
- (7) An articled student or law clerk may apply in writing to the Credentials Committee for exemption from all or a portion of the professional legal training course, and the Committee may, in its discretion, grant all or part of the exemption applied for with or without conditions, if the student or law clerk has
 - (a) successfully completed a bar admission course in another Canadian jurisdiction, or
 - (b) engaged in the active practice of law in a common law jurisdiction outside Canada for at least 5 full years.

Tutorial program

- 2-73 (1) The Executive Director may establish a tutorial program to assist students participating in the professional legal training course.
- (2) Priority for access to tutorial assistance must be as follows:
 - (a) first priority to students of aboriginal heritage;
 - (b) second priority to all other students.

Review of failed standing

- 2-74 (1) Subject to subrule (2), a student who has failed the professional legal training course may apply in writing to the Executive Director for a review of the student's failed standing, not more than 21 days after the date on which the Executive Director issued the transcript under Rule 2-72 (5) [~~Professional legal Training-training course~~].
- (2) A student may not apply under subrule (1) if the student has failed in 3 attempts to pass the professional legal training course, including any of the following:
 - (a) the original attempt;
 - (b) a further attempt to pass examinations, assignments or assessments;
 - (c) any attempt to meet a requirement under subrule (7).

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- (3) The Executive Director may consider an application for review received after the period specified in subrule (1).
- (4) A student applying for a review under this rule must state the following in the application:
- (a) any compassionate grounds, supported by medical or other evidence, that relate to the student's performance in the professional legal training course;
 - (b) any grounds, based on the student's past performance, that would justify opportunities for further remedial work;
 - (c) the relief that the student seeks under subrule (7).
- (5) and (6) [rescinded]
- (7) After considering the submissions made under subrule (4), the Executive Director may do one or more of the following:
- (a) confirm the standing, including any failed standing;
 - (b) grant the student an adjudicated pass in a professional legal training course examination, assignment or assessment, with or without conditions;
 - (c) require the student to complete further examinations, assignments or assessments, and to pass them at a standard set by the Executive Director;
 - (d) ~~require the student to complete or repeat and pass all, or a portion of, the training course~~[rescinded];
 - (e) require the student to complete a specified program of training at an educational institution or under the supervision of a practising lawyer, or both.
- (8) A student who is required to do anything under subrule (7) must pay the fee for ~~the training course, or for~~ each examination, assignment or assessment as specified in Schedule 1.
- (9) The Executive Director must deliver a transcript stating the student's standing and the extent to which any standards or conditions have been met to
- (a) each student whom the Executive Director has required to do anything under subrule (7), and
 - (b) each such student's principal, if applicable.

Termination of enrolment

- 2-75** (1) An articulated student is no longer enrolled ~~in the admission program as an articulated student~~ if the principal or the student has terminated the student's articles for any reason and no assignment of the student's articles is approved within 30 days.
- (2) The 30-day period referred to in subrule (1) does not run while the student is registered in and attending ~~either of the professional legal training course or the~~ training course.
- (3) A person whose enrolment has ceased under subrule (1) may apply for enrolment under Rule 2-54 (1) [~~Enrolment in the admission program as an articulated student~~].

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Call and admission

Call and admission

2-76 (0.1) In this rule, “admission period” means the time between the earlier of an applicant’s articling start date or training program start date, and the applicant’s date of application for call and admission.

(0.2) For the purposes of this rule, the admission period must not exceed 24 months.

(1) To qualify for call and admission, an applicant who is an articled student or a law clerk must successfully complete the following requirements within the admission period ~~satisfactorily~~:

(a) in the case of an articled student, the articling term;

(a.1) in the case of a law clerk who is not enrolled ~~in the admission program~~ as an articled student, a clerkship term of not less than 9 months;

(b) either

(i) the training course or,

(ii) for applicants who were enrolled in the professional legal training course before June 1, 2026, the professional legal training course;

(b.1) the practice management course;

(c) any other requirements of the Act or these rules imposed by the Credentials Committee or the Benchers.

(2) ~~Subrule (1) (b.1) applies to articled students enrolled in the admission program on or after January 1, 2018. [rescinded]~~

First call and admission

2-77 (1) An articled student or law clerk who applies for call and admission must deliver to the Executive Director

(a) the following in the prescribed form:

(i) a petition for call and admission;

(ii) in the case of an articled student,

(A) a declaration of the principal,

(B) a declaration of the applicant, ~~and~~

(C) a joint report of the principal and the applicant certifying completion of their obligations under the articling agreement, and

(D) where required, proof of successful completion of the training course;

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- (iii) in the case of a law clerk who is not enrolled ~~in the admission program as an~~ articled student,
 - (A) an application for call and admission,
 - (B) proof of academic qualification as required of applicants for enrolment under Rule 2-54 (2) [~~Enrolment in the admission program as an articled student~~], ~~and~~
 - (C) a written report on the law clerk's character and competence from the judge to whom the law clerk clerked, and
 - (D) where required, proof of successful completion of the training course;
 - (iv) [rescinded]
 - (v) a completed questionnaire;
 - (vi) written consent for the release of relevant information to the Society,
 - (b) a professional liability indemnity application or exemption form,
 - (c) the following fees:
 - (i) the applicable call and admission fee specified in Schedule 1;
 - (ii) the prorated practice fee specified in Schedule 2;
 - (iii) the prorated annual indemnity fee specified in Schedule 2, unless exempt under Rule 3-43 [*Exemption from professional liability indemnification*], and
 - (d) any other information and documents required by the Act or these rules that the Credentials Committee or the Benchers may request.
- (2) An articled student or law clerk may apply under this rule at any time.
 - (3) If an articled student or law clerk fails to meet the requirements of this rule, including the delivery of all documents specified, the Executive Director must summarily
 - (a) reject the application for call and admission, and
 - (b) in the case of an articled student, terminate the student's enrolment.
 - (4) When the Credentials Committee has initiated a review under Rule 5-19 [*Initiating a review*] of a hearing panel's decision to enrol an articled student, the articled student is not eligible for call and admission until the review board has issued a final decision on the review or the Committee withdraws the review.

Law school faculty

- 2-78** (1) A full-time lecturer in a faculty of law of a university in Canada who has the academic qualifications required under Rule 2-54 [~~Enrolment in the admission program as an articled student~~] may apply for call and admission without completing ~~the admission program an~~ articling term or either of the professional legal training course or the training course.
- (2) On an application under this rule, the Credentials Committee may approve the application subject to the condition specified in subrule (3).

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- (3) A lawyer called and admitted under this rule who ceases to be a full-time lecturer in a faculty of law of a university in Canada must complete ~~the admission program~~ an articling term and the training course unless the Credentials Committee otherwise orders.
- (4) The Benchers may require a lawyer who fails to comply with subrule (3) to resign from the Society.

Transfer from another Canadian jurisdiction

- 2-79** (1) An applicant for call and admission on transfer from another jurisdiction in Canada must deliver the following to the Executive Director:
- (a) an application for call and admission on transfer in the prescribed form, including written consent for the release of relevant information to the Society;
 - (b) a certificate of character;
 - (c) a certificate of standing from each body regulating the legal profession in any jurisdiction in which the applicant is or has been a member of the legal profession;
 - (d) a professional liability indemnity application or exemption form;
 - (e) proof of academic qualification
 - (i) as required of applicants for enrolment under Rule 2-54 (2) [*Enrolment ~~in the admission program~~ as an articulated student*], or;
 - (ii) for a member of the Barreau, proof that the applicant has earned
 - (A) a bachelor's degree in civil law in Canada, or
 - (B) a foreign degree and a certificate of equivalency from the Barreau;
 - (f) the following fees:
 - (i) the application fee and call and admission fees specified in Schedule 1;
 - (ii) the prorated practice fee specified in Schedule 2;
 - (iii) the prorated annual indemnity fee specified in Schedule 2, unless exempt under Rule 3-43 [*Exemption from professional liability indemnification*];
 - (g) any other information and documents required by the Act or these rules that are requested by the Credentials Committee or the Benchers.
- (2) An applicant under this rule must not be called and admitted unless the Executive Director is satisfied that the lawyer is not prohibited from practising law under Rule 2-89 [*Returning to practice after an absence*] or 2-90 [*Conditions on returning to practice*].
 - (3) Unless Rule 2-81 [*Transfer under National Mobility Agreement and Territorial Mobility Agreement*] applies, an applicant under this rule must pass an examination on jurisdiction-specific substantive law, practice and procedure set by the Executive Director.
 - (4) An applicant who does not satisfy the Executive Director that the applicant has an adequate knowledge of the English language must satisfactorily complete the training required by the Credentials Committee.

