



The Law Courts

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Supreme Court  
of British Columbia  
2021 Annual Report

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# REPORT OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE AND THE ASSOCIATE CHIEF JUSTICE

## INTRODUCTION

The Supreme Court of British Columbia is a court of inherent jurisdiction and the superior trial court in the province. Through its day-to-day work, the Court fulfills its constitutional role in our democracy as a neutral and impartial arbiter of disputes, ensuring that the law is upheld, applied to all persons equally, and respected. The judges, masters, and registrar of the Court preside over chambers applications of numerous types, various conferences involving counsel and parties, appeals from decisions of judges of the Provincial Court of British Columbia, and, of course, trials. It is often necessary for the judges, masters, and registrar to write rulings or reserved judgments to explain the result of the proceeding and to set precedents for future litigants. The Court also works with other bodies and organizations in the justice system to strengthen respect for and understanding of the importance of the rule of law.

## THE WORK OF THE COURT

### Response to the COVID-19 pandemic

The Court continued to respond to challenges posed by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic in 2021. A significant focus was increasing the use of technology to allow timely access to justice while keeping court users, staff, and members of the Court safe. Courthouses continued to support physical distancing and used Plexiglas barriers in areas where maintaining a safe distance was not possible. Further to an order made by the Provincial Health Officer in August, face masks were made mandatory for anyone attending a courthouse in British Columbia, including in the courtroom unless the presiding judge, master, or registrar directed otherwise.

### Remote Chambers

By the end of 2021, all judges' and masters' chambers for civil and family matters were being heard remotely by video using Microsoft Teams. Hearing chambers remotely has allowed courthouses to return to pre-pandemic numbers of applications while limiting the number of people physically present at courthouses to those required to attend for trials and some other proceedings.

As well, criminal chambers applications, criminal fix date appearances, criminal Pre-Trial Conferences (PTCs) and Case Management Conferences were largely heard remotely in 2021. *Voir dire* hearings were generally held in person, though some were held by remote means when counsel and the accused agreed and it was appropriate to do so.

### Safety Measures for Criminal Jury Trials

As in 2020, judge alone and judge and jury criminal trials continued in 2021, in person and with health and safety measures in place. Special measures

*None of the jury trials that adjourned did so for lack of facilities suitable to facilitate a physically distanced jury trial: the Court was able to accommodate all of the criminal jury trials that were ready to proceed in 2021.*

continued for criminal jury trials to ensure physical distancing guidance was followed. The jury selection process took place in two stages so as to reduce the number of people together in the same space at any given time. Jury trials were booked in courtrooms that allowed for appropriate physical distancing. For courthouses that did not have courtrooms with sufficient capacity to safely accommodate the necessary volume of participants, the trials were held offsite in facilities such as theatres and community centres where appropriate spacing could be maintained, or were moved to another court location.

Of the 144 criminal jury trials scheduled to begin in 2021, 31 had completed by December 31, 2021. Twenty-six of the completed jury trials resulted in a verdict, while five trials ended in mistrials, including two in which the jury was unable to reach a unanimous verdict. One of the cases that saw a mistrial was heard again several months later and received a verdict at that time, so the case is also included as one of the 26 trials that resulted in a verdict. The 113 jury trials that did not proceed in 2021 included 59 that set new trial dates in the future, 20 that resolved in guilty pleas, 19 in which the accused re-elected to Provincial Court, 12 that saw a stay of proceedings, two in which the accused re-elected to be tried by judge alone, and one that was abated because the accused died. None of the jury trials that adjourned did so for lack of facilities suitable to facilitate a physically distanced jury trial: the Court was able to accommodate all of the criminal jury trials that were ready to proceed in 2021.

### **Continuing Suspension of Civil Jury Trials**

The temporary suspension of civil jury trials by the Province, which was first announced on March 19, 2020, was extended several times, with civil jury trials scheduled to resume on October 8, 2022. Any trial that was scheduled to take place before the resumption date shifted to be heard by judge alone. However, beginning March 29, 2021, parties could file jury notices for civil trials scheduled to be heard on October 8, 2022, or later.

### **Conclusion of Certain COVID-19 Processes**

Several processes implemented in 2020 as part of the Court's response to the COVID-19 pandemic ceased in 2021. Special CV-19 PTCs, designed specifically for cases affected by the temporary suspension of trials earlier in the pandemic, formally ended in December, though none had been scheduled during the 10 months prior. Regular Pre-Trial Conferences continue to be heard by remote means.

The Application by Written Submissions (AWS) process, developed for the determination of discrete matters on the basis of written submissions, was last used in July, with just 30 AWS applications filed in 2021 compared to 458 in 2020.

Due to the decrease in pandemic-specific processes that had been booked online, there were fewer online bookings overall in 2021 than in 2020. Of the 3,096 matters booked online in 2021, 3,066 were Trial Management Conferences.

## **Return to More Regular Operations**

### **Reduction in Motor Vehicle Accident Claims Filed as a Result of Changes to Civil Resolution Tribunal Jurisdiction**

Comparing 2021 figures with pre-COVID 2019 figures, the Court saw a decline in the number of civil claims initiated. This is likely due in large part to the legislated change of jurisdiction over motor vehicle accidents with damages claims of under \$50,000 to the Civil Resolution Tribunal.

Effective April 1, 2019, the provincial government introduced a package of reforms consisting of amendments to the *Civil Resolution Tribunal Act*, S.B.C. 2012, c. 25, the *Insurance (Vehicle) Act*, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 231, and the *Insurance (Vehicle) Regulation*, B.C. Reg. 447/83, and two new regulations: the *Accident Claims Regulation*, B.C. Reg. 233/2018 and the *Minor Injury Regulation*, B.C. Reg. 234/2018. The effect of these changes was to give the Civil Resolution Tribunal jurisdiction to determine whether a party is entitled to no-fault accident benefits and whether an injury is a “minor injury” under the *Insurance (Vehicle) Act*, and to assess liability and damages in motor vehicle accident claims of \$50,000 or less.

The Trial Lawyers Association of British Columbia brought a constitutional challenge to these reforms, submitting that they amounted to an impermissible derogation from exclusive superior court jurisdiction under s. 96 of the *Constitution Act, 1867* [*Trial Lawyers Association of British Columbia v. British Columbia (Attorney General)*, 2021 BCSC 348]. The Court heard the matter in August 2020 and rendered a decision March 2, 2021, finding that ss. 133(1) (b) and (c) of the *Civil Resolution Tribunal Act*, the provisions relating to the three changes referred to above, were unconstitutional and of no force or effect. The Court also found that s. 16.1, granting the tribunal jurisdiction to stay or dismiss certain proceedings, was unconstitutional and should be read down insofar as it applies to accident claims, except for determination of accident benefits under s. 133(1)(a).

The Attorney General appealed the decision, and on April 8, 2021, the Court of Appeal ordered a stay pending an appeal of the case on its merits. As of the time of writing, the Court of Appeal had heard the appeal and its decision was under reserve. Therefore at the end of 2021, the stay remained in place, and litigants with a claim for a minor injury determination or liability and damages up to \$50,000 could choose whether to file at the Civil Resolution Tribunal or at the Supreme Court. It is presumed that the reduction in civil filings at the Supreme Court is primarily attributable to this.

### **Bumping of Long Chambers Matters and Trials**

Following trends from 2019, bumping rates remained higher than historical averages for long chambers applications and trials in 2021. A matter is considered “bumped” if its hearing is delayed and cannot be rescheduled within a week of the original date because judicial resources are not available. Bumping causes additional expense and inconvenience to litigants as a result

*For long chambers, bumping rates were higher in 2021 compared to 2020 province-wide, but lower than rates for 2019.*

of wasted preparation time and travel costs for witnesses and experts. As we have reported for a number of years now, the main cause of bumping at the Supreme Court is the shortage of judges. We do not have enough judges to meet the demand for hearings and trials.

For long chambers, bumping rates were higher in 2021 compared to 2020 province-wide, but lower than rates for 2019. Trials saw a decrease in bumping rates for 2021 compared to the previous year, though the percentage of bumped trials in Vancouver remained higher in 2021 than it was in 2019. More than 80 per cent of the bumped trials in 2021 were in the Lower Mainland.

For more detailed information on bumping rates, please see Figures 7 to 11 in the appendix.

### **Conferences Proceeding More Quickly**

The Court saw an increase in the overall number of conferences in 2021 compared to 2020, but fewer than in 2019. However, despite seeing 7,891 conferences, the amount of court time used for conferences was the lowest in more than a decade, with 3,992 hours allocated to these types of hearings in 2021. We suspect that this may be because through the pandemic conferences have been heard by remote means, often by telephone, which may be less conducive to full engagement by the parties and counsel in the process.

The majority of the conferences heard by judges and masters were Trial Management Conferences (TMCs), with a new high of 5,155 TMCs in 2021. The number of Judicial Case Conferences (JCCs) in 2021 was lower than in previous years, as were the number of hours spent in JCCs. The amount of case planning conferences heard in 2021 was also lower than historical averages, as was the amount of court time allocated to them. For more information on conferences, please see Figures 3 and 4 in the appendix.

### **Proposed Improvements for Supreme Court Scheduling, Booking of Chambers Hearings, and e-Filing**

In September, the Canadian Bar Association of British Columbia Branch (CBA) released a public submission proposing recommendations to improve the scheduling of civil matters, in particular, regular and long chambers. The Court is aware of the frustration experienced by parties who attempt to set down chambers applications and are unable to secure dates, as well as the perceived unfairness of the call-in booking system for smaller firms, sole practitioners, and self-represented litigants.

While there are some potential improvements that may involve the use of technology, the single most effective solution to problems associated with booking Supreme Court hearings is not a technical fix but an increase in the Court's judicial resources. As noted above and discussed more below in "Judicial Vacancies", in the face of growing demands for court time, the Court is unable to provide hearing dates because there are not enough presiders available.

*We are hopeful that these systems will make it easier to maximize judicial resources and have matters heard remotely.*

The Court is moving to implement a more accessible and equitable online booking system for long chambers and trials throughout the province. Work is also underway on an online booking system for Judicial Case Conferences and Case Planning Conferences, which will likely be available sooner.

As the Court develops more online booking options, these systems must be engineered to avoid replicating inequities of the telephone booking system and must prevent members of the bar from booking multiple times for the same application and later choosing which one to use, which prevents other bookings from being made in those time slots.

The Court is open to considering changes to the current regular chambers booking system, which is administered by Court Services Branch, subject to operational considerations. However, a significant part of improving this issue would involve counsel providing realistic and accurate time estimates for chambers hearings. Inaccurate time estimates which are a recurring problem in Vancouver and New Westminster, often delay the hearing of matters scheduled later in the same day.

The CBA's submission also included comments supporting mandatory e-Filing, which the Court is ready to explore, while bearing in mind the need to ensure access to justice for those who are unable, for various reasons, to use the technology required to file online. This may mean that the Court begins by making e-Filing mandatory for counsel, but not for self-represented litigants, or for only certain types of documents.

The Court is also currently working on two projects to allow parties/counsel to electronically transmit materials normally handed up in Court or submitted through SCS to make them available to those presiding. We are hopeful that these systems will make it easier to maximize judicial resources and have matters heard remotely.

### **Judicial Vacancies**

In 2021, the Court had nine judicial vacancies. Vacancies are created when a full-time judge retires, elects to become a supernumerary judge, or is appointed to the Court of Appeal. The Court has been chronically short of its full complement of judges for several years. Judicial vacancies continue to impact Court's capacity to provide hearing dates for litigants in a timely manner, resulting in bumping and rescheduling of trials and long chambers applications. Vacancies increase the already heavy burden on the Court's existing judges, who are assigned more work in order to make up the shortfall.

### **Judicial Transfers**

There were seven judicial transfers in 2021. In February, Justice Saunders was transferred to Victoria from New Westminster to fill the vacancy created by the transfer of Justice Punnett from Victoria to Prince Rupert. Additionally, three judges were transferred to Abbotsford to sit at the new courthouse: Justice Jenkins and Justice Caldwell from New Westminster and Justice Dley from Kamloops.

*2021 saw the Supreme Court expand operations to two new courthouses, Abbotsford and Port Coquitlam.*

In July, Justice Lyster was transferred to Nelson from Vancouver, filling the vacancy created by the retirement of the Honourable Mr. Justice McEwan in 2020. Subsequently, Justice Tucker was transferred to Vancouver from New Westminster.

### **French and Bilingual Trials**

In 2021, the Court saw hearings in four criminal cases conducted in French. One of those cases went to trial, two ended in guilty pleas, and one was adjourned to be heard in 2022.

When an order is made under s. 530 of the *Criminal Code* directing that an accused have a French trial or a bilingual trial, Court Services Branch makes arrangements to provide French-speaking court staff, such as the court clerk and sheriff(s), for all appearances, including fix-date appearances and pre-trial conferences.

### **Updating Forms of Address for Judges**

In November, the Court released [Practice Direction 60 – Forms of Address](#). This Practice Direction updated the language with which counsel, litigants, witnesses, and others are to use when addressing judges in the courtroom. Judges may be addressed as “Chief Justice”, “Associate Chief Justice”, “Justice”, “Mr. Justice”, or “Madam Justice”, as the context requires and in keeping with individual preferences. The use of the terms “My Lord”, “My Lady”, “Your Lordship”, and “Your Ladyship” is to be avoided.

This change was intended to support the use of more inclusive language in the courtroom.

### **Expanding Operations: New Locations**

2021 saw the Supreme Court expand operations to two new courthouses, Abbotsford and Port Coquitlam. Both courthouses are in areas currently seeing rapid population growth along with increasing demand for court resources and services, and the new locations are intended to support timely access to justice closer to home for residents of those regions.

The Supreme Court began hearing matters in the new Abbotsford courthouse on January 18, 2021. It is the first entirely new courthouse built in British Columbia in nearly two decades, and houses three Supreme Court courtrooms in addition to eight Provincial Court courtrooms and three rooms for conferences. The courthouse is fully equipped with the latest technology to support remote appearances, thereby reducing costs for litigants, counsel, and the Court, and can also accommodate proceedings for the Court of Appeal. There are three resident judges in Abbotsford: Justice Caldwell, Justice Dley, and Justice Jenkins.

