

Annual Report 2015

Supreme Court of British Columbia

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Report of the Chief Justice and the Associate Chief Justice



The Court is an important institution in society. Its role is to be a **neutral and impartial arbiter of disputes governed by respect for the Rule of Law.**

We welcome the opportunity to describe and discuss the work of the Court, identify some of the challenges that it faces and highlight a number of initiatives undertaken in 2015.

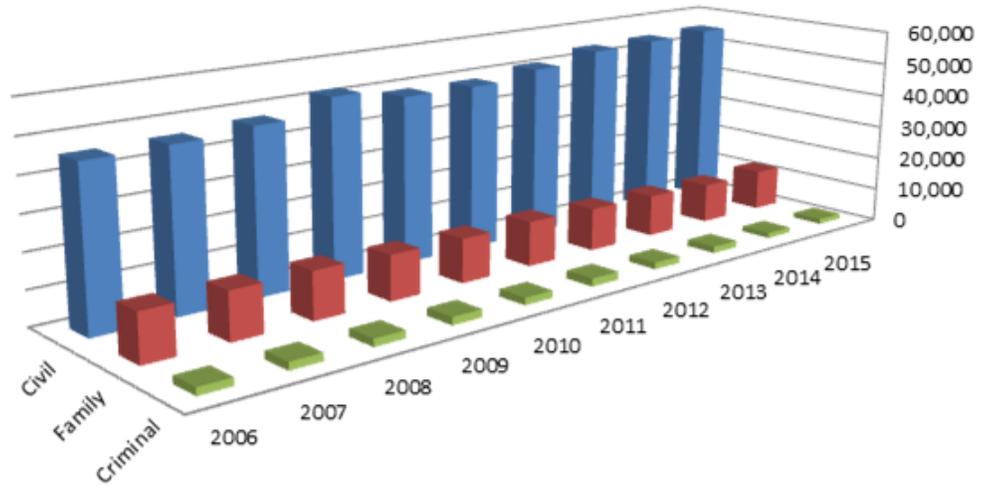
The Court is an important institution in society. Its role is to be a neutral and impartial arbiter of disputes governed by respect for the Rule of Law. The Court is part of a larger justice system; however, it must stand apart from a number of others in the justice system (e.g., the Attorney General, the Ministry of Justice, the legislature, citizens,, the police and corporations) in order to perform its duties. The Court recognizes that the justice system as a whole functions more effectively and is better able to strengthen the Rule of Law when those involved in the justice system understand and respect the varying roles and responsibilities of each other. To that end, the Court values the opportunities it has to communicate, cooperate and collaborate to strengthen, support and promote the justice system.

THE WORK OF THE COURT

New Filings

The new filings for criminal, civil and family proceedings are shown below. For 2015, there were some modest changes: civil proceedings increased slightly (~2%), criminal proceedings decreased slightly (~2%) and family proceedings increased slightly (~3%). The total number of new filings was up slightly from 2014.

New Civil, Family and Criminal Filings, 2006-2015



	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Criminal	2,178	2,241	2,206	2,241	2,081	2,323	1,936	1,915	1,504	1,474
Family	13,734	13,651	13,705	13,027	12,830	13,110	12,565	12,262	11,678	12,091
Civil	45,655	46,113	47,475	52,066	48,883	48,754	50,924	53,790	54,416	55,211

It is important to note that the methodology for counting new filings was changed for 2015 and all of the new filing numbers from 2006-2015 have been restated. Under the new methodology, a new civil or family case is opened (and included in the new filing count) when the originating process is filed. The new civil or family case counts do not include files transferred from one registry to another. Previously, transferred cases were counted as new cases which resulted in double counting of some civil files.

For criminal case counts, a new case is counted at the file/accused level which means that where there are multiple accused on the same file, each accused is counted as a separate case. Previously, new criminal cases were counted at the file level which meant that whether there was a single accused or several accused, the case was only counted once.

The overall impact of the methodology changes is an increase for new criminal filings of approximately 30% for new criminal cases and a very small decrease (~1%) in the number of new civil and family filings.

For a more detailed breakdown of the subject matter categories of new filings, please see Appendix A, Figure 2.

Bumping Scheduled Trials and Long Chambers Applications

The Court will continue to closely monitor the bumping rates in Vancouver to provide **as much certainty as possible that when litigants scheduled a matter for hearing or trial, the court will be able to proceed as scheduled.**

As we have noted in previous annual reports, in 2012, the court experienced a spike in the number of scheduled trials and scheduled long chambers applications that were bumped both in Vancouver and in the rest of the province. 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 (e.g., available judges, courtrooms, etc.). In recognition of the disruption and expense experienced by litigants and counsel when scheduled matters are bumped, the Court began in 2013 and 2014 to reduce the number of trials and long chambers applications that were scheduled. The impact of this was a reduction in the number of scheduled trials and long chambers applications that were bumped. In 2015 5.8% of scheduled trials and 4.3% of scheduled long chambers applications in Vancouver were bumped. Although these rates are lower than the spike in 2012, they are higher than they were in 2014. Elsewhere in the province, 4.5% of scheduled trials, and 5.5% of scheduled long chambers applications were bumped. This is a decrease in the bumping rates for trials and long chambers applications outside of Vancouver compared to the rates in 2014. The Court will continue to closely monitor the bumping rates in Vancouver to provide as much certainty as possible so that when litigants schedule a matter for hearing or trial, the court will be able to proceed as scheduled. For more detailed information, please see *Figures 6-9* in Appendix A.

Available Trial Dates

In 2015, dates for a five-day family trial were generally available within 5 to 6 months. For a five-day civil trial; however, the wait for available dates was approximately 18 months.

As we have reported in previous annual reports, in addressing the bumping rates which were felt to be unacceptably high, the court has scheduled fewer matters. The impact of scheduling fewer matters has been experienced most acutely in respect of civil proceedings. Because of the urgency of most family proceedings, trials and long chambers applications are given greater scheduling priority than civil proceedings. In 2015, dates for a five-day family trial were generally available within 5 to 6 months. For a five-day civil trial; however, the wait for available dates was approximately 18 months. For criminal proceedings, given the interests at stake and the possibility that an accused is in custody awaiting trial, criminal trial dates are generally available as needed. Where there are urgent circumstances, hearing dates are made available as soon as possible regardless of the subject matter.

Conferences

In addition to the trials and chambers applications, a significant amount of judicial hearing resources are allocated to various forms of conferences (e.g., case planning conferences, judicial case conferences, trial management conferences, pre-trial conferences, judicial management conferences, etc.) In 2015, 6924 conferences were scheduled in family and civil proceedings. This is a small decrease from 2014. With respect to the amount of judicial time allocated to conferences, in 2015, 4364 hours were scheduled. This is also a small decline from 2014.

Looking forward to 2016, the Court will welcome amendments to the *Supreme Court Rules* that will provide greater flexibility in respect of scheduling trial management conferences. The amendments which will come into force on July 1, 2016 will make it possible for litigants to use a desk order process to obtain leave to dispense with the requirement to attend a trial management conference. It is hoped that this amendment will improve the ability of the Court to focus scarce judicial resources on those proceedings where they are most needed.

Distribution of Trial Work

The general subject matter of trials is divided into three general areas: civil, family and criminal. In 2015, approximately 42% of trials were in civil proceedings, 22% were in family proceedings and 37% were in criminal proceedings. The distribution of trial work has been virtually unchanged over the last few years.

The Lower Mainland region (Vancouver, New Westminister and Chilliwack) is the highest volume region in the province in respect of trial work. In 2015, there were 584 trials in this region which represents 60.5% of the total number of trials in the province.

In the Southern Interior (Cranbrook, Golden, Kamloops, Kelowna, Nelson, Penticton, Revelstoke, Rossland, Salmon Arm, and Vernon) there were 159 trials which represents 16.5% of the total number of trials in the province.

On Vancouver Island (Campbell River, Courtenay, Duncan, Nanaimo, Port Alberni, Powell River, and Victoria) there were 136 trials which represents 14.1% of the total number of trials in the province.

In 2015, approximately 42% of trials were in civil proceedings, 22% were in family proceedings and 37% were in criminal proceedings. **The distribution of trial work has been virtually unchanged over the last few years.**

In the Northern Interior region (Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, Prince George, Prince Rupert, Quesnel, Smithers, Terrace, and Williams Lake) there were 86 trials which represents 8.9% of the total number of trials in the province.

Registrar's Work

The Supreme Court has a two registrars who conduct assessments relating to bills of costs, review lawyers' accounts, settle orders, and deal with bankruptcy discharge applications. **The registrars also hear matters that are referred to them by judges.**

As noted elsewhere in this report, the Supreme Court has two registrars who conduct assessments relating to bills of costs, review lawyers' accounts, settle orders, and deal with bankruptcy discharge applications. The registrars also hear matters that are referred to them by judges of the court. Typically, these references involve some degree of accounting of assets, fees, income, payment arrears, etc. Examples of the type of references made to the registrars include:

- determining the value of a business or an interest in property
- assessing the employment or business income for the purposes of calculating child or spousal support or extraordinary childcare expenses
- determining the amount of strata fees owed under the *Strata Properties Act*
- determining the amount of money held in a family trust
- assessing the cost of renovations to a property
- conducting an accounting of the net rents received for revenue properties
- recommending the amount of remuneration to be allowed for a court appointed receiver in an insolvency proceeding

In 2015, the court scheduled approximately 1812 registrars hearings. The court also scheduled approximately 328 pre-hearing conferences in relation to these hearings. Where possible, the court's registrars preside at these hearings; however, judges and masters also have the same jurisdiction of registrars and are assigned to registrar's hearings where the court does not have a registrar available. This typically happens in locations outside of the Lower Mainland where the court can offer an earlier hearing date before a master or a judge than a registrar.

Published Reasons for Judgment

The BC Courts were one of the first Canadian courts to undertake the role of making **reasons for judgment available to anyone with an internet connection.**

The Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal have been publishing reasons for judgment on the Courts' website since 1990. In fact, the BC Courts were one of the first Canadian courts to undertake the role of making reasons for judgment available to anyone with an internet connection. Each day, the court publishes reasons for judgment issued by judges, masters and registrars. The court publishes some, but not all reasons for judgment on the Court's website. The table that follows provides the number of published reasons for judgment by subject (civil, criminal and family) and type (written or transcribed oral) from 2011-2015. The reasons for judgment that **are included** in the table that follows are:

1. transcribed oral reasons for judgment which the issuing judge, master or registrar has directed be published.
2. published written reasons for judgment and

The reasons for judgment that **are not included** and are therefore not considered are:

1. oral reasons for judgment that were not transcribed
2. oral reasons that were transcribed, but not published
3. reasons for judgment that are subject to a publication ban; and
4. reasons for judgment that are sealed

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
CIVIL					
Oral	274	267	260	285	316
Written	1120	1120	1133	1181	1050
Total	1394	1387	1393	1466	1366
CRIMINAL					
Oral	198	188	312	348	354
Written	116	144	123	120	114
Total	314	332	435	468	468
FAMILY					
Oral	41	29	54	66	96
Written	211	231	285	299	300
Total	252	260	339	365	396
TOTAL	1960	1979	2167	2299	2230

In 2015, the Court published fewer reasons for judgment in civil proceedings, the same number of reasons for judgment in criminal proceedings and more reasons for judgment in family proceedings. The number of published reasons for judgment varies from year to year. There are a several factors that have an impact on the number of reasons for judgment that are published. Some of these factors include the number of transcripts of oral reasons for judgment that are requested, the existence of publication bans and sealing orders, and the number of hearings which conclude and require reasons for judgment.

For more information about the publishing of reasons for judgment, please see Figures 13-14 in Appendix A.

E-Filing

In 2008 when the Ministry of Justice Court Services Branch completed its roll-out of Court Services Online (“CSO”), a web-based application for electronic court services. Using CSO, litigants are able to file most documents in civil and family proceedings in any registry across the province any day of the week. Since its introduction, CSO has seen the number of documents e-filed increase although it does appear that the take-up rate for e-filing has plateaued over the last few years.

The Court would like to **encourage all litigants and counsel to consider e-filing** their documents where possible.

	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Documents Filed	558,019	614,273	301,307	595,294	588,708	599,767	595,496
Documents E-Filed	32,731	90,862	160,458	197,152	208,118	217,130	218,788
% E-Filed	6%	15%	26%	32%	35%	36%	36%

The Court would like to encourage all litigants and counsel to consider e-filing their documents where possible.

