

SUPREME COURT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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The expansion of the Court's online booking service is part of the Court's work to expand its digital services.

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, associate judges, 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, associate judges, and registrar to write rulings or reserved judgments to explain the result of the proceeding and to set precedents for future litigants. The Court also works with other bodies and organizations in the justice system to strengthen respect for and understanding of the importance of the rule of law.

THE WORK OF THE COURT

Change of Title from Master to Associate Judge

Amendments to the *Supreme Court Act* to change the title of master to associate judge were brought into force on January 15, 2024. Accordingly, judicial officers formerly known as masters are referred to as associate judges in this annual report. The modernization of this title more accurately captures the important role of associate judges and promotes a more inclusive and accessible justice system.

On January 15, 2024, Chief Justice Hinkson issued *Practice Direction 64 - Form of Address* which updated the form of address for judges, associate judges, the registrar and district registrars. Necessary updates were made to other practice directions, administrative notices, policies, and other content on the Court's website.

Online Booking for Civil and Family Matters

Since 2020, counsel and parties have had the option of booking case planning conferences, judicial case conferences, and trial management conferences through the Supreme Court's online booking system. In 2023, the Court continued its work to expand the availability of online booking for trials and long chambers hearings in civil and family matters. The Court expects to transition to a fully online booking system in the Fall of 2024. The expansion of the Court's online booking service is part of the Court's work to expand its digital services. In addition, online booking will free up significant staff time, both for the Court and for law firms booking hearings. The online scheduling tool will ensure that all parties and counsel who are seeking to book trials and lengthy chambers hearings have an equal opportunity to do so.

In order to provide better support and information for French and bilingual criminal proceedings, the Court published French translations of its criminal practice directions, other procedural notices and some information sheets on its website.

Trial Management Conferences

In September 2023, the *Supreme Court Civil Rules* and *Supreme Court Family Rules* were amended to provide that trial management conferences are no longer mandatory in all cases. Prior to the amendments, trial management conferences were required for all scheduled trials, and a significant amount of judicial time was expended managing trials that ultimately did not proceed. It is anticipated that reducing the amount of judicial time spent on trial management conferences will free up time for the hearing of other types of matters. The amended rules provide that a trial management conference will be held at the request of a party, or by order of the Court. A trial management conference is also required if a trial is set for longer than 15 days, if a party is not represented by a lawyer, or if a trial is to be heard by a jury.

Associate Judges Chambers Pilot Project Expands Electronic Delivery of Materials

The Associate Judges Chambers Pilot Project allows for the submission of electronic application records for some matters using Court Services Online. The Project applies to applications scheduled for 30 minutes or less in associate judges chambers. The Project, which commenced in August 2022, was rolled out gradually and is now available in all registries with associate judges sittings.

French and Bilingual Criminal Proceedings

Associate Chief Justice Holmes issued *Criminal Practice Direction 5 – French or Bilingual Criminal Jury Trials* effective September 1, 2023, expanding the locations available for French or bilingual criminal jury trials to include Vancouver. Previously, such trials were only available in New Westminster. The expansion reflects the availability of French-speaking potential jurors. In order to provide better support and information for French and bilingual criminal proceedings, the Court published French translations of its criminal practice directions, other procedural notices and some information sheets on its website. The Court also prepared French versions of memoranda that provide procedural information about criminal trials and are used by trial judges assigned to criminal proceedings with self-represented accused.

Criminal Jury Selection in One Stage

Between September 2020 and September 2023, the Court held criminal jury selections in two stages. The two-stage selection process allowed the Court to conduct jury selections in a safe way during the COVID-19 pandemic, while preserving the essential legal aspects of a criminal jury selection. After the pandemic related public health restrictions were lifted, the Court decided it was no longer necessary to retain the two-stage process, and in September 2023, the Court adopted a one-stage jury selection process that completes within a day.

Increasing Number of Criminal Jury Trials

There has been a general increase in the number of criminal jury trials booked over the past five years, with 218 criminal jury trials booked to start in 2023, 202 in 2022, 154 in

2021, 172 in 2020, and 127 in 2019. A large number of criminal jury trials do not proceed as scheduled for various reasons, however, the rate at which they do proceed has remained roughly consistent over the past five years, at about 22%, leading to an increase in the over all number of criminal jury trials proceeding in the Court during this period. In 2023 there were 54 criminal jury trials, compared with 39 in 2022, 38 in 2021, 21 in 2020 (lower than normal due to the temporary suspension of criminal jury trials from March to September 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic), and 35 in 2019.

Length of Trials Increasing

There appears to be a general increase in the length of trials booked over the past two years, with a larger proportion of trials being booked for more than five days. Longer trials result in judges not being available to preside over additional matters.

Transition Away from Remaining COVID-19 Processes

Over the course of 2023, the Court continued to review its remaining COVID-19 Notices, which were issued between 2020-2023 as temporary measures to respond to the procedural challenges of the pandemic. Nearly all of the remaining COVID-19 notices have been rescinded, and various practice directions and an administrative notices have been developed for practices and procedures that will continue indefinitely. The COVID-19 notices remaining in effect at the end of 2023 were:

- **COVID-19 Notice 44** - Notice to the Public and Profession regarding Use of the File Transfer Server – Insolvency and Other Proceedings; and
- **COVID-19 Notice 2** - Affidavits for Use in Court Proceedings.

Courthouse Closures

Golden Law Courts

A fire on March 13, 2023 destroyed the Golden Law Courts. In response, court registry services were provided from the Ministry of Children and Family Development Office in Golden, and trials, chambers applications and other appearances were relocated to Cranbrook Law Courts. Facilities staff from the Ministry of Attorney General and the Real Property Division of the Ministry of Citizens' Services have begun to work on the replacement of the Golden Law Courts.

Impact of Wildfires on Court Service Across the Province

Wildfires in a number of locations across the province during the summer of 2023 temporarily disrupted court services. Similar or increasing disruptions are expected in the future. When these occur, the Court works with the Attorney General's Court Services Branch to arrange alternative ways to provide access to court registry services and court proceedings, including by providing remote or virtual hearing options for court participants, rescheduling hearings, and arranging for temporary registry services at other locations.

The Court expects litigants, lawyers, and others who participate in court proceedings to inform themselves of the current issues and advice regarding artificial intelligence in relation to court proceedings, and to ensure that the materials they produce to the Court are authentic and accurate.

