

The background of the cover is a photograph of the Law Courts building. The building is a modern structure with a prominent glass facade on the left side and a concrete structure with a green roof on the right. The sky is clear and blue. In the foreground, there is a concrete wall with the text "The Law Courts" and "2022 Annual Report" and "Supreme Court of British Columbia" engraved on it.

The Law Courts

2022 Annual Report

Supreme Court of British Columbia

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REPORT OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE AND THE ASSOCIATE CHIEF JUSTICE

Introduction

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

Death of the Sovereign

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II died on September 8, 2022. In collaboration with the Court of Appeal for British Columbia and the Provincial Court of British Columbia, the Supreme Court issued a statement recognizing the late Queen’s service to the Commonwealth and extending condolences to the Royal Family. The Court closed to observe the Day of Mourning on September 19, 2022, and matters that had been scheduled to be heard that day were rescheduled.

The Sovereign’s death resulted in a period of transition for the Court, as references to the Sovereign in civil and criminal matters changed from “Regina” and “Her Majesty the Queen” to “Rex” and “His Majesty the King”. Court forms were updated to reflect this new form of reference, and materials read aloud in Court containing the old reference to the Sovereign saw the new reference substituted upon reading.

THE WORK OF THE COURT

Return to In-Person Hearings for Most Proceedings by Mid-Year

After spending the past two years responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Court was pleased to return to more normal operations in 2022.

The gradual waning of the pandemic in the spring of 2022 allowed the Court to resume more normal operations by mid-year...

At varying times during the pandemic, circumstances meant that the Court relied more heavily on videoconference technology to conduct hearings while protecting the health and safety of parties, counsel, court staff, and members of the Court. The gradual waning of the pandemic in the spring of 2022 allowed the Court to resume more normal operations by mid-year, with increased courtroom capacity and greater public access to courthouses. The Court continued to hear some matters using Microsoft Teams video by default, such as trial management conferences. On the criminal side, pre-trial conferences and fix-date appearances by Teams video became the default manner of hearing. Other proceedings were also held using Microsoft Teams as directed by the Court.

Jury Trials Return to Courthouses Around British Columbia

The lifting of pandemic-related capacity limits in courthouses meant that jury trials were able to proceed in all 26 courthouses where the Supreme Court has criminal jury courtrooms by the end of August. During the pandemic, only the larger courthouses had the necessary capacity to continue with jury trials, and most criminal jury trials scheduled for smaller courthouses had to be moved to other locations. The criminal jury selection process continues to be conducted in two stages, as has been done since September 2020, as a result of positive feedback from jury panelists, and after consultation with Crown and defence counsel.

Civil jury trials, which had been suspended by the Province of British Columbia since the beginning of the pandemic, resumed in the fall after the suspension expired on October 8, 2022.

Expanding Online Booking for Conferences

In April, the Court expanded online booking to permit case planning conferences, judicial case conferences, and trial management conferences to be booked via the Court's online booking system. The online booking process is user-friendly and efficient, and simply requires the user to register for a BCeID if they do not already have one. Conferences continue to be able to be booked by telephoning Supreme Court Scheduling, but using the online system permits parties and counsel to book more quickly without having to call in and wait in the queue.

In 2022, there were 189 case planning conferences, 394 judicial case conferences, and 3,102 trial management conferences booked online. The Court also began work to improve the process for booking long chambers and trials, with a new system expected in 2023. The transition to booking more matters online will free up significant staff time, both for the Court and for law firms booking hearings, and is intended to offer a more equitable means of booking matters that addresses the perceived unfairness of the call-in system for smaller firms, sole practitioners, and self-represented litigants who do not have a large team of people available to dial in to attempt to reserve dates.

The transition to and use of electronic application records is intended to reduce overall costs for counsel, parties, and the Court...

Masters Chambers Pilot Expands Electronic Delivery of Materials

In August, the Court launched the Master Chambers Pilot at seven registries on Vancouver Island and the Sunshine Coast: Campbell River, Courtenay, Duncan, Nanaimo, Port Alberni, Powell River, and Victoria. The Pilot provides a means of submitting chambers application records electronically via Court Services Online for Masters chambers applications under 30 minutes at the specified registries.

Under the Pilot, counsel should submit chambers application records electronically in proceedings where both parties are represented by counsel. For proceedings where one or more parties is self-represented, it is optional for counsel and/or the parties to submit chambers application records electronically.

If the Pilot is successful, electronic submission of application records will be expanded to other chambers hearings and locations. The transition to and use of electronic application records is intended to reduce overall costs for counsel, parties, and the Court, and will provide greater flexibility for the Court to deal with chambers hearings when masters are not physically present at the courthouse where the matter is to be heard.

Bumping of Long Chambers Applications and Trials

The Court continues to have to bump a large number of long chambers applications and trials compared to historical averages, which has been a trend since 2019. “Bumping” occurs when a hearing is delayed and cannot be rescheduled within a week of its original date because judicial resources are not available. This creates further stress, expense, and inconvenience for litigants as a result of unmet expectations, wasted preparation time, and travel costs for witnesses and experts. The main cause of bumping continues to be the shortage of judges available to hear matters, as the Court does not have enough judges to meet the demand for hearings and trials. The impact of the lack of judicial resources is described in further detail in the “Judicial Vacancies” section below.

In 2022, 10.9 per cent of all long chambers applications in British Columbia were bumped, which was slightly lower than the bumping rates in 2019 through 2021, but well above the average in the years preceding that. In Vancouver specifically, the bumping rate for long chambers applications in 2022 was slightly lower than in 2021, but higher than in 2020 and the years leading up to 2019.

More trials were bumped in 2022 than in 2021 in British Columbia, with 16.3 per cent bumped in 2022 compared to 13.5 per cent the year before. The Lower Mainland continued to be the

Judicial vacancies continue to impact Court's capacity to provide hearing dates for litigants in a timely manner, resulting in bumping and rescheduling of trials and long chambers applications.

region with the most bumped trials, accounting for 69 per cent of the province's bumped trials, but the Southern Interior region, which includes Kamloops, Kelowna, Vernon, and several other locations, saw an increase in the number of bumped trials in 2022, accounting for 20 per cent of all bumped trials in British Columbia compared to eight per cent in 2021.

Increasing Numbers of Criminal Jury Trials and Longer Trials Booked

The Court noticed several trends with respect to trials in 2022. On the criminal side, there was an increase in the number of criminal jury trials booked for 2022, and a drop in the rate of criminal jury trials that went ahead. There were 202 criminal jury trials booked to start in 2022, versus 154 in 2021. However, just 39 of those booked for 2022, or 19 per cent, went ahead as jury trials on their original dates, with the others not proceeding as originally scheduled for various reasons: re-electing to be heard in Provincial Court, entering guilty pleas, being adjourned to new dates, entering a stay of proceedings, or being abated following the death of the accused. In previous years, the average rate of criminal jury trials proceeding as scheduled was significantly higher: 25 per cent went ahead in 2021, 12 per cent in 2020 (when the COVID-19 pandemic had significant implications on operations), 28 per cent in 2019 and 2018, and 32 per cent in 2017.

As well, there has been an increase in the number of longer trials. In 2022, there were 247 fewer civil trials booked for less than five days compared to 2021, while the number of civil trials scheduled for five or more days increased by 68 compared to 2021. On the criminal side, there were 48 fewer trials booked for less than five days in 2022 compared to 2021, with the number of trials scheduled for five or more days increasing by 48 over 2021. Additionally, there were 42 more family trials of five or more days in 2022 than in 2021, but there were also 58 more family trials of less than five days compared to the year before. As the Court sees the number of longer trials increasing, it means judges have less time to hear other matters, further compounding the issues created by a lack of judicial resources that are described in the "Judicial Vacancies" section below.

Judicial Vacancies

In 2022, the Court had 13 judicial vacancies. Vacancies are created when a full-time judge retires, elects to become a supernumerary judge, or is appointed to the Court of Appeal. The Court has been chronically short of its full complement of judges for several years.

Judicial vacancies continue to impact Court's capacity to provide hearing dates for litigants in a timely manner, resulting in bumping and rescheduling of trials and long chambers applications. As trials are booked roughly 18 months before they are heard, it is impossible to predict how many judges will be available at that point in time, which creates additional uncertainty. The high

[Criminal] law practice directions, notices, and materials for self-represented accused, which had previously been available exclusively in English, were translated into French in 2022 to support francophone parties and counsel.

rate of judicial vacancies increases the already heavy burden on the Court's existing judges, who are subsequently assigned more work in order to make up the shortfall.

Judicial Transfers

There were two judicial transfers in 2022. In April, Justice Jackson moved to Victoria from Vancouver. At the same time, Justice Murray moved to Vancouver from Victoria.

New Policy on Access to the Court Record

In March, the Court published the revised [Policy on Access to the Court Record](#). The Policy governs access to the Court record, which is maintained by Court Services Branch. Key changes included reorganization to make the Policy more user-friendly and the addition of a new Request Form for individuals seeking access to many types of court records in criminal and civil proceedings. The revised Policy clarifies the rules regarding access to certain kinds of court records in criminal proceedings, the process for seeking access to unpublished transcripts, and restrictions on access to orders and unpublished reasons for judgment in family law proceedings.

Court Materials Translated to French

In 2022, the Court put significant effort and resources into having Court materials translated into French to comply with legislative changes. On the family side, this included translating family law practice directions as a result of amendments to the *Divorce Act* that, when in force, will provide parties with the option of conducting divorce proceedings in French as well as English. With respect to criminal proceedings, an accused already has a right to have their criminal trial in the official language of their choice, and the Court noted an increasing number of French criminal trials being heard in recent years. To support the rise in criminal proceedings conducted in French, criminal law practice directions, notices, and materials for self-represented accused, which had previously been available exclusively in English, were translated into French in 2022 to support francophone parties and counsel.

The Supreme Court Joins Twitter

The Supreme Court joined social media in August, launching its Twitter account, [@BCSupremeCourt](#). The account allows the Court to share information and updates with members of the public, including the media and the legal community, in an accessible, timely fashion. These may include announcements of recent appointments to the Court, retirements, new practice directions or notices, and operational updates. The Court's Twitter account also

shares newly published reasons for judgment that are posted on the Court's website that day, directing users who may be interested in a certain judgment back to the Court website for the full reasons.

As of writing, the Court's Twitter account had gained more than 2,600 followers and Tweeted more than 1,200 times since it was created in the summer of 2022. The Court is grateful to the Public Affairs Committee for its guidance and support as the Twitter account was developed and subsequently launched.

COURT GOVERNANCE

The Chief Justice and Associate Chief Justice, in their roles as administrators of the Court, rely on the assistance of a number of internal court committees. In addition to the Court's three substantive law committees (the Criminal Law Committee, the Family Law Committee, and the Civil Law Committee), the Court is supported by specialized committees including the Education Committee, the Law Clerk Committee, and the Public Affairs Committee, as well as the Executive Committee, which addresses matters of court administration. Some committees such as the Joint Courts Technology Committee and the Library Committee are joint committees of the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal, while others like the Judicial Access Policy Working Committee bring together members of other courts and of Court Services Branch. The mandates of these committees vary; however, they all share a common purpose: to consider matters of general importance to the Court within their subject matter expertise, and to provide advice and guidance to the Court generally. The Court membership of these committees is drawn from the judges, masters, registrars, legal counsel, and judicial staff. Through their work, the committees strengthen and enhance the Court's effective and efficient management. Committee reports begin on page 23 of this report.

SUPREME COURT PRACTICE DIRECTIONS

The Court issued three new practice directions and revised two more in 2022:

PD-61 – Applications to Commence Proceedings Anonymously (May 2, 2022)

Practice Direction 61 sets out the procedure for commencing proceedings using initials or a pseudonym in a civil or family law case, other than a case where an order for adoption is sought.

PD-62 – Sealed Bid Process for Foreclosures and Other Matters Involving Sales of Land (August 12, 2022)

Practice Direction 62 sets out the process for submitting sealed bids to the Court electronically for foreclosures and other matters involving the sale of land.

FPD-18 – Applications made by Requisition pursuant to Supreme Court Family Rules 7-1(4), 14-3(4), 22-1(3) and (4) and 22-6(4) (March 31, 2022)

Family Practice Direction 18 replaces the rescinded Family Practice Direction 13 - Applications

made by Requisition supported by Letter (Family), which was issued December 15, 2015. It provides guidance concerning applications under certain *Supreme Court Family Rules* to waive requirements for judicial case conferences and trial management conferences and to appear remotely, which may be made by filing a Requisition in Form F17.

CPD-1 – Criminal Pre-Trial Conference Process (revised November 25, 2022)

Criminal Practice Direction 1 was revised on November 25, 2022, with the key updates including changes to the timeline for delivery of the Crown synopsis, the requirement for pre-trial conferences for all criminal trials and extradition hearings, changes to the timelines for pre-trial conferences in various types of cases, and changes to the mode of appearance at pre-trial conferences.

CPD-3 – Complex Criminal Cases (revised November 25, 2022)

Criminal Practice Direction 3 was revised on November 25, 2022 to update the timeline for delivery of the Crown synopsis, consistent with corresponding revisions to CPD-1 – Criminal Pre-Trial Conference Process.

