

2013

SUPREME COURT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

ANNUAL REPORT

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MEMBERS OF THE SUPREME COURT

CHIEF JUSTICE

THE HONOURABLE CHIEF JUSTICE CHRISTOPHER E. HINKSON

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

ASSOCIATE CHIEF JUSTICE

THE HONOURABLE ASSOCIATE CHIEF JUSTICE AUSTIN F. CULLEN

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

THE HONOURABLE CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERT J. BAUMAN

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 20, 1996
- Appointed to the Court of Appeal February 20, 2008
- Appointed Chief Justice of the Supreme Court September 9, 2009
- Appointed Chief Justice of British Columbia June 16, 2013

Justices of the Supreme Court

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE BRUCE I. COHEN [►] (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court March 25, 1987

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE W. GLEN PARRETT [►] (*Prince George*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court February 16, 1990

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE RANDALL S. K. WONG [►] (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Provincial Court February 20, 1974
- Appointed to the County Court September 4, 1981
- Appointed to the Supreme Court July 1, 1990

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE RONALD A. MCKINNON ▶ (*New Westminster*)

- Appointed to the County Court December 5, 1985
- Appointed to the Supreme Court July 1, 1990

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE THOMAS J. MELNICK ▶ (*Cranbrook*)

- Appointed to the County Court October 23, 1987
- Appointed to the Supreme Court July 1, 1990

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE IAN B. JOSEPHSON ▶ (*New Westminster*)

- Appointed to the Provincial Court February 1, 1975
- Appointed to the County Court October 4, 1989
- Appointed to the Supreme Court July 1, 1990

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE IAN C. MEIKLEM ▶ (*Kamloops*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court October 11, 1991

THE HONOURABLE MADAM JUSTICE JACQUELINE L. DORGAN ▶ (*Victoria*)

- Appointed to Supreme Court October 11, 1991

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE RICHARD M. L. BLAIR ▼ (*Kamloops*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 24, 1992

THE HONOURABLE MADAM JUSTICE M. MARVYN KOENIGSBERG ▶ (*Smithers*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court November 27, 1992

THE HONOURABLE MADAM JUSTICE WENDY G. BAKER ▶ (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court May 28, 1993

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE JON S. SIGURDSON ▶ (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court January 27, 1994

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE L. PAUL WILLIAMSON ▼ (*New Westminster*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court January 27, 1994

THE HONOURABLE MADAM JUSTICE MARY A. HUMPHRIES ▶ (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court January 27, 1994

THE HONOURABLE MADAM JUSTICE JANICE R. DILLON ▶ (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court April 25, 1995

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE SELWYN R. ROMILLY ▶ (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Provincial Court November 15, 1974
- Appointed to the Supreme Court November 15, 1995

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE BARRY M. DAVIES ▶ (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court January 10, 1996

THE HONOURABLE MADAM JUSTICE DEBORAH A. KLOEGMAN (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court February 13, 1996

THE HONOURABLE MADAM JUSTICE SUNNI STROMBERG-STEIN ▲ (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Provincial Court December 4, 1989
- Appointed to the Supreme Court February 16, 1996
- Appointed to the Court of Appeal June 6, 2013

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE FRANK W. COLE ▶ (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to Supreme Court March 19, 1996

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE WILLIAM G. E. GRIST ▶ (*CHILLIWACK*)

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

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE T. MARK McEWAN (*Vancouver/Nelson*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court August 7, 1996

THE HONOURABLE MADAM JUSTICE ALISON J. BEAMES (*Kelowna*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court August 7, 1996

THE HONOURABLE MADAM JUSTICE LINDA A. LOO ▶ (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court September 24, 1996

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE GRANT D. BURNYEAT ▶ (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court December 19, 1996

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE MALCOLM D. MACAULAY ▶ (*Victoria*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court March 4, 1997

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE DOUGLAS A. HALFYARD ▶ (*Nanaimo*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 30, 1999

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE ROBERT E. POWERS ▼ (*Kamloops*)

- Appointed District Registrar October 9, 1984
- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court November 20, 1989
- Appointed to the Supreme Court December 16, 1999

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE ROBERT W. METZGER ▼ (*Victoria*)

- Appointed to the Provincial Court April 21, 1980
- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 20, 2000

THE HONOURABLE MADAM JUSTICE HEATHER J. HOLMES (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court March 21, 2001

THE HONOURABLE MADAM JUSTICE CAROL J. ROSS (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court March 21, 2001

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE HARRY A. SLADE (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court March 27, 2001

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE BRIAN M. JOYCE (*Chilliwack*)

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court December 1, 1989
- Appointed to the Supreme Court April 4, 2001

THE HONOURABLE MADAM JUSTICE CATHERINE A. WEDGE (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court April 4, 2001

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE ROBERT CRAWFORD (*New Westminster*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court September 27, 2001

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE RICHARD B. T. GOEPEL ▲ (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court September 27, 2001
- Appointed to the Court of Appeal November 7, 2013

THE HONOURABLE MADAM JUSTICE VICTORIA GRAY (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court September 27, 2001

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE GEOFFREY M. BARROW (*Kelowna*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court December 14, 2001

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE PETER J. ROGERS (*Kelowna*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court December 14, 2001

THE HONOURABLE MADAM JUSTICE BRENDA BROWN (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court April 18, 2002

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE JOHN D. TRUSCOTT (*New Westminster*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court October 10, 2002

THE HONOURABLE MADAM JUSTICE LAURA B. GEROW (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to Supreme Court October 10, 2002

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE JAMES W. WILLIAMS (*New Westminster*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court October 10, 2002

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE DAVID M. MASUHARA (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court October 11, 2002

THE HONOURABLE MADAM JUSTICE SANDRA K. BALLANCE (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court December 11, 2002

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE STEPHEN F. KELLEHER (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court July 24, 2003

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE LANCE W. BERNARD (*New Westminster*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court July 24, 2003

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE WILLIAM EHRCKE (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court October 28, 2003

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE ROBERT JOHNSTON (*Victoria*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court November 26, 2004

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE ARNE H. SILVERMAN (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court November 26, 2004

THE HONOURABLE MADAM JUSTICE BARBARA FISHER (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court November 26, 2004

THE HONOURABLE MADAM JUSTICE ELIZABETH A. ARNOLD-BAILEY (*New Westminster*)

- Appointed to the Provincial Court July 23, 1990
- Appointed to the Supreme Court April 14, 2005

THE HONOURABLE MADAM JUSTICE J. MIRIAM GROPPER (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court April 14, 2005

THE HONOURABLE MADAM JUSTICE LORYL D. RUSSELL (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court April 14, 2005

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE NATHAN H. SMITH (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court May 19, 2005

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE JOEL R. GROVES (*Vancouver*)

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

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE PETER D. LEASK (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court November 22, 2005

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE ELLIOTT M. MYERS (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court November 22, 2005

THE HONOURABLE MADAM JUSTICE CATHERINE J. BRUCE (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Provincial Court May 29, 1998
- Appointed to the Supreme Court September 14, 2006

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE WILLIAM B. SMART [▼] (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court December 15, 2006

THE HONOURABLE MADAM JUSTICE GAIL DICKSON (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court December 15, 2006

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE J. KEITH BRACKEN (*Victoria*)

- Appointed to the Provincial Court February 14, 1991
- Appointed to the Supreme Court March 30, 2007

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE G. BRUCE BUTLER (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court March 30, 2007

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE PAUL J. PEARLMAN (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court January 31, 2008

THE HONOURABLE MADAM JUSTICE LAURI ANN FENLON (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court January 31, 2008

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE GEOFFREY R.J. GAUL (*Victoria*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court January 31, 2008

THE HONOURABLE MADAM JUSTICE SUSAN A. GRIFFIN (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court February 20, 2008

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE J. CHRISTOPHER GRAUER (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court April 11, 2008

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE JOHN E. D. SAVAGE (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court May 5, 2008

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE PAUL W. WALKER (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 18, 2008

THE HONOURABLE MADAM JUSTICE D. JANE DARDI (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 18, 2008

THE HONOURABLE MADAM JUSTICE KATE KER (*New Westminster*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 18, 2008

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE NEILL BROWN (*Chilliwack*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court July 30, 2008

THE HONOURABLE MADAM JUSTICE ELAINE J. ADAIR (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court November 28, 2008

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE ROBERT J. SEWELL (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court January 22, 2009

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE JOHN S. HARVEY (*New Westminster*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court January 22, 2009

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE PETER G. VOITH (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court January 22, 2009

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE FRITS VERHOEVEN (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court January 22, 2009

THE HONOURABLE MADAM JUSTICE HOPE HYSLOP (*Kamloops*)

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court March 21, 2003
- Appointed to the Supreme Court May 15, 2009

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE BRUCE M. GREYELL (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court May 15, 2009

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE TERENCE A. SCHULTES (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court May 15, 2009

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE ROBERT D. PUNNETT (*Prince Rupert*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 19, 2009

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE PETER M. WILLCOCK [▲] (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 19, 2009
- Appointed to the Court of Appeal June 7, 2013

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE GREGORY T. W. BOWDEN (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Provincial Court May 14, 2004
- Appointed to the Supreme Court October 2, 2009

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE BRIAN D. MACKENZIE (*Victoria*)

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

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE ANTHONY SAUNDERS (*New Westminster*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court November 27, 2009

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE S. DEV DLEY (*Kamloops*)

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

THE HONOURABLE MADAM JUSTICE MIRIAM A. MAISONVILLE (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court March 19, 2010

THE HONOURABLE MADAM JUSTICE SHELLEY C. FITZPATRICK (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 18, 2010

THE HONOURABLE MADAM JUSTICE JENNIFER A. POWER (*Victoria*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court August 6, 2010

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE TREVOR C. ARMSTRONG (*New Westminster*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court October 1, 2010

THE HONOURABLE MADAM JUSTICE JEANNE E. WATCHUK (*Vancouver*)

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

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE MURRAY B. BLOK (*New Westminster*)

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

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE D. ALLAN BETTON (*Kelowna*)

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

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE KENNETH AFFLECK (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 24, 2011

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE PATRICE ABRIOUX (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court September 29, 2011

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE RONALD S. TINDALE (*Prince George*)

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

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE GREGORY FITCH (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court October 20, 2011

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE ROBERT W. JENKINS (*New Westminster*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court December 31, 2011

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE GORDON C. WEATHERILL (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court May 31, 2012

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE ROBIN A. M. BAIRD (*Nanaimo*)

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

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE GORDON S. FUNT (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court October 5, 2012

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE JOHN J. STEEVES (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court October 5, 2012

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE KENNETH W. BALL (*New Westminster*)

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

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE DOUGLAS W. THOMPSON (*Nanaimo*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court December 13, 2012

THE HONOURABLE MADAM JUSTICE SHERI ANN DONEGAN (*Kamloops*)

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

THE HONOURABLE MADAM JUSTICE WENDY J. HARRIS (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 6, 2013

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE RONALD A. SKOLROOD (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 6, 2013

THE HONOURABLE MADAM JUSTICE LISA WARREN (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 6, 2013

THE HONOURABLE MADAM JUSTICE MARGOT L. FLEMING (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 6, 2013

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE GARY P. WEATHERILL (*New Westminster*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court October 2, 2013

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE GEORGE K. MACINTOSH (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court December 17, 2013

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE NIGEL P. KENT (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court December 17, 2013

THE HONOURABLE MADAM JUSTICE JENNIFER M.I. DUNCAN (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court December 17, 2013

THE HONOURABLE MADAM JUSTICE NEENA SHARMA (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court December 17, 2013
-

Masters of the Supreme Court

MASTER WILLIAM MCCALLUM (*Victoria*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court November 20, 1989

MASTER DENNIS TOKAREK (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court September 9, 1991

MASTER MICHAEL BISHOP ▼ (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court September 9, 1991