E-Orders

A second component of Court Services Online is the ability of litigants to electronically submit orders for approval and entry. A significant portion of the Court’s judges, masters, and registrars are assigned to processing e-Orders on a weekly basis. The e-Order assignments are made in weeks when judges, masters, and registrars are scheduled to sit and the work of processing e-Orders is done amongst whatever other

work has been assigned to them. Below is a table that sets out the number of e-Orders processed by judges, masters and registrars from 2008-2015.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
E-Orders Processed	714	2183	5093	8051	8530	9238	8920	9477

SUPERIOR COURTS INFORMATION OFFICER

The appointment of Mr. Cohen was recognition of **the important role that members of the media play in informing the public about the justice system** and decisions of the Superior Courts.

On September 1, 2015, the Honourable Bruce Cohen was appointed as the Superior Courts Communications Officer. Mr. Cohen retired from the bench in April 2015 after having served as a Justice of the Supreme Court of British Columbia since 1987. The appointment of Mr. Cohen was recognition of the important role that members of the media play in informing the public about the justice system and decisions of the Superior Courts. Mr. Cohen acts as a spokesperson for the Superior Courts and as a liaison between the Superior Courts Judiciary and the media respecting the decisions of the Superior Courts and any initiatives undertaken by the Superior Courts to improve access to justice or to make the Superior Courts' processes more efficient and affordable. Mr. Cohen's appointment reinstates a position previously held by the late Honourable Lloyd McKenzie who was also a retired member of the Supreme Court of British Columbia. During his tenure in the position, Mr. McKenzie acted as a liaison between the Superior Courts and the media in the interests of bringing clarity to the processes and decisions of the Superior Courts.

JUDICIAL VACANCIES

In 2015, the Court welcomed two new justices and two new masters. As of December 31, 2015, there were six judicial vacancies resulting from a number of supernumerary elections and the elevation of three Supreme Court justices to the Court of Appeal. Vacancies are created when a judge is elevated to the Court of Appeal, a judge elects to become a supernumerary judge or a judge who is not a supernumerary judge retires. The Supreme Court has been dealing with a number of judicial vacancies for some time which makes it very difficult for the Court to provide hearing dates for litigants in a timely manner. The impact of unfilled judicial vacancies is reflected, in part, in the number of scheduled trials and long chambers applications that had to be rescheduled, particularly in Vancouver. Ongoing judicial vacancies also increase the workload burden on the current complement of judges. The Court remains hopeful

that its existing judicial vacancies will be filled soon and that future vacancies will be filled promptly.

FAMILY PILOT PROJECT

The Family Law Pilot project which was introduced in September 2014 continues to operate in Vancouver and New Westminster. Over the course of the pilot, most judges resident in Vancouver and New Westminster will be assigned to a fixed rotation in family law. Upon the conclusion of the pilot in September 2016, an evaluation will be undertaken to assess its effectiveness and to consider whether it should be continued in Vancouver and New Westminster and/or expanded to other registries.

The goal that motivates the Family Law Pilot project is to develop judicial expertise in family law with the expectation that such expertise will benefit litigants, particularly self-represented litigants, and may also serve to shorten the timeframe for release of reserved judgments in family cases. A dedicated legal counsel hired as part of the project has been providing support including the development of case law summaries as well as other educational tools for judges and for self-represented litigants.

The purpose of the these roundtables is to gather together people, organizations and institutions who are involved with major complex criminal proceedings

COMPLEX CRIMINAL TRIALS

In September 2015, the Associate Chief Justice hosted the Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice for its roundtable on the management of complex criminal trials. This was a follow up roundtable to one which took place in 2014. The purpose of the these roundtables is to gather together people, organizations and institutions who are involved with major complex criminal proceedings from investigations to laying charges to trial with a view to examining how these cases are administered and managed. The attendees of the 2015 roundtable included judges from the trial courts in British Columbia, defence counsel, federal and provincial prosecutors and representatives from police agencies (RCMP, Vancouver Police, and Delta Police), Legal Services Society and various Ministry of Justice branches (court administration, sheriffs, and corrections). The attendees considered a set of recommendations to establish a framework for ongoing discussions and cooperative work among various participants in the criminal justice system who are engaged on major cases. It is anticipated that Associate Chief Justice Cullen will hold a further follow-up meeting in the spring of 2016 to learn about the actions that various roundtable attendees are undertaking in respect of the recommendations.

For its part, the Supreme Court has struck a sub-committee of the Criminal Law Committee to consider and review its own processes for managing complex criminal proceedings with a view to determining whether new or additional processes and procedures are required.

BRITISH COLUMBIA ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMITTEE

The British Columbia Access to Justice Committee was convened in the wake of the Cromwell report ([Access to Civil and Family Justice, A Roadmap for Change](#)) which recommended that each jurisdiction form such a committee to take on access issues. The British Columbia Access to Justice Committee is chaired by Chief Justice Bauman. Associate Chief Justice Cullen is a member on behalf of the Supreme Court. The focus of the British Columbia Access to Justice Committee is family law and it is currently considering a broad range of ideas to address a number of complex and compelling needs in this area. The work of the British Columbia Access to Justice Committee has been supported, in part, by financial contribution from the Law Foundation of British Columbia.

JUSTICE SUMMIT

The Chief Justice attended the Fifth Justice Summit hosted by the Attorney General. The topics for the Fifth Justice Summit were 1) justice system responses to victims of violent crime and 2) coordination and information sharing in and across family justice, criminal justice, and child protection proceedings in the context of violent crime and domestic violence. The Report of Proceedings from the Fifth Justice Summit as well as other information about the Justice Summit are available [here](#).

SUPREME COURT PRACTICE DIRECTIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE NOTICES

The Court issued a number of practice directions and one administrative notice in 2015:

PD - 47 - Model Orders

This Practice Direction directs the use of model forms of order for a variety of applications. The purpose of the model orders is to focus the attention of the parties and the Court on the issues in dispute in a particular proceeding. With PD-47, the Court introduced a more efficient method to revise the terms of the model orders, issue new model orders or rescind existing model orders as case law developments or other circumstances require.

PD - 48 - Video Recording or Broadcasting of Court Proceedings

This Practice Direction describes the procedures for applications for authorization to video record or broadcast court proceedings or portions thereof. It replaced the Court's existing practice direction which was issued in 2002.

PD - 49 - Applications By Requisition (Civil)

This practice direction directs the use and filing of a specific form in place of a letter for certain applications provided by certain Supreme Court Civil Rules.

FPD - 13 - Applications by Requisition (Family)

This practice direction directs the use and filing of a specific form in place of a letter for certain applications provided by certain Supreme Court Family Rules.

AN - 12 - Bankruptcy Proceedings Before a Registrar in Bankruptcy

This administrative notice applies to trustee-opposed discharge applications and to bankruptcy hearings in excess of 15 minutes. It sets out the procedures to be followed and forms to be used in all bankruptcy hearings.

EXTRA JUDICIAL ACTIVITIES

In addition to the normal workload of hearing cases and applications, deciding issues, writing and issuing reasons for judgment, attending to judicial functions out of the courtroom (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), judges, masters and registrars participate in a wide variety of other activities in their communities.

Judges, masters and registrars speak regularly to high school law and social justice classes when groups of students attend to watch court as part of courthouse visits and tours arranged by the Justice Education Society, the Canadian Bar Association and others. Members of the Court also attend at high schools to meet and talk with students. These visits are often done in association with Law Week activities organized by the Canadian Bar Association, but they occur at other times of the year too. Judges, masters and registrars welcome opportunities to meet high school students and others and to contribute to a greater understanding of the justice system and its role in Canadian society.

In 2015, the Court’s judges, masters and registrars were involved in a wide range of local, provincial, federal and international organizations including:

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In closing, we wish to express our thanks and deep appreciation to the people of the Court Services Branch who work in courthouses across the province including court clerks, registry staff, sheriffs, and court administration staff. The administration of justice in British Columbia relies heavily on the professionalism and dedication of these public servants who work so diligently on behalf of the judiciary and the citizens of British Columbia.

We would also like to express our thanks for the many contributions made by the Court's judicial administration staff including the judicial administrative assistants, judicial law clerks, scheduling staff, judicial administration and library staff, IT staff, and legal counsel. The ability of the Court to function effectively is due, in large measure, to the professionalism and commitment of our support staff. We are grateful for their hard work and dedication to the work of the Court.

Finally, we would also like express our appreciation for our judicial colleagues: the judges, masters and registrars of the Court who carry out their responsibilities with dedication and diligence. They also provide advice and support to us as we fulfill our roles in respect of the administration of the Court.

Christopher E. Hinkson
Chief Justice

Austin F. Cullen
Associate Chief Justice

Jurisdiction of the Court



Rossland Courthouse

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 Chilliwack, Cranbrook, Kamloops, Kelowna, Nanaimo, Nelson, New Westminster, Prince George, Prince Rupert, Smithers, Vancouver and Victoria. The Supreme Court also sits as required in other locations where there is no resident judge or master 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.

CHIEF JUSTICE AND ASSOCIATE CHIEF JUSTICE

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

SUPREME COURT JUSTICES

As of December 31, 2015, the Supreme Court had 100 justices: the Chief Justice, the Associate Chief Justice, 88 justices and 15 supernumerary justices. As of December 31, 2015, there were six vacancies¹ on the Supreme Court.

SUPREME COURT MASTERS

As of December 31, 2015, the Supreme Court had 14 masters who are resident in Kamloops, Kelowna, Nanaimo, New Westminster, Vancouver and Victoria. Masters sit in all of the registries throughout the province on a regular basis. Masters also conduct hearings using telephone and video conferencing.

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 of the Supreme Court, 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 or their designates.

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

As of December 31, 2015, the Supreme Court had one registrar and one district registrar. Both registrars are resident in Vancouver however, they regularly sit in other registries. Like the masters, the registrars also conduct hearings using telephone and video conferencing.

¹ The Supreme Court Act provides that the Supreme Court consists of 90 justice in addition to the Chief Justice and the Associate Chief Justice. A judicial vacancy is created when a full time judge retires or when a full time judge elects to become a supernumerary judge.

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



New Westminster Law Courts

In 2015, the Court welcomed the appointment of two new justices and two new masters. The Court also celebrated the elevation of three of its members to the Court of Appeal and acknowledged the retirement of a number of colleagues.

APPOINTMENTS

The Honourable Madam Justice Grace Choi

Madam Justice Choi was appointed to the Supreme Court at Vancouver on May 29, 2015 to fill a vacancy created when Mr. Justice Crawford elected to become a supernumerary judge.

Madam Justice Choi received a Bachelor of Laws from Dalhousie University in 1992 and was admitted to the bar of British Columbia in 1993 and Ontario in 1996. Madam Justice Choi practised at Davis & Company (now DLA Piper LLP) and Jenkins Marzban Logan in the areas of family law. Madam Justice Choi was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2014.

Madam Justice Choi was an active member of the legal community throughout her career. She volunteered with a number of organizations including the Canadian Bar Association and was a frequent presenter at continuing legal education programs and a prolific writer on wide variety of family law topics.

The Honourable Madam Justice Barbara M. Young

Madam Justice Young was appointed to the Supreme Court of British Columbia on June 19, 2015 to fill a position created by *An Act to Amend the Judges Act* (S.C. 2008).

Madam Justice Young received a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Calgary in 1985 and was admitted to the Bar of British Columbia in 1986. Madam Justice Young practised in the areas of family law, estate litigation, mediation, personal injury and Workers' Compensation appeals. Madam Justice Young became a certified family mediator in 1996, was admitted to the child protection mediation roster in 2003. Madam Justice Young was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2005. Madam Justice Young was appointed a Master of the Supreme Court in 2006 and held that position in the

Okanagan until her judicial appointment. Madam Justice Young is a member of the Attorney General's Rules Revision Committee.

Master Steven Wilson

Master Wilson was appointed a Master of the Supreme Court at Kelowna on November 23, 2015.

Master Wilson obtained a Bachelor of Laws from the University of British Columbia in 1991 and was called to the bar of British Columbia in 1992. Master Wilson practised at Pushor Mitchell LLP in Kelowna. Master Wilson's practice areas included commercial and civil litigation.

Master Wilson volunteered with a number of organizations including the John Howard Society, Kelowna Youth Soccer and Kelowna Community Resources Society.

Master Sandra Dick

Master Dick was appointed a Master of the Supreme Court at Nanaimo on January 1, 2016.

