

2025 Benchers 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

- MALIK, Jaspreet Singh
- GOHEEN, Jon
- TUNG, Perminder S.
- VULPE, Anastasia
- POLLITT, Kendelle
- SANDHU, Gurminder, KC



MALIK, Jaspreet Singh (he/him)

Called to the Bar: 2001

South Fraser Law Group

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BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Born and raised in Vancouver, I completed my undergrad and law degrees from UBC and was called to the BC Bar in 2001. Since being called, I have conducted hundreds of trials and countless chambers applications. I have appeared at all levels of Court from administrative tribunals to the Supreme Court of Canada. I have run my own firm since I was called to the Bar. My current firm consists of six lawyers.

I have edited the PLTC materials and have been a speaker at various events, including as a presenter for the CLE. I have mentored many younger lawyers, and been a principal to 12 articling students.

I have served on various not-for-profit boards since 1994 and coached my children through their community sports careers.

I was first elected as benchler in November 2023. In my first term as a benchler for Westminster County I have served on both the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee and the Credentials Committee and participated with the Bullying, Harassment and Discrimination Task Force.

I'm married (my wife Sundeep is also a lawyer) and have 3 kids (21, 20 and 14).

ELECTION STATEMENT

I am seeking re-election as the benchler for Westminster County so I can continue to effect change in our profession.

An Independent Legal Profession

During my first term, the current government passed the new LPA. My benchler colleagues and I voted 30-0 to oppose the new LPA. Our lawsuit against the government is set to be

heard in October 2025. No matter the outcome, all benchers must continue to advocate for an independent bar. This is of fundamental importance. Without an independent profession, every other issue is window dressing.

Data Driven Decision Making

Our world today is filled with rhetoric and misinformation. As the regulator, we need to be on guard and follow data-driven decision-making. This does not mean perfection and in fact it means we should experiment with new ideas and if they don't work out, have the courage to abandon them. We have to follow the evidence and do what is in the best interest of the public, which will almost always be in the best interest of lawyers. 25 years of being a litigator has given me the experience for this type of decision-making.

Diversity

Diversity is not just racial or gender diversity, but also size of firm diversity. I have fielded countless calls in my first term on the issues facing small to medium firms. As someone who runs a small 6-lawyer firm, I understand the types of issues facing small and medium sized firms.

PLTC and an Alternative Pathway to licencing

We need to reform the PLTC program and we need an alternative pathway to articling. It may be odd to campaign on an issue that impacts future and not current members but we are leaving many talented lawyers on the sidelines as students outpace articling positions.

In my first term I have worked with my fellow benchers in Westminster County to offer free legal ethics courses and made myself available to my colleagues almost always on the same day they called. I am seeking re-election so I can continue to serve my colleagues and the public in the role as bencher for Westminster County.

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GOHEEN, Jon (he/him)

Called to the Bar: 2004

CBM Lawyers LLP

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BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Jon attended UBC law school and has practiced for over 20 years as a civil litigator focused on business disputes.

From 2004 to 2014, Jon practiced in the Corporate Commercial Litigation Group of Blakes Vancouver. He was primarily involved in contract and tort disputes, insolvency matters, class proceedings, commercial tenancy and intellectual property. Jon was also an active member of Blakes' Conflicts Committee.

Since 2014, Jon has practiced at CBM Lawyers LLP in Langley as a civil litigator and has been involved in a wide range of matters, including shareholder and real estate disputes, and construction law and builders lien matters.

Apart from law, Jon holds degrees in Mathematics (B.A.) and Music (M.A., Music Theory). He is married and the father of two teenage girls. Jon coached youth soccer for many years and is an avid musician and past Director of the Langley Community Music School.

ELECTION STATEMENT

I am seeking election as a Bencher for Westminster County for 2026-2027. I would like to serve as a Bencher to assist others in the profession with the benefit of my knowledge and experience.

Of the many roles served by Benchers, the one-on-one aspect of being a confidential advisor calls me most. I have had experience working in both large and small firms, and my current practice is largely conducted on my own within my firm. I understand the need to have someone to call, and believe that I could genuinely assist the profession in that regard. I would be available for others when difficult ethical or practice issues arise.

I would welcome the legislative aspect of the work performed by Benchers. I have served as Chair of the Governance Committee of a local non-profit society, and overseen the development of new bylaws and policies. It was a process I found engaging and rewarding, and is something I would enjoy as a Bencher.

The Benchers have many priorities, such as access to justice and the current focus on lawyer independence. However, we also need to address how the practice of law will look going forward. The advent of AI and other societal changes are having real impacts on our profession. Obviously much consideration has been given to this topic already, but we have only seen the tip of the iceberg. This will be a key issue requiring further guidance and changes to the Law Society Rules, the *Code of Professional Conduct*, and the other sources of direction overseen by the Benchers.

I would welcome the opportunity to serve the legal community by volunteering my time as a Bencher.