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- (5) An applicant who is required to write an examination under this rule or the qualification examination must pass the required examination within 12 months after a decision to permit the applicant to write the examination.
- (6) At least 30 days before writing the first examination, an applicant who is required to write an examination under this rule or the qualification examination must pay the fee specified in Schedule 1 for the examination.
- (7) An applicant who fails the transfer or qualification examination
 - (a) is entitled to a formal re-read of the examination on application to the Executive Director in writing within 30 days of notification of the applicant's failure,
 - (b) may re-write the examination
 - (i) at any time, provided the applicant has not failed the examination before, or
 - (ii) after a period of one year from the date of the failure if the applicant has previously failed the examination, or
 - (c) may be permitted to write the examination for a third or subsequent time at any time despite paragraph (b) (ii) on application to the Credentials Committee in writing stating
 - (i) compassionate grounds, supported by medical or other evidence, or
 - (ii) other grounds based on the applicant's past performance.

In-house counsel

- 2-80** (1) An applicant under Rule 2-79 [*Transfer from another Canadian jurisdiction*] may apply to the Credentials Committee for call and admission as in-house counsel.
- (2) On an application under this rule, the Credentials Committee may exempt an applicant from the requirements to write and pass the transfer examination or the qualification examination or complete the requirement under Rule 2-81 (3) [*Transfer under National Mobility Agreement and Territorial Mobility Agreement*].
- (3) A lawyer who is called and admitted as in-house counsel must practise law in British Columbia only on behalf of the lawyer's employer or one of its subsidiaries or affiliates.
- (4) On application of a lawyer called and admitted as in-house counsel, the Credentials Committee may relieve the lawyer of the restriction under subrule (3), on the lawyer
 - (a) writing and passing the required examination under Rule 2-79 [*Transfer from another Canadian jurisdiction*], or
 - (b) completing the requirements under Rule 2-81 (3) [*Transfer under National Mobility Agreement and Territorial Mobility Agreement*], if the lawyer
 - (i) has practised law full-time in British Columbia for 2 years, or the equivalent in part-time practice, immediately preceding the application,
 - (ii) is entitled to practise law in the jurisdiction of a governing body of which the applicant is a member, or
 - (iii) was, when called and admitted in British Columbia, entitled to practise law in the jurisdiction of a governing body of which the applicant was a member.

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Conditions on returning to practice

- 2-90** (1) A lawyer or applicant who has spent a period of 7 years or more not engaged in the practice of law must not practise law without the permission of the Credentials Committee.
- (2) Subrule (1) applies
- (a) despite any other rule, and
 - (b) whether or not the lawyer holds or is entitled to hold a practising certificate.
- (3) A lawyer or applicant must apply in writing to the Credentials Committee for permission to practise law under subrule (1).
- (4) [rescinded]
- (5) As a condition of permission to practise law under subrule (1), the Credentials Committee may require one or more of the following:
- (a) successful completion of all or part of one or more of the following:
 - (i) the ~~admission program~~articling term
 - (i.01) the training course;
 - (i.1) the qualification examination;
 - (ii) the practice management course described in Rule 3-28 [*Practice management course*] or another course approved by the Executive Director;
 - (iii) certification, in the prescribed form, that the lawyer has reviewed and understands all of the materials reasonably required by the Executive Director;
 - (b) a written undertaking to do any or all of the following:
 - (i) practise law in British Columbia immediately on being granted permission;
 - (ii) not practise law as a sole practitioner;
 - (iii) practise law only in a situation approved by the Committee for a period set by the Committee, not exceeding 2 years;
 - (iv) [rescinded]
 - (v) practise law only in specified areas;
 - (vi) not practise law in specified areas.
- (6) Despite Rule 2-52 (3) [*Powers of Credentials Committee*], the Credentials Committee may vary a condition under subrule (5) (a) without the consent of the lawyer concerned.
- (7) On the written application of the lawyer, the Credentials Committee may allow a variation of an undertaking given under subrule (5) (b).

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PART 3 – PROTECTION OF THE PUBLIC

Division 3 – Education

Professional development

- 3-29** (1) The Benchers may determine by resolution the minimum number of hours of continuing education that is required of a practising lawyer in each calendar year.
- (2) The Benchers may prescribe circumstances in which a class of practising lawyer may be excused from completing all or part of the required professional development.
- (3) In each calendar year, a practising lawyer must
- (a) complete the required professional development, and
 - (b) certify to the Executive Director in the prescribed form that the lawyer has completed the required professional development.
- (4) Despite subrule (3), a practising lawyer need not complete the required professional development in ~~a the~~ calendar year of the lawyer's first call and admission ~~in which the lawyer has successfully completed the admission program or the equivalent in another Canadian jurisdiction.~~
- (5) On written application by a practising lawyer who has refrained from the practice of law for a minimum of 60 consecutive days in a calendar year, the Executive Director may reduce the required professional development for that lawyer.
- (6) The Executive Director must not reduce the amount of required professional development under subrule (5)
- (a) by an amount greater than that proportionate to the part of the calendar year in which the lawyer refrained from the practice of law, or
 - (b) by any amount if the lawyer refrained from the practice of law as a result of suspension, disbarment or other disciplinary proceedings.

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- (7) A lawyer who ceases to be a practising lawyer without completing all required professional development must complete the uncompleted portion in the next calendar year in which the lawyer is a practising lawyer, in addition to the required professional development for that calendar year.
- (8) A practising lawyer who is in breach of this Rule has failed to meet a minimum standard of practice, and the Executive Director may refer the matter to the Discipline Committee or the chair of the Discipline Committee.

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PART 5 – TRIBUNAL, HEARINGS AND APPEALS

Practice and procedure before a hearing panel

Submissions and determination

- 5-6.3** (1) Following completion of the evidence, the panel must invite the parties to make submissions on the issues to be decided by the panel.
- (2) After submissions under subrule (1), the panel must find the facts and
- (a) make a determination on each allegation in a citation, or
 - (b) decide whether to
 - (i) grant the application
 - (ii) grant the application subject to conditions or limitations that the panel considers appropriate, or
 - (iii) reject the application.
- (3) A panel must reject an application for enrolment if it considers that the applicant's qualifications referred to in Rule 2-54 (2) [*Enrolment in the admission program as an articled student*] are deficient.
- (4) The panel must prepare written reasons for its findings.
- (5) A copy of the panel's reasons prepared under subrule (3) must be delivered promptly to each party.