Artificial Intelligence and the Court

The Court is closely monitoring the significant developments in artificial intelligence technology which may assist court processes and increase access to justice, but which also present potential risks, including to accuracy and transparency in court proceedings. The Court expects litigants, lawyers, and others who participate in court proceedings to inform themselves of the current issues and advice regarding artificial intelligence in relation to court proceedings, and to ensure that the materials they produce to the Court are authentic and accurate.

Bumping of Long Chambers Applications and Trials

The Court continues to struggle with having too few judges to meet the demand for hearings and trials, and continues to have to bump unacceptably large numbers of long chambers applications and trials. A scheduled hearing or trial is considered “bumped” if it cannot be rescheduled within a week of its original date because no judge is available to preside. The Court recognizes the burden on litigants when cases do not proceed as scheduled, including stress and the expense of wasted preparation time, and travel costs for witnesses and experts. The main cause of bumping continues to be the shortage of judges available to assign to scheduled proceedings.

In 2023, 16.3% of all long chambers applications in British Columbia were bumped. This is the highest bumping rate that the Court has experienced since 2019, and is a significant increase from the bumping trends from 2020-2022. In Vancouver, which has the highest volume of long chambers applications, the bumping rate in 2023 was 15.8%. This is the worst bumping rate since 2019 and is significantly higher than the 10 year average bumping rate of 8.7%.

The bumping of trials is also concerning. In 2023, 15.9% of trials were bumped across the province. While this rate is lower than in 2022, when the rate was 17.1%, it is significantly higher than the 10-year provincial average bumping rate of 10.6%.

The Lower Mainland continued to be the region with the most trials heard at 499 and the most bumped trials at 85, which accounted for 63% of the province’s bumped trials. The Southern Interior region, which includes Kamloops, Kelowna, Vernon, and several other locations, had the most bumped trials after the Lower Mainland. In 2023, that region accounted for 19% of the bumped trials in the province, which is essentially the same as in 2022; however, it is considerably higher than in 2021 when it was 8%. For more detailed information on bumping rates, please see Figures 7-11 in Appendix A.

Judicial Vacancies

At the end of 2023, the Court had 82 full-time justices and 11 judicial vacancies. A judicial vacancy is created when a full-time judge retires, elects to become a supernumerary judge, or is appointed to the Court of Appeal. Judges who are retiring or electing to go supernumerary provide at least six months notice of their intention to the federal government. The Court has been chronically short of its full complement of judges for several years. This has a significant impact on access to timely and effective justice for all British Columbians. As noted in previous annual reports, the high rate of

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judicial vacancies continues to impact the Court’s capacity to provide hearing dates for litigants in a timely manner, resulting in bumping and rescheduling of trials and long chambers applications. For a number of years, many civil and family law litigants have had to wait approximately 18 months for a trial date. Further, the ongoing issue of judicial vacancies increases the already heavy burden on the Court’s existing judges who are assigned more work in order to make up the shortfall. The chronic nature of this problem risks undermining public confidence in the judicial process, poses serious risks to the administration of justice, and over time threatens the quality of the justice system.

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 Chief Justice and the Associate Chief Justice are supported by the Executive Committee, which addresses matters of court administration, and a number of specialized committees including the Education Committee, the Law Clerks Committee, the Public Affairs Committee and the Courthouse Facilities Committee. In addition, a number of committees support the work of the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal including the Joint Courts Technology Committee and the Library Committee, and committees which also include representatives of the 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 Chief Justice and the Associate Chief Justice generally. The Court membership of these committees is drawn from the judges, associate judges, registrars, legal counsel, and judicial staff. Through their work, the committees strengthen and enhance the Court’s effective and efficient management. Reports from the Court’s committees begin on page 18 of this report.

SUPREME COURT PRACTICE DIRECTIONS & ADMINISTRATIVE NOTICES

The Court issued four new practice directions and one administrative notice in 2023:

PD-63 – Trial Management Conferences, Trial Briefs, and Trial Certificates – Transitional Guidance

Practice Direction 63 provided transitional guidance to parties about filing trial briefs and trial certificates, and adjourning trial management conferences, in light of changes to the *Supreme Court Civil Rules* and the *Supreme Court Family Rules* that took effect on September 1, 2023. PD-63 was rescinded on January 15, 2024.

FPD-19 – Applications made by Requisition – Supreme Court Family Rules 22-1(3) and (4) – Judicial Case Conference

Family Practice Direction 19 replaces Family Practice Direction 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). It sets out the procedure for applying to attend a judicial case conference remotely, and for seeking directions with respect to the manner in which a judicial case conference is to be conducted.

CPD-5 – French or Bilingual Criminal Jury Trials

Criminal Practice Direction 5 expands the locations available for French or bilingual criminal jury trials to include Vancouver. Previously, these were available only in New Westminster. Criminal Practice Direction 5 rescinds and replaces the December 1, 2000, *Notice Re: Criminal Jury Trials in French*.

CPD-6 - Appearances by Counsel and Accused Persons in Criminal Proceedings

Criminal Practice Direction 6 sets out the current and ongoing “default” methods of appearance by counsel and accused persons for various types of court appearances in criminal proceedings, subject to the discretion of the presiding judge to direct a different method of appearance. CPD-6 replaces COVID-19 Notice 51 (Method of Attendance for Criminal Proceedings) and COVID-19 Notice 30 (Applications under s. 490 of the Criminal Code (Further Detention of Things Seized)), which provided guidance on these matters during the pandemic.

AN-18 – General Requirements for Microsoft Teams Hearings

Administrative Notice 18 sets out requirements for participating in a hearing by Microsoft Teams video and provides information on how members of the media and the public can attend such proceedings. This information was previously included in the Court’s COVID-19 Notice No. 47, which was rescinded as part of the Court’s transition away from the temporary guidance issued during the pandemic.

The Court also revised a number of practice directions in 2023:

PD-27 – Communicating with the Court

Practice Direction 27 was revised to confirm that the appropriate way to communicate with the Court is through its formal processes, and to update the guidelines parties and counsel are to follow in the limited circumstances when corresponding with the Court is permitted.

PD-58 – Sealing Orders in Civil and Family Proceedings

Practice Direction 58 was revised to provide that a draft sealing order must be vetted by the registry and to clarify the process for applying to amend a sealing order. The revisions also set out steps the applicant must take after obtaining a sealing order.

PD-61 – Applications to Commence Proceedings Anonymously

Practice Direction 61 was revised to update the requirements regarding materials filed in support of an application.