EXTRA-JUDICIAL ACTIVITIES

In addition to the normal workload of hearing cases and applications, deciding issues, writing and issuing reasons for judgment, issuing desk order divorces and electronic orders, and presiding at case conferences, members of the Court participate in a wide variety of other activities in their communities. Some judges also regularly preside at moot court competitions and speak at annual conferences.

Members of the Court welcome opportunities to engage in public education and to contribute to a greater understanding of the justice system and its role in Canadian society. In 2022, the judges, masters, and registrars of the Court continued to volunteer their time with local, provincial, federal and international organizations, including the following:

- Access to Justice BC
- Access Pro Bono
- The Advocates' Society
- Amici Curiae Friendship Society
- Annual Review of Insolvency Law and Society
- L'Association des juristes d'expression française de la Colombie-Britannique
- *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act/Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act* Working Group of Canadian Insolvency Judges
- British Columbia Bankruptcy Practice Committee
- British Columbia Council of Administrative Tribunals
- British Columbia Law Schools Moot Program
- British Columbia Model Insolvency Order Committee
- Canadian Association of Insolvency and Restructuring Professionals
- Canadian Bar Association
- Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice
- Canadian Superior Courts Judges Association
- Capilano University
- Continuing Legal Education Society of British Columbia
- Courthouse Libraries
- Gale Cup Moot
- Immigration Appeal Division, Immigration and Refugee Board
- Inns of Court
- Insolvency Institute of Canada
- International Association of Women Judges
- International Insolvency Institute
- International Organization of Judicial Training
- International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation
- Justice Education Society
- Law Students Legal Advice Program
- National Judicial Institute
- Rise Women's Legal Centre
- Sedona Canada Steering Committee
- Selkirk College
- Sopinka Cup Moot
- Thompson Rivers University Faculty of Law
- Trial Lawyers Association of British Columbia
- University of British Columbia Allard School of Law
- University of Victoria Faculty of Law
- Vancouver Bar Association

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Chief Justice and the Associate Chief Justice would like to recognize and acknowledge the hard work and commitment shown by all of the Court's staff in 2022. The Court relies upon their dedication, professionalism, and diligence to facilitate the delivery of justice for British Columbians on a daily basis. The Court is especially grateful to Heidi McBride, Executive Director & Senior Counsel of the Superior Courts Judiciary, for her work overseeing the operations of the Court; to Supreme Court Legal Counsel, for their legal advice and support; to Supreme Court Scheduling Director Cindy Friesen and her staff, who tirelessly book and manage all of the Court's hearings; and to the Court's IT department, which has been invaluable in developing and supporting the technological processes used by the Court over the past year.

The Court is also appreciative of the Attorney General and Ministry staff for their ongoing assistance as the Court continues to pursue technology-related efficiencies to support justice for British Columbians, including by expanding online booking further.

Finally, the Chief Justice and the Associate Chief Justice wish to express their thanks to the judges, masters, and registrars of the Court, for their unfailing support and advice with respect to the Court's administration.

Christopher E. Hinkson
Chief Justice

Heather J. Holmes
Associate Chief Justice

JURISDICTION OF THE COURT

As of December 31, 2022, the Supreme Court had 103 justices: the Chief Justice, the Associate Chief Justice, 82 full-time justices, and 19 supernumerary justices.

Superior Court

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

Supreme Court Registries and Locations

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

Chief Justice and Associate Chief Justice

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

Supreme Court Justices

As of December 31, 2022, the Supreme Court had 103 justices: the Chief Justice, the Associate Chief Justice, 82 full-time justices, and 19 supernumerary justices. As of December 31, 2022,

Masters sit in all of the registries throughout the province on a regular basis and also conduct hearings using telephone and videoconferencing.

there were 13 vacancies¹ on the Supreme Court.

Supreme Court Masters

The Supreme Court has 14 masters who are resident in Abbotsford, Kamloops, Kelowna, Nanaimo, New Westminster, Vancouver, and Victoria. Masters sit in all of the registries throughout the province on a regular basis and also conduct hearings using telephone and videoconferencing.

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

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

Supreme Court Registrar

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

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

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

¹ Section 2(2) of the *Supreme Court Act*, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 443 provides that the Supreme Court consists of 95 full time justices in addition to the Chief Justice and the Associate Chief Justice. A judicial vacancy is created when a full time judge retires or elects to become a supernumerary judge. The retirement of a supernumerary judge does not create a judicial vacancy.

CHANGES TO THE COURT’S COMPLEMENT

In 2022, the Court welcomed the appointment of ten new judges, three new masters, and one new registrar, and acknowledged the retirement of nine judges and one master.

In 2022, the Court welcomed the appointment of ten new judges, three new masters, and one new registrar, and acknowledged the retirement of nine judges and one master. Additionally, two judges of the Supreme Court were appointed to the Court of Appeal. These changes are listed chronologically within each category.

APPOINTMENTS

The Honourable Justice Bruce Elwood

Justice Bruce Elwood, formerly Master of the Supreme Court, was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of British Columbia at Vancouver on February 7, 2022. Justice Elwood’s appointment fills one of two new positions authorized further to the *Budget Implementation Act, 2021, No. 1*.

Justice Elwood was born in New York City, later immigrating with his family to Vancouver, British Columbia. He received a Bachelor of Science from Queen’s University and subsequently a Bachelor of Laws from the University of British Columbia before being called to the British Columbia Bar in 1993. Justice Elwood spent more than 20 years in general civil litigation, with a diverse practice that included commercial litigation, Aboriginal rights and title, constitutional litigation, administrative law, and government liability, before being appointed a Master of the Supreme Court in 2019.

Justice Elwood has been a regular contributor to continuing legal education programs throughout his career and taught Evidence at the Allard School of Law at the University of British Columbia for five years. Prior to entering law school, Justice Elwood spent extensive time volunteering, including in Israel, Kenya, Tanzania, and British Columbia’s Mount Robson National Park.

The Honourable Justice K. Michael Stephens

Justice K. Michael Stephens, formerly Equity Counsel at Hunter Litigation Chambers in Vancouver, was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of British Columbia at Vancouver on February 7, 2022. Justice Stephens replaces Justice J. Watchuk (Vancouver), who elected to

become a supernumerary judge effective May 1, 2021.

Justice Stephens was born and raised in Halifax, Nova Scotia. He received a Bachelor of Commerce with Honours from Queen’s University in 1992 before obtaining his LL.B. from Dalhousie University in 1996, where he was awarded the University Medal in Law, followed by his LL.M. from Harvard University in 1999. Justice Stephens clerked for the Honourable Charles Gonthier at the Supreme Court of Canada after graduation and was called to the British Columbia Bar in 1998.

Justice Stephens practiced civil litigation in public law and private law matters, joining Hunter Voith Litigation Counsel in 2002. In 2006, he became one of the original lawyers at Hunter Litigation Chambers, where he practised until his appointment. He was a member of the Rule of Law and Lawyer Independence Advisory Committee of the Law Society of British Columbia, and has been a frequent speaker at legal conferences and seminars over the course of his career, also contributing to CLEBC publications *British Columbia Administrative Law Practice Manual*, *Introducing Evidence at Trial*, and *Expert Evidence in British Columbia Civil Proceedings*.

The Honourable Justice Michael Thomas

Justice Michael G. Thomas, formerly partner at Harper Grey LLP in Vancouver, was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of British Columbia at Vancouver on February 7, 2022.

Justice Thomas’ appointment fills one of two new positions authorized further to the *Budget Implementation Act, 2021, No. 1*.

Justice Thomas was born and raised in White Rock, British Columbia. He received a Bachelor of Laws from Queen’s University in 1998, articling at what was then Harper Grey Easton (now Harper Grey LLP) after graduation before being called to the British Columbia Bar in 1999.

Justice Thomas practiced civil litigation throughout his career at Harper Grey LLP, appearing before all levels of court in British Columbia, the Federal Court, and the Supreme Court of Canada. He was recognized as a “Leading Lawyer” in Personal Injury Litigation and Insurance Law by Best Lawyers in Canada, a “Local Litigation Star” in Health Law and Personal Injury by Benchmark Canada, and noted as a “Repeatedly Recommended Leading Practitioner” in Commercial Litigation by the Canadian Legal Expert Directory. As well, Justice Thomas authored *Administrative Justice: A Practitioner’s Guide* and co-authored *Canadian Insurance Law*, both published by LexisNexis.

The Honourable Justice Baljinder Girn

Justice Baljinder Girn, formerly Senior Crown Counsel at the Public Prosecution Service of Canada in Vancouver, was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of British Columbia at New Westminster on February 7, 2022. Justice Girn replaces Justice D.M. Masuhara (Vancouver), who elected to become a supernumerary judge effective May 23, 2021.

Justice Girn was born in India and immigrated to Canada with her family at age six. She grew up in Burnaby as a proud member of the Punjabi Sikh community, becoming the first member of her extended family to attend university. Justice Girn received a B.A. from Simon Fraser University followed by an LL.B. from Queen's University before being called to the Ontario Bar in 1999 and subsequently the British Columbia Bar in 2002.

Justice Girn started her career at Heller, Rubel in Toronto before moving back to British Columbia and joining the Public Prosecution Service of Canada (PPSC) in 2002, where she went on to become Senior Crown Counsel. During her 20 years at the PPSC, Justice Girn litigated a wide range of criminal prosecutions in courts across British Columbia, also mentoring law students and younger lawyers. She received the PPSC's Leadership Excellence Award in 2020. Justice Girn was also a member of the PPSC's Advancement Centre for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion team, National Advisor for Racialized Persons, and Co-Champion of the PPSC Bias-Free Workplace Initiative. She has also been actively involved with the Canadian Bar Association – BC Branch, serving on its board and provincial council for three years prior to her appointment.

The Honourable Justice John Gibb-Carsley

Justice John Gibb-Carsley, formerly Senior Counsel at the Department of Justice Canada in Vancouver, was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of British Columbia at New Westminster on February 7, 2022. Justice Gibb-Carsley replaces Justice J. Harvey (New Westminster), who elected to become a supernumerary judge effective August 22, 2021.

Justice Gibb-Carsley was born and raised in Perth, Ontario. He received a Bachelor of Commerce from Queen's University in 1994, coming back to Queen's three years later to attend law school. Following his graduation, he worked in Toronto in the commercial litigation department of a national law firm.

In 2003, Justice Gibb-Carsley joined the Tax Litigation Section of the Vancouver office of the Department of Justice Canada, frequently appearing before the Tax Court of Canada and the Federal Court. In 2010, he joined the Department's Criminal Law and International Assistance

Section, primarily litigating extradition cases and matters involving evidence gathering on behalf of foreign law enforcement under mutual legal assistance in criminal matters treaties before the Supreme Court of British Columbia and the Court of Appeal for British Columbia. Justice Gibb-Carsley moved to Ottawa in 2014 to work with the Department's International Assistance Group for a year, then completed a Master of Laws at the University of British Columbia while resuming his work litigating extradition and other criminal law matters.

The Honourable Justice Jacqueline Hughes

Justice Jacqueline D. Hughes, formerly Senior Legal Counsel at the Ministry of the Attorney General of British Columbia in Vancouver, was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of British Columbia at Vancouver on February 7, 2022. Justice Hughes replaces Justice E.J. Adair (Vancouver), who elected to become a supernumerary judge effective September 21, 2021.

Justice Hughes grew up in Burnaby, earning a Bachelor of Business Administration from Simon Fraser University followed by an LL.B. from the University of Victoria. She was called to the British Columbia Bar in 2005.

Justice Hughes joined Hunter Litigation Chambers in 2008 after beginning her career with a national law firm, focussing her practice on corporate and commercial disputes. She joined the British Columbia Ministry of Attorney General in 2015 as Senior Legal Counsel, working on a wide range of Crown litigation files. Her practice involved constitutional and administrative law, and she appeared before all levels of court in British Columbia as well as the Supreme Court of Canada. Justice Hughes has regularly contributed to continuing legal education through CLEBC, the Advocates' Society, and Allard School of Law at the University of British Columbia, where she was an adjunct professor and a guest instructor on Crown liability and advocacy. As well, she was a long-time contributing editor for *The Conduct of Civil Litigation in British Columbia*. Justice Hughes was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2020.

The Honourable Justice Briana Hardwick

Justice Briana Hardwick, formerly Partner at Rush Ihas Hardwick LLP in Kelowna, was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of British Columbia at Kelowna on February 7, 2022. Justice Hardwick replaces Justice L. Marchand (Kamloops), who was elevated to the Court of Appeal effective March 23, 2021. The Chief Justice transferred Justice D. Hori (Kelowna) to Kamloops to fill the vacancy created by Justice Marchand's elevation, therefore the vacancy was located in Kelowna.

Justice Hardwick was born and raised in Kelowna, British Columbia, where she developed a

passion for law and the administration of justice at a young age after frequently accompanying her father, J. Grant Hardwick, to court. She studied Political Science at the University of British Columbia, graduating with Honours, before earning her Bachelor of Laws from the Allard School of Law in 2004. Justice Hardwick clerked at the Supreme Court of British Columbia and joined boutique litigation firm Rush Ihas Hardwick LLP soon after her call to the bar.

Justice Hardwick began her practice litigating a broad range of civil, commercial, and family matters before becoming the head of the firm's family law department in 2012. Since then, she has focused on resolving family law matters and litigating family law disputes, with an emphasis on complex and high conflict family cases, appearing as counsel before the Supreme Court of British Columbia and the Court of Appeal for British Columbia.