In April, the Supreme Court began sitting at the Port Coquitlam courthouse for civil and family proceedings, using three courtrooms that were not being used by the Provincial Court. Previously, residents of the Tri-Cities region would have travelled to New Westminster, Vancouver, or Abbotsford to attend court.



*For the first time in the Court's history, more than half of the documents filed during the 2020/2021 reporting period were filed electronically.*

At present, criminal trials and the Supreme Court registry remain at the New Westminster courthouse.

### **Electronic Filing**

For the first time in the Court's history, more than half of the documents filed during the 2020/2021 reporting period were filed electronically. Of the 555,657 documents filed, 346,203, or 62 per cent, were e-Filed. This figure is a significant change from the previous year, which saw 45 per cent of documents filed electronically. Additionally, the number of e-Orders processed in 2021 was 14,014—a slight increase from 13,535 in 2020. For more statistics on e-Filing and e-Orders, please see Figure 1 in the appendix.

### **Impact of November's Flood Emergency**

The Court continued to operate as normal at its courthouses in Abbotsford and Chilliwack during mid-November, despite both areas seeing severe flooding from several atmospheric river events. Matters proceeded as scheduled, though parties with hearings on the trial or regular chambers list in Abbotsford or Chilliwack who had trouble getting to the courthouse to file or attend a scheduled appearance were accommodated.

## **COVID-19 NOTICES**

The Court issued three new COVID-19 Notices in 2021 and revised additional notices issued in 2020.

### **New Notices**

COVID-19 Notice No. 43: Notice to Media and the Public Regarding Access to Supreme Court Proceedings

COVID-19 Notice No. 44: Notice to the Public and Profession Regarding Use of the File Transfer Server in Insolvency Proceedings

COVID-19 Notice No. 45: Adjournment of In-Person Trials and Other Proceedings

### **Revised Notices**

COVID-19 Notice No. 27: In Court Measures During the Pandemic (revised December 9, 2021)

COVID-19 Notice No. 32: Resumption of Further Court Operations – Registrar Hearings (revised April 12, 2021)

COVID-19 Notice No. 41: Amendments to the Supreme Court Civil Rules – Temporary Suspension of Civil Jury Trials (revised March 2, 2021)

## COURT GOVERNANCE

The Chief Justice and Associate Chief, in their roles as administrators of the Court, rely on the assistance of a number of internal court committees. In addition to the Court's three substantive law committees (the Criminal Law Committee, the Family Law Committee, and the Civil Law Committee), the Court is supported by subject-specific committees including the Education Committee, the Law Clerks Committee, and the Public Affairs Committee, as well as the Executive Committee, which addresses matters of court administration. Some committees such as the Joint Courts Technology Committee and the Library Committee are joint committees of the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal, while others like the Judicial Access Policy Working Committee bring together members of other courts and of Court Services Branch. The mandates of these committees vary, however, they all share a common purpose: to consider matters of importance to the Court within their subject matter expertise, and to provide advice and guidance to the Court generally. The Court membership of these committees is drawn from the judges, masters, registrars, legal counsel, and judicial staff. Through their work, the committees strengthen and enhance the Court's effective and efficient management. Committee reports begin on page 20 of this report.

## SUPREME COURT PRACTICE DIRECTIONS

The Court issued three practice directions in 2021:

### **PD-60 Form of Address (November 18, 2021)**

Practice Direction 60 updates how counsel, litigants, witnesses and others are to address a justice in a courtroom as the Court moves away from using “My Lord”, “My Lady”, “Your Lordship”, and “Your Ladyship”.

### **FPD-16 Return Applications under the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction - Procedural Requirements (March 1, 2021)**

Family Practice Direction 16 replaces the rescinded Family Practice Direction 9 - Return Applications pursuant to 1980 Hague Protocol - Procedural Requirements, which was issued March 18, 2013. It describes the procedural protocol which the court has adopted to ensure that return applications are dealt with expeditiously.

### **FPD-17 Divorce Applications (March 1, 2021)**

Family Practice Direction 17 replaces the rescinded Family Practice Direction 15 – Divorce Applications, which was issued June 25, 2020. It provides instruction to assist in the preparation of material in support of applications under Rule 10-10 and Rule 11-3 of the *Supreme Court Family Rules*.

## EXTRA-JUDICIAL ACTIVITIES

In addition to the normal workload of hearing cases and applications, deciding issues, writing and issuing reasons for judgment, issuing desk order divorces and electronic orders, and presiding at case conferences, members of the Court participate in a wide variety of other activities in their communities. While the COVID-19 pandemic curtailed many regular in-person engagements, in regular years, members of the Court speak to students during courthouse tours and attend universities and high schools to meet with students in association with Law Week activities organized by the Canadian Bar Association and at other times throughout the year. Some judges also regularly preside at moot court competitions and speak at annual conferences.

Members of the Court welcome opportunities to engage in public education and to contribute to a greater understanding of the justice system and its role in Canadian society. In 2021, the judges, masters, and registrars of the Court continued to volunteer their time with local, provincial, federal and international organizations, including the following:

- Access Pro Bono
- Access to Justice British Columbia
- The Advocates' Club
- The Advocates' Society
- Annual Review of Insolvency Law and Society
- *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act/Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act* Working Group of Canadian Insolvency Judges
- British Columbia Law Schools Moot Program
- British Columbia Model Insolvency Order Committee
- Canadian Association of Insolvency and Restructuring Professionals
- Canadian Bar Association
- Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice
- Canadian Maritime Law Association
- Continuing Legal Education Society of British Columbia
- Gale Cup Moot Program
- High School Law 12 Classes
- Inns of Court
- Insolvency Institute of Canada
- International Association of Women Judges
- International Women's Insolvency and Restructuring Confederation
- Justice Education Society
- Nanaimo County Bar Association
- National Judicial Institute
- Rise Women's Legal Centre
- Sedona Conference Canada Drafting Committee for Publication on Cross-Border Privilege Issues
- Sedona Conference Canada Steering Committee
- Selkirk College
- Sopinka Cup Organizing Committee
- Thompson Rivers University Faculty of Law
- Thompson Rivers University Police and Justice Studies program
- University of British Columbia Allard School of Law
- University of British Columbia Program in the Study of Religion and the Public Humanities Hub

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Chief Justice and Associate Chief Justice wish to recognize the commitment and dedication of all staff who work in courthouses across British Columbia. Despite the many challenges and adaptations required due to the ongoing pandemic and other emergencies, they have continued to serve the Court with the utmost professionalism and diligence over the past year. In particular, the Court is grateful to Heidi McBride, Senior Counsel and Executive Director of the Superior Courts Judiciary, the Court's Legal Counsel, Director Cindy Friesen and her Supreme Court Scheduling team, and the Court's IT department for their indefatigable efforts to ensure the Court was able to allow proceedings to continue safely under regularly changing circumstances.

Finally, the Chief Justice and Associate Chief Justice wish to express their gratitude to the judges, masters, and registrar of the Court, who routinely provide advice and support with respect to matters relating to the Court's administration.

Christopher E. Hinkson  
**Chief Justice**

Heather J. Holmes  
**Associate Chief Justice**

*As of December 31, 2021, the Supreme Court had 105 justices: the Chief Justice, the Associate Chief Justice, 81 full-time justices, and 22 supernumerary justices.*

## **JURISDICTION OF THE COURT**

### **SUPERIOR COURT**

The Supreme Court of British Columbia has jurisdiction to hear and decide any matter that comes before it, unless a statute or rule limits that authority or grants exclusive jurisdiction to some other court or tribunal. The Supreme Court's inherent jurisdiction allows it to control its own processes and procedures in order to ensure fairness and to prevent abuses of process. The Supreme Court hears civil, family, and criminal cases, as well as appeals from the Provincial Court. The Supreme Court also reviews the decisions of certain administrative tribunals, including the Labour Relations Board, Workers Compensation Appeal Tribunal, the British Columbia Human Rights Tribunal, and residential tenancies arbitration decisions.

### **SUPREME COURT REGISTRIES AND LOCATIONS**

The Supreme Court is a circuit court in which all the judges and masters travel throughout the province to preside over cases. The Supreme Court sits in seven judicial districts and has resident judges in Abbotsford, Chilliwack, Kamloops, Kelowna, Nanaimo, Nelson, New Westminster, Prince George, Prince Rupert, Vancouver, Vernon, Victoria, and Williams Lake. The Supreme Court also sits as required in other locations where there is no resident judge or master, including Campbell River, Cranbrook, Courtenay, Dawson Creek, Duncan, Fort St. John, Golden, Penticton, Port Alberni, Port Coquitlam, Powell River, Quesnel, Revelstoke, Rossland, Salmon Arm, Smithers, and Terrace.

### **CHIEF JUSTICE AND ASSOCIATE CHIEF JUSTICE**

The Chief Justice is responsible for the management and direction of matters related to judicial functions, which includes matters related to the preparation, management, and adjudication of proceedings in the Court, as well as the assignment of judges. From time to time, these responsibilities are delegated to the Associate Chief Justice.

### **SUPREME COURT JUSTICES**

As of December 31, 2021, the Supreme Court had 105 justices: the Chief Justice, the Associate Chief Justice, 81 full-time justices, and 22 supernumerary justices. As of December 31, 2021, there were nine vacancies<sup>1</sup> on the Supreme Court.

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<sup>1</sup> Section 2(2) of the Supreme Court Act, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 443 provides that the Supreme Court consists of 90 full time justices in addition to the Chief Justice and the Associate Chief Justice. A judicial vacancy is created when a full time judge retires or elects to become a supernumerary judge. The retirement of a supernumerary judge does not create a judicial vacancy.

*Supreme Court masters also have the jurisdiction of registrars and preside as registrars throughout the province as required.*

## **SUPREME COURT MASTERS**

The Supreme Court has 13 masters who are resident in Kamloops, Kelowna, Nanaimo, New Westminster, Vancouver, and Victoria. Masters sit in all of the registries throughout the province on a regular basis and also conduct hearings using telephone and video conferencing.

Masters are judicial officers appointed by the provincial government by Order in Council after it has received recommendations from an ad hoc committee consisting of the Chief Justice, the Deputy Attorney General, the President of the Law Society of British Columbia, and the President of the B.C. Branch of the Canadian Bar Association.

Masters preside in civil chambers and registrar hearings. They hear applications in chambers on a wide variety of matters, including interim orders in family proceedings, interlocutory applications in civil proceedings, and foreclosure proceedings. Supreme Court masters also have the jurisdiction of registrars and preside as registrars throughout the province as required.

## **REGISTRARS**

The Supreme Court has one registrar, who is resident in Vancouver but regularly sits in other registries. Like the masters, the registrar also conducts hearings using telephone and video conferencing.

The registrar is appointed pursuant to s. 13 of the *Supreme Court Act* and is under the general direction of the Chief Justice. He hears a wide variety of matters, including reviews of lawyers' accounts, bankruptcy discharge applications and bankruptcy taxations, assessments of bills of costs, subpoenas to debtors, passing of accounts, and references of various types. He also settles orders.

The Supreme Court registrar is also responsible for overseeing the province's deputy district registrars, who work in court registries across the province. The registrar serves as a liaison between the Court and Ministry of Justice - Court Services Branch in regard to registrars' issues.

*In 2021, the Court welcomed the appointment of four new judges and acknowledged the retirement of six judges and two masters.*

## CHANGES TO THE COURT'S COMPLEMENT

In 2021, the Court welcomed the appointment of four new judges and acknowledged the retirement of six judges and two masters. Additionally, one judge of the Supreme Court was appointed to the Court of Appeal. These changes are listed chronologically within each category.

### APPOINTMENTS

#### **The Honourable Justice F. Matthew Kirchner**

Justice F. Matthew Kirchner, formerly managing partner at Ratcliff & Company LLP in Vancouver, was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of British Columbia in Vancouver on March 24, 2021. Justice Kirchner replaces Justice E. Myers (Vancouver), who elected to become a supernumerary judge effective November 20, 2020.

Justice Kirchner was born and raised in Victoria, British Columbia. He obtained a Bachelor of Arts in History in 1994 and a Bachelor of Laws in 1997, both from the University of British Columbia. After graduation, Justice Kirchner served as a law clerk at the Supreme Court of British Columbia before articling at Ratcliff and Company LLP in Vancouver. He was called to the Bar in 1999.

Justice Kirchner remained at Ratcliff throughout his career, with his practice focusing on Aboriginal rights litigation. He represented First Nations and Indigenous clients in major Aboriginal rights trials, appeals, and judicial reviews, appearing at all levels of court in British Columbia, the federal courts, and the Supreme Court of Canada. Justice Kirchner has served on the boards of the Georgia Strait Alliance, a non-profit organization dedicated to the environmental protection of the Strait of Georgia and surrounding waters, and the Gambier Island Conservancy. He also volunteers with the Vancouver Athletic Football Club coaching youth soccer.

#### **The Honourable Justice Julianne K. Lamb**

Justice Julianne K. Lamb, formerly partner at Guild Yule LLP in Vancouver, was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of British Columbia in New Westminster on April 27, 2021. Justice Lamb replaces Justice T.C. Armstrong (New Westminster), who elected to become a supernumerary judge effective January 16, 2021.

Justice Lamb was raised in Mountain, Ontario. She obtained a Bachelor of Mathematics from the University of Waterloo in 1990, followed by a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Toronto in 1993. Justice Lamb was called to the British Columbia Bar in 1994, and was named Queen's Counsel in 2018.

Justice Lamb's practice focused on professional negligence, complex personal injury claims, and insurance coverage disputes. Over the course of her career, Justice Lamb regularly volunteered to support continuing legal education, including co-authoring the insurance chapter of the *British Columbia Annual Practice* for the past ten years. She was also an adjunct professor at the Allard



School of Law at the University of British Columbia where she taught the insurance law course. Justice Lamb was elected a bencher of the Law Society of British Columbia in 2020 after serving previously on two committees as a non-bencher member, and has been recognized by Benchmark Canada as a Litigation Star in Dispute Resolution.

### **The Honourable Justice Lauren Blake**

Justice Lauren Blake, formerly principal lawyer at Legacy Tax + Trust Lawyers in Vancouver, was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of British Columbia in Vancouver on April 27, 2021. Justice Blake replaces Mr. Justice H. Slade (Vancouver), who elected to become a supernumerary judge effective March 31, 2021 before retiring October 29, 2021.