PD-28 – Chambers Practice

Practice Direction 28 was revised to remove the limit on the earliest time that application records and petition records may be provided to the registry, in light of changes to the *Supreme Court Civil Rules* and the *Supreme Court Family Rules* that took effect on September 1, 2023.

PD-4 – Judicial Management and Early Assignment of a Trial Judge or Hearing Judge in Civil and Family Proceedings

Practice Direction 4 was revised on September 1, 2023 to clarify that case planning is available in family actions. It was further revised on October 17, 2023 to update the procedure for requesting judicial management and/or early assignment of a trial judge, and to include proceedings commenced under the *Class Proceedings Act*.

PD-5 – Class Proceedings

Practice Direction 5 was updated to clarify the process for setting a certification application for hearing, and to reflect that a party may seek judicial management of a proceeding by following the process in Practice Direction 4.

PD-55 – Canadian Judicial Protocol for the Management of Multi-jurisdictional Class Actions and the Provision of Class Action Notice

Practice Direction 55 was updated to note that it should be read together with Practice Direction 4 and Practice Direction 5.

CPD-4 – Procedure for Detention Reviews Under s. 525 of the Criminal Code

Criminal Practice Direction 4 was amended to improve certain aspects of the procedure based on experience with the existing process. Amendments of note include:

- a new procedure to apply to end the s. 525 detention review process due to ineligibility;
- a limit on the use of the Adjournment Form to adjourn the Scheduling Hearing; and
- a new process to expedite the transcript ordering process at the Scheduling Hearing.

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 educational programs and lay and professional 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 2023, the judges, associate judges, and registrars of the Court continued to volunteer their time with local, provincial, federal and international organizations, including the following:

Aboriginal Lawyers' Forum
Access Pro Bono
Allard School of Law, UBC Alumni Association
American College of Trial Lawyers.
Amici Curiae Friends of Court Society

Annual Review of Insolvency Law and Society
BGuild Debate Society
Black Law Students' Association of Canada - Julius
Alexander Isaac Moot

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, BC Branch
Canadian Insolvency Judges - *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act/Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act* Working Group
Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice
Canadian Judicial Council
Canadian Judicial Council, Model Criminal Jury Charges Working Group
Canadian Superior Courts Judges Association
Capilano University
Commonwealth Lawyers Association
Continuing Legal Education BC
Courthouse Libraries
Department of Justice National Litigation Symposium
Federation of Asian Canadian Lawyers
Fraser Valley Bar Association
Gale Cup Moot
Immigration and Refugee Board, Immigration Appeal Division
Inns of Court
Insolvency Institute of Canada
International Association of Women Judges
International Insolvency Institute
International Organization of Judicial Training
International Society for the Reform of Criminal Law

International Society of Barristers
International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation
Judging: Rule of Law Committee LSBC
Justice Education Society
Kamloops Bar Association
Kelowna Bar Association
L'Association des juristes d'expression française de la Colombie-Britannique
Law Society of British Columbia
Law Students Legal Advice Program
Medical Legal Society of B.C.
National Advisory Committee on Judicial Ethics
National Judicial Institute
National Judicial Institute, Criminal Jury Charge Program
National Judicial Institute, Criminal Law Program
National Judicial Institute, Sexual Assault Trial Program
New Westminster Bar Association
Osgoode Hall Law School
Rise Women's Legal Centre
Sedona Canada Steering Committee
Selkirk College
Sopinka Cup Moot
Superior Court Judges Association
The Advocates' Society
Thompson Rivers University, Faculty of Law
Trial Lawyers Association of British Columbia
Turnaround Management Association
University of British Columbia Allard School of Law
University of Victoria, Faculty of Law
Vancouver Bar Association
Vancouver Foundation
Wilson Moot
Women's Probus Club of Vancouver
Young Insolvency Professionals

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Chief Justice and the Associate Chief Justice would like to acknowledge the hard work, many and diverse contributions, and continued dedication of the Court's staff including the Judicial Administrative Assistants, the Document Management Clerks, the Judicial Law Clerks, the Library Staff, and the Judicial Administration team. The Court relies on their professionalism, diligence and commitment to facilitating, supporting and managing the delivery of justice for British Columbians on a daily basis.

The Chief Justice and Associate Chief Justice are particularly grateful to Heidi McBride, Executive Director and Senior Counsel of the Superior Courts Judiciary, for her work overseeing many aspects of the Court's operations; to Supreme Court Legal Counsel, for their legal advice and support; to Supreme Court Scheduling Director Cindy Friesen and her staff, who tirelessly manage the scheduling of all of the Court's hearings; and to the Superior Courts Director of Information Technology, Ryan Wirth, and the Court's IT department for their support of the Court's technology needs.

The Court is also appreciative of the Attorney General and Ministry staff including the court clerks, the registry staff, the sheriffs and other Court Services Branch staff for their dedication to supporting the Court's work including maintaining and managing the court record, supporting the work of the registries, providing security for anyone attending a courthouse, and for their ongoing assistance in developing solutions and efficiencies in court processes to improve access to justice for British Columbians.

Finally, the Chief Justice and the Associate Chief Justice wish to express their thanks to the judges, associate judges, 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

As of December 31, 2023, the Supreme Court had 104 justices: the Chief Justice, the Associate Chief Justice, 83 full-time justices, and 19 supernumerary justices.

JURISDICTION OF THE COURT

Superior Court

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

Supreme Court Registries and Locations

The Supreme Court is a circuit court in which all the judges and associate judges 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 associate judge, 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, 2023, the Supreme Court had 104 justices: the Chief Justice, the Associate Chief Justice, 83 full-time justices, and 19 supernumerary justices. As of December 31, 2023, 12 of the full-time judicial positions on the Supreme Court were vacant.¹ This represents approximately 13% of the Supreme Court's judicial complement.

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, elects to become a supernumerary judge or is appointed to a different court; the retirement of a supernumerary judge does not create a judicial vacancy.

[The] new title of associate judges more accurately reflects the important role of associate judges in the conduct of civil and family litigation in the province and promotes a more inclusive and accessible justice system.

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 on the Supreme Court.

Supreme Court Associate Judges

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

Associate judges 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.

Associate judges 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. Associate judges also have the jurisdiction of registrars and preside as registrars throughout the province as required.

Prior to January 2024, associate judges were known as masters. In 2024, the *Supreme Court Act* was amended to create the new title of associate judge to more accurately reflect the important role of associate judges in the conduct of civil and family litigation in the province and to promote a more inclusive and accessible justice system.