The Honourable Justice Joseph Doyle

Justice Joseph M. Doyle, formerly a sole practitioner in Vancouver, was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of British Columbia at Vancouver on October 24, 2022. Justice Doyle replaces Justice K. Horsman (Vancouver), who was elevated to the Court of Appeal effective April 19, 2022.

Justice Doyle was born and raised in Vancouver. He attended the University of British Columbia, completing a joint law and commerce degree in 1988, and was called to the British Columbia Bar in 1989.

Justice Doyle's practice was wide-ranging, and he appeared before all levels of court, including the Supreme Court of Canada, during his career as counsel. While he mainly focused on criminal and administrative law, his practice also included civil litigation. Over the course of his career, Justice Doyle has acted as defence counsel, Crown counsel, special prosecutor, amicus curiae, and counsel. He has been highly involved in the legal community, serving as Vancouver Bar Association Vice-President, President, and Past-President, as well as a member of the Provincial Council of the Canadian Bar Association – BC Branch and the CBA's Advisory Committee to Judicial Council. Justice Doyle was also an editor of the Law Society of British Columbia's Practice Checklist Manual and regularly mentored young lawyers. He was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2019.

The Honourable Justice Kevin Loo

Justice Kevin D. Loo, formerly Partner at Nathanson, Schachter & Thompson LLP in Vancouver, was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of British Columbia at Vancouver on

October 24, 2022. Justice Loo replaces Justice J.R. Groves (Vancouver), who elected to become a supernumerary judge effective June 11, 2022.

Justice Loo was born and raised in Vancouver. He attended the University of British Columbia, obtaining a Bachelor of Commerce, before receiving a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Toronto. Justice Loo clerked for Justice Gibbs, Justice Toy, and Justice Hinds at the Court of Appeal for British Columbia, and articulated at McCarthy Tétrault before being called to the British Columbia Bar in 1994.

Justice Loo began his career at Nathanson Schachter & Thompson LLP following his call to the Bar, later becoming partner in 2001. His practice focused on commercial litigation, bankruptcy, and insolvency, and he regularly appeared as counsel before the Supreme Court of British Columbia and the Court of Appeal for British Columbia. Justice Loo has been a frequent contributor to continuing legal education throughout his career, serving as an instructor for the trial advocacy course at the Allard School of Law, speaking at CLEBC programs, and authoring numerous written publications. He was regularly recognized for his work in Corporate Commercial Litigation by Best Lawyers Canada, and was named a Litigation Star by Benchmark Canada. Justice Loo was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2021.

The Honourable Justice Anita Chan

Justice Anita Chan, formerly Crown Counsel at the Public Prosecution Service of Canada in Vancouver, was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of British Columbia at Vancouver on October 24, 2022. Justice Chan replaces Justice G. Choi (Vancouver), who retired effective July 14, 2022.

Justice Chan was born in Hong Kong and immigrated to Canada with her family at the age of eight. She studied journalism at Carleton University before returning to Vancouver and attending law school at the University of British Columbia, graduating in 1992. Justice Chan served as a law clerk at the Court of Appeal for British Columbia and articulated at Russell and DuMoulin before she was called to the British Columbia Bar in 1994.

Justice Chan joined the Public Prosecution Service of Canada in 1995, spending the entirety of her career as a prosecutor. She appeared at all levels of court in British Columbia and in court in Alberta, focusing on complex and lengthy organized crime trials involving challenges to multiple search warrants and wiretaps. Her work has included files relating to drugs, firearms, proceeds of crime, extradition, income tax fraud, national security offences, and criminal organizations.

Master Rory Krentz

Master Rory Krentz was appointed to the Supreme Court at Abbotsford on April 8, 2022.

Master Krentz received a Bachelor of Laws from the University of British Columbia in 1982. Following his call to the British Columbia Bar, Master Krentz's practice included civil litigation, family law, criminal law, and federal Crown prosecutions. Master Krentz was partner at Krentz and Hedman from 2005 until his appointment, and appeared at all levels of court in British Columbia. Additionally, he has experience in family law mediation and previously worked with the provincial government on child protection matters. Master Krentz has been highly involved in the legal community throughout his career, including serving as an elected member of the Canadian Bar Association – BC Branch.

Master Scott Nielsen

Master Scott Nielsen was appointed to the Supreme Court at New Westminster on April 8, 2022.

Master Nielsen received a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Victoria in 1986. Prior to becoming District Registrar in 2014 and Supreme Court Registrar in 2018, Master Nielsen worked with the Worker's Compensation Board of B.C. (now WorkSafeBC) as a lawyer, director of litigation, and as acting general counsel. Master Nielsen has participated extensively in various subcommittees and working groups, and has been a frequent speaker at CLEBC events.

Master Susanna Hughes

Master Susanna Hughes was appointed to the Supreme Court at Vancouver on May 2, 2022.

Master Hughes received a Bachelor of Laws from the University of British Columbia in 1989. Her practice has primarily focused on family law, including family and child protection matters. Master Hughes' experience includes extensive work with the Legal Services Society (now Legal Aid BC), initially as family duty counsel at the New Westminster courthouse, and later as coordinator of family law services. Master Hughes also has litigation experience at all levels of court in British Columbia, and has been frequently involved with Canadian Bar Association – BC Branch subsections in addition to being an active member of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts.

Registrar Meg Gaily

Registrar Meg Gaily was appointed to the Supreme Court at Vancouver on October 12, 2022.

Registrar Gaily attended law school at the University of Victoria, graduating in 1992 and subsequently clerking at the Supreme Court of British Columbia. Since being called to the British Columbia Bar in 1994, her work has included administrative law, labour and employment, civil procedure and appellate practice, professional conduct, and Aboriginal law. Registrar Gaily was Legal Counsel at the Court of Appeal for nine years, providing legal and related policy advice to the Court. She acted as Research Counsel to the Cohen Commission of Inquiry into the Decline of Sockeye Salmon in the Fraser River from 2009 to 2012 before joining Lawson Lundell in 2014, where she was a member of the Research and Opinions Group. Registrar Gaily has been highly involved in the legal community throughout her career, including as the current Chair of the British Columbia Courthouse Libraries Society, and has helped produced CLEBC resources *Civil Jury Instructions*, *Criminal Jury Instructions*, and the *Family Law Sourcebook*.

APPOINTMENTS TO THE COURT OF APPEAL

The Honourable Justice Karen Horsman

The Honourable Justice Karen Horsman was appointed a Justice of the Court of Appeal for British Columbia on April 20, 2022. Justice Horsman replaces Justice M. Saunders (Vancouver), who elected to become a supernumerary judge effective January 1, 2022. Justice Horsman was appointed to the Supreme Court in Vancouver on August 31, 2018.

The Honourable Justice Ronald Skolrood

The Honourable Justice Ronald Skolrood was appointed a Justice of the Court of Appeal for British Columbia on October 24, 2022. Justice Skolrood replaces Justice G.B. Butler (Vancouver), who elected to become a supernumerary judge effective April 1, 2022. Justice Skolrood was appointed to the Supreme Court in Vancouver on June 7, 2013.

RETIREMENTS

The Honourable Laura Gerow

The Honourable Laura Gerow retired from the Supreme Court of British Columbia at Vancouver on April 30, 2022. She was appointed to the Supreme Court on October 10, 2002.

The Honourable Austin Cullen

The Honourable Austin Cullen retired from the Supreme Court of British Columbia at Vancouver on May 27, 2022. He was appointed to the Supreme Court on March 22, 2001.

The Honourable John Steeves

The Honourable John Steeves retired from the Supreme Court of British Columbia at Victoria on June 11, 2022. He was appointed to the Supreme Court on October 5, 2012.

The Honourable Robert Jenkins

The Honourable Robert Jenkins retired from the Supreme Court of British Columbia at Abbotsford on June 15, 2022. He was appointed to the Supreme Court on December 31, 2011.

The Honourable Grace Choi

The Honourable Grace Choi retired from the Supreme Court of British Columbia at Vancouver on July 14, 2022. She was appointed to the Supreme Court on May 29, 2015.

The Honourable Barry Davies

The Honourable Barry Davies retired from the Supreme Court at Vancouver on September 4, 2022. He was appointed to the Supreme Court on January 10, 1996.

The Honourable William Grist

The Honourable William Grist retired from the Supreme Court at Chilliwack on September 6, 2022. He was appointed to the Supreme Court on June 20, 1996 after being appointed Master of the Supreme Court on January 1, 1990.

The Honourable Arne Silverman

The Honourable Arne Silverman retired from the Supreme Court at Vancouver on December 31, 2022. He was appointed to the Supreme Court on November 24, 2006.

The Honourable Elaine Adair

The Honourable Elaine Adair retired from the Supreme Court at Vancouver on December 31, 2022. She was appointed to the Supreme Court on November 28, 2008.

Master Stuart Cameron

Master Stuart Cameron retired from the Supreme Court at Vancouver on May 1, 2022. He was appointed Master of the Supreme Court on November 6, 2018, after being appointed District Registrar on January 31, 2011 and subsequently Registrar on July 2, 2014.



Committee Reports

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

In 2022, the Committee's work continued to involve issues arising from the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the return to more normal operations of the Court.

Members

Justice Maisonville (Chair)

Chief Justice Hinkson (*ex officio*)

Associate Chief Justice Holmes (*ex officio*)

Justice Caldwell

Justice Devlin

Justice Donegan

Justice Skolrood (until October 2022, outgoing Chair)

Justice MacNaughton

Justice Thompson

Justice Warren

Justice Wilson

Master Muir

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

Brenda Belak, Legal Counsel

Work of the Committee

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

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

In 2022, the Committee's work continued to involve issues arising from the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the return to more normal operations of the Court. Other issues addressed by the Committee in 2022 included ongoing liaison of the Court with government and external organizations such as the Canadian Bar Association and the Law Society, Judicial Administrative Assistant retention, revisions to the Policy on Access to the Court Record, updating the Court's manual for publication bans, the Masters Chambers Pilot and the submission of application

records electronically, and the Long Chambers Pilot Project.

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

CIVIL LAW COMMITTEE

[The committee] collaborated with the Family Law Committee to develop a standard picklist of orders that are commonly made at trial management conferences.

Members

Justice Skolrood (Chair until October 2022)

Justice Warren (Chair as of October 2022)

Justice Baker

Justice Beames

Mr. Justice Caldwell

Justice Gomery

Justice Matthews

Justice Milman

Justice Smith

Justice Thompson

Justice Veenstra

Justice Verhoeven

Mr. Justice Walker

Master Vos

Lisa Phillips, Legal Counsel

Mandate

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

Work of the Committee

During 2022, the Committee carried out work in a number of specific areas. It provided feedback to the Chief Justice with respect to the development of Practice Direction 61 (Applications to Commence Proceedings Anonymously). The Committee also provided its views to the Chief Justice regarding the Supreme Court Civil and Family Rules Committee's consultation paper on the civil rules of contempt. It collaborated with the Family Law Committee to develop a standard picklist of orders that are commonly made at trial management conferences. Other issues that the Committee considered included judicial management of class proceedings, remote hearings of short chambers applications,

improvements to long chambers hearings, court orders for interpreters, and *ex parte* applications in residential tenancy matters.

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

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

CRIMINAL LAW COMMITTEE

The Committee considered emerging issues in the criminal law and provided guidance to the Court regarding various amendments to the Criminal Code and appellate jurisprudence.

Members

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

Mandate

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

Work of the Committee

In 2022, the Committee provided support to the Associate Chief Justice in relation to a gradual transition from temporary practices and procedures developed to address the COVID-19 pandemic to ones that reflect a return to normal activities. The Committee considered emerging issues in the criminal law and provided guidance to the Court regarding various amendments to the *Criminal Code* and appellate jurisprudence.

The Committee continued to support the work of the Court by developing and maintaining internal resources on criminal law topics such as jury selection, appearances at criminal proceedings by video and audioconference, sentencing, and applications under s. 276 of the *Criminal Code*. Substantial updates were made to two informational memorandums for judges to provide to self-represented accused persons to assist them in preparing for their criminal trial. The Committee also consulted on updates to internal reference guides on the topics of publication bans and contempt.

Members of the Committee continued to collaborate with the Education Committee in the development and delivery of training and resources for members of the Court.

The Committee is grateful to Supreme Court Legal Counsel, Natasha Edgar and Claire Wilson, for their support of its work.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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

Members

Madam Justice MacNaughton (Chair)
Mr. Justice Ball
Madam Justice Burke
Mr. Justice Crabtree
Madam Justice Francis
Mr. Justice Kent (until March 2022)
Madam Justice MacDonald
Madam Justice Maisonville
Mr. Justice Marchand
Mr. Justice Mayer
Madam Justice Morellato
Madam Justice Murray
Mr. Justice Riley
Justice Tammen
Master Cameron (until May 2022)
Master Keim (since February 2022)
Leah Pence, Legal Counsel

Mandate

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

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

Work of the Committee

2022 Conferences

In 2022, the Education Committee returned to delivering its main continuing education programs in person. The May Conference was held in Kelowna and included sessions about complex financial issues in family matters, extradition, enforcement of injunctions, class actions, online and physical security, and a “short snappers” session with updates on the latest criminal law cases. The November Conference was held in Vancouver and included sessions about judicial mental wellness, relocation issues in family law, defamation, Indigenous traditions in criminal proceedings, credibility assessments, and tips for conducting planning conferences.