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SCHEDULE 1 – 2026 LAW SOCIETY FEES AND ASSESSMENTS

D. Articled student and ~~related training course~~ fees

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| 1. Application fee for enrolment in admission programs as an articled student (Rules 2-54 (1) (e) [Enrolment in the admission programs as an articled student] and 2-62 (1) (b) [Part-time articles]) | 275.00 |
| 2. Application fee for temporary articles (R. 2-70 (1) (c) [Temporary articles]) .. | 150.00 |
| 3. Application fee for temporary articles (legal clinic) (Rule 2-70 (1) (c)) | 50.00 |
| 4. [rescinded] Training course registration (Rule 2-72 (4) (a) [Training course]) .. | 2,600.00 |
| 5. Remedial work (Rule 2-74 (8) [Review of failed standing]): | |
| (a) for each piece of work | 100.00 |
| (b) [rescinded] for repeating the training course | 4,000.00 |

F. Call and admission fees

\$

- | | |
|--|--------|
| 1. After enrolment in admission programs as an articled student (Rule 2-77 (1) (c) [First call and admission]) | 250.00 |
| 1.1 Without enrolment in admission programs as an articled student (Rule 2-77 (1) (c)) | 525.00 |
| 2. After transfer from another Canadian province or territory (Rule 2-79 (1) (f) [Transfer from another Canadian jurisdiction]) | 250.00 |

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RULE 1 – DEFINITIONS

Definitions

1 In these rules, unless the context indicates otherwise:

“**admission program**” means the program administered by the Society for articulated students that existed prior to June 1, 2026, ;

“**applicant**” means a person who has applied under Part 2 [*Membership and Authority to Practise Law*] for enrolment as an articulated student, for call and admission or for reinstatement;

“**articling agreement**” means a contract in the prescribed form executed by an applicant for enrolment as an articulated student and the applicant’s prospective principal;

“**articling start date**” means the date on which an articulated student begins the articling term;

“**articled student**” means a person who is enrolled with the Society as an articulated student pursuant to Rule 2-54 [*Enrolment as an articulated student*];

“**articling term**” means the 9 month period referred to in Rule 2-59 [*Articling term*];

“**clerkship term**” means the period during which a law clerk is employed to work for a judge, not including any period of vacation or leave of absence;

“**law clerk**” means a law clerk employed to work for a judge appointed under section 96 of the *Constitution Act, 1867*, or a judge of the Supreme Court of Canada, the Federal Court, the Federal Court of Appeal or the Tax Court of Canada;

“**professional conduct record**” means a record of all or some of the following information respecting a lawyer:

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(c) a decision by a panel or a review board to reject an application for enrolment as an articulated student, call and admission or reinstatement;

“professional legal training course” means the course required of applicants for call and admission who were enrolled in the admission program and includes any assessments, examinations or remedial work required during or after the course.

“principal” means a lawyer who is qualified to employ and employs an articulated student;

“training course” means the course designated by the Benchers that is required of applicants prior to call and admission.

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PART 2 – MEMBERSHIP AND AUTHORITY TO PRACTISE LAW

Division 1 - Practice of Law

Member Information

Practice history

- 2-12** (1) In this rule, “**practice history**” means a record of
- (a) the dates and places that a lawyer or former lawyer has practised law or been enrolled as an articulated student, including the name of the firms through which the lawyer or former lawyer practised law, and
 - (b) dates of any periods since call and admission during which the lawyer or former lawyer has been a non-practising or retired member or a former member.
- (2) At the request of any person, the Executive Director may disclose all or part of the practice history of any member or former member of the Society.

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Division 2 – Admission and Reinstatement

Powers of Credentials Committee

- 2-52** (1) The Credentials Committee may
- (a) exercise the authority of the Benchers to call and admit barristers and solicitors, and
 - [(b) – (d) rescinded]
 - (e) review, investigate and report to the Benchers on all aspects of legal education leading to call and admission. (1.1) For the purposes of applicants who have completed or are completing the professional legal training course, the Credentials Committee may continue to
 - (a) implement, administer and evaluate the professional legal training course and examinations, assignments and assessments for all articled students
 - (b) establish standards for passing the professional legal training course and examinations, assignments and assessment, and
 - (c) establish procedures to be applied by the Executive Director and faculty of the professional legal training course for
 - (i) the deferral, review or appeal of failed examinations, assignments and assessments, and
 - (ii) remedial work in the professional legal training course or examinations, assignments and assessments.
- (2) When the Credentials Committee is empowered to order a hearing under this division, it may do so even though the application has been withdrawn.
- (3) The Credentials Committee may, with the consent of the person concerned, vary or remove practice conditions or limitations imposed by the Committee under this division.

Articling

Enrolment as an articled student

- 2-54** (1) An applicant may apply for enrolment as an articled student by delivering to the Executive Director the following:
- (a) a completed application in the prescribed form, including a written consent for the release of relevant information to the Society;
 - (b) proof of academic qualification under subrule (2);
 - (c) an articling agreement stating a proposed enrolment start date not less than 30 days from the date that the application is received by the Executive Director;

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- (d) other documents or information that the Credentials Committee may reasonably require;
 - (e) the application fee specified in Schedule 1.
- (2) Each of the following constitutes academic qualification under this rule:
- (a) successful completion of the requirements for a bachelor of laws or the equivalent degree from an approved common law faculty of law in a Canadian university;
 - (b) a Certificate of Qualification issued under the authority of the Federation of Law Societies of Canada;
 - (c) approval by the Credentials Committee of the qualifications of a full-time lecturer at the faculty of law of a university in British Columbia.
- (3) For the purposes of this rule, a common law faculty of law is approved if it has been approved by the Federation of Law Societies of Canada unless the Benchers adopt a resolution declaring that it is not or has ceased to be an approved faculty of law.
- (4) An official transcript of the applicant's grades at each approved faculty of law at which the applicant studied is proof of academic qualification under subrule (2) (a).
- (5) The Credentials Committee may approve academic qualifications under subrule (2) (c) if the applicant
- (a) has been a full-time lecturer at a common law faculty of law in a Canadian university for at least 5 of the last 8 years, and
 - (b) has been found by the Credentials Committee to have an adequate knowledge of the common law.
- (6) An articulated student who as of June 1, 2026 was enrolled in the admission program is deemed to have been enrolled as an articulated student for the purposes of these Rules.

Re-enrolment

- 2-55 (1) This rule applies to a person
- (a) whose application for enrolment as an articulated student has been rejected by a panel that is not satisfied that the person is of good character and repute and fit to become a barrister and solicitor of the Supreme Court,
 - (b) whose enrolment has been set aside by a panel under section 38 (6) (d) [*Discipline hearings*], or
 - (c) who, having been registered in the training course or the professional legal training course, has received a failed standing.
- (2) A person referred to in subrule (1) (a) or (b) may not apply for enrolment until the earlier of
- (a) the date set by a panel acting under subrule (1) (a) or (b), or
 - (b) 2 years after the date of the event referred to in subrule (1) (a) or (b).
- (3) A person referred to in subrule (1) (c) may not apply for enrolment for 1 year after the later of

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- (a) the date on which the Executive Director issued the transcript of failed standing, or
- (b) the failed standing is confirmed under Rule 2-74 (7) (a) [*Review of failed standing*].

Consideration of application for enrolment

- 2-56** (1) The Executive Director must consider an application for enrolment by a person meeting the academic qualifications established under Rule 2-54 [*Enrolment as an articled student*], and may conduct or authorize any person to conduct an investigation concerning the application.
- (2) On an application for enrolment as an articled student, the Executive Director may
- (a) enrol the applicant without conditions or limitations effective the articling start date proposed in the application, or
 - (b) refer the application to the Credentials Committee.
- (3) When the Executive Director refers an application to the Credentials Committee under subrule (2), the Committee may
- (a) enrol the applicant effective on or after the proposed articling start date without conditions or limitations,
 - (b) enrol the applicant effective on or after the proposed articling start date with conditions or limitations on the activities of the applicant as an articled student, if the applicant consents in writing to those conditions or limitations, or
 - (c) order a hearing.

Principals

- 2-57** (1) A lawyer engaged in full-time practice may act as principal to no more than 2 articled students at one time.

- (1.1) In this rule

“**associated activities**” includes practice management, administration and promotion and voluntary activities associated with the practice of law;

“**full-time practice**” means the practice of law and associated activities for an average of more than 25 hours per week;

“**part-time practice**” means the practice of law and associated activities for an average of not more than 25 hours per week.

