



COURT OF APPEAL FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

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MESSAGE FROM CHIEF JUSTICE MARCHAND

*“In this report you’ll find information about who we are, what we do, and why it matters. **The key takeaway is that even as the Court changes, its roles and responsibilities are constant. The administration of justice does not rely on the talents or commitment of one person or group. Justice is for all of us, and relies on all of us.**”*

The past couple of years have been all about change in the BC Court of Appeal. In 2025, two remarkable members of the Court retired and five extraordinary new judges were appointed. This means that 12 of the Court’s 14 full time judges were appointed in the past two years. The transition has ignited a time of renewed collaboration, connection, growth and learning. We are working to define a clear path forward and improve the Court’s ability to meet the needs of the people it serves.

In this report you’ll find information about who we are, what we do, and why it matters. The key takeaway is that even as the Court changes, its roles and responsibilities are constant. The administration of justice does not rely on the talents or commitment of one person or group. Justice is for all of us, and relies on all of us.

Let me unpack that a bit.

Over the past year, this Court, and others across the country, have been asked by various parties—governments, First Nations, corporations, non-profits and individuals—to decide complex, sensitive, far-reaching issues. The stakes are often high for the parties, and for society.

Courts serve these parties by performing an essential but difficult task—applying the law to resolve conflicting interests and make a fair decision. Some interests necessarily give way to others. There are many “close calls”, and court decisions are not always popular.

Public trust in the administration of justice can be fragile. If court decisions turned on the anticipated reaction to them, that trust would erode. Courts must make decisions based on the facts and law alone, not popularity.

Fortunately, in British Columbia and in Canada, the independent roles and responsibilities of the various branches of government are designed to protect judicial independence and the Rule of Law.

Our system of government is divided into three branches that serve different functions:

1. The legislative branch (in BC, the legislative assembly) passes laws.
2. The executive branch (in BC, the Premier, cabinet and public service) implements and enforces laws.
3. The judicial branch (the courts) interprets and applies laws.

The three branches are interrelated, but each operates independently from the others.

An important part of my role as Chief Justice is to ensure the work of the Court maintains and respects judicial independence. This matters because judicial independence supports impartiality (deciding cases free from any outside influence or personal bias) and the equal application of the law to all people and institutions (no matter how wealthy or powerful).

“Judicial independence is not about insulating judges from criticism. Court proceedings are open to the public and this Court’s appeal hearings are broadcast online with rare exceptions. Decisions can be appealed to a higher court. Complaints about judicial conduct can be made to the Canadian Judicial Council. Media regularly report on decisions and court practices. In all these ways, judges and courts are accountable to parties and society.”

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The decisions we make as judges must speak for themselves. Appeal decisions are published online each day, but judges do not enter the public arena to defend them. If you learn something about a court decision you disagree with, I strongly encourage you to read the decision and see for yourself what the judge has said. You may continue to disagree, but your view will be anchored in the considered words of the Court. I also strongly encourage you to think about the respective roles of the legislative and executive branches of government. Elected officials within the other two branches of government have the power to amend laws or change policies in response to court decisions. All three branches of government have an independent role to play in advancing the law through an ongoing and respectful dialogue.

As an institution we recognize that transparency supports access to justice and we are working to share more about our priorities and actions.

To that end, this year the Court achieved three significant milestones:

- On September 30, the Court published its [Reconciliation Framework and Action Plan](#).
 - The Framework describes the Court’s understanding of reconciliation and its commitment to advancing reconciliation in all its work.
 - The Action Plan provides a transparent, measurable path for applying the Framework.
- On October 21, the Court published its [Strategic Plan](#) and [Community Engagement Framework](#).
 - The purpose of the 2026-2028 Strategic Plan is to better articulate the Court’s institutional goals and objectives with a view to setting priorities and pursuing and allocating resources.
 - The Community Engagement Framework aims to support public confidence in the administration of justice through active community engagement, and timely, accessible, and accurate information about the Court, the court system, the Court’s people, and our roles and responsibilities.

Access to justice has long been a cornerstone of the Court’s work and is essential in all three of these initiatives. You will find more information about the Court’s reconciliation efforts, community engagement, and the strategic plan later in this report.

I’m proud of the Court’s work this past year and optimistic about where we are headed. I thank the talented and dedicated judges and staff working each day to serve the public and the interests of justice. I am grateful to play my part, alongside you, in safeguarding and continuing to improve this Court’s ability to answer the questions entrusted to it.

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Leonard S. Marchand
Chief Justice of British Columbia

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

THE COURT'S ACTIVITY

Each year, the Court of Appeal produces this annual report summarizing the Court's activities in the previous calendar year. In 2025, the Court saw an almost 20% increase in new appeals filed, from 788 to 957. New criminal appeals increased from 140 to 191, and new civil appeals increased from 648 to 766.

This year, the Court delivered written reserved judgments in 274 appeals (216 civil and 58 criminal) and pronounced judgment with oral reasons in a further 78 appeals (62 civil and 16 criminal). In chambers, the Court gave written reserved judgments in 54 applications and pronounced judgment with oral reasons in a further 590 applications. Detailed statistics for criminal and civil caseloads for the last 13 years can be found in the three appendices at the end of this annual report.

As reported in years past, the Court continues to seek and obtain necessary resources for its transition to an electronic record and needed upgrades to its decades-old case management systems. This includes upgrades to allow for improved collection of data and the use of more rigorous statistical standards. Accordingly, data within the Court's annual reports must be viewed with some caution and may be better characterized as measuring trends in the Court's workload.

KEY METRICS

The Court took note of a recent publication relating to metrics necessary to properly measure the work of an appellate court in a report by The Advocates' Society, *Key Metrics: Unlocking the Power of Court Data to Transform the Justice System* (2025). The eight key metrics are:

- Pending cases
- New cases
- Completed cases
- Age of pending cases
- Median time from filing to disposition
- Median time from case filing to appeal
- Pending cases per full time equivalent judge
- Average number of court appearances per disposition

"In 2025, the Court saw an almost 20% increase in new appeals filed, from 788 to 957. New criminal appeals increased from 140 to 191, and new civil appeals increased from 648 to 766."

Most of these statistics, with minor modifications, have been reported here for some time. This year, the Court has added its pending caseload and that caseload per full time equivalent judge. The only missing metrics are the age of that caseload and the average number of appearances per case. The Court hopes to publish the age of its pending caseload next year, but sees no particular need to publish the median number of appearances in civil and criminal appeals. That median has remained steady over the last decade at two per case.

SITTINGS OF THE COURT

To hear an appeal, the Court sits a minimum of three justices, known as a “division.” In 2025, the Court sat 76 divisions in Vancouver, the same number as in 2024. In addition to its Vancouver sittings, the Court sat for four weeks in Victoria, and one week each in Kelowna and Kamloops. All justices of the Court are members of the Yukon Court of Appeal, which is also comprised of justices of the Superior Court of the Yukon, the Northwest Territories, and Nunavut. The Yukon Court of Appeal sat for three weeks in 2025.

RECORDS AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

The Court of Appeal’s records and information management (RIM) program is founded on the records lifecycle model, guiding the creation, management, and eventual disposition of court records. Appeal court records are jointly governed, managed, and preserved in partnership with the Ministry of Attorney General, the Corporate Information and Records Management Office (CIRMO), and the Royal BC Museum and Archives (RBCM). This collaborative approach ensures appeal court records are permanently preserved by all partners for future reference and research. The current [Court Information Schedule](#) for the Court of Appeal was developed under the [Information Management Act](#).

This year, the RIM team processed approximately 361 requests for access to court records. Several improvements were made to completion instructions and related resources. Civil and Criminal Lower Court Transcript Completion Instructions and cover page templates were published on the Court of Appeal website for transcribers, along with new web content to guide parties through transcript ordering and filing. In addition, examples of filed civil court records for appeal hearings—approved by counsel—were posted online to assist parties in preparing court records.

The updated Court Information Schedule was approved by the Chief Justice and Deputy Attorney General and implemented in collaboration with CIRMO. Under the new schedule, the Court will retain custody of and manage access to appeal court records for 50 years before transferring them to the custody of RBCM.

“All justices of the Court are members of the Yukon Court of Appeal, which is also comprised of justices of the Superior Court of the Yukon, the Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.”

The Digital Case File project, endorsed by the Technology Committee in 2024, advanced further toward its goal of fully digitizing civil court files. Updated judgment release procedures were implemented by the project team and included ensuring signed digital judgments are preserved by the Attorney General.

Timothy Outerbridge
Registrar, Court of Appeal for British Columbia

WHO WE ARE

<p>Who We Are</p>	<p>The Court of Appeal is created by provincial legislation and heard its first case in 1910. The Court has one Chief Justice, 14 full-time judges, and several part-time judges, usually in the range of five to eight. The full list of judges is available on our website.</p> <p>The judges who sit on the Court are appointed under federal legislation.</p> <p>We come from a variety of personal and professional backgrounds and have served the justice system in many different capacities prior to becoming judges. Biographical information about each of our judges is published upon their appointment, as well as in our Annual Reports.</p>
<p>What We Do</p>	<p>Together with judicial and non-judicial staff, we process and resolve appeals of decisions made by the Supreme Court of British Columbia, the Provincial Court of British Columbia, and administrative tribunals. An appeal involves reviewing another decision, typically on the basis that the decision-maker made an error.</p> <p>Our Court handles appeals in all areas of the law, including family, criminal, and civil cases.</p> <p>We do most of our work at the Vancouver Law Courts, but we also travel to courthouses in Victoria, Kamloops, and occasionally other communities.</p> <p>In conducting our work, we follow the Ethical Principles for Judges established by the Canadian Judicial Council. These guidelines emphasize the importance of judicial independence, integrity, respect, diligence, competence, equality, and impartiality.</p> <p>Judges are held accountable in their work through an open and transparent hearing process, public pronouncement of reasons for their decisions, and the availability of a further appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada. Judges are held accountable in their conduct through a complaint and disciplinary process administered by the Canadian Judicial Council.</p>
<p>Why It Matters</p>	<p>An independent and impartial judiciary is fundamental to democracy and public confidence in the justice system.</p> <p>The law applies equally to all people and institutions, public and private, no matter how wealthy or powerful, including the government. An independent and impartial judiciary means judges decide cases based on the law and the facts alone. We avoid conflicts of interest, are trained to identify and set aside personal biases, and are not influenced by external forces.</p>

“We do most of our work at the Vancouver Law Courts, but we also travel to courthouses in Victoria, Kamloops, and occasionally other communities.”

“In 2022, former Chief Justice Robert Bauman established a Reconciliation Working Group, chaired by Justice Fenlon, to embark on a focused period of learning from people and organizations experienced in advancing reconciliation initiatives, including in the unique setting of the courts.”

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

The Court began examining its role in reconciliation several years ago when truth and reconciliation became a standing item on the Court’s agenda. In 2022, former Chief Justice Robert Bauman established a Reconciliation Working Group, chaired by Justice Fenlon, to embark on a focused period of learning from people and organizations experienced in advancing reconciliation initiatives, including in the unique setting of the courts.

This period of study and reflection led the Court to develop a [Reconciliation Framework and Action Plan](#), adopted by the Court in 2024. The Reconciliation Framework describes the Court’s understanding of reconciliation and its commitment to advancing reconciliation in all its work. The Action Plan provides a transparent, measurable path for applying the Reconciliation Framework, particularly through learning, relationship-building, and access to justice initiatives.

The Court will report on its activities under the Framework in its Annual Reports.

In 2025, the Court participated in the following events and actions:

EDUCATION

- Judges and legal counsel met with the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, and Tanya Corbet from Tsawwassen First Nation for a presentation about the Legislative Assembly’s Reconciliation Action Plan;
- The Court received a presentation and held a discussion about reconciliation with Doug White, KC;
- The Court received presentations and held separate discussions with the Honourable Chief Justice Glenn Joyal (Manitoba Court of King’s Bench) and Jonathan Rudin on inviting input on incorporating Indigenous practices in the courtroom and courthouse;
- Chief Justice Marchand attended the “Launch of Next Steps: Rebuilding Indigenous Legal Orders” at UVic;
- Legal counsel attended the BC First Nations Justice Council in Vancouver to learn about incorporating welcoming symbols into the clinic space;
- Court staff were assigned an array of educational activities designed to enhance understanding of truth and reconciliation, and were provided with a list of resources and activities in relation to the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation;
- Judicial law clerks observed First Nations Sentencing Court in New Westminster; and
- Judges and staff participated individually in various education sessions.

RELATIONSHIP-BUILDING

- Judges and legal counsel met with Gitksan hereditary chiefs to learn and to invite input on the Court’s Reconciliation Framework and Action Plan;
- Chief Justice Marchand delivered a “View from the Bench” presentation at the Indigenous Elders Justice Symposium: “Aiming High: Reconciliation in the Law”;
- Chief Justice Marchand participated in a land-based cultural experience at Xhastin’s Healing Journey where he participated in a smudge ceremony, learned about the Teslin Tlingit Council clan, governing and justice systems, and played traditional hand games with local First Nations youth;
- Chief Justice Marchand attended a lunch with Duncan First Nations Court Elders as part of the Supreme Court of Canada’s 150th Anniversary visit to the province;
- Chief Justice Marchand and Justice Griffin visited Smithers and Hazelton for learning and community outreach with local First Nations;
- Judges and legal counsel visited Tsawwassen First Nation for learning and community outreach;
- Chief Justice Marchand attended the UVic Centre for Indigenous Law Opening/Honouring Ceremony as a witness and speaker;
- Justice Griffin visited the Kelowna Indigenous Justice Centre; and
- Chief Justice Marchand attended the Aboriginal Lawyers Forum Potluck.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE

- The Court published its [Reconciliation Framework and Action Plan](#), adopted in 2024
- The Court coordinated and participated in an outreach session for Indigenous Law Students about clerking opportunities at the BC Superior Courts;
- The Court received and allowed a request from Indigenous litigants to incorporate special opening remarks prior to the hearing of an appeal;
- The Court received and allowed a request from Indigenous litigants to incorporate an Indigenous ceremony song accompanied by drumming, performed while entering the courtroom prior to the commencement of the hearing;
- Chief Justice Marchand met with Indigenous law clerks at the Superior Courts; and
- Chief Justice Marchand was a panelist at the CLEBC Indigenous Legal Orders Conference, presenting on the Court’s Reconciliation Framework and Action Plan.

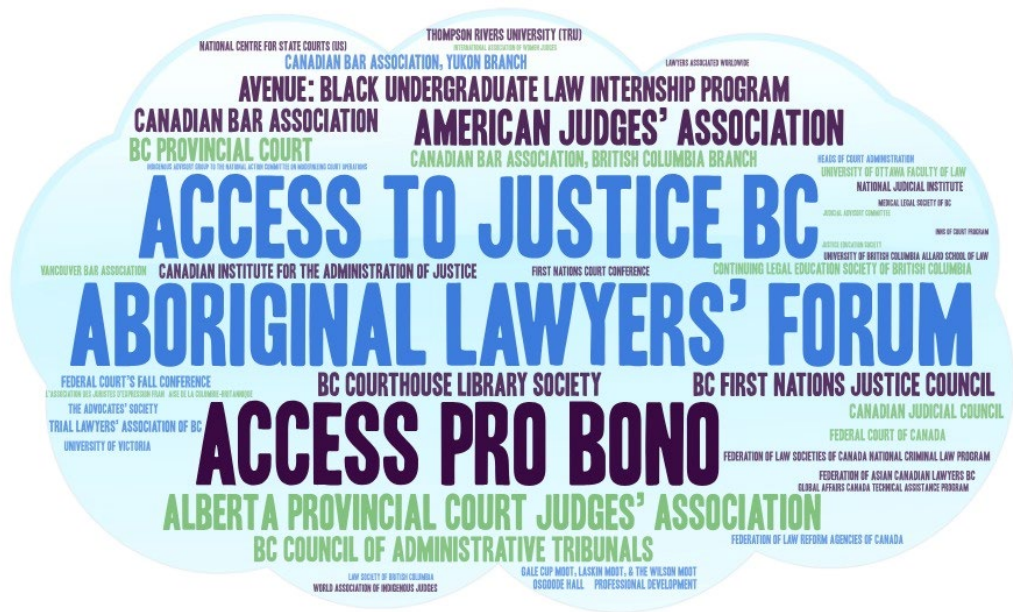
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

“Beyond their role in the courtroom hearing cases and making decisions, justices of the Court are actively engaged in the community, ranging from involvement at law schools, in the legal profession, and the judiciary both within the province, across Canada, and even internationally.”

