Law Society
of British Columbia

2026 Bencher By-Election
County of Westminster

Candidate biographies and statements

The candidates were invited to submit biographical information and an election statement. The views expressed are those of the candidates and do not reflect the official policy or position of the Law Society.

Candidates are listed in order of their appearance on the ballot, as determined by drawing of lots, pursuant to Rule 1-28.

Candidate information for District 4 – County of Westminster

- KANG, Narindar Singh, KC
- FOGEL, Jay
- RAINEY, Richard
- POLLITT, Kendelle L.



KANG, Narindar Singh, KC

Called to the Bar: 1991

Kang & Company

Email: narindar@kanglawyers.com

Website: www.kanglawyers.com

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

- Semester Professor since 2023; Faculty of Law, Bond University, on 'Climate Change & Human Rights'.
- Designed/implemented the course about:
  - rights of vulnerable groups most affected by the triple planetary climate crisis;
  - climate crisis migrants; global inequalities/climate justice;
  - States' obligations vis-a-vis human right to a clean, healthy, sustainable environment; the ICJ's 2025 Advisory Opinion;
  - intergenerational climate justice.

- Invited Speaker to Commonwealth Lawyers Association ('CLA') Borneo Rainforest Law Conference 2024; Speaker at BC-based and national CLEs and international CLA conferences.
- Served clients from 65 countries in Courts/Tribunals throughout Canada; provided submissions before United Nations Committee Against Torture (UNCAT).
- Appointed QC (now KC).
- Accredited Family Law Mediator.
- JD (University of California); MS (Stanford University).
- Quasi-Judicial Experience by Order-in-Council at Immigration Appeal Division (IAD), a Court of Record, of the IRB (2002-2007).
- Adjudicated approximately 1100 appeals.
- Along with IAD colleagues, received the 2003 Head of Public Service Award for designing and implementing an ADR program.
- Appointed to BC 2011 Immigration Task Force.
- Invited to speak to Parliamentary Committee on Bill C-24.
- Appointed by LSBC to Systemic Bias Subcommittee.
- Public Education through radio RedFM.

ELECTION STATEMENT

I, Narindar Singh Kang KC, wish to contribute as a Bencher by:

- drawing upon my 35 years of legal, quasi-judicial, and academic experience teaching law, to give voice to those who historically and presently have been marginalized and silenced;
- to advocate for more LSBC institutional focus upon the existential threat of the climate crisis and its direct deleterious impacts, with a focus on proactive rather than reactive policy; and
- to advocate for actual access to justice as opposed to mere sloganeering; specifically, by:

    - Noting the provincial election and the proposed Legal Professions of BC (LPBC) with a tentative start date of January 1 2028, strenuously advocate for retaining independence of our legal profession and of its regulator (LSBC). This pending date ought to be extremely important to new practitioners. I am deeply concerned about the dilution of standards of practice by bringing under one governing rubric lawyers along with notaries public and paralegals. I am heartened by Chief Justice Skolrood's reasoning that the independence of the Bar is an unwritten constitutional principle with both individual and institutional components. We as a profession should collectively advocate for our autonomous self-governance in every possible forum and to every possible influencer;

    - Using my experience in gathering evidence for the LSBC respecting unauthorized practice of law, utilized in Law Society of British Columbia v. Mangat, (2001) SCC 67, I noted then for the LSBC that vulnerable communities and individuals are subject to exploitation by those purporting to have equivalent credentials to lawyers. I anticipate this will increase in 2028 if the LPBC comes into force. I have seen throughout my career that allowing non-lawyers to practice immigration law and appear before Federal Tribunals has resulted in under-representation and miscarriages of justice in the name of access to justice.

    - Examine the administration of justice by the LSBC upon its members, using my experience serving upon the LSBC's Systemic Bias Subcommittee. This goes along with supporting Members in a very stressful profession in a more holistic and sensitive way.

    - I can be reached at narindar@kanglawyers.com and/or 604-572-8871.

