

January 20, 2026

Sent via email

Dear Kevin B. Westell:

Re: 2026 Mandate for the Discipline Processes Task Force

Thank you for agreeing to accept the appointment as Chair of the Discipline Processes Task Force (“Task Force”) for 2026.

The 2026-2028 Strategic Plan, the Terms of Reference (pending approval) and 2025 Mandate Letter should guide the Task Force in its work this year. In addition, the priorities listed below may guide the Task Force regarding its potential recommendations to Benchers as to whether there could be any improvements made to discipline processes.

In 2026, for this second year of the Task Force’s two-year term, please endeavour to:

1. Meet early to update the Task Force’s work plan to include the matters that the Task Force anticipates to address this year, the outcomes it expects to achieve, and the timeline for this work;
2. Provide the Task Force’s work plan to the Executive Committee by **February 27, 2026**;
3. Please continue, with specific emphasis, to consider:
 - a) The current processes and whether there are any additional ways to improve them in the future;
 - b) The complainants’ experiences in the processes as well as the lawyers’ experiences;
 - c) How data collection and analysis can inform an evidence-based approach to the Task Force’s considerations and the Law Society’s approach to

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discipline processes (e.g. review both quantitative data and qualitative data [collected at the Discipline Staff Focus Group on October 8, 2025]);

- d) The mental health impact in the context of the protection of the public of a lawyer's discipline history and its use and potential misuse;
 - e) 'professional misconduct' and what should be included in the term, whether it should be defined, and if so, what that definition might be; and
 - f) The proper role of overarching policy principals guiding discipline processes such as 'deterrence' and the 'public interest'.
- 4. Consult with other committees and task forces, including the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee, the Truth and Reconciliation Advisory Committee, and the Bullying, Harassment, and Discrimination Task Force; and
 - 5. Deliver a final recommendations report to the Executive Committee by **November 6, 2026**, to be reviewed and discussed by the Executive Committee, and then the full Benchers Table.

Where possible, I ask this Task Force to identify opportunities to accelerate the objectives of the Law Society's new strategic plan, with a particular emphasis on ways the Law Society might innovate and improve the governance paradigm of the conventional complaints process.

As a final note, please plan to include time to meet with me and First Vice-President Michael F. Welsh, KC midway through 2026 in June, July, or August, for an informal update as to the status of the Task Force's work.

Yours truly,



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