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Judges engage as participants, speakers, or organizers of continuing education seminars for lawyers and justices in Canada and abroad. They also assist law faculties with moot court programs and participate as judges at BC and national mooting competitions.

In 2025, members of the Court participated in activities with the following groups:



STATISTICS

The charts below give a detailed account of the Court’s activity in 2025. The three appendices at the end of this report provide a detailed historical account of criminal and civil statistics over the last 13 years.

CIVIL APPEALS FILED AND DISPOSED

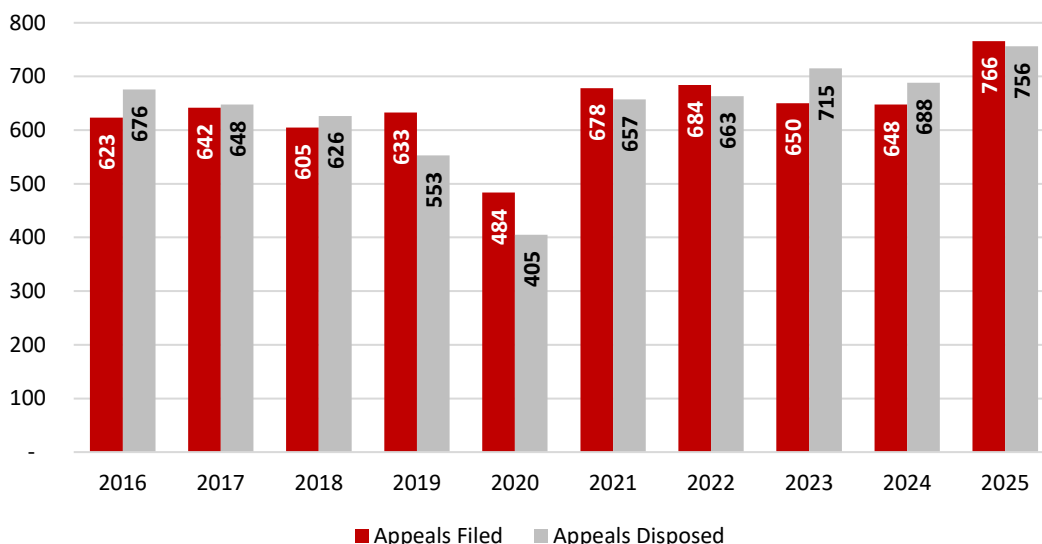
The chart below shows the number of civil appeals filed and disposed of from 2016 to 2025.

In 2025, the number of civil appeals filed increased from 648 in 2024 to 766.

The Court measures the number of civil appeals disposed of as a percentage of the total number of civil appeals filed each year. The appeals disposed of may represent appeals filed this year or ones that remained on its docket from a previous year. In 2025, the Court disposed of 756 civil appeals on its total docket, representing 97 percent of the 766 appeals added to the Court’s docket. An appeal that is “disposed” or “disposed of” in this annual report means that it has been dismissed, allowed, or abandoned and is no longer on the Court’s docket. Though not a complete measure of the Court’s workload, the purpose of this chart is to show how the Court is keeping up with the appeals filed by looking at new appeals filed as “inputs” and disposed appeals as “outputs” each year.

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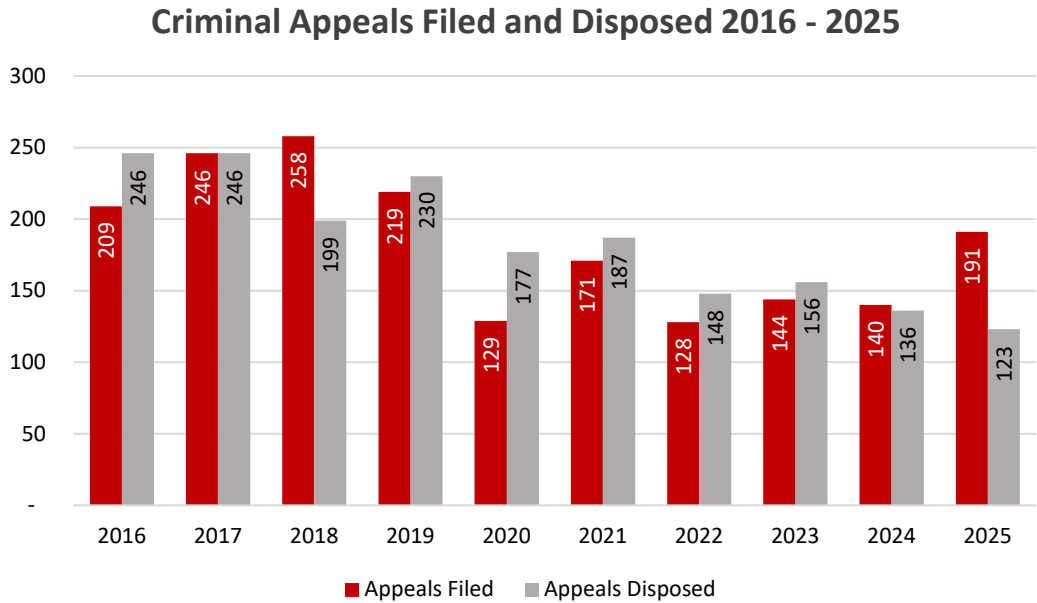
Civil Appeals Filed and Disposed 2016 - 2025



“In 2025, there were 191 criminal appeals filed, up from 140 filed in 2024. The Court disposed of 123 criminal appeals, or 64 percent of the 191 criminal appeals added to the Court’s docket.”

CRIMINAL APPEALS FILED AND DISPOSED

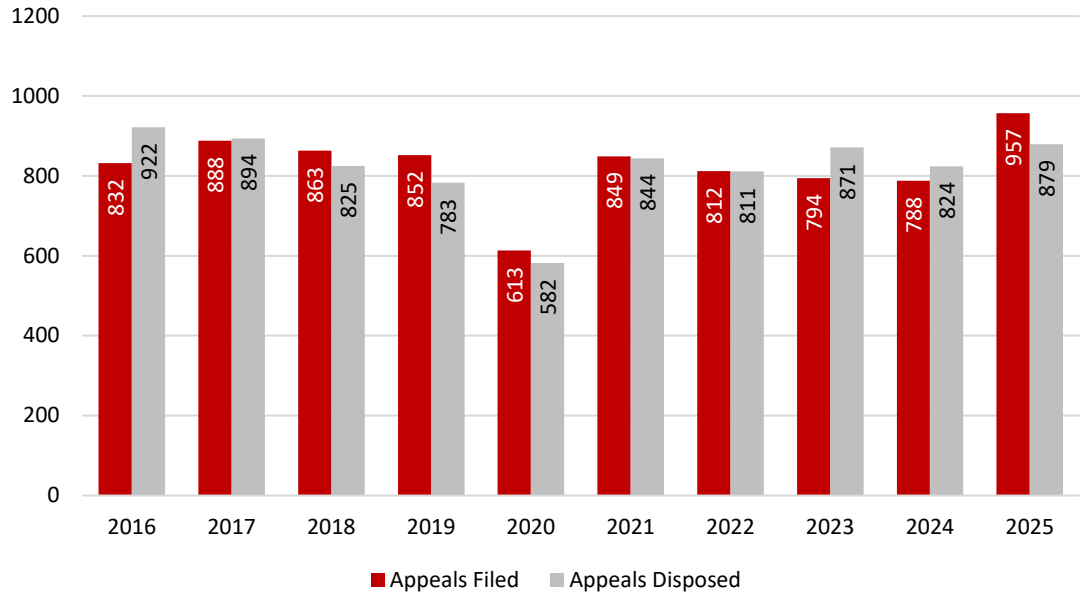
In 2025, there were 191 criminal appeals filed, up from 140 filed in 2024. The Court disposed of 123 criminal appeals, or 64 percent of the 191 criminal appeals added to the Court’s docket.



TOTAL APPEALS FILED AND DISPOSED

For a more complete picture of total activity, the chart below combines the civil and criminal new appeals filed and dispositions. With 879 appeals disposed of and 957 appeals filed, 92 percent of appeals were disposed of as a percentage of new appeals added to the Court’s docket.

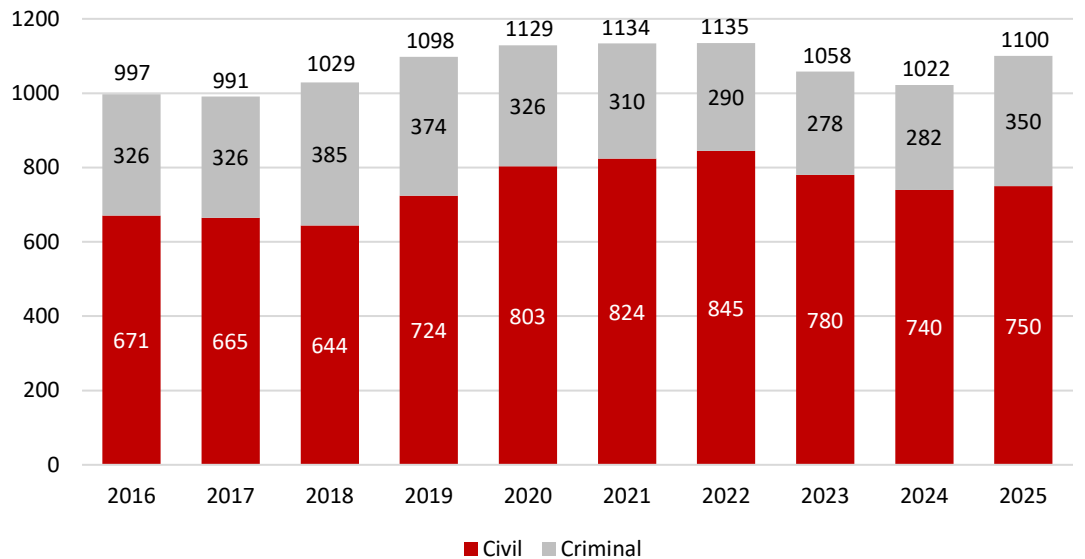
Total Appeals Filed and Disposed 2016 - 2025



PENDING CASES BY YEAR

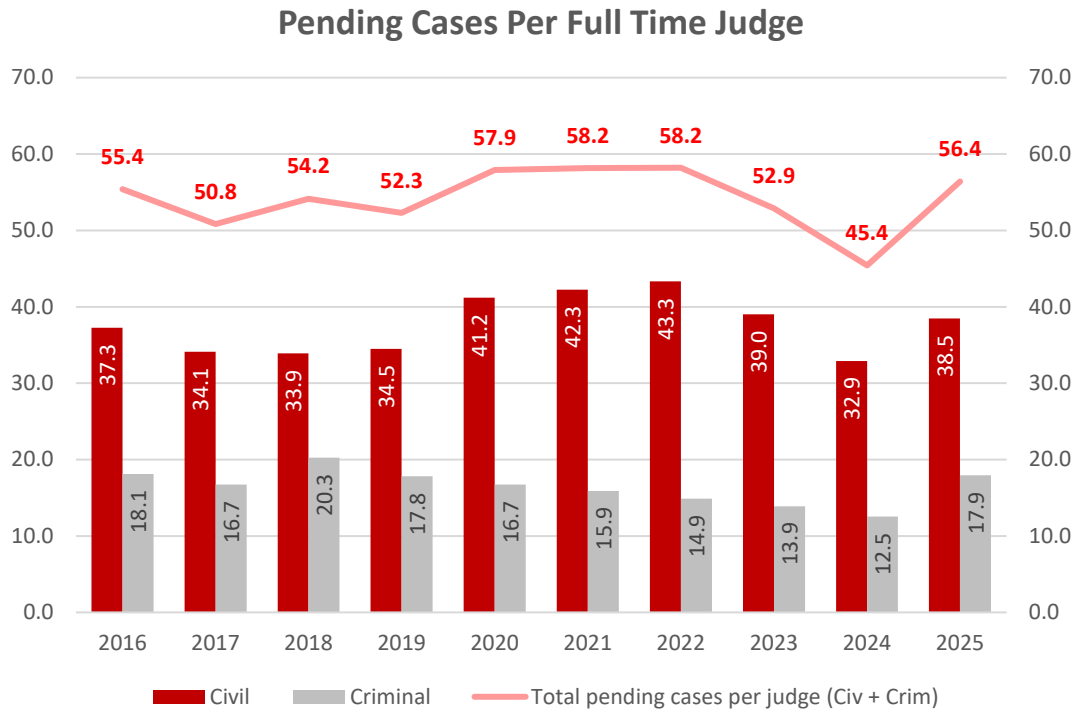
As appeals are filed and disposed of by the Court, the total number of outstanding cases on the Court’s docket changes accordingly. Measured as of January 1 each year, this statistic is known as the number of “pending cases” or the number of cases that have remained on the Court’s docket from previous years.

Pending Cases - Civil & Criminal 2016 - 2025



PENDING CASES PER FULL TIME JUDGE

By adding the number of full-time judges to every two half-time supernumerary judges, the Court can begin to gauge how many outstanding cases remain on its docket per full-time equivalent judge on January 1 of each year. This is a useful statistic because it can show how easily the Court will be able to keep up with the number of new filings.



“In 2025, a total of 766 civil appeals were filed. Of these, 23 percent (173 of 766) were applications for leave to appeal.”

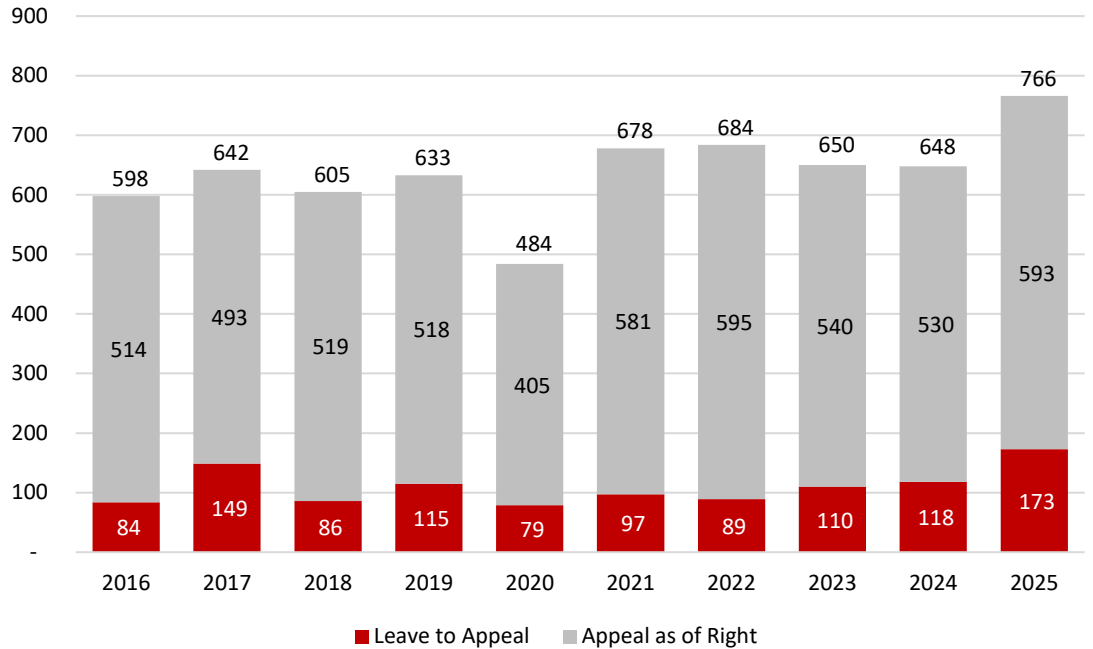
CIVIL APPEALS BY LEAVE VERSUS BY RIGHT

In 2025, a total of 766 civil appeals were filed. Of these, 23 percent (173 of 766) were applications for leave to appeal.