- (2) Subject to subrules (2.1) and (3), to qualify to act as a principal, a lawyer must
- (a) have engaged in full-time practice in Canada for 5 of the 8 years immediately preceding the articling start date,
 - (b) have spent at least 3 years of the time engaged in the practice of law required under paragraph (a) in
 - (i) British Columbia, or
 - (ii) Yukon while the lawyer was a member of the Society, and

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- (c) not be prohibited from practising law under Rule 2-89 [*Returning to practice after an absence*].
- (2.1) When a lawyer engages in part-time practice
- (a) any period in which the lawyer engages in part-time practice is counted at a rate of 50 per cent for the purposes of the full-time practice requirement in subrule (2), and
 - (b) the 8-year period in subrule (2) (a) is extended by the length of the period in which the lawyer engages in part-time practice, provided that the aggregate time in which the lawyer was not engaged in the practice of law does not exceed 3 years in the 5 years immediately preceding the articling start date.
- (3) In exceptional circumstances, the Credentials Committee may allow a lawyer
- (a) who does not qualify under subrule (2) to act as principal to an articulated student, or
 - (b) to act as principal to more than 2 articulated students at one time, despite subrule (1).
- (4) On the recommendation of the Discipline Committee or Practice Standards Committee, or on its own motion, the Credentials Committee may inquire into a lawyer's suitability to act or to continue to act as principal to an articulated student and may do any of the following:
- (a) conduct or authorize any person to conduct an investigation concerning the fitness of the lawyer to act as a principal;
 - (b) require the lawyer to appear before the Credentials Committee and to respond to questions of the Committee;
 - (c) order the lawyer to produce any documents, records or files that the Credentials Committee may reasonably require.
- (5) After allowing the lawyer to make submissions, the Credentials Committee may do any of the following:
- (a) permit the lawyer to act as a principal to an articulated student;
 - (b) permit the lawyer to act as a principal to an articulated student subject to conditions or limitations;
 - (c) order that the lawyer not act as a principal to an articulated student.
- (6) The onus is on the lawyer to show cause why an order should not be made under subrule (5) (b) or (c).

Hiring articulated students

- 2-58** (1) This rule does not apply to temporary articles under Rule 2-70 [*Temporary articles*].
- (2) This rule applies to all lawyers practising in a firm that maintains an office in the city of Vancouver north of False Creek and west of Carrall Street.
- (3) The Credentials Committee may designate an offer date in each calendar year.
- (4) A lawyer must not offer articles to a student of any law school unless the offer is to remain open at least until the offer date designated under subrule (3).

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- (5) As an exception to subrule (4), the Credentials Committee may allow a lawyer to withdraw an offer of articles before the offer date designated under subrule (3).
- (6) If the Credentials Committee designates an offer date that is before September 1, subrule (4) does not apply to a student who has begun the third year of studies at any law school.

Articling term

- 2-59**
- (1) Subject to this rule and to Rules 2-62 to 2-65, an articulated student must work in the office of the student's principal for a period of not less than the articling term.
 - (2) Unless otherwise permitted in this division, the articling term must be continuous, except that this period may be interrupted by
 - (a) participation in either the professional legal training course or the training course,
 - (b) annual vacation of up to 10 working days at the discretion of the principal, or
 - (c) a leave of absence as permitted under Rule 2-69 [*Leave during articles*].
 - (3) Any time taken for matters referred to in subrule (2) must not be included in the calculation of the articling term.
 - (4) Except in the case of an application made under Rule 2-63 (1) [*Law clerks*], the articling term must not be reduced by more than 5 months under any other rule or the combined effect of any rules.
 - (5) The Credentials Committee may increase the articling term to not more than 2 years if
 - (a) the articulated student's performance has been unsatisfactory,
 - (b) the articulated student has not completed the student's obligations under the articling agreement, or
 - (c) other circumstances justify an increase.
 - (6) If it would result in the articulated student qualifying for call and admission within 2 years of the student's first enrolment start date, a student enrolled for a second time is entitled to credit for
 - (a) successful completion of the training course or the professional legal training course, as applicable, and
 - (b) time spent in articles.
 - (7) If an articulated student is enrolled for a second or subsequent time, the Credentials Committee may grant credit for successful completion of the training course or the professional legal training course, as applicable, and some or all time spent in articles when the articulated student was previously enrolled.

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Legal services by articled students

- 2-60** (1) Subject to subrule (2) or any other prohibition in law, an articled student may provide all legal services that a lawyer is permitted to provide, but the student's principal or another practising lawyer supervising the student must ensure that the student is
- (a) competent to provide the services offered,
 - (b) supervised to the extent necessary in the circumstances, and
 - (c) properly prepared before acting in any proceeding or other matter.
- (2) An articled student must not
- (a) appear as counsel without the student's principal or another practising lawyer in attendance and directly supervising the student in the following:
 - (i) an appeal in the Court of Appeal, the Federal Court of Appeal or the Supreme Court of Canada;
 - (ii) a civil or criminal jury trial;
 - (iii) a proceeding by way of indictment,
 - (b) give an undertaking unless the student's principal or another practising lawyer supervising the student has also signed the undertaking, or
 - (c) accept an undertaking unless the student's principal or another practising lawyer supervising the student also accepts the undertaking.
- (3) Despite subrule (2) (a) (iii), an articled student may appear without the student's principal or another practising lawyer in attendance and directly supervising the student in a proceeding
- (a) within the absolute jurisdiction of a provincial court judge, or
 - (b) by way of indictment with respect to
 - (i) an application for an adjournment,
 - (ii) setting a date for preliminary inquiry or trial,
 - (iii) an application for judicial interim release,
 - (iv) an application to vacate a release or detention order and to make a different order, or
 - (v) an election or entry of a plea of Not Guilty on a date before the trial date.

Mid-term report

- 2-61** (1) This rule does not apply to
- (a) temporary articles under Rule 2-70 [*Temporary articles*], or
 - (b) articles when the articling term is reduced to less than 6 months.
- (2) Before the student has completed 60 per cent of the student's articling term, the principal and the student must deliver to the Executive Director a joint report on the student's progress to date in articles in the prescribed form.

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- (3) A report under this rule must include a plan for completing the obligations of the principal and student under the articling agreement.

Part-time articles

- 2-62** (1) An applicant for enrolment as an articulated student may apply to complete some or all of the applicant's articles part-time by submitting the following to the Executive Director not less than 2 months before the articling start date:
- (a) the documents and information required under Rule 2-54 (1) [*Enrolment as an articulated student*];
 - (b) the application fee specified in Schedule 1;
 - (c) an articling agreement that includes all of the following:
 - (i) the prospective principal's express approval of the part-time arrangements;
 - (ii) the type of experience to be provided to the applicant;
 - (iii) the hours per day to be worked by the applicant;
 - (iv) the length of the proposed articling term.
- (2) An articulated student may apply to change the student's articles to part-time articles by submitting to the Executive Director the articling agreement referred to in subrule (1) (c).
- (3) The Executive Director may approve an application made under subrule (1) or (2) if
- (a) the proposed articling term is a continuous period that would give work experience in the office of the principal equivalent to that required under Rule 2-59 (1) [*Articling term*], and
 - (b) the student or applicant's articles will be completed within 2 years of the articling start date.
- (4) The part-time equivalent of the articling term is calculated on the following basis:
- (a) 8 hours of scheduled work equals one day of articles;
 - (b) no additional credit is allowed for more than 8 hours per day.
- (5) If the Executive Director refers an application under this rule to the Credentials Committee, the Committee must consider the applicant's submissions and may
- (a) approve the application without conditions or limitations,
 - (b) approve the application, subject to any conditions or limitations it considers appropriate, or
 - (c) reject the application.

Law clerks

- 2-63** (1) An articulated student who has been employed as a law clerk may apply in writing to the Executive Director for a reduction in the articling term by an amount of time equal to the time served as a law clerk.
- (2) [rescinded]

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- (3) An application under subrule (1) must be accompanied by
 - (a) a written report on the student's character and competence from the judge to whom the articulated student clerked, and
 - (b) other documents or information that the Credentials Committee may reasonably require.
- (4) A law clerk may apply for call and admission under Rule 2-77 [*First call and admission*] without enrolment as an articulated student or completion of the articling term provided the law clerk otherwise qualifies for call and admission under Rule 2-76 [*Call and admission*].

Articles in another Canadian jurisdiction

- 2-64** An articulated student or applicant for enrolment as an articulated student who has served a period of articles in another Canadian jurisdiction immediately before or after the student's period in articles in British Columbia, may apply in writing to the Executive Director for a reduction in the articling term by an amount of time equal to the time served in articles in the other jurisdiction.