MASTER DOUGLAS BAKER (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court July 16, 1998

MASTER SHELAGH SCARTH (*Vancouver*)

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

MASTER PETER KEIGHLEY (*New Westminster*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court March 8, 2004

MASTER IAN W. CALDWELL (*New Westminster*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court April 18, 2005

MASTER GRANT TAYLOR (*New Westminster*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court July 29, 2005

MASTER BARBARA YOUNG (*New Westminster*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court December 6, 2006

MASTER CAROLYN P. BOUCK (*Victoria*)

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

MASTER HEATHER MACNAUGHTON (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court June 1, 2011

MASTER ROBERT MCDIARMID (*Kamloops*)

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court June 1, 2011

MASTER LESLIE MUIR (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court May 7, 2012
-

Registrar of the Supreme Court

KATHRYN SAINTY, REGISTRAR OF THE SUPREME COURT (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed District Registrar April 1, 2001
 - Appointed Registrar of the Supreme Court April 1, 2001
-

District Registrar of the Supreme Court

STUART R. CAMERON, DISTRICT REGISTRAR (*Vancouver*)

- Date of Appointment - January 31, 2011
-

▲ *Appointed to the Court of Appeal*

▶ *Supernumerary*

▼ *Retired*

JUDICIAL STAFF

Office of the Chief Justice and the Associate Chief Justice

Executive Assistant to Chief Justice Bauman	Gail Woods
Executive Assistant to Chief Justice Hinkson	Elise DuMont
Executive Assistant to Associate Chief Justice Cullen	Mary Williams
Legal Counsel	Christine Joseph, Christine Judd, Jill Leacock, Heidi McBride, Anna Negrin, Kate Phipps

Judicial Administration

Executive Director & Senior Counsel	Frank Kraemer, Q.C.
Director, Human Resources and Support Services	Michelle McConnachie
Director, Information Technology and Finance	Kevin Arens
Director, Supreme Court Scheduling	Cindy Friesen
Assistant to the Executive Director	Tammy McCullough
Assistant to Director, Supreme Court Scheduling and Assistant to Legal Counsel	Andrea Baedak
Judicial Assistant	Michelle Sam
Finance Clerk	Cheryl Steele
Website Administrator	Cynthia Dale
Judicial Administrative Assistant Practice Advisor	Tannes Gentner
Manager, Provincial Registrar's Program	Sheri Rojas

Judicial Administrative Assistants

Vancouver	Adrien Amadeo-Vittone, Jessica Dahyabhai, Chrissy Drew, Joy Eliasson, Diane Gooderham, Diana Hatley, Felipa Ibarrola, Joanne Ivans, Lorrie Jamieson, Maria Koulountzou, Wanda Lam, Beverlee Lea, Amy Mann, Evelyn Mathesius, Laura Munday, Linda Peter, Terri Rockwell, Samantha Servis, Harmesh Shahi, Pooja Suri, Stephanie WyerRose
Chilliwack	Yvonne Samek
Cranbrook	Brenda Pocha
Kamloops	Beckie Allen, Jane Raggatt
Kelowna	Sharon Stegeman, Lana Pardue
Nanaimo	Pat McKeeman, Patricia Robison

Nelson	Kathie Pereverzoff
New Westminster	Barb Gourlay, Bonnie Healy, Raji Johal, Andrea Walker, Carrie Wilke
Prince George	Susan Johns
Smithers	Donna Riel
Victoria	Karen Gurney, Cherry Luscombe, Bonnie Marcaccini, Victoria Osborne-Hughes

Supreme Court Scheduling

Vancouver

Manager, Supreme Court Scheduling, Civil	Sue Smolen
Manager, Supreme Court Scheduling, Criminal	Mary Ellen Pearce
Team Leader & Supreme Court Scheduler	Rhona Ogston
Supreme Court Schedulers	Patricia Acthim, Allison Donnelly, Kim Gunn, Annie Hecimovic, Laura Hill, Christine Hutton, Jeanette McNabb
Data Entry Clerks	Shahla Ehtesham, Daniel Hoyles, William Gallagher, Darlene Marasigan, Elsie Peralta
Provincial Data Entry Clerk	Erica Pizzacalla

Kamloops, Cranbrook, Golden, Revelstoke, Salmon Arm

Manager, Supreme Court Scheduling	Dave McCoy
Supreme Court Schedulers	Beckie Allen, Doreen Czerkowski

Kelowna, Nelson, Penticton, Rossland, Vernon

Manager, Supreme Court Scheduling	Barb Turik
Supreme Court Scheduler	Janine Benson
Data Entry Clerk	Wendy Bissonnette

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

Manager, Supreme Court Scheduling	Cheryl Turner
Supreme Court Scheduler	Michelle Schley
Data Entry Clerk	Lana Madson

New Westminster, Chilliwack

Manager, Supreme Court Scheduling
Supreme Court Schedulers

Tanya Dixon
Allison Donnelly, Leanne Griffith, Jeanette
McNabb, Renuka Pumbhak, Debbie
Soroka, Teresa Smith

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

Manager, Supreme Court Scheduling
Supreme Court Scheduler
Data Entry Clerk

Pamela Wallin
Kelly Parmar
Virginia Kaun

Prince Rupert, Terrace

Manager, Supreme Court Scheduling

Crystal Foerster

Smithers

Manager, Supreme Court Scheduling

Sharon MacGregor

Victoria, Duncan

Manager, Supreme Court Scheduling
Supreme Court Scheduler
Data Entry Clerk

Dianne Lezetc
Jennine Gates, Sandra Smith
Megan Hale

Judges Library

Librarian
Library Technician

Diane Lemieux
Connie Kang

Judgment Office

Reserve Judgment Clerk

Andrea Baedak

Supreme Court Ushers

Supervisor and Appellate Court Records
Officer

Christine Gergich

Ushers

Lyle Bolton, Susan Brokenshire, Gerry
Cumming, Ryan Going, Max Pearce,
Chantelle Sanderson, Darren Scherck,
Alex Smolen

IT Services*

Service Delivery Manager
Help Desk Lead Technician

Help Desk Technician

Mark Hujanen

David Chow, Eddie Chan

Michael Gou, Will Hall, William Huang,

Michael Le, Jimmy Wu

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

REPORT OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE AND THE ASSOCIATE CHIEF JUSTICE

We are pleased to have this opportunity to report on the activities and initiatives of the Court in 2013.

THE WORK OF THE COURT

Generally

The work of the Court is diverse and demanding. In 2013, there was a modest change in the commencement of new proceedings. In civil proceedings, there was a 6% increase in new filings while both family and criminal filings experienced a decline of 3% and 5% respectively. The number of trials heard in 2013 break down into three general areas, with approximately 36% criminal, 21% family and 43 % civil. For more detailed information, please see [Figure 1](#) and [Figure 2](#).

Beyond the subject matter distribution of workload, the Court is dealing with significant workload pressures which are related, at least in part, to a number of factors including

- the amplification of the scope of the law
- the introduction of various case management techniques into the judicial process
- the density and complexity of chambers practice
- the increasing percentages of litigants who are self-represented
- the changing expectations of litigants, lawyers, and the public generally of the justice system

Distribution of Trial Work

As in the past few years, the Lower Mainland (Vancouver, New Westminster and Chilliwack) is the highest volume region in the province ([Figure 10](#) and [Figure 11](#)) with 660 trials heard in 2013.

In the Southern Interior (Cranbrook, Golden, Kamloops, Kelowna, Nelson, Penticton, Revelstoke, Rossland, Salmon Arm, and Vernon) there were 153 trials.

On Vancouver Island (Campbell River, Courtenay, Duncan, Nanaimo, Port Alberni, Powell River, and Victoria) there were 158 trials.

Finally, in the Northern Interior region (Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, Prince George Prince Rupert, Quesnel, Smithers, Terrace, and Williams Lake) there were 106 trials.

The Lower Mainland region accounts for 61% of Supreme Court trials, the Southern Interior accounts for 14%, Vancouver Island accounts for approximately 15% and the Northern Interior accounts for almost 10%.

The population distribution in British Columbia which is mirrored by the distribution of trial work presents the Court with significant scheduling challenges. It is difficult to provide sufficient judicial resources in the Lower Mainland to address the demand for trial time while also ensuring that adequate trial time is made available in other regions of the province.

Conferences

The increase in the number of conferences in recent years (e.g., case planning conferences, judicial case conferences, trial management conferences, etc.) has had a significant impact on the work of the Court both in the number of conferences to be scheduled and the judicial time allocated to conferences. [Figure 3](#) provides comparative data for 2012-2013. In 2013, 7296 conferences were held in civil and family proceedings, which required 4477 hours of judicial time.

The Court welcomed amendments to the *Supreme Court Rules* in 2012 to permit masters to conduct trial management conferences. Masters are particularly skilled at conducting trial management conferences; they very effectively make orders to help the parties focus the scope of trials and serve the objects of the Rules. Their work in this regard assists the Court and the parties in scheduling sufficient trial time and managing its workload. Authorizing masters to conduct trial management conferences provided the Court with greater flexibility to schedule the time of judges and masters. When judges are not required to conduct all trial management conferences, they are available for other work including trials and long chambers applications which fall outside the jurisdiction of a master.

Trials and Long Chambers Applications Bumping Rates

In 2012, 11.8% of trials and 9.5% of long chambers applications scheduled for Vancouver were bumped. Elsewhere in the Province, the bumping statistics were similar: 9.7% of trials and 10.1% of long chambers applications. A matter is considered bumped if it is not commenced or rescheduled within one week of the originally scheduled hearing date because of inadequate judicial resources whether that is courtrooms or available judges. Bumping is expensive and disruptive for litigants and counsel. The Court is aware that its bump rates were too high.

In 2013, the Court was able to reduce the number of scheduled trials and long chambers applications that were bumped. In 2013, 4.6% of scheduled trials and 5% of long chambers applications in Vancouver were bumped. Elsewhere in the province, the bumping rates for 2013 went down to 6% for trials, and 7.3% for long chambers applications. (see [Figure 7](#) and [Figure 9](#) for Vancouver and [Figure 6](#) and [Figure 8](#) for British Columbia).

The Court has reduced the bumping rate by booking fewer civil matters. This has caused longer delays in securing hearing dates for civil trials and long chambers applications.

Family matters are given priority because they are typically more urgent than civil matters. Although the number of bookings for civil cases was reduced, the number of bookings for family trials or long chambers applications was not reduced.

Dates for a five-day family trial are typically available within 4 to 6 months. For a five-day civil trial; however, the wait for available dates is approximately 18 months except for urgent circumstances.

The Court is concerned about delays for scheduling trials and long chambers applications. The bumping rates will be monitored in an effort to ameliorate the situation. As always, the court will continue to accommodate applications that are urgent or involve hardship.

Judicial Vacancies

The Court welcomed the appointment of ten new justices in 2013. Prior to these appointments, the Court had a number of judicial vacancies some of which were quite lengthy. Currently, the Court has one judicial vacancy which is a state of affairs that has not been enjoyed for some time¹. A full complement of judges has obvious consequences for the Court's ability to complete the work of the Court. The appointment of additional justices will assist the Court as it works to ameliorate the delay in scheduling trials and long chambers applications.

SUPREME COURT PRACTICE DIRECTIONS

The Court issued the following Practice Directions in 2013:

[PD-38 Request for Assignment of Judge in Insolvency Proceedings](#)

This Practice Direction sets out the procedure and form that must be used by a party or counsel making a request for assignment of a judge in insolvency proceedings.

[PD-39 Model Discharge Order](#)

This Practice Direction prescribes a standard form of order for the discharge of a receiver appointed in a proceeding pursuant to the *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. B-3 and/or to section 39 of the *Law and Equity Act*, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 253.