New Judges Training

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

In May 2022, the Committee delivered the seventh session of new judges training. Nine new appointees attended. The training covered a wide variety of topics including writing and delivering decisions and managing reserve lists, managing chambers, the unique challenges presented in family law proceedings, tips, resources for being on the road, and an “ask us anything” session. The Committee is grateful to the senior members of the Court who agreed to serve as faculty again in 2022.

In addition, the Committee organized a series of sessions to provide additional criminal law training to newly appointed judges who did not come from a criminal law background before joining the Court, although all members of the Court were welcome to attend. The sessions are organized and facilitated by judges with extensive criminal law experience. These sessions focussed on criminal procedure and basic concepts, effective use of pre-trial conferences, common criminal law *voir dire*s, s. 490 applications, and sentencing principles. The Committee is aware of the benefits to the Court of these additional training opportunities and is grateful to the facilitators who made this possible.

Law at Lunch

The Committee facilitated regular online lunchtime seminars on topics including the Canadian Judicial Council’s complaint procedure, foreclosure, the W.D. framework, the law of hearsay, the intersection of family law and bankruptcy, costs, and the appointment and role of child advocates.

Mentoring

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

The Committee is grateful to members of the Court for their enthusiastic participation as speakers and facilitators in its programs, and for their receptiveness to its programs.

The Committee also thanks Leah Pence for supporting its work.

FAMILY LAW COMMITTEE

The Committee discussed the implementation of the French language provisions in Bill C-78, and in particular the translations of relevant materials to French...

Members

Justice Tindale (Chair)
Justice Fleming (Vice-Chair)
Justice MacNaughton (until November 2022)
Justice Armstrong
Justice Choi (until July 2022)
Justice Shergill
Justice Brundrett
Justice Horsman (until April 2022)
Justice Lamb (since October 2022)
Master Dick
Master Harper
Nikki Hair, Legal Counsel
Line B. Williams, Legal Counsel

Mandate

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

Work of the Committee

The Committee dealt with a variety of family law issues in 2022 in addition to discussing the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on family law proceedings.

The Committee discussed the implementation of the French language provisions in Bill C-78, and in particular the translations of relevant materials to French, and formed a sub-committee to address ongoing issues as the court moves towards implementation of these provisions.

The Committee updated the Supreme Court Family Picklist of Orders, which is available on the court's website. The Committee also created and updated various internal court resources, including in collaboration with the Civil Law Committee.

In connection with Bill 38, the Indigenous Self-Government in *Child and Family Services Amendment Act*, which received Royal Assent on November 25, 2022, the Committee, at the direction of Chief Justice Hinkson, discussed the new amendments to the *Adoption Act* and *Child, Family and Community Service Act*.

The Committee provided recommendations and comments to Chief Justice Hinkson and the British Columbia Supreme Court Civil & Family Rules Committee with respect to proposed amendments to the *Supreme Court Family Rules*.

The Committee discussed family justice initiatives, including the Provincial Court's Early Resolution and Case Management Model and the associated final evaluation report published in January 2022. In liaison with Chief Justice Hinkson, the Committee also reviewed external resources, including from the Canadian Judicial Council, on online platforms for adjudication and case management and a proposal from the Canadian Bar Association regarding virtual chambers.

In November 2022, upon her appointment to the Executive Committee, Justice MacNaughton left the Family Law Committee. The Committee also lost Justice Choi upon her retirement from the court in July 2022, and Justice Horsman with her appointment to the Court of Appeal in April 2022. Justice Lamb joined the committee in October 2022.

The Committee is grateful for the assistance of Legal Counsel, Nikki Hair, who assisted the Committee until her leave in June 2022, and Line B. Williams, who has supported the Committee's work since then.

JOINT COURTS TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

In 2022, much of the Committee's work involved expanding electronic document management and online booking.

Members

Mr. Justice Masuhara (Chair)
Mr. Justice Hunter
Justice Adair
Justice Branch
Madam Justice Fitzpatrick
Justice Myers
Justice Punnett
Master Nielsen
Registrar Outerbridge
Heidi McBride, Executive Director & Senior Legal Counsel
Cindy Friesen, Director, Supreme Court Scheduling
Ryan Wirth, Manager, Information Technology
Brenda Belak, Legal Counsel

Mandate

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

Work of the Committee

In 2022, much of the Committee's work involved expanding electronic document management and online booking. The Committee was also involved in supporting the move to a new VOIP phone system for the judiciary and judicial staff, as the technology used by the existing phones has become obsolete and the new system provides high quality audio that is easily incorporated into the Courts' infrastructure.

In collaboration with Court Services Branch, the Supreme Court launched its Masters Chambers Pilot project at seven registries on Vancouver Island and the Sunshine Coast in August. The Pilot permits counsel and parties to submit chambers application records electronically for Masters chambers hearings of 30 minutes or less. After the first phase has been evaluated, the Pilot will be expanded to other types of locations.

Following the trend from previous years, electronic filing continues rise at the Court of Appeal, and the Court is considering options for managing its physical and electronic records. The Court also announced its plan to return to broadcasting appeal hearings, following strong public support, by Zoom in early 2023.

At both the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court, online booking of hearings is increasing, with Supreme Court adding case planning conferences, judicial case conferences, and trial management conferences. The Committee supports more online booking of hearings and conferences in the future.

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

JUDICIAL ACCESS POLICY WORKING COMMITTEE

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.

Members

Shirley Smiley, Legal Counsel, Court of Appeal (Chair from September 2022)
Leah Pence, Legal Counsel, Supreme Court
Daniel Kozera, Legal Officer, Provincial Court (Chair until September 2022)
Grant Marchand, Manager, Judicial Resource Analysis & Management Information Systems, Provincial Court
Dan Chiddell, Director Strategic Information & Business Applications, Ministry of Justice - Court Services Branch
Stephanie Delacretaz, Assistant Director, Strategic Information & Business Applications, Ministry of Justice – Court Services Branch
Erin Turner, Acting Director, Policy, Legislation and Planning, Ministry of Attorney General - Court Services Branch
Robert Richardson, Secretariat and Senior Policy Analyst

Mandate

The Chief Justices and Chief Judge of British Columbia’s courts have responsibility for the supervision and control of court records and judicial administration records. The Judicial Access Policy Working Committee (APWC) is a joint committee consisting of representatives from all three courts and Court Services Branch 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 reviews access applications for those seeking bulk access to court record information.

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

Work of the Committee

In 2022, the work of the Committee included the following:

Access Applications

In 2022, the Committee received, considered, and made recommendations in respect of seven applications for access to court record information from a variety of government, public, non-profit, and private agencies and departments in order to fulfill their statutory mandates, improve the efficiency of their operations, or to support the legal research and analysis services provided. The Three Courts Policy on Bulk and Electronic Access to Court Records, approved in September 2021, guided consideration of these requests. The policy describes protocols for administering bulk access to court records and electronic information that is not available at the registry counter. Formal access agreements were created for applications approved by the judiciary.

Policy Work

In 2022, the Committee updated its terms of reference (which guide its mandate, process, and operations), and the application form for access to court record information. The Committee also reviewed and commented on proposed legislative amendments related to court record management, the Canadian Judicial Council's model policies for the [classification of court information](#) and the [retention of court information](#).

LAW CLERKS COMMITTEE

One of the Committee's priority issues was addressed this year through a long-awaited salary increase for the clerks, which was approved by the Treasury Board in early 2022 and implemented in April.

Members

Mr. Justice Blok (Chair)
Justice Basran
Justice Iyer
Justice D. MacDonald
Madam Justice Murray
Brenda Belak, Legal Counsel

Mandate

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

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

Work of the Committee

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

At present, there are 15 law clerks in Vancouver, three in New Westminster, two in Victoria, and one in Kelowna.

In 2022, the following 21 clerks began their clerkships with the Court:

Vancouver:	Laura Abrioux, Deborah Brommeland, Sara Edwards, Joannie Fu, Samuel Geisterfer, Stephanie Gellatly, Dustin Horvat, Erin Jackes, Dawn Johnson, Michael Lutsky, Kate McInnes, Thor Paulson, Gabriel Rincon, Arshia Sattari, Yomi Wong
New Westminster:	Nyssa Lessingham, Paige Mueller, Omri Rozen
Victoria:	Alice Le Bihan, Kelvin Zhu
Kelowna:	Adrian Christ

The fall of 2022 marked a return to a more conventional work environment for the law clerks following the easing of various pandemic-related measures. The law clerks returned to primarily in-person work at the courthouses, although with more flexibility for at-home work when appropriate. The return to in-person courthouse work by the clerks has enhanced the ability of judges to provide guidance and instruction and allows clerks the direct experience of observing trials and hearings.

One of the Committee's priority issues was addressed this year through a long-awaited salary increase for the clerks, which was approved by the Treasury Board in early 2022 and implemented in April. This was the first substantial salary increase since 2009 and was essential to the Court's ability to recruit quality candidates in a very competitive environment.

Another of the Committee's priorities is to increase diversity in our law clerk group. Through various outreach initiatives we have greatly improved both the number of diverse applicants and the number of diverse persons we have hired. This year, nearly 50 percent of our law clerks are racialized, Indigenous, or LGBTQ+.

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

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

Finally, the Committee expresses its thanks to Brenda Belak and the Court's other legal counsel for their efforts in recruiting, training, and supervising the law clerks.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

As with many aspects of the Courts' operations, 2022 underscored the importance of technology and digital literacy as the use of electronic resources expanded.

Members

Madam Justice Ker (Chair)
Madam Justice Bennett (until end of October 2022)
Mr. Justice Edelman
Mr. Justice Skolrood (as of November 2022)
Heidi McBride, Executive Director and Senior Legal Counsel
Diane Lemieux, Head Librarian (until April 2022)
Sylvia Ranspach, Head Librarian (as of October 2022)

Work of the Committee

2022 saw many significant changes to the Judges' Library. After 23 years of invaluable service, Head Librarian Diane Lemieux retired in April. On her last day, Ms. Lemieux sent an email to everyone that included this apt observation from Albert Einstein:

“The only thing that you absolutely have to know is the location of the library.”

While a search was conducted for a new Head Librarian, Library Technician Connie Kang stepped in to fill the void. Following a competition for the posting, the successful candidate was announced, and Sylvia Ranspach began as Head Librarian in October. Under her leadership, a comprehensive review of the collection is underway as well as an update of materials to assist in researching various subject matters and improvements to the accessibility of materials.

As with many aspects of the Courts' operations, 2022 underscored the importance of technology and digital literacy as the use of electronic resources expanded. This will continue going forward, due both to the demand for access to these resources and the increasing cost of paper resources. In keeping with this trend, over the coming year, the library will continue focussing on its curation and development of its electronic resources.

Finally, the Committee membership changed slightly at the end of the year. Justice Bennett stepped down as the Court of Appeal representative at the end of October, with Justice Skolrood rejoining the Library Committee as the Court of Appeal representative at the

beginning of November.

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

PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

In 2022, the Committee's work involved a number of new projects as well as updates to existing initiatives.

Members

Justice Smith (Chair)

Chief Justice Hinkson

The Honourable Bruce Cohen, Superior Courts Communications Officer

Justice Elwood

Mr. Justice Gaul

Justice Steeves

Justice Tindale

Mr. Justice Walker

Justice Wedge

Heidi McBride, Executive Director & Senior Legal Counsel

Brenda Belak, Legal Counsel

Leah Pence, Legal Counsel

Diana Foxall, Communications Coordinator

Mandate

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

Work of the Committee

In 2022, the Committee's work involved a number of new projects as well as updates to existing initiatives.

In March, the Supreme Court revised its [Policy on Access to the Court Record](#). Formerly known as the Court Record Access Policy, the Policy saw a number of updates, including the creation of a new Court Record Access Request Form that replaced several forms used previously.

The Court's COVID-19 Notice No. 49, Notice to the Media and the Public Regarding Attending Supreme Court Proceedings, was also updated in March. This notice provided direction on how media and members of the public could request remote access to proceedings by telephone.

In April, the Supreme Court and the Provincial Court launched a pilot project in collaboration with Court Services Branch in which accredited media may request to receive approved court records electronically using the secure File Transfer Protocol method. Instead of requiring accredited media to attend the registry in person to pick up physical copies of documents, the initiative uses a secure email server to share approved documents with accredited media, making it more convenient for media to obtain information.

In September, the Supreme Court launched its [Twitter account](#). The account is intended to provide timely information and updates from the Supreme Court with members of the public, the media, and the legal community. Since its launch, the account has gained more than 2,600 followers, and shares announcements and reasons for judgment on a daily basis.

The Committee is grateful for work performed by the Superior Courts Communications Officer, the Honourable Bruce Cohen, and Communications Coordinator, Diana Foxall, who interact with members of the media, the Court, and registry staff. The Committee is also appreciative of the support it receives from legal counsel from both the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal, as well as the Registrar of the Court of Appeal, whose assistance and advice have been indispensable as the Committee moves forward on its work in tackling public and media-related initiatives. The Committee expresses its thanks to Miki Lee, who maintained the media accreditation lists and distributed information to accredited media in 2022.