Practice experience in a common law jurisdiction outside Canada

- 2-65** (1) An articulated student or applicant for enrolment as an articulated student who holds professional legal qualifications obtained in a common law jurisdiction outside Canada and has been in the active practice of law in that jurisdiction for at least one full year, may apply in writing to the Executive Director for a reduction in the articling term.
- (2) The Executive Director may reduce an articling term under this rule by up to one month for each full year of active practice of law in another jurisdiction.

Secondment of articles

- 2-66** (1) With the principal's consent, an articulated student may work in the office of another lawyer qualified to act as a principal, for not more than a total of 8 weeks of the student's articling term.
- (2) The Executive Director may permit an articulated student to work in the office of a lawyer qualified to act as a principal, other than the student's principal for a period or periods exceeding 8 weeks of the student's articling term.
- (3) If the Executive Director grants permission under subrule (2), the Executive Director may set conditions or limitations as appropriate.

Assignment of articles

- 2-67** (1) An articulated student may apply for permission to assign the balance of a student's articling term to another lawyer qualified to act as a principal by filing with the Executive Director, not later than 7 days after commencing employment at the office of the new principal,
- (a) an assignment of articles in the prescribed form,
 - (b) a declaration of principal in the prescribed form, and

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- (c) statements from the previous principal and from the articulated student setting out the reasons for the assignment.
- (2) If the articulated student does not apply to the Executive Director within the time specified in subrule (1), the time between the date the student left the previous principal's office and the date the student filed the application for assignment is not part of the articling term, unless the Credentials Committee directs otherwise.
- (3) If the previous principal does not execute one or more of the documents referred to in subrule (1), the Executive Director may dispense with the filing of those documents.
- (4) If the proposed principal is qualified to act as principal to an articulated student, the Executive Director may approve an application under this rule.
- (5) If the Executive Director refers an application under this rule to the Credentials Committee, the Committee must consider the student's submissions, and may
 - (a) approve the application without conditions or limitations,
 - (b) approve the application, subject to any conditions or limitations it considers appropriate, or
 - (c) reject the application.
- (6) An application under this rule must be approved effective on or after the date on which the articulated student began employment at the office of a new principal.

Other employment

2-68 During the articling term and the professional legal training course, an articulated student is not permitted to accept employment from any person other than the student's principal or the person to whom the student's articles are seconded under Rule 2-66 [*Secondment of articles*], except with the approval of the Executive Director.

Leave during articles

- 2-69** (1) During the articling term, an articulated student may take a leave of absence, provided
- (a) the total time of leaves of absence, , during the period does not exceed 22 working days,
 - (b) if applicable, the leave of absence does not affect the student's attendance at the professional legal training course as required, and
 - (c) if any part of the leave is to take place during the articling term, the principal consents to the leave in advance.
- (2) Any time taken for a leave of absence under this rule is not part of the articling term.

[(3) – (5) rescinded]

- (6) An articulated student who takes a leave of absence under subrule (1) must notify the Executive Director in writing .

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[(7) rescinded]

- (8) On the written application of an articulated student, the Executive Director may allow the student to take a leave of absence that is not otherwise authorized by this rule, provided that the articulated student will be eligible for call and admission within 2 years of the student's enrolment as an articling student.
- (9) On the written application of an articulated student, the Credentials Committee may allow the student to take a leave of absence that the Executive Director has not approved, including a leave that will result in the student not being eligible for call and admission within 2 years of the student's enrolment as an articling student .

Temporary articles

- 2-70** (1) A person may apply for enrolment in temporary articles by filing the following with the Executive Director, not less than 30 days before the enrolment start date:
- (a) an application for enrolment in the prescribed form, including a written consent for the release of relevant information to the Society;
 - (b) an articling agreement in the prescribed form;
 - (c) the application fee for temporary articles specified in Schedule 1.
- (2) The Executive Director may enrol the following in temporary articles:
- (a) a student at a common law faculty of law in a Canadian university;
 - (b) a person whose application for enrolment as an articulated student has been approved, but whose articling term has not yet begun;
 - (c) a person who is qualified to practise law in a Commonwealth country and has actually practised law in that country for 2 years or more.
- (3) Temporary articles granted under subrule (2) (a) are void if the student ceases to be a student at a common law faculty of law in Canada.
- (4) The Executive Director may only grant temporary articles under subrule (2) (a) that are subject to a definite termination date.
- (5) The Executive Director must not grant temporary articles under subrule (2) (b) effective more than 6 weeks before the beginning of the person's articling term.
- (6) The Executive Director must not grant temporary articles under subrule (2) (c) for a period exceeding 3 months.
- (7) Time spent in temporary articles is not part of the articling term.
- (8) Except as otherwise specified in these rules, a person enrolled in temporary articles has the rights, privileges and responsibilities of an articulated student.
- (9) The Credentials Committee may revoke temporary articles at any time for any reason without giving notice to the temporary articulated student and without holding a hearing.

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Court and tribunal appearances by temporary articulated students

- 2-71 (1) Despite Rule 2-60 [*Legal services by articulated students*], a person enrolled in temporary articles must not appear as counsel before a court or tribunal without the student's principal or another practising lawyer in attendance and directly supervising the student except
- (a) in the Supreme Court of British Columbia in Chambers on any
 - (i) uncontested matter, or
 - (ii) contested application for
 - (A) time to plead,
 - (B) leave to amend pleadings, or
 - (C) discovery and production of documents, or
 - (iii) other procedural application relating to the conduct of a cause or matter,
 - (b) before a registrar or other officer exercising the power of a registrar of the Supreme Court of British Columbia or Court of Appeal for British Columbia,
 - (c) in the Provincial Court of British Columbia
 - (i) on any summary conviction proceeding,
 - (ii) on any matter that is within the absolute jurisdiction of a provincial court judge,
 - (iii) on any matter in the Family Division or the Small Claims Division, or
 - (iv) when the Crown is proceeding by indictment or under the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (Canada) in respect of an indictable offence, only on
 - (A) an application for an adjournment,
 - (B) setting a date for preliminary inquiry or trial,
 - (C) an application for judicial interim release,
 - (D) an application to vacate a release or detention order and to make a different order, or
 - (E) an election or entry of a plea of Not Guilty on a date before the trial date,
 - (d) on an examination of a debtor,
 - (e) on an examination for discovery in aid of execution, or
 - (f) before an administrative tribunal.
- (2) A person enrolled in temporary articles is not permitted under any circumstances to do any of the following in a Supreme Court proceeding:
- (a) conduct an examination for discovery;
 - (b) represent a party who is being examined for discovery;
 - (c) represent a party at a case planning conference, trial management conference or settlement conference.

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Professional legal training course

- 2-72 (1) The Executive Director may set the dates on which sessions of the professional legal training course will begin and may set the dates for all exams and assessments that form part of the course.

[(2) – (4) rescinded]

**[these are rescinded because after June 1, 2026, there will be
no further registration in PLTC]**

- (5) The Executive Director must deliver to each student who was registered in a professional legal training course session and to each student’s principal, if applicable, a transcript stating whether the student passed or failed the professional legal training course.
- (6) [rescinded]
- (7) An articled student or law clerk may apply in writing to the Credentials Committee for exemption from all or a portion of the professional legal training course, and the Committee may, in its discretion, grant all or part of the exemption applied for with or without conditions, if the student or law clerk has
- (a) successfully completed a bar admission course in another Canadian jurisdiction, or
 - (b) engaged in the active practice of law in a common law jurisdiction outside Canada for at least 5 full years.

Tutorial program

- 2-73 (1) The Executive Director may establish a tutorial program to assist students participating in the professional legal training course.
- (2) Priority for access to tutorial assistance must be as follows:
- (a) first priority to students of aboriginal heritage;
 - (b) second priority to all other students.

Review of failed standing

- 2-74 (1) Subject to subrule (2), a student who has failed the professional legal training course may apply in writing to the Executive Director for a review of the student’s failed standing, not more than 21 days after the date on which the Executive Director issued the transcript under Rule 2-72 (5) [*Professional legal training course*].
- (2) A student may not apply under subrule (1) if the student has failed in 3 attempts to pass the professional legal training course, including any of the following:
- (a) the original attempt;
 - (b) a further attempt to pass examinations, assignments or assessments;
 - (c) any attempt to meet a requirement under subrule (7).