Justice Blake was born and raised in Waterloo, Ontario. She obtained a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in History from the University of Toronto in 1991, followed by a Bachelor of Laws from the University of British Columbia in 1994. Justice Blake served as a law clerk at the Supreme Court of British Columbia after graduation and was called to the British Columbia Bar in 1996.

Justice Blake began her career at Davis & Co., now DLA Piper (Canada) LLP with a focus on trust and estate litigation, commercial litigation, and family law. In 2017, she joined Legacy Tax + Trust Lawyers, continuing her trust and estate litigation practice. Justice Blake has written and spoken extensively on matters relating to her areas of practice, and was named in *Best Lawyers in Canada* for Trusts and Estates and for Corporate and Commercial Litigation. She is also a past chair of the Wills and Trusts section of the Canadian Bar Association's British Columbia Branch and a former director of the Central City Foundation.

### **The Honourable Justice Jan Brongers**

Justice Jan Brongers, formerly Senior General Counsel at Justice Canada in Vancouver, was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of British Columbia in Vancouver on April 27, 2021. Justice Brongers fills the vacancy created by the transfer of Madam Justice L.M. Lyster (Vancouver) into the vacancy created by Mr. Justice M. McEwan (Nelson), who retired on August 31, 2020.

Justice Brongers was born in Vancouver, and obtained a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of British Columbia in 1990 before receiving a Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Civil Law from McGill University in 1995. He articulated with Robinson Sheppard Shapiro in Montreal and clerked for the Federal Court of Appeal in Ottawa before being called to the Quebec Bar in 1995 and subsequently to the bars of Ontario and British Columbia.

Justice Brongers began his civil litigation career in Ottawa with Justice Canada before moving home to Vancouver in 2006. During his time with Justice Canada, he had conduct over a wide variety of Crown litigation files, including in administrative, Indigenous, and constitutional law, appearing before courts at all levels, including the Supreme Court of Canada. Justice Brongers is fluently bilingual and co-authored *The Annotated Crown Liability and Proceedings Act*.

## **APPOINTMENTS TO THE COURT OF APPEAL**

### **The Honourable Justice Leonard Marchand**

The Honourable Justice Leonard Marchand was appointed a Justice of the Court of Appeal for British Columbia on March 24, 2021. Justice Marchand replaces Mr. Justice H.M. Groberman (Vancouver), who elected to become a supernumerary judge effective February 1, 2021. Justice Marchand was appointed to the Supreme Court in Kamloops on June 21, 2017.

## **RETIREMENTS**

### **The Honourable Mary Humphries**

The Honourable Mary Humphries retired from the Supreme Court of British Columbia at Vancouver on January 15, 2021. She was appointed to the Supreme Court on January 27, 1994.

### **The Honourable William Ehrcke**

The Honourable William Ehrcke retired from the Supreme Court of British Columbia at Vancouver on May 3, 2021. He was appointed to the Supreme Court on October 28, 2008.

### **The Honourable Janice Dillon**

The Honourable Janice Dillon retired from the Supreme Court of British Columbia at Vancouver on May 31, 2021. She was appointed to the Supreme Court on April 25, 1995.

### **The Honourable Robert Sewell**

The Honourable Robert Sewell retired from the Supreme Court of British Columbia at Vancouver on August 13, 2021. He was appointed to the Supreme Court of January 22, 2009.

### **The Honourable Harry Slade**

The Honourable Harry Slade retired from the Supreme Court of British Columbia at Vancouver on October 29, 2021. He was appointed to the Supreme Court at New Westminster on March 27, 2001.

### **The Honourable Robert Johnston**

The Honourable Robert Johnston retired from the Supreme Court of British Columbia at Victoria on December 12, 2021. He was appointed to the Supreme Court on November 26, 2004.

### **Master Dennis Tokarek**

Dennis Tokarek retired from the Supreme Court of British Columbia at Vancouver on January 11, 2021. He was appointed a master of the Supreme Court on September 9, 1991.

### **Master Grant Taylor**

Grant Taylor retired from the Supreme Court of British Columbia at Vancouver on December 31, 2021. He was appointed a master of the Supreme Court on July 29, 2005.



# Committee Reports

*Other issues addressed by the Committee in 2021 included ... review of forms of address for judges, law clerk hiring policies, and updating the Court's technology to support increased virtual hearings.*

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

### **Members**

Justice Skolrood (Chair)

Chief Justice Hinkson (*ex officio*)

Associate Chief Justice Holmes (*ex officio*)

Mr. Justice Caldwell

Justice Devlin

Justice Donegan

Justice Maisonville

Justice Saunders (until April 2021, outgoing Chair)

Justice Thompson

Justice G.P. Weatherill (until April 2021)

Justice Warren

Justice Wilson

Master Muir

Heidi McBride, Executive Director and Senior Legal Counsel (*ex officio*)

Brenda Belak, Legal Counsel

### **Work of the Committee**

The Executive Committee of the Supreme Court of British Columbia meets monthly to assist the Chief Justice and Associate Chief Justice in formulating and implementing policy initiatives, and in coordinating the work of Court committees.

The judicial membership of the Committee represents their regions (Vancouver; New Westminster and the Fraser Valley; Vancouver Island; Okanagan/Kootenays; Kamloops/North), with the masters and registrars also having a representative. Members are elected to three-year terms, with a two-term limit.

Since the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020, the Committee's agenda has been largely dominated by issues arising out of the COVID-19 pandemic. Other issues addressed by the Committee in 2021 included ongoing liaison of the Court with government and with external organizations such as the Canadian Bar Association and the Law Society of British Columbia, the reorganization of the Judicial Support Services team, review of forms of address for judges, law clerk hiring policies, and updating the Court's technology to support increased virtual hearings.

The Committee is grateful to Brenda Belak for her support of its work.

*The Committee also regularly provides members of the Court with updates about significant appellate decisions in the area of civil practice and procedure and maintains a consolidated directory of all such civil updates.*

## **CIVIL LAW COMMITTEE**

### **Members**

Justice Skolrood (Chair)  
Justice Baker  
Justice Beames  
Mr. Justice Caldwell  
Justice Gomery  
Justice Matthews  
Justice Milman  
Mr. Justice Sewell (until August 2021)  
Justice Smith  
Justice Thompson  
Justice Verhoeven  
Mr. Justice Walker  
Justice Warren  
Master Vos  
Lisa Phillips, Legal Counsel

### **Mandate**

The role of the Civil Law Committee is to consider developments in civil practice and procedure and to provide input on these matters to the Chief Justice, Associate Chief Justice and other members of the Court.

### **Work of the Committee**

In 2021, much of the focus of the Committee's work continued to be in connection with COVID-related procedures with a view to maintaining access to the Court for the hearing and determination of civil matters.

In addition, some of the other specific issues considered by the Committee include:

- The process for dealing with short leave applications;
- Protocol for managing Court documents using the File Transfer Server (FTS);
- Amendments to the Trial Management Conference checklist;
- The process for anonymizing pleadings in civil proceedings;
- In-person versus remote hearings for long chambers matters.

The Committee also regularly provides members of the Court with updates about significant appellate decisions in the area of civil practice and procedure and maintains a consolidated directory of all such civil updates.

The Committee is grateful to Lisa Phillips for her support of its work.

*The Abbotsford Law Courts is the first new courthouse in British Columbia since the Chilliwack courthouse was completed in 2002.*

## **COURTHOUSE FACILITIES COMMITTEE**

### **Members**

Justice Jenkins (Chair)

Mr. Justice Baird

Justice Betton

Justice Douglas

Justice Grist

Justice Mayer

Justice A. Ross

Heidi McBride, Executive Director & Senior Legal Counsel

### **Mandate**

Unlike most other Court committees, the Courthouse Facilities Committee does not have regular and ongoing files and meetings, but rather stands ready to provide facilities-related assistance and support to the Chief Justices as they request.

### **Work of the Committee**

In 2021, the Facilities Committee saw the conclusion of one of its major projects in recent years with the opening of the new Abbotsford Courthouse. The Abbotsford Law Courts is the first new courthouse in British Columbia since the Chilliwack courthouse was completed in 2002. Full operations commenced in Abbotsford on February 1, 2021.

The new courthouse is home to three Supreme Court courtrooms, eight Provincial Court courtrooms, and three rooms suitable for conferences, restorative justice, and Indigenous justice cases. It is also able to accommodate proceedings for the Court of Appeal, and is fully equipped with the latest technology and infrastructure to support remote hearings.

Going forward, the Committee will use the experience gained from the construction of the courthouse in Abbotsford as it considers other future projects, including renovations to existing courthouses and plans for potential new courthouses.

The Committee also consulted on a number of smaller projects in 2021, including work involving upgrades to witness boxes, perimeter security, prisoner's docks, and digital display screens in various courthouses.

*The Committee worked on the creation of picklists for judicial interim release (bail), conditional sentence orders, probation orders, and ancillary orders.*

## **CRIMINAL LAW COMMITTEE**

### **Members**

Justice Duncan (Chair)  
Justice Devlin (Vice Chair)  
Associate Chief Justice Holmes  
Justice Brundrett  
Madam Justice Church  
Mr. Justice Crossin  
Justice Dley  
Justice Donegan  
Mr. Justice Gaul  
Justice Ker  
Justice Maisonville  
Mr. Justice Riley  
Justice Tammen  
Madam Justice Watchuk  
Justice Wedge  
Justice Winteringham  
Claire Wilson, Legal Counsel  
Natasha Edgar, Legal Counsel

### **Mandate**

The role of the Criminal Law Committee is to consider developments in criminal practice and procedure and to provide input on these matters to the Chief Justice, the Associate Chief Justice, and other members of the Court.

### **Work of the Committee**

In 2021, as in 2020, the Committee continued its work to meet challenges arising from the COVID-19 pandemic as well as providing continued updates to members of the Court on criminal law issues. The Committee continues to prepare internal resources and guidance to members of the Court on criminal proceedings during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Justice Ehrcke resigned from the Committee due to his retirement from the Court. The Committee is grateful for the valuable contributions made by Mr. Justice Ehrcke during his tenure on the Committee. Justice Ker stepped down as Chair of the Criminal Law Committee after eight years of service. The Committee is grateful for her many valuable contributions as Chair. Justice Duncan was appointed as Chair and Justice Devlin as Vice-Chair in late June. Three new members—Justice Brundrett, Justice Donegan, and Mr. Justice Riley—joined the Committee in the Fall.



The Committee worked on the creation of picklists for judicial interim release (bail), conditional sentence orders, probation orders, and ancillary orders. The picklists are available to counsel, self-represented accused persons, and judges. The picklists are available on the Court's [website](#).

The Committee has been providing advice and assistance to members of the Court on adjustments to the two-stage jury selection process which was implemented in September 2020.

Members of the Committee continue to be active in educational and training activities for members of the Court, including the design and delivery of sexual assault law training.

The Committee is grateful to Claire Wilson for her support of its work. The Committee is also pleased to welcome Natasha Edgar, new Legal Counsel to the Court, to work with Claire Wilson in support of the Committee.

*The Committee is grateful for the continuing support from the staff at the NJI who support the development of our programs and also provide administrative, logistical and technical support for the conferences.*

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

### Members

Justice MacNaughton (Chair)  
Mr. Justice Ball  
Justice Burke  
Justice Crerar  
Madam Justice Francis  
Justice Kent  
Justice MacDonald  
Justice Maisonville  
Justice Marchand (until March 2021)  
Justice Mayer  
Madam Justice Morellato  
Madam Justice Murray  
Mr. Justice Riley  
Master Cameron  
Leah Pence, Legal Counsel

### Mandate

The mandate of the Education Committee is to organize and present continuing education programs in order to assist the judges, masters, and registrars of the Court to stay on top of current developments in substantive law, enhance judicial skills, and learn about social context and philosophical and ethical issues which relate to the Court's work.

The Committee usually delivers its main programs at judicial education conferences held in May and November of each year. These conferences are developed and presented in partnership with the National Judicial Institute (NJI). The Committee is grateful for the continuing support from the staff at the NJI who support the development of our programs and also provide administrative, logistical and technical support for the conferences.

### Work of the Committee

#### 2021 Conferences

In 2021, as in 2020, the Education Committee delivered its continuing education programs online rather than in person. The May Conference included sessions about judicial method and decision making, emotion in judging, remote hearings and use of electronic documents, wrongful convictions, and brain science, adverse childhood experiences and the justice system. The November Conference included sessions about sexual assault, perfectionism and procrastination, complicated situations in chambers and trials, and judicial interviews of children.

*The new judges training program is in addition to the opportunity provided to newly appointed judges to shadow one or more judicial colleagues for five days prior to beginning to sit.*

### **New Judges Training**

Starting in 2017, the Committee developed a program for newly appointed judges and masters designed to support them as they transition to our Court. The new judges training program is in addition to the opportunity provided to newly appointed judges to shadow one or more judicial colleagues for five days prior to beginning to sit.

In September 2021, the Committee delivered the sixth session of new judges training. Eight new appointees attended. The training covered a wide variety of topics including writing and delivering decisions and managing reserve lists, managing chambers, the unique challenges presented in family law proceedings, tips and resources for being on the road, and an “ask us anything” session. The Committee is grateful to the senior members of the Court who agreed to serve as faculty again in 2021.

In addition, the Committee organized a series of sessions to provide additional criminal law training to newly appointed judges who did not come from a criminal law background before joining the court although all members of the court were welcome to attend. These sessions focussed on the steps leading to charge approval and preliminary inquiries, common criminal law applications and *voir dire*s, and the effective use of pre-trial conferences. All judges who had been appointed for less than five years were invited to attend. The sessions are organized and facilitated by judges with extensive criminal law experience. The Committee is aware of the benefits to the Court of these additional training opportunities and is grateful to the facilitators who made this possible.

### **Law at Lunch**

The Committee facilitated regular online lunchtime seminars on topics including estate litigation, climate change and its impacts on commercial law, bankruptcy, sexual assault, custody and access reports prepared pursuant to s. 211 of the *Family Law Act*, applications under s. 490 of the *Criminal Code*, and the preparation and use of Gladue reports.

### **Mentoring**

Finally, the Committee has organized various online networking events to introduce the Court’s newest appointees and provide opportunities for informal discussion and mentoring.