Master Dick obtained a Bachelor of Laws from the University of British Columbia in 1989 and was called to the bar of British Columbia in 1990. At the time of her appointment Master Dick was a partner at Heath Law LLP where her practice areas included estate administration, conveyancing and personal injury litigation.

Master Dick volunteered with and supported a number of youth athletics organizations in her community and was a supporter of performing arts organizations. Master Dick also served as a governor of the Law Foundation of B.C. and is a former president of the Nanaimo City Bar Association.

ELEVATIONS

The Honourable Madam Justice Lauri Ann Fenlon

Madam Justice Fenlon was appointed to the Court of Appeal for British Columbia and the Court of Appeal of Yukon on June 19, 2015 to fill the vacancy created when Madam Justice Stromberg-Stein elected to become a supernumerary judge.

Madam Justice Lauri Ann Fenlon was appointed to the Supreme Court in 2008. Madam Justice Fenlon received a Bachelor of Law degree from the University of

Victoria in 1983. After completing a clerkship at the Supreme Court of Canada with Mr. Justice McIntyre, Madam Justice Fenlon was admitted to the Bar of British Columbia in 1985. Madam Justice Fenlon practiced in the areas of civil litigation, focussing on administrative, privacy and health law as well as family and commercial litigation.

Madam Justice Fenlon was a member of the Supreme Court's Education Committee and served as a principal for a number of judicial law clerks. Madam Justice Fenlon was also a member of the Attorney General's Rules Revision Committee

The Honourable Madam Justice Gail M. Dickson

Madam Justice Dickson was appointed to the Court of Appeal for British Columbia and the Court of Appeal of Yukon on July 29, 2015 to fill the vacancy created when Madam Justice MacKenzie elected to become a supernumerary judge.

Madam Justice Dickson was appointed to the Supreme Court in 2006. She received her law degree from the University of Saskatchewan in 1981 and was admitted to the Bar of British Columbia in 1982 and the Bar of Saskatchewan in 1984. Madam Justice Dickson practised with the Crown in British Columbia and Legal Aid in Saskatchewan from 1982 to 1988, when she began graduate studies at Cambridge University. In 1989 she obtained a Masters of Law and practised in England until 1991, when she returned to Vancouver, practising with Lawson Lundell from 1991 to 1993 and Dickson Murray from 1993 to 2006 in the areas of civil and criminal litigation. Madam Justice Dickson was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1998 and a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers in 2002.

Madam Justice Dickson was a member of the Supreme Court's Criminal Law Committee and the Education Committee. At the time of her elevation, Madam Justice Dickson was also a member of the Attorney General's' Rules Revision Committee.

The Honourable Mr. Justice Gregory J. Fitch

Mr. Justice Fitch was appointed to the Court of Appeal for British Columbia and the Court of Appeal of Yukon on September 1, 2015 to fill the vacancy created when Madam Justice Smith elected to become a supernumerary judge.

Mr. Justice Fitch was appointed to the Supreme Court in 2011. Mr. Justice Fitch received a Bachelor of Laws from Queen's University in 1985 and was admitted to the Law Society of Upper Canada in 1987 and to the Bar of British Columbia in 1994. Mr. Justice Fitch was Crown counsel with the Ministry of the Attorney General in Ontario and then in British Columbia and his main areas of practice were criminal law and constitutional litigation. Mr. Justice Fitch was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2005.

Mr. Justice Fitch served as member of the Supreme Court Education Committee, the Criminal Law Committee and the Law Clerks Committee. Mr. Justice Fitch also served as principal to a number of judicial law clerks.

RETIREMENTS

The Honourable Mr. Justice Romilly

Mr. Justice Romilly received a Bachelor of Laws from the University of British Columbia in 1966 and was admitted to the bar of British Columbia in 1967. Mr. Justice Romilly practised criminal law and civil litigation until his appointment to the Provincial Court of British Columbia in 1974 first in Smithers and subsequently in Burnaby. Mr. Justice Romilly was appointed to the Supreme Court in 1995. Mr. Justice Romilly was a long serving member of the Supreme Court's Criminal Law Committee. Mr. Justice Romilly retired from the Court on January 7, 2015.

The Honourable Mr. Justice McKinnon

Mr. Justice McKinnon received a Bachelor of Laws from the University of British Columbia in 1969 and was admitted to the bar of British Columbia in 1970. Prior to law school, Mr. Justice McKinnon was a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and during his time with the RCMP, rode with the RCMP Musical Ride. Mr. Justice McKinnon was appointed to the County Court in 1985 and to the Supreme Court in 1990 upon the merger of the two courts. Mr. Justice McKinnon retired on April 21, 2015.

The Honourable Mr. Justice Cohen

Mr. Justice Cohen received a Bachelor of Laws from the University of British Columbia in 1965 and a Master of Law from the University of California (Berkeley) in 1966 and was admitted to the bar of British Columbia in 1967. Mr. Justice Cohen practised at Ladner Downs (now Borden Ladner Gervais LLP) in the areas of administrative law including property tax assessments. Mr. Justice Cohen was appointed Queen's

Counsel in 1983. Mr. Justice Cohen was appointed to the Supreme Court in 1987. In 2005, Mr. Justice Cohen served as Chair of the Electoral Boundaries Commission for British Columbia in 2008 and in 2009, Mr. Justice Cohen was appointed Chair of Commission of Inquiry into the Decline of Sockeye Salmon in the Fraser River. Mr. Justice Cohen retired on May 4, 2015.

The Honourable Mr. Justice Parrett

Mr. Justice Parrett received a law degree from the University of British Columbia in 1972 and was called to the bar in 1973. Mr. Justice Parrett practised both civil and criminal litigation at Hope Heinrich in Prince George. Mr. Justice Parrett was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1987. Mr. Justice Parrett was appointed to the Supreme Court in 1990 and retired from the court on May 23, 2015.

The Honourable Mr. Justice Barrow

Mr. Justice Barrow received a law degree from the University of Victoria in 1980 and was called to the bar of British Columbia in 1981 after clerking at the Supreme Court. Mr. Justice Barrow practiced with the Quesnel firm of Coffey Quinn and Barrow until 1986 when he joined the Ministry of the Attorney General in Quesnel. In 1989, he became Administrative Crown Counsel in Kamloops and was later appointed as a Regional Crown Counsel responsible for the supervision of criminal prosecutions and the administration of Crown offices in southeast British Columbia. Mr. Justice Barrow was appointed to the Supreme Court in 2001 in Kelowna. Mr. Justice Barrow was a member of a number of committees including the Criminal Law Committee, the Courthouse Facilities Committee, and the Law Clerks Committee. Mr. Justice Barrow retired on September 11, 2015.

The Honourable Mr. Justice Melnick

Mr. Justice Melnick received a law degree from the University of Western Ontario in 1967 and was called to the bar in British Columbia in 1968 after articling at Davis and Company. Mr. Justice Melnick practiced civil litigation in the Kootenays and was very active in law related organizations including the Law Society of British Columbia, the Legal Services Society, the Canadian Bar Association. Mr. Justice Melnick was a founding director of the Continuing Legal Education Society and the Law Library Foundation (a predecessor of the BC Courthouse Library Society) and was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1985. Mr. Justice Melnick was appointed to the County Court in 1987 and to the Supreme Court in 1990 upon the merger of the two courts. Mr.

Justice Melnick served as Chair of the Electoral Boundaries Commission for British Columbia in 2014. Mr. Justice Melnick retired on October 31, 2015.

The Honourable Mr. Justice Macaulay

Mr. Justice Macaulay received a law degree from the University of British Columbia in 1973 and was called to the bar in 1974. Mr. Justice Macaulay developed civil and criminal litigation practice in Victoria including ad hoc criminal prosecution work. While in practice, Mr. Justice Macaulay was a long serving member of the Attorney General's Rules Revision Committee. Mr. Justice Macaulay was appointed to the Supreme Court in 1996. Mr. Justice Macaulay was a judicial member of Attorney General's Rules Revision Committee from 1997-2010 including serving as Chair for a number of years. Mr. Justice Macaulay retired on December 31, 2015.

Master McCallum

Master McCallum received a law degree from Queen's University in 1974 and was called to the bar in British Columbia in 1975. Master McCallum practised in the area of civil litigation. In 1989, Master McCallum was appointed Master of the Supreme Court as part of the first group of masters appointed when the Master program was introduced. Master McCallum also served as Registrar of the Supreme Court for many years. Master McCallum was a long serving member of the Attorney General's Rules Revision Committee. Master McCallum retired on December 31, 2015.

Civil Law Committee



Nelson Courthouse

Members

Mr. Justice Walker (*Chair*)
Madam Justice Beames
Mr. Justice Bowden
Mr. Justice Davies
Madam Justice Gray
Madam Justice Griffin
Mr. Justice McEwan
Mr. Justice Sewell
Mr. Justice Smith
Mr. Justice Voith
Master Bouck
Master Caldwell
Jill Leacock, *Legal Counsel*

The role of the Civil Law Committee is to consider developments in civil procedure and substantive law and to provide input from time to time to the Chief Justices and other members of the Court. In addition, the Committee provides comment to the Rules Revision Committee on matters of procedure from time to time.

During 2015, the Committee:

made a recommendation, acted on by the Chief Justice, that the following model insolvency orders be adopted by way of Practice Direction:

Order made after application (foreign main proceeding)

Order made after application (supplementary order in foreign main proceeding)

Initial Order CCAA - November 5, 2014

1. provided input to the Chief Justice as to government policy in dealing with protests and other acts of civil disobedience;

2. made a recommendation, acted on by the Chief Justice, that a Model Mareva Order be adopted by way of Practice Direction; and
3. formed a subcommittee to work with other members of the Court to develop a uniform practice for dealing with sealed bids in foreclosures.

As well, throughout 2015, the Committee continued its practice of providing the Court with updates discussing recent significant appellate decisions.

Courthouse Facilities Committee



Chilliwack Law Courts

Members

Mr. Justice Williams (*Chair*)

Mr. Justice Dley

Mr. Justice Greyell

Mr. Justice Grist

Mr. Justice Johnston

Mr. Justice McEwan

Mr. Justice Punnett

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

The Courthouse Facilities Committee was constituted in 2006 as a standing committee of the Court. The composition of the Committee is intended to reflect regional representation.

In 2015, the Committee continued its discussions with Ministry Officials and members of the Provincial Court in reviewing, considering and providing input on proposals for new Courthouse facilities for the Fraser Valley and the North Okanagan. Work continues on these proposed projects and the Committee expects to continue its involvement as this work moves forward.

The Committee discussed whether the Courts should reconsider the issue of installing some form of perimeter security (e.g., airport style metal detectors) in Courthouses. Following discussion, the Committee concluded that there was insufficient evidence to reconsider the Courts' opposition to such forms of security. When specific cases require higher security, the Courts favour installing the security measure(s) at the entrance to the Courtroom as opposed to the entrance to the Court house.

The Committee again identified issues related to acoustics in Courtrooms and the inability of the Judge and/or jury to hear the witness's evidence, particularly where the witness is soft-spoken. At the request of the Committee, those responsible for the management of Courthouse facilities within the Court Services Branch of the Ministry

of Justice will again be reminded of the importance of this issue and need for concrete steps to be taken soon.

Criminal Law Committee



Revelstoke Courthouse

Members

Madam Justice Ker (*Chair*)
Associate Chief Justice Cullen
Madam Justice Arnold-Bailey
Madam Justice Beames
Mr. Justice Dley
Madam Justice Duncan
Mr. Justice Ehrcke
Mr. Justice Gaul
Madam Justice Holmes
Mr. Justice Leask
Madam Justice Maisonville
Mr. Justice Schultes
Madam Justice Watchuk
Madam Justice Wedge
Mr. Justice Williams
Heidi McBride, *Legal Counsel*

The Criminal Law Committee continued to provide the court with assistance with respect to various matters that arose during 2015 including providing representatives for the Publication Ban Working Group, the Vancouver Law Court Users' Committee, a committee considering the issue of cameras in courtrooms, the Committee on Access to Justice and a committee reviewing the *Court Record Access Policy*.

The Criminal Law Committee, through Madam Justice Holmes and, as of May 2015, through Madam Justice Watchuk, provided summaries of new criminal legislation as it came into force including *An Act to enact the Canadian Victims Bill of Rights and to amend certain Acts* (Bill C-32) and a preview of proposed legislative amendments including the *Life Means Life Act* (Bill C-53) and *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (increasing parole ineligibility)* (Bill C-587).