Members of the Court

JUDGES OF THE SUPREME COURT

CHIEF JUSTICE

The Honourable Chief Justice Christopher E. Hinkson

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

ASSOCIATE CHIEF JUSTICE

The Honourable Associate Chief Justice Heather J. Holmes

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

JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT

The Honourable Justice Barry M. Davies ▼ (Vancouver) - retired September 4, 2022

- Appointed to the Supreme Court January 10, 1996

The Honourable Justice William G.E. Grist ▼ (Chilliwack) – retired September 6, 2022

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

The Honourable Justice Alison J. Beames ► (Kelowna)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court August 7, 1996

The Honourable Justice Austin F. Cullen ▼ (Vancouver) – retired May 27, 2022

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

The Honourable Justice Carol J. Ross ► (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court March 21, 2001

The Honourable Justice Catherine A. Wedge ► (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court April 4, 2001

The Honourable Justice Brenda Brown ► (New Westminster)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court April 18, 2002

The Honourable Justice Laura B. Gerow ▼ (Vancouver) – retired April 30, 2022

- Appointed to Supreme Court October 10, 2002

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

- Appointed to the Supreme Court October 10, 2002

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

- Appointed to the Supreme Court October 11, 2002

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

- Appointed to the Supreme Court July 24, 2003

The Honourable Justice Arne H. Silverman ▼ (Vancouver) – retired December 31, 2022

- Appointed to the Supreme Court November 26, 2004

The Honourable Justice J. Miriam Gropper ► (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court April 14, 2005

The Honourable Justice Nathan H. Smith ► (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court May 19, 2005

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

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

The Honourable Justice Elliot M. Myers ► (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court November 22, 2005

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

- Appointed to the Supreme Court January 31, 2008

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

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 18, 2008

The Honourable Justice Kate Ker (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 18, 2008

The Honourable Justice Elaine J. Adair ▼ (Vancouver) – retired December 31, 2022

- Appointed to the Supreme Court November 28, 2008

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

- Appointed to the Supreme Court January 22, 2009

The Honourable Justice Frits Verhoeven (New Westminster)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court January 22, 2009

The Honourable Justice Terence A. Schultes (New Westminster)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court May 15, 2009

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

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 19, 2009

The Honourable Justice Brian D. MacKenzie ► (Victoria)

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

The Honourable Justice Anthony Saunders (Victoria)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court November 27, 2009

The Honourable Justice S. Dev Dley (Abbotsford)

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

The Honourable Justice Miriam A. Maisonville (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court March 19, 2010

The Honourable Madam Justice Shelley C. Fitzpatrick (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 18, 2010

The Honourable Madam Justice Jennifer A. Power (Victoria)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court August 6, 2010

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

- Appointed to the Supreme Court October 1, 2010

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

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

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

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

The Honourable Justice D. Allan Betton (Vernon)

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

The Honourable Justice Ronald S. Tindale (Prince George)

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

The Honourable Justice Robert W. Jenkins ▼ (Abbotsford) – retired June 15, 2022

- Appointed to the Supreme Court December 31, 2011

The Honourable Justice Gordon C. Weatherill ► (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court May 31, 2012

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

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

The Honourable Justice Gordon S. Funt ► (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court October 5, 2012

The Honourable Justice John J. Steeves ▼ (Vancouver) – retired June 11, 2022

- Appointed to the Supreme Court October 5, 2012

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

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

The Honourable Justice Douglas W. Thompson (Nanaimo)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court December 13, 2012

The Honourable Justice Sheri Ann Donegan (Kamloops)

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

The Honourable Justice Ronald A. Skolrood ▲ (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 6, 2013

The Honourable Justice Lisa Warren (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 6, 2013

The Honourable Justice Margot L. Fleming (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 6, 2013

The Honourable Justice Gary P. Weatherill (Kelowna)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court October 2, 2013

The Honourable Justice George K. Macintosh (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court December 17, 2013

The Honourable Justice Nigel P. Kent (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court December 17, 2013

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

- Appointed to the Supreme Court December 17, 2013

The Honourable Madam Justice Neena Sharma (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court December 17, 2013

The Honourable Justice Emily M. Burke (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court May 13, 2014

The Honourable Justice Martha M. Devlin (New Westminster)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court December 11, 2014

The Honourable Justice Grace Choi ▼ (Vancouver) – retired July 14, 2022

- Appointed to the Supreme Court May 29, 2015

The Honourable Madam Justice Barbara M. Young (Victoria)

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

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

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 16, 2016

The Honourable Madam Justice Maria Morellato (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 16, 2016

The Honourable Justice Heather MacNaughton (Vancouver)

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

The Honourable Madam Justice Catherine Murray (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court October 19, 2016

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

- Appointed to the Supreme Court April 12, 2017

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

- Appointed to the Supreme Court May 11, 2017

The Honourable Justice Ward K. Branch (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 8, 2017

The Honourable Justice Carla Forth (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 14, 2017

The Honourable Justice Michael J. Tammen (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 14, 2017

The Honourable Justice Warren B. Milman (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 14, 2017

The Honourable Justice Nitya Iyer (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 14, 2017

The Honourable Justice Palbinder Kaur Shergill (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 23, 2017

The Honourable Justice Michael J. Brundett (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 21, 2017

The Honourable Justice Janet Winteringham (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court August 15, 2017

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

- Appointed to the Supreme Court September 29, 2017

The Honourable Justice Francesca Marzari (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court December 19, 2017

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

- Appointed to the Supreme Court January 19, 2018

The Honourable Justice Diane MacDonald (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court February 7, 2018

The Honourable Justice Barbara Norell (New Westminster)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court February 22, 2018

The Honourable Justice Wendy A. Baker (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court February 22, 2018

The Honourable Justice Sharon Matthews (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court February 22, 2018

The Honourable Justice Thomas Crabtree (Chilliwack)

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

The Honourable Justice Geoffrey B. Gomery (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 15, 2018

The Honourable Justice Christopher J. Giaschi (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court September 4, 2018

The Honourable Justice Karen Horsman ▲ (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court September 4, 2018

The Honourable Justice Veronica Jackson (Victoria)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court October 9, 2018

The Honourable Justice Stephen Wilson (Kelowna)

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

The Honourable Mr. Justice Dennis Hori (Kamloops)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court February 8, 2019

The Honourable Justice Karen Douglas (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court March 8, 2019

The Honourable Madam Justice Amy Francis (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court March 8, 2019

The Honourable Justice Elizabeth McDonald (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 4, 2019

The Honourable Justice Alan M. Ross (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 24, 2019

The Honourable Madam Justice Sheila Tucker (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 24, 2019

The Honourable Justice David Crerar (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 24, 2019

The Honourable Justice Peter Edelmann (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court December 20, 2019

The Honourable Justice Matthew Taylor (New Westminster)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court March 16, 2020

The Honourable Justice Andrew Majawa (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court March 16, 2020

The Honourable Madam Justice Sandra Wilkinson (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court May 1, 2020

The Honourable Justice William Veenstra (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 23, 2020

The Honourable Madam Justice Lyndsay Lyster (Nelson)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court July 3, 2020

The Honourable Mr. Justice Ian Caldwell (Abbotsford)

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court March 24, 2005
- Appointed to the Supreme Court September 9, 2020

The Honourable Justice Jasmin Ahmad (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court September 9, 2020

The Honourable Madam Justice Ardith Walkem (Chilliwack)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court December 14, 2020

The Honourable Justice Simon Coval (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court December 21, 2020

The Honourable Justice F. Matthew Kirchner (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court March 24, 2021

The Honourable Justice Julianne K. Lamb (New Westminster)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court April 27, 2021

The Honourable Justice Lauren Blake (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court April 27, 2021

The Honourable Justice Jan Brongers (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court April 27, 2021

The Honourable Justice Bruce Elwood (New Westminster)

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court February 19, 2019
- Appointed to the Supreme Court February 7, 2022

The Honourable Justice K. Michael Stephens (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court February 7, 2022

The Honourable Justice Michael G. Thomas (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court February 7, 2022

The Honourable Justice Baljinder Kaur Girn (New Westminster)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court February 7, 2022

The Honourable Justice John Gibb-Carsley (New Westminster)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court February 7, 2022

The Honourable Justice Jacqueline D. Hughes (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court February 7, 2022

The Honourable Justice Briana Hardwick (Kelowna)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court February 7, 2022

The Honourable Justice Joseph M. Doyle (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court October 24, 2022

The Honourable Justice Kevin D. Loo (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court October 24, 2022

The Honourable Justice Anita Chan (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court October 24, 2022

▲ Appointed to the Court of Appeal

▶ Supernumerary

▼ Retired

MASTERS OF THE SUPREME COURT

Master Shelagh Scarth ► (Vancouver)

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

Master Peter Keighley ► (New Westminster)

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court March 8, 2004

Master Carolyn P. Bouck ► (Victoria)

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

Master Leslie Muir (Vancouver)

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court May 7, 2012

Master Sandra Harper (Vancouver)

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court August 5, 2014

Master Sandra Dick (Nanaimo)

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court January 1, 2016

Master Terry Vos (Vancouver)

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court March 20, 2017

Master Stuart R. Cameron ▼ (Vancouver) – retired May 1, 2022

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

Master Bruce Elwood ▲ (Vancouver)

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court February 1, 2019

Master Steven Schwartz (Kelowna)

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court February 19, 2019

Master Jennifer Keim (Kamloops)

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court July 31, 2019

Master John Bilawich (Vancouver)

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court December 21, 2020

Master Kimberley Robertson (New Westminster)

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court December 21, 2020

Master Rory Krentz (Abbotsford)

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court April 8, 2022

Master Scott Nielsen (New Westminster)

- Appointed District Registrar July 14, 2014
- Appointed Registrar December 1, 2018
- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court April 8, 2022

Master Susanna Hughes (Vancouver)

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court May 2, 2022

▲ Appointed Judge of the Supreme Court of British Columbia

► Senior Master

▼ Retired

REGISTRARS OF THE SUPREME COURT

Scott Nielsen, Registrar ▲ (Vancouver)

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

Meg Gaily, Registrar (Vancouver)

- Appointed Registrar October 12, 2022

▲ Appointed Master of the Supreme Court of British Columbia

JUDICIAL STAFF

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE AND ASSOCIATE CHIEF JUSTICE

Judicial Coordinator to Chief Justice Hinkson

Carrie Wilke

Judicial Coordinator to Associate Chief Justice Holmes

Linda Peter

Legal Counsel

Brenda Belak, Natasha Edgar,
Nikki Hair, Christine Judd,
Jennifer Millerd, Leah Pence,
Lisa Phillips, Line Williams,
Claire Wilson

JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION

Executive Director & Senior Counsel

Heidi McBride

Manager, Human Resources

Tracy Norman

Director, Supreme Court Scheduling

Cindy Friesen

Deputy Director, Supreme Court Scheduling

Chinwe Cushing

Manager, Finance

Caroline Nguyen

Manager, Information Technology

Ryan Wirth

Assistant to Director, Supreme Court Scheduling

Katherine Castaneda Arenas

Assistant to Legal Counsel

Queen Lee

Human Resources Recruitment Coordinator

Michelle Sam

Office Manager

Andrea Mueller

Human Resources Coordinator

Charles Manuel

Accounting Coordinator

Cheryl Steele

Website Support and Business Information Analyst

Cynthia Dale

Manager, Judicial Support Services

Samantha Servis

Manager, Provincial Registrar's Program

Kristen Day

Communications Coordinator

Diana Foxall

JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS

Vancouver	Irem Akcan, Antonia Chen, Claire England, Kirsten Floyd , Jessica Gill* , Diane Goyengko, <i>Diana Hatley</i> , <i>Bonnie Healy</i> , Sasha Ionova, Raji Johal, Jaspreet Kaur, <i>Wanda Lam</i> , <i>Amanda Li</i> , Melissa Mendoza Alcocer, Meena Puhl, Chelsea Salindong, <i>Vickie Siu</i> , Lindy Tucker
Abbotsford	<i>Yvonne Samek</i>
Chilliwack	Candace Cook, <i>Yvonne Samek</i>
Kamloops	Beckie Allen, Jane Raggatt
Kelowna	Lana Pardue, <i>Shannon Zorn</i>
Nanaimo	<i>Melissa Lund</i>
New Westminster	<i>Barbara Gourlay</i> , Rasmeet Kaur, Jesse Rathor, Andrea Walker
Prince George	Kelly Parmar
Victoria	Kathy Cook, <i>Karen Gurney</i> , Michelle McNeill

*Jessica Gill is Acting Manager, Judicial Support Services.

Team Leads are indicated in bold, Senior JAAs are indicated in italics.