[PD-40 Model Approval and Vesting Order](#)

This Practice Direction prescribes a standard form of order for approval and vesting orders in insolvency proceedings.

¹ The Court currently has one vacancy which was created by the appointment of Mr. Justice Slade to the [Specific Claims Tribunal](#) in 2009. To date, there has not been a judicial appointment to fill this vacancy.

PD-41 Restoration of Companies and Societies (Business Corporations Act and Society Act)

This Practice Direction describes the process and the information required by the court on applications to restore a company under the *Business Corporations Act*, S.B.C. 2002 c, 57 or a society under the *Society Act*, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 433. PD - 42 rescinded and replaced PD-19.

PD-42 Masters Jurisdiction

This Practice Direction sets out a direction of the Chief Justice pursuant to Section 11(7) of the *Supreme Court Act*, R.S.B.C. 1996 c. 443, as to the matters in respect of which a master can and cannot exercise jurisdiction. PD-42 rescinded and replaced PD-34.

PD-43 Civil Marriage Act - Procedures for Divorce

This Practice Direction sets out the procedural requirements for a non-resident same sex couple who married in British Columbia to obtain a divorce under the *Civil Marriage Act*, S.C. 2005, c. 33.

FPD-9 Return Applications under the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction - Procedural Requirements

This Practice Direction describes the procedural protocol the Court has adopted to ensure that return applications brought under the *1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction* are dealt with expeditiously. FPD-9 rescinded and replaced FPD-5 and was issued in order to reflect the coming into force of the *Family Law Act*, S.B.C. 2011, c. 25.

FPD-10 Standard Directions for Appeals from Provincial Court - Family Law Act

This Practice Direction provides standard directions governing the conduct of an appeal under Section 233 of the *Family Law Act*, S.B.C. 2011, c. 25. FPD-10 rescinded and replaced FPD - 7.

FPD-11 Divorce Applications

This Practice Direction provides instruction to assist in the preparation of material in support of applications under Rule 10-10 and Rule 11-3 of the *Supreme Court Family Rules*. FPD-11 rescinded and replaced FPD-8.

FPD-12 Judicial Case Conferences

This Practice Direction provides information about the procedure to be followed at a judicial case conference. FPD-12 rescinded and replaced FPD - 4.

EXTRA JUDICIAL ACTIVITIES

In addition to the normal workload of hearing cases and applications, writing and issuing reasons for judgment, out-of-court judicial functions (e.g., desk order divorces and electronic orders) and presiding at numerous case conferences before and after regular court hours (e.g., judicial case conferences, case planning conferences, settlement conferences, judicial management conferences, pre-trial conferences, trial scheduling conferences and trial management conferences), members of the Court participate in a wide variety of other activities in their communities.

Members of the Court speak regularly to high school law and social justice students at schools and on courthouse tours. Members of the Court welcome opportunities to provide a greater understanding of the justice system and its role in Canadian society.

In 2013, the Honourable Mr. Justice Abrioux was admitted to France's Ordre national du Merite (National Order of Merit) by order of the President of France. This honour was given to recognize Mr. Justice Abrioux's work and advocacy in respect of the French language in British Columbia and to acknowledge his role as legal counsel to the French Consulate in Vancouver for over three decades. On behalf of the Court, we extend our congratulations to Mr. Justice Abrioux for this honour.

Members of the Court contributed to a number of legal publications either as members of editorial boards or as contributors. In 2013, these publications included:

- *Annual Review of Insolvency Law*
- *British Columbia Annual Practice*
- *British Columbia Annual Criminal Practice*
- *British Columbia Family Practice Manual*
- *British Columbia Probate and Estate Administration Practice Manual*
- *Civil Jury Instructions*
- *Conduct of Civil Litigation in British Columbia*
- *Family Law Agreements - Annotated Precedents*
- *Family Law Sourcebook for British Columbia*
- *Practice Before the Registrar*
- *Supreme Court Chambers Orders Annotated*

Members of the Court also attend continuing education seminars, for lawyers and for judges, in Canada and abroad, and as faculty, speakers and participants. In 2013, members of the Court were involved in the activities of a diverse number of organizations including:

- Access ProBono
- Advocates' Club
- Arbitrators Association
- L'Association des juristes d'expression française de la Colombie-Britannique
- British Columbia Council of Administrative Tribunals
- British Columbia Civil Liberties Association
- British Columbia Model Insolvency Order Committee
- British Columbia Institute of Technology
- British Columbia Law Schools Moot Program
- Canadian Association of Insolvency and Restructuring Professionals National Conference
- Canadian Bar Association
- Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice
- Canadian Institute for Advanced Legal Studies
- Canadian Judicial Council National Committee on Jury Instructions
- Canadian Judicial Council - Family Law Subcommittee
- Continuing Legal Education Society of British Columbia
- Canadian Superior Courts Judges Association
- Federation of Law Societies of Canada National Criminal Law Program
- Gail Cup Moot Program
- Inns of Court Program
- International Society for the Reform of the Criminal Law
- Justice Education Society
- Justice Institute of British Columbia
- Law Foundation of British Columbia
- Law Society of British Columbia
- Legal Services Society
- National Judicial Institute
- People's Law School
- Sopinka Cup Moot Program
- Thompson Rivers University Faculty of Law
- Trial Lawyers' Association of British Columbia
- Vancouver Foundation
- Vancouver Institute
- Victoria Foundation
- University of British Columbia Faculty of Law
- University of Victoria Faculty of Law

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In closing, we wish to thank the people who work in courthouses across the province: court clerks, registry staff, sheriffs and other Court Services Branch employees. The administration of

justice in British Columbia relies heavily on the professionalism and dedication of the public servants who work diligently on behalf of the judiciary and the citizens of British Columbia.

We would also like to acknowledge the contributions of the Court's judicial administrative and support staff, including the judicial administration and library staff, judicial administrative assistants, scheduling staff, legal counsel, judicial law clerks and IT staff. The Court relies on the professionalism of our support staff, and we are grateful for their hard work and dedication to the work of the Court.

Finally, we would also like express our gratitude to our judicial colleagues: the judges, masters and registrars of the Court. They willingly provide invaluable advice and support regarding the administration of the Court.

Christopher E. Hinkson
Chief Justice

Austin F. Cullen
Associate Chief Justice

JURISDICTION OF THE COURT

SUPERIOR COURT

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

SUPREME COURT REGISTRIES AND LOCATIONS

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

JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT

As of December 31, 2013, the Supreme Court had 109 justices: the Chief Justice, the Associate Chief Justice, 86 justices and 21 supernumerary justices.

JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS

Judicial appointments are made by the Governor-in-Council on the recommendation of the federal Minister of Justice. The Commissioner for Federal Judicial Affairs oversees the appointment process on behalf of the Minister of Justice. Supreme Court justices are appointed to hold office until their mandatory retirement age of 75 and can only be removed from office for cause. The Canadian Judicial Council, a body comprised of the Chief Justices and Associate Chief Justices of the superior courts in each province and territory and presided over by the Chief Justice of Canada, is responsible for investigating and responding to complaints about judicial conduct.

SUPREME COURT MASTERS

The Supreme Court has 13 masters who are resident in Vancouver, Victoria, New Westminster, Kamloops and Kelowna. Masters sit in all of the registries throughout the province on a regular basis.

Masters are judicial officers appointed by the provincial government by Order in Council after receiving recommendations from an ad hoc committee consisting of the Chief Justice, the Deputy Attorney General, the President of the Law Society of British Columbia and the President of the B.C. Branch of the Canadian Bar Association. Masters preside in civil chambers and registrar hearings. They hear and determine a wide variety of applications in chambers on a wide variety of matters ranging from interim orders in family proceedings to interlocutory applications in civil proceedings (e.g., production of documents) and foreclosure proceedings. Supreme Court masters also have the jurisdiction of registrars and preside as registrars throughout the province as required.

REGISTRARS

The Supreme Court has one registrar and one district registrar who are resident in Vancouver although they do sit in other registries throughout the province from time to time.

Registrars are appointed pursuant to s. 13 of the *Supreme Court Act* and are under the general direction of the Chief Justice. They hear a wide variety of matters, including reviews of lawyers' accounts, bankruptcy discharge applications and bankruptcy taxations, assessments of bills of costs, subpoenas to debtor, passing of accounts, references of various types and settling orders.

The registrar of the Supreme Court, in addition to carrying out the above noted duties, is also responsible for overseeing the province's deputy district registrars who work in the court registries across the province. The registrar serves as a liaison between the Court and the Court Services Branch in relation to registrars' issues. The registrar is also a member of the Attorney General's Rules Revision Committee and other court and public committees as directed by the Chief Justice.

CHANGES IN THE COURT'S COMPLEMENT

In 2013, the Court welcomed the appointment of six new justices and a new master. The Court also celebrated the elevation of three of its members to the Court of Appeal and the retirement of a number of colleagues.

Appointments

The Honourable Chief Justice Christopher E. Hinkson

Chief Justice Hinkson was appointed Chief Justice of the Supreme Court on November 7, 2013 to fill the vacancy created when Chief Justice Bauman was appointed Chief Justice of British Columbia.

Chief Justice Hinkson received a Bachelor of Laws in 1975 from University of British Columbia and was admitted to the bar of British Columbia in 1976. His practice expertise is in the areas of medical malpractice, personal injury, commercial and human rights litigation and administrative law. Chief Justice Hinkson was appointed to the Supreme Court in 2007. At that time, he was a partner at Harper Grey LLP. Chief Justice Hinkson was appointed to the British Columbia Court of Appeal in 2010 and he served there until his appointment as Chief Justice.

In addition to a new Chief Justice, the Court also welcomed the appointment of 10 new justices:

- The Honourable Madam Justice Sheri Ann Donegan
- The Honourable Madam Justice Wendy J. Harris
- The Honourable Mr. Justice Ronald A. Skolrood
- The Honourable Madam Justice Lisa Warren
- The Honourable Madam Justice Margot L. Fleming
- The Honourable Mr. Justice Gary P. Weatherill
- The Honourable Mr. Justice George K. Macintosh
- The Honourable Mr. Justice Nigel P. Kent
- The Honourable Madam Justice Jennifer M.I. Duncan
- The Honourable Madam Justice Neena Sharma

The Honourable Madam Justice Sheri Ann Donegan

Madam Justice Donegan was appointed to the Supreme Court at Kamloops on June 7, 2013 to fill the vacancy created when Mr. Justice Powers retired.

Madam Justice Donegan received a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Saskatchewan in 1992 and was admitted to the bar of British Columbia in 1993 after articling with Mair Jensen

Blair in Kamloops. In 1998, Madam Justice Donegan joined the Ministry of Justice's Criminal Justice Branch and practiced as Crown Counsel in Kamloops and New Westminster. In 2010, Madam Justice Donegan was appointed to the Provincial Court of British Columbia in Kamloops.

Madam Justice Donegan was a member of the Canadian Bar Association and was a frequent lecturer at Thompson Rivers University on criminal law, trial advocacy and practice and was recently a guest lecturer at the International Mental Health and the Law Conference in Berlin, Germany.

The Honourable Madam Justice Wendy J. Harris

Madam Justice Harris was appointed to the Supreme Court at Vancouver on June 7, 2013 to fill the vacancy created when Madam Justice Lynn Smith resigned.

Madam Justice Harris received a Bachelor of Laws from the University of British Columbia in 1979 and was admitted to the bar of British Columbia in 1980. Madam Justice Harris practised with Campney & Murphy from 1979 to 1992 and with Harris & Company from 1992 until her appointment. Her main areas of practice were labour and employment law, administrative law and education law. Madam Justice Harris was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2008 and was admitted to the bar of the Northwest Territories in 2010.