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.

A Sub-committee was struck to assist the Associate Chief Justice with developing processes and streamlining the growing phenomenon of “Mega Trials” in response to the Working Committee established by the Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice - the BC Roundtable on Complex Criminal Trials. The Sub-committee held three meetings this year and continues to discuss and develop a workable response from the Court’s perspective that all stakeholders can engage in when such matters come to trial in this Court.

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 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 experienced significant changes in January 2015 following the resignations of Silverman and Bruce JJ. And in August, Fitch J. was translated to the Court of Appeal. All three judges were active members in the Committee who provided invaluable contributions to the Committee over their years of membership on it. In February 2015 three new members volunteered their services and joined the Committee: Schultes, Watchuk, and Williams JJ. Madam Justice Duncan joined the Committee in September 2015 and Madam Justice Beames joined the Committee in November. Their contributions will be invaluable and most welcome.

Education Committee



Kelowna Courthouse

Members

Madam Justice Fisher (*Chair, until May 2015*)

Mr. Justice Abrioux (*Chair, from June 2015*)

Mr. Justice Betton

Madam Justice Bruce

Madam Justice Burke

Madam Justice Dardi

Madam Justice Dickson

Madam Justice Duncan

Madam Justice Fenlon

Mr. Justice Grauer

Mr. Justice Greyell

Mr. Justice Harvey

Mr. Justice Kent

Madam Justice Maisonville

Mr. Justice Pearlman

Mr. Justice Sewell

Mr. Justice Silverman

Mr. Justice Verhoeven

Madam Justice Watchuk

Master MacNaughton

Master Muir

Heidi McBride, *Legal Counsel*

The mandate of the Education Committee is to organize and present continuing education programs to in order to assist the judges, masters and registrars of the Court keep current with developments in substantive law as well as enhancing judicial skills, and learning about social context, philosophical and ethical issues.

The Committee delivers its main programs at judicial education conferences held in May and November of each year. The Court organizes and presents the conferences

in a partnership with the National Judicial Institute. The Committee is grateful for the continuing support from the staff at the National Judicial Institute including Kate Kehoe our Senior Program Advisor who supports the development of our programs as well as Kierston Fu, Geeta Gera, and Amber McAulay, our program leads who provide administrative and logistical support for the conferences.

In 2015, the May Conference sessions addressed relocation and spousal support in family proceedings, brain health, injunctions and contempt proceedings, civil forfeiture and the second instalment of a video production, Anatomy of a Criminal Trial. Presenters included academics, members of the legal profession and members of the Court. The topics at the November Conference included approaches to addressing addiction and mental health issues, eyewitness evidence and the final instalment the Anatomy of a Criminal Trial video production. The presenters included academics, psychiatrists, psychologists, members of the legal profession and members of the Court.

The Committee also facilitates regular lunchtime seminars in Vancouver, which are also accessed from across the province by telephone or video conferences. In 2015, the topics of these sessions included urgent civil remedies, sentencing, contract law update, civil procedure, desk order divorces and insolvency law updates. The lunchtime seminars are presented by members of the Court. The Committee is grateful that the members of the Court continue to demonstrate a high degree of engagement in these programs and work diligently to prepare timely, topical and practical programs for their colleagues.

Family Law Committee



Vernon Law Courts

Members

Madam Justice Hyslop (*Chair to June, 2015*)
Mr. Justice Butler (*Chair, from September 2015*)
Mr. Justice Cole
Mr. Justice Groves
Mr. Justice Harvey
Madam Justice Loo
Mr. Justice Pearlman
Master MacNaughton
Nikki Hair, *Legal Counsel*
Jill Leacock, *Legal Counsel*

In 2015, the Family Law Committee, and Master MacNaughton in particular, provided input to a working committee tasked with developing a ‘pick list’ of orders which are frequently made in family proceedings. The working group first developed the ‘pick list’ for family orders made in Provincial Court, and then worked to develop a parallel list of family orders frequently made in Supreme Court. The pick list is intended to assist court clerks in accurately recording orders made in court, and will also assist litigants, especially those who are self-represented, in drafting family orders and having them entered.

In June of 2015, the committee invited Irene Thomson, a deputy district registrar in the family registry at VLC, to address it on desk order divorces. The committee will produce an updated desk order divorce manual with a view to bringing more consistency to the court’s treatment of these.

In 2015, the Chair of the committee continued to liaise with government and to update the committee as to efforts being made to improve the way that Inter-jurisdictional Support Orders (“ISOs”) are dealt with. Amicus is now being provided at the hearing of applications for ISOs, both in Provincial Court and in Supreme Court.

Master MacNaughton, on behalf of the committee, addressed the Court's meeting in November to reiterate that Family Rule 15-1(16.1) was amended in 2015 to provide that, unless the court otherwise orders, all protection orders are to be drafted by the registry. The rationale for this amendment is to ensure prompt entry of protection orders.

Throughout 2015, Legal Counsel, Nikki Hair provided assistance to the committee and to judges working in family law, including the judges serving on the Family Law Pilot project. Under that project (scheduled to continue through to August 2016), judges in Vancouver and New Westminster are presumptively assigned to family law cases for a fixed term of 6 months. Ms. Hair has authored a Family Law newsletter for the benefit of the Court and provided updates as to important appellate decisions in family jurisprudence.

The committee recruited two new members in 2015 with Madam Justice Fleming and Mr. Justice Tindale joining the committee in 2016.

Law Clerks Committee



Kamloops Law Courts

Members

Mr. Justice Pearlman (*Chair until November 2015*)

Madam Justice Arnold-Bailey (*Chair from December 2015*)

Mr. Justice Barrow

Madam Justice Dillon

Mr. Justice Fitch

Mr. Justice Kelleher

Mr. Justice MacKenzie

Madam Justice Russell

Jill Leacock, *Legal Counsel*

Heidi McBride, *Legal Counsel*

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, eighteen law clerks are hired 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 law schools in British Columbia and materials to all Canadian law schools. The application and interview process takes place approximately 18 months before the start of the term. In the early spring, members of the Committee interview approximately 32 applicants and select 18 law clerks.

In September 2015, eighteen law clerks began their clerkships. They are graduates of the Dalhousie, Thompson Rivers University, University of British Columbia, University of Manitoba, University of Ottawa, and the University of Victoria.

The 2015/2016 judicial law clerks are:

Vancouver: Brian Beitz, Rochelle Collette, Amanda Ferris, Erica Grant, Claire Hildebrand, Daniel Kozera, Kaleigh Milinazzo, Robin Phillips, Catherine Repel, Corey Segal, Kendra Shupe, Kenji Tokawa and Kristen Withers

New Westminster: Clayton Gallant, William Stransky and Shahdin Farsai

Victoria: James Bagan and Erin Hunter

The membership of the Committee saw some changes in 2015 with the resignation of Mr. Justice Pearlman, Mr. Justice Barrow and Mr. Justice Fitch. They all made important contributions over a number of years to the benefit of the Judicial Law Clerk Program and to numerous judicial law clerks past and present. In light of these changes, the Committee welcomed three new members: Mr. Justice Kelleher, Mr. Justice MacKenzie and Madam Justice Russell.

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 are invaluable.

The Committee would also like to express its thanks to Jill Leacock and Heidi McBride, Legal Counsel for the Supreme Court and to Sally Rudolf, Legal Counsel for the Court of Appeal, for their work in the recruitment, hiring, training and supervision of the law clerks and to Andrea Baedak and Alix Going for providing administrative support to program.

Joint Courts Technology Committee



Prince Rupert Courthouse

Members

Mr. Justice Masuhara (Chair)

Madam Justice Bennett

Mr. Justice Groberman

Madam Justice Levine

Mr. Justice Willcock

Madam Justice Adair

Mr. Justice Myers

Mr. Justice Punnett

Registrar Outerbridge

Master Baker

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

Kevin Arens, *Director, Information Technology and Finance*

Cindy Friesen, *Director, Supreme Court Scheduling*

Sally Rudolf, *Legal Counsel, Court of Appeal*

Heidi McBride, *Legal Counsel, Supreme Court*

In 2015, the Committee continued to work on the development of a mobile device policy for both courts. Committee members also 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.

With respect to both courts' technology infrastructure, a number of enhancements were completed in 2015 including:

- Upgraded hardware in the data centre which has significantly reduced the power requirements;
- Added earthquake protection in the data centre;
- Upgraded the network capacity to facilitate the increased use of electronic documents;

- Upgraded the programming foundation and database to extend the useful life of the Court's custom applications (e.g., scheduling systems, judgment database).

Looking forward to 2016, the Committee will begin the work that will lead to the next refresh of its computers which is anticipated for 2017.

Library Committee



Nanaimo Courthouse

Members

Madam Justice Griffin (*Chair*)

Mr. Justice Goepel

Madam Justice Humphries

Mr. Justice Skolrood

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

Diane Lemieux, *Librarian*

In 2015, the Committee conducted a comprehensive review of the entire collection and the annual acquisitions. The purpose of the review was to provide the information necessary to make informed decisions about what titles to discontinue, new acquisitions and formats for materials (e.g., electronic v. print). The review included a survey of the judges, masters and registrars regarding the library's resources. The Committee wanted to ensure that the library was getting the best value possible for its annual budget. The Committee also wanted input from judges, masters and registrars about what type of materials should be purchased for the library given the limited funds available.

As a result of the review the Committee decided to discontinue all print reporters with exception of the Supreme Court Reports. In addition, the Committee decided that it would discontinue subscriptions to materials that were already available electronically on other subscription services. Because of the resulting cost savings, the library was able to make efforts to improve the collections particularly of resource materials in locations outside of Vancouver including obtaining some new textbooks.

The library staff continue to recycle items replaced annually such as the criminal codes, annual practices and bankruptcy materials. Replaced editions are forwarded to outside locations, and out of date or cancelled loose-leafs are given labels that indicate currency and whether the updated item is available in Vancouver.

One of the roles of the library staff is the publishing of reasons for judgment on the Court's website. In 2015, the library published 282 civil reasons for judgment, 226

criminal reasons for judgment and 45 family reasons for judgments arising from proceedings in the Court of Appeal for a total of 553 reasons for judgment. In respect of proceedings in the Supreme Court, the library published 1366 civil reasons for judgment, 468 criminal reasons for judgment and 396 family reasons for a total of 2230 reasons for judgment. The published reasons for judgment from both courts were also distributed to a number of legal publishers including CanLII, LexisNexis and Westlaw.

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

Judicial Access Policy Working Group



Williams Lake Courthouse

Members

Heidi McBride, *Legal Counsel, Supreme Court* (Chair to August 2015)
Gene Jamieson, Q.C., *Legal Officer, Provincial Court* (Chair from September 2015)
Timothy Outerbridge, *Registrar, Court of Appeal*
Frank Kraemer, Q.C., *Executive Director & Senior Counsel, Judicial Administration, Superior Courts*
Grant Marchand, *Manager, Judicial Resource Analysis & Management Information Systems, Provincial Court*
Dominique Bohn, *Executive Director, Service Reform, Court Services Branch* (to June 2015)
Dan Chiddell, *Director Strategic Information & Business Applications, Court Services Branch*
Janet Donald, *Director of Policy, Legislation and Issue Management, Court Services Branch* (to January 2015)
Carly Hyman, *Director of Policy, Legislation and Issue Management, Court Services Branch* (from May 2015)
Sally Rudolf, *Legal Counsel, Court of Appeal*
Karen Leung, *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 2015, the work of the Committee included the following:

Access Applications

As in every year, the Committee received, considered, and made recommendations in respect of a number of applications for access to court record information from a variety of government agencies and departments in order to fulfill their statutory mandates or to improve the efficiency of their operations. The Committee also considered and made recommendations in respect of access applications from universities and other academic organizations for research purposes.

Internal Access to Court Record Information

The Committee was able to resolve a long-standing issue involving access to court record information by government employees employed outside of the Court Services Branch. In June 2015, the three courts signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Justice that provided for judicial oversight of all government employees accessing court record information regardless of the government department in which they worked.