The Committee is grateful to members of the Court for their enthusiastic participation as speakers and facilitators in its programs, and for their receptiveness to its programs. The Committee also thanks Leah Pence for supporting its work.

*The Committee updated the Supreme Court Family Picklist of Orders, the Litigants' Guide to Judicial Case Conferences and the Judicial Case Conference Case Management Form, which are available on the Court's website.*

## **FAMILY LAW COMMITTEE**

### **Members**

Justice Tindale (Chair)  
Justice Fleming (Vice-Chair)  
Justice MacNaughton  
Justice Armstrong  
Justice Choi  
Justice Shergill  
Justice Brundrett  
Justice Horsman (since November 2021)  
Master Dick  
Master Harper  
Nikki Hair, Legal Counsel

### **Mandate**

The role of the Family Law Committee is to consider developments in family law practice and procedure and to provide input on these matters to the Chief Justice and other members of the Court.

### **Work of the Committee**

The Committee dealt with a variety of family law issues in 2021 in addition to discussing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on family law proceedings.

On March 1, 2021, Bill C-78, *An Act to amend the Divorce Act, the Family Orders and Agreements Enforcement Assistance Act and the Garnishment, Attachment and Pension Diversion Act and to make consequential amendments to another Act* came into force along with amendments to the *Supreme Court Family Rules*. Committee members worked with Nikki Hair to update various internal and external resources and practice directions to coincide with these amendments.

The Committee recommended amendments to Family Practice Direction 16 - Return Applications under the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction - Procedural Requirements and Family Practice Direction 17 – Divorce Applications, both of which were issued by Chief Justice Hinkson on March 1, 2021.

The Committee updated the Supreme Court Family Picklist of Orders, the Litigants' Guide to Judicial Case Conferences and the Judicial Case Conference Case Management Form, which are available on the Court's website.

The Committee reviewed and provided comments to Chief Justice Hinkson with respect to proposed changes to the *Supreme Court Family Rules* as well as the FAQ sheet respecting applications under the *Interjurisdictional Support Orders Act* and the *Divorce Act* drafted by Justice Services Branch.

*Members also discussed various resources and family law initiatives that were developed by external organizations, such as the new early resolution process in Provincial Court.*

The Committee also advised Chief Justice Hinkson and Associate Chief Justice Holmes of its views on various processes and suggestions that were under consideration in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic when requested to do so.

Additionally, the Committee discussed and made recommendations to Chief Justice Hinkson respecting family registry practices.

Members also discussed various resources and family law initiatives that were developed by external organizations, such as the new early resolution process in Provincial Court.

The Committee recruited a new member in 2021 with Justice Horsman joining in November.

*In 2021, the Committee's main focus was the testing, selection, purchase and deployment of new laptops and associated hardware and software to the judiciary.*

## **JOINT COURTS TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE**

### **Members**

Mr. Justice Masuhara (Chair)

Mr. Justice Willcock

Justice Adair

Mr. Justice Branch

Madam Justice Fitzpatrick

Justice Myers

Justice Punnett

Registrar Nielsen

Registrar Outerbridge

Heidi McBride, Executive Director & Senior Legal Counsel

Cindy Friesen, Director, Supreme Court Scheduling

Ryan Wirth, Manager of Information Technology

Brenda Belak, Legal Counsel

### **Mandate**

The Committee's mandate is to review developments in technology and their impacts on the work of the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court.

### **Work of the Committee**

In 2021, the Committee's main focus was the testing, selection, purchase and deployment of new laptops and associated hardware and software to the judiciary.

The Committee also undertook a review and renewal of the contract for IT services to the judiciary, and continued to review various technologies for hearings and court documents for use in proceedings. Areas such as increasing the scope of e-Filing, online booking of hearings, electronic evidence presentment, and digital court forms continue to be under review and consideration.

The development of the Application Record electronic filing platform by the Court Services Branch was a focus for the members of the Supreme Court. Committee members have continued in representing the two courts on the Courts Technology Board.

The Committee is grateful to Brenda Belak for her support of its work.

*In addition to policy work, the Committee also reviews access applications for those seeking bulk or special access to court record information.*

## **JUDICIAL ACCESS POLICY WORKING COMMITTEE**

### **Members**

Karen Leung, Legal Officer, Provincial Court (Chair)

Dan Chiddell, Executive Director, Corporate Support, Court Services Branch

Stephanie Delacretaz, Director, Strategic Information & Business Applications,  
Court Services Branch

Daniel Kozera, Legal Officer, Provincial Court

Grant Marchand, Manager, Judicial Resource Analysis & Management  
Information Systems, Provincial Court

Heidi McBride, Executive Director & Senior Counsel, Superior Courts  
Judiciary

Leah Pence, Legal Counsel, Supreme Court

Robert Richardson, Senior Analyst, Policy, Legislation, and Planning, Court  
Services Branch

Shirley Smiley, Legal Counsel, Court of Appeal

Kathryn Thomson, Legal Policy Advisor (to June 2021)

Erin Turner, Director, Policy, Legislation, and Planning, Court Services Branch

### **Mandate**

The Chief Justices and Chief Judge of British Columbia's courts have responsibility for the supervision and control of court records and judicial administration records. The Judicial Access Policy Working Committee is a joint committee consisting of representatives from all three courts and Court Services Branch employees. The Committee develops draft policies and interacts with the various court committees as required, seeking guidance and approval for draft policies relating to access to court records, particularly those in electronic format. The Chief Justices and Chief Judge give approval before a policy is adopted.

In addition to policy work, the Committee also reviews access applications for those seeking bulk or special access to court record information. The Committee is not a decision-making body, but rather a review and discussion forum for judicial representatives and Court Services Branch senior staff involved in policy, legislation, data custodianship, statistics and court systems management. The final decision on an application to the Committee for access to court record information is made by the Chief Justice, Associate Chief Justice, Chief Judge, or Associate Chief Judge, as applicable, and communicated to the applicant via the Committee.

### **Work of the Committee**

As in previous years, in 2021 the Committee received, considered, and made recommendations in respect of a number of applications for access to court

record information from a variety of government, non-profit, and private agencies and departments, as well as media organizations. In addition, in 2021 the Committee considered certain initiatives to enhance methods for providing electronic access to court records.

The Committee also proposed revisions to the *Three Courts' Policy on Bulk and Electronic Access to Court Records*, which is the policy used by the Committee when considering and making recommendations on access requests. Revisions to the policy were approved by the Chief Justices and Chief Judge, and came into effect on September 20, 2021.



*In the early spring, judicial Committee members interview up to 40 applicants from a group that has been shortlisted through screening interviews conducted by the Court's legal counsel.*

## LAW CLERKS COMMITTEE

### Members

Mr. Justice Blok (Chair)  
Justice Iyer  
Justice MacDonald  
Madam Justice Murray  
Justice G. C. Weatherill  
Brenda Belak, Legal Counsel

### Mandate

The Law Clerks Committee is responsible for the management of the Judicial Law Clerk Program, which provides a valuable resource for judges and a unique learning opportunity for new law school graduates who have achieved a high academic standard.

The Committee is directly involved in the recruitment and hiring of judicial law clerks each year. The Committee is assisted in its work by the Court's legal counsel, Brenda Belak, to whom the day-to-day management and administration of the law clerks is delegated. The Committee is also assisted by the 21 judges of the Court who act as principals to the law clerks.

### Work of the Committee

The recruitment process begins two years before the start of the clerking term when the Committee sends materials to all Canadian law schools. The application and interview process takes place about 18 months before the start of the clerking term. In the early spring, judicial Committee members interview up to 40 applicants from a group that has been shortlisted through screening interviews conducted by the Court's legal counsel.

At present, there are 15 law clerks in Vancouver, three in New Westminster, two in Victoria, and one in Kelowna. The Court had planned to also place a law clerk in Kamloops, but changes to the judicial complement in Kamloops rendered that plan impracticable.

In 2021, the following 21 clerks began their clerkships with the Court:

**Vancouver:** Hayden Cook, Roslyn Grant, Tunç Dogan, Christina Joynt, Natasha Ford, Karin Kotliarsky, Isabelle Lefroy, Rebecca Park, Tristan Packwood-Greaves, Milica Pavlovic, Jessica Park, Rory Shaw, Karen Shin, Emily Thorpe, Caleigh Treissman

**New Westminster:** Lauren Chomyn, Lindsay Frame, Graham Hutchings

**Victoria:** Adra Greig, Alina Newton

**Kelowna:** Miranda Wardman

*Orientation was undertaken using a mix of in-person sessions and Microsoft Teams, with the goal of providing incoming clerks an equitable experience regardless of the location of their assigned courthouse.*

Throughout 2021, the Court continued various pandemic-related accommodations by allowing clerks to work in courthouses or remotely as circumstances changed. Law clerk interviews were conducted using Microsoft Teams. Orientation was undertaken using a mix of in-person sessions and Microsoft Teams, with the goal of providing incoming clerks an equitable experience regardless of the location of their assigned courthouse. Similarly, educational seminars were not only continued but also expanded using online tools. While the Committee has been pleased we were able to continue these regular activities in alternative fashion, at the same time judges and clerks look forward to the prospect of returning to more work at courthouses in order to foster relationship-building and allow clerks more direct experience observing trials and hearings.

Over the last year the Committee continued its work on two other priorities, law clerks' salaries and diversity in hiring, and progress has been made on both fronts. As for salaries, there is a proposal for a salary increase currently before government. We look forward to a positive result on that that issue as the recruiting environment for law clerks is a competitive one.

As for diversity in hiring, we took a number of steps to stimulate interest and increase applications from underrepresented groups, and it appears our efforts have had some positive effects. For the upcoming year, nearly 50 per cent of our law clerks are racialized or Indigenous. We are particularly pleased to have hired two clerks with Indigenous heritage.

The Committee wishes to extend its gratitude and appreciation to the Court's law clerks for the assistance that they provide to the judges of the Court. The enthusiasm, commitment, and dedication they bring to their work and to the work of the Court are invaluable.

The Committee would also like to express its gratitude to the judges of the Court who serve as principals to the law clerks. They provide great mentorship to our law clerks and allow the Judicial Law Clerks Program to continue to provide a rich educational experience.

Finally, the Committee expresses its thanks to Brenda Belak, Nikki Hair, and Lisa Phillips for their efforts in recruiting, training, and supervising the law clerks.

*The Committee would like to acknowledge and thank the library staff for the exemplary service they provide, particularly in these challenging times.*

## **LIBRARY COMMITTEE**

### **Members**

Justice Skolrood (Chair – January to November 2021)

Justice Ker (Chair – November 2021)

Madam Justice Bennett

Justice Edelmann

Heidi McBride, Executive Director and Senior Legal Counsel

Diane Lemieux, Head Librarian

### **Work of the Committee**

In another very challenging year in which many other libraries closed, the library staff, led by head librarian Diane Lemieux, continued to provide excellent support to judges, law clerks and Court staff, many whom were working remotely.

As with many aspects of the Courts' operations, this year underscored the importance of technology as use of electronic resources expanded. This will continue going forward, due both to the demand for access to those resources and the increasing cost of paper resources. In keeping with this trend, over the coming year, the library will be cancelling subscriptions to various loose-leaf periodicals which are otherwise available online.

This will require judges and staff to continue to develop familiarity with the electronic resources, both in terms of what is available and how to use the resources. Library staff are available to assist in this regard.

The Committee would like to acknowledge and thank the library staff for the exemplary service they provide, particularly in these challenging times.

*In 2021, the Committee's work involved a combination of continuing projects and responding to challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.*

## **PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

### **Members**

Justice Smith (Chair)

Chief Justice Hinkson

The Honourable Bruce Cohen, Superior Courts Communications Officer

Mr. Justice Gaul

Justice Steeves

Justice Tindale

Mr. Justice Walker

Justice Wedge

Master Elwood

Heidi McBride, Executive Director & Senior Legal Counsel

Brenda Belak, Legal Counsel

Leah Pence, Legal Counsel

### **Mandate**

In keeping with the open court principle, the mandate of the Public Affairs Committee is primarily to promote activities that enhance public and media understanding of the Court's processes and to address matters concerning public legal education, media, and public relations. The Committee is also involved in work on Court policies and directives relating to such matters as access to court records, cameras in the courtroom, and the use of electronic devices in the courtroom.

### **Work of the Committee**

In 2021, the Committee's work involved a combination of continuing projects and responding to challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

As the pandemic continued, the Committee supported work to revise several of the Court's COVID-19 Notices, including replacing COVID-19 Notice No. 37 with COVID-19 Notice No. 43 on February 17, 2021. Notice No. 43 concerns public and media access to Supreme Court proceedings during the pandemic, and clarifies how members of the public and the media may request to observe proceedings remotely.

In collaboration with Court Services Branch, the Committee launched the [Jury Returning](#) notification service in September. The project allows users to subscribe to an RSS feed to receive an email message indicating when a deliberating jury is about to return to the courtroom in a trial.

The Committee discussed and approved updating the daily hearing list sent to accredited media to include an indication of which hearings were to be held using Microsoft Teams. This addition, made with the support of Supreme Court Scheduling, was intended to inform media of which matters

were proceeding remotely so journalists did not unnecessarily attend at the courthouse for a hearing that was being heard remotely.

2021 also saw the continuation of a pilot project in collaboration with Court Services Branch in which approved court records in the *United States v. Meng* case were distributed to accredited media using a secure File Transfer Protocol method. Instead of requiring accredited media to attend the criminal registry at the Vancouver Law Courts in person to pick up copies of documents, which was inconvenient for out-of-town media, the initiative used a secure email service to send newly released documents to a list of accredited media and qualified lawyers.

The Committee is grateful for work performed by the Superior Courts Communications Officer, the Honourable Bruce Cohen, who interacts with members of the media, the Court, and registry staff. The Committee is also appreciative of the support it receives from legal counsel from both the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal, as well as the Registrar of the Court of Appeal, whose assistance and advice have been indispensable as the Committee moves forward on its work in tackling public and media-related initiatives. The Committee expresses its thanks to Gladysmay Pascua and Miki Lee, who maintained the media accreditation lists and distributed information to accredited media in 2021.