Supreme Court Registrar

The Supreme Court has one registrar who is resident in Vancouver but regularly sits in other registries. Like judges and associate judges, the registrar also conducts hearings using audio 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. The registrar 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. The registrar 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 the Ministry of Attorney General Court Services Branch in regard to registry issues including practice, procedure and policy.

CHANGES TO THE COURT'S COMPLEMENT

In 2023, the Court welcomed the appointment of four new judges and acknowledged the retirement of four judges and one associate judge. Additionally, one judge of the Supreme Court was appointed to the Court of Appeal.

APPOINTMENTS

The Honourable Justice Bradford F. Smith

Justice Smith, formerly a sole practitioner in Kamloops, was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of British Columbia at Kamloops on June 1, 2023. Justice Smith's appointment fills the vacancy created by Justice S.D. Dley (Kamloops), who elected to become a supernumerary judge effective November 1, 2021.

Justice Smith was born in South Africa and moved to Canada at age 20. He received a Bachelor of Laws from Osgoode Hall in 1999, followed by a Master of Laws in Criminal Law and Procedure in 2009. While attending Osgoode, he led the law school's community legal aid clinic and was a member of the inaugural Innocence Project group. Justice Smith was called to the bar in 2000 and went on to spend 13 years as Crown counsel, prosecuting cases involving clandestine synthetic drug labs, complex drug conspiracies, and organized crime. After leaving the Crown in 2013, he established his own defence practice based in Kamloops, defending clients in a variety of criminal cases and working as *amicus curiae* in two murder cases. Justice Smith was appointed King's Counsel in 2019.

In addition to his work as counsel, Justice Smith has been a member of the Organizing Committee of the Kamloops Inns of Court Program and at Thompson Rivers University's Faculty of Law. He has also served on the Board of the Association of Legal Aid Lawyers and with the Overlander Ski Club.

The Honourable Justice David K. Jones

Justice Jones, formerly partner at Bernard LLP in Vancouver, was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of British Columbia at Vancouver on August 14, 2023. Justice Jones' appointment fills the vacancy created by Justice G.C. Weatherill (Vancouver), who elected to become a supernumerary judge effective August 7, 2022.

Justice Jones was born and raised in Vancouver, earning a B.A. and M.A. from Simon Fraser University before obtaining his LL.B. from the University of Victoria and subsequently an LL.M. from the University of Wales. He was called to the bar in 1995. Justice Jones began his career at Campney & Murphy before joining Bernard LLP, where his civil and commercial litigation practice focused on maritime law, environmental law, and occupational health and safety. During his time as counsel, he appeared before all levels of court in British Columbia, at various administrative tribunals, and the Federal Court.

Justice Jones has been actively involved in the Canadian Maritime Law Association and the National Maritime Law Section of the Canadian Bar Association, serving on the Executive for both for many years. He has also shared his expertise as a contributor to CLEBC's Due Diligence Deskbook, annually updating the Fisheries and Oceans chapter, and authored numerous articles on various marine and environmental issues for local marine industry publications. In addition to his work, Justice Jones is an avid sailor with extensive offshore experience, and a dedicated skier and cyclist.

The Honourable Justice Jennifer L. Whately

Justice Whately, formerly Manager, Litigation, Enforcement at the British Columbia Securities Commission in Vancouver, was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of British Columbia at Vancouver on August 14, 2023. Justice Whately's appointment fills the vacancy created by Justice R.A. Skolrood (Vancouver), who was elevated to the Court of Appeal effective October 20, 2022.

Justice Whately was born in Victoria and grew up in Smithers, eventually returning to Victoria to receive a B.A. in English from the University of Victoria followed by a J.D. in 2002. After graduating, she moved to Vancouver to clerk at the Supreme Court of British Columbia before being called to the bar in 2004. Justice Whately began her career as a civil litigator in Vancouver before joining the BC Securities Commission in 2010, where she worked in the Enforcement division. Her files included insider trading, fraud, and other securities misconduct, and she appeared as counsel for the Commission at the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court of Canada. Justice Whately also served as internal advice counsel for the Commission's Investigation division and as legal counsel in Corporate Finance Legal Services, eventually becoming Manager of Litigation at the Commission.

Outside of her legal career, Justice Whately has been a board member for Growing Chefs, a not-for-profit organization that connects school-aged kids, chefs, and growers to foster food knowledge and sustainable food practices. She has also stayed involved with the University of Victoria, where she sat on a Senate committee for several years, and presented guest lectures on securities enforcement at the Peter A. Allard School of Law at the University of British Columbia.

The Honourable Justice J. Gareth Morley

Justice Morley, formerly senior counsel at the Ministry of Attorney General of British Columbia in Victoria, was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of British Columbia at Vancouver on August 28, 2023. Justice Morley's appointment fills the vacancy created by Justice J. Steeves (Victoria), who retired effective June 11, 2022.

Justice Morley was born in Toronto and grew up in Victoria. After receiving a B.A. from the University of Victoria, Justice Morley obtained his LL.B. from the University of Toronto and an LL.M. from Osgoode Hall. He was called to the bar in 1999, and began his career at the Ministry of Attorney General of British Columbia's Legal Services Branch, where he spent more than 20 years. His work involved litigation, providing advice, and

legislative drafting. Prior to his judicial appointment, Justice Morley acted as Senior Counsel, representing the provincial government in constitutional matters.

Justice Morley was an active member of the BC Government Lawyers Association for two decades, serving as its President from 2019 until his appointment, and taught Canadian constitutional law at Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops. He also published a number of law review articles and co-edited *Government Liability: Law and Practice* with Justice Karen Horsman of the Court of Appeal.

APPOINTMENTS TO THE COURT OF APPEAL

The Honourable Justice Janet Winteringham

Justice Janet Winteringham was appointed a Justice of the Court of Appeal for British Columbia on December 4, 2023. Justice Winteringham replaces Justice G.M. Dickson (Vancouver), who elected to become a supernumerary judge effective December 1, 2022. Justice Winteringham was appointed to the Supreme Court in Vancouver on August 15, 2017.

RETIREMENTS

The Honourable Mr. Justice James Williams

Mr. Justice James Williams retired from the Supreme Court of British Columbia at Vancouver on January 18, 2023. He was appointed to the Supreme Court on October 10, 2002.

The Honourable Mr. Justice Brian MacKenzie

Mr. Justice Brian MacKenzie retired from the Supreme Court of British Columbia at Victoria on March 21, 2023. He was appointed to the Supreme Court on October 23, 2009.