Justices of the Supreme Court



Vancouver Law Courts

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

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 Mr. Justice Bruce I. Cohen ▼

- Appointed to the Supreme Court March 25, 1987

The Honourable Mr. Justice W. Glen Parrett ▼

- Appointed to the Supreme Court February 16, 1990

The Honourable Mr. Justice Randall S. K. Wong §

- 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 ▼

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

The Honourable Mr. Justice Thomas J. Melnick ▼

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

The Honourable Mr. Justice Ian B. Josephson §

- 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 §

- Appointed to the Supreme Court October 11, 1991

The Honourable Madam Justice Jacqueline L. Dorgan §

- Appointed to Supreme Court October 11, 1991

The Honourable Madam Justice M. Marvyn Koenigsberg §

- Appointed to the Supreme Court November 27, 1992

The Honourable Madam Justice Wendy G. Baker §

- Appointed to the Supreme Court May 28, 1993

The Honourable Mr. Justice Jon S. Sigurdson §

- Appointed to the Supreme Court January 27, 1994

The Honourable Madam Justice Mary A. Humphries §

- Appointed to the Supreme Court January 27, 1994

The Honourable Madam Justice Janice R. Dillon §

- Appointed to the Supreme Court April 25, 1995

The Honourable Mr. Justice Selwyn R. Romilly ▼

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

The Honourable Mr. Justice Barry M. Davies §

- Appointed to the Supreme Court January 10, 1996

The Honourable Mr. Justice Frank W. Cole §

- Appointed to Supreme Court March 19, 1996

The Honourable Mr. Justice William G. E. Grist §

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

The Honourable Mr. Justice T. Mark McEwan

- Appointed to the Supreme Court August 7, 1996

The Honourable Madam Justice Alison J. Beames

- Appointed to the Supreme Court August 7, 1996

The Honourable Madam Justice Linda A. Loo §

- Appointed to the Supreme Court September 24, 1996

The Honourable Mr. Justice Grant D. Burnyeat §

- Appointed to the Supreme Court December 19, 1996

The Honourable Mr. Justice Malcolm D. Macaulay ▼

- Appointed to the Supreme Court March 4, 1997

The Honourable Madam Justice Heather J. Holmes

- Appointed to the Supreme Court March 21, 2001

The Honourable Madam Justice Carol J. Ross

- Appointed to the Supreme Court March 21, 2001

The Honourable Mr. Justice Harry A. Slade

- Appointed to the Supreme Court March 27, 2001

The Honourable Mr. Justice Brian M. Joyce

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

The Honourable Madam Justice Catherine A. Wedge

- Appointed to the Supreme Court April 4, 2001

The Honourable Mr. Justice Robert Crawford §

- Appointed to the Supreme Court September 27, 2001

The Honourable Madam Justice Victoria Gray

- Appointed to the Supreme Court September 27, 2001

The Honourable Mr. Justice Geoffrey M. Barrow ▼

- Appointed to the Supreme Court December 14, 2001

The Honourable Mr. Justice Peter J. Rogers

- Appointed to the Supreme Court December 14, 2001

The Honourable Madam Justice Brenda Brown

- Appointed to the Supreme Court April 18, 2002

The Honourable Mr. Justice John D. Truscott

- Appointed to the Supreme Court October 10, 2002

The Honourable Madam Justice Laura B. Gerow

- Appointed to Supreme Court October 10, 2002

The Honourable Mr. Justice James W. Williams

- Appointed to the Supreme Court October 10, 2002

The Honourable Mr. Justice David M. Masuhara

- Appointed to the Supreme Court October 11, 2002

The Honourable Madam Justice Sandra K. Ballance

- Appointed to the Supreme Court December 11, 2002

The Honourable Mr. Justice Stephen F. Kelleher

- Appointed to the Supreme Court July 24, 2003

The Honourable Mr. Justice Lance W. Bernard

- Appointed to the Supreme Court July 24, 2003

The Honourable Mr. Justice William Ehrcke

- Appointed to the Supreme Court October 28, 2003

The Honourable Mr. Justice Robert Johnston

- Appointed to the Supreme Court November 26, 2004

The Honourable Mr. Justice Arne H. Silverman

- Appointed to the Supreme Court November 26, 2004

The Honourable Madam Justice Barbara Fisher

- Appointed to the Supreme Court November 26, 2004

The Honourable Madam Justice Elizabeth A. Arnold-Bailey

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

The Honourable Madam Justice J. Miriam Gropper

- Appointed to the Supreme Court April 14, 2005

The Honourable Madam Justice Loryl D. Russell

- Appointed to the Supreme Court April 14, 2005

The Honourable Mr. Justice Nathan H. Smith

- Appointed to the Supreme Court May 19, 2005

The Honourable Mr. Justice Joel R. Groves

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

The Honourable Mr. Justice Peter D. Leask

- Appointed to the Supreme Court November 22, 2005

The Honourable Mr. Justice Elliott M. Myers

- Appointed to the Supreme Court November 22, 2005

The Honourable Madam Justice Catherine J. Bruce

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

The Honourable Madam Justice Gail Dickson [▲]

- Appointed to the Supreme Court December 15, 2006

The Honourable Mr. Justice J. Keith Bracken

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

The Honourable Mr. Justice G. Bruce Butler

- Appointed to the Supreme Court March 30, 2007

The Honourable Mr. Justice Paul J. Pearlman

- Appointed to the Supreme Court January 31, 2008

The Honourable Madam Justice Lauri Ann Fenlon [▲]

- Appointed to the Supreme Court January 31, 2008

The Honourable Mr. Justice Geoffrey R.J. Gaul

- Appointed to the Supreme Court January 31, 2008

The Honourable Madam Justice Susan A. Griffin

- Appointed to the Supreme Court February 20, 2008

The Honourable Mr. Justice J. Christopher Grauer

- Appointed to the Supreme Court April 11, 2008

The Honourable Mr. Justice Paul W. Walker

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 18, 2008

The Honourable Madam Justice D. Jane Dardi

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 18, 2008

The Honourable Madam Justice Kate Ker

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 18, 2008

The Honourable Mr. Justice Neill Brown

- Appointed to the Supreme Court July 30, 2008

The Honourable Madam Justice Elaine J. Adair

- Appointed to the Supreme Court November 28, 2008

The Honourable Mr. Justice Robert J. Sewell

- Appointed to the Supreme Court January 22, 2009

The Honourable Mr. Justice John S. Harvey

- Appointed to the Supreme Court January 22, 2009

The Honourable Mr. Justice Peter G. Voith

- Appointed to the Supreme Court January 22, 2009

The Honourable Mr. Justice Frits Verhoeven

- Appointed to the Supreme Court January 22, 2009

The Honourable Madam Justice Hope Hyslop

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

The Honourable Mr. Justice Bruce M. Greyell

- Appointed to the Supreme Court May 15, 2009

The Honourable Mr. Justice Terence A. Schultes

- Appointed to the Supreme Court May 15, 2009

The Honourable Mr. Justice Robert D. Punnett

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 19, 2009

The Honourable Mr. Justice Gregory T. W. Bowden

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

The Honourable Mr. Justice Brian D. MacKenzie

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

The Honourable Mr. Justice Anthony Saunders

- Appointed to the Supreme Court November 27, 2009

The Honourable Mr. Justice S. Dev Dley

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

The Honourable Madam Justice Miriam A. Maisonville

- Appointed to the Supreme Court March 19, 2010

The Honourable Madam Justice Shelley C. Fitzpatrick

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 18, 2010

The Honourable Madam Justice Jennifer A. Power

- Appointed to the Supreme Court August 6, 2010

The Honourable Mr. Justice Trevor C. Armstrong

- Appointed to the Supreme Court October 1, 2010

The Honourable Madam Justice Jeanne E. Watchuk

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

The Honourable Mr. Justice Murray B. Blok

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

The Honourable Mr. Justice D. Allan Betton

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

The Honourable Mr. Justice Kenneth Affleck

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 24, 2011

The Honourable Mr. Justice Patrice Abrioux

- Appointed to the Supreme Court September 29, 2011

The Honourable Mr. Justice Ronald S. Tindale

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

The Honourable Mr. Justice Gregory Fitch [▲]

- Appointed to the Supreme Court October 20, 2011

The Honourable Mr. Justice Robert W. Jenkins

- Appointed to the Supreme Court December 31, 2011

The Honourable Mr. Justice Gordon C. Weatherill

- Appointed to the Supreme Court May 31, 2012

The Honourable Mr. Justice Robin A. M. Baird

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

The Honourable Mr. Justice Gordon S. Funt

- Appointed to the Supreme Court October 5, 2012

The Honourable Mr. Justice John J. Steeves

- Appointed to the Supreme Court October 5, 2012

The Honourable Mr. Justice Kenneth W. Ball

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

The Honourable Mr. Justice Douglas W. Thompson

- Appointed to the Supreme Court December 13, 2012

The Honourable Madam Justice Sheri Ann Donegan

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

The Honourable Madam Justice Wendy J. Harris

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 6, 2013

The Honourable Mr. Justice Ronald A. Skolrood

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 6, 2013

The Honourable Madam Justice Lisa Warren

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 6, 2013

The Honourable Madam Justice Margot L. Fleming

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 6, 2013

The Honourable Mr. Justice Gary P. Weatherill

- Appointed to the Supreme Court October 2, 2013

The Honourable Mr. Justice George K. Macintosh

- Appointed to the Supreme Court December 17, 2013

The Honourable Mr. Justice Nigel P. Kent

- Appointed to the Supreme Court December 17, 2013

The Honourable Madam Justice Jennifer M. I. Duncan

- Appointed to the Supreme Court December 17, 2013

The Honourable Madam Justice Neena Sharma

- Appointed to the Supreme Court December 17, 2013

The Honourable Madam Justice Emily M. Burke

- Appointed to the Supreme Court May 13, 2014

The Honourable Madam Justice Martha M. Devlin

- Appointed to the Supreme Court December 11, 2014

The Honourable Madam Justice Grace Choi

- Appointed to the Supreme Court May 29, 2015

The Honourable Madam Justice Barbara M. Young

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

Masters of the Supreme Court



Victoria Law Courts

Master William McCallum ▼

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court November 20, 1989

Master Dennis Tokarek

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court September 9, 1991

Master Douglas Baker

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court July 16, 1998

Master Shelagh Scarth

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

Master Peter Keighley

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court March 8, 2004

Master Ian W. Caldwell

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court April 18, 2005

Master Grant Taylor

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court July 29, 2005

Master Barbara Young †

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court December 6, 2006

Master Carolyn P. Bouck

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

Master Heather MacNaughton

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court June 1, 2011

Master Robert McDiarmid

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court June 1, 2011

Master Leslie Muir

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court May 7, 2012

Master Sandra Harper

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court August 5, 2014

Master Steven Wilson

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court November 23, 2015

Master Sandra Dick

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court January 1, 2016

Registrars of the Supreme Court



Penticton Law Courts

Stuart R. Cameron, Registrar of the Supreme Court

- Appointed District Registrar January 31, 2011
- Appointed Registrar of the Supreme Court July 2, 2014

Scott Nielsen, District Registrar

- Appointed District Registrar July 14, 2014

Judicial Staff



Salmon Arm Law Courts

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE AND THE ASSOCIATE CHIEF JUSTICE

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Executive Assistant to Associate Chief Justice Cullen
Legal Counsel

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Mary Williams
Monique Dull, Nikki Hair,
Christine Judd, Jill Leacock,
Heidi McBride, Kate Phipps

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Director, Human Resources and Support Services
Director, Information Technology and Finance
Director, Supreme Court Scheduling
Assistant to the Executive Director
Assistant to Director, Supreme Court Scheduling
Assistant to Legal Counsel
Judicial Assistant
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Website Support and Business Information Analyst
Judicial Administrative Assistant Practice Advisor
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Cranbrook

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Kamloops

Beckie Allen, Jane Raggatt

Kelowna

Sharon Stegeman, Lana Pardue, Shannon Zorn

Nanaimo

Patricia McKeeman

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Vancouver

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Manager, Supreme Court Scheduling, Criminal	Mary Ellen Pearce
Team Leader & Supreme Court Scheduler	Annie Hecimovic, Laura Hill, Rhona Ogston
Supreme Court Schedulers	Patricia Acthim, Kate Curry, William Gallagher, Annie Hecimovic, Laura Hill, Christine Hutton, Jeanette McNabb, Elsie Peralta, Tanya Venables
Data Entry Clerks	Shahla Ehtesham, Daniel Hoyles, William Gallagher, Wesley Johnson, Darlene Marasigan, Elsie Peralta