**Members of the Court**

# JUDGES OF THE SUPREME COURT

## Chief Justice

### **The Honourable Chief Justice Christopher E. Hinkson**

- Appointed to the Supreme Court March 2, 2007
- Appointed to the Court of Appeal March 18, 2010
- Appointed Chief Justice of the Supreme Court November 7, 2013

## Associate Chief Justice

### **The Honourable Associate Chief Justice Heather J. Holmes**

- Appointed to the Supreme Court March 21, 2001
- Appointed Associate Chief Justice of the Supreme Court June 21, 2018

## Justices of the Supreme Court

**The Honourable Madam Justice Mary A. Humphries ▼** (*Vancouver*) – retired January 15, 2021

- Appointed to the Supreme Court January 27, 1994

**The Honourable Madam Justice Janice R. Dillon ▼** (*Vancouver*) – retired May 31, 2021

- Appointed to the Supreme Court April 25, 1995

**The Honourable Justice Barry M. Davies ►** (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court January 10, 1996

**The Honourable Justice William G.E. Grist ►** (*Chilliwack*)

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court January 1, 1990
- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 20, 1996

**The Honourable Justice Alison J. Beames ►** (*Kelowna*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court August 7, 1996

**The Honourable Justice Austin F. Cullen ►** (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court March 21, 2001
- Associate Chief Justice of the Supreme Court December 31, 2011 – December 31, 2017

**The Honourable Justice Carol J. Ross ►** (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court March 21, 2001

**The Honourable Mr. Justice Harry A. Slade ▼** (*Vancouver*) – retired October 29, 2021

- Appointed to the Supreme Court March 27, 2001

**The Honourable Justice Catherine A. Wedge** ► (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court April 4, 2001

**The Honourable Justice Brenda Brown** ► (*New Westminster*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court April 18, 2002

**The Honourable Justice Laura B. Gerow** ► (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to Supreme Court October 10, 2002

**The Honourable Mr. Justice James W. Williams** ► (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court October 10, 2002

**The Honourable Mr. Justice David M. Masuhara** ► (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court October 11, 2002

**The Honourable Justice Lance W. Bernard** ► (*New Westminster*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court July 24, 2003

**The Honourable Mr. Justice William Ehrcke** ▼ (*Vancouver*) – retired May 3, 2021

- Appointed to the Supreme Court October 28, 2003

**The Honourable Mr. Justice Robert Johnston** ▼ (*Victoria*) – retired December 12, 2021

- Appointed to the Supreme Court November 26, 2004

**The Honourable Justice Arne H. Silverman** ► (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court November 26, 2004

**The Honourable Justice J. Miriam Gropper** ► (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court April 14, 2005

**The Honourable Justice Nathan H. Smith** ► (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court May 19, 2005

**The Honourable Mr. Justice Joel R. Groves** (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court May 4, 2000
- Appointed to the Supreme Court May 19, 2005

**The Honourable Justice Elliott M. Myers** ► (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court November 22, 2005

**The Honourable Mr. Justice Geoffrey R.J. Gaul** (*Victoria*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court January 31, 2008

**The Honourable Mr. Justice Paul W. Walker** (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 18, 2008



**The Honourable Justice Kate Ker** (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 18, 2008

**The Honourable Justice Elaine J. Adair** ► (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court November 28, 2008

**The Honourable Mr. Justice Robert J. Sewell** ▼ (*Vancouver*) – retired  
August 13, 2021

- Appointed to the Supreme Court January 22, 2009

**The Honourable Justice John S. Harvey** ► (*New Westminster*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court January 22, 2009

**The Honourable Justice Frits Verhoeven** (*New Westminster*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court January 22, 2009

**The Honourable Justice Terence A. Schultes** (*New Westminster*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court May 15, 2009

**The Honourable Justice Robert D. Punnett** (*Prince Rupert*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 19, 2009

**The Honourable Justice Brian D. Mackenzie** ► (*Victoria*)

- Appointed to the Provincial Court October 30, 1990
- Appointed to the Supreme Court October 23, 2009

**The Honourable Justice Anthony Saunders** (*Victoria*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court November 27, 2009

**The Honourable Justice S. Dev Dley** (*Abbotsford*)

- Appointed to the Provincial Court June 23, 2008
- Appointed to the Supreme Court March 19, 2010

**The Honourable Justice Miriam A. Maisonville** (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court March 19, 2010

**The Honourable Madam Justice Shelley C. Fitzpatrick** (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 18, 2010

**The Honourable Madam Justice Jennifer A. Power** (*Victoria*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court August 6, 2010

**The Honourable Justice Trevor C. Armstrong** ► (*New Westminster*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court October 1, 2010

**The Honourable Madam Justice Jeanne E. Watchuk** ► (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Provincial Court October 3, 1994
- Appointed to the Supreme Court October 28, 2010

**The Honourable Mr. Justice Murray B. Blok** (*New Westminster*)

- Appointed District Registrar March 25, 2002
- Appointed to the Supreme Court October 28, 2010

**The Honourable Justice D. Allan Betton** (*Vernon*)

- Appointed to the Provincial Court March 19, 2007
- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 24, 2011

**The Honourable Justice Ronald S. Tindale** (*Prince George*)

- Appointed to the Provincial Court February 15, 2010
- Appointed to the Supreme Court October 20, 2011

**The Honourable Justice Robert W. Jenkins** (*Abbotsford*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court December 31, 2011

**The Honourable Justice Gordon C. Weatherill** (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court May 31, 2012

**The Honourable Mr. Justice Robin A.M. Baird** (*Nanaimo*)

- Appointed to the Provincial Court August 22, 2011
- Appointed to the Supreme Court October 5, 2012

**The Honourable Justice Gordon S. Funt** (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court October 5, 2012

**The Honourable Justice John J. Steeves** (*Victoria*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court October 5, 2012

**The Honourable Mr. Justice Kenneth W. Ball** (*New Westminster*)

- Appointed to the Provincial Court January 6, 2003
- Appointed to the Supreme Court November 2, 2012

**The Honourable Justice Douglas W. Thompson** (*Nanaimo*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court December 13, 2012

**The Honourable Justice Sheri Ann Donegan** (*Kamloops*)

- Appointed to the Provincial Court October 4, 2010
- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 6, 2013

**The Honourable Justice Ronald A. Skolrood** (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 6, 2013

**The Honourable Justice Lisa Warren** (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 6, 2013

**The Honourable Justice Margot L. Fleming** (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 6, 2013

**The Honourable Justice Gary P. Weatherill** (*Kelowna*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court October 2, 2013

**The Honourable Justice George K. Macintosh** (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court December 17, 2013

**The Honourable Justice Nigel P. Kent** (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court December 17, 2013

**The Honourable Justice Jennifer M.I. Duncan** (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court December 17, 2013

**The Honourable Madam Justice Neena Sharma** (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court December 17, 2013

**The Honourable Justice Emily M. Burke** (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court May 13, 2014

**The Honourable Justice Martha M. Devlin** (*New Westminster*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court December 11, 2014

**The Honourable Justice Grace Choi** (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court May 29, 2015

**The Honourable Madam Justice Barbara M. Young** (*Victoria*)

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court December 6, 2006
- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 19, 2015

**The Honourable Madam Justice Marguerite H. Church** (*Williams Lake*)

- Appointed to the Provincial Court August 29, 2011
- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 16, 2016

**The Honourable Madam Justice Maria Morellato** (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 16, 2016

**The Honourable Justice Heather MacNaughton** (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court June 1, 2011
- Appointed to the Supreme Court October 19, 2016

**The Honourable Madam Justice Catherine Murray** (*Victoria*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court October 19, 2016

**The Honourable Justice Andrew P.A. Mayer** (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court April 12, 2017

**The Honourable Mr. Justice W. Paul Riley** (*New Westminster*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court May 11, 2017

**The Honourable Justice Ward K. Branch** (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 8, 2017

**The Honourable Justice Carla Forth** (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 14, 2017

**The Honourable Justice Michael J. Tammen** (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 14, 2017

**The Honourable Justice Warren B. Milman** (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 14, 2017

**The Honourable Justice Nitya Iyer** (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 14, 2017

**The Honourable Justice Leonard Marchand** ▲ (*Kamloops*)

- Appointed to the Provincial Court September 3, 2013
- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 21, 2017

**The Honourable Justice Palbinder Kaur Shergill** (*New Westminster*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 23, 2017

**The Honourable Justice Michael J. Brundrett** (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 21, 2017

**The Honourable Justice Janet Winteringham** (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court August 15, 2017

**The Honourable Mr. Justice E. David Crossin** (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court September 29, 2017

**The Honourable Justice Francesca Marzari** (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court December 19, 2017

**The Honourable Justice Jasvinder S. (Bill) Basran** (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court January 19, 2018

**The Honourable Justice Diane C. MacDonald** (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court February 7, 2018

**The Honourable Justice Barbara Norell** (*New Westminster*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court February 22, 2018

**The Honourable Justice Wendy A. Baker** (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court February 22, 2018

**The Honourable Justice Sharon Matthews** (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court February 22, 2018

**The Honourable Justice Thomas Crabtree** (*Chilliwack*)

- Appointed to the Provincial Court February 15, 1999
- Appointed to the Supreme Court May 4, 2018

**The Honourable Justice Geoffrey B. Gomery** (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 15, 2018

**The Honourable Justice Christopher J. Giaschi** (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court September 4, 2018

**The Honourable Justice Karen Horsman** (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court September 4, 2018

**The Honourable Justice Veronica Jackson** (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court October 9, 2018

**The Honourable Justice Stephen Wilson** (*Kelowna*)

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court November 23, 2015
- Appointed to the Supreme Court October 19, 2018

**The Honourable Mr. Justice Dennis Hori** (*Kamloops*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court February 8, 2019

**The Honourable Justice Karen Douglas** (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court March 8, 2019

**The Honourable Madam Justice Amy Francis** (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court March 8, 2019

**The Honourable Justice Elizabeth McDonald** (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 4, 2019

**The Honourable Justice Alan M. Ross** (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 24, 2019

**The Honourable Madam Justice Sheila Tucker** (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 24, 2019

**The Honourable Justice David Crerar** (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 24, 2019

**The Honourable Justice Peter Edelmann** (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court December 20, 2019

**The Honourable Justice Matthew Taylor** (*New Westminster*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court March 16, 2020

**The Honourable Justice Andrew Majawa** (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court March 16, 2020

**The Honourable Madam Justice Sandra Wilkinson** (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court May 1, 2020

**The Honourable Justice William Veenstra** (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 23, 2020

**The Honourable Madam Justice Lyndsay Lyster** (*Nelson*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court July 3, 2020

**The Honourable Mr. Justice Ian Caldwell** (*Abbotsford*)

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court April 18, 2005
- Appointed to the Supreme Court September 9, 2020

**The Honourable Justice Jasmin Ahmad** (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court September 9, 2020

**The Honourable Madam Justice Ardith Walkem** (*Chilliwack*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court December 14, 2020

**The Honourable Justice Simon Coval** (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court December 21, 2020

**The Honourable Justice F. Matthew Kirchner** (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court March 24, 2021

**The Honourable Justice Julianne K. Lamb** (*New Westminster*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court April 27, 2021

**The Honourable Justice Lauren Blake** (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court April 27, 2021

**The Honourable Justice Jan Brongers** (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court April 27, 2021

▲ *Appointed to the Court of Appeal*

▶ *Supernumerary*

▼ *Retired*

# MASTERS OF THE SUPREME COURT

**Master Dennis Tokarek ▼ (*Vancouver*)** – retired January 11, 2021

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court September 9, 1991

**Master Shelagh Scarth ► (*Vancouver*)**

- Appointed District Registrar August 17, 1998
- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court November 6, 2000

**Master Peter Keighley (*New Westminster*)**

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court March 8, 2004

**Master Grant Taylor ▼ (*New Westminster*)** – retired December 31, 2021

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court July 29, 2005

**Master Carolyn P. Bouck ► (*Victoria*)**

- Appointed District Registrar April 2, 2002
- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court December 11, 2009

**Master Leslie Muir (*Vancouver*)**

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court May 7, 2012

**Master Sandra Harper (*Vancouver*)**

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court August 5, 2014

**Master Sandra Dick (*Nanaimo*)**

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court January 1, 2016

**Master Terry Vos (*Vancouver*)**

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court March 20, 2017

**Master Stuart R. Cameron (*Vancouver*)**

- Appointed District Registrar January 31, 2011
- Appointed Registrar of the Supreme Court July 2, 2014
- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court November 6, 2018

**Master Bruce Elwood (*Vancouver*)**

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court February 1, 2019

**Master Steven Schwartz (*Kelowna*)**

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court February 19, 2019

**Master Jennifer Keim (*Kamloops*)**

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court July 31, 2019

**Master John Bilawich (*Vancouver*)**

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court December 21, 2020

**Master Kimberley Robertson (*New Westminster*)**

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court December 21, 2020

▲ *Appointed Judge of the Supreme Court of British Columbia*

▶ *Senior Master*

▼ *Retired*

## **REGISTRARS OF THE SUPREME COURT**

**Scott Nielsen, Registrar (*Vancouver*)**

- Appointed District Registrar July 14, 2014
- Appointed Registrar December 1, 2018



## JUDICIAL STAFF

### Office of the Chief Justice and Associate Chief Justice

Judicial Coordinator to Chief Justice Hinkson	Carrie Wilke
Judicial Coordinator to Associate Chief Justice Holmes	Bonnie Healy
Legal Counsel	Brenda Belak, Natasha Edgar, Nikki Hair, Christine Judd, Leah Pence, Lisa Phillips, Claire Wilson

### Judicial Administration

Executive Director & Senior Counsel	Heidi McBride
Manager, Human Resources	Tracy Norman
Director, Supreme Court Scheduling	Cindy Friesen
Deputy Director, Supreme Court Scheduling	Chinwe Cushing
Manager, Finance and Business Information Analysis	Sanjeev Lal
Manager, Information Technology	Ryan Wirth
Assistant to Director, Supreme Court Scheduling	Kendra Kirkwood
Assistant to Legal Counsel	Queen Lee, Gladysmay Pascua
Judicial Assistant	Michelle Sam, Andrea Mueller
Finance Clerk	Cheryl Steele
Website Support and Business Information Analyst	Cynthia Dale
Manager, Judicial Support Services	Samantha Servis
Manager, Provincial Registrar's Program	Sheri Rojas
Communications Coordinator	Diana Foxall

### Judicial Administrative Assistants

<b>Vancouver</b>	Irem Akcan, Ramez Ali, Hameeda Ali-Nagee, Joy Eliasson, Kirsten Floyd, <b>Jessica Gill</b> , Dianne Goyengko, Diana Hatley, Sasha Ionova, Raji Johal, Wanda Lam, Beverlee Lea, Queen Lee, Amanda Li, Melissa Mendoza Alcocer, Faye Panis, Gladysmay Pascua, Linda Peter, Megan Singh, Vickie Siu, Zohra Tokhi, <b>Lindy Tucker</b> , Felicia Wickes
<b>Abbotsford</b>	Yvonne Samek
<b>Chilliwack</b>	Yvonne Samek
<b>Kamloops</b>	Beckie Allen, <b>Jane Raggatt</b>
<b>Kelowna</b>	Lana Pardue, Shannon Zorn
<b>Nanaimo</b>	Melissa Lund
<b>Nelson</b>	Kathie Tarasoff
<b>New Westminster</b>	Tammi Buckoll, Barbara Gourlay, Rasmeeet Kaur, Jesse Rathor, Andrea Walker
<b>Prince George</b>	Kelly Parmar
<b>Victoria</b>	Kathy Cook, Karen Gurney, Wendy Hetman, Nicole Munro
<b>Clerical Pool</b>	Lorri Crawford-Clark, Sarah Lou

Note: Team Leads are indicated in bold.