Madam Justice Harris was a sessional instructor at the University of British Columbia from 2004 to 2011. She has been a frequent speaker at provincial and national conferences and has published numerous articles on various topics related to the area of education law. She was an executive board member and served as President of the Canadian Association for the Practical Studies of Law in Education from 1999 to 2004. She also served on the advisory board for the Commission of Inquiry into the Public Service and Public Sector and on the B.C. School Trustees Association Task Force on Child Abuse.

The Honourable Mr. Justice Ronald A. Skolrood

Mr. Justice Skolrood was appointed to the Supreme Court at Vancouver on June 7, 2013 to fill the vacancy created when Mr. Justice Willcock was appointed to the Court of Appeal.

Mr. Justice Skolrood received a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Victoria in 1986 and was admitted to the bar of British Columbia in 1988. Mr. Justice Skolrood also obtained a Master of Laws from the University of Cambridge in 1989. Mr. Justice Skolrood practised with the law firm of Lawson Lundell LLP in Vancouver from 1987 until his appointment to the Court where his main areas of practice were commercial disputes, pension and benefit matters, health law matters and all aspects of public law, including administrative, regulatory and constitutional law.

Mr. Justice Skolrood was admitted to the bar of the Northwest Territories in 2010 and was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2012.

Mr. Justice Skolrood was an active member of the legal community throughout his career. He served as a board member of the B.C. Law Institute, acting as the Chair from 2007 to 2012. He was also a member of the Canadian Bar Association, National Constitutional and Human Rights Law Section, and a member of the Law Society of British Columbia Special Compensation Fund Committee. He has been a sessional lecturer at the University of Victoria and a course group leader at the University of British Columbia. He was also a frequent commentator on legal affairs for various local and national news organizations.

The Honourable Madam Justice Lisa Warren

Madam Justice Warren was appointed to the Supreme Court at Vancouver on June 7, 2013 to fill the vacancy created when Madam Justice Stromberg-Stein was appointed to the Court of Appeal.

Madam Justice Warren received a Bachelor of Laws from the University of British Columbia in 1990 and was admitted to the bar of British Columbia in 1991. Madam Justice Warren practised at Farris, Vaughan, Wills & Murphy as an associate from 1993 to 1999 and as a partner from 1999 to 2007. Her main areas of practice were civil litigation and she appeared before the various courts in British Columbia as well as the Federal Court, Federal Court of Appeal, Supreme Court of Canada and various administrative tribunals. In 2007, Madam Justice Warren joined the Health Employers Association of British Columbia where she was the Director of Legal Services, Physician Services Secretariat.

The Honourable Madam Justice Margot L. Fleming

Madam Justice Fleming was appointed to the Supreme Court at Vancouver on June 7, 2013 to fill the vacancy created when Mr. Justice Brown transferred to Chilliwack to fill the vacancy created when Mr. Justice Grist elected to become a supernumerary judge.

Madam Justice Fleming received a Bachelor of Laws from the McGill University in 1994 and after clerking at the Supreme Court of British Columbia and completing articles at Alexander Holburn Lang & Beaudin was admitted to the bar of British Columbia in 1996. Madam Justice Fleming practiced at Somers & Company from 1996 until her appointment to the bench. Madam Justice Fleming's practice focused on child protection issues where she frequently acted for the Director of Child, Family and Community Services at all levels of court in British Columbia.

Madam Justice Fleming was a frequent speaker on children and the law, including child protection, at several continuing legal education conferences.

The Honourable Mr. Justice Gary P. Weatherill

Mr. Justice G.P. Weatherill was appointed to the Supreme Court at New Westminster on October 2, 2013 to fill the vacancy created when Madam Justice Humphries elected to become a supernumerary judge.

Mr. Justice G.P. Weatherill received a Bachelor of Laws from the University of British Columbia in 1979 and was admitted to the bar of British Columbia in 1980. Mr. Justice Weatherill practiced at Nixon Wenger in Vernon as an associate and later as a partner from 1980 until his appointment to the Court. Mr. Justice Weatherill's main areas of practice were civil litigation and personal injury law. Mr. Justice Weatherill was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2008.

Mr. Justice Weatherill was member of the Vernon Bar Association, the Trial Lawyers' Association of British Columbia and the Law Society of British Columbia's Discipline Committee and Ethics Committee. Mr. Justice Weatherill also served on the board of directors and vice-president of Braintrust Canada and was a long serving member of the Kalamalka Rotary Club. He was also active in the Greater Vernon Ringette Association, the Thompson-Okanagan Ringette League and the Vernon Golf and Country Club.

The Honourable Mr. Justice George K. Macintosh

Mr. Justice Macintosh was appointed to the Supreme Court at Vancouver on December 17, 2013 to fill the vacancy created when Mr. Justice Smart resigned.

Mr. Justice Macintosh obtained a Bachelor of Laws from Dalhousie University in 1972 and was admitted to the bar of British Columbia in 1974 and the bar of Alberta in 1980. Mr. Justice Macintosh practiced with Farris, Vaughan, Wills & Murphy LLP where his main areas of practice were civil litigation, administrative law, constitutional law and arbitration. Mr. Justice Macintosh was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1987.

Mr. Justice Macintosh was a member of the Supreme Court of Canada Advocacy Institute for the British Columbia region. He has been a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers since 1991 and a Fellow of the International Society of Barristers since 2001. Mr. Justice Macintosh was also a founding member of the British Columbia Inns of Court program and is a past president of the Civil Litigation Section of the Canadian Bar Association.

The Honourable Mr. Justice Nigel P. Kent

Mr. Justice Kent was appointed to the Supreme Court at Vancouver on December 17, 2013 to fill the vacancy created when Mr. Justice Goepel was appointed to the Court of Appeal.

Mr. Justice Kent received a Bachelor of Laws from Dalhousie University in 1980 and was admitted to bar of Alberta in 1981 and to the bar of British Columbia in 1991. From 1981-1991, Mr. Justice Kent practiced at Parlee McLaws in Edmonton and from 1991 to his appointment to the bench, he practiced with Clark Wilson LLP in Vancouver. Mr. Justice Kent's areas of practice

were civil litigation including insurance law, corporate and commercial law, personal injury, and professional liability law.

Mr. Justice Kent was a member of the Canadian Bar Association, the International Association of Defence Counsel, and the Trial Lawyers Association of British Columbia. He has been a faculty member at Capilano University since 2008. Mr. Justice Kent is the author of numerous articles on insurance law issues and has been a frequent speaker at continuing legal education programs.

The Honourable Madam Justice Jennifer M. I. Duncan

Madam Justice Duncan was appointed to the Supreme Court at Vancouver on December 17, 2013 to fill the vacancy created when Madam Justice Dillon elected to become a supernumerary judge.

Madam Justice Duncan received a Bachelor of Laws from the University of British Columbia in 1990 and after clerking at the Supreme Court and articling, was admitted to the bar of British Columbia in 1992. Madam Justice Duncan joined the Ministry of the Attorney General's Criminal Justice Branch in 1992 and practised as Crown Counsel in Kamloops until 1998 when she moved to the Ministry of Justice's Criminal Appeals and Special Prosecution office in Vancouver. Madam Justice Duncan has appeared at all levels of court including the Supreme Court of Canada. Madam Justice Duncan was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2012.

Madam Justice Duncan was a faculty member of the Federation of Law Societies' of Canada, National Criminal Law Program and served on the Discipline Committee of the Law Society of British Columbia. Madam Justice Duncan was also a past executive member of the British Columbia Crown Counsel Association.

The Honourable Madam Justice Neena Sharma

Madam Justice Sharma was appointed to the Supreme Court at Vancouver on December 17, 2013 to fill the vacancy created when Madam Justice Baker elected to become a supernumerary judge.

Madam Justice Sharma received a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Victoria in 1990 and after clerking at the Supreme Court of Canada for Chief Justice Brian Dickson and after his retirement, for Mr. Justice Stevenson and completing articles, was admitted to the bar of British Columbia in 1992. Madam Justice Sharma practised civil litigation with Alexander Holburn Beaudin & Lang and for the Attorney General of Canada until 1995 when she joined the British Columbia Ministry of Attorney General, Legal Services Branch. Madam Justice Sharma's practice areas included civil litigation with a particular focus on constitutional and administrative law and, more recently, labour relations.

Madam Justice Sharma served as an adjunct professor at the Faculty of Law of the University of British Columbia and the University of Victoria. She was also a frequent speaker at the British Columbia Continuing Legal Education conferences and other national and local conferences.

Elevations

The Honourable Chief Justice Robert J. Bauman

Chief Justice Bauman was appointed Chief Justice of the Court of Appeal on June 7, 2013 to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Chief Justice Finch.

Chief Justice Bauman was appointed to the Supreme Court of British Columbia on Jun 20, 1996 and he was appointed to the Court of Appeal on February 20, 2008. Chief Justice Bauman was appointed Chief Justice of the Supreme Court on September 9, 2009.

Chief Justice received a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Toronto in 1974 and was called to the bar of British Columbia in 1975. Prior to his appointment to the Supreme Court, he practiced with Bull, Housser & Tupper in Vancouver from 1982 to 1996, with Wilson, Bauman in Kelowna from 1977 to 1981 and with Wilson, King & Co. in Prince George from 1974 to 1977. Chief Justice Bauman was a member of the Attorney General Rules Revision Committee and served as Chair of the Supreme Court Civil Law Committee.

The Honourable Madam Justice Sunni Stromberg-Stein

Madam Justice Stromberg Stein was appointed to the Court of Appeal on June 7, 2013 to fill the vacancy created when Madam Justice Kirkpatrick elected to become a supernumerary judge.

Madam Justice Stromberg-Stein was appointed to the Supreme Court of British Columbia in 1996. Prior to her appointment to the Supreme Court, she was a Judge of the Provincial Court of British Columbia from 1989-1996.

Madam Justice Stromberg-Stein received a Bachelor of Laws from Osgoode Hall Law School in 1975 and was admitted to the bar of British Columbia in 1976. From 1976 to 1989, she was a Crown prosecutor for the Attorney General of British Columbia.

Madam Justice Stromberg-Stein was a long serving member of the Supreme Court's Criminal Law Committee.

The Honourable Mr. Justice Peter M. Willcock

Mr. Justice Willcock was appointed to the Court of Appeal on June 7, 2013 to fill the vacancy created when Madam Justice Levine elected to become a supernumerary judge.

Mr. Justice Willcock received a Bachelor of Laws from Dalhousie University in 1982 and was admitted to the bar of British Columbia in 1983. Mr. Justice Willcock practised at Harper Grey where he developed a civil litigation practice with a particular emphasis on insurance law and professional negligence. In 2002, Mr. Justice Willcock received a Masters of Liberal Studies from Simon Fraser University.

Mr. Justice Willcock was appointed to the Supreme Court of British Columbia in 2009. Mr. Justice Willcock was a member of the Court's Civil Law Committee and the Education Committee.

The Honourable Mr. Justice Richard B. T. Goepel

Mr. Justice Goepel was appointed to the Court of Appeal on November 7, 2013 to fill the vacancy created when Chief Justice Hinkson was appointed Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of British Columbia.

Mr. Justice Goepel received a Bachelor of Laws from the University of British Columbia in 1973 and was admitted to the bar of British Columbia in 1974. Mr. Justice Goepel practised in Vancouver with Sutton Braidwood for nine years before co-founding the firm of Watson Goepel Maledy in 1984 where he practised until his appointment to the Supreme Court. His practice largely involved civil litigation. Mr. Justice Goepel was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1999.

Mr. Justice Goepel was appointed to the Supreme Court of British Columbia in 2001 and was a member of the Court's Civil Law Committee and the Attorney General's Rules Revision Committee.