Kamloops, Cranbrook, Golden, Revelstoke, Salmon Arm

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

Kelowna, Nelson, Penticton, Rossland, Vernon

Manager, Supreme Court Scheduling	Barb Turik
Supreme Court Scheduler	Janine Benson
Data Entry Clerk	Arlene Marshinew

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

Manager, Supreme Court Scheduling	Cheryl Turner
Supreme Court Scheduler	Michelle Schley

New Westminster, Chilliwack

Manager, Supreme Court Scheduling	Tanya Dixon, Rhona Ogston
Supreme Court Schedulers	Allison Donnelly, Leanne Griffith, Jeanette McNabb, Renuka Pumbhak, Teresa Smith, Alex Smolen, Mandy Warren

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

Manager, Supreme Court Scheduling
Supreme Court Scheduler
Data Entry Clerk

Pamela Wallin
Kelly Parmar
Tara Bleich

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

Dianne Lezetc
Kelly Ditmars, Jennine Gates,
Kassandra Innes, Sandra Smith

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Librarian
Library Technician

Diane Lemieux
Connie Kang

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Reserve Judgment Clerks

Andrea Baedak, Chantelle Sanderson,
Cheryl Steele

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Supervisor & Appellate Court Records Officer
Ushers

Christine Gergich
Gerry Cumming, Ryan Going, Scott
Hildebrandt, Heather Kelly, Maziar Maymay,
Chantelle Sanderson, Darren Scherck, Alex
Smolen

IT SERVICES

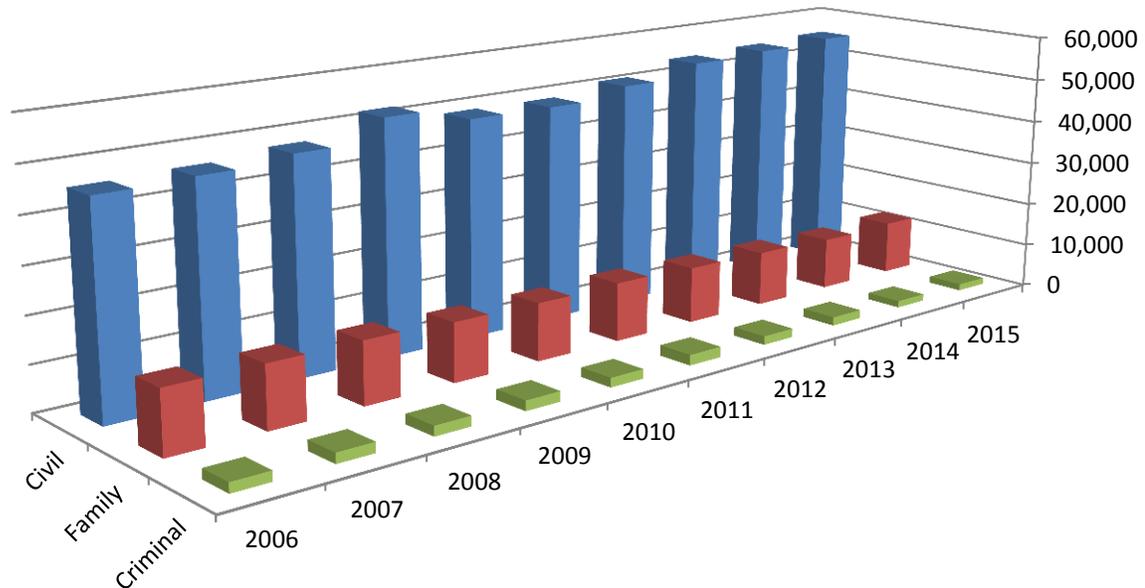
Service Delivery Manager
Infrastructure Project Analysts
Help Desk & Operations Analysts
Help Desk Technicians

Mark Hujanen
David Chow, Andre Drewitt
Eddie Chan, William Huang
Michael Le, Robert Nelson, Jimmy Wu

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

Appendix - Court Information

Figure 1: New Criminal, Family and Civil Filings, 2006-2015



	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Criminal	2,178	2,241	2,206	2,241	2,081	2,323	1,936	1,915	1,504	1,474
Family	13,734	13,651	13,705	13,027	12,830	13,110	12,565	12,262	11,678	12,091
Civil	45,655	46,113	47,475	52,066	48,883	48,754	50,924	53,790	54,416	55,211

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).

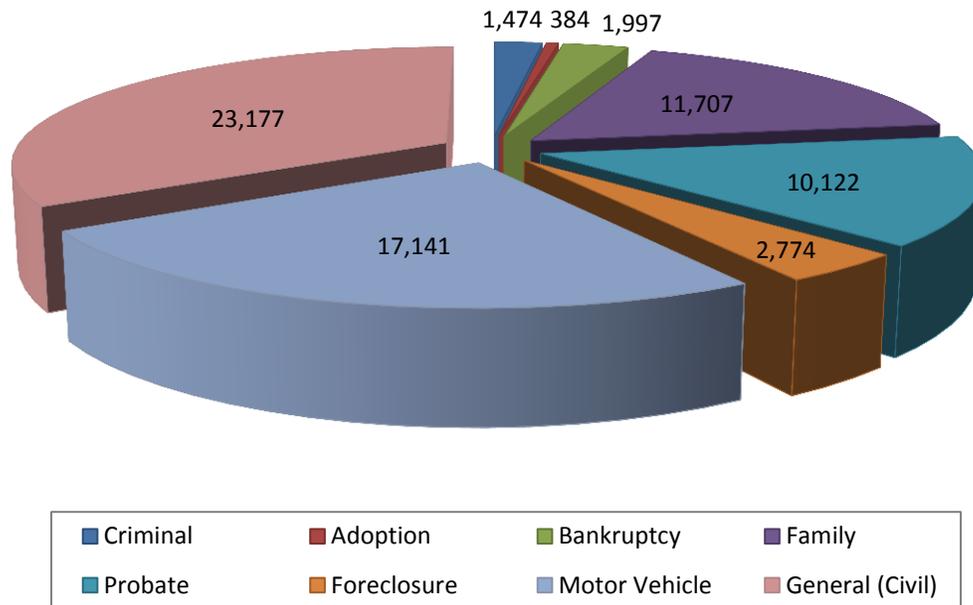
The **Family** category includes all *Divorce Act* and *Family Law Act* proceedings. For this table, it also includes *Adoption Act* proceedings.

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

The methodology for counting new criminal and civil filings was changed in 2015. As a result, all of the new filing numbers from 2006-2015 have been restated. Under the new methodology, a new civil or family case is opened (and included in the new filing count) when the originating process is filed. The new civil or family case counts do not include files

transferred from one registry to another. Previously, transferred cases were counted as new cases which resulted in double counting of some civil files. For criminal case counts, a new case is counted at the file/accused level which means that where there are multiple accused on the same file, each accused is counted as a separate case. Previously, new criminal cases were counted at the file level which meant that whether there was a single accused or several accused, the case was only counted once. The overall impact of the methodology changes is an increase for new criminal filings of approximately 30% for new criminal cases and a very small decrease (~1%) in the number of new civil and family filings.

Figure 2: New Filings by Category in 2015



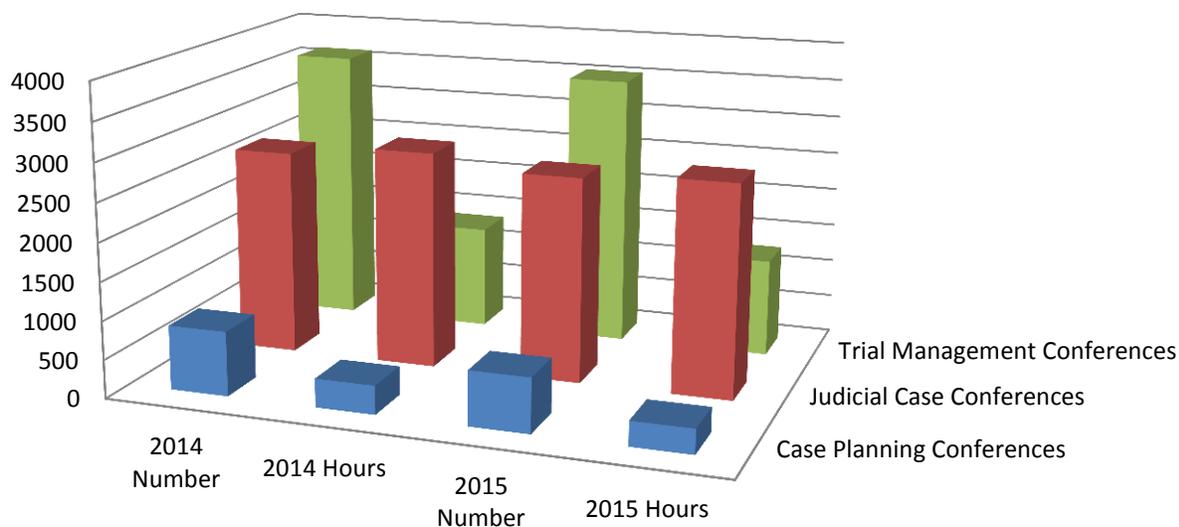
For this table, the **General (Civil)** category includes all general civil cases such as bodily injury, debt collection, breach of contract, foreclosures, bankruptcies, judicial review and appeals. For this table, the **General (Civil)** does not include a number of specific civil proceedings which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

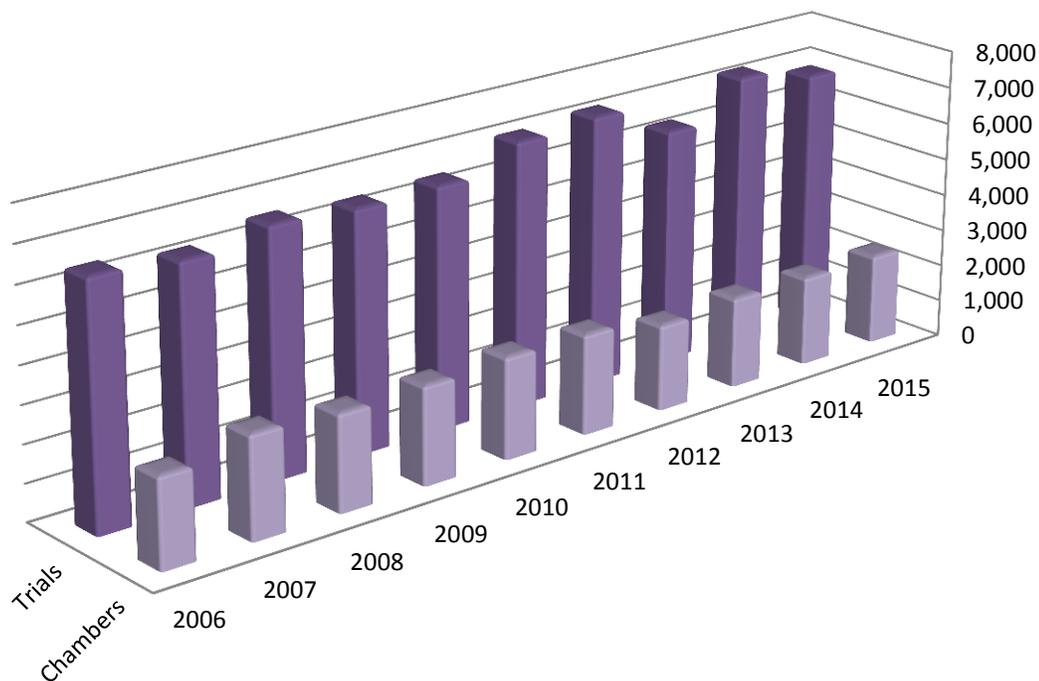
This chart provides the number of case planning conferences (held in civil proceedings), judicial case conferences (held in family proceedings) and trial management conferences (held in both civil and family proceedings) and the number of hours of judicial (judges and masters) time required by the conferences for 2014 and 2015.