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- (3) The Executive Director may consider an application for review received after the period specified in subrule (1).
- (4) A student applying for a review under this rule must state the following in the application:
- (a) any compassionate grounds, supported by medical or other evidence, that relate to the student's performance in the professional legal training course;
 - (b) any grounds, based on the student's past performance, that would justify opportunities for further remedial work;
 - (c) the relief that the student seeks under subrule (7).
- (5) and (6) [rescinded]
- (7) After considering the submissions made under subrule (4), the Executive Director may do one or more of the following:
- (a) confirm the standing, including any failed standing;
 - (b) grant the student an adjudicated pass in a professional legal training course examination, assignment or assessment, with or without conditions;
 - (c) require the student to complete further examinations, assignments or assessments, and to pass them at a standard set by the Executive Director;
 - (d) [rescinded];
 - (e) require the student to complete a specified program of training at an educational institution or under the supervision of a practising lawyer, or both.
- (8) A student who is required to do anything under subrule (7) must pay the fee for each examination, assignment or assessment as specified in Schedule 1.
- (9) The Executive Director must deliver a transcript stating the student's standing and the extent to which any standards or conditions have been met to
- (a) each student whom the Executive Director has required to do anything under subrule (7), and
 - (b) each such student's principal, if applicable.

Termination of enrolment

- 2-75** (1) An articulated student is no longer enrolled as an articulated student if the principal or the student has terminated the student's articles for any reason and no assignment of the student's articles is approved within 30 days.
- (2) The 30-day period referred to in subrule (1) does not run while the student is registered in and attending either of the professional legal training course or the training course.
- (3) A person whose enrolment has ceased under subrule (1) may apply for enrolment under Rule 2-54 (1) [*Enrolment as an articulated student*].

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Call and admission

Call and admission

- 2-76** (0.1) In this rule, “**admission period**” means the time between the earlier of an applicant’s articling start date or training program start date, and the applicant’s date of application for call and admission.
- (0.2) For the purposes of this rule, the admission period must not exceed 24 months.
- (1) To qualify for call and admission, an applicant who is an articulated student or a law clerk must, successfully complete the following requirements within the admission period:
- (a) in the case of an articulated student, the articling term;
 - (a.1) in the case of a law clerk who is not enrolled as an articulated student, a clerkship term of not less than 9 months;
 - (b) either
 - (i) the training course or,
 - (ii) for applicants who were enrolled in the professional legal training course before June 1, 2026, the professional legal training course;
 - (b.1) the practice management course;
 - (c) any other requirements of the Act or these rules imposed by the Credentials Committee or the Benchers.
- (2) [rescinded]

First call and admission

- 2-77** (1) An articulated student or law clerk who applies for call and admission must deliver to the Executive Director
- (a) the following in the prescribed form:
 - (i) a petition for call and admission;
 - (ii) in the case of an articulated student,
 - (A) a declaration of the principal,
 - (B) a declaration of the applicant,
 - (C) a joint report of the principal and the applicant certifying completion of their obligations under the articling agreement, and
 - (D) where required, proof of successful completion of the training course;
 - (iii) in the case of a law clerk who is not enrolled as an articulated student,
 - (A) an application for call and admission,

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- (B) proof of academic qualification as required of applicants for enrolment under Rule 2-54 (2) [*Enrolment as an articled student*],
 - (C) a written report on the law clerk's character and competence from the judge to whom the law clerk clerked, and
 - (D) where required, proof of successful completion of the training course;
 - (iv) [rescinded]
 - (v) a completed questionnaire;
 - (vi) written consent for the release of relevant information to the Society,
 - (b) a professional liability indemnity application or exemption form,
 - (c) the following fees:
 - (i) the applicable call and admission fee specified in Schedule 1;
 - (ii) the prorated practice fee specified in Schedule 2;
 - (iii) the prorated annual indemnity fee specified in Schedule 2, unless exempt under Rule 3-43 [*Exemption from professional liability indemnification*], and
 - (d) any other information and documents required by the Act or these rules that the Credentials Committee or the Benchers may request.
- (2) An articled student or law clerk may apply under this rule at any time.
 - (3) If an articled student or law clerk fails to meet the requirements of this rule, including the delivery of all documents specified, the Executive Director must summarily
 - (a) reject the application for call and admission, and
 - (b) in the case of an articled student, terminate the student's enrolment.
 - (4) When the Credentials Committee has initiated a review under Rule 5-19 [*Initiating a review*] of a hearing panel's decision to enrol an articled student, the articled student is not eligible for call and admission until the review board has issued a final decision on the review or the Committee withdraws the review.

Law school faculty

- 2-78** (1) A full-time lecturer in a faculty of law of a university in Canada who has the academic qualifications required under Rule 2-54 [*Enrolment as an articled student*] may apply for call and admission without completing an articling term or either of the professional legal training course or the training course.
- (2) On an application under this rule, the Credentials Committee may approve the application subject to the condition specified in subrule (3).
 - (3) A lawyer called and admitted under this rule who ceases to be a full-time lecturer in a faculty of law of a university in Canada must complete an articling term and the training course unless the Credentials Committee otherwise orders.
 - (4) The Benchers may require a lawyer who fails to comply with subrule (3) to resign from the Society.

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Transfer from another Canadian jurisdiction

- 2-79** (1) An applicant for call and admission on transfer from another jurisdiction in Canada must deliver the following to the Executive Director:
- (a) an application for call and admission on transfer in the prescribed form, including written consent for the release of relevant information to the Society;
 - (b) a certificate of character;
 - (c) a certificate of standing from each body regulating the legal profession in any jurisdiction in which the applicant is or has been a member of the legal profession;
 - (d) a professional liability indemnity application or exemption form;
 - (e) proof of academic qualification
 - (i) as required of applicants for enrolment under Rule 2-54 (2) [*Enrolment as an articulated student*], or;
 - (ii) for a member of the Barreau, proof that the applicant has earned
 - (A) a bachelor's degree in civil law in Canada, or
 - (B) a foreign degree and a certificate of equivalency from the Barreau;
 - (f) the following fees:
 - (i) the application fee and call and admission fees specified in Schedule 1;
 - (ii) the prorated practice fee specified in Schedule 2;
 - (iii) the prorated annual indemnity fee specified in Schedule 2, unless exempt under Rule 3-43 [*Exemption from professional liability indemnification*];
 - (g) any other information and documents required by the Act or these rules that are requested by the Credentials Committee or the Benchers.
- (2) An applicant under this rule must not be called and admitted unless the Executive Director is satisfied that the lawyer is not prohibited from practising law under Rule 2-89 [*Returning to practice after an absence*] or 2-90 [*Conditions on returning to practice*].
- (3) Unless Rule 2-81 [*Transfer under National Mobility Agreement and Territorial Mobility Agreement*] applies, an applicant under this rule must pass an examination on jurisdiction-specific substantive law, practice and procedure set by the Executive Director.
- (4) An applicant who does not satisfy the Executive Director that the applicant has an adequate knowledge of the English language must satisfactorily complete the training required by the Credentials Committee.
- (5) An applicant who is required to write an examination under this rule or the qualification examination must pass the required examination within 12 months after a decision to permit the applicant to write the examination.
- (6) At least 30 days before writing the first examination, an applicant who is required to write an examination under this rule or the qualification examination must pay the fee specified in Schedule 1 for the examination.
- (7) An applicant who fails the transfer or qualification examination

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- (a) is entitled to a formal re-read of the examination on application to the Executive Director in writing within 30 days of notification of the applicant's failure,
- (b) may re-write the examination
 - (i) at any time, provided the applicant has not failed the examination before, or
 - (ii) after a period of one year from the date of the failure if the applicant has previously failed the examination, or
- (c) may be permitted to write the examination for a third or subsequent time at any time despite paragraph (b) (ii) on application to the Credentials Committee in writing stating
 - (i) compassionate grounds, supported by medical or other evidence, or
 - (ii) other grounds based on the applicant's past performance.