SUPREME COURT SCHEDULING

Vancouver	
Manager, Supreme Court Scheduling, Civil	William Gallagher
Manager, Supreme Court Scheduling, Family	Rebecca Stock
Manager, Supreme Court Scheduling, Criminal	Rhona Ogston
Team Leaders	Elsa Peralta, Leah Walden
Supreme Court Schedulers	Patricia Acthim, Kristina Antonic, Mikayla Bischoff, Kate Curry, Jennie Ho, Darlene Marasigan, Jeannette McNabb, Jay Nguyen, Debbie Pham, Sue Smolen, Terrence Tung, Trevor Woo
Data Entry Clerks	Shahla Ehtesham, Min Jee, Wynne Li, Emely Tadena
Scheduling Training Manager	Ben Bautista
Abbotsford	
Manager, Supreme Court Scheduling	Tanya Dixon
Team Leader	Leslie Martin
Supreme Court Scheduler	Cynthia Ferrer

Chilliwack

Manager, Supreme Court Scheduling	Tanya Dixon
Team Leader	Leslie Martin
Supreme Court Schedulers	Christina Chiabai, Kelsey Ginnish, Leanne Griffith, Angelina Sloomweg

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

Manager, Supreme Court Scheduling	Brenda Strain
Supreme Court Schedulers	Beckie Allen, Marnie Maunula

Kelowna, Penticton, Vernon

Manager, Supreme Court Scheduling	Janine Benson
Supreme Court Schedulers	Eryn Dumontet, Sandeep Johal, Dyllan Siebert

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

Manager, Supreme Court Scheduling	Michelle Schley
Supreme Court Schedulers	Leanne Cyr, Katherine Marriott

New Westminster

Manager, Supreme Court Scheduling	Tanya Dixon
Team Leader	Leslie Martin
Supreme Court Schedulers	Allison Donnelly, Owen Li, Renuka Pumbhak
Data Entry Clerk	Rapinder Mehat

Port Coquitlam

Manager, Supreme Court Scheduling	Tanya Dixon
Team Leader	Leslie Martin

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

Manager, Supreme Court Scheduling	Pam Wallin
Supreme Court Schedulers	Tara Bleich, Kelly Parmar

Victoria, Duncan, Prince Rupert, Smithers, Terrace

Manager, Supreme Court Scheduling	Claudia Turner
Supreme Court Schedulers	Fazia Ali, Jennifer Bryson, Samantha Ferguson, Sandra Skene

Section 525 Detention Review

Detention Review Coordinators	Katherine Castaneda Arenas, Kendra Kirkwood, Chantelle Sanderson
-------------------------------	--

JUDGES LIBRARY

Librarian	Diane Lemieux, Sylvia Ranspach
Library Technician	Connie Kang

ONE JUDGMENT OFFICE

Judgment Clerks	Mandie Dhesi, Miki Lee
------------------------	------------------------

DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT CLERKS

Document Management Clerks	Elle Collman, Eunice Choi, Nav Dosanjh, Daniel Kuster, Aaron Wong
-----------------------------------	--

IT SERVICES

Service Delivery Manager	Lawrence Ho
Infrastructure Project Analyst	David Chow, Billy Huang
Help Desk and Operations Analyst	William Huang
Help Desk Technician	Leo Brito, Guilherme Gianjope, Karl Innes, Mike Larm, Ami Osame, Wayland Szeto
Business Analyst and Project Manager	Lorne Lovett
Business Analyst	Joanne Chong
Software Developer	Jojo Ho

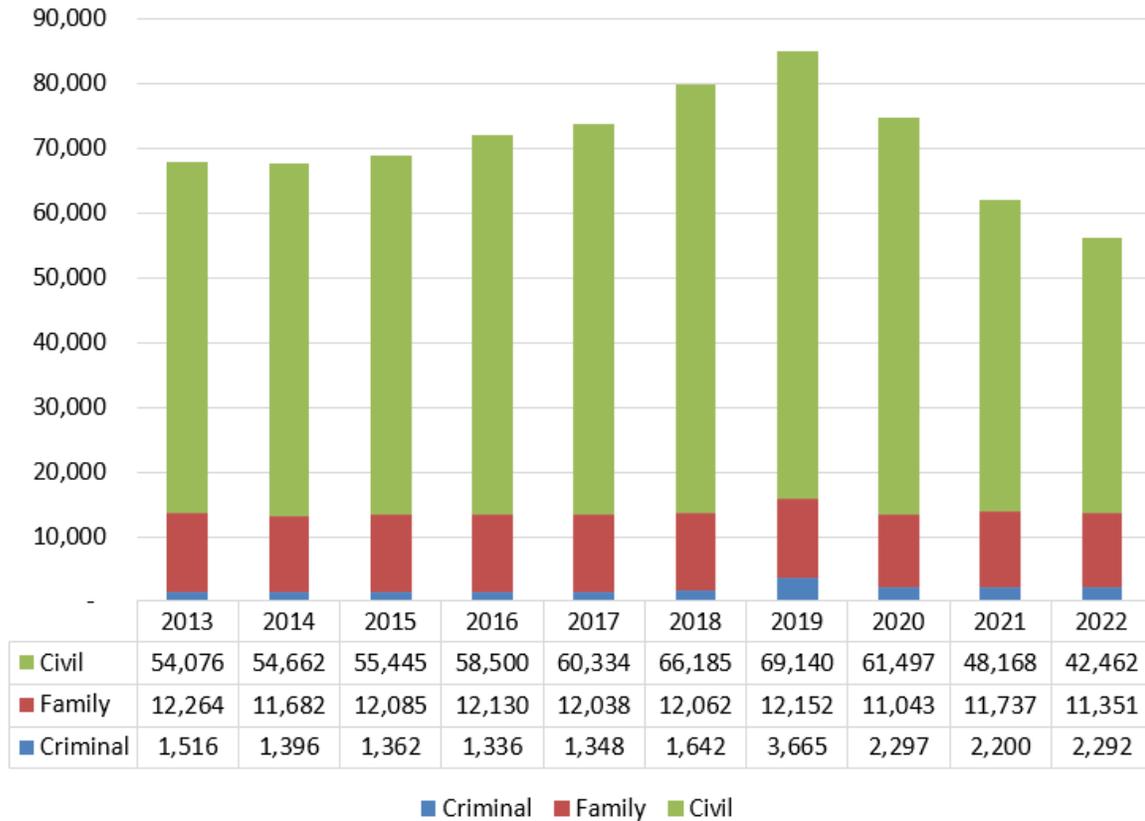
*IT services are provided by Microserve Business Computer Services



Appendix - Court Statistics

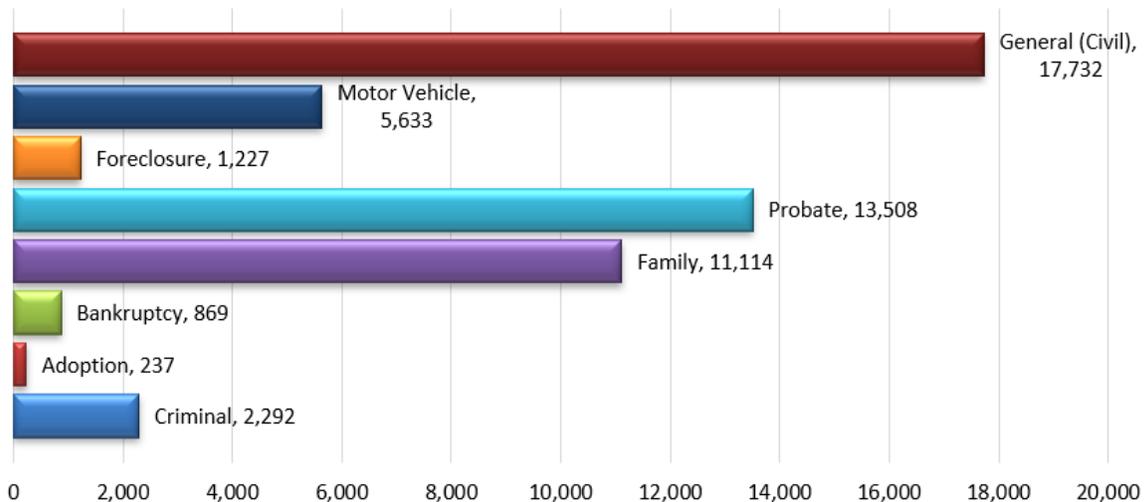
COURT STATISTICS

Figure 1: New Criminal, Family, and Civil Filings



Data Source: Courthouse Activity Cube and Criminal Case Events Cube, February 24, 2023
 Historical numbers are updated to current information. Data may change due to data settling and corrections.