Retirements

The Honourable Mr. Justice Robert E. Powers

Mr. Justice Powers received a Bachelor of Laws from the University of British Columbia in 1975 and was admitted to the bar of British Columbia in 1976. Mr. Justice Powers practiced in Kamloops until 1984 when he was appointed district registrar of the Supreme Court. In 1989, Mr. Justice Powers was appointed a Master of the Supreme Court and in 1999 was appointed to the Court. Mr. Justice Powers was a member of a number of the Court's committees including the Executive Committee and the Courthouse Facilities Committee. Mr. Justice Powers retired on January 7, 2013.

The Honourable Mr. Justice Paul Williamson

Mr. Justice Williamson obtained a Bachelor of Laws from the University of British Columbia in 1974 and was admitted to the bar of British Columbia in 1976 after serving as a judicial law clerk for Mr. Justice Seaton in the British Columbia Court of Appeal. Mr. Justice Williamson's practice included criminal law and work for a number of public commissions. Mr. Justice Williamson was appointed to the Supreme Court in 1994 and retired on January 31, 2013.

The Honourable Mr. Justice Robert W. Metzger

Mr. Justice Metzger received a Bachelor of Laws from the University of British Columbia in 1973 and was admitted to the bar of British Columbia in 1974. Mr. Justice Metzger's practice was focussed on civil litigation and family law. In 1980, Mr. Justice Metzger was appointed to the Provincial Court of British Columbia in Victoria. In 1989, he was appointed Associate Chief Judge of the Provincial Court and in 1995 he was appointed Chief Judge of the Provincial Court. Mr. Justice Metzger was appointed to the Supreme Court in 2000 and retired on January 31, 2013.

The Honourable Mr. Justice Richard M. L. Blair

Mr. Justice Blair received a Bachelor of Laws from the University of British Columbia in 1971 and was admitted to the bar of British Columbia in 1972. Mr. Justice Blair articulated at Clark Wilson and then moved his practice to Mair Jensen Blair in Kamloops. Mr. Justice Blair was appointed to the Supreme Court in 1992 and was a member of the Court's Public Affairs Committee. Mr. Justice Blair retired on April 30, 2013.

The Honourable Mr. Justice William B. Smart

Mr. Justice Smart obtained a Bachelor of Laws from the University of British Columbia in 1975 and was admitted to the bar of British Columbia in 1976. Mr. Justice Smart practised criminal law both as a defence counsel and a prosecutor. Mr. Justice Smart was appointed to the Supreme Court in 2006. Mr. Justice Smart was a member and Chair of the Court's Criminal Law Committee. Mr. Justice Smart was also a member of the Court's Education Committee. Mr. Justice Smart resigned from the Court on August 31, 2013.

The Honourable Master Michael Bishop

Master Bishop obtained a Bachelor of Laws from the University of British Columbia in 1973 and was admitted to the bar of British Columbia in 1974. Master Bishop practised in Dawson Creek and Kelowna where he focussed on civil litigation and labour law. Master Bishop was appointed a Master of the Supreme Court in 1991 and retired on August 31, 2013.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CIVIL LAW COMMITTEE

Committee Members

Mr. Justice Myers (*Chair until September 2013*)

Mr. Justice Walker (*Chair from October 2013*)

Mr. Justice Bowden

Mr. Justice Davies

Madam Justice Gray

Madam Justice Griffin

Mr. Justice McEwan

Mr. Justice Savage

Mr. Justice Sewell

Mr. Justice Smith

Mr. Justice Voith

Master Bouck

Jill Leacock, *Legal Counsel, Supreme Court*

The Committee saw some changes to its leadership and membership in 2013. In the fall, Mr. Justice Myers stepped down as chair and resigned from the committee and Mr. Justice Walker was appointed as chair. The Committee also welcomed Mr. Justice Voith, Mr. Justice Sewell and Mr. Justice Savage and accepted the resignations of Mr. Justice Willcock and Mr. Justice Goepel upon their appointments to the Court of Appeal. The Committee and the Court are grateful to the fine efforts and hard work of Mr. Justice Myers, Mr. Justice Willcock and Mr. Justice Goepel as long-standing members of the Committee.

During 2013, the Civil Law Committee was tasked with considering a number of substantive issues, including:

1. whether changes to the Trial Management and Case Planning Conference rules should be recommended to the Rules Committee;
2. adoption of additional model insolvency orders as part of an ongoing coordinated approach with other courts in Canada to standardize orders issued under federal insolvency legislation;
3. the Courts' current policy regarding televised court proceedings and whether any changes should be made to it; and
4. a model form of Order for mareva injunctions.

In addition, the committee provides regular updates to the Court on recent significant appellate decisions.

CRIMINAL LAW COMMITTEE

Committee Members

Mr. Justice Smart (*Chair*) (to August 2013)
Madam Justice Ker (*Chair*) (from September 2013)
Associate Chief Justice Cullen
Madam Justice Arnold-Bailey
Madam Justice Bruce
Mr. Justice Dley
Mr. Justice Ehrcke
Mr. Justice Gaul
Madam Justice Holmes
Madam Justice Koenigsberg
Mr. Justice Leask
Madam Justice Maisonville
Mr. Justice Schultes
Mr. Justice Silverman
Madam Justice Stromberg-Stein
Madam Justice Wedge
Mr. Justice Williams
Heidi McBride, *Legal Counsel, Supreme Court*

The Criminal Law Committee continued to provide the Court with assistance with respect to various matters that arose during 2013 including providing representatives for the Publication Ban Working Group, the Vancouver Law Court Users' Committee, the Paralegal Working Group, the Cameras in the Courtroom Committee, the Committee on Access to Justice and a committee reviewing the *Court Record Access Policy*.

The Criminal Law Committee, through Madam Justice Holmes, provided summaries of new criminal legislation as it came into force including provisions for self-defence, the *Safe Streets and Communities Act*, increasing the Victim Fine Surcharge provisions and *Protecting Canada's Seniors Act* making the (elderly) age of a victim an aggravating circumstance on sentencing.

Mr. Justice Ehrcke continued to provide updates and summaries of important criminal law decisions from the Supreme Court of Canada and the British Columbia Court of Appeal.

The Committee and its members continue to be active in educational and training activities including organizing and presenting criminal law topics for NJI conferences, Law at Lunch presentations and through ongoing versions of updates to the Court on current issues in criminal law. Members of the Committee are also involved in speaking to lawyers, high school

students, law students, visiting judges and various other groups through the Justice Education Society, the Inns of Court program, the Continuing Legal Education Society, the Canadian Bar Association Criminal Law Section, the Trial Lawyers Association, the B.C. Civil Liberties Association and other similar organizations.

Membership on the Committee underwent a significant change with the resignation of Mr. Justice Smart from the Bench, and Mr. Justice Schultes, Madam Justice Stromberg-Stein and Mr. Justice from the Committee in 2013. All provided invaluable contributions to the Committee and their absence will be noted for years to come. As of September 2013, Madam Justice Ker assumed the Chair and by November 2013 four new members had volunteered their services and joined the Committee: Madam Justice Arnold-Bailey, Mr. Justice Dley, Madam Justice Maisonville, and Madam Justice Wedge. Their contributions will be invaluable and most welcome.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Committee Members

Madam Justice Fisher (*Chair*)
Mr. Justice Abrioux
Mr. Justice Betton
Mr. Justice Blok
Madam Justice Bruce
Madam Justice Dardi
Madam Justice Fenlon
Mr. Justice Grauer
Mr. Justice Harvey
Mr. Justice Sewell
Mr. Justice Silverman
Mr. Justice Voith
Madam Justice Watchuk
Master Scarth
Master Muir
Heidi McBride, *Legal Counsel, Supreme Court*

The function of the Education Committee is to organize and present continuing education programs to keep the members of the Court current on substantive law as well as judicial skills, social context, philosophical and ethical issues, and current challenges.

The Committee delivers its programs at judicial education conferences held in May and November of each year, presented in partnership with the National Judicial Institute, and at regular lunchtime seminars in Vancouver, which are also accessed from across the province by telephone or video. The members of the Court continue to demonstrate a high degree of engagement in these programs and the members of the committee continue to work diligently in preparing the programs.

The May 2013 conference sessions addressed the new *Family Law Act*, issues in sexual assault cases, managing cases with self-represented litigants, and judicial wellness. Presenters included distinguished academics and judges from across Canada, experienced members of the Court, and a psychologist with significant experience addressing issues of stress among the judiciary.

The November 2013 conference addressed a variety of topics, some arising from the May session: obtaining the views of the child and interviewing children; perspectives on oral judgments; the principles of evidence; costs, post-sentencing issues; and views from the

“counsel table”. The most well-received session was a panel of senior counsel who discussed some of the challenges facing the court system from their perspectives.

The membership of the committee changed in 2013. Former chair, Mr. Justice Schultes, stepped down in May, and former chair, Mr. Justice Kelleher, stepped down later in the year. Madam Justice Ballance, Madam Justice Gropper, Mr. Justice Smart, Mr. Justice Willcock, Master Bouck and Master Keighley also stepped down, all of whom will be greatly missed.

The committee welcomed these new members in 2013: Madam Justice Bruce, Mr. Justice Grauer, Master Muir and Master Scarth.

The committee continues to be active all year round, with each member devoting considerable energy to the ongoing tasks.

FAMILY LAW COMMITTEE

Committee Members:

Madam Justice Hyslop (Chair)
Mr. Justice Butler
Mr. Justice Cole
Mr. Justice Groves
Mr. Justice Harvey
Madam Justice Loo
Mr. Justice Pearlman
Master Baker
Master MacNaughton
Jill Leacock, *Legal Counsel, Supreme Court*

In 2013, the Family Law Committee continued to consider the problems that arise for the court pursuant to the Interjurisdictional Support Orders legislation. Mr. Justice Butler and Mr. Justice Pearlman were appointed to a committee looking into the difficulties encountered on ISO applications. The Provincial Court, which has more of these applications than does the Supreme Court, is also considering this issue and the Committee awaits its recommendations.

The new Family Law Act continued to be a topic of discussion throughout the year. Each member of the committee took a segment of the FLA and delivered a written report to the Committee members for discussion. The Provincial Court judges have drafted a series of standard orders to guide the registry when judges make orders under the FLA. These draft orders were considered by the Committee. It is anticipated that the Continuing Legal Education Society will publish these standard forms of orders in the future.

The Committee welcomed some new members: Mr. Justice Groves, and Master MacNaughton.

LAW CLERKS COMMITTEE

Committee Members

Mr. Justice Pearlman (*Chair*)
Madam Justice Arnold-Bailey
Mr. Justice Barrow
Madam Justice Dillon
Mr. Justice Fitch
Jill Leacock, *Legal Counsel, Supreme Court*
Heidi McBride, *Legal Counsel, Supreme Court*

The Committee is responsible for the management of the Judicial Law Clerk Program including recruitment and hiring. The Committee is assisted in its work by the court's legal counsel to whom the day-to-day management and administration of the law clerks is delegated.

Each year, the Committee hires 18 law clerks for positions in Vancouver (13), New Westminster (3) and Victoria (2). The recruitment period begins approximately two years before the start of the judicial law clerk term when the Committee sends representatives to the University of British Columbia Faculty of Law, the University of Victoria Faculty of Law and the Thomson Rivers University Faculty of Law to discuss the Judicial Law Clerk Program with law students and sends information to all of the other law schools in Canada. The application and interview process takes place approximately 18 months before the start of the term. In March 2014, the Committee interviewed approximately 32 candidates and selected 18 who will begin their clerkships in September 2015.

In September 2013, eighteen law clerks began their clerkships; they were hired in March 2012. Our current law clerks are graduates of the University of Victoria, University of British Columbia, University of Ottawa, University of Alberta and Queen's University.

<i>Vancouver</i>		
Sam Arden	Danielle Fostey	Anthony Toljanich
Jonathan Blair	Natasha Jategaonkar	Nathaniel Turner
Tamlin Cooper	Laura Johnston	Jan Verspoor
Laura Drake	Guy Patterson	
Jack Finn	Paul Tonita	
<i>New Westminster</i>		
Kate Addison	Kate Dutton	Jon Khan
<i>Victoria</i>		
Catherine George	Trevor Morley	

Each law clerk assists a group of five to seven judges with legal research and editing and proofreading Reasons for Judgment.