The Honourable Mr. Justice George Macintosh

Mr. Justice George Macintosh retired from the Supreme Court of British Columbia at Vancouver on April 30, 2023. He was appointed to the Supreme Court on December 17, 2013.

The Honourable Mr. Justice Robert Punnett

Mr. Justice Robert Punnett retired from the Supreme Court of British Columbia at Prince Rupert on November 30, 2023. He was appointed to the Supreme Court on June 19, 2009.

Associate Judge Peter Keighley

Associate Judge Peter Keighley retired from the Supreme Court of British Columbia at New Westminster on December 31, 2023. He was appointed Associate Judge of the Supreme Court on March 8, 2004.



COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Members

Justice Maisonville (Chair)
Chief Justice Hinkson (*ex officio*)
Associate Chief Justice Holmes (*ex officio*)
Justice Caldwell
Justice Devlin
Justice Donegan
Justice Jackson
Justice MacNaughton
Justice Thompson
Justice Warren
Justice Wilson
Associate Judge Harper
Associate Judge Muir
Heidi McBride, *Executive Director and Senior Counsel (ex officio)*
Brenda Belak, *Legal Counsel*
Jennifer Millerd, *Legal Counsel*

Mandate

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.

Membership

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

Work of the Committee

In 2023, the Committee's work included the ongoing liaison of the Court with government and external organizations such as the Canadian Bar Association and the Law Society. Issues addressed by the Committee included the membership of Court committees, enhancing the Court's readiness to conduct French language criminal trials and proceedings under the *Divorce Act*, the possible use of the File Transfer Server system for acceptance of submissions on draft jury charges outside of court hours, sheriff staffing issues as they impact courtroom availability and security, and legislative changes likely to impact court operations.

The Committee is grateful to Brenda Belak and Jennifer Millerd for their support of its work.

CIVIL LAW COMMITTEE

Members

Justice Warren (Chair)
Justice Baker
Justice Beames
Mr. Justice Caldwell
Justice Gomery
Justice Matthews
Justice Milman
Justice Smith
Justice Stephens
Justice Thompson
Justice Veenstra
Justice Verhoeven
Mr. Justice Walker
Associate Judge Vos
Lisa Phillips, *Legal Counsel*

Mandate

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

Work of the Committee

In 2023, the Committee considered a wide range of civil law matters. The Committee provided feedback to the Chief Justice and Associate Chief Justice regarding changes to Practice Direction 4 (Judicial Management and Early Assignment of a Trial Judge or Hearing Judge in Civil and Family Proceedings) and Practice Direction 5 (Class Proceedings). The Committee also recommended revisions to Practice Direction 61 (Applications to Commence Proceedings Anonymously). It provided input to the Chief Justice about lengthy chambers proceedings and consulted on a proposal regarding hearings in regular chambers. In collaboration with the Family Law Committee, the Committee developed an informational memorandum about trial procedure for judges to provide to self-represented litigants.

Other issues the Committee considered include changes to the enforcement of money judgments in Bill 27 – *Money Judgment Enforcement Act*, the use of endorsements and the procedure for receiving submissions on jury charges.

The Committee continued to support the work of the Court through providing guidance about significant appellate decisions and developments in civil law.

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

COURTHOUSE FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Members

Justice A. Ross (Chair)

Mr. Justice Baird

Justice Betton

Madam Justice Church

Justice Douglas

Justice Mayer

Heidi McBride, *Executive Director and Senior Counsel*

Mandate

The mandate of the Committee is to provide facilities-related assistance, support and advice to the Chief Justice and the Associate Chief Justice.

Work of the Committee

In 2023, the Committee's work included discussions about three courthouses, Victoria Law Courts, Williams Lake Law Courts and Ft. St. John Law Courts, which are all in need of replacement, expansion or serious renovations. Progress on these priority locations depends on capital funding and the Committee continues to advocate for the provincial government to provide the needed funding.

The Committee also worked on a number of smaller, but no less important facilities issues at a number of courthouse locations including the Abbotsford Law Courts (ongoing issues with the water supply), the Kamloops Law Courts (a lifecycle extension projects involving security enhancements and improvements to courtroom accessibility, courtroom and registry technology infrastructure updates), the New Westminster Law Courts (replacement of the exterior cladding and windows, curtain walls and skylights and significant repairs to the concrete and electrical services in the secure parking areas) and the Vancouver Law Courts (renovations to the space formerly occupied by the Law Courts Inn as well as upgrades and repairs to some of the large building systems including mechanical and electrical upgrades, and escalator modernization, concrete repair work, Great Hall glass replacement and millwork repairs).

Finally, the Committee considered renovations to the Port Coquitlam Law Courts which will support the use of excess courtroom and chambers capacity in that location by the Supreme Court. These renovations also include the creation of a criminal jury courtroom and renovations in the registry so that litigants can receive full Supreme Court registry services in Port Coquitlam.

CRIMINAL LAW COMMITTEE

Members

Justice Devlin (Chair)
Mr. Justice Riley (Vice Chair)
Associate Chief Justice Holmes
Justice Brundrett
Madam Justice Church
Mr. Justice Crossin
Justice Dley
Justice Donegan
Madam Justice Duncan
Mr. Justice Gaul
Justice Ker
Justice Maissonville
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 2023, the Committee provided support and advice to the Associate Chief Justice regarding the impact of *Criminal Code* amendments, including amendments to provisions regarding bail, publication bans, and orders to comply with the *Sex Offender Information Registration Act* made at the sentencing stage. The Committee also developed resources for judges in relation to these changes and updated the Supreme Court picklists. The Committee consulted on revisions to *CPD-4 - Procedure for Detention Reviews Under s. 525 of the Criminal Code*, on a new process for ordering transcripts for detention review hearings under s. 525 of the *Criminal Code*, and on the development of *CPD-7 - Procedure for Applications to Vary or Revoke a Publication Ban Under s. 486.51 of the Criminal Code*. The Committee also provided advice to the Associate Chief Justice regarding emerging issues in criminal procedure at the Court, including the timing of scheduling pretrial conferences in sexual offence cases and the return to conducting criminal jury selections in one stage.

Madam Justice Duncan stepped down as Chair in September after two years of service.