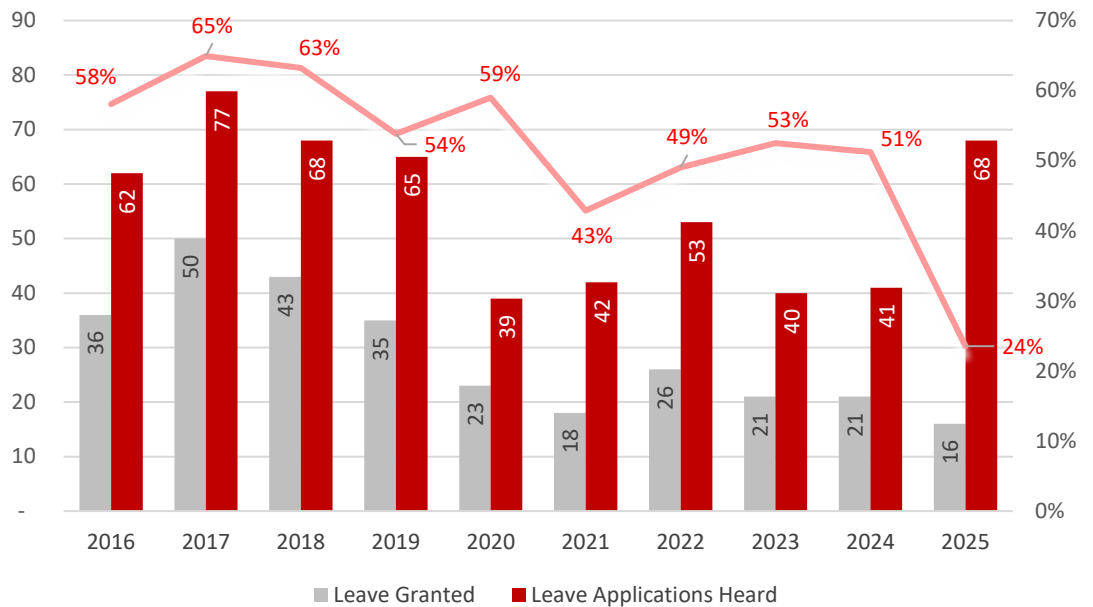
Before appealing certain types of orders, litigants must get permission, or “leave,” to bring an appeal to the Court. The Court heard a total of 68 leave to appeal applications in 2025, granting 16 of the 68, or 24 percent.

The first chart below shows appeals filed as of right versus those filed seeking leave. The second chart shows the number of applications for leave to appeal heard versus the number of those applications that were granted.

Civil Filed as of Right vs. Filed Seeking Leave 2016 - 2025



Civil Leave to Appeal Applications Heard vs. Granted 2016 - 2025



TYPES OF CRIMINAL APPEALS FILED

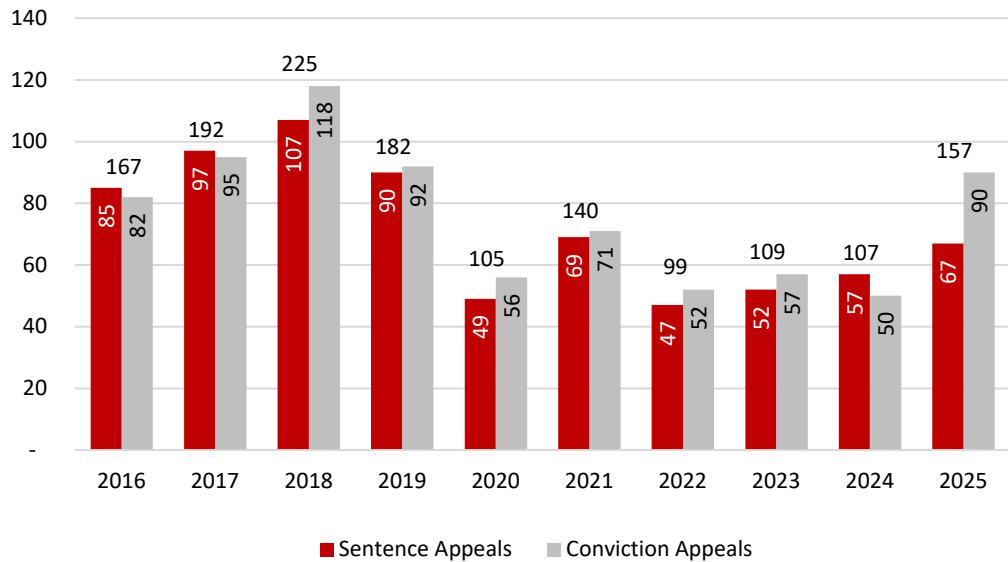
In criminal matters, appeals from convictions and acquittals where the Crown has proceeded by indictment (meaning the offence is more serious) take up most of the Court’s hearing time.

Sentence appeals and summary conviction appeals (on less serious offences) take up less hearing time.

“In 2025, 67 sentence appeals and 90 conviction appeals were filed. In addition, there were 34 acquittal, summary conviction, and other types of criminal appeals filed.”

The chart below gives a comparison of criminal appeals filed between 2016 and 2025. In 2025, 67 sentence appeals and 90 conviction appeals were filed. In addition, there were 34 acquittal, summary conviction, and other types of criminal appeals filed.

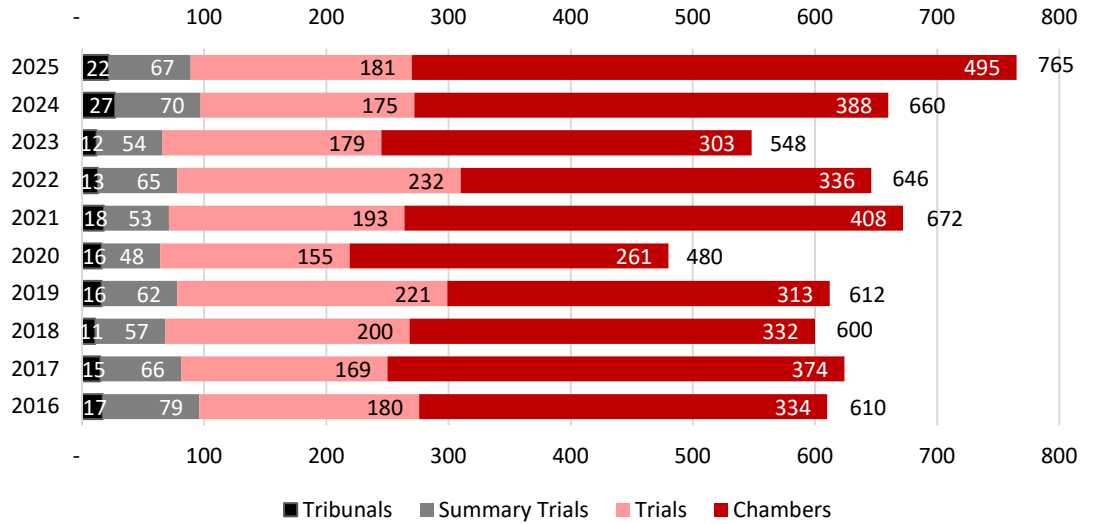
Criminal Appeal Types 2016 - 2025



ORIGIN OF CIVIL APPEALS

In most cases, the Court can determine the type of proceeding giving rise to an appeal. As in years past, figures show there were more appeals from Supreme Court of British Columbia chambers matters and summary trials (meaning trials conducted mainly on written evidence) combined than appeals from full trials in that court. The chart below shows the types of appeals according to the underlying proceeding. In 2025, approximately 73 percent of civil appeals were from chambers matters and summary trials.

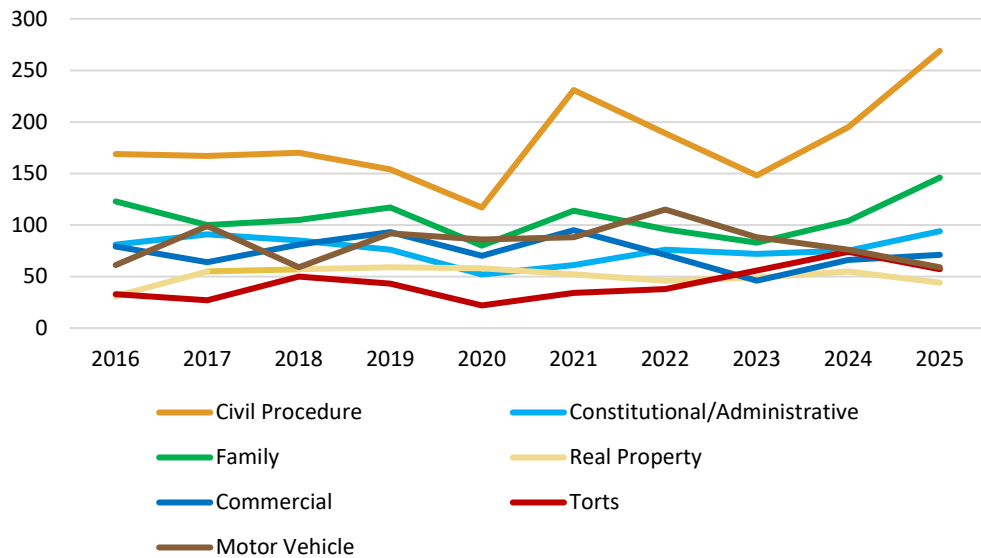
Origin of Civil Appeals 2016 - 2025



CIVIL CASE CATEGORIES

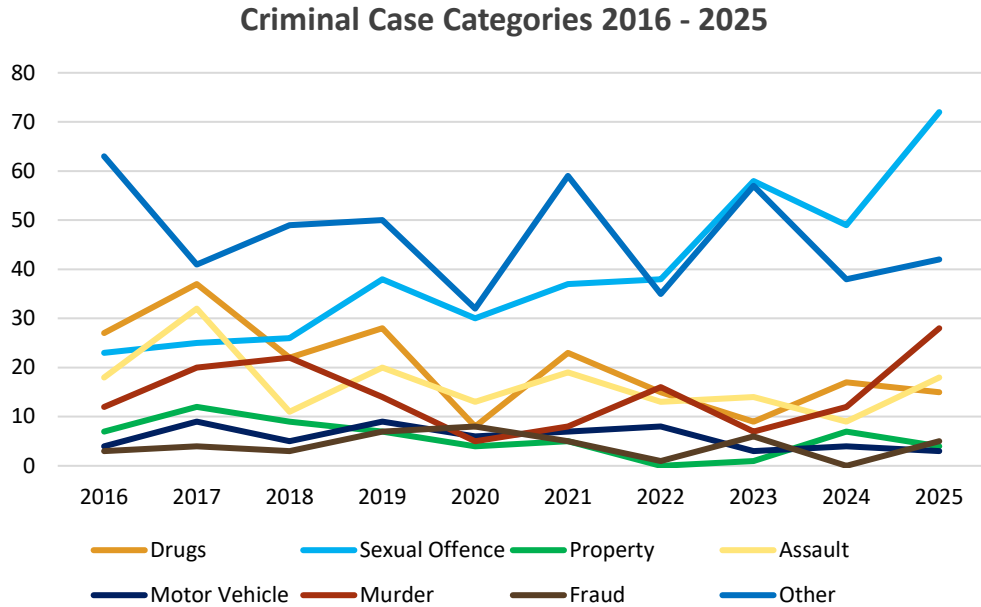
When a civil appeal is filed with the Court, litigants indicate the subject of the appeal in the document initiating their appeal. The chart below shows the top seven categories of appeals filed between 2016 and 2025.

Civil Case Categories 2016 - 2025



CRIMINAL CASE CATEGORIES

The Court identifies and tracks the subject of criminal appeals. The chart below shows the categories of appeals filed between 2016 and 2025 by number of appeals. “Other” covers various offences, such as arson and mischief as well as extradition and *habeas corpus* appeals.



APPEALS ALLOWED AND HEARD

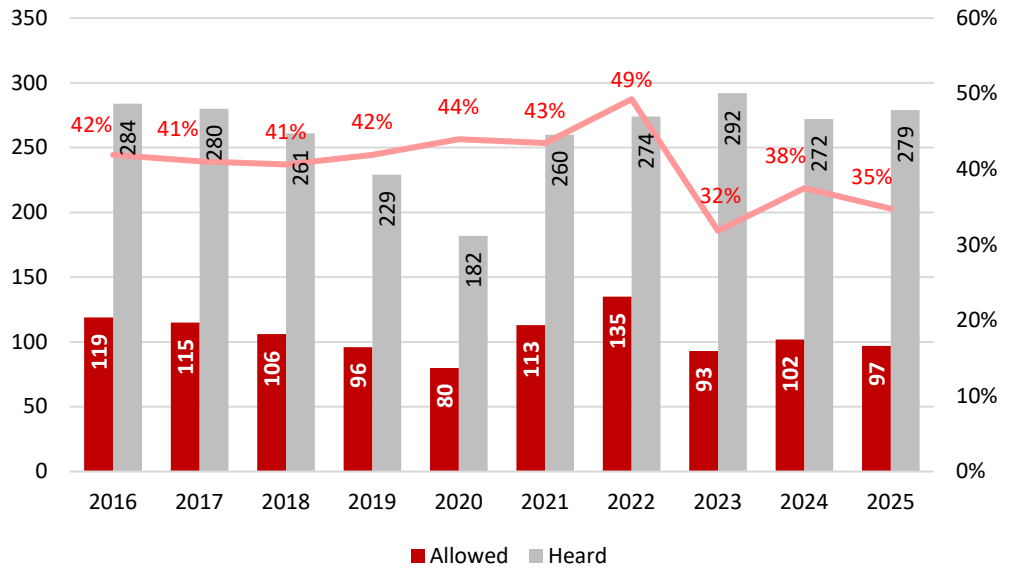
“In 2025, the Court allowed 35% of the total appeals heard (127 of the 360 appeals). The proportion of civil appeals allowed was 35 percent (97 allowed, 182 dismissed). For criminal appeals, it was 37 percent (30 allowed, 51 dismissed).”

An appeal is “allowed” when the Court overturns or varies the order under appeal from the lower court or tribunal. In 2025, the Court allowed 35 percent of the total appeals heard (127 of the 360 appeals). The proportion of civil appeals allowed was 35 percent (97 allowed, 182 dismissed). For criminal appeals, it was 37 percent (30 allowed, 51 dismissed).

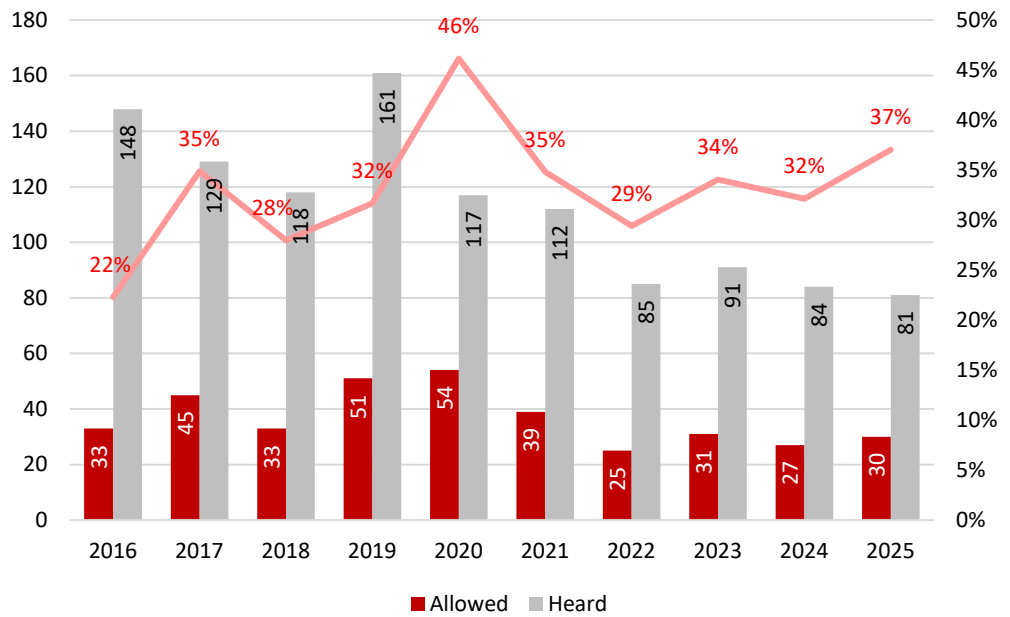
The “allowed” statistics include appeals partially allowed by any variations in the order under appeal. The number of appeals allowed in part is significant. In 2025, there were 30 civil appeals allowed in part, or 24 percent of the 127 allowed. There were four criminal appeals allowed in part, or 13 percent of the 30 allowed.

The charts below show the number of civil, criminal, and total appeals allowed.