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TUNG, Perminder S.

Called to the Bar: 2009

Lindsay Kenney LLP

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BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

With 16 years of litigation experience, I've built a reputation for professionalism and results-driven leadership. My career reflects a deep commitment to service—both within the legal profession and the broader community.

As a partner, I have mentored staff, students and associates helping to develop the next generation of legal leaders. I've held leadership roles on several complex boards, including Chair, Treasurer, and Executive positions, where I've demonstrated strategic thinking and collaborative governance. I'm known for getting things done, especially when navigating slow-moving systems, and for fostering meaningful progress through teamwork.

My community engagement includes serving as a Volunteer Fee Mediator with the Law Society of BC, helping resolve legal fee disputes through a free mediation program. I also contribute to education and business development through board roles at Crescent Heights Academy, ADRBC, and the Downtown Surrey Business Improvement Association. My elected service on the Canadian Bar Association's Provincial Council for Westminister County demonstrates my dedication to the profession.

In recognition of my contributions to British Columbia and Canada, I was honoured with the King Charles II Coronation Medal.

ELECTION STATEMENT

I am seeking election as a Benchers because I believe in a legal profession that is accountable, respected, and responsive to the challenges we face both today and in the future. With 16 years of experience, I will bring a strong foundation in governance, a deep commitment to the public interest, and a passion for supporting the health and sustainability of our profession to this role.

As your Benchers, I will work to modernize the profession while honouring the traditions that have defined our industry. I will advocate for a profession that is innovative and equipped to meet the demands of a rapidly changing world.

My priorities include:

- Supporting lawyers at every stage of their careers by ensuring access to meaningful resources, mentorship, and wellness initiatives.
- Promoting transparency and accountability in Law Society decision-making, with open communication between members and the public.
- Encouraging innovation in legal service delivery, including thoughtful integration of emerging technologies and artificial intelligence.
- Advancing systemic fairness and ensuring diverse representation in governance.
- Championing best practices positioning the Law Society as a forward-thinking leader in professional oversight.
- Upholding the public interest while recognizing the real pressures faced by today's legal professionals.

I would be honoured to serve as your Benchers and contribute to shaping a legal community that is resilient and future focused.

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VULPE, Anastasia (she/her)

Called to the Bar: 2020

Dominion Law Group

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BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Anastasia Vulpe is a litigation lawyer, focusing on property disputes, family litigation, and estate matters. She was called to the Law Society of BC in 2020 and represents clients in the Supreme Court of British Columbia, applying strategic advocacy with a practical, solutions-oriented approach.

Anastasia earned her Juris Doctor from Thompson Rivers University and completed her undergraduate degree in Psychology at the University of British Columbia. Earlier in her career, she worked at a national class action firm, gaining experience in complex, multi-party litigation across multiple provinces. This experience strengthened her analytical skills and reinforced the importance of precision and strategy, which she applies to all aspects of her current practice.

Born in Moldova and raised in Canada, Anastasia brings a personal understanding of cultural diversity and the importance of inclusivity in the legal profession. She is committed to fostering fairness, equity, and access to justice for both clients and colleagues.

Before law, she worked in social services, an experience that continues to guide her client-focused approach and dedication to practical, equitable outcomes. Across all areas of her work, Anastasia prioritises fair, efficient, and sustainable solutions while supporting colleagues and strengthening public confidence in the profession.

ELECTION STATEMENT

I am seeking election as a Benchers to help shape a Law Society that protects the public interest while meaningfully supporting the lawyers who make that mandate possible. Our profession functions best when its regulators understand not only the rules that guide us, but also the lived realities of practice.

Public protection and lawyer well-being are inseparable. Lawyers under stress, facing unclear regulatory obligations, or experiencing burnout are less able to serve their clients effectively. At the same time, emerging technologies like AI are changing legal practice. Benchers should provide guidance and support to help members adopt these tools responsibly, enhancing service delivery while safeguarding professional standards.

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POLLITT, Kendelle (she/her)

Called to the Bar: 2006

Pier Law and Mediation

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BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Kendelle is the founder and managing lawyer of Pier Law & Mediation, a rapidly growing family-law firm headquartered in White Rock, with offices in Tsawwassen, Powell River and (soon) in Vancouver. Since launching Pier Law in 2019, Kendelle has built a client-centered firm focused on complex and high-net-worth family matters. Under her leadership, Pier Law earned national recognition in the Globe and Mail's editorial ranking of Canada's Top Growing Companies (2024 & 2025). Kendelle was also named a finalist for Business Person of the Year by the Surrey Board of Trade (winner announced soon).

Kendelle has served in various capacities/positions across multiple professional associations: including, numerous bar associations, CBABC, TLABC, Access ProBono, and in her community. She has presented at and chaired multiple courses through CLEBC, and in the US. An active writer, Kendelle has published practical pieces for lawyers in outlets such as The Advocate, Law360, and The Verdict.