## Supreme Court Scheduling

### Vancouver

Manager, Supreme Court Scheduling, Civil  
Manager, Supreme Court Scheduling, Family  
Manager, Supreme Court Scheduling, Criminal  
Team Leaders  
Supreme Court Scheduling Coordinators

William Gallagher  
Rebecca Stock  
Rhona Ogston  
Eryn Dumontet, Elsa Peralta  
Patricia Acthim, Kristina  
Antonic, Kate Curry, Darlene  
Marasigan, Jeannette McNabb,  
Jay Nguyen, Sue Smolen,  
Jocelyn Toledo, Terrence  
Tung, Leah Walden, Trevor  
Woo  
Layla Brackenridge, Shahla  
Ehtesham, Dianne Goyenkgo,  
Pedro Guerra, Lisa Lees  
Ben Bautista

Scheduling Clerks

Scheduling Training Manager

### Abbotsford

Manager, Supreme Court Scheduling  
Team Leader  
Supreme Court Scheduling Coordinator

Tanya Dixon  
Leslie Martin  
Cynthia Ferrer

### Chilliwack

Manager, Supreme Court Scheduling  
Team Leader  
Supreme Court Scheduling Coordinators

Tanya Dixon  
Leslie Martin  
Christina Chiabai, Leanne  
Griffith, Angelina Sloomweg

### Kamloops, Cranbrook, Golden, Nelson, Revelstoke, Rossland, Salmon Arm

Manager, Supreme Court Scheduling  
Supreme Court Scheduling Coordinators

Brenda Strain  
Doreen Czerkawski, Marnie  
Maunula

### Kelowna, Penticton, Vernon

Manager, Supreme Court Scheduling  
Supreme Court Scheduling Coordinator  
Scheduling Clerk

Janine Benson  
Sandeep Johal  
Karen Hodson

### Nanaimo, Campbell River, Courtenay, Port Alberni and Powell River

Manager, Supreme Court Scheduling  
Supreme Court Scheduling Coordinator

Michelle Schley  
Katherine Marriott

### New Westminster

Manager, Supreme Court Scheduling  
Team Leader  
Supreme Court Scheduling Coordinators

Tanya Dixon  
Leslie Martin  
Allison Donnelly, Owen Li,  
Renuka Pumbhak

Scheduling Clerks Berwin Chen, Rapinder Mehat

**Port Coquitlam**

Manager, Supreme Court Scheduling  
Team Leader

Tanya Dixon  
Leslie Martin

**Prince George, Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, Quesnel, Williams Lake**

Manager, Supreme Court Scheduling  
Supreme Court Scheduling Coordinators

Pam Wallin  
Tara Bleich, Kelly Parmar

**Victoria, Duncan, Prince Rupert, Smithers, Terrace**

Manager, Supreme Court Scheduling  
Supreme Court Scheduling Coordinators

Claudia Turner  
Samantha Ferguson, Sandra Skene

**Section 525 Detention Review**

Detention Review Coordinators

Kendra Kirkwood, Chantelle Sanderson

**Virtual Courts/File Transfer**

Mikayla Bischoff, Kendra Kirkwood

**Judges Library**

Librarian  
Library Technician

Diane Lemieux  
Connie Kang

**Judgment Office**

Reserve Judgment Clerks

Andrea Baedak, Miki Lee,  
Melissa Mendoza Alcocer

**Supreme Court Document Management Clerks**

Supervisor & Appellate Court Records Officer  
Document Management Clerks

Christine Gergich  
Rado Burdej, Elle Collman,  
Lan La, Charles Manuel,  
Darren Scherck, Aaron Wong

**IT Services**

Service Delivery Manager  
Infrastructure Project Analyst

Jenny Fountain  
Joerg Boettcher, David Chow,  
Billy Huang

Help Desk Operations Analyst  
Help Desk Technician

William Huang  
Leo Brito, Karl Innes, Mike Larm, Babak Mohebbi, Alex Rodas, Wayland Szeto

ASD Senior Business Analyst  
ASD Business Analyst  
ASD Development Analyst

Lorne Lovett  
Joanne Chong  
Jojo Ho

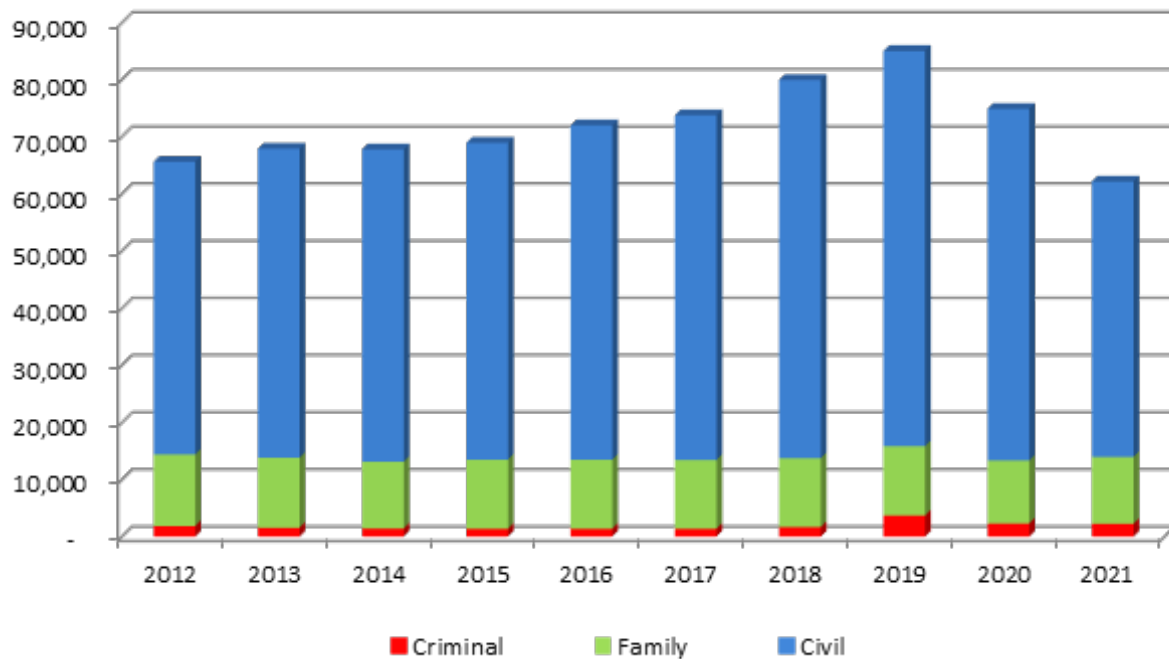
*\*IT services are provided by Microserve Business Computer Services*



# Appendix

# Court Statistics

**Figure 1: New Criminal, Family, and Civil Filings**



	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
■ Civil	51,192	54,080	54,662	55,446	58,499	60,336	66,184	69,141	61,508	48,166
■ Family	12,565	12,265	11,682	12,084	12,130	12,039	12,063	12,152	11,046	11,735
■ Criminal	1,819	1,516	1,396	1,362	1,336	1,349	1,643	3,666	2,274	2,208

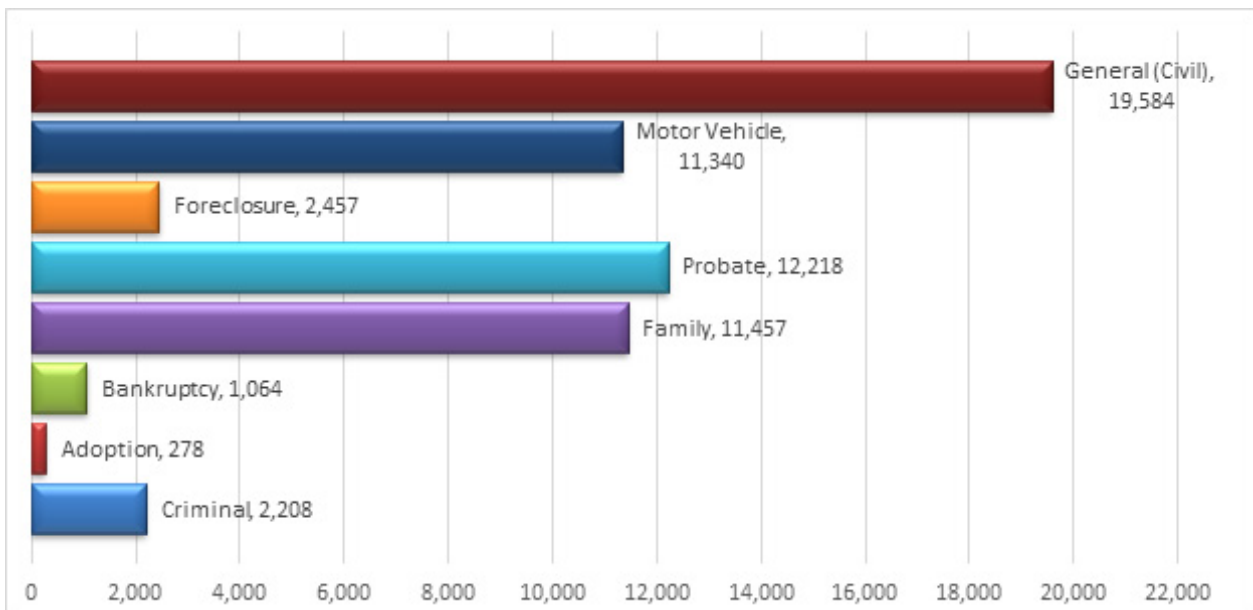
Data Source: Courthouse Activity Cube and Criminal Case Events Cube, February 7, 2022

Historical numbers are updated to current information. Data may change due to data settling and corrections.

**Explanation for the variance from 2015 annual report:**

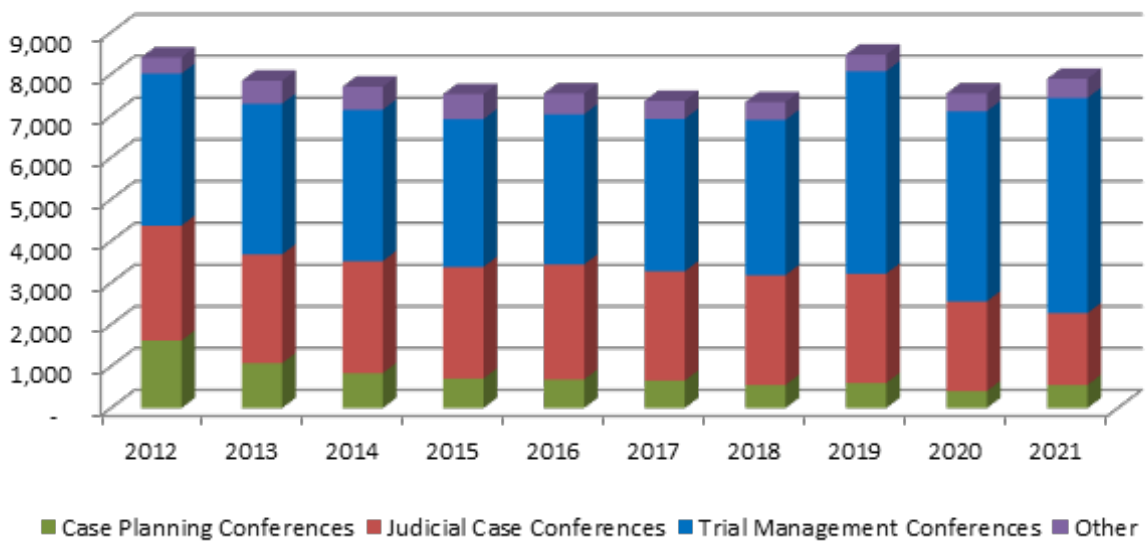
In 2016, for statistical reporting purposes, the methodology used to count new cases in the Supreme Court of British Columbia was changed by Court Services Branch for consistency with Provincial Court information. Previously, cases with more than one accused were counted as one case; with the new methodology, the cases are counted separately for accused and co-accused. This increases the number of cases, but the increase is offset somewhat by transfers of cases from Provincial Court to Supreme Court. A case transferred by election from Provincial Court to Supreme Court and subsequently transferred back again by re-election in a different month was historically considered to be two or more cases. To eliminate this duplication, the case is only counted once. This explains the variance from figures presented in previous Annual Reports.