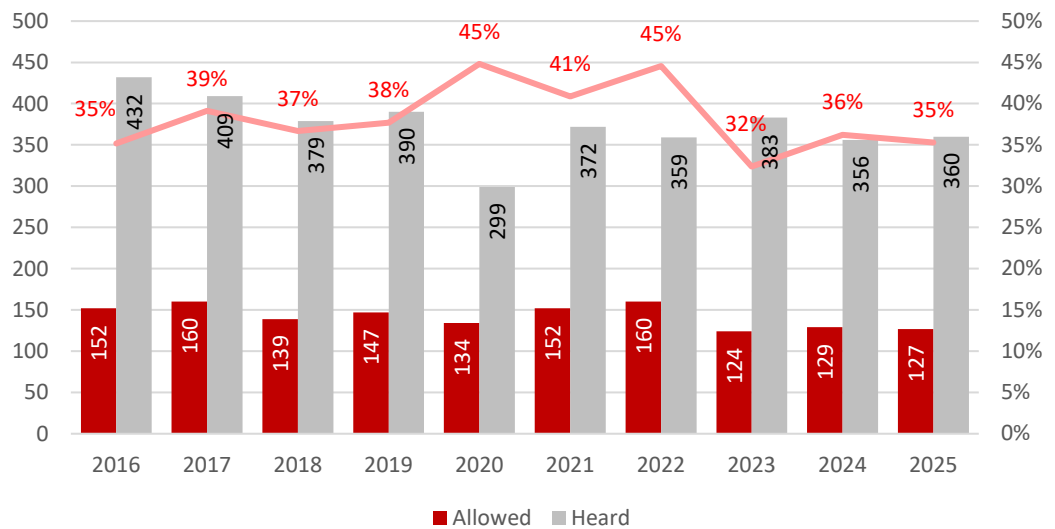
Civil Appeals Allowed/Heard 2016 - 2025



Criminal Appeals Allowed/Heard 2016 - 2025



Total Appeals Allowed/Heard 2016-2025



SELF-REPRESENTED LITIGANTS

The charts below compare the number of civil appeals where at least one party was self-represented in a new appeal filed between 2016 and 2025 with the total number of civil appeals filed in those years.

In 2025, out of 766 civil appeals and applications for leave to appeal filed, 301 appeals (39 percent) were appeals or applications for leave to appeal involving at least one self-represented litigant. This is an increase from 2024, where the figure was 35 percent.

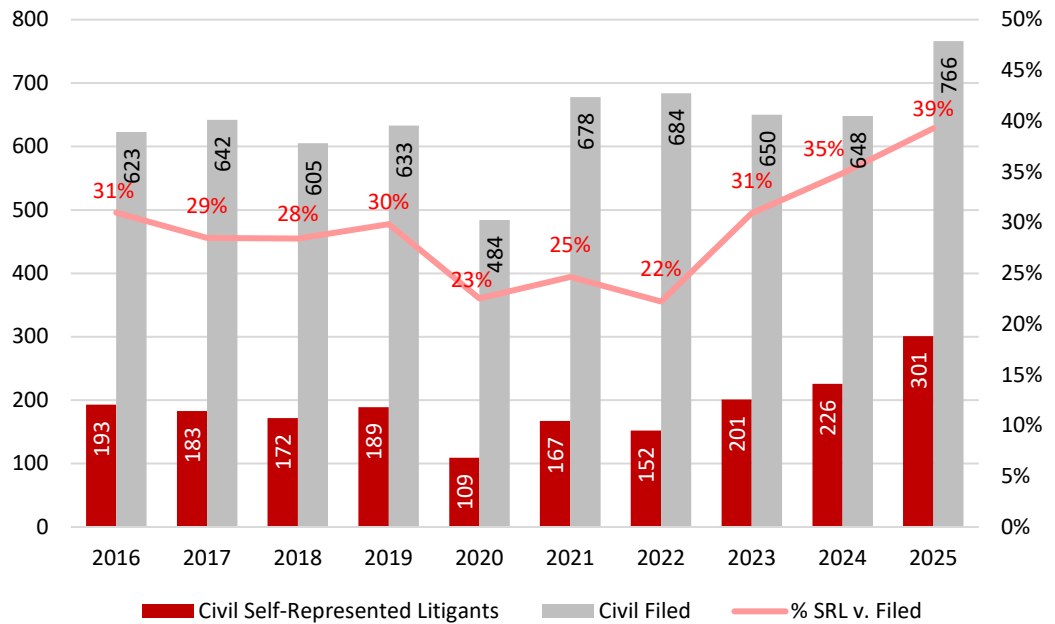
Of the appeals filed in 2025 involving at least one self-represented litigant, 95 percent involved self-represented appellants and 16 percent involved self-represented respondents, which means that 11 percent involved both a self-represented appellant and a self-represented respondent.

Of 279 civil appeals heard or disposed of by the Court in 2025, 78 cases (28 percent) involved at least one self-represented litigant. This is an increase from 2024, where the figure was 49 of 272 (18 percent).

The graph below illustrates the trend with respect to appeals filed between 2016 and 2025:

“Of the appeals filed in 2025 involving at least one self-represented litigant, 95 percent involved self-represented appellants and 16 percent involved self-represented respondents, which means that eleven percent involved both a self-represented appellant and a self-represented respondent.”

Civil Appeals Filed with a Self-Represented Party/Civil Appeals Filed 2016- 2025



In 2025, out of 146 family appeals or applications for leave to appeal filed, 84 appeals (58 percent) were appeals or applications for leave to appeal involving at least one self-represented litigant. This is an increase from 2024, where the figure was 49 out of 104 (47 percent).

Out of the 84 family appeals filed in 2025 involving at least one self-represented litigant, 94 percent involved self-represented appellants and 24 percent involved self-represented respondents, which means that 18 percent involved both a self-represented appellant and a self-represented respondent.

Of the 30 family appeals heard or disposed of by the Court in 2025, 13 cases (43 percent) involved at least one self-represented litigant. This is an increase from 2024, where the figure was 12 of 34 (35 percent).

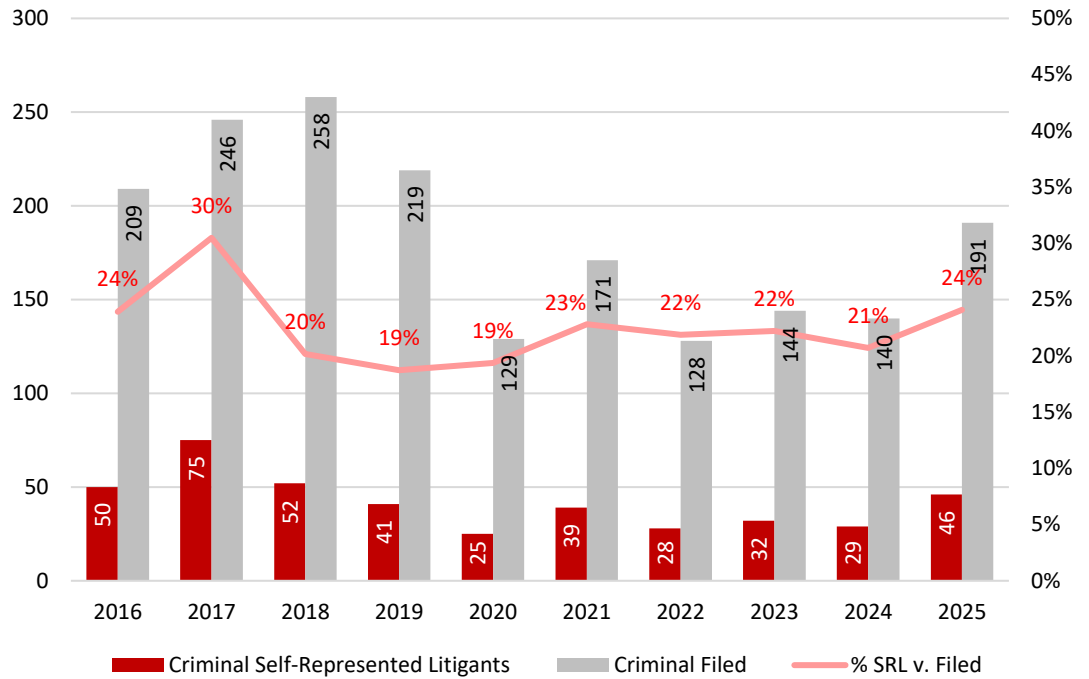
Turning to criminal appeals, out of 191 appeals or applications for leave to appeal filed, 46 appeals (24 percent) were appeals or applications for leave to appeal involving a self-represented litigant. This percentage increased slightly from 2024.

“Out of the 46 criminal appeals involving self-represented litigants in 2025, all involved self-represented appellants and none involved a self-represented respondent.”

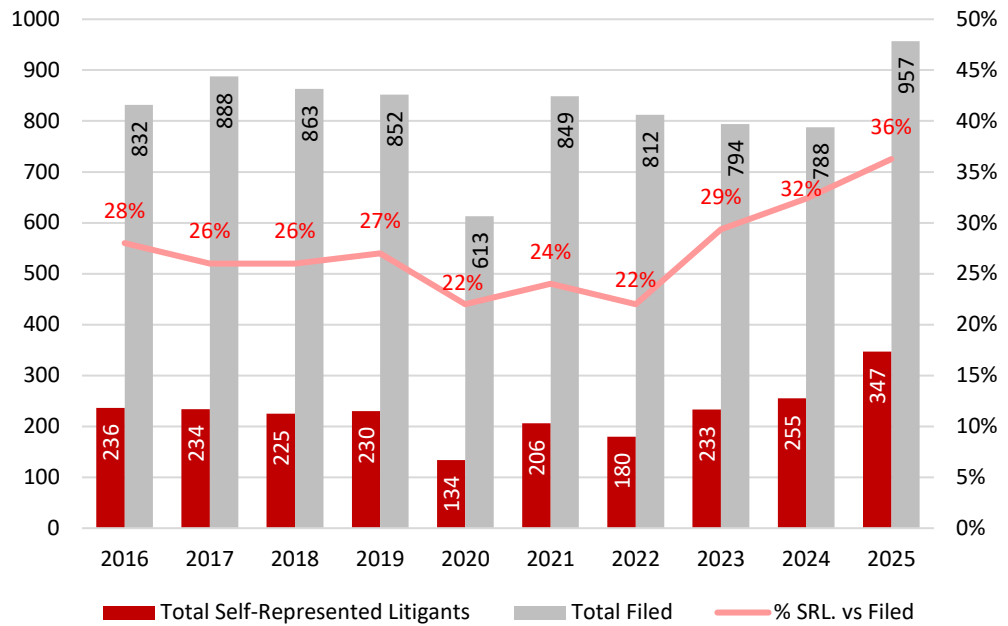
Out of the 46 criminal appeals involving self-represented litigants in 2025, all involved self-represented appellants and none involved a self-represented respondent.

Of the 81 criminal appeals or applications for leave to appeal heard or disposed of by the Court in 2025, six involved a self-represented litigant (seven percent). This remained the same as 2024.

Criminal Appeals Filed with a Self-Represented Party/Criminal Appeals Filed 2016 - 2025



Total Appeals Filed with Self-Represented Litigants/Total Appeals Filed 2016 - 2025

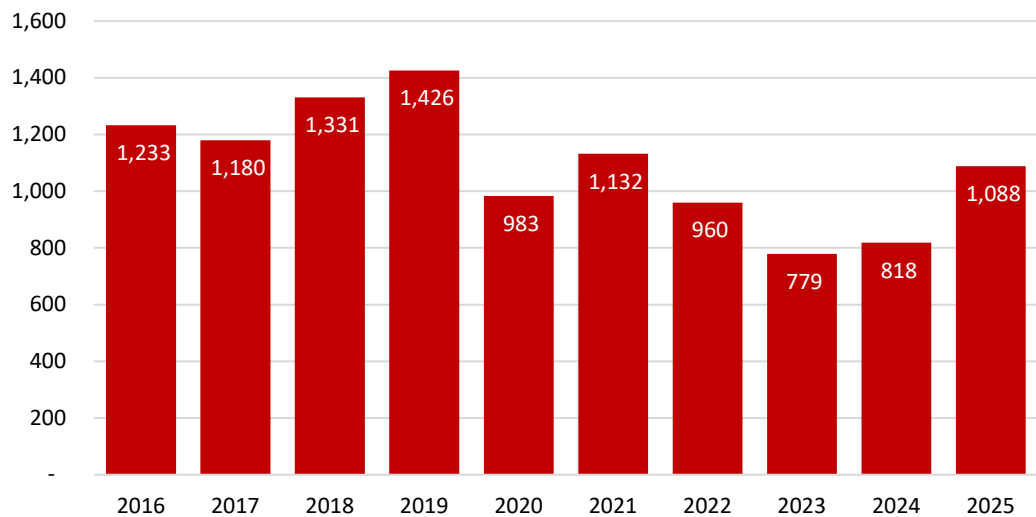


CHAMBERS AND CASE MANAGEMENT

“The Court counts each individual application brought by a litigant, even if multiple applications are brought during the same court hearing.”

The term “chambers applications” describes applications brought by litigants before a single justice seeking various forms of relief before an appeal is heard. The Court counts each individual application brought by a litigant, even if multiple applications are brought during the same court hearing. The chart below shows the number of chambers applications brought in both civil and criminal appeals each year.

Chambers Motions Civil and Criminal 2016 - 2025



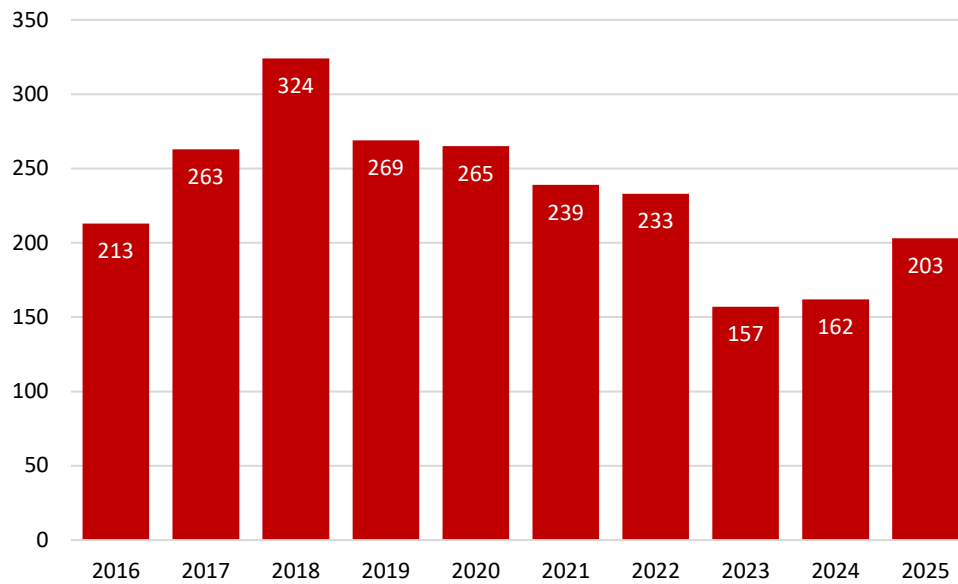
Part of the work in chambers includes the case management of appeals, which are captured in the statistics above. The Court applies a form of focused case management, only seeking to manage those appeals where deadlines are missed or where the parties request the Court’s assistance.

“In 2025, 90 civil case management hearings were conducted by a justice or the Registrar.”

In 2025, 90 civil case management hearings were conducted by a justice or the Registrar.

On the criminal side, case management is done more frequently pursuant to [Criminal Conviction/Acquittal Appeals Timeline \(Criminal Practice Directive, 13 January 2014\)](#). The chart below plots the number of criminal case management hearings year-over-year. These statistics include criminal case management conducted by the Registrar, reported below.

Criminal Case Management Hearings 2016 - 2025



VIRTUAL AND HYBRID APPEARANCES

In 2025, the Court conducted appeal and chambers hearings in person, by videoconference, a hybrid of videoconference/in person, and by teleconference (for chambers only).

Appeal hearings were overwhelmingly heard in person, with 392 (304 civil and 88 criminal) of the total 415 appeal hearings proceeding with all parties present in court. No appeal was heard entirely by videoconference, but 23 (16 civil, seven criminal) proceeded with some parties in person and others attending by videoconference.

As with appeals, the most frequent manner of appearance for chambers hearings in 2025 was in person attendance, with 54.6% (501 civil, 117 criminal) of the total 1,132 applications heard. 43.6% (278 civil, 216 criminal) applications were heard in a hybrid fashion, with the remaining 1.8% appearing via other methods. There were three (civil) chambers hearings and seven (criminal) chambers hearings conducted by videoconference only; three (criminal) chambers applications were heard by phone and seven (civil) chambers applications were delivered in writing.

In 2024, the Court began tracking the number of viewers watching its appeal broadcasts. In 2025, the average number of people viewing an appeal was 13.

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REGISTRAR'S HEARINGS

In 2025, the Registrar conducted 231 hearings, an increase from 2024.

“Registrar’s decisions are subject to review before a justice of the Court sitting in chambers. In 2025, no registrar’s decisions were reviewed by a justice in chambers.”

In civil appeals, the Registrar conducted a total of 165 hearings. There were 64 applications to settle books, orders, or assess costs, 71 case management conferences, and 30 urgent applications. Thirty-one additional applications were heard in writing, mainly to settle orders.

In criminal appeals, the Registrar conducted 66 hearings, all case management conferences.