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FOGEL, Jay (he/him)

Called to the Bar: 1998

Ministry of Attorney-General

Email: jay.fogel@gov.bc.ca

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

After my bi-juridical law degrees from McGill, I articled with a sole practitioner barrister, with some solicitor work for others. I joined the Crown shortly after call, where I currently run trials, do charge assessments, appeal work, and appearances at the Review Board. I was the Administrative Crown for New Westminster's First Nations Court for 7 years, and presented at the MMIWG Summit in Winnipeg. I have had about a dozen formal mentees with the CBA, and one articled student. I have taught or presented at PLTC, CLEBC, TLABC, CBABC, UBC, PRTC, BCIT, BCPS, and at WestClass, the local criminal bar association for Westminster County that I have organized since 2005. I have been on the board of directors for the Crown Counsel Association and CLEBC, for the latter being the Chair, and involved with the Truth and Reconciliation Committee. I have presented for the Law Courts Education Society and S.U.C.C.E.S.S., was the treasurer for my son's elementary school's PAC, and was a volunteer for the 2010 Olympics. I have been published in The Advocate. I make a pretty good pizza.

ELECTION STATEMENT

I have experience dealing with board governance, both at CLEBC and with the Crown Counsel Association. I was the Chair of CLEBC, dealing with lawyers from across B.C. with different backgrounds (sole practitioners and solicitors and barristers in all kinds of practice areas). I know that the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission still require work. I know that compliance with the proposed changes to how lawyers are regulated will be complex and costly, and I will do what I can to minimize both. I have run a local bar association for over two decades, so I understand what is required to keep lawyers up to date in changes of law and practice in an economical and efficient way. I work for government, so I understand the burdens of bureaucracy. I will do what I can to make it easier for lawyers to carry out their business, competently and healthily. Finally, I promise to try and generate at least one laugh at every meeting.

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RAINEY, Richard (he/him)

Called to the Bar: 1992

Drysdale Bacon McStravick LLP

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Wesbite: www.dbmlaw.ca/lawyers/richard-rainey/

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Richard Rainey is Counsel at Drysdale Bacon McStravick LLP in Coquitlam, where his solicitor's practice focuses on real estate, mortgage lending, corporate and commercial transactions, and wills and estates. He holds a BA in Political Science from Simon Fraser University (1988) and an LLB from the University of British Columbia (1991), and was called to the Bar of British Columbia in 1992.

Richard articled and practised at Douglas, Symes & Brissenden (1991–1997) and Heenan Blaikie (1997–2001) in Vancouver, and at Cawkell Brodie LLP (2001–2004). He then founded Richard J.S. Rainey Law Corporation, which he operated from 2004 to 2014, before joining Drysdale Bacon McStravick.

From 2017 to 2023 Richard served as a director of BC Assessment Authority, including as Vice Chair and Chair of the Audit and Risk Management Committee. He is a former member of the Simon Fraser University Senate and the City of Burnaby Advisory Planning Commission.

In the Tri-Cities, he has been a director of the Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce (Chair, 2011), the Coquitlam Foundation, the Coquitlam Heritage Society, the Meadowridge School Society and the Coquitlam Adanacs Senior Lacrosse Club.

Richard was a frequent guest instructor in corporate practice at the Law Society's Professional Legal Training.

ELECTION STATEMENT

I am standing for Bencher to bring my experience as a solicitor and as a board member to the Law Society.

Roughly half of BC lawyers practise predominantly as solicitors, yet it appears that none of

our 25 elected Benchers practises primarily as a solicitor. The Benchers' own call for nominations names solicitors as underrepresented. That matters, because much of the Law Society's regulatory work concerns how business lawyers practise: trust accounting, client identification and anti-money laundering rules, real estate transactions and the handling of client funds. Those who write these rules should include lawyers who apply them every working day.

For more than 30 years I have practised as a solicitor: real estate, mortgage lending, corporate and commercial transactions, and wills and estates. For ten of those years I ran my own law corporation, and I know the demands of small-firm practice first-hand.