In 2021, Kendelle founded Let's Talk Resilience, a social and educational forum to foster mental wellness in young lawyers. Her firm delivers free community legal education seminars, funds scholarships for law students and local high-school graduates and has heavily invested in the communities it serves through donations and sponsorships.

ELECTION STATEMENT

I have practiced in BC for almost 20 years—as a family lawyer and most recently, as founder of a small growing firm. I've lived both sides of our work: advocacy under pressure and the day-to-day demands of running a firm. That perspective will guide me as Benchers: keep the public interest at the center by fostering a profession that is fair and workable for the lawyers who serve that public.

What I believe

- Discipline: educate first, be proportionate.

Early guidance, transparent timelines, and responses to true misconduct protect the public while treating lawyers fairly—especially in high-conflict practice areas where complaint exposure is acute. Addressing vexatious or frivolous complaints is part of that fairness.

- Confidence in trust accounting through clarity.

Trust rules must be updated to reflect practical realities and modern technology. Stringent, outdated processes disproportionately burden small and mid-sized firms, where administrative capacity is limited. Modernized expectations let lawyers meet high standards without needless cost or guesswork.

- Inclusion, mentorship, and well-being are professional standards.

When more lawyers—particularly women and other underrepresented colleagues—see a path to leadership, and when mentorship and resiliency are reinforced, competence and civility rise across the bar. That benefits clients and the public—and it makes good lawyering possible.

- Independent, accountable governance matters.

The regulatory landscape is changing and before the courts. Whatever the outcome, I believe elected lawyers should remain the profession's majority voice within any model.

What I bring

- Practical judgment.

Experience at the file and firm levels helps me separate genuine risk from administrative noise—and focus on rules that work in lean, busy practices.

- Calm, candid leadership.

I listen, analyze, and act.

- A builder's mindset.

I mentor, recruit, balance budgets, and design systems; I know how regulation lands in real life and how to make it better.

Why it matters—for all of us

When regulation is principled, practical, and fair, lawyers meet high standards with less friction, good work gets easier to deliver, and the public's confidence in our profession grows. That's the culture I'll work for as Bencher—steadily, collaboratively, and with fairness at the center.



SANDHU, Gurminder, KC

Called to the Bar: 2000

Hamilton Duncan

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BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

I was born and raised in the Lower Mainland. I graduated from UBC Law School in 1999, and was called to the Bar in 2000. I currently work at Hamilton Duncan where I practice general litigation.

I understand the difficulties of being a new lawyer – personally not knowing any lawyers before law school. I have spent countless hours over the years - being available to my colleagues - providing support and guidance.

I have taken reasonable positions while serving as a Benchers, including at the Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Advisory Committee, Bullying, Harassment & Discrimination Task Force and Credentials Committee. I appreciate the challenges faced by lawyers, and therefore believe that pragmatic positions on audits, trust issues and discipline are necessary.

In 2025, I was awarded the CBA BC Harry Rankin, QC Pro Bono Award for my volunteer work. Over the past 4 years, I have supported seminars in the Fraser Valley on ethics, trust accounting and practice. In March 2025, I was given the chance to co-chair the first CLEBC Conference hosted in the Fraser Valley in over 20 years.

It is my goal to continue working on a new model for PLTC, supporting disciplinary alternatives and addressing your concerns.

ELECTION STATEMENT

The opportunity to work as a Benchers with Westminister County lawyers and fellow Benchers has been rewarding and humbling. I have been energized by the excitement of newly called lawyers, but I have also been concerned about issues raised by colleagues.

I will keep advocating for enhanced support and education so that all lawyers can understand the regulatory process to avoid trust accounting infractions, ethical pitfalls or disciplinary issues. In this regard, over the past 4 years, I have attended Bar events, hosted panel discussions and spoken with some of you. If re-elected, I will continue working on streamlining the regulatory process so that we can focus on the practice of law.

The governance of the legal profession continues to be at a crossroads. I believe that lawyer independence is a hallmark of the profession. I will work with fellow Benchers to ensure that lawyer independence is preserved. I will advocate for lawyers to be the majority voice under a new regulatory regime.

If re-elected, I will continue to work on the following policies:

- supporting simplified trust accounting and auditing protocols;
- improving information exchange with auditors and the trust department;
- restructuring the PLTC program;
- supporting pro bono work for CPD credit;
- promoting mental health;
- supporting alternative disciplinary measures for technical or minor infractions of the *Code of Professional Conduct*; and
- continuing education seminars in the Fraser Valley on legal ethics, trust accounting and professional practice.

Over the past 4 years, I have done my best to listen, support and advocate for you. I believe that being accessible and trying to resolve issues of concern to you is one of the most important roles that I have played as a Bencher. I will continue to answer your call. I will remain dedicated to pragmatic and reasonable regulatory positions.

As always, I invite you to reach out to me if you have any questions about our profession. Thank you for your kind support.

-Gurminder

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