**Figure 2: New Filings by Category in 2021**

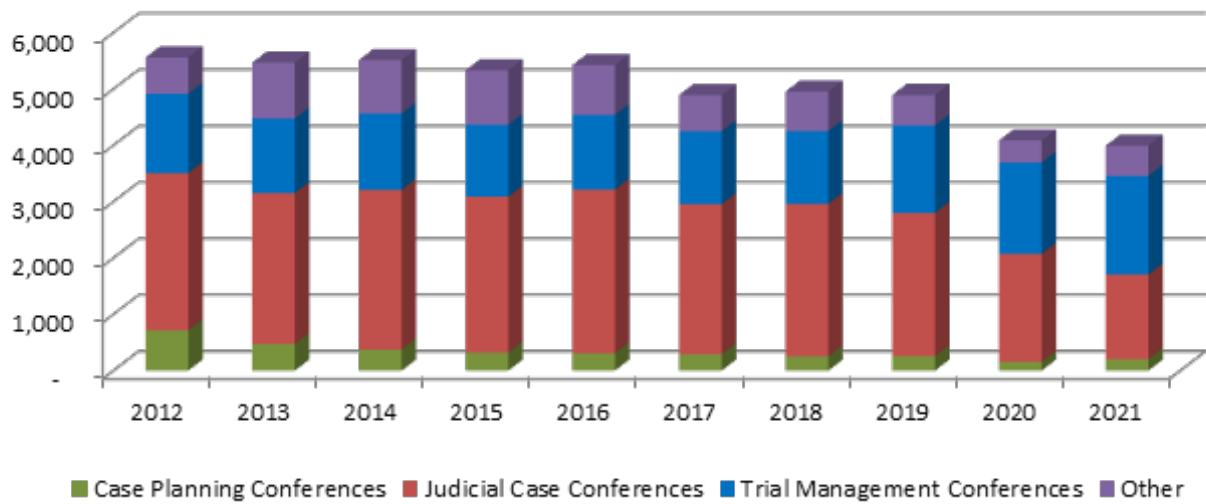


Data does **not** include Supreme Caveat and Supreme Enforcement/Legislated Statutes.

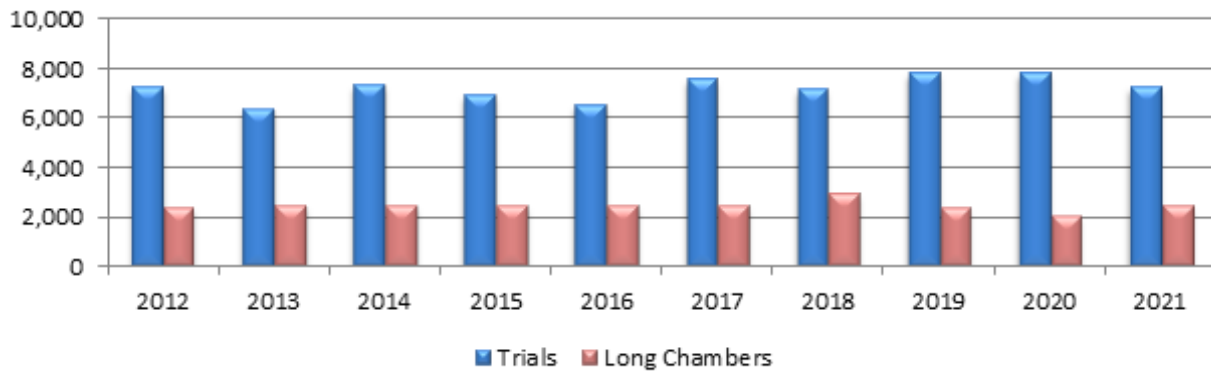
**Figure 3: Number of Conferences by Type, 2012 - 2021**



**Figure 4: Hearing Hours by Conference Type, 2012 - 2021**



**Figure 5: Civil Trials and Long Chambers Applications Scheduled in Vancouver**



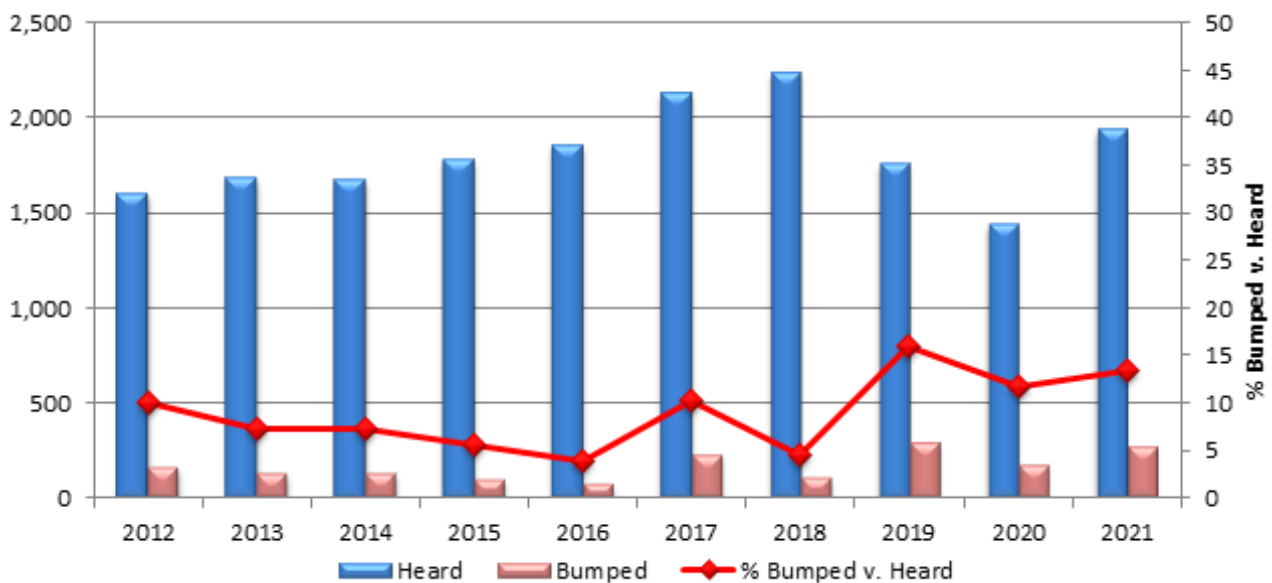
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Trials	7,248	6,347	7,319	6,880	6,464	7,573	7,163	7,765	7,795	7,194
Long Chambers	2,299	2,431	2,409	2,431	2,428	2,406	2,894	2,324	1,993	2,374

**Figure 6: Long Chambers Applications Scheduled and Heard in Vancouver**



	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Scheduled	2,299	2,431	2,409	2,431	2,428	2,406	2,894	2,324	1,993	2,374
Heard	967	1,022	1,039	1,033	1,123	1,005	1,426	972	822	1,020
% Heard v. Scheduled	42	42	43	42	46	42	49	42	41	43

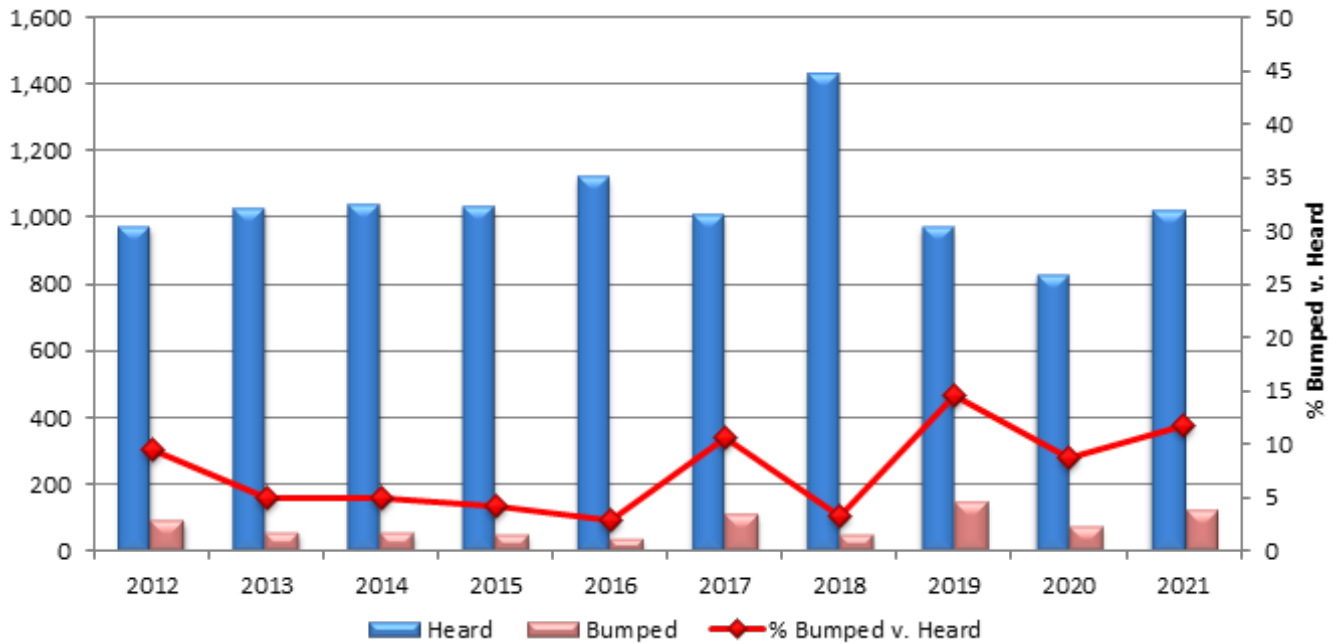
**Figure 7: Long Chambers Applications Heard and Bumped in British Columbia**



	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Heard	1,597	1,677	1,673	1,773	1,850	2,126	2,231	1,753	1,441	1,941
Bumped	160	123	123	97	72	218	100	281	168	259
% Bumped v. Heard	10.0	7.3	7.4	5.5	3.9	10.3	4.5	16.0	11.7	13.3

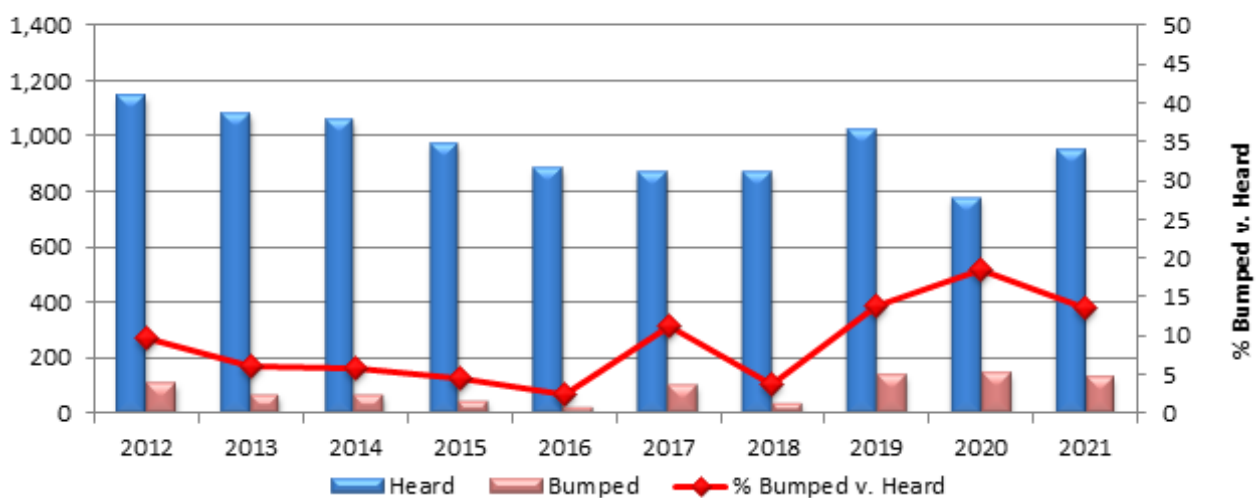


**Figure 8: Long Chambers Applications Heard and Bumped in Vancouver**



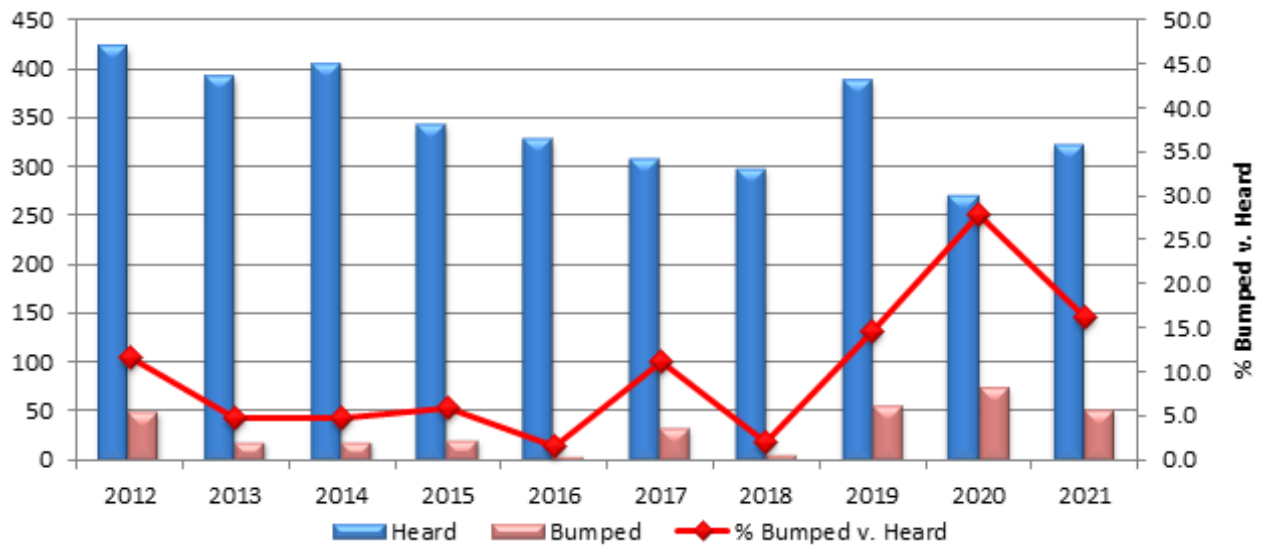
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Heard	967	1,022	1,039	1,033	1,123	1,005	1,426	972	822	1,020
Bumped	91	51	52	44	32	106	45	142	71	120
% Bumped v. Heard	9.4	5.0	5.0	4.3	2.8	10.5	3.2	14.6	8.6	11.8

**Figure 9: Trials Heard and Bumped in British Columbia**



	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Heard	1,145	1,083	1,061	969	887	873	870	1,020	773	948
Bumped	110	65	61	43	21	98	33	140	142	128
% Bumped v. Heard	9.6	6.0	5.7	4.4	2.4	11.2	3.8	13.7	18.4	13.5