The Committee is grateful for her valuable contributions as Chair. Justice Devlin was appointed as Chair and Mr. Justice Riley was appointed as Vice-Chair. Justice Dley stepped down from the Committee at the end of 2023 after many years of service and Justice Winteringham resigned from the Committee as a result of her appointment to the Court of Appeal. The Committee is grateful for the many contributions of both Justice Dley and Justice Winteringham to the Committee's work.

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

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Members

Justice MacNaughton (Chair)
Mr. Justice Ball
Justice Burke
Justice Crerar
Madam Justice Francis
Justice McDonald
Justice Mayer
Madam Justice Morellato
Madam Justice Murray
Mr. Justice Riley
Justice Tammen
Associate Judge Keim
Leah Pence, *Legal Counsel*

Mandate

The Education Committee's mandate is to organize and present continuing education programs in order to assist the judges, associate judges 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.

Work of the Committee

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 assistance received from the staff at the NJI who support the development of our programs and also provide administrative, logistical and technical support for the conferences.

2023 Conferences

The May 2023 conference was held in Whistler and included sessions about: complex financial issues in family matters, the admissibility and treatment of surreptitious recordings, chambers practice, and various pre-trial matters. In addition, there was discussion with senior members of the bench on a variety of criminal matters, and presentations from various Indigenous justice organizations on innovative approaches to sentencing. The conference also included a judicial wellness component providing judges with tools to aid in understanding and building resilience, especially when dealing with difficult family and criminal matters.

The November 2023 British Columbia All Courts Education Conference was held in

Vancouver. The theme for this conference was The New Era of Judging. The conference is an opportunity for dialogue among the Provincial and Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal and we heard from speakers from across Canada and other countries. The conference addressed questions relevant for all three levels of court including: how courts can contribute to increasing access to justice; how courts and the judiciary should engage with social media in order to contribute to respect for the administration of justice; what challenges and opportunities artificial intelligence poses for the judiciary; what role courts play in reconciliation with Indigenous peoples in Canada; New Zealand's approach to reconciliation and what lessons we can learn from it; and what issues are emerging in criminal, civil and family law. Optional training was provided on the use of DivorceMate software for calculating child and spousal support.

New Judges Training

Starting in 2017, the Committee developed a program for newly appointed judges and associate judges designed to support them as they transition to our court from their prior legal careers. The new appointees 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 and to the ongoing mentorship program.

In November 2023, the Committee delivered the eighth session of new judges training. Eight of our 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 2023.

In addition, in 2021, the Criminal Law Committee and the Education Committee developed a multi-day self study course focusing on the law of sexual assault. Drawing on materials prepared by the Ontario Superior Court and the NJI, the course covers the substantive law of sexual assault, interim motions, procedure, common myths and stereotypes, social context, decision making, and sentencing. In 2023, 15 judges completed the course bringing the total number of judges to have done so to over 60.

Law at Lunch

The Committee facilitated regular online lunchtime seminars on topics including: section 7 of the *Charter*, civil jury trials, publication bans and anonymity orders, independent medical examinations, the law of hearsay, judicial reviews of Residential Tenancy Board decisions and interim stays, as well as post hearing and post-judgment matters.

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

Members

Justice Tindale (*Chair*)
Justice Fleming (*Vice-Chair*)
Justice Armstrong
Justice Shergill
Justice Brundrett
Justice Lamb
Justice Caldwell
Justice Francis
Associate Judge Dick
Associate Judge Harper
Associate Judge Hughes
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 relating to 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 2023. The Committee provided recommendations and comments to Chief Justice Hinkson, the Attorney General, and the British Columbia Supreme Court Civil & Family Rules Committee with respect to significant amendments to the *Family Orders and Agreements Enforcement Assistance Act*, the *Family Law Act* and the *Supreme Court Family Rules*.

In collaboration with the Civil Law Committee, the Committee developed an informational memorandum about trial procedure for judges to provide to self-represented litigants. The Committee also updated the Supreme Court Family Picklist of Orders, which is available on the court's website. The Committee provided information and recommendations to the Court on both internal and external resources, as well as on issues of law.

In 2023, the Committee bid farewell to Associate Judge Harper and welcomed Justice Caldwell, Justice Francis and Associate Judge Hughes as new members of the Committee.

The Committee is grateful to Nikki Hair and Line Williams for their support of its work.

LAW CLERKS COMMITTEE

Members

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

Mandate

The Law Clerks Committee is responsible for the management of the Judicial Law Clerks Program, which provides both a valuable resource for judges and a unique learning opportunity for new law school graduates who have achieved a high academic standard. The Committee is directly involved in the recruitment and hiring of judicial law clerks each year. The Committee is assisted in its work by the Court’s legal counsel, to whom the day-to-day management and administration of the program is delegated. The Committee is also assisted by the 22 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 17 law clerks in Vancouver, three in New Westminster and two in Victoria. In 2023, the following clerks began their clerkships with the Court:

Vancouver	Michaela Aeberhardt, Myim Bakan Kline, Lisa Chaudhry, Tom Gilmour, Merran Hergert, Stephanie Lee, Melissa Liauw, Frances Miltimore, Whitney Morrison, Verukah Poirier, Olga Shaporenko, Reed Smith, Spencer Taylor-Robins, Alie Teachman, Thea Udwardia, Adam Walsh and Maddison Zapach.
New Westminster	Claire Qiu, Siobhán Rempel and Patrick Sheppard
Victoria	Chloe Ducluzeau and Ben Turner

One of the Committee’s continuing 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, about half of our law clerks identify as racialized, Indigenous or 2SLGBTQI+, or as a person with a disability.

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

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

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

PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Members

Justice N. Smith (Chair)

Chief Justice Hinkson

The Honourable Bruce Cohen, *Superior Courts Communications Officer*

Mr. Justice Gaul

Justice Milman

Justice Tindale

Justice Wedge

Associate Judge Vos

Heidi McBride, *Executive Director and Senior Counsel*

Jennifer Millerd, *Legal Counsel*

Diana Foxall, *Communications Coordinator*

Mandate

In keeping with the open court principle, the mandate of the 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 PAC is also involved in initiatives respecting Supreme Court Policies and Practice Directions relating to such matters as access to court records, communications with the Court, cameras in the courtroom, and the use of electronic devices in courtrooms.

Work of the Committee

In 2023, the Committee's work involved meeting with the media, engaging with court communications officers from across Canada, and continuing with projects aimed to assist media in obtaining access to court proceedings and court records. The Committee was also involved in initiatives respecting Supreme Court policies and practice directions relating to court records, communications with the Court, cameras in the courtroom, and the use of electronic devices in courtrooms.