In-house counsel

- 2-80** (1) An applicant under Rule 2-79 [*Transfer from another Canadian jurisdiction*] may apply to the Credentials Committee for call and admission as in-house counsel.
- (2) On an application under this rule, the Credentials Committee may exempt an applicant from the requirements to write and pass the transfer examination or the qualification examination or complete the requirement under Rule 2-81 (3) [*Transfer under National Mobility Agreement and Territorial Mobility Agreement*].
- (3) A lawyer who is called and admitted as in-house counsel must practise law in British Columbia only on behalf of the lawyer's employer or one of its subsidiaries or affiliates.
- (4) On application of a lawyer called and admitted as in-house counsel, the Credentials Committee may relieve the lawyer of the restriction under subrule (3), on the lawyer
- (a) writing and passing the required examination under Rule 2-79 [*Transfer from another Canadian jurisdiction*], or
 - (b) completing the requirements under Rule 2-81 (3) [*Transfer under National Mobility Agreement and Territorial Mobility Agreement*], if the lawyer
 - (i) has practised law full-time in British Columbia for 2 years, or the equivalent in part-time practice, immediately preceding the application,
 - (ii) is entitled to practise law in the jurisdiction of a governing body of which the applicant is a member, or
 - (iii) was, when called and admitted in British Columbia, entitled to practise law in the jurisdiction of a governing body of which the applicant was a member.

Conditions on returning to practice

- 2-90** (1) A lawyer or applicant who has spent a period of 7 years or more not engaged in the practice of law must not practise law without the permission of the Credentials Committee.
- (2) Subrule (1) applies
- (a) despite any other rule, and

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- (b) whether or not the lawyer holds or is entitled to hold a practising certificate.
- (3) A lawyer or applicant must apply in writing to the Credentials Committee for permission to practise law under subrule (1).
- (4) [rescinded]
- (5) As a condition of permission to practise law under subrule (1), the Credentials Committee may require one or more of the following:
 - (a) successful completion of all or part of one or more of the following:
 - (i) the articling term
 - (i.01) the training course;
 - (i.1) the qualification examination;
 - (ii) the practice management course described in Rule 3-28 [*Practice management course*] or another course approved by the Executive Director;
 - (iii) certification, in the prescribed form, that the lawyer has reviewed and understands all of the materials reasonably required by the Executive Director;
 - (b) a written undertaking to do any or all of the following:
 - (i) practise law in British Columbia immediately on being granted permission;
 - (ii) not practise law as a sole practitioner;
 - (iii) practise law only in a situation approved by the Committee for a period set by the Committee, not exceeding 2 years;
 - (iv) [rescinded]
 - (v) practise law only in specified areas;
 - (vi) not practise law in specified areas.
- (6) Despite Rule 2-52 (3) [*Powers of Credentials Committee*], the Credentials Committee may vary a condition under subrule (5) (a) without the consent of the lawyer concerned.
- (7) On the written application of the lawyer, the Credentials Committee may allow a variation of an undertaking given under subrule (5) (b).

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PART 3 – PROTECTION OF THE PUBLIC

Division 3 – Education

Professional development

- 3-29** (1) The Benchers may determine by resolution the minimum number of hours of continuing education that is required of a practising lawyer in each calendar year.
- (2) The Benchers may prescribe circumstances in which a class of practising lawyer may be excused from completing all or part of the required professional development.
- (3) In each calendar year, a practising lawyer must
- (a) complete the required professional development, and
 - (b) certify to the Executive Director in the prescribed form that the lawyer has completed the required professional development.
- (4) Despite subrule (3), a practising lawyer need not complete the required professional development in the calendar year of the lawyer's first call and admission.
- (5) On written application by a practising lawyer who has refrained from the practice of law for a minimum of 60 consecutive days in a calendar year, the Executive Director may reduce the required professional development for that lawyer.
- (6) The Executive Director must not reduce the amount of required professional development under subrule (5)
- (a) by an amount greater than that proportionate to the part of the calendar year in which the lawyer refrained from the practice of law, or
 - (b) by any amount if the lawyer refrained from the practice of law as a result of suspension, disbarment or other disciplinary proceedings.

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- (7) A lawyer who ceases to be a practising lawyer without completing all required professional development must complete the uncompleted portion in the next calendar year in which the lawyer is a practising lawyer, in addition to the required professional development for that calendar year.
- (8) A practising lawyer who is in breach of this Rule has failed to meet a minimum standard of practice, and the Executive Director may refer the matter to the Discipline Committee or the chair of the Discipline Committee.

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PART 5 – TRIBUNAL, HEARINGS AND APPEALS

Practice and procedure before a hearing panel

Submissions and determination

- 5-6.3** (1) Following completion of the evidence, the panel must invite the parties to make submissions on the issues to be decided by the panel.
- (2) After submissions under subrule (1), the panel must find the facts and
- (a) make a determination on each allegation in a citation, or
 - (b) decide whether to
 - (i) grant the application
 - (ii) grant the application subject to conditions or limitations that the panel considers appropriate, or
 - (iii) reject the application.
- (3) A panel must reject an application for enrolment if it considers that the applicant's qualifications referred to in Rule 2-54 (2) [*Enrolment as an articulated student*] are deficient.
- (4) The panel must prepare written reasons for its findings.
- (5) A copy of the panel's reasons prepared under subrule (3) must be delivered promptly to each party.

LAW SOCIETY RULES

SCHEDULE 1 – 2026 LAW SOCIETY FEES AND ASSESSMENTS

D. Articled student and related fees

1. Application fee for enrolment as an articled student (Rules 2-54 (1) (e) [Enrolment as an articled student] and 2-62 (1) (b) [Part-time articles])	275.00
2. Application fee for temporary articles (R. 2-70 (1) (c) [Temporary articles]) ..	150.00
3. Application fee for temporary articles (legal clinic) (Rule 2-70 (1) (c))	50.00
4. [rescinded]	
5. Remedial work (Rule 2-74 (8) [Review of failed standing]):	
(a) for each piece of work	100.00
(b) [rescinded]	

F. Call and admission fees

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1. After enrolment as an articled student (Rule 2-77 (1) (c) [First call and admission])	250.00
1.1 Without enrolment as an articled student (Rule 2-77 (1) (c))	525.00
2. After transfer from another Canadian province or territory (Rule 2-79 (1) (f) [Transfer from another Canadian jurisdiction])	250.00

TITLE: 2026 ADMISSION PROGRAM RULES**RESOLUTION:**

BE IT RESOLVED to amend the Law Society Rules as follows:

1. In Rule 1,

By rescinding the definition of “admission program” and replacing it as follows:

“admission program” means the program administered by the Society for articulated students that existed prior to June 1, 2026;”

By adding to the definition of “articling agreement” the words “as an articulated student” between “applicant for enrolment” and “and the applicant’s prospective principal”

By striking from the definition of “articling start date” the words “employment with the student’s principal” and replacing them with “the articling term”

By rescinding the definition of “articled student” and substituting

“articled student” means a person who is enrolled with the Society as an articulated student pursuant to Rule 2-54 [*Enrolment as an articulated student*];”

By rescinding the definition of “enrolment start date”

By adding to paragraph (c) of the definition of “professional conduct record” the words “as an articulated student” between “application for enrolment” and “call and admission or reinstatement”

By adding the following definition:

“professional legal training course” means the course required of applicants for call and admission who were enrolled in the admission program and includes any assessments, examinations or remedial work required during or after the course;”

By rescinding the definition of “training course” and replacing it as follows:

“training course” means the course designated by the Benchers that is required of applicants prior to call and admission.”

2. ***In Rule 2-12 (1) (a), by striking the words “in the admission program” and replacing them with “as an articulated student”***

3. ***In Rule 2-52,***

By rescinding subrules (1) (b) – (d)

By adding subrule (1.1) follows:

“(1.1) For the purposes of applicants who have completed or are completing the professional legal training course, the Credentials Committee may continue to

- (a) implement, administer and evaluate the professional legal training course and examinations, assignments and assessments for all articulated students
- (b) establish standards for passing the professional legal training course and examinations, assignments and assessment, and
- (c) establish procedures to be applied by the Executive Director and faculty of the professional legal training course for
 - (i) the deferral, review or appeal of failed examinations, assignments and assessments, and
 - (ii) remedial work in the professional legal training course or examinations, assignments and assessments.”

