

2025 Benchers Election – County of Victoria

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 2 – County of Victoria

- LEGH, James A.S.
- FAUX, Aesha
- MCNEIL, Marcia



LEGH, James A.S.

Called to the Bar: 1988

Stevenson Luchies & Legh

Email: legh@sl.ca

Website: www.sll.ca

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Elected Benchers LSBC 2023

called 1986 Manitoba and 1988 British Columbia

Stevenson Luchies & Legh partner 1997

Litigation and solicitors' practice, including work place investigations.

University of Victoria professor Civil Procedure 2019 -2022

BC Law Schools Moot UVic Coach for 4 years

Federal Payment in Lieu of Taxes - Dispute Advisory Panel – Adjudicator 2013 – 2019

VBA Executive since 2000

VBA President (2016) and (2006)

Editor of the VBA newsletter The Praeipice 2006 to present

Canadian Bar Association - Member

CBA(BC) Automobile Insurance Working Group 2020 - 2021

CBA(BC) Judicial Advisory Committee 2021 - 2024

TLABC Estate Litigation Committee 2024-2025

Pro Bono Legal services - Volunteer

Scouts Canada - Leader for over 40 years

Saanich Police Board - 1995-2000

Victoria Foundation – Past committee member

Children's Museum of Victoria Association - Former Vice President

Learning Disabilities Association - Former Director

Stages Dance Theatre Society - Former Director

Kaleidoscope Theatre - Former Director

Awards:

Pamela Murray Award - VBA (2021)

Volunteer Award - VBA (2013)

CBA (B.C.) Community Service Award (2008)

Certificate Of Commendation for Scouting (2016)

Medal of Merit for Scouting (2005)

Bar to the Medal of Merit for Scouting (2011)

Saanich Volunteer Award (2001)

ELECTION STATEMENT

For the past two years, it has been my privilege to serve as a Benchers for Victoria. I am seeking re-election because there is more to do, and because I believe that the independence of the legal profession and the rule of law are under serious and growing pressure — both abroad and here at home.

The rule of law is under attack, and we must all take steps to educate the public about its value in a democratic society. The Law Society must be at the vanguard of this effort.

Recent events around the world remind us how fragile this foundation can be. In the United States, judges have been sanctioned for fulfilling their duties, vessels and lives have been destroyed without legal process, and journalists and critics have faced open threats. These are not distant or abstract concerns; they show how quickly societies can slide from lawful governance into authoritarian rule.

Here in British Columbia, Bill 21 — which would create a single legal regulator — threatens the independence of lawyers and, with it, the protection of every citizen's rights. This fundamental issue is now before the courts, with the Law Society leading a constitutional challenge in October 2025 to defend our independence and, indirectly, that of the judiciary.

The independence of the bar and the judiciary is not a privilege of lawyers; it is the public's safeguard against the abuse of power. As Benchers, our duty is to defend that independence, to ensure that the profession remains self-governing, and to uphold the rule of law that sustains our democracy.

If re-elected, I will continue to speak and act work hard to protect these principles. The rule of law will not defend itself — it requires all of us, especially lawyers, to stand up, speak out, and protect the hard-won rights of our democracy.

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FAUX, Aesha (she/her)

Called to the Bar: 2005

Legal Aid BC

Email: aesha.faux@legalaid.bc.ca

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

I was called to the bar in 2005 and have worked since that time primarily in the area of family law, collaborative family law, child protection, and family mediation.

I am a single mother to two children who are now young adults. I understand what it is like to try to balance the demands of parenting and the demands of a busy law practice.

Over the years I have held many volunteer positions, including:

- serving as a member of several CBA subsections
- serving as an executive member and chair of the Victoria Collaborative Law group
- serving as a peer counsellor with the Lawyers Assistance Program
- guest instructor at PLTC
- guest presenter at UVic Law School, Camosun College, and Royal Roads University in the areas of mediation, ethics, and family law
- pro bono legal advice services with Access Pro Bono clinical program
- serving on committees for Access to Justice BC
- serving as a Board member for TLABC
- serving as supervising lawyer for students with Pro Bono Students Canada
- serving as an organizing member of Vancouver Island Women Lawyers Association
- serving as an organizing member of Victoria Mediation Study Group

ELECTION STATEMENT

I am seeking election as a Benchers because I feel that I want to give back to the community that is important to me. I care deeply about our profession and ensuring that our profession continues to be seen by the public as characteristic of integrity, professionalism, courtesy, competence, and volunteerism.