	2014 Number	2014 Hours	2015 Number	2015 Hours
Case Planning Conferences	841	373	709	321
Judicial Case Conferences	2686	2837	2673	2767
Trial Management Conferences	3627	1357	3542	1276

Figure 4: Civil Trials and Long Chambers Applications Scheduled in Vancouver

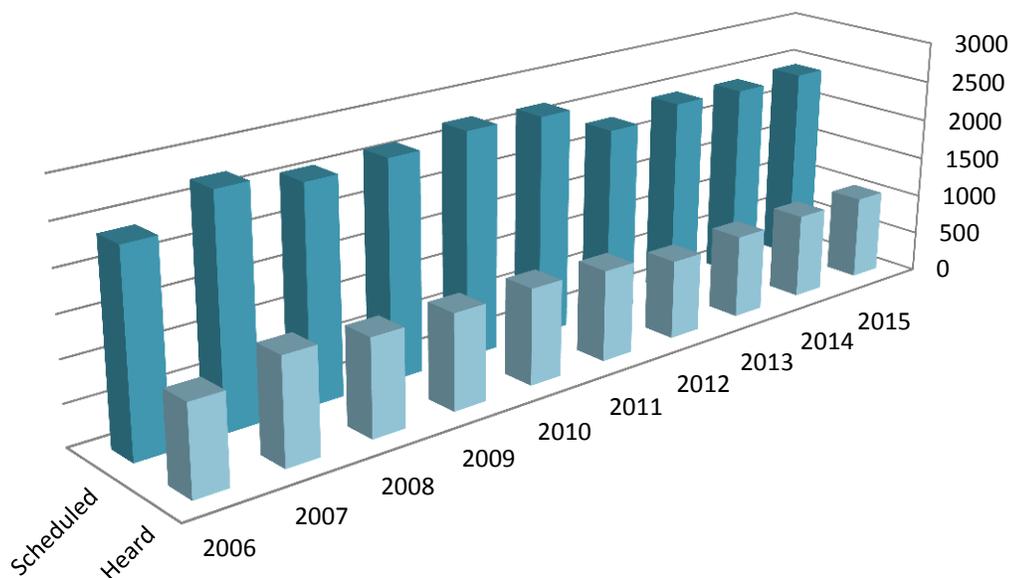
This chart shows the number of civil and family trials and long chambers applications scheduled in Vancouver from 2006 to 2015. A long chambers application is one where the time estimate is more than two (2) hours.



	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Trials	6,489	6,284	6,601	6,447	6,488	7,112	7,249	6,347	7,318	6,880
Long Chambers	2,383	2,725	2,574	2,620	2,716	2,679	2,305	2,434	2,408	2,426

Figure 5: Long Chambers Applications Scheduled and Heard in Vancouver

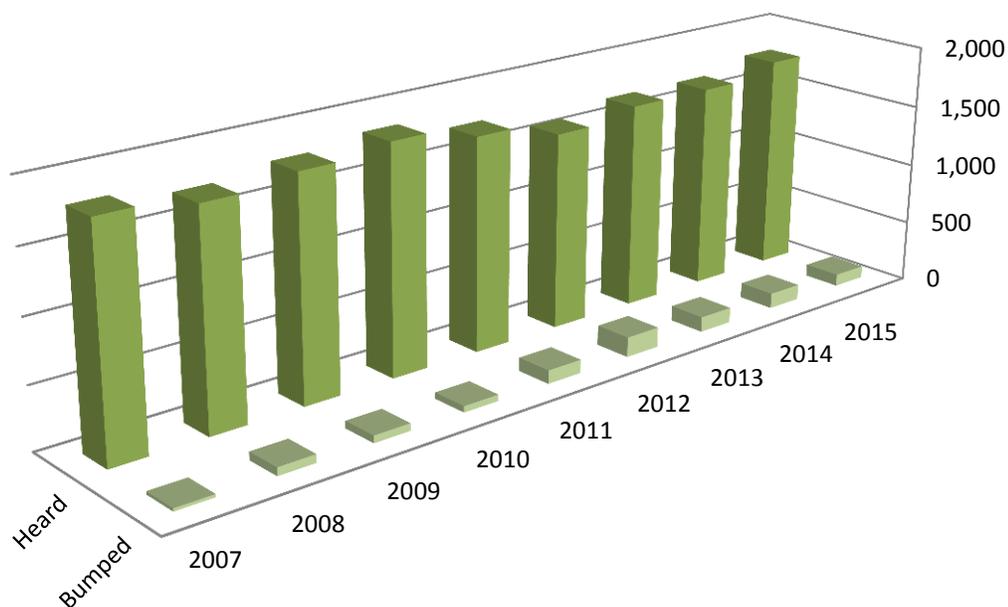
This chart shows the number of civil and family long chambers applications scheduled and heard in Vancouver from 2006 to 2015. A long chambers application is one where the time estimate is more than two (2) hours.



	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Scheduled	2383	2725	2574	2620	2716	2679	2305	2434	2408	2426
Heard	1066	1259	1163	1152	1162	1106	961	1015	1035	1028
% Heard v. Scheduled	45	46	45	44	43	41	42	42	43	42

Figure 6: Long Chambers Applications Heard and Bumped in British Columbia

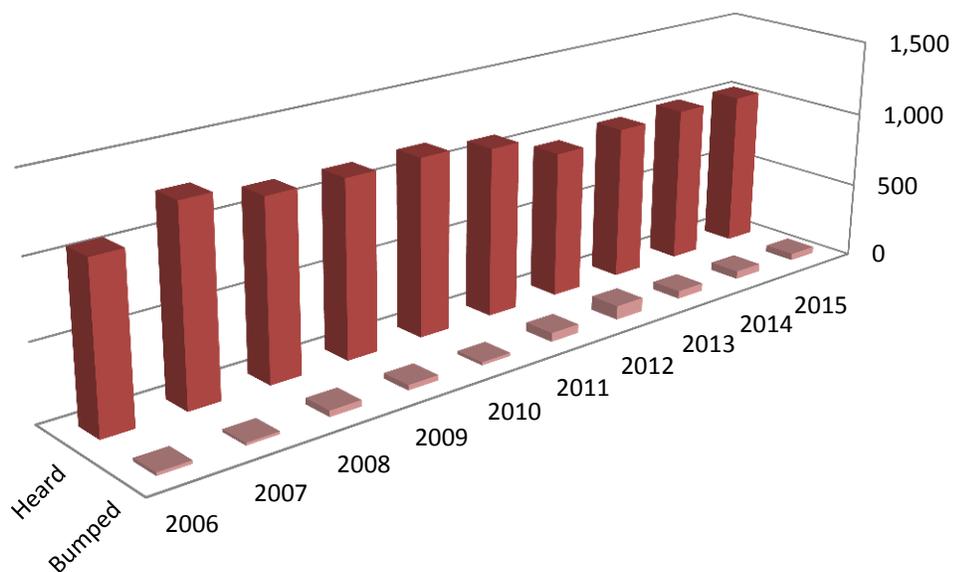
This chart shows the number of civil and family long chambers applications heard and bumped in British Columbia from 2007 to 2015. A long chambers application is one where the time estimate is more than two (2) hours. A long chambers application is considered bumped if it is not commenced or rescheduled within one week of the originally scheduled hearing date



	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Heard	1,800	1,719	1,782	1,843	1,726	1,591	1,670	1,667	1,765
Bumped	24	66	59	50	108	160	122	123	97
% Bumped v. Heard	1.3	3.8	3.3	2.7	6.3	10.1	7.3	7.4	5.5

Figure 7: Long Chambers Applications Heard and Bumped in Vancouver

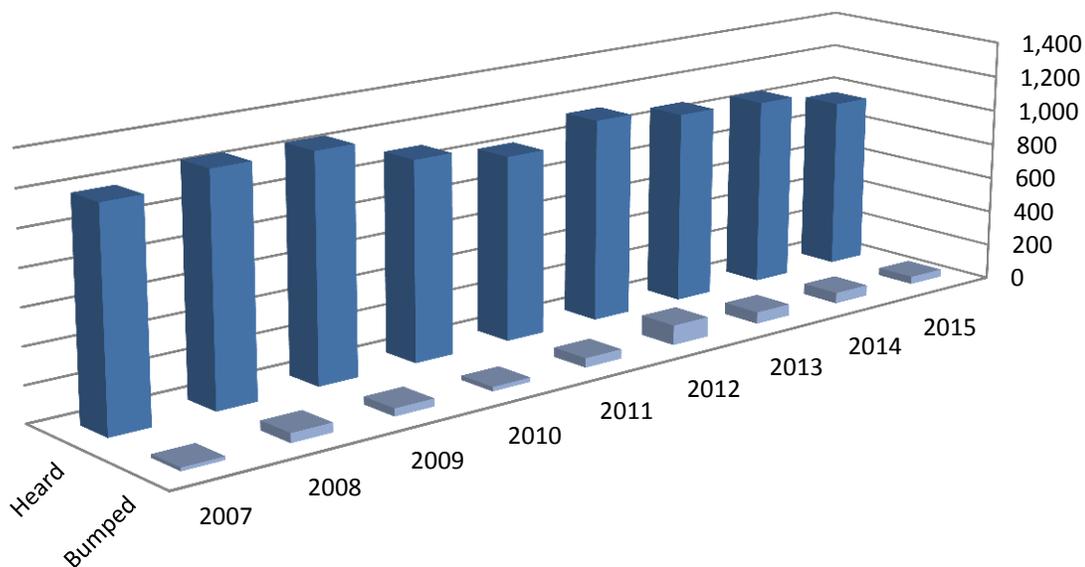
This chart shows the number of civil and family long chambers applications heard and bumped in Vancouver from 2006 to 2015. A long chambers application is one where the time estimate is more than two (2) hours. A long chambers application is considered bumped if it is not commenced or rescheduled within one week of the originally scheduled hearing date.



	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Heard	1,066	1,259	1,163	1,152	1,162	1,106	961	1,015	1,035	1,028
Bumped	21	17	40	34	20	58	91	51	52	44
% Bumped v. Heard	2.0	1.4	3.4	3.0	1.7	5.2	9.5	5.0	5.0	4.3

Figure 8: Trials Heard and Bumped in British Columbia

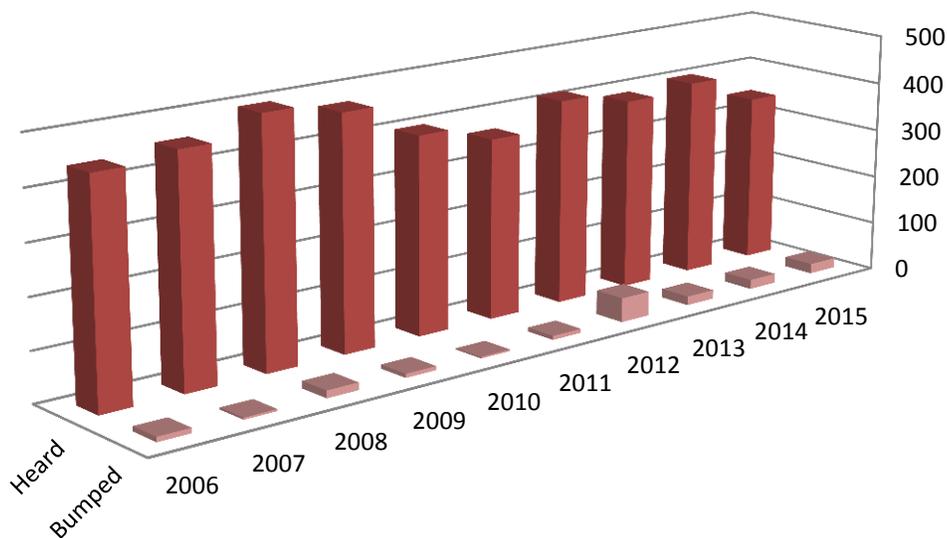
This chart shows the number of civil, family and criminal trials heard and bumped in British Columbia from 2007 to 2015. A trial is categorized as bumped if it is not commenced or rescheduled within one week of the originally scheduled hearing date.