4. ***In Rule 2-54,***

In subrule (1), by striking the phrase “in the admission program at any time” and substituting “as an articling student”

In subrule (1) (a), by striking the words “for enrolment”

By adding the following as subrule (6):

“(6) An articulated student who as of June 1, 2026 was enrolled in the admission program is deemed to have been enrolled as an articulated student for the purposes of these Rules.”

5. ***In Rule 2-55,***

By adding to subrule (1) (a) the phrase “as an articulated student” between “whose application for enrolment” and “has been rejected”

By rescinding subrule (1) (c) and substituting:

“(c) who, having been registered in the training course or the professional legal training course, has received a failed standing.”

6. ***In Rule 2-56, by deleting the phrase “enrolment start date” where it appears in subrule (2) and (3) and replacing it with “articling start date”.***

7. ***In Rule 2-59,***

By rescinding subrule (1) and substituting it with:

“(1) Subject to this rule and to Rules 2-62 to 2-65, an articulated student must work in the office of the student’s principal for a period of not less than the articling term.”

By rescinding subrule (2) (a) and substituting it with:

“(a) participation in either the professional legal training course or the training course,”

In subrules (6) and (7), by adding “or the professional legal training course, as applicable,” following the words “training course”.

8. ***By rescinding Rule 2-61 (1) (b) and substituting:***

“(b) articles when the articling term is reduced to less than 6 months.”

9. ***In Rule, 2-62***

By rescinding the preamble to subrule (1) and substituting:

“(1) An applicant for enrolment as an articulated student may apply to complete some or all of the applicant’s articles part-time by submitting the following to the Executive Director not less than 2 months before the articling start date:”

In subrule (4), by rescinding the word “period” and substituting “term”.

10. ***In Rule 2-63 (4) by rescinding “in the admission program” and “as an articulated student”***

11 ***In Rule 2-64, by adding the words “as an articulated student” following the word “enrolment”.***

12. *In Rule 2-65, by adding the words “as an articulated student” following the word “enrolment”.*
13. *In Rule 2-66, by rescinding the word “term” where it appears throughout and substituting “period”.*
14. *In Rule 2-67,*
- By rescinding the words “student’s articles” in subrule (1) and substituting “balance of a student’s articling term”*
- By rescinding the word “term” in subrule (2) and substituting “period”.*
15. *In Rule 2-68, by rescinding the phrase “During the articling term and the training course” and substituting “During the articling term and the professional legal training course”*
16. *By rescinding Rule 2-69 and substituting:*
- “2-69(1) During the articling term, an articulated student may take a leave of absence, provided
- (a) the total time of leaves of absence during the period does not exceed 22 working days,
- (b) if applicable, the leave of absence does not affect the student’s attendance at the professional legal training course as required, and
- (c) if any part of the leave is to take place during the articling term, the principal consents to the leave in advance.
- (2) Any time taken for a leave of absence under this rule is not part of the articling term.
- (3) – (5) [rescinded]
- (6) An articulated student who takes a leave of absence under subrule (1) must notify the Executive Director in writing.
- (7) [rescinded]
- (8) On the written application of an articulated student, the Executive Director may allow the student to take a leave of absence that is not otherwise authorized by this rule, provided that the articulated student will be eligible for call and admission within 2 years of the student’s enrolment as an articling student.
- (9) On the written application of an articulated student, the Credentials Committee may allow the student to take a leave of absence that the Executive Director has not approved, including a leave that will result in the student not being

eligible for call and admission within 2 years of the student’s enrolment as an articling student.”

17. *By rescinding Rule 2-72 and replacing it with:*

“Professional legal training course

2-72(1) The Executive Director may set the dates on which sessions of the professional legal training course will begin and may set the dates for all exams and assessments that form part of the course.

[(2) – (4) rescinded]

(5) The Executive Director must deliver to each student who was registered in a professional legal training course session and to each student’s principal, if applicable, a transcript stating whether the student passed or failed the professional legal training course.

(6) [rescinded]

(7) An articulated student or law clerk may apply in writing to the Credentials Committee for exemption from all or a portion of the professional legal training course, and the Committee may, in its discretion, grant all or part of the exemption applied for with or without conditions, if the student or law clerk has

(a) successfully completed a bar admission course in another Canadian jurisdiction, or

(b) engaged in the active practice of law in a common law jurisdiction outside Canada for at least 5 full years.”

18. *In Rule 2-73, by adding “professional legal” before “training course”.*

19. *In Rule 2-74*

In subrules (1), (2), (3) and (7) (b), by adding “professional legal” before “training course”;

By rescinding subrule (7) (d);

In subrule (8), by rescinding the words “the training course, or for”.

20. *In Rule 2-75,*

By rescinding the words “in the admission program” in subrule (1) and substituting “as an articulated student”.

By rescinding subrule (2) and substituting

“(2) The 30-day period referred to in subrule (1) does not run while the student is registered in and attending either of the professional legal training course or the training course.”

21. By rescinding Rule 2-76 and substituting

“2-76 (0.1) In this rule, **“admission period”** means the time between the earlier of an applicant’s articling start date or training program start date, and the applicant’s date of application for call and admission.

(0.2) For the purposes of this rule, the admission period must not exceed 24 months.

(1) To qualify for call and admission, an applicant who is an articulated student or a law clerk must, successfully complete the following requirements within the admission period:

(a) in the case of an articulated student, the articling term;

(a.1) in the case of a law clerk who is not enrolled as an articulated student, a clerkship term of not less than 9 months;

(b) either

(i) the training course or,

(ii) for applicants who were enrolled in the professional legal training course before June 1, 2026, the professional legal training course;

(b.1) the practice management course;

(c) any other requirements of the Act or these rules imposed by the Credentials Committee or the Benchers.

(2) [rescinded]”

22. In Rule 2-77

By deleting “and” in subrule (1) (a) (ii) (B)

By adding “and” at the end of subrule (1) (a) (ii) (C)

By adding the following as subrule (1) (a) (ii) (D):

“(D) where required, proof of successful completion of the training program;”

In subrule (1) (a) (iii), by rescinding “in the admission program and substituting “as and articulated student”

By deleting “and” in subrule (1) (a) (iii) (B)

By adding “and” at the end of subrule (1) (a) (iii) (C)

By adding the following as subrule (1) (a) (iii) (D):

“(D) where required, proof of successful completion of the training program;”

23. In Rule 2-78,

By rescinding “the admission program” where it appears at the end of subrule (1) and substituting “an articling term or either of the professional legal training course or the training course.”;

By rescinding “the admission program” where it appears in subrule (2) and substituting “an articling term and the training course”.

24. In Rule 2-90,

By rescinding “admission program” in subrule (5) (i) and substituting “articling term”;

By adding as subrule (5) (i.01) the following:

“(i.01) the training course;”

25. In Rule 3-29, by rescinding subrule (4) and substituting:

“(4) Despite subrule (3), a practising lawyer need not complete the required professional development in the calendar year of the lawyer’s first call and admission.”

26. In Schedule 1, D 1

By rescinding “in admission program” and substituting “as an articulated student” in item 1;

By rescinding items 4 and 5 (b).

REQUIRES 2/3 MAJORITY OF BENCHERS PRESENT

April 20, 2026

Sent via email

Louis-Martin Beaumont
President, Federation of Law Societies of Canada

Dear Louis-Martin Beaumont:

Re: Law Society of British Columbia Nominee for Federation Council

Pursuant to Section 2.1.6 of the Federation of Law Societies of Canada's Governance Policies, I am writing to advise that the Law Society of British Columbia's nominee for the position of Director on the Federation Council for a term commencing April 17, 2026 and concluding November 14, 2028 is Tanya Chamberlain, KC.

Yours truly,



Thomas L. Spraggs, KC
President, Law Society of BC

- c. Jonathan Herman, Chief Executive Officer, Federation of Law Societies of Canada
Gigi Chen-Kuo, Chief Executive Officer/Executive Director, Law Society of BC

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