The Committee wishes to extend its gratitude and appreciation to the Court's law clerks for the assistance that they provide to the judges and masters of the Court. The enthusiasm, commitment, and dedication they bring to their work and to the work of the Court is invaluable and the members of the Court benefit greatly from the presence of the law clerks.

JOINT COURTS TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Committee Members

Mr. Justice Masuhara (*Chair*)
Mr. Justice Groberman
Madam Justice Levine
Madam Justice Adair
Mr. Justice Myers
Mr. Justice Punnett
Master Baker
Jennifer Jordan, *Registrar, Court of Appeal*
Frank Kraemer, Q.C., *Executive Director & Senior Counsel, Judicial Administration*
Kevin Arens, *Director, Information Technology and Finance*
Cindy Friesen, *Director, Supreme Court Scheduling*
Tim Outerbridge, *Legal Counsel, Court of Appeal*
Heidi McBride, *Legal Counsel, Supreme Court*

In 2013 the Committee focussed on the installation of new computers and associated hardware and software for both courts. The project was successfully completed. Committee members participated in various other technology initiatives for the courts. The Committee continues to review technology developments and their impact on the work of the courts.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Committee Members

Madam Justice Kirkpatrick (*Retired Chair*)

Madam Justice Griffin (*Chair*)

Madam Justice Humphries

Madam Justice Kloegman

Mr. Justice Goepel

Frank Kraemer, Q.C., *Executive Director & Senior Counsel, Judicial Administration*

Diane Lemieux, *Librarian*

The library continues to find ways to balance its budget and provide current resources to its users.

This year print copies of the *Western Weekly Reports* were changed to e-digest, joining the *Canadian Bankruptcy Reports* and *Carswell's Practice Cases* as products that ~~we~~ the Court subscribes to in an electronic format only. With access to Westlaw Canada, subscribers can link directly to the full text cases. Print subscriptions to the five remaining commercial law reporters (*British Columbia Law Reports*, *Criminal Reports*, *Canadian Criminal Cases*, *Dominion Law Reports*, and *Reports of Family Law*) include the paper parts, bound volume and case digest summaries that are sent electronically before the print volumes arrive.

As well, case digests and popular online legal newsletters such as *Epstein's This Week in Family Law*, *Houlden and Morawetz On-line Newsletter* and *Watt's Criminal Law and Evidence Newsletter* are forwarded electronically to judges who have signed up to the various routing lists.

With the cost of library subscriptions increasing dramatically this year, the standing order loose-leaf subscriptions were reviewed; 36 loose-leaf services were either cancelled outright or the number of copies being purchased was reduced. As well as general usage, factors such as whether the material was available in the local courthouse libraries was considered, as well as the importance of the material and whether the product was a leading or preferred authority on the topic.

Staff maintains the collections in Vancouver as well as locations outside Vancouver. Staff is also responsible for the processing and posting of the judgments of the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court on the courts' websites. Last year 315 civil, 216 criminal and 42 family cases from the Court of Appeal were processed and posted on the Court's website.

The judicial members of the Committee express their thanks to staff for their work over the past year.

RULES REVISION COMMITTEE

Committee Members

Mr. Justice Smith (*Chair*)
Madam Justice Dickson
Madam Justice Dillon
Mr. Justice Goepel (ret'd November 2013)
Mr. Justice Joyce (ret'd June 2013)
Master McCallum
Master Young
Mr. Kenneth G. Downing, Q.C., *Legislative Counsel* (ret'd June 2013)
Mr. Kevin Kohan, *Legislative Counsel*
Peter Behie, Q.C.
Mr. Daniel Bennett Q.C.
Mr. Dinyar Marzban, Q.C.
Mr. Kenneth McEwan, Q.C.
Mr. Eugene Raponi, Q.C.
Ms. Wendy Harrison, *Court Services Branch*
Chief Justice Robert J. Bauman (*ex officio*)- ret'd
Chief Justice Hinkson (*ex officio*)
Mr. Richard Fyfe, Q.C., *Deputy Attorney General (ex officio)*
Ms. Jill Leacock, *Legal Counsel, Supreme Court*

MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE

The Rules Revision Committee is a committee of the Attorney General. The Committee has an advisory role, assisting the Attorney General in making recommendations to the Lieutenant Governor in Council for changes to the Supreme Court Civil and Family Rules.

The *Court Rules Act*, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 80 provides that the Lieutenant Governor in Council has the power to make Rules governing the conduct of litigation in the Supreme Court. After the Committee makes recommendations to the Attorney General regarding proposed amendments, the Attorney General consults with the Chief Justice as is required by the *Court Rules Act* before presenting the amendments to Cabinet. With the exception of some stand-alone amendments, proposed Rule amendments are typically presented to Cabinet in a package each spring. Upon Cabinet approval, the amendments are enacted by Order-in-Council and are usually effective July 1st. The text of the Rules is available on the Court's website at www.courts.gov.bc.ca.

COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE

The Attorney General appoints the members of the Committee by ministerial order, after consultation with the Chief Justice and the Chair. The Committee includes judges, masters, the Supreme Court registrar, members of the bar, legislative counsel and a representative of Court Services Branch. The members of the bar are chosen for their expertise in civil or family litigation and also broadly represent larger and smaller centres of the Province.

Legislative counsel, Ken Downing Q.C., who worked with the Committee over many years retired in 2013. Kevin Kohan has taken over as legislative counsel. Mr. Justice Joyce also retired from the Committee in 2013, after many years' service. Mr. Justice Goepel left the Committee upon his appointment to the Court of Appeal.

ONGOING MONITORING OF THE SUPREME COURT RULES 2010

Over the last three years, the Committee has continued to monitor the 'new' Civil and Family Rules which came into effect on July 1, 2010, to assess whether certain key changes that were implemented by the 2010 revision of the Rules are working as intended.

A significant Rule amendment made in 2012 to allow masters to conduct trial management conferences was welcomed by the Court. Trial management conferences continue to occupy considerable judicial resources, and it has proved to be difficult at an administrative level to schedule the trial judge to conduct the trial management conference as was the initial premise of the Rule.

RULE AMENDMENTS IN 2013

Amendments made to the Supreme Court Civil and Family Rules in 2013 include the following:

- requirement for hearing record to be provided at hearings before the registrar;
- requirement for Jury Notice to be filed and fees paid 45 days before trial date (rather than 30 as formerly);
- provision for hearings before the registrar to be conducted by telephone or video conference;
- amendment to the Notice to Produce form to reflect document disclosure rules;
- amendments to family forms of orders (Forms F33, F34, F51, F52) to indicate whether the order is made under the *Family Law Act* or the *Divorce Act*;
- requirement for completion of a new form of affidavit by the applicant for guardianship of a child. The affidavit and the various records checks which must be appended to it will help the court determine the applicant's suitability as a guardian; and

- amendment to Schedules 1 and 4 of Appendix C to clarify various fee items and add others.

INPUT IS WELCOME

Many changes to the Rules of Court are prompted by the input of members of the Bench or the profession who have noticed a 'gap' in the Rules, discrepancies within the Rules, or other sorts of issues that require a 'fix'. As well, members of the bar suggest how aspects of the Rules might be improved upon, often having regard to the provisions of other jurisdictions. The Committee welcomes comments on the Rules from the Court, members of the bar and the public.

JUDICIAL ACCESS POLICY WORKING GROUP

Committee Members

Jennifer Jordan, *Registrar, Court of Appeal (Chair)*

Frank Kraemer, Q.C., *Executive Director & Senior Counsel, Judicial Administration, Superior Courts*

Craig Wilkinson, *Executive Director, Organizational Services, Provincial Court (to December 2013)*

Grant Marchand, *Manager, Judicial Resource Analysis & Management Information Systems, Provincial Court (from December 2013)*

Brenda Miller, *Executive Director Corporate Support, Court Services Branch (to September, 2013)*

Dominique Bohn, *Executive Director, Service Reform, Court Services Branch (from September, 2013)*

Dan Chiddell, *Director Strategic Information & Business Applications, Court Services Branch*

Wendy Harrison, *Senior Analyst, Court Services Branch (to October, 2013)*

Janet Donald, *Director of Policy, Legislation and Issue Management, Court Services Branch (from October 2013)*

Timothy Outerbridge, *Legal Counsel, Court of Appeal*

Heidi McBride, *Legal Counsel, Supreme Court*

Gene Jamieson, Q.C., *Legal Officer, Provincial Court*

Kathryn Thomson, *Legal Policy Advisor*

MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee is a joint committee consisting of representatives from all three courts and Court Services Branch employees. The Committee develops draft policies and interacts with the various court committees, seeking guidance and approval for draft policies relating to access to court records, particularly those in electronic format. The Chief Justices and Chief Judge give approval before a policy is adopted. In addition to policy work, the Committee also reviews access applications for those seeking bulk access to court record information.

WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

In 2013, the work of the committee included the following:

Government Screening Policies

The government has changed its employee screening policies. The impact for those who access the various systems is that there are higher screening requirements for access to court systems than there are for the general employee of government.

Fee Exemptions for CSO

There was an application for exemption from fees for access to CSO. The Committee determined that this was a matter of Court Services policy and not a matter for the Chief Justices and the Chief Judge.

Access Applications

During the year the Committee received, considered and granted a number of applications from a variety of government agencies and departments for access to court records for fulfilling their statutory mandate. There were also applications from universities and other academic organizations to access information for research purposes. Such a request is encouraged where there is no collection of individual identifiers.

Court Lists on the Website

The Committee received a complaint concerning a Google name search which turned up a name on a court hearing list. The person complained that his name was accessible through Google. In response, the Committee is considering blocking the indexing of court lists by Google (and by reference, any other indexing program) in the same way that the courts reasons for judgment are not indexed by search engines such as Google.

Government Reorganization

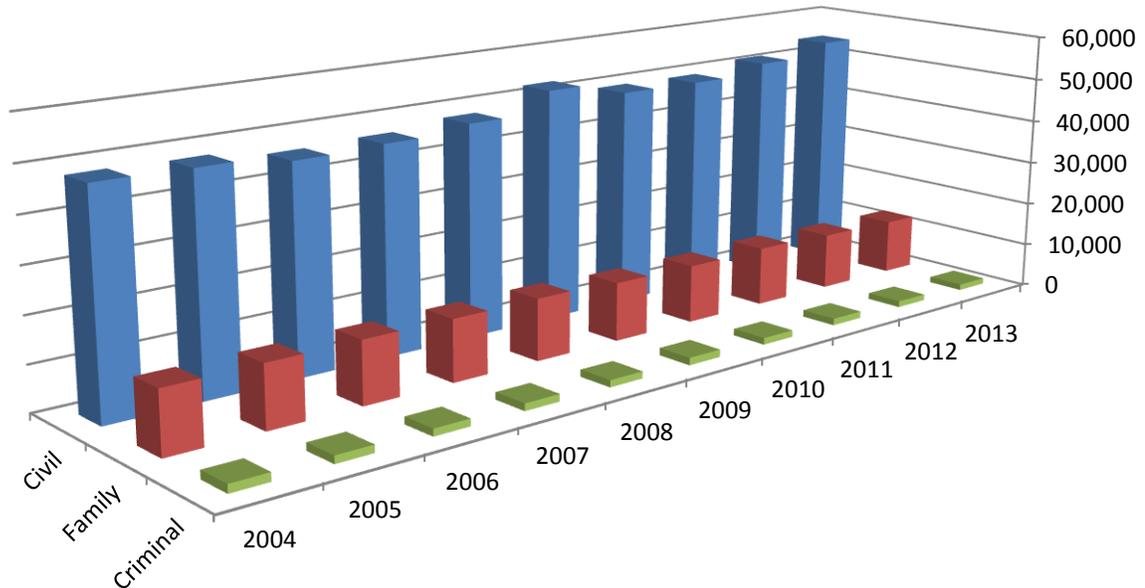
The reorganization of some branches in the Ministry of Justice has made it necessary to consider the ramifications of moving employees who access court record information through electronic systems to corporate and information systems branches under different management. While a long term solution has not yet been finalized, interim access agreements are in place to enable employees to continue to do their work regardless of these organizational and management changes.