I have been fortunate to work in Victoria for the entirety of my legal career and have benefitted from the dedication to the growth of the legal culture that was cultivated by those

lawyers who have been here much longer than I. It is as a direct result of the hard work of those individuals that Victoria has a very collegial Bar and is a special place to practice for all of us.

I have had the benefit of fantastic mentorship and friendships within the Victoria Bar and I am dedicated to seeing that culture continue and thrive. I am committed to ensuring that there are good mentorship opportunities for young lawyers and lawyers who are looking to shift their practice areas. I would like to encourage regular offerings for continued professional development where trust can be built among the community and friendships and mentorship opportunities can develop. I believe that the more that we foster and encourage trust among our colleagues, respectful dialogue, and learning from each other, the better our practices will become and, in turn, our clients and our community will benefit from those relationships.

I am deeply committed to issues around access to justice and ensuring that our system is responsive to the needs of the people that we serve. That means understanding the needs of our community and the changing demands of our work so that we can adapt to those needs in a way that is competent, cost-effective, and client-centered.

I look forward to your support in my run as benchers for Victoria County. I look forward to serving the interests of our community at the table and to engaging in discussions to promote access to justice and to ensure that our profession continues to be self-regulating and independent.

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MCNEIL, Marcia (she/her)

Called to the Bar: 1990

Pulver Crawford Munroe, LLP

Email: mmcneil@pcmlawyers.ca

Website: www.pcmlawyers.ca

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

For the last 36 years, I have practiced exclusively in management side employment, labour, administrative and human rights law. Following a clerkship with the BC Court of Appeal, my practice has included two years as a staff lawyer at the BC Labour Relations Board and 3 years with the then Public Service Employee Relations Commission (now the Public Service Agency). I was the inaugural Chair of the Industry Training Appeal Board and a Vice Chair of the Community Care and Assisted Living Appeal Board.

In 2013, I was retained by the Province to conduct an independent review of the process followed by the public service in dismissing a number of unionized and management employees in the Ministry of Health. The government accepted my findings, which led to significant changes in the Province's practices in relation to employee discipline and discharge.

In 2013 and 2023, I was a sessional lecturer in Employment Law at the University of Victoria. I am currently on the Board of the Belfry Theatre and have previously been a Director of the Victoria Hospitals Foundation Board and the Canadian Heritage Arts Society. I was elected as a benchner in January 2025.

ELECTION STATEMENT

I was deeply honoured to be elected as a benchner in the January 2025 by-election. Since my appointment, I have served on the Practice Standards Committee and on the Bullying, Harassment and Discrimination Task Force. In each of these roles as well as at the benchner table I have drawn on my extensive practice experience to advocate for the protection of due process and fair hearing rights. This work has reinforced my dedication to support the integrity of our justice system.

As current world politics shows us, we cannot take these foundational principles of our justice system for granted as they are quickly eroded when the independence of lawyers and

judges is undermined. I strongly support the Law Society's efforts to oppose the amendments introduced in the *Legal Professions Act* that would challenge our independence and pose a threat to our profession's impartiality and fairness.

Since attending my first bench meeting this year, I have been impressed with the diversity of perspectives that is represented at the table. In addition to racial and gender diversity, the current group of benchers also come from different practice areas; and represent a wide range of years of call as well as practice formats. Regional diversity is also enshrined in our current legislation but would be undermined if the Law Society's challenge to the *Legal Professions Act* is unsuccessful. Diversity fosters broader understanding, supports healthy and nuanced debate at the bench table and ensures that our decisions reflect the realities of the communities we serve. These values support the public's trust in our profession and in our legal institutions.

This work is central to my commitment to ensure that the highest standards of ethics and integrity are reflected in our profession. I hope to be able to continue this critical work for the next two years and to continue to deepen my understanding of the issues and challenges we face as a profession. I hope that you will give me that opportunity and that you will vote for me to rejoin the benchers for another term.

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