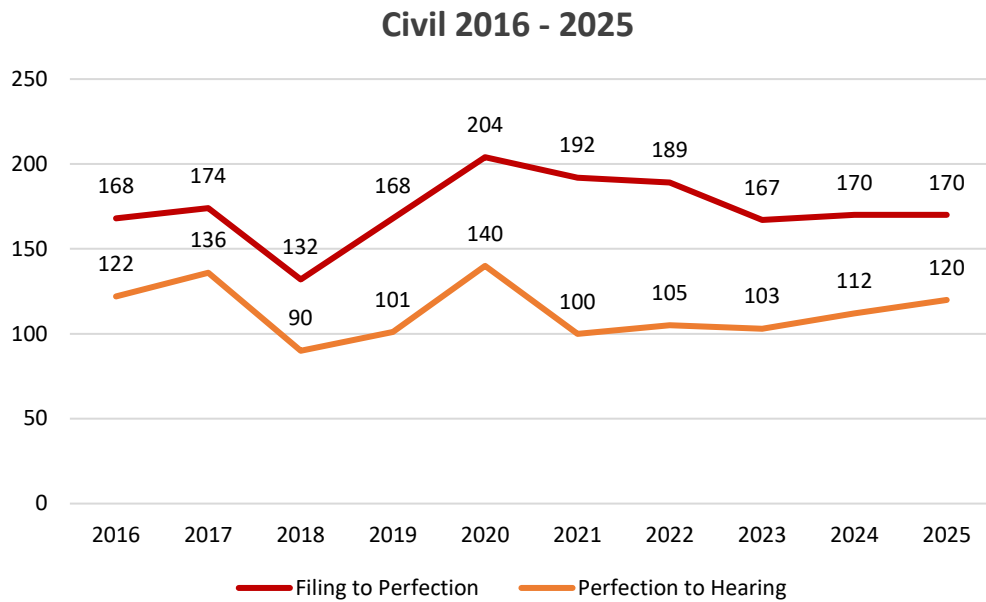
In addition, the Registrar issued approximately 300 written directives to parties on various case management issues, an increase from the 200 written directives given in 2024.

Registrar’s decisions are subject to review before a justice of the Court sitting in chambers. In 2025, no registrar’s decisions were reviewed by a justice in chambers.

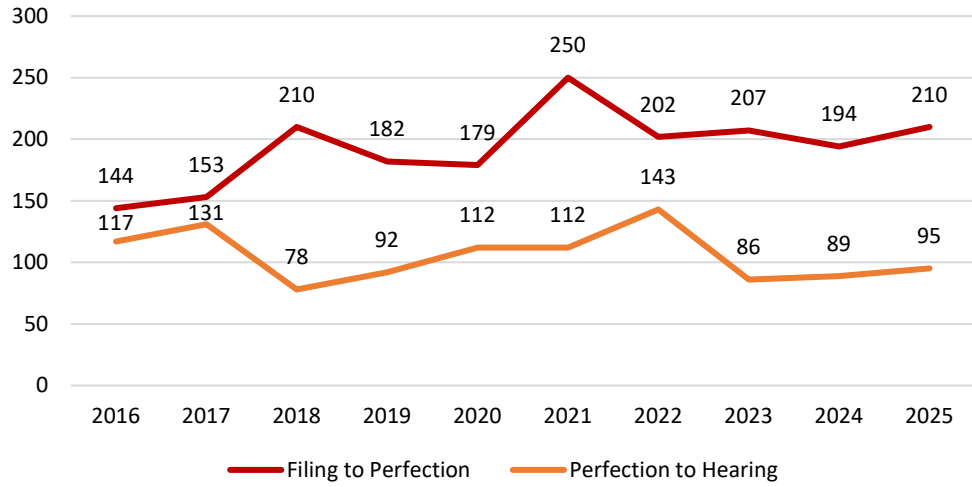
TIME LAPSE STATISTICS: FILING TO HEARING

The four charts below represent two timeframes showing the mean amount of time in days for an appeal to progress through the Court from start to finish. The term “filing to perfection” measures the time in days from the filing of the initiating document to the time an appeal is ready to be scheduled for hearing. The term “perfection to hearing” measures the time in days from when an appeal is ready to be scheduled until it is heard.

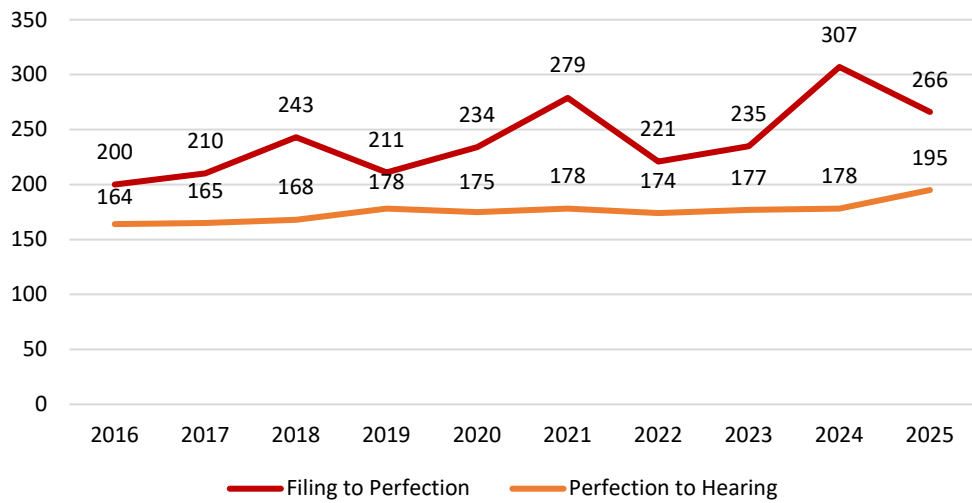
The Court’s available dates fluctuate, but generally, the parties may obtain a date for hearing the appeal within 100 days of a request. For the hearing of a civil or family appeal, appeals are booked within about three months of perfection, for a criminal conviction appeal within six months, and for a criminal sentence appeal within a month.



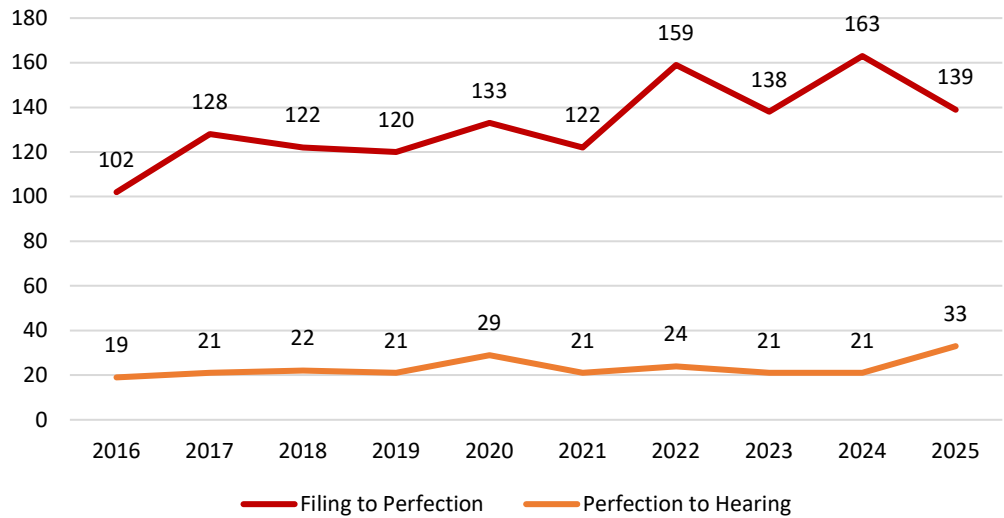
Family 2016 - 2025



Conviction 2016 - 2025



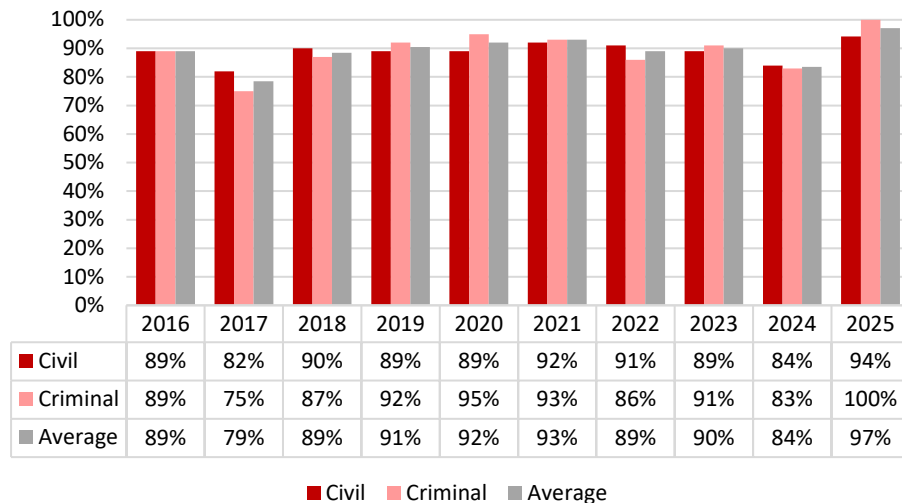
Sentence 2016 - 2025



TIME LAPSE STATISTICS: HEARING TO JUDGMENT

The Canadian Judicial Council provides a six-month guideline for the release of reserve judgments. The chart below represents the percentage of Court of Appeal reserve judgments released within that six-month period, sorted by civil, criminal, and total reserve judgments. For this statistic, the Court counts only its reserved written judgments, as reserved oral judgments are usually delivered very shortly after the hearing of the appeal.

Percentage of Reserve Judgments Release within Six-Month Guideline 2016 - 2025



APPEALS TO THE SUPREME COURT OF CANADA

Statistics from the Supreme Court of Canada show that the Court of Appeal is the Court of last resort for most British Columbians. In most cases, litigants must seek permission/leave from the Supreme Court of Canada to appeal a case from the British Columbia Court of Appeal.

In 2025, 12% of leave applications from British Columbia to the Supreme Court of Canada were successful (5 of 43 considered). Of the 101 appeals heard by the Supreme Court of Canada from British Columbia between 2014 and 2025 (inclusive), 50 were dismissed, 45 were allowed, and the balance were either under reserve or abandoned.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
B.C. Leave Applications Submitted	81	64	76	65	71	77	42	52	57	88	77	48
Granted	9	10	12	9	6	8	4	7	4	5	1	5
Dismissed	71	51	60	55	64	68	37	45	52	82	69	32
Reserved	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	1	6
Discontinued	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Extension of time - dismissed	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	4	4
Quashed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Remanded	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Percentage of Leave Applications from B.C.	16%	13%	13%	13%	15%	14%	9%	12%	13%	16%	14%	10%
B.C. Appeals Heard	8	10	17	12	8	8	6	12	7	6	4	3
Allowed	6	3	9	5	5	5	1	4	3	4	0	0
Dismissed	2	7	8	7	3	3	4	8	4	2	1	1
Reserved	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2

Percentage of Appeals heard from B.C.	10%	16%	27%	18%	12%	12%	16%	21%	13%	12%	10%	6%
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*As of January 16, 2026

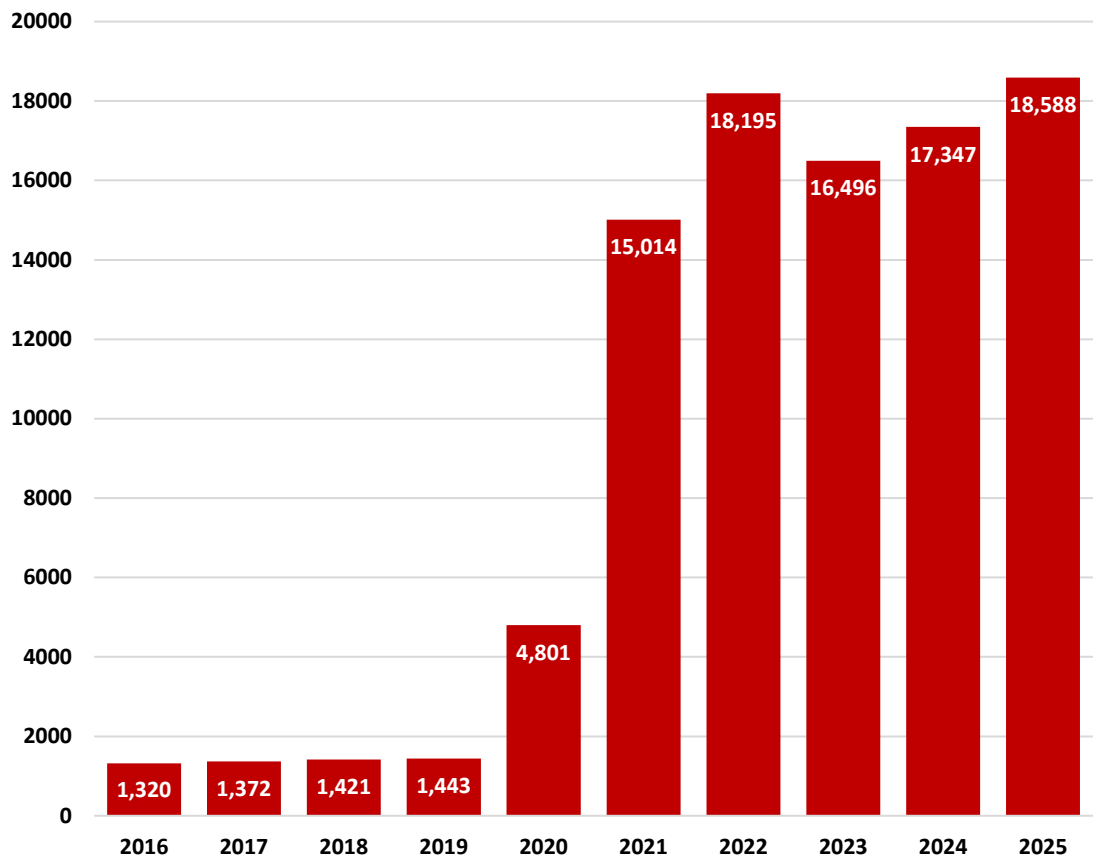
ELECTRONIC FILING

WebCATS, the web-based Court of Appeal tracking system, is the Court’s electronic case management system. WebCATS has been available to the public through [Court Services Online](#) (CSO) since 2005, allowing the public to search files for free and to view files for a nominal fee. The CSO system is also the Court’s e-filing system, so the statistics below are drawn from the filings made in that system and do not include other documents submitted electronically, for example, by email.

“In 2025, there were 17,104 civil e-filings and 1,484 criminal e-filings for a total of 18,588. The most commonly e-filed documents were appearances with 1,334 filings, followed by affidavits with 1,131 filings, and consent orders with 765 filings.”

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E-Filing 2016 - 2025



PLANNING AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMITTEE

MEMBERS

The Honourable Chief Justice Marchand (Chair)
The Honourable Mr. Justice Harris (until November 7, 2025)
The Honourable Madam Justice Fenlon
The Honourable Madam Justice DeWitt-Van Oosten
The Honourable Justice Voith (until November 7, 2025)
The Honourable Justice Fleming
The Honourable Justice Mayer (from November 7, 2025)
The Honourable Justice MacNaughton (from November 7, 2025)
Timothy Outerbridge, Registrar
Heidi McBride, KC, Chief Legal and Executive Officer
Sally Rudolf, Legal Counsel
Shirley Smiley, Legal Counsel

“The mandate of the Planning and Access to Justice Committee is to consider matters of general importance to the operation of the Court, including court reform, new policies, initiatives, and changes to court administration.”

The mandate of the Planning and Access to Justice Committee is to consider matters of general importance to the operation of the Court, including court reform, new policies, initiatives, and changes to court administration. The Committee functions as the Court’s Executive Committee.

The following matters were considered in 2025:

STRATEGIC PLAN

The Committee met periodically throughout 2025 to lead the development of the Court’s first strategic plan. In September 2025, after gathering input and adjusting the document through an iterative process spanning several months, the Court announced and published its [2026 – 2028 Strategic Plan](#), renewable for an additional two years to 2030.

The Strategic Plan addresses five main areas:

1. **Access to justice** — The Court will work to improve access to justice through a variety of means, including technology and innovation.
2. **Reconciliation** — Guided by the Court's Reconciliation Framework, the Court will work to advance reconciliation in all its work, including through education, relationship-building, and improving access to justice for Indigenous people.