Artificial intelligence will change everything about how legal services are delivered, and transactional practice will feel it first. AI already drafts agreements, reviews documents and conducts due diligence. The Law Society must set clear, practical standards for its responsible use:

It must do this without shutting the profession out of tools that can make legal services faster and more affordable. Getting this right requires Benchers who understand both the technology and the practice it is transforming.

I also bring serious board experience. From 2017 to 2023 I served as a director of BC Assessment Authority, a provincial Crown corporation, including terms as Vice Chair of the Board and Chair of its Audit and Risk Management Committee. I know how a public-interest board oversees risk, finances and management, and how to ask hard questions of staff while respecting their role. I have also served on the SFU Senate and chaired the Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce.

If elected, I will give the role the time it requires and bring a solicitor's practical judgment to every discussion of regulation, technology and cost, always with the public interest at the centre.

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POLLITT, Kendelle L. (she/her)

Called to the Bar: 2006

Pier Law and Mediation

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Website: www.pierfamillylawyers.com

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Kendelle Pollitt founded Pier Law & Mediation in White Rock in 2019 and serves as managing lawyer. Called to the BC bar in 2006, she maintains an active family law and mediation practice.

Kendelle contributes to the profession through leadership, education, mentorship and volunteer service. Kendelle serves on TLABC's Executive Committee and previously served as secretary of the Fraser Valley Bar Association and on the ADRBC's symposium organizing committee.

She chaired CLEBC's Going Solo or Starting a Small Firm in 2022 and co-chaired Small Firm Success in 2025. She has presented on litigation and published legal articles in The Advocate, Law360 Canada and The Verdict. She holds a Certificate in Negotiation from Osgoode Hall Law School.

Kendelle has mentored women lawyers formally through CBABC's Women Lawyers Forum mentorship program, and informally throughout her career. Her service has included Access Pro Bono's Advice-a-thon and mediation roster, directorships on community boards, and volunteering with Soroptimist International and Rotary, etc.

Pier Law & Mediation was recognized among Canada's Top Growing Companies by The Globe and Mail in 2024, 2025 and 2026. Through her firm, Kendelle supports free community legal education, scholarships for law students and local high-school graduates, and community organizations.

ELECTION STATEMENT

Protecting the public requires thoughtful regulation that reflects the realities of legal practice. As a Bencher, I would focus on advancing women's leadership and reducing unnecessary regulatory burdens on sole practitioners and small and medium-sized firms, strengthening their capacity to serve clients and communities.

Called to the BC bar in 2006, I am a family lawyer, mediator and founder of Pier Law & Mediation. Growing our team from two to over 20 people in six years has given me insight into the pressures of private practice.

Women's advancement deserves sustained attention. In the six large law firms participating in the International Bar Association's 2026 Canadian study, women represented just 35% of partners and senior lawyers. Fair opportunities to advance help retain experienced lawyers and strengthen a profession that serves a diverse public.

I would advocate for the Law Society to:

- Expand access to leadership opportunities through partnerships with professional associations offering leadership development, cross-firm sponsorship and support for women pursuing partnership or firm ownership, including women in smaller practices.
- Identify barriers and measure progress by building on existing research into women's advancement, addressing gaps affecting smaller practices, and tracking progress toward fair compensation and equitable access to career-building work.
- Equip firms to make meaningful changes through model policies and practical guidance on transparent compensation, equitable file allocation and advancement criteria.

Sole practitioners and small and medium-sized firms also need regulation that reflects the realities of running a practice. I would work to:

- Deliver practical benefits from trust reform. Build on the Trust Review Task Force recommendations approved in September 2025, with attention to secure electronic transfers, workable recordkeeping and clearer requirements.
- Simplify compliance. Advocate for streamlined reporting, practical digital tools and consultation with smaller practices to reduce duplication while protecting client funds.

Efficient compliance frees resources for client service. Supporting women's advancement helps retain talent and broadens the perspectives shaping our profession.

Building a firm has taught me to listen, exercise judgment and follow through. I would bring those qualities to the Bencher table and be honoured to have your support.

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