The Committee is grateful for the court communications, and media and public relations services performed by the Superior Courts Communications Officer, the Honourable Bruce Cohen, and the Communications Coordinator, Diana Foxall, who interact with members of the Superior Courts, judicial administration staff, courts legal counsel, registry staff and members of the media and public as well as government representatives, other courts across the country and bar organizations. The Committee is also appreciative of the support it receives from the Court's legal counsel and other judicial staff whose assistance and advice have been indispensable in communicating with the public and media. As well, the Committee expresses its thanks to Miki Lee who maintains the list of accredited media.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Members

Justice Ker (Chair)

Justice Skolrood

Justice Edelman

Sylvia Ranspach, *Head Librarian*

Heidi McBride, *Executive Director and Senior Counsel*

Work of the Committee

In 2023, library staff, under the leadership of head librarian Sylvia Ranspach, advanced a number of key projects, including implementing a new Sharepoint library site and updated library catalogue, developing subject matter resource guides, working with legal publishers, and redirecting budget funds to continue the transition from print to electronic resources. Ms. Ranspach also continues to provide regular training to judges, law clerks, and other judicial staff. The Library also continues to cull old and unused print volumes from various courthouses. Throughout the summer, our co-op student, Shelby Colling, catalogued historical photographs and assisted with the Judicial History Project.

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

JOINT COURTS TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Members

Mr. Justice Masuhara (Chair)
Mr. Justice Hunter
Justice Branch
Justice Edelmann
Justice Myers
Madam Justice Fitzpatrick
Mr. Justice Punnett
Associate Judge Nielsen
Timothy Outerbridge, *Registrar, Court of Appeal*
Heidi McBride, *Executive Director and Senior Counsel*
Cindy Friesen, *Director, Supreme Court Scheduling*
Ryan Wirth, *Director, Information Technology*
Brenda Belak, *Legal Counsel*
Line B. Williams, *Legal Counsel*

Mandate

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

Work of the Committee

In 2023, the Committee considered the impacts of the rapid development and expansion of functionality of artificial intelligence and, specifically, large language models on the Courts' work. The Committee is concerned about professional and ethical issues arising with the use of AI-based tools.

The Committee continued to be involved in supporting the move to a new VOIP phone system for the judiciary and judicial staff, which provides high quality audio that is easily incorporated into the Courts' infrastructure. Work is also ongoing to upgrade computer screens for the judiciary.

The Committee was involved in, and supportive of, ongoing work to expand electronic document management, electronic filing of documents, and online booking in both the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court. Following strong public support, the Court of Appeal returned to broadcasting appeals publicly by Zoom on January 3, 2023.

In collaboration with Court Services Branch, the Supreme Court expanded the Associate Judges Chambers Pilot Project to all registries outside Vancouver with associate judge sittings, except for Vancouver Law Courts, in 2023. The Project permits electronic submission of application records for applications scheduled for 30 minutes or less in associate judges' chambers.

The Committee was involved in a pilot project on digital signatures being trialed in the Court of Appeal. If successful, the pilot will be expanded to the Supreme Court to further evaluate the use of digital signatures.

Work is ongoing through Court Services Branch to update microphones in courtrooms to improve audio recordings.

JUDICIAL ACCESS POLICY WORKING COMMITTEE

Members

Shirley Smiley, *Legal Counsel, Court of Appeal (Chair)*

Leah Pence, *Legal Counsel, Supreme Court*

Karen Leung, *Legal Counsel, Provincial Court*

Trevor Fik, *Legal Counsel, Provincial Court*

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

Dan Chiddell, *Executive Director, Corporate Support, Court Services Branch (CSB)*

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

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

Shelley Gin, *Senior Policy Analyst, Policy, Legislation and Planning, Policy and Service Reform Unit, CSB*

Robert Richardson, *Secretariat and Senior Policy Analyst, Policy, Legislation and Planning, Policy and Service Reform Unit, CSB*

Margot Tubman, *CSB Consultant*

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 APWC reviews applications for bulk and/or electronic 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 the APWC.

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

Work of the Committee

In 2023, the work of the APWC included the following:

Access Applications

In 2023, the APWC received, considered, and made recommendations in respect of

applications for access to court record information from a variety of government, public and private agencies and departments related to their statutory mandates, operations, or legal research and analysis services. 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. Access agreements were created for applications approved by the judiciary.

Policy Work

In 2023, the APWC reviewed and updated its protocols and processes for logging and tracking applications as well as existing access agreements. Members of the Committee also contributed to the Canadian Judicial Council's Pilot Project on bulk access to published reasons for judgment.



MEMBERS OF THE SUPREME COURT

CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT

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 OF THE SUPREME COURT

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 ALISON J. BEAMES ► (Kelowna)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court August 7, 1996

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 MR. JUSTICE JAMES W. WILLIAMS ▼ (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court October 10, 2002
- Retired January 18, 2023

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 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 JUSTICE JOEL R. GROVES ► (*Vancouver*)

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

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

- Appointed to the Supreme Court November 22, 2005

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

- Appointed to the Supreme Court January 31, 2008

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

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 18, 2008

THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE KATE KER (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 18, 2008

THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE 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
- Retired November 30, 2023

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

- Appointed to the Provincial Court October 30, 1990
- Appointed to the Supreme Court October 23, 2009
- Retired March 21, 2023

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 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 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 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
- Retired April 30, 2023

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

- Appointed to the Supreme Court December 17, 2013

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

- Appointed to the Supreme Court December 17, 2013

THE HONOURABLE MADAM JUSTICE NEENA SHARMA (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court December 17, 2013

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 MADAM JUSTICE BARBARA M. YOUNG (*Victoria*)

- Appointed Associate Judge 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 Associate Judge 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. BRUNDRETT (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 21, 2017

THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE JANET WINTERINGHAM ▲ (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court August 15, 2017
- Appointed to the Court of Appeal December 4, 2023

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE E. DAVID CROSSIN (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court September 29, 2017

THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE FRANCESCA MARZARI (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court December 19, 2017

THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE JASVINDER S. (BILL) BASRAN (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court January 19, 2018

THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE DIANE C. MACDONALD (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court February 7, 2018

THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE BARBARA NORELL (*New Westminster*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court February 22, 2018

THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE WENDY A. BAKER (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court February 22, 2018

THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE SHARON MATTHEWS (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court February 22, 2018

THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE THOMAS CRABTREE (*Chilliwack*)