3. **Communication, public education and outreach** — Guided by the Court's Framework for Community Engagement, the Court will share clear, timely information with the public, the media, and court users about its work.
4. **Sustainable resources** — The Court will engage effectively with the executive branches of government to pursue adequate resourcing and improve the Court's data collection and use.
5. **Strong workforce** — The Court will work to maintain an inclusive workforce, manage workloads, foster collegiality, and promote learning opportunities.

The purpose of the Strategic Plan is to better articulate and communicate the Court's goals publicly, and ultimately to improve the Court's practices and processes to make the system work better for everyone. Progress on the Strategic Plan objectives will be reported in the Court's Annual Reports.

RECONCILIATION WORKING GROUP

In 2022, former Chief Justice Bauman struck an internal working group to examine what steps, if any, the Court might take to advance reconciliation given its unique constitutional role. Chaired by Justice Fenlon, the working group has embarked on a focused period of learning from people and organizations experienced in advancing reconciliation initiatives, including in the unique setting of the courts.

This period of study and reflection led the Court to develop the [Court of Appeal Reconciliation Framework and Action Plan: A Commitment to Advancing Truth & Reconciliation](#) in 2024. The Reconciliation Framework describes the Court's understanding of reconciliation and its commitment to advancing reconciliation in all its work. The Action Plan provides a transparent, measurable path for applying the Framework. In 2025, the Court published the Reconciliation Framework and Action Plan.

Throughout 2025, the Reconciliation Working Group organized presentations and events to learn about and engage more deeply with Indigenous history, people and communities. These items are included at pages 9-10 of this Annual Report ("Truth and Reconciliation").

COMMUNICATIONS, PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH WORKING GROUP

In 2024, the Planning and Access to Justice Committee struck a Communications, Public Education and Outreach Working Group. Chaired by Justice DeWitt-Van Oosten, the Working Group began its work by reviewing its internal and external communications. In 2025, after gathering input and adjusting a draft framework document through an iterative process

“Throughout 2025, the Reconciliation Working Group organized presentations and events to learn about and engage more deeply with Indigenous history, people and communities.”

spanning several months, the Court announced and published its Framework for Community Engagement, summarized [at this link](#).

The purpose of the Framework for Community Engagement is to support public confidence in the administration of justice through active community engagement and timely, accessible, and accurate information about the Court, the court system, the people who work here, and their roles and responsibilities. The Framework identifies:

- the objectives of the Court’s community engagement
- the principles underlying the work
- the types of people and organizations the Court aims to reach
- the strategies the Court will use for community engagement

Progress on the Framework for Community Engagement objectives will be reported in the Court’s Annual Reports.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE BC

The Chief Justice continued in his role as Chair of Access to Justice BC (A2JBC), which is a network of justice system stakeholders committed to improving access to justice for British Columbians. It seeks to align network members in their efforts and to support collaborative, innovative, user-centered, and evidence-based initiatives. Updates on A2JBC initiatives can be found on the [A2JBC website](#).

FIVE-JUSTICE DIVISION REQUESTS

The Committee examined the Court’s practice for receiving and responding to requests under Rule 43 for a five-justice division. The Committee determined the current process should remain in place.

NAMEPLATES ON THE BENCH

The Committee agreed to install nameplates on the bench for each justice sitting in the courtroom to assist self-represented litigants and counsel, particularly junior counsel, who might not be familiar with the judges they are appearing before.

COURTHOUSE RENOVATIONS

The Committee received regular updates about renovations to the Vancouver Law Courts building that occurred over the course of the year. The renovations are ongoing and will result in new work and meeting spaces for judges and staff in both the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court.

“The Committee agreed to install nameplates on the bench for each justice sitting in the courtroom to assist self-represented litigants and counsel, particularly junior counsel, who might not be familiar with the judges they are appearing before.”

ACCESS PRO BONO SELF-REPRESENTED LITIGANTS PROGRAM

In 2020, the Court began a new program to address the needs of self-represented litigants in civil appeals in partnership with [Access Pro Bono](#). Access Pro Bono is an organization through which pro bono lawyers provide free legal advice and representation to low- and modest-income individuals on a wide range of legal issues.

“In 2025 the Court referred 329 self-represented litigants to Access Pro Bono (279 to appellants and 50 to respondents).”

In 2025 the Court referred 329 self-represented litigants to Access Pro Bono (279 appellants and 50 respondents). Referral counsel received 128 inquiries from self-represented litigants in response to those offers. Ninety-nine litigants then received services from pro bono lawyers, including 25 litigants who received pro bono representation services before the Court of Appeal. The lawyers who volunteered their time to assist with appeals involving self-represented litigants in 2025 were:

James Anderson	Courtney Gibbons	Matt Ostrow
Jonathan Andrews	Hannah Gowans	Patrick Palmer
Daniel Babcock	Adam Goldenberg	James Parker
Trevor Bant	Cyrus Haghighi	Brogan Pastro
Gordon Behan	Stephanie Hamilton	Tom Posyniak
Kate Blomfield	Brandon Hastings	Declan Redman
Niles Bond	Layne Hellrung	Puneet Riar
Jake Cabott	Grace Hermansen	Logan Rogers
Alison Colpitts	Jeff Hernaez	Joel Schachter
Michelle de Haas	Andrew Hindi	Betsy Segal
Jesse Desilets	Trudy Hopman	Rachael Sider
Wes Dutcher-Walls	Amanda James	Vandana Sood
Devin Eeg	Nojan Kamoosi	Taylor Stone
Robert Fischer	Nathan Lapper	Wana Wafa
Candace Formosa	Michael McDonald	Alex Wang
Malcolm Funt	Kathryn McGoldrick	Rachel Wollenberg
Shauna Gersbach	Caitlin Ohama-Darcus	

As part of the program, a list of mentorship counsel has been developed to give less experienced lawyers advice and assistance on the conduct of appeals taken through the program. Thank you to the following lawyers for their help mentoring their colleagues in the Court:

Todd Bell	Trudy Hopman
The Honourable Russell Brown, KC	Randy Kaardal, KC
The Honourable Edward Chiasson, KC	Richard Lindsay, KC
The Honourable Thomas Cromwell, KC	The Honourable Ken Mackenzie, KC
Tim Delaney, KC	Dinyar Marzban, KC
John Dives, KC	Joe McArthur, KC
The Honourable David Frankel, KC	The Honourable Robert Sewell, KC
Andrew Gay, KC	William Storey

In 2025 the Court of Appeal Program conducted the following training sessions:

- March 3, 2025: ***Overview of Access Pro Bono’s Court of Appeal Program***
 - Presenters: The Honourable David Frankel, KC, Claire Hunter, KC (Hunter Litigation Chambers), Timothy Outerbridge (Registrar, BC Court of Appeal), and Trevor Bant (APB Board Chair)
- April 2, 2025: ***Family Appeals for Non-Family Lawyers***
 - Presenters: The Honourable Justice Bruce Butler (BC Court of Appeal), Todd Bell (Farris LLP), Dinyar Marzban, KC (Jenkins Marzban Logan LLP), Alison Colpitts (Clark Wilson LLP)
- May 1, 2025: ***Working Effectively with Self-Represented Litigants***
 - Presenters: Claire Hunter, KC (Hunter Litigation Chambers), Trevor Bant (APB Board Chair), Caitlin Ohama-Darcus (Lawson Lundell LLP)

Finally, the Court would like to thank the members of the legal community who provided training sessions to counsel on the conduct of an appeal.

The services of these lawyers who act in an advisory capacity, pro bono capacity, or with greatly reduced fees is a valuable service to the Court and the public for which the Court expresses its sincere appreciation.

RULES AND PRACTICE COMMITTEE

MEMBERS

The Honourable Chief Justice Marchand
The Honourable Mr. Justice Groberman (until November 7, 2025)
The Honourable Mr. Justice Willcock (Chair)
The Honourable Mr. Justice Abrioux (until November 7, 2025)
The Honourable Justice Horsman
The Honourable Justice Winteringham
The Honourable Justice Riley (from November 7, 2025)
The Honourable Justice Gomery (from November 7, 2025)
Timothy Outerbridge, Registrar
Tasneem Karbani, Legal Counsel

The Court of Appeal Rules and Practice Committee reviews, enhances, and simplifies the practice and procedure of the Court. The Committee meets regularly throughout the year to discuss any proposals from the justices of the Court, the Registrar, lawyers, and the public for amendments to the [Court of Appeal Act](#), the [Court of Appeal Rules](#), and the [Court of Appeal Criminal Appeal Rules, 1986](#). When there is a proposal that would significantly change the Court’s practice and procedure, the Committee consults with members of the bar and legal organizations.

PRACTICE DIRECTIVES AND RULES AMENDMENTS

In March 2025, the *Court of Appeal Rules* were amended to include updates to limited appeal orders (R. 11), the preparation of transcripts (R. 24), the process for varying or cancelling an order of a justice or registrar (R. 62–63), and the framework for determining whether to grant no fee status (R. 85; Form 22). The amendments to Rule 85 for no fees payable allow the Registrar to first determine the criteria for undue hardship so a judge at the hearing can then focus on assessing the merits of the claim. The financial criteria the Registrar considers on such applications are also available on the Court’s website, allowing applicants to see if they qualify for status under R. 85.

In September, the Court also changed the way it pronounces reserved judgments. The new practice directive on the [Pronouncement of Reserved Judgments](#) provides that reserved judgments are now pronounced by publishing reasons for judgment on the Court’s website on the date of release at the time specified on the [upcoming judgments list](#). Pronouncements of reserved judgments by a justice in open court may still take place in special circumstances.

“The new practice directive on the Pronouncement of Reserved Judgments provides that reserved judgments are now pronounced by publishing reasons for judgment on the Court’s website on the date of release at the time specified on the upcoming judgments list.”

RESPONDING TO ACT AND RULES SURVEY

The Court continued to consider and respond to feedback from its 2024 survey on the new *Court of Appeal Act* and *Rules*. For example, the Court’s homepage has been re-designed to highlight frequently asked questions about the Court’s appeal processes and to provide easy-to-access links to the main resources any litigant needs. The Court also updated its website with respect to Forms and Completion Instructions to make it easier for users to navigate and understand. For criminal appeals, the Court provided updated guidance to users on using Forms, Completion Instructions, and templates. Users are also able to view samples of appeal books and factums online to help prepare their own appeal materials. The Registrar updated his Filing Directive to allow for chambers records over 300 pages to be filed electronically unless the Registrar requests paper copies be provided prior to the hearing. All these efforts are part of the Court’s efforts to modernize and increase ease of access to its processes.

“The Registrar updated his Filing Directive to allow for chambers records over 300 pages to be filed electronically unless the Registrar requests paper copies be provided prior to the hearing. All these efforts are part of the Court’s efforts to modernize and increase ease of access to its processes.”

CRIMINAL ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE AND RULES REFORM INITIATIVE

As part of the Criminal Rules Reform Initiative, the Court circulated a [Discussion Paper](#) for its external and internal consultation process from February to May 2025. Members of the bar, litigants, legal organizations, and judges were invited to provide feedback on the current criminal appeal processes and areas for the Court to consider refining, clarifying, modernizing, or changing overall. Based on the feedback received, the Court continues to work with the Criminal Rules Working Group in moving this initiative forward and establishing a framework for the new set of Criminal Appeal Rules.

The new framework will focus on harmonizing and consolidating the Court’s current criminal rules, Practice Directives, and matters within the jurisdiction of the Court to update the existing practices of the Court. The Court anticipates engaging in further consultation with members of the bar, litigants, and legal organizations once a new version of the Rules is drafted.

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

MEMBERS

The Honourable Chief Justice Marchand (*ex officio*)

The Honourable Justice Griffin (Chair)

The Honourable Justice Donegan

The Honourable Justice Edelmann

Timothy Outerbridge, Registrar

Heidi McBride, KC, Chief Legal and Executive Officer

Shirley Smiley, Legal Counsel

Christine Gergich, Appellate Court Records Officer

Ryan Wirth, Director, Information Technology

The Court of Appeal Technology Committee supervises projects meant to enhance the use of technology in the Court of Appeal. The following matters were considered in 2025:

COURTROOM OF THE FUTURE PROJECT

As reported in 2024, work continues on a project to update Courtroom 60. In 2024, the Court approved conceptual designs and by the end of 2025 those designs were largely approved. Construction of the project will be released to tender in 2026, with the expectation that, if a successful bid is made, construction will start in 2026.

ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES

The Court has now fully implemented electronic signatures for reasons for judgment and is working on the final stages of implementation for orders. Once orders are fully digital, the Court will be closer to having a fully digital record on civil proceedings.

“The Court has now fully implemented electronic signatures for reasons for judgment and is working on the final stages of implementation for orders. Once orders are fully digital, the Court will be closer to having a fully digital record on civil proceedings.”

SUPERIOR COURTS JUDICIARY WORKING PREFERENCES SURVEY

In the summer of 2025, the Court conducted a survey of judges to examine their working preferences. Responses to that survey showed that judges are largely content with paper appeal records, factums, and condensed books with the remainder of documents filed electronically. Over half the Court preferred working with laptops and additional computer screens in the Courtroom.

AI-ASSISTED TRANSCRIPTION

In addition to the pilot discussed in the 2024 annual report, the Court Services Branch began a project in Supreme Court that would use auto-transcription to generate a “rough” uncertified transcript for lawyers to use in place of daily transcripts. This is the beginning of a larger project to try AI-assisted auto-transcription, which may have the effect of eventually cutting the costs of a transcript in the Court of Appeal.

PAPERLESS SMALLER APPEALS PROJECT

As part of the recent consultation on the civil rules, this Committee (along with the Rules Committee) approved a proposal that the Court allow parties to pursue smaller appeals electronically (without any paper factums, appeal books, appeal records, or condensed books). The Rules Committee also approved a proposal to allow tribunals from which direct appeals may be taken to this Court to file their digital records rather than having parties prepare them. The Registrar is continuing to investigate and implement these proposals. Both of these projects aim to reduce the cost of appeals.

MODERNIZATION OF THE COURT OF APPEAL’S WEBSITE

There have been ongoing discussions about updating the Court’s website to a more user-friendly and modern format; however, the Court has not yet been able to obtain the necessary funding to proceed.

AI GENERATED SUMMARIES BY CANLII

In June 2024, CanLII announced the availability of AI-generated summaries of Alberta, Manitoba, PEI and Saskatchewan legislation and cases. Summaries are now freely available behind the “AI analysis” tab for cases from these jurisdictions and from Ontario, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Northwest Territories, and Yukon.

The Committee will continue to monitor the introduction of AI summaries for British Columbia Court of Appeal decisions. The Committee will also continue to monitor the increasing use of this Court’s decisions in AI-assisted legal research tools and platforms.

ENHANCEMENTS TO WEBCATS

WebCATS is the Court of Appeal’s electronic case management system. Every year, improvements are made in response to user feedback to ensure the system meets the demands of the Court, the Registry,

“The Committee will continue to monitor the introduction of AI summaries for British Columbia Court of Appeal decisions. The Committee will also continue to monitor the increasing use of this Court’s decisions in AI assisted legal research tools and platforms.”

and the public. In 2025, there were several updates and discrete enhancements made to WebCATS by the information technology team. The following were the most significant:

- Changes were made to facilitate the Court's decision to pronounce reserve judgments virtually rather than in Court, including a new report displaying the judgments that were scheduled for release;
- Changes were made to properly track cases that are referred to a division, such as for summary dismissal or decisions in relation to costs; and
- Changes were made that streamline the upload processes for the transcription and release of oral judgments.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

MEMBERS

The Honourable Mr. Justice Abrioux (Chair)
The Honourable Justice Iyer
The Honourable Justice Riley
The Honourable Justice MacNaughton (from May 2025)
Tasneem Karbani, Legal Counsel

The Education Committee is responsible for identifying and organizing educational opportunities for judges. The programs offered are intended to further the objectives in the Canadian Judicial Council Professional Development Policies and Guidelines, which provide that judicial education should encompass a three-dimensional approach: (a) substantive content; (b) skills development; and (c) social context awareness. Individual judges are accountable for their own ongoing professional development.

Each year, the Committee also reviews and edits the Court’s manuals on appellate practice and procedures.

In 2025, the Committee organized the following educational programs:

8 January 2025	<u>The Process Leading to and the Canadian Judicial Council’s Review Procedures 2023</u> Former Chief Justice Hinkson
6 February 2025	<u>Collegiality</u> Justice Fenlon and Justice DeWitt-Van Oosten
12 March 2025	<u>Digital Assets</u> Dr. Robert Chambers (TRU Law)
9 April 2025	<u>Timely Topics in Canadian Insolvency Law</u> Dr. Janis Sarra (Allard Law, UBC)
9 May 2025	<u>Reconciliation</u> Doug White, K.C. (Special Counsel, Office of the Premier)
10 September 2025	<u>Criminal Appeal Practice</u> Justice DeWitt-Van Oosten, Justice Winteringham, and Justice Riley
8 October 2025	<u>What Does a Good Faith Claim Actually Require?</u> Dr. Krish Maharaj (TRU Law)

“Individual judges are accountable for their own ongoing professional development. Each year, the Committee also reviews and edits the Court’s manuals on appellate practice and procedures.”