Government Data Modeling Project

The Committee is currently considering a request to use anonymous information for data models to assist Court Services Branch assess the impact of changes in legislation as well as any other system change.

APPENDIX A - COURT INFORMATION

FIGURE 1: NEW CRIMINAL, FAMILY AND CIVIL FILINGS



	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
■ Criminal	1,858	1,691	1,607	1,607	1,556	1,657	1,483	1,505	1,365	1,299
■ Family	13,613	13,719	13,813	13,703	13,757	13,088	12,945	13,200	12,660	12,343
■ Civil	47,947	47,612	45,882	46,353	47,787	52,327	49,207	49,037	51,177	54,015

The **Civil** category includes all general civil cases (e.g., motor vehicle, bodily injury, debt collection, breach of contract, foreclosures, bankruptcies, probate, judicial review and appeals).

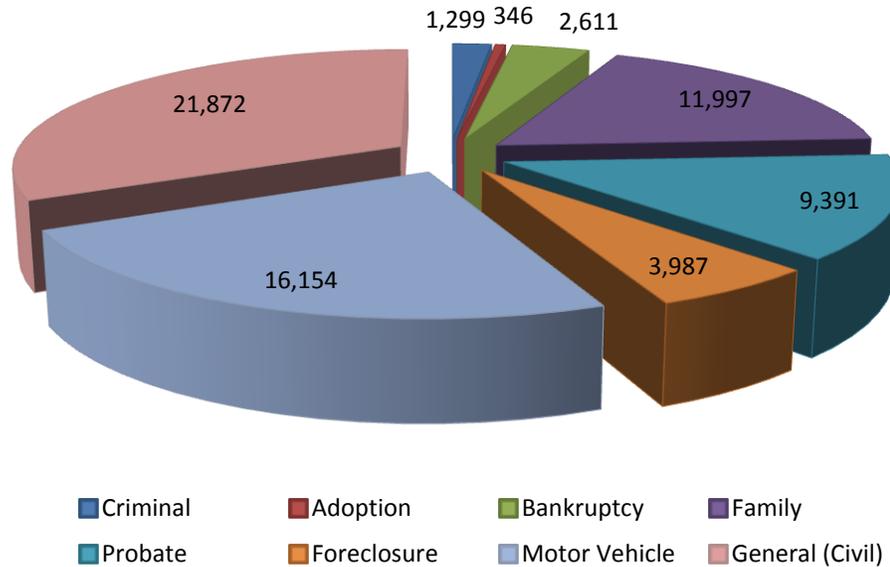
The **Family** category includes all *Divorce Act* and *Family Law Act* proceedings. For this table, it also includes *Adoption Act* proceedings.

The **Criminal** category includes criminal matters such as *Criminal Code*, *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* proceedings, bail reviews and *Extradition Act* proceedings.

A new criminal filing in the Supreme Court occurs when an indictment is filed or a file is transferred from another registry.

FIGURE 2: NEW FILINGS BY CATEGORY IN 2013

This chart provides a more detailed breakdown of the new civil, family and criminal proceedings in 2012.



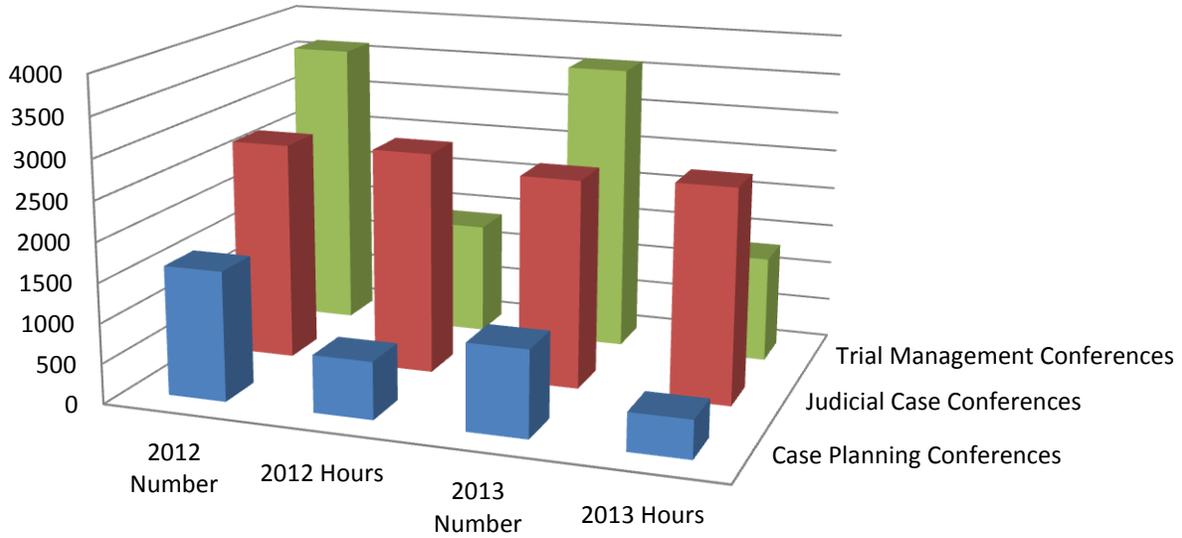
For this table, the **General (Civil)** category includes all general civil cases such as bodily injury, debt collection, breach of contract, foreclosures, bankruptcies, judicial review and appeals. For this table, the General (Civil) does not include a number of specific civil proceedings which are shown separately (i.e., motor vehicle, probate, foreclosure and bankruptcy).

The **Family** category includes all *Divorce Act* and *Family Law Act* proceedings, but does not include *Adoption Act* proceedings which are shown separately.

The **Criminal** category includes all criminal matters such as bail reviews, *Extradition Act* proceedings, wiretap authorizations and summary conviction appeals.

FIGURE 3: CONFERENCES: TYPES, NUMBER, AND HOURS

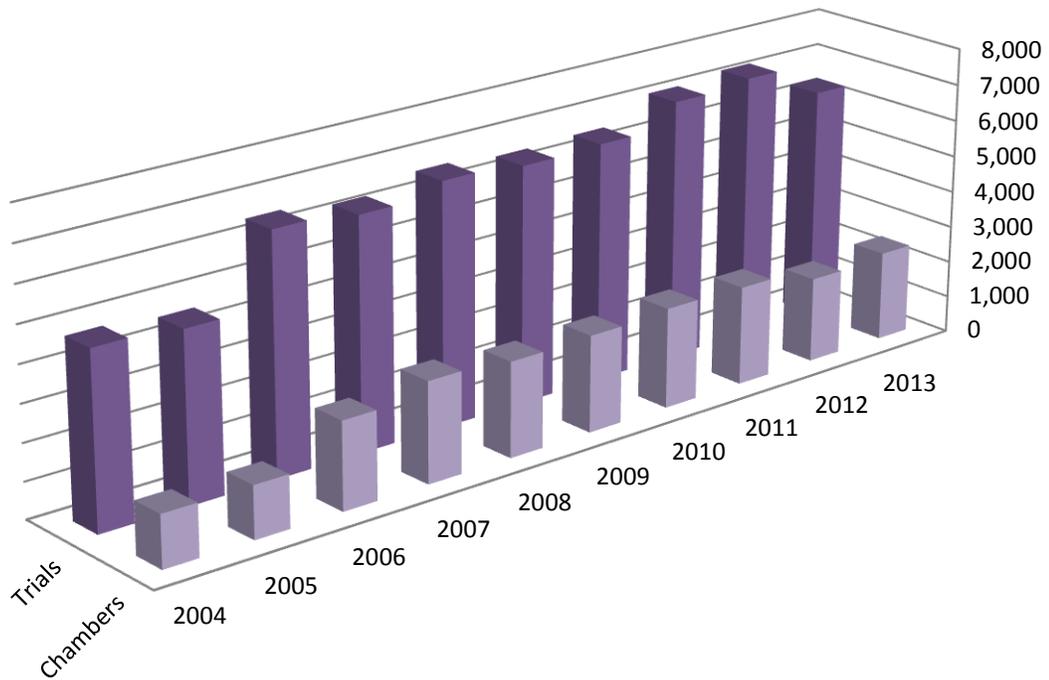
This chart provides the number of case planning conferences (held in civil proceedings), judicial case conferences (held in family proceedings) and trial management conferences (held in both civil and family proceedings).



	2012 Number	2012 Hours	2013 Number	2013 Hours
Case Planning Conferences	1620	716	1077	473
Judicial Case Conferences	2752	2789	2608	2678
Trial Management Conferences	3641	1408	3611	1326

FIGURE 4: CIVIL TRIALS AND LONG CHAMBERS APPLICATIONS SCHEDULED IN VANCOUVER

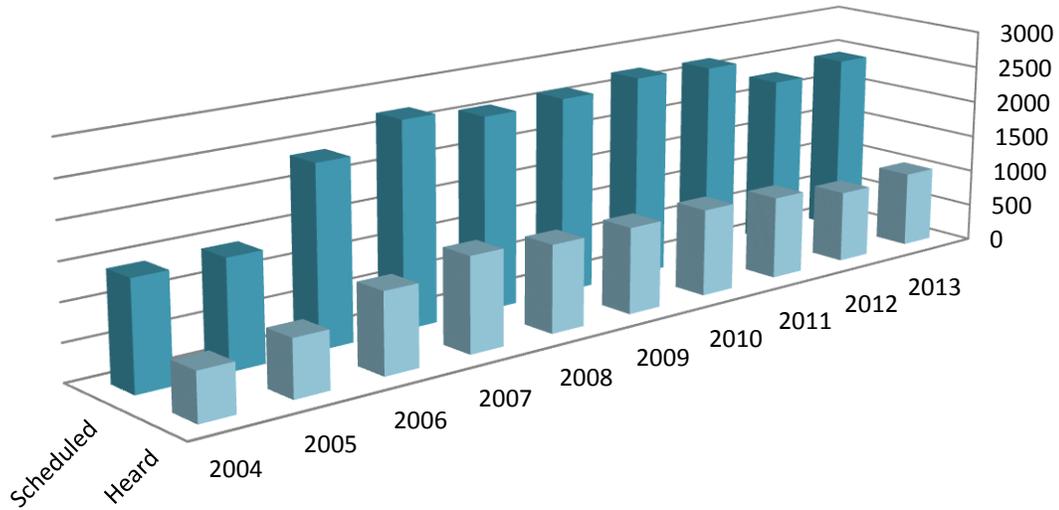
This chart shows the number of civil and family trials and long chambers applications scheduled in Vancouver from 2004 to 2013. A long chambers application is one where the time estimate is more than 2 hours.