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

THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE GEOFFREY B. GOMERY (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 15, 2018

THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE CHRISTOPHER J. GIASCHI (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court September 4, 2018

THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE VERONICA JACKSON (*Victoria*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court October 9, 2018

THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE STEPHEN WILSON (*Kelowna*)

- Appointed Associate Judge 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 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 LYNSAY LYSTER (*Nelson*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court July 3, 2020

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE IAN CALDWELL (*Abbotsford*)

- Appointed Associate Judge 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 Associate Judge 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

THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE BRADFORD F. SMITH (*Kamloops*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 1, 2023

THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE DAVID K. JONES (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court August 7, 2023

THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE JENNIFER L. WHATELY (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court August 14, 2023

THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE J. GARETH MORLEY (*Victoria*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court August 28, 2023

▲ *Appointed to the Court of Appeal*

▶ *Supernumerary Justice*

▼ *Retired*

ASSOCIATE JUDGES OF THE SUPREME COURT

ASSOCIATE JUDGE SHELAGH SCARTH ▶ (*Vancouver*)

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

ASSOCIATE JUDGE PETER KEIGHLEY ▼ (*New Westminster*)

- Appointed Associate Judge of the Supreme Court March 8, 2004
- Retired December 31, 2023

ASSOCIATE JUDGE CAROLYN P. BOUCK ► (*Victoria*)

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

ASSOCIATE JUDGE LESLIE MUIR ► (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed Associate Judge of the Supreme Court May 7, 2012

ASSOCIATE JUDGE SANDRA HARPER (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed Associate Judge of the Supreme Court August 5, 2014

ASSOCIATE JUDGE SANDRA DICK (*Nanaimo*)

- Appointed Associate Judge of the Supreme Court January 1, 2016

ASSOCIATE JUDGE TERRY VOS (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed Associate Judge of the Supreme Court March 20, 2017

ASSOCIATE JUDGE STEVEN SCHWARTZ (*Kelowna*)

- Appointed Associate Judge of the Supreme Court February 19, 2019

ASSOCIATE JUDGE JENNIFER KEIM (*Kamloops*)

- Appointed Associate Judge of the Supreme Court July 31, 2019

ASSOCIATE JUDGE JOHN BILAWICH (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed Associate Judge of the Supreme Court December 21, 2020

ASSOCIATE JUDGE KIMBERLEY ROBERTSON (*New Westminster*)

- Appointed Associate Judge of the Supreme Court December 21, 2020

ASSOCIATE JUDGE RORY KRENTZ (*Abbotsford*)

- Appointed Associate Judge of the Supreme Court April 8, 2022

ASSOCIATE JUDGE SCOTT NIELSEN (*New Westminster*)

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

ASSOCIATE JUDGE SUSANNA HUGHES (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed Associate Judge of the Supreme Court May 2, 2022

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

► *Senior Associate Judge*

▼ *Retired*

REGISTRAR OF THE SUPREME COURT

REGISTRAR MEG GAILY (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed Registrar of the Supreme Court October 12, 2022

JUDICIAL STAFF

Office of the Chief Justice and Associate Chief Justice

Judicial Coordinator, Chief Justice Hinkson	Carrie Wilke
Judicial Coordinator, Associate Chief Justice Holmes	Linda Peter
Supreme Court Legal Counsel	Brenda Belak, Natasha Edgar, Nikki Hair, Jennifer Millerd, Leah Pence, Lisa Phillips Line Williams, Claire Wilson

Judicial Administration

Executive Director and Senior Counsel	Heidi McBride
Director, Information Technology	Ryan Wirth
Manager, Finance	Caroline Nguyen
Manager, Human Resources	Tracy Norman
Accounting Coordinator	Cheryl Steele
Accounting Clerks	Gurjot Kaur, Simran Sangha
Communications Coordinator	Diana Foxall
Document Management Clerks	Elle Collman, Jas Dosanj, Nav Dosanj, Daniel Kuster, Aaron Wong
Facilities Officer	Ryan Jongenburger
Human Resources Recruitment Coordinator	Michelle Sam
Human Resources Coordinator	Charles Manuel
Office Manager	Andrea Mueller
Office Clerk	Ethan McMullen
Website Support and Business Information Analyst	Cynthia Dale
Manager, Provincial Registrar's Program	Kristen Day

Supreme Court Scheduling

Director, Supreme Court Scheduling	Cindy Friesen
Deputy Director, Supreme Court Scheduling	Trevor Woo
Assistant to Director, Supreme Court Scheduling	Katherine Castaneda Arenas
Scheduling Training Manager	Ben Bautista

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
Scheduling Coordinators	Mikayla Bischoff, Kate Curry, Jennie Ho, Jay Nguyen, Trevor Woo, Debbie Pham, Wynne Li

Scheduling Clerks

Amani Abukhadra, Min Jee, Emely
Tadena, Jerry Ku, Nav Dosanjh

New Westminster *(includes Abbotsford, Chilliwack and Port Coquitlam)*

Manager, Supreme Court Scheduling

Tanya Dixon

Team Leader

Leslie Martin

Scheduling Coordinators

Allison Donnelly, Renuka Pumbhak,
Owen Li, Rapinder Mehat, Angelina
Slootweg, Cynthia Ferrer, Carly
Lafave

Scheduling Clerk

Kirby Harris

Kamloops *(includes Cranbrook, Golden, Nelson, Revelstoke, Rossland, Salmon Arm)*

Manager, Supreme Court Scheduling

Brenda Strain

Scheduling Coordinators

Marnie Manula, Beckie Allen

Kelowna *(includes Penticton, Vernon)*

Manager, Supreme Court Scheduling

Janine Benson

Scheduling Coordinators

Sandeep Johal, Dyllan Siebert, Eryn
Dumonte, Alisa Anthony

Nanaimo *(includes Campbell River, Courtenay, Port Alberni and Powell River)*

Manager, Supreme Court Scheduling

Michelle Schley

Scheduling Coordinators

Leanne Cyr, Katherine Marriott

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

Manager, Supreme Court Scheduling

Pamela Wallin

Scheduling Coordinators

Tara Bleich, Kelly Parmar

Victoria *(includes Duncan, Prince Rupert, Terrace, Smithers)*

Manager, Supreme Court Scheduling

Claudia Turner

Scheduling Coordinators

April Castillo, Sandra Skene

Section 525 Detention Reviews

Detention Review Coordinator

Kendra Kirkwood

Judicial Support