7 November 2025	<u>Justice, Agency, and Constraint in the Court of Appeal</u> Dr. Emma Cunliffe (Allard Law, UBC) and Dr. Patricia Cochran (UVic Law)
10 December 2025	<u>Digital Hygiene for Judges: Staying Safe in a Connected World</u> Ryan Wirth (SCJ IT Director)

In 2025, the Committee also organized several educational sessions for new colleagues to assist them in their transition to the Court.

JOINT COURTS TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

MEMBERS

The Honourable Justice Griffin

The Honourable Mr. Justice Masuhara (Chair)

The Honourable Justice Branch

The Honourable Madam Justice Fitzpatrick

The Honourable Justice Giaschi

The Honourable Justice Majawa

Associate Judge Nielsen

Timothy Outerbridge, Registrar, Court of Appeal

Heidi McBride, KC, Chief Legal and Executive Officer

Cindy Friesen, Director, Supreme Court Scheduling

Ryan Wirth, Director, Information Technology

Line B. Williams, 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 2025, the Committee focused on the selection, purchase and deployment of new laptops and associated hardware and software to the judiciary."

In 2025, the Committee focused on the selection, purchase and deployment of new laptops and associated hardware and software for the judiciary.

In collaboration with Court Services Branch, the Supreme Court expanded the Associate Judges Chambers Pilot Project to create virtual associate judges' chambers where applications from across the province will be heard remotely. Initially virtual hearings are restricted to proceedings in registries outside Vancouver and New Westminster. If the project is successful, virtual chambers hearings may be further expanded.

In both the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court, the online booking of hearings is increasing, with the Supreme Court announcing an expansion to online booking of civil and family long chambers hearings commencing January 1, 2026.

In collaboration with Court Services Branch, the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court participated in and evaluated a pilot project to review the utility of AI-based automated transcription software.

The Committee continues to review the impacts of the rapid development and expansion of functionality of large language models on the Courts' work. The Committee remains concerned about professional and ethical issues arising with the use of artificial intelligence-based tools.

JUDICIAL ACCESS POLICY WORKING COMMITTEE

MEMBERS

Leah Pence, Legal Counsel, Supreme Court (Chair)

Shirley Smiley, Legal Counsel, Court of Appeal

Caroline Berkey, Senior Legal Counsel, Provincial Court (until March 2025)

Laura Devries, Legal Counsel, Provincial Court

Dan Chiddell, Executive Director, Corporate Support, CSB (until October 2025)

Stephanie Delacretaz, Director, Strategic Information & Business Applications, Corporate Support, CSB

Sarah Kay, Secretariat and Legal Counsel, Legal Services Branch

Jeanette Schoon, Senior Policy Analyst, CSB

Erin Turner, Director, Policy, Legislation and Planning, Policy and Service Reform Unit, CSB

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 (APWC) is a joint committee consisting of representatives from all three courts and Court Services Branch (CSB) employees. The APWC reviews applications for bulk, special and/or electronic access to court record information. The APWC no longer reviews applications to use reasons for judgment for a primarily commercial activity as those applications are submitted directly to the applicable court.

The APWC is not a decision-making body, but rather a review and discussion forum for judicial representatives and CSB senior staff involved in policy, legislation, data custodianship, statistics and court systems management. Final decisions on applications made to the APWC for access to court records or court record information are made by the Chief Justice(s) and/or Chief Judge, as applicable, and communicated to the applicant through the APWC's Secretariat.

In addition, the APWC develops and revises policies relating to access to court records, particularly those in bulk and electronic format, and seeks guidance and approval for such policies. The Chief Justices and Chief Judge give approval before a policy is adopted.

"The Chief Justices and Chief Judge give approval before a policy is adopted."

WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

As in previous years, in 2025, the APWC received, considered, and made recommendations in respect of several applications for access to court record information from a variety of sources including government agencies, non-profit organizations, and private companies.

The Three Courts Policy on Bulk and Electronic Access to Court Records guided consideration of these requests. The policy provides that requests for bulk access to court records or court record information must be consistent with:

- the principles of judicial independence;
- the purposes of providing electronic filing and electronic access to information in court records - to better facilitate the conduct of court proceedings and to improve access to court record information where the public interest is served;
- maintaining public confidence in the integrity of the court system and understanding of the administration of justice;
- the law; and
- judicial access policies, court rules and practice directions.

“Bulk or special access is not provided when the information is collected, used or disclosed to further a commercial activity unless the applicant can demonstrate the primary purpose of the activity is a valid scholarly, journalistic, research or government purpose, or that granting access will otherwise support the administration of justice or is in the public interest.”

Bulk or special access is not provided when the information is collected, used or disclosed to further a commercial activity unless the applicant can demonstrate the primary purpose of the activity is a valid scholarly, journalistic, research or government purpose, or that granting access will otherwise support the administration of justice or is in the public interest. In addition, bulk or special access will not be provided if the technical functionality of the system cannot support the request or if there are insufficient resources to meet the requirements of the request.

The APWC also reviewed electronic access agreements created for applications approved by the courts.

LAW CLERK COMMITTEE

MEMBERS

The Honourable Justice Dickson (Chair, from November 7, 2025)

The Honourable Justice Fisher (Chair, until November 7, 2025)

The Honourable Justice Griffin

The Honourable Justice Butler (until November 7, 2025)

The Honourable Justice Voith (until February 21, 2025)

The Honourable Justice Horsman (from November 7, 2025)

The Honourable Justice Iyer (from November 7, 2025)

Sally Rudolf, Legal Counsel

Shirley Smiley, Legal Counsel

The Law Clerk Committee supervises and provides policy support related to the Court of Appeal’s judicial law clerk program. Legal counsel manage and supervise law clerks day-to-day and provide outreach, hiring, and training support. One of the Committee’s main tasks is to interview candidates for selection as judicial law clerks following a first round of interviews conducted by legal counsel for the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court.

“In January 2025, the judicial law clerk program received 178 applications for 35 law clerk positions at both courts for the 2026–2027 term (12 positions at the Court of Appeal and 23 at the Supreme Court).”

In January 2025, the judicial law clerk program received 178 applications for 35 law clerk positions at both courts for the 2026–2027 term (12 positions at the Court of Appeal and 23 at the Supreme Court). Most applicants attended law school in British Columbia at Peter A. Allard School of Law, the University of Victoria, or Thompson Rivers University. Applications were also received from students trained across Canada and internationally.

In February, legal counsel from both courts completed first interviews with 86 students. In early March, judicial members of the Court of Appeal Law Clerk Committee interviewed 24 shortlisted applicants, and selected 12 law clerks (from Allard, UVic, Dalhousie, University of New Brunswick, McGill, and University of Ottawa). The Committee continued its practice of completing all interviews by video conference.

In the fall of 2025, judicial law clerks hired for the 2025-2026 clerking cycle arrived at the Court and completed a comprehensive orientation program in coordination with law clerks hired to work in the Supreme Court.

Detailed information is updated for the new application cycle each fall and is available on the Court’s website on the judicial law clerks program page. In October and November, the Court provided in-person information sessions for law students at Allard Hall, UVic, and TRU. The Court also facilitated three online information and outreach sessions for law students who identify as Black, Indigenous, and 2SLGBTQIA+.

The Committee thanks legal counsel Sally Rudolf, Shirley Smiley, Jennifer Millerd and Natasha Edgar, as well as Kristine Dhamrait, Queen Lee and Ethan McMullan for their assistance and administrative support.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

MEMBERS

Justice Kate Ker (Chair)

Justice Gail Dickson

Justice Sandra Wilkinson

Heidi McBride, KC, Chief Legal and Executive Officer

Sylvia Ranspach, Librarian

WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

“The library distributed timely current awareness on case law, legislation, publications, and upcoming events.”

In 2025, the Judges’ Library staff, under the leadership of librarian Sylvia Ranspach, maintained a SharePoint library site, library catalogue, finding tools and subject matter resource guides. The library distributed timely current awareness on case law, legislation, publications, and upcoming events. Ms. Ranspach managed subscriptions to optimize electronic access while keeping the print collection current. Ms. Ranspach provided regular training to judges, law clerks, and other judicial staff. The Judges’ Library continued to cull old and unused print volumes from courthouses across the province.

The judiciary is very well served by Ms. Ranspach, along with library technician, Connie Kang.

MEMBERS OF THE COURT OF APPEAL

CHIEF JUSTICE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Chief Justice Leonard Marchand

- September 3, 2013 (Provincial Court)
- June 21, 2017 (Supreme Court)
- March 24, 2021 (Court of Appeal)
- December 7, 2023 (Chief Justice of British Columbia)

JUSTICES OF THE COURT OF APPEAL

Mr. Justice Harvey M. Groberman

- December 14, 2001 (Supreme Court)
- May 8, 2008 (Court of Appeal)
- February 1, 2021 (Supernumerary)

Madam Justice Elizabeth A. Bennett

- August 27, 1997 (Supreme Court)
- May 14, 2009 (Court of Appeal)
- February 1, 2017 (Supernumerary)
- September 1, 2025 (Retired)

Mr. Justice David C. Harris

- March 19, 2010 (Supreme Court)
- April 5, 2012 (Court of Appeal)
- January 1, 2025 (Supernumerary)

Mr. Justice Peter M. Willcock

- June 19, 2009 (Supreme Court)
- June 6, 2013 (Court of Appeal)
- June 19, 2024 (Supernumerary)

Madam Justice Lauri Ann Fenlon

- January 31, 2008 (Supreme Court)
- June 19, 2015 (Court of Appeal)
- July 1, 2025 (Supernumerary)

Justice Gail M. Dickson

- December 15, 2006 (Supreme Court)
- July 28, 2015 (Court of Appeal)
- December 1, 2022 (Supernumerary)

Madam Justice Barbara L. Fisher

- November 26, 2004 (Supreme Court)
- September 15, 2017 (Court of Appeal)
- January 2, 2020 (Supernumerary)

Justice Susan A. Griffin

- February 20, 2008 (Supreme Court)
- February 7, 2018 (Court of Appeal)
- December 13, 2024 (Supernumerary)

Mr. Justice G. Bruce Butler

- March 30, 2007 (Supreme Court)
- August 29, 2018 (Court of Appeal)
- April 1, 2022 (Supernumerary)

Mr. Justice Patrice Abrioux

- September 30, 2011 (Supreme Court)
- March 7, 2019 (Court of Appeal)
- April 25, 2025 (Supernumerary)

Madam Justice M. Joyce DeWitt-Van Oosten

- October 20, 2016 (Supreme Court)
- May 6, 2019 (Court of Appeal)

Mr. Justice J. Christopher Grauer

- April 11, 2008 (Supreme Court)
- December 20, 2019 (Court of Appeal)
- January 1, 2023 (Supernumerary)

Mr. Justice Peter G. Voith

- January 22, 2009 (Supreme Court)
- September 9, 2020 (Court of Appeal)
- September 1, 2024 (Supernumerary)
- February 21, 2025 (Retired)

Madam Justice Karen Horsman

- August 31, 2018 (Supreme Court)
- April 20, 2022 (Court of Appeal)

Justice Janet Winteringham

- August 15, 2017 (Supreme Court)
- December 4, 2023 (Court of Appeal)

Justice Margot L. Fleming

- June 6, 2013 (Supreme Court)
- May 27, 2024 (Court of Appeal)

Justice Nitya Iyer

- June 14, 2017 (Supreme Court)
- May 27, 2024 (Court of Appeal)

Justice Sheri A. Donegan

- October 4, 2010 (Provincial Court)
- June 6, 2013 (Supreme Court)

- August 29, 2024 (Court of Appeal)

Justice W. Paul Riley

- May 12, 2017 (Supreme Court)
- August 29, 2024 (Court of Appeal)

Justice Peter H. Edlmann

- December 20, 2019 (Supreme Court)
- October 28, 2024 (Court of Appeal)

Justice Geoffrey B. Gomery

- June 15, 2018 (Supreme Court)
- November 12, 2024 (Court of Appeal)

Justice Lisa A. Warren

- June 6, 2013 (Supreme Court)
- March 3, 2025 (Court of Appeal)

Justice Andrew P. A. Mayer

- April 12, 2017 (Supreme Court)
- March 3, 2025 (Court of Appeal)

Justice Heather MacNaughton

- October 20, 2016 (Supreme Court)
- March 7, 2025 (Court of Appeal)

Justice Michael J. Brundrett

- June 26, 2017 (Supreme Court)
- November 17, 2025 (Court of Appeal)

Justice Amy D. Francis

- March 8, 2019 (Supreme Court)
- November 17, 2025 (Court of Appeal)

CHANGES TO THE COURT’S COMPLEMENT

“At the end of 2025 the Court was at full complement.”

The Court began 2025 with two vacancies. Three additional vacancies were created with the supernumerary elections of Justices Harris, Fenlon and Abrioux. All five vacancies were filled by the appointments of Justices Warren, Mayer, MacNaughton, Brundrett, and Francis. At the end of 2025, the Court was at full complement.

Justice Voith’s retirement in February and Justice Bennett’s retirement in August did not create vacancies as they had previously elected supernumerary status.

APPOINTMENTS

The Honourable Justice Lisa A. Warren

The Honourable Justice Lisa Warren was appointed to the Court of Appeal for British Columbia and the Court of Appeal of Yukon on March 3, 2025. She was previously appointed to the Supreme Court of British Columbia on June 6, 2013.

Justice Warren was born in Nanaimo and grew up in North Vancouver. She obtained her LLB from the University of British Columbia Faculty of Law in 1990 and was called to the BC Bar in 1991 after articling at Farris, Vaughn, Wills & Murphy.

From 1993 to 2007 Justice Warren was an associate, then partner, at Farris. She maintained a wide ranging and complex civil litigation practice, appearing at all levels of court in British Columbia, various administrative tribunals, and before the Supreme Court of Canada. She then served as Director of Legal Services, Physician Services Secretariat, for the Health Employers Association of BC from 2007 - 2013.

Throughout her time in practice Justice Warren made tremendous contributions to the legal community and to the public. She is recognized for concise, clear reasoning in the face of complex disputes.

The Court welcomes her appointment.

The Honourable Justice Andrew P.A. Mayer

The Honourable Justice Andrew P.A. Mayer was appointed to the Court of Appeal for British Columbia and the Court of Appeal of Yukon on March 3, 2025. He was previously appointed to the Supreme Court of British Columbia on April 13, 2017.

Justice Mayer was born in Chemainus, the fifth of six children in one of a small number of South Asian families living in the Cowichan Valley. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of British Columbia, then worked for several years in container and terminal operations in the Vancouver Harbour before studying law at Dalhousie University. He returned to British Columbia where he was called to the Bar in 2000 and began practicing with Campney and Murphy. In 2002, he moved to Bernard LLP where he developed a varied practice that included corporate and commercial law, administrative law, aboriginal law, marine and environment law.

In 2008, Justice Mayer chose to set up a life in Prince Rupert where he raised his four children in the comfort of a smaller community and became very active in civic life. From 2008 – 2017, Justice Mayer served as General Counsel and Vice President of Commercial and Regulatory Affairs at the Prince Rupert Port Authority. He continued to serve Prince Rupert when he was appointed to the Supreme Court in 2017.

Justice Mayer’s unique appreciation of the people, places and livelihoods of British Columbians is informed by a genuine curiosity and enthusiasm for learning.

The Court welcomes his appointment.

The Honourable Justice Heather MacNaughton

The Honourable Justice Heather MacNaughton was appointed to the Court of Appeal for British Columbia and the Court of Appeal of Yukon on March 7, 2025. She was previously appointed to the Supreme Court of British Columbia in 2016.

Justice MacNaughton was born and raised in Inverness, Scotland, the eldest child in a large and proud Scottish family. During her teen years, Justice MacNaughton’s family immigrated to Canada and made their home in Ontario. Justice MacNaughton attended Brock University where she earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1979, and then attended Osgoode Hall, obtaining her LLB in 1982. She articulated in Toronto at Lash Johnston and was called to the Bar in 1984. Justice MacNaughton began her practice as an associate and then partner at Lange, Michener, Lawrence & Shaw in Toronto.