	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Trials	4,748	4,584	6,489	6,284	6,601	6,447	6,488	7,112	7,249	6,347
Long Chambers	1,427	1,431	2,383	2,725	2,574	2,620	2,716	2,679	2,305	2,434

FIGURE 5: LONG CHAMBERS APPLICATIONS SCHEDULED AND HEARD IN VANCOUVER

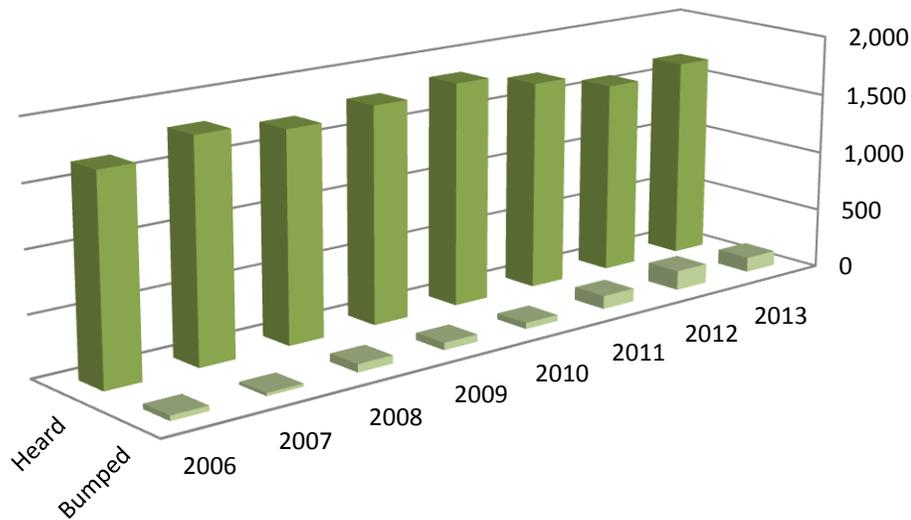
This chart shows the number of civil and family long chambers applications scheduled and heard in Vancouver from 2004 to 2013. A long chambers application is one where the time estimate is more than 2 hours.



	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Scheduled	1427	1431	2383	2725	2574	2620	2716	2679	2305	2434
Heard	639	754	1066	1259	1163	1152	1162	1106	961	1015
% Heard v. Scheduled	45	53	45	46	45	44	43	41	42	42

FIGURE 6: LONG CHAMBERS APPLICATIONS HEARD AND BUMPED IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

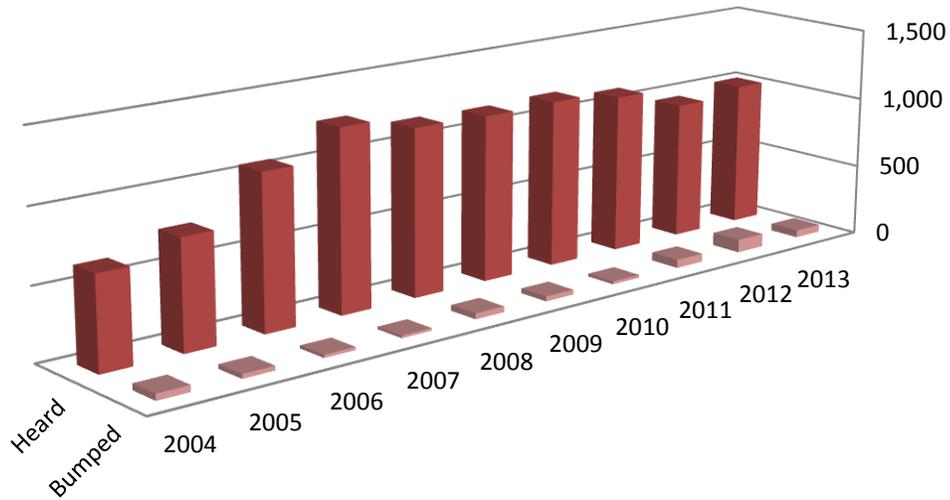
This chart shows the number of civil and family long chambers applications heard and bumped in British Columbia from 2006 to 2013. A long chambers application is one where the time estimate is more than 2 hours. A long chambers application is considered bumped if it is not commenced or rescheduled within one week of the originally scheduled hearing date.



	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Heard	1,670	1,800	1,719	1,782	1,843	1,726	1,591	1,670
Bumped	42	24	66	59	50	108	160	122
% Bumped v. Heard	2.5	1.3	3.8	3.3	2.7	6.3	10.1	7.3

FIGURE 7: LONG CHAMBERS APPLICATIONS HEARD AND BUMPED IN VANCOUVER

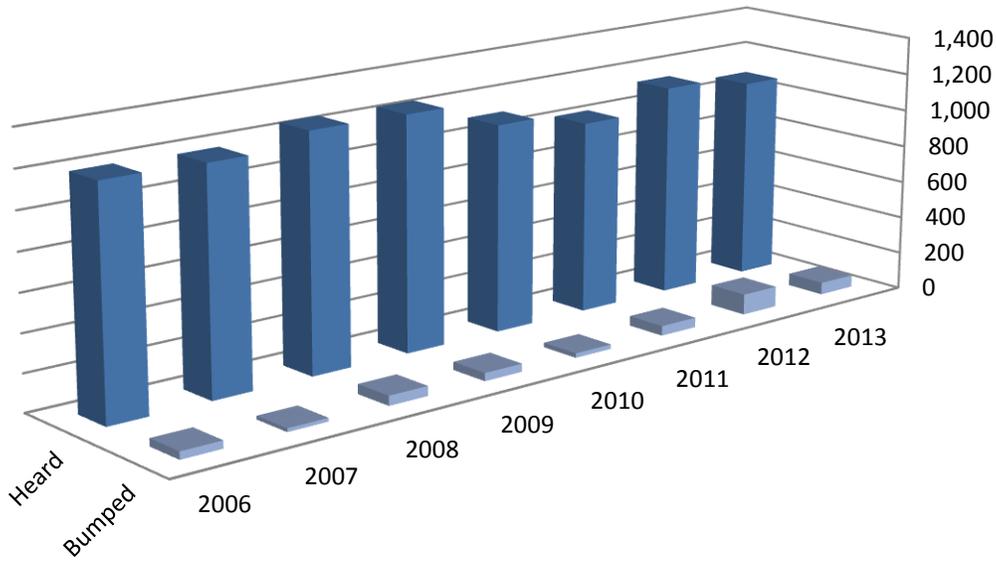
This chart shows the number of civil and family long chambers applications heard and bumped in Vancouver from 2004 to 2013. A long chambers application is one where the time estimate is more than 2 hours. A long chambers application is considered bumped if it is not commenced or rescheduled within one week of the originally scheduled hearing date.



	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Heard	639	754	1,066	1,259	1,163	1,152	1,162	1,106	961	1,015
Bumped	45	31	21	17	40	34	20	58	91	51
% Bumped v. Heard	7.0	4.1	2.0	1.4	3.4	3.0	1.7	5.2	9.5	5.0

FIGURE 8: TRIALS HEARD AND BUMPED IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

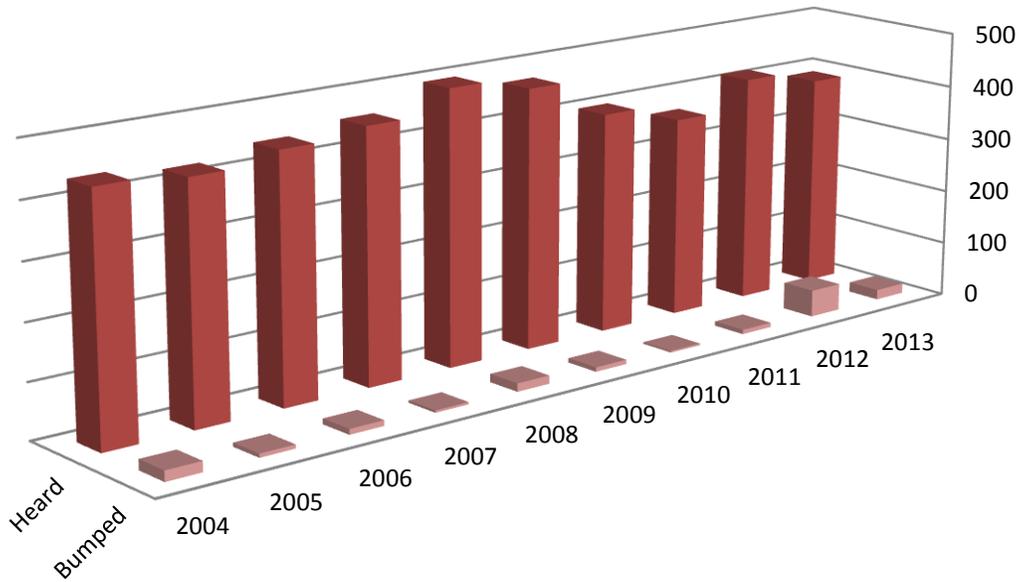
This chart shows the number of civil, family and criminal trials heard and bumped in British Columbia from 2006 to 2013. A trial is categorized as bumped if it is not commenced or rescheduled within one week of the originally scheduled hearing date.



	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Heard	1,194	1,184	1,252	1,246	1,104	1,025	1,133	1,077
Bumped	41	19	52	43	24	52	110	65
% Bumped v. Heard	3.4	1.6	4.2	3.5	2.2	5.1	9.7	6.0

FIGURE 9: TRIALS HEARD AND BUMPED IN VANCOUVER

This chart shows the number of civil, family and criminal trials heard and bumped in Vancouver from 2004 to 2013. A trial is categorized as bumped if it is not commenced or rescheduled within one week of the originally scheduled hearing date.



	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Heard	436	424	442	456	496	471	400	365	415	390
Bumped	19	7	10	4	15	8	3	8	49	18
% Bumped v. Heard	4.4	1.7	2.3	0.9	3.0	1.7	0.8	2.2	11.8	4.6

FIGURE 10: TRIALS HEARD AND BUMPED BY TYPE AND LOCATION IN 2013

For each Supreme Court registry in four regions, this table shows the number of civil, family, and criminal trials that were heard as scheduled and the number of scheduled trials which were bumped. A trial is categorized as bumped if it does not commence within one week of the originally scheduled trial date.

	HEARD 2013				BUMPED 2013			
	<i>Civil</i>	<i>Family</i>	<i>Criminal</i>	Total	<i>Civil</i>	<i>Family</i>	<i>Criminal</i>	Total
LOWER MAINLAND								
Chilliwack	6	7	34	47	3		1	4
New Westminster	97	48	78	223	6	5		11
Vancouver	235	91	64	390	14	4		18
<i>Regional Total</i>	338	146	176	660	23	9	1	33
VANCOUVER ISLAND								
Campbell River	3	1	3	7				
Courtenay	1	2	9	12	1	1		2
Duncan	3			3				
Nanaimo	16	3	17	36	2			2
Port Alberni			4	4				
Powell River	1	2		3				
Victoria	27	25	41	93	3			3
<i>Regional Total</i>	51	33	74	158	6	1	0	7
NORTHERN INTERIOR								
Dawson Creek		2	7	9	1	1		2
Fort St. John	2	3	3	8		1		1
Prince George	10	1	19	30	2			2
Prince Rupert			9	9				
Quesnel		1	3	4				
Smithers	2	3	7	12				
Terrace	1	5	4	10				
Williams Lake	1		23	24	3			3
<i>Regional Total</i>	16	15	75	106	6	2	0	8

	HEARD 2013				BUMPED 2013			
	<i>Civil</i>	<i>Family</i>	<i>Criminal</i>	Total	<i>Civil</i>	<i>Family</i>	<i>Criminal</i>	Total
SOUTHERN INTERIOR								
Cranbrook	2	2		4	1	1		2
Golden		1		1				
Kamloops	10	10	35	55	4	1		5
Kelowna	21	7	12	40	7			7
Nelson	6	5		11	1			1
Penticton	5	4	4	13				
Revelstoke								
Rossland		1		1				
Salmon Arm	2		4	6				
Vernon	8	3	11	22	2			2
<i>Regional Total</i>	54	33	66	153	15	2	0	17
PROVINCIAL TOTALS	459	227	391	1077	50	14	1	65

FIGURE 11: TRIALS HEARD BY LOCATION IN 2013

This chart provides an illustration of the number of trials by registry which is detailed in Figure 10.