	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Heard	1,184	1,252	1,246	1,104	1,025	1,133	1,077	1,058	965
Bumped	19	52	43	24	52	110	65	61	43
% Bumped v. Heard	1.6	4.2	3.5	2.2	5.1	9.7	6.0	5.8	4.5

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 2006 to 2015. 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	2014	2015
Heard	442	456	496	471	400	365	415	390	403	344
Bumped	10	4	15	8	3	8	49	18	19	20
% Bumped v. Heard	2.3	0.9	3.0	1.7	0.8	2.2	11.8	4.6	4.7	5.8

Figure 10: Trials Heard and Bumped by Type and Location in 2015

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 2015				BUMPED 2015			
	Civil	Family	Criminal	Total	Civil	Family	Criminal	Total
LOWER MAINLAND								
Chilliwack	5	7	25	37	1			1
New Westminster	88	49	66	203	8	2		10
Vancouver	198	85	61	344	15	5		20
REGIONAL TOTALS	291	141	152	584	24	7		31
VANCOUVER ISLAND								
Campbell River	3	3	6	12				
Courtenay	2	4	4	10				
Duncan	3	2	3	8				
Nanaimo	13	11	10	34	1			1
Port Alberni	1		3	4				
Powell River	1			1				
Victoria	18	11	38	67	2			2
REGIONAL TOTALS	41	31	64	136	3			3
NORTHERN INTERIOR								
Dawson Creek	1		3	4				
Fort St. John	1	3	2	6				
Prince George	7	2	23	32		1		1
Prince Rupert			2	2				
Quesnel		3	7	10				
Smithers	2	3	5	10				
Terrace	1	2	6	9				
Williams Lake	1	2	10	13				
REGIONAL TOTALS	13	15	58	86		1		1

	HEARD 2015				BUMPED 2015			
	Civil	Family	Criminal	Total	Civil	Family	Criminal	Total
SOUTHERN INTERIOR								
Cranbrook	6	2	3	11	1	1		2
Golden								
Kamloops	18	7	41	66	1	1		2
Kelowna	19	9	15	43	2	1		3
Nelson	3	3	6	12				
Penticton	2		5	7				
Revelstoke								
Rossland			3	3				
Salmon Arm	2		3	5				
Vernon	4		8	12	1			1
REGIONAL TOTALS	54	21	84	159	5	3		8
TOTAL	399	208	358	965	32	11	0	43

Figure 11: Trials Heard By Registry in 2015

This chart provides an illustration of the number of trials in 2015 by registry.

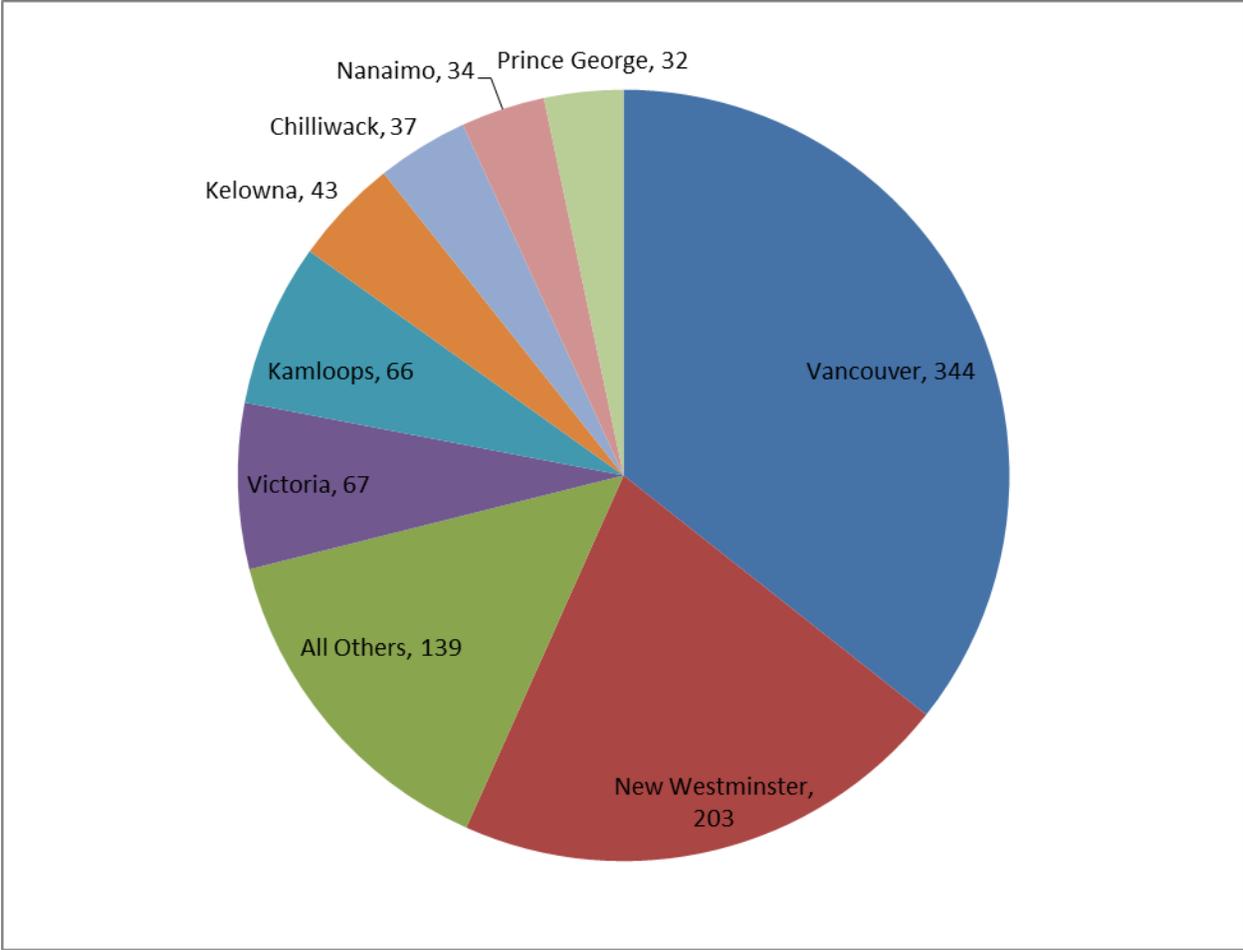


Figure 12: Trials Heard By Region in 2015

This chart provides an illustration of the number of trials in 2015 by region.

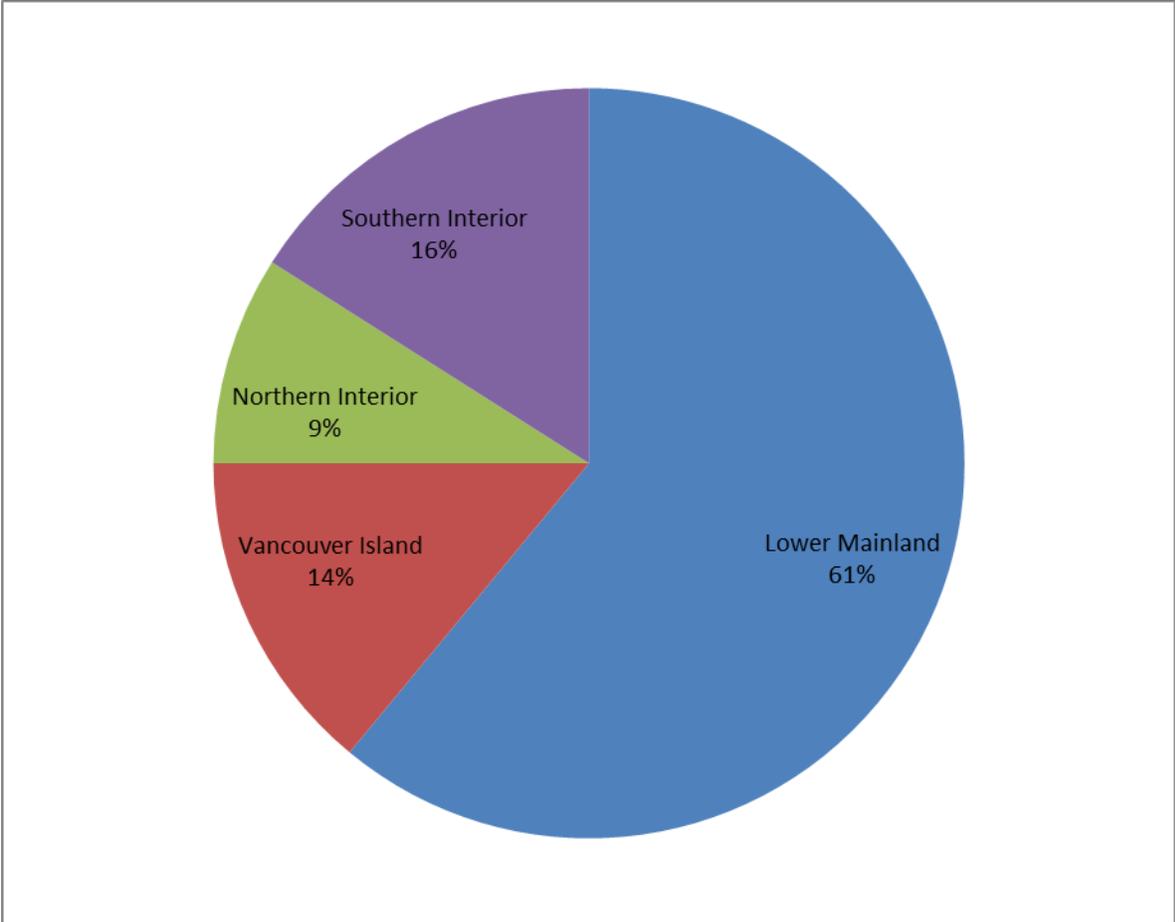


Figure 13: Published Reasons for Judgment by Subject, Type, and Year

The following table provides the number of published reasons for judgment by subject (civil, criminal and family) and type (written or transcribed oral) from 2011-201

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
CIVIL					
Oral	274	267	260	285	316
Written	1120	1120	1133	1181	1050
Total	1394	1387	1393	1466	1366
CRIMINAL					
Oral	198	188	312	348	354
Written	116	144	123	120	114
Total	314	332	435	468	468
FAMILY					
Oral	41	29	54	66	96
Written	211	231	285	299	300
Total	252	260	339	365	396
TOTAL	1960	1979	2167	2299	2230

Figure 14: Published Reasons for Judgment by Year

This following chart illustrates the total published reasons for judgment (both written and oral) by subject from 2011-2015.

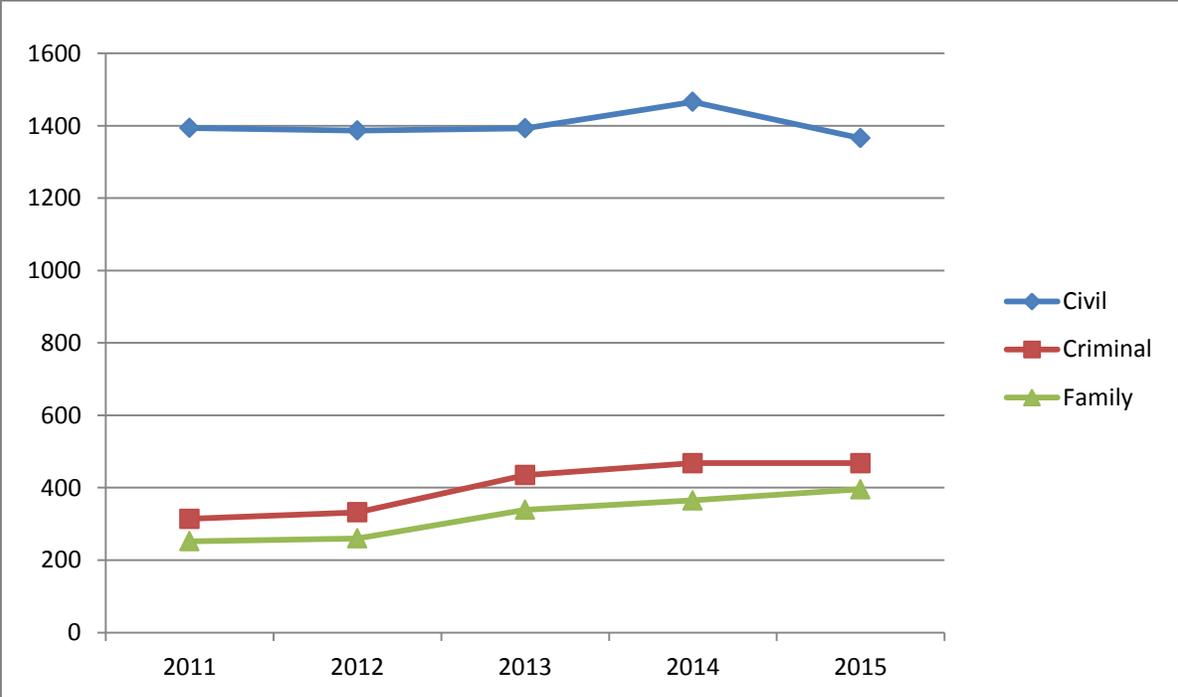


Figure 15: Published Reasons for Judgment By Subject, Type, and Year

The following graph illustrates the distribution of published written reasons for judgment and published transcribed oral reasons for judgment by subject matter from 2011-2015.