Figure 10: Trials Heard and Bumped in Vancouver



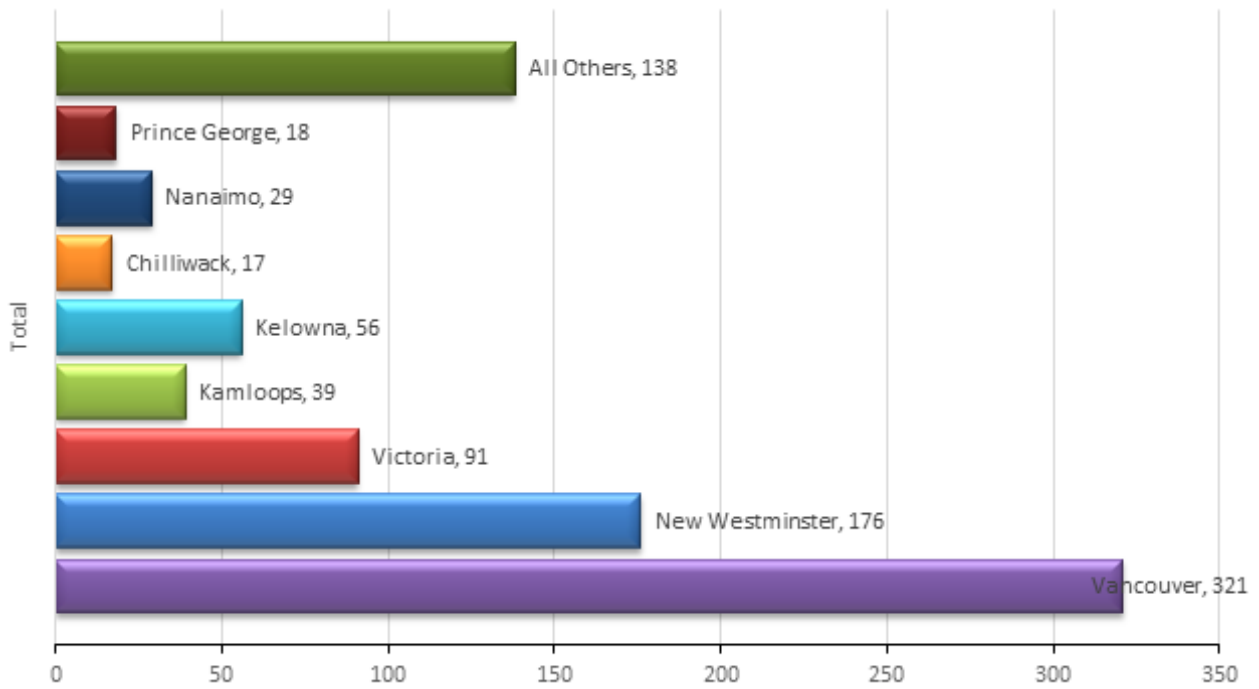
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Heard	423	391	405	343	327	308	298	387	270	321
Bumped	49	18	19	20	5	34	6	56	75	52
% Bumped v. Heard	11.6	4.6	4.7	5.8	1.5	11.0	2.0	14.5	27.8	16.2

Figure 11: Trials Heard and Bumped by Type and Location in 2021

	HEARD 2021				BUMPED 2021			
	Civil	Criminal	Family	Total	Civil	Criminal	Family	Total
<b>LOWER MAINLAND</b>								
Chilliwack	3	10	4	17	2	0	2	2
New Westminster	83	56	37	176	24	0	0	24
Vancouver	227	46	48	321	72	0	2	74
<b>Region Totals</b>	313	112	89	514	98	0	4	102
<b>Region %</b>	75%	36%	56%	58%	83%	0%	57%	82%
<b>VANCOUVER ISLAND</b>								
Campbell River	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	0
Courtenay	3	4	2	9	1	0	0	1
Duncan	3	13	0	16	0	0	0	0
Nanaimo	9	11	9	29	2	0	0	2
Port Alberni	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	0
Powell River	1	8	0	9	0	0	0	0
Victoria	35	38	18	91	9	0	0	9
<b>Region Totals</b>	51	80	29	160	12	0	0	12
<b>Region %</b>	12%	26%	18%	18%	10%	0%	0%	10%
<b>NORTHERN INTERIOR</b>								
Dawson Creek	0	4	1	5	0	0	0	0
Fort St. John	1	3	2	6	0	0	1	1
Prince George	1	10	7	18	0	0	0	0
Prince Rupert	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	0
Quesnel	1	3	5	9	0	0	0	0
Smithers	1	0	2	3	0	0	0	0
Terrace	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0
Williams Lake	1	10	0	11	0	0	0	0
<b>Region Totals</b>	5	34	18	57	0	0	1	1
<b>Region %</b>	1%	11%	11%	6%	0%	0%	14%	1%
<b>SOUTHERN INTERIOR</b>								
Kamloops	10	25	4	39	3	0	1	4
Kelowna	26	22	8	56	4	0	0	4
Vernon	3	14	3	20	1	0	0	1
Nelson	3	3	3	9	0	0	0	0
Cranbrook	2	6	2	10	0	0	1	1
Penticton	2	9	2	13	0	0	0	0
Salmon Arm	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	0
Rosland	0	2	2	4	0	0	0	0

	HEARD 2021				BUMPED 2021			
	Civil	Criminal	Family	Total	Civil	Criminal	Family	Total
Golden	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revelstoke	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Region Totals</b>	46	84	24	154	8	0	2	10
<b>Region %</b>	11%	27%	15%	17%	7%	0%	29%	8%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>885</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>125</b>
<b>TOTAL %</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>18%</b>		<b>94%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>6%</b>	

**Figure 12: Trials Heard by Registry in 2021**



**Figure 13: Trials Heard by Region in 2021**

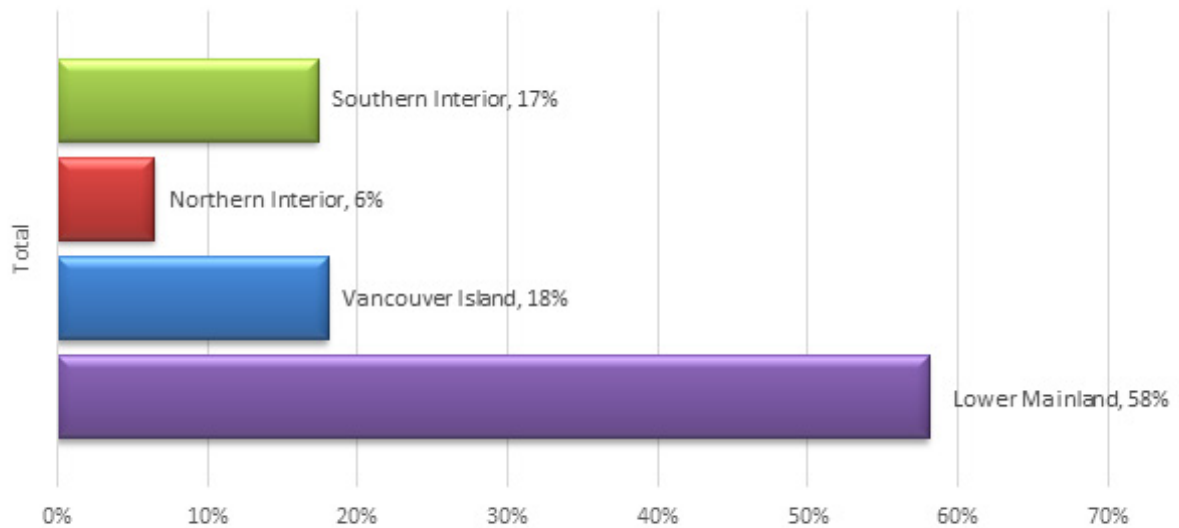
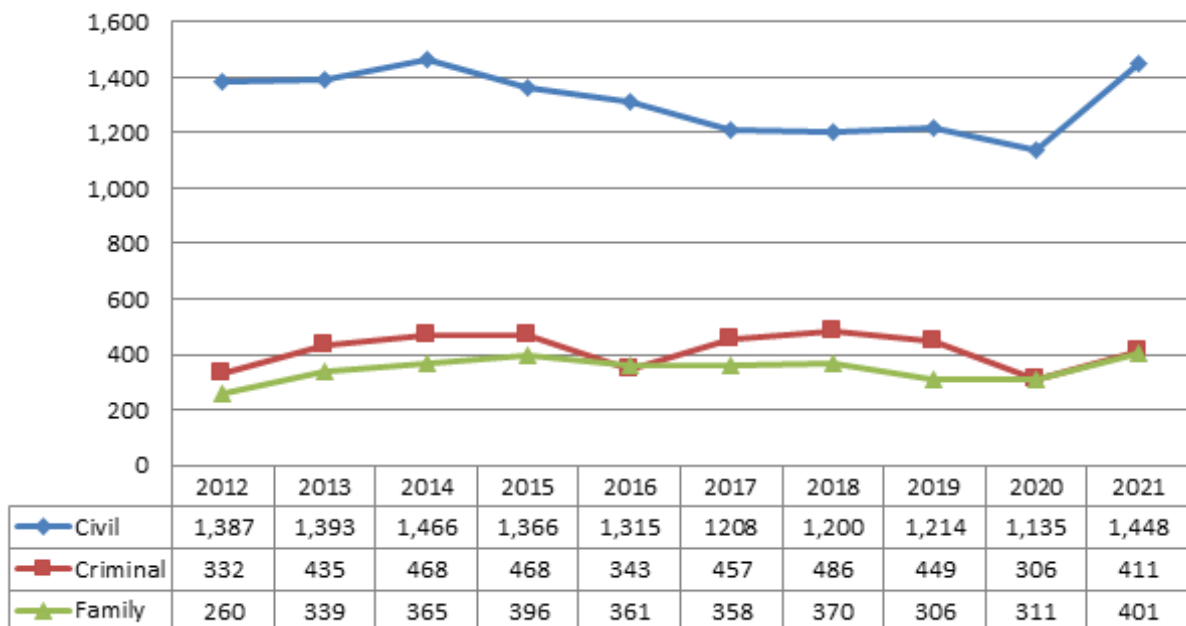


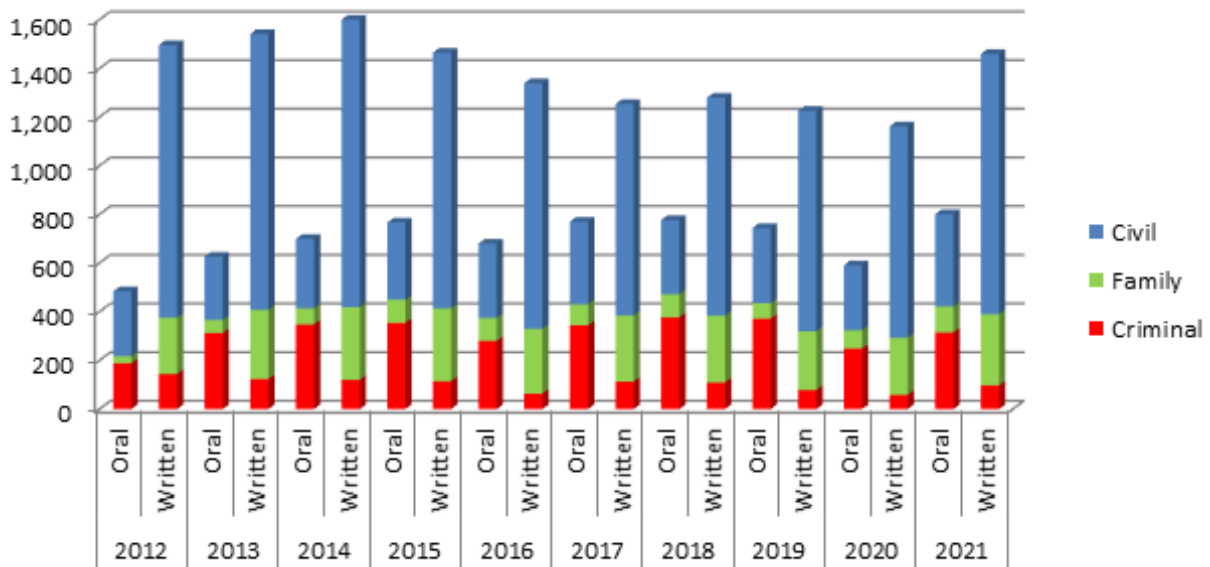
Figure 14: Published Reasons for Judgment by Subject, Type, and Year

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>CIVIL</b>										
Oral	267	260	285	316	306	340	305	309	267	379
Written	1,120	1,133	1,181	1,050	1,009	868	895	905	868	1069
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,387</b>	<b>1,393</b>	<b>1,466</b>	<b>1,366</b>	<b>1,315</b>	<b>1,208</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>1,214</b>	<b>1,135</b>	<b>1,448</b>
<b>CRIMINAL</b>										
Oral	188	312	348	354	280	344	377	371	248	314
Written	144	123	120	114	63	113	109	78	58	97
<b>Total</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>457</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>449</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>411</b>
<b>FAMILY</b>										
Oral	29	54	66	96	94	86	95	64	76	108
Written	231	285	299	300	267	272	275	242	235	293
<b>Total</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>401</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,979</b>	<b>2,167</b>	<b>2,299</b>	<b>2,230</b>	<b>2,019</b>	<b>2,023</b>	<b>2,056</b>	<b>1,969</b>	<b>1,752</b>	<b>2,260</b>

Figure 15: Published Reasons for Judgment by Year, 2012 - 2021



**Figure 16: Published Reasons for Judgment by Subject, Type, and Year**



**Figure 17: E-Filed Documents in the Supreme Court**

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
<b>Documents Filed</b>	588,708	599,767	595,496	593,068	595,228	595,811	591,039	616,514	555,657
<b>Documents E-Filed</b>	208,118	217,130	218,788	232,974	246,026	259,148	262,846	279,645	346,203
<b>% E-Filed</b>	35%	36%	37%	39%	41%	43%	44%	45%	62%

**Figure 18: E-Orders Processed in the Supreme Court**

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>E-Orders Processed</b>	8,530	9,238	8,920	9,427	9,622	10,987	10,902	11,206	13,535	14,014

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