In 1988, Justice MacNaughton returned to Osgoode Hall for graduate studies, earning an LLM with a focus on civil litigation and alternative dispute resolution. Before moving to British Columbia, Justice MacNaughton served as Chair and Vice Chair of the Ontario Human Rights Board of Inquiry and the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Ontario Pay Equity Hearings Tribunal. In 2000, she took on the role of Chair for the BC Human Rights Tribunal. On June 1, 2011, she was appointed a Master (now Associate Judge) of the British Columbia Supreme Court and five years later she was appointed a Justice of that court.

Justice MacNaughton is known to be hard working, fair minded, with incredible organizational skills and talent. She has been a well-loved and generous mentor at every stage of her demanding career.

The Court welcomes her appointment.

The Honourable Justice Michael J. Brundrett

The Honourable Justice Michael J. Brundrett was appointed to the Court of Appeal for British Columbia and the Court of Appeal of Yukon on November 17, 2025. He was previously appointed to the Supreme Court of British Columbia on June 21, 2017.

Justice Brundrett received his Bachelor of Arts in political science from the University of British Columbia in 1988 and his LL.B. from the University of Toronto in 1991. He was called to the BC Bar in 1992. He conducted federal prosecutions for two years before joining the BC Prosecution Service in 1994, where he handled cases in all areas of criminal law. After 2005, he moved to the British Columbia Ministry of Justice appeals office, where he conducted appeals in the Court of Appeal for British Columbia and the Supreme Court of Canada.

Justice Brundrett has a longstanding commitment to legal education. He was chair of the Canadian Bar Association BC Branch Professional Development Committee and a co-editor of the *Working Manual of Criminal Law*. He has chaired and organized continuing legal education conferences and provided numerous presentations on criminal and constitutional law topics, evidence, advocacy, and legal writing. He has also authored training materials, served as a guest instructor at the Law Society's Practical Legal Training Course, and volunteered as a guest speaker and coordinator of the advanced advocacy program at the University of British Columbia's Peter A. Allard School of Law. As a justice of the Supreme Court for over eight years, he was a member of the family law, criminal law, and education committees.

The Court welcomes his appointment.

The Honourable Justice Amy D. Francis

The Honourable Justice Amy Francis was appointed to the Court of Appeal for British Columbia and the Court of Appeal of Yukon on November 17, 2025. She was previously appointed to the Supreme Court of British Columbia on March 8, 2019.

Justice Francis was born and raised in Vancouver. She received a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in English Literature from the University of British Columbia in 1994. After a year of travel, she began law school at the University of Toronto. She took a year off between her second and third years at law school to

extend a summer internship in post-apartheid South Africa, doing test case litigation under the then-new Bill of Rights. She obtained her Bachelor of Laws in 1999 and was called to the bars of British Columbia and Ontario in 2001.

In her early career, Justice Francis practiced in the litigation departments of several national law firms and worked as a tax litigator for the federal Department of Justice. In 2006, she returned to private practice as a trust and estate litigator at Legacy Tax + Trust Lawyers, where she worked until her appointment to the bench. While in practice, Justice Francis made many contributions to the profession. She wrote and spoke extensively on matters relating to trusts and estates, and for a time was chair of the Wills and Trusts Section of the British Columbia Branch of the Canadian Bar Association. She also taught succession law as an adjunct professor at the Allard School of Law at UBC.

Throughout her career, Justice Francis has been recognized for her intelligence, compassion and enthusiasm.

The Court welcomes her appointment.

RETIREMENTS

The Honourable Mr. Justice Peter G. Voith

The Honourable Mr. Justice Peter Voith retired from the Court of Appeal for British Columbia and the Court of Appeal of Yukon on February 21, 2025.

Justice Voith was appointed to the BC Supreme Court on January 22, 2009 and to the Court of Appeal on September 9, 2020. He approached his decades on the bench with humility, often speaking with open admiration for the gifts of others – the legal acumen and approachability of his fellow judges, the thoughtful assistance provided by registry staff, the sharp analysis and levity of his law clerks, and the meticulous contributions of judicial administrative assistants. He understood himself to be part of a cherished team pulling together to serve the public and the interests of justice. He strove each day to bring what he recognized in others to his own work. With the quiet diligence and warmth that defined all his efforts, Justice Voith became an example of the best among us.

Justice Voith was born in Budapest, Hungary, and grew up in Montreal. The child of an immigrant family he understood their struggle and deeply valued Canada’s democratic institutions. He obtained his undergraduate degree from McGill University (where he played varsity basketball), received his LL.B. from UBC in 1980, and was called to the Bar of British Columbia in 1981. He practiced as a corporate solicitor at Ladner Downs before obtaining an LL.M. from Columbia University in 1983 and a second LL.M. from the University of Cambridge in 1984. He practiced as a barrister with Davis & Co. before co-founding Hunter Voith Litigation Counsel, and later Hunter Litigation Chambers.

Prior to his judicial appointment, Justice Voith was consistently recognized as one of the leading practitioners in commercial and public law. He was appointed Queen’s Counsel in 2004 and was elected a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers in 2007. He also served as a non-bencher member of the Ethics and Discipline Committees for the Law Society of British Columbia. In various legal circles, he has been described as a “rock star”.

Throughout his career, he has been involved with various access to justice initiatives and legal, judicial, and community education programs. He taught as an adjunct professor at UBC Law for 10 years and has spoken at numerous programs and conferences. He has volunteered for several charitable organizations, including as a Director and President of the Justice Education Society.

There is no doubt that Justice Voith made remarkable contributions to the legal profession and to the public over the course of a rich and fulfilling career.

The Court misses his tireless contributions and generous spirit and wishes Justice Voith the gift of time in the company of those he holds most dear.

The Honourable Madam Justice Elizabeth A. Bennett

The Honourable Madam Justice Bennett retired from the Court of Appeal for British Columbia and the Court of Appeal of Yukon on September 1, 2025. Justice Bennett was appointed to the BC Supreme Court in 1997 and to the Court of Appeal in 2009. She was also appointed to the Court Martial Appeal Court of Canada in 1999 and served as Acting Chief Justice of that Court from October 2023 until October 2024. This makes Justice Bennett one of a small handful of judges in British Columbia history who have served simultaneously on three appellate courts.

Born and raised on the shores of Lake Superior in Sault Ste. Marie, Justice Bennett explored various creative pursuits before venturing west to complete an undergraduate degree in criminology at Simon Fraser University. She stayed on to complete law school at the University of British Columbia, graduating in 1981 and then articulated with Len Doust and Ken Smith (later Justice Smith). Justice Bennett was called to the Bar of British Columbia in 1982 and promptly joined the Crown Counsel office of the Ministry of Attorney General, Criminal Justice Branch.

First known in the legal profession as a talented and gritty trial counsel, Justice Bennett went on to specialize in criminal appeals. In 1987, she started in the Criminal Appeals and Special Prosecutions office of the MAG, eventually serving as its Deputy Director. Over a ten-year period, she argued hundreds of matters before the British Columbia Court of Appeal and dozens before the Supreme Court of Canada. In 1994, she was appointed Queen's Counsel and argued before the first all-female division of the British Columbia Court of Appeal (reflecting that it was "about time"). Also in 1994, she took a two-year leave of absence from the Crown to join Richard Peck, Q.C. and Michael Tammen (now Justice Tammen) to practice criminal defence. She rejoined the Criminal Appeals office in 1996 before bringing her unique expertise and breadth of experience to the bench.

Over the course of a very full career, Justice Bennett made enormous contributions to the legal profession. While practicing, she served as a member of the Canadian Bar Association's Supreme Court of Canada liaison committee and as a vice-chair and chair of the National Criminal Justice Section. She was a faculty member for the National Criminal Law Program for four years, serving twice as a program planner. After being appointed to the bench, Justice Bennett served as a co-author of the Working Manual of Criminal Law (Carswell) and of the Canadian Criminal Jury Instructions. Additionally, she co-chaired the Canadian Judicial Council's sub-committee on jury instructions. She has authored and co-

authored numerous publications and has been a trusted mentor on criminal law issues affecting the courts and the broader administration of justice.

Justice Bennett's extraordinary life and career reflect the efforts of a person who is curious, takes risks and rises to every challenge. She has served with the Canadian Armed Forces Reserves, 6th Field Engineer Squadron, raised her two sons, and travelled extensively for work and for the pleasure of meeting people where they are. She has mentored lawyers, judges and law clerks with fierce loyalty, sharing wit and compassion with all those around her. She is one of a kind. The Court will miss her tremendously and wishes her the very best as she embraces the adventures ahead.

IN MEMORIAM

The Honourable John J.L. Hunter

The Court recognizes the passing of the Honourable John J.L. Hunter, former member of the Court of Appeal for British Columbia and the Court of Appeal of Yukon, on May 5, 2025.

John Hunter was appointed to these Courts directly from private practice on April 20, 2017, and he served the public as an appellate judge until his retirement on February 11, 2024. He was a titan in every aspect of his life – student, athlete, lawyer, teacher, mentor, leader, judge, friend and, of course, family man.

Over the course of his truly remarkable career, John was a former president of the British Columbia Law Society and a founding member of Hunter Litigation Chambers. There are innumerable members of the legal profession and the broader public (in British Columbia, Canada and beyond) who knew John, learned from him or received his assistance in one form or another.

The Court extends its condolences to all those affected by this loss.

The Honourable Bryan Williams

The Court recognizes the passing of the Honourable Bryan Williams on September 4, 2025. Bryan Williams served as a Justice of the Court of Appeal for British Columbia and the Court of Appeal of Yukon from 1995 to 1996. He was then appointed Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of British Columbia.

The Court expresses its sympathies to his family and friends.

The Honourable Mary F. Southin

The Court recognizes the passing of the Honourable Mary F. Southin on September 24, 2025.

Mary Southin was a member of the Court of Appeal for British Columbia and the Court of Appeal of Yukon from her appointment in 1988 to October 16, 2006. Her legal and judicial careers are among the most storied in British Columbia's history.

Mary graduated from UBC in 1952 as gold medalist and was called to the bar in 1953. In 1977, she became the first woman to lead a Canadian Law Society. Appointed to the BC Supreme Court in 1985, she transitioned to the Court of Appeal in 1988 and, after more than 30 years in practice, she served the public as a member of the judiciary for a further 21 years.

SENIOR STAFF OF THE COURT OF APPEAL

Timothy Outerbridge	Registrar
Heidi McBride, KC	Chief Legal and Executive Officer, Superior Courts
Ryan Wirth	Director, IT, Superior Courts
Caroline Nguyen	Manager, Finance, Superior Courts
Tracy Norman	Manager, Human Resources, Superior Courts
Jessica Gill	Manager, Judicial Support Services, Superior Courts
Kristine Dhamrait	Assistant Manager, Judicial Support Services
Sally Rudolf	Legal Counsel
Shirley Smiley	Legal Counsel
Tasneem Karbani	Legal Counsel
Linda Rainaldi	Legal Editor
Maria Littlejohn	Associate Registrar
Torri Enderton	Deputy Registrar
Shelly Lin	Registry Manager
Michael Chu	Registry Supervisor
Teresa Smith	Judicial Coordinator to Chief Justice Marchand
Christine Gergich	Supervisor and Appellate Court Records Officer

APPENDIX 1 - CIVIL STATISTICS 2013–2025

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
APPEALS FILED													
Notice of Appeal	587	607	522	514	484	513	515	400	580	595	540	530	593
Leave to Appeal	100	88	96	84	149	86	115	79	97	89	110	118	173
Notice of Appeal & Leave ¹	28	25	26	25	9	6	3	5	1				
TOTAL FILED	715	720	644	623	642	605	633	484	678	684	650	648	766
COURT DISPOSITIONS													
Appeals Allowed	101	101	130	119	115	106	96	80	113	135	93	102	97
Appeals Allowed %	37%	40%	50%	42%	41%	41%	42%	44%	43%	49%	32%	38%	35%
Appeals Dismissed	169	149	131	165	165	155	133	102	147	139	199	170	182
Appeals Dismissed %	63%	60%	50%	58%	59%	59%	58%	56%	57%	51%	68%	63%	65%
TOTAL COURT DISPOSITIONS²	270	250	261	284	280	261	229	182	260	274	292	272	279
Appeals Concluded in Chambers or Abandoned ²	379	420	359	392	368	365	324	223	397	389	423	416	477
TOTAL DISPOSITIONS²	649	670	620	676	648	626	553	405	657	663	715	688	756
Dispositions as % of New Appeals Filed	91%	93%	96%	109%	101%	103%	87%	84%	97%	97%	110%	106%	99%
Judgments Reserved (Court)	201	199	209	226	169	186	171	145	200	255	233	211	247
Judgments Reserved (Chambers)	70	52	70	104	37	32	61	51	65	67	40	22	56
Appeals with 5 Justices	2	3	3	4	4	1	1	1	1	6	2	0	1
Court Applications: Reviews	18	16	26	17	19	22	12	13	19	11	12	12	23
Reviews Granted	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	3	0	0	0	0	2
Reviews Refused	17	14	25	16	17	20	10	10	19	11	12	12	21
Chambers Applications Heard	536	788	639	719	597	676	846	517	697	641	522	526	761
LEAVE TO APPEAL													
Granted	37	36	50	36	50	43	35	23	36	26	21	21	16
Refused	24	19	23	26	27	25	30	16	24	27	19	12	52
TOTAL	61	55	73	62	77	68	65	39	60	53	40	33	68

¹ In 2022, it became impossible to file both a Notice of Appeal and Leave to Appeal together.

² Dispositions were updated for 2016 to 2024.

APPENDIX 2 - CRIMINAL STATISTICS 2013–2025

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
APPEALS FILED													
Sentence	108	174	152	85	97	107	90	49	69	47	52	57	67
Conviction	117	87	93	82	95	118	92	56	71	52	57	50	90
Summary Conviction	9	18	10	11	11	10	11	12	7	10	13	15	9
Acquittal & Other	46	30	41	31	43	23	26	12	24	19	22	18	25
TOTAL FILED	280	309	296	209	246	258	219	129	171	128	144	140	191
COURT DISPOSITIONS													
Appeals Allowed	62	101	44	33	45	33	51	54	39	25	31	27	30
Appeals Allowed %	34%	49%	44%	22%	35%	28%	32%	46%	35%	29%	34%	32%	37%
Appeals Dismissed	121	102	101	115	84	85	110	63	73	60	60	57	51
Appeals Dismissed %	66%	51%	56%	78%	65%	72%	68%	54%	65%	71%	66%	68%	63%
TOTAL¹	183	203	145	148	129	118	161	117	112	85	91	84	81
Summary Dismissals Abandonments in Court/Chambers ¹	129	76	85	98	117	81	69	60	75	63	65	52	42
TOTAL DISPOSITIONS¹	312	279	230	246	246	199	230	177	187	148	156	136	123
Dispositions as % of New Appeals Filed	111%	90%	78%	118%	100%	77%	105%	137%	109%	116%	108%	97%	64%
Judgments Reserved (Court)	97	84	106	78	53	76	87	58	75	62	57	54	56
Judgments Reserved (Chambers)	25	4	8	8	4	7	13	7	7	6	7	12	13
Appeals with 5 Justices	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Chambers Applications Heard	430	438	484	514	583	655	580	466	435	319	257	292	327

¹ Dispositions were updated for year 2016 to 2024

APPENDIX 3 - COMBINED STATISTICS 2013–2025

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
APPEALS FILED	995	1029	940	832	888	863	852	613	849	812	794	788	957
COURT DISPOSITIONS													
Appeals Allowed	163	202	174	152	160	139	147	134	152	160	124	129	127
Appeals Allowed %	36%	45%	43%	35%	39%	37%	38%	45%	41%	45%	32%	36%	35%
Appeals Dismissed	290	251	232	280	249	240	243	165	220	199	259	227	233
Appeals Dismissed %	64%	55%	57%	65%	61%	63%	62%	55%	59%	55%	68%	64%	65%
TOTAL	453	453	406	432	409	379	390	299	372	359	383	356	360
Appeals Concluded in Chambers or Abandoned ²	508	496	444	490	485	446	393	283	472	452	488	468	519
TOTAL DISPOSITIONS²	961	949	850	922	894	825	783	582	844	811	871	824	879
Dispositions as % of New Appeals Filed	97%	92%	90%	111%	101%	96%	92%	95%	99%	100%	110%	105%	92%
Judgments Reserved ¹	393	339	393	416	263	301	332	261	347	390	336	299	372
Appeals with 5 Justices	2	3	3	4	6	2	1	2	0	6	2	0	1
Chambers Applications Heard	966	1226	1123	1233	1180	1331	1426	983	1132	960	779	818	1088

¹ Data corrected to include Judgments Reserved (Chambers)

² Dispositions were updated for year 2016 to 2024



Court of Appeal for British Columbia
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