Figure 2: New Filings by Category in 2022



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

Figure 3: Number of Conferences by Type

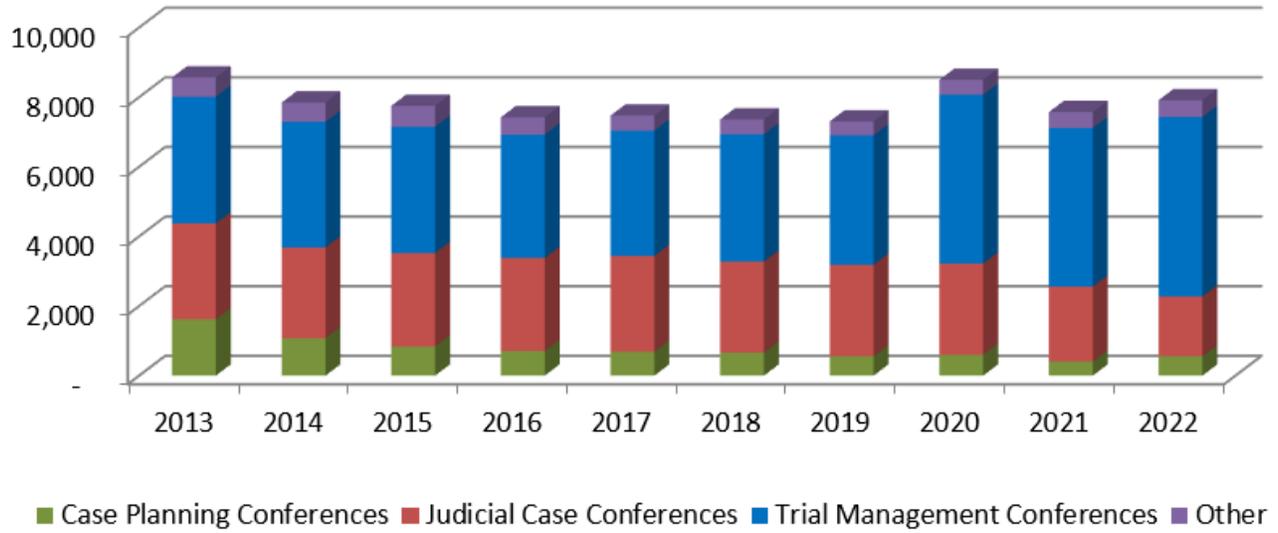


Figure 4: Hearing Hours by Conference Type

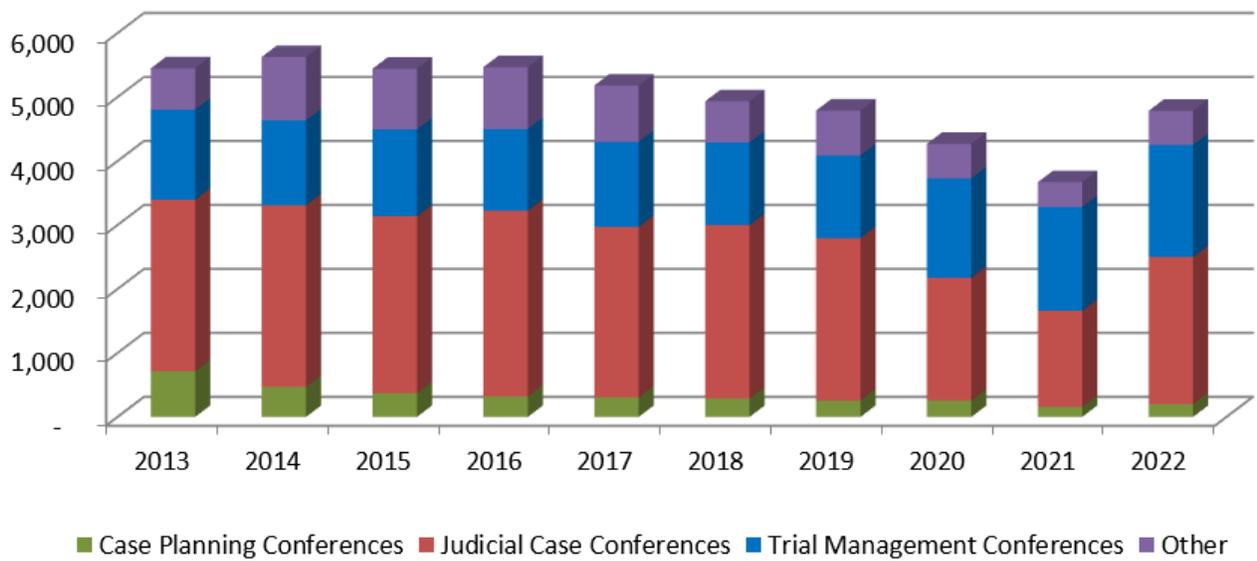


Figure 5: Civil Trials and Long Chambers Applications Scheduled in Vancouver

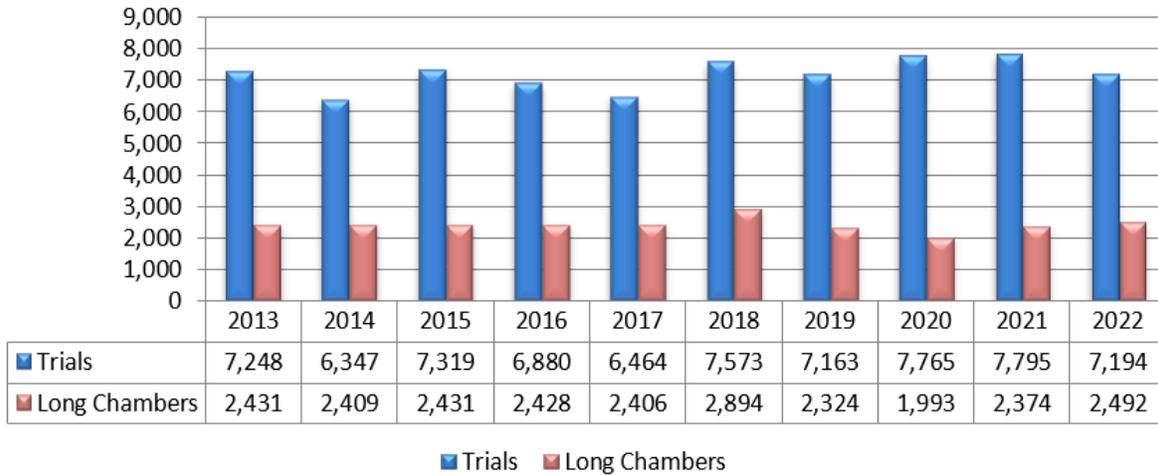


Figure 6: Long Chambers Applications Scheduled and Heard in Vancouver

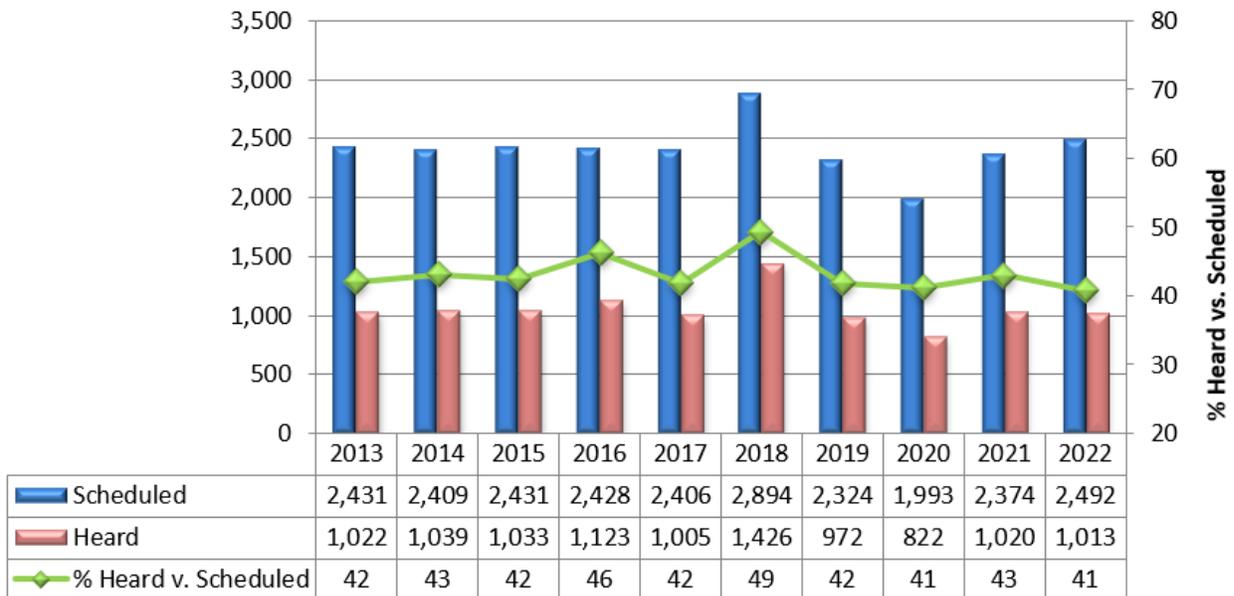


Figure 7: Long Chambers Applications Heard and Bumped in British Columbia

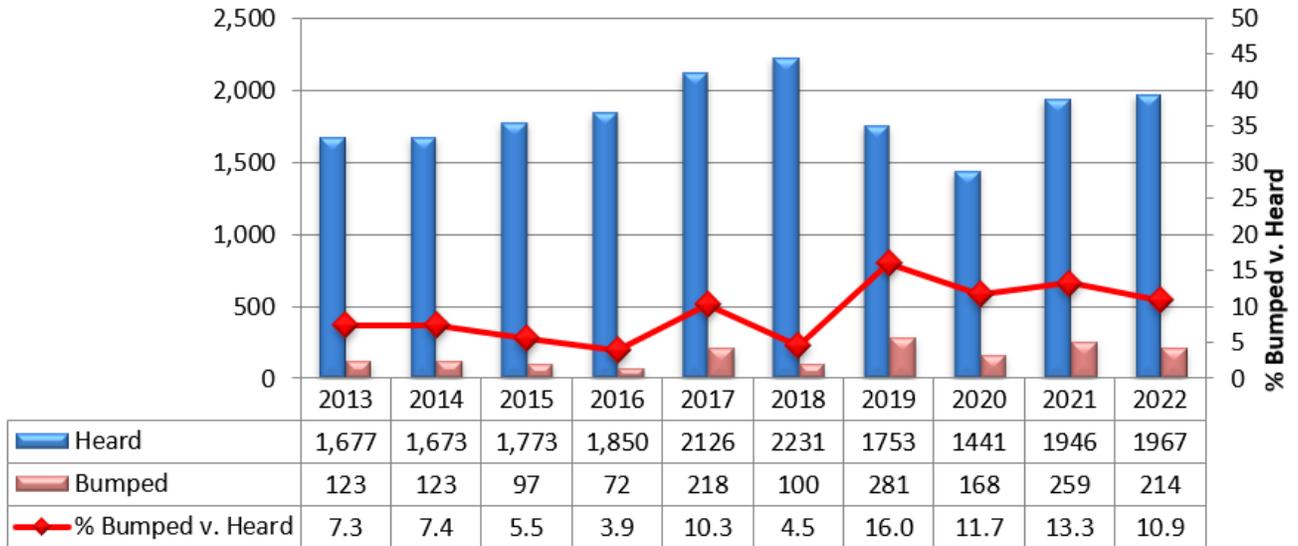


Figure 8: Long Chambers Applications Heard and Bumped in Vancouver

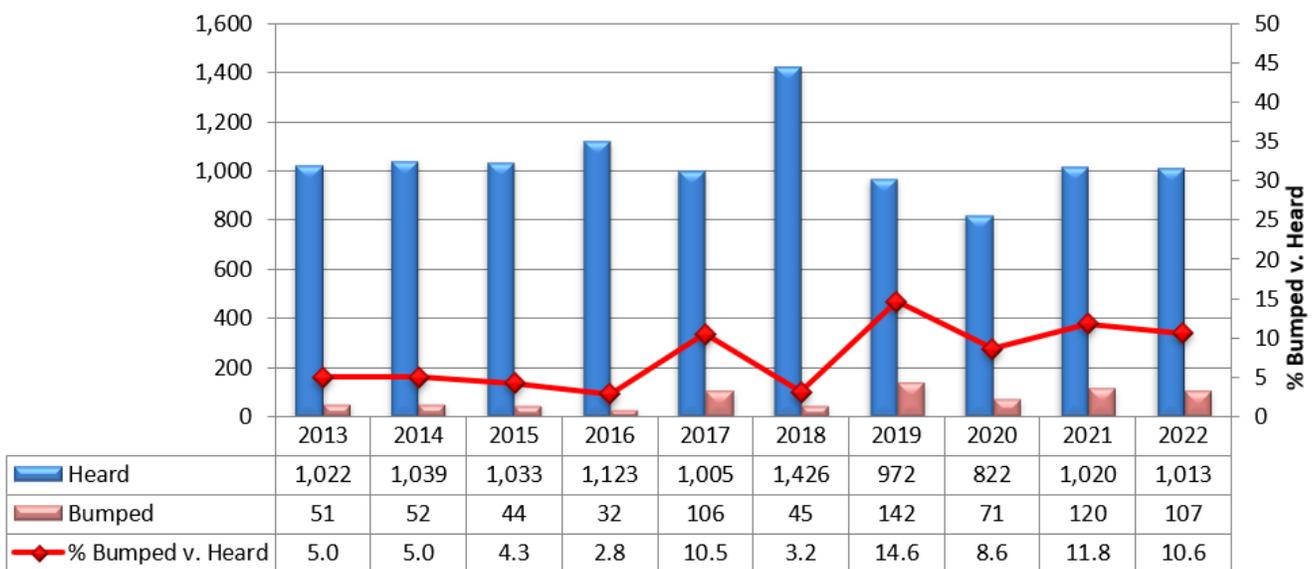


Figure 9: Trials Heard and Bumped in British Columbia

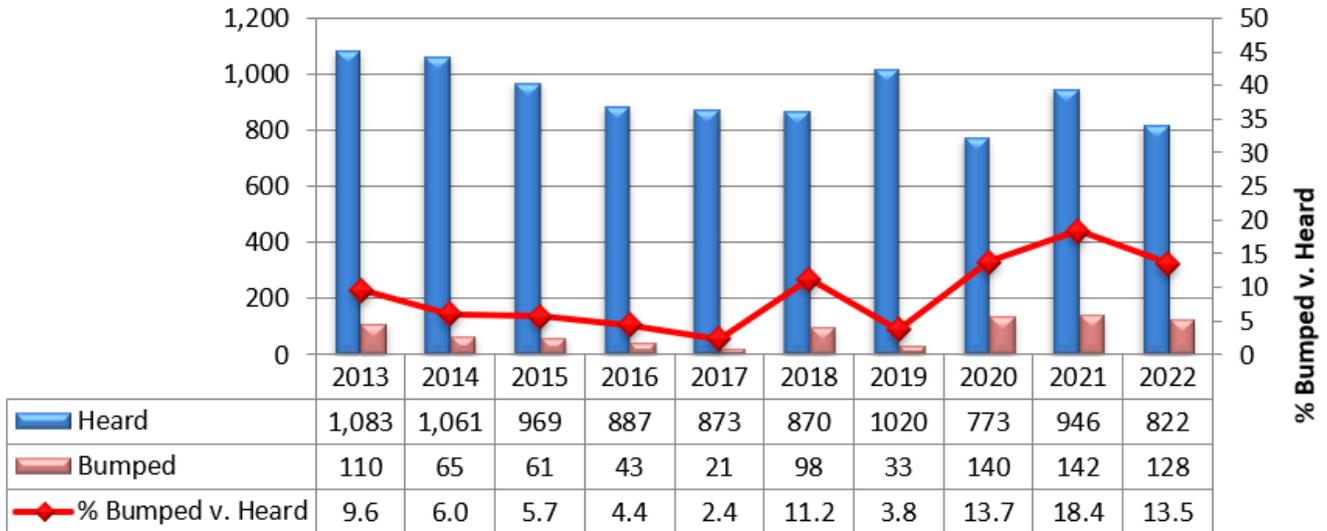


Figure 10: Trials Heard and Bumped in Vancouver

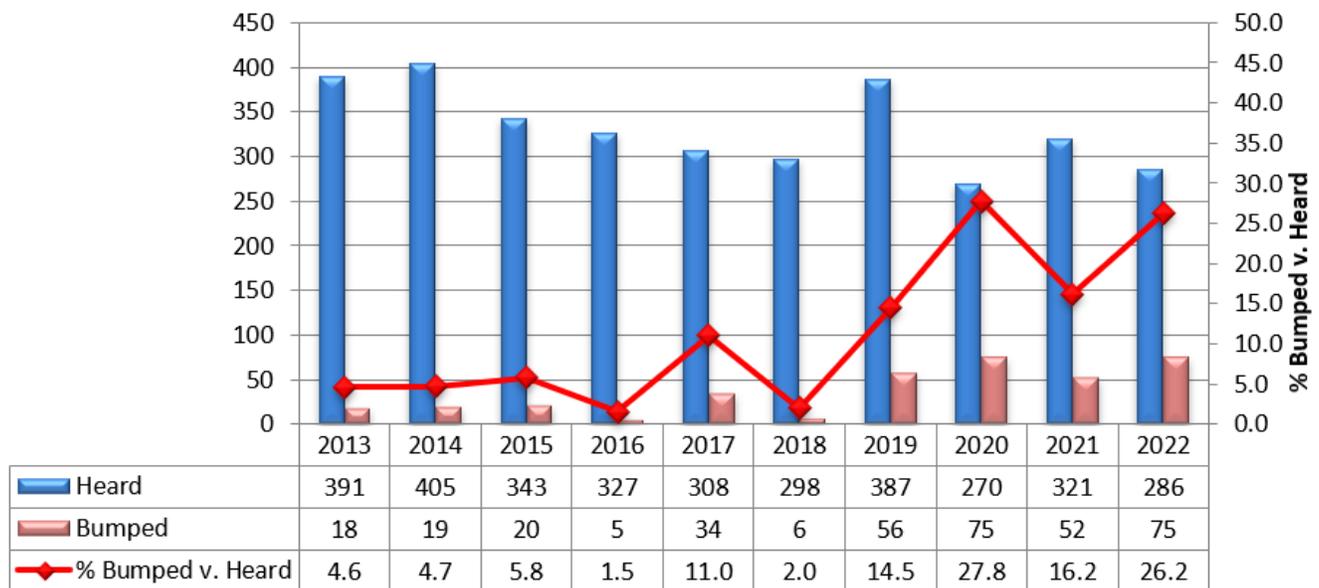


Figure 11: Trials Heard and Bumped by Type and Location in 2022

	Heard 2022				Bumped 2022			
	Civil	Criminal	Family	Total	Civil	Criminal	Family	Total
Lower Mainland								
Chilliwack	5	6	7	18	0	0	0	0
New Westminster	54	57	35	146	11	0	4	15
Vancouver	182	56	48	286	59	0	16	75
Region Totals	241	119	90	450	70	0	20	90
Region %	77%	39%	58%	58%	69%	0%	77%	69%
Vancouver Island								
Campbell River	0	2	3	5	0	0	0	0
Courtenay	0	7	2	9	1	1	0	2
Duncan	1	10	0	11	0	0	0	0
Nanaimo	4	8	7	19	0	1	0	1
Port Alberni	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0
Powell River	0	4	1	5	1	0	0	1
Victoria	20	32	10	62	7	0	2	9
Region Totals	25	65	23	113	9	2	2	13
Region %	8%	21%	15%	15%	9%	0%	8%	10%
Northern Interior								
Dawson Creek	0	1	4	5	0	0	0	0
Fort St. John	0	2	2	4	0	0	1	1
Prince George	2	14	3	19	0	0	0	0
Prince Rupert	1	1	2	4	0	0	0	0
Quesnel	0	2	2	4	0	0	0	0
Smithers	1	2	2	5	0	0	0	0
Terrace	1	2	0	3	0	0	0	0
Williams Lake	1	8	2	11	0	0	0	0
Region Totals	6	32	17	55	0	0	1	1
Region %	2%	10%	11%	7%	0%	0%	4%	1%
Southern Interior								
Kamloops	13	29	7	49	9	0	0	9
Kelowna	14	33	6	53	3	0	1	4
Vernon	5	6	3	14	3	0	0	3
Nelson	4	4	2	10	4	0	0	4
Cranbrook	1	8	1	10	1	0	1	2
Penticton	1	4	5	10	0	0	0	0
Salmon Arm	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1
Rossland	0	6	0	6	1	0	0	1
Golden	2	0	0	2	2	0	0	2

Revelstoke	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Region Totals	40	91	24	155	23	0	3	26
Region %	13%	30%	16%	20%	23%	0%	12%	20%
TOTAL	312	307	154	773	102	2	26	130
TOTAL %	40	40	20	78	2	20		

Figure 12: Trials Heard by Registry in 2022

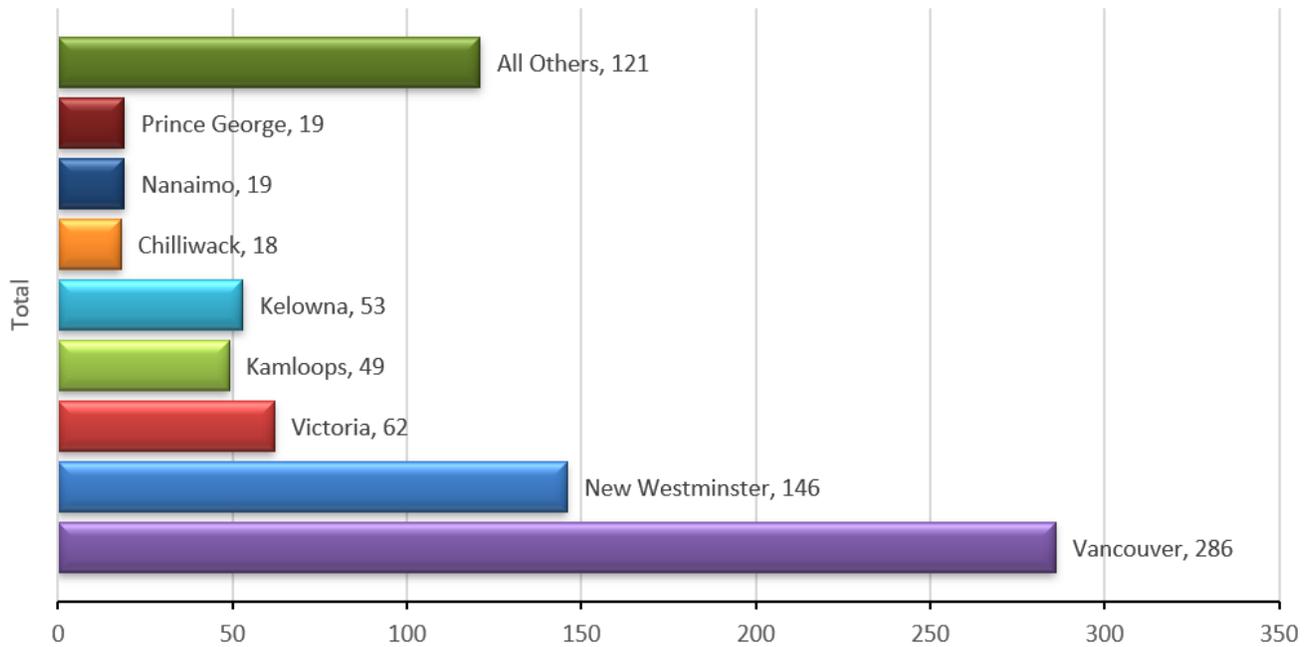


Figure 13: Trials Heard by Region in 2022

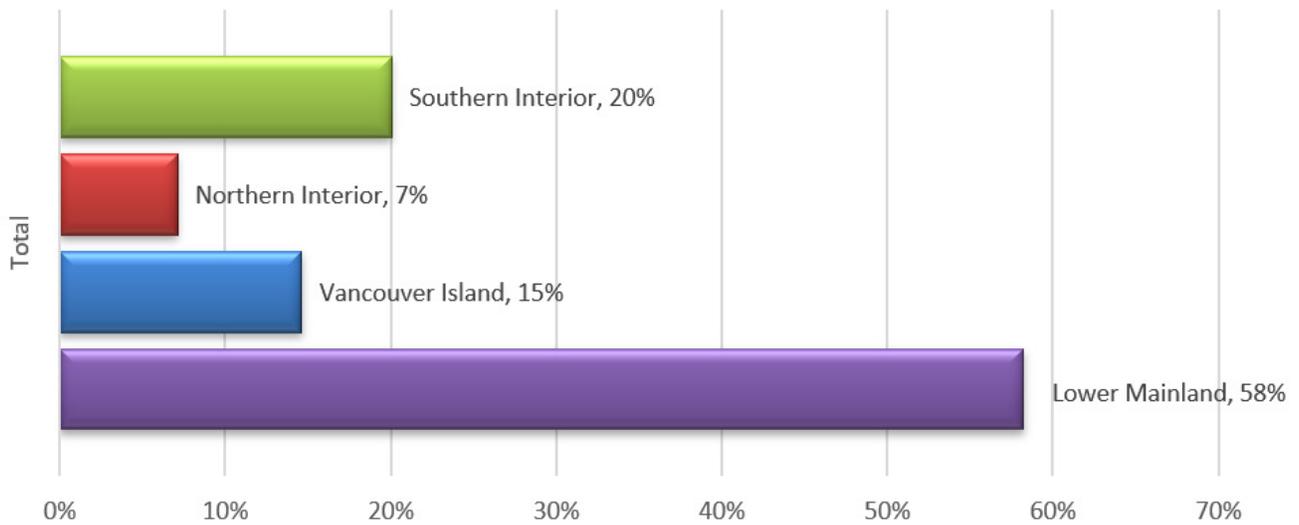


Figure 14: Published Reasons for Judgment by Subject, Type, and Year

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
CIVIL										
Oral	260	285	316	306	340	305	309	267	379	327
Written	1,133	1,181	1,050	1,009	868	895	905	868	1,069	948
Total	1,393	1,466	1,366	1,315	1,208	1,200	1,214	1,135	1,448	1,275
CRIMINAL										
Oral	312	348	354	280	344	377	371	248	314	163
Written	123	120	114	63	113	109	78	58	97	48
Total	435	468	468	343	457	486	449	306	411	211
FAMILY										
Oral	54	66	96	94	86	95	64	76	108	94
Written	285	299	300	267	272	275	242	235	293	259
Total	339	365	396	361	358	370	306	311	401	353
TOTAL	2,167	2,299	2,230	2,019	2,023	2,056	1,969	1,752	2,260	1,839

Figure 15: Published Reasons for Judgment by Year, 2013 - 2022

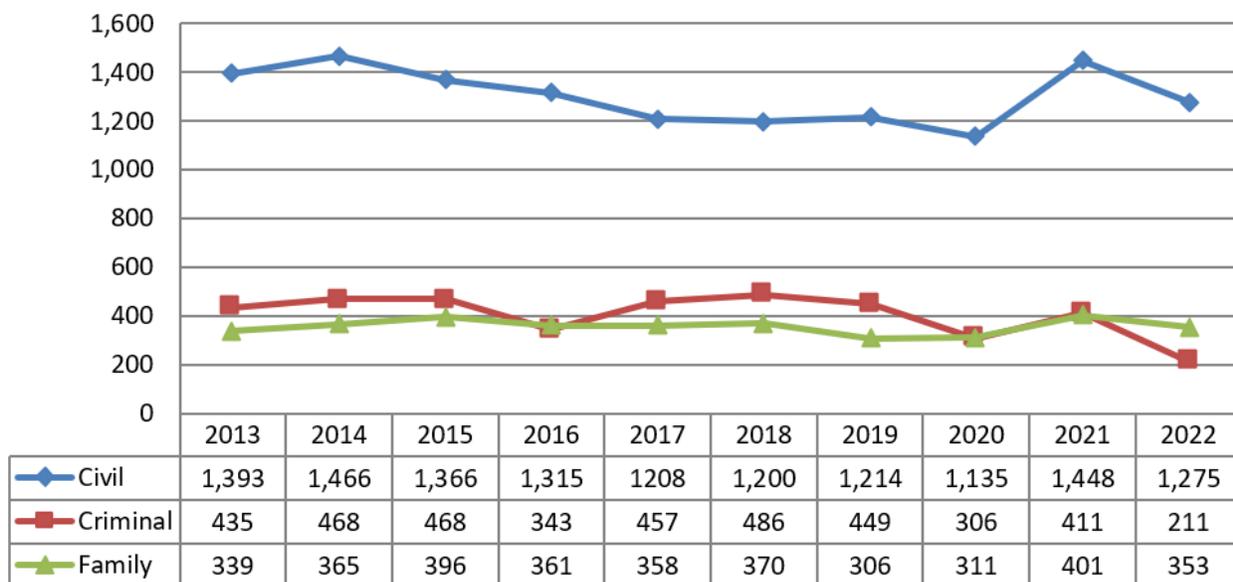


Figure 16: Published Reasons for Judgment by Subject, Type, and Year

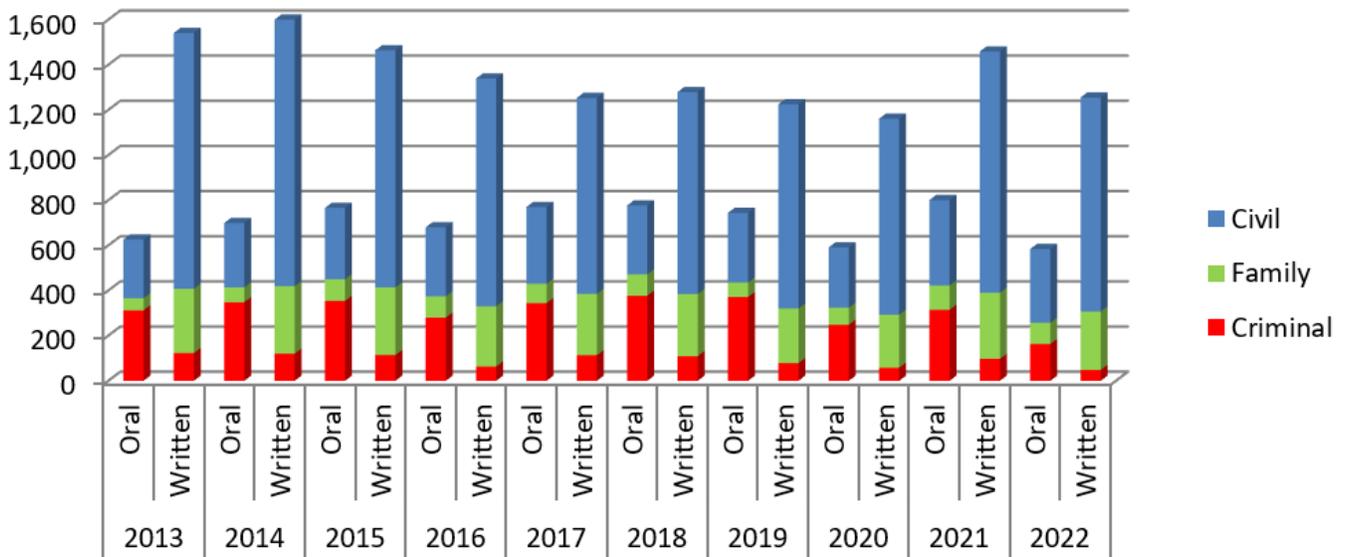


Figure 17: E-Filed Documents in the Supreme Court

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Documents Filed	599,767	595,496	593,068	595,228	595,811	591,039	616,514	555,657	577,943
Documents E-Filed	217,130	218,788	232,974	246,026	259,148	262,846	279,645	346,203	314,293
% E-filed	36%	37%	39%	41%	43%	44%	45%	62%	54%

Figure 18: E-Orders Processed in the Supreme Court

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
E-Orders Processed	9,238	8,920	9,427	9,622	10,987	10,902	11,206	13,535	14,014	14,669

Supreme Court of British Columbia
800 Smithe Street
Vancouver, BC
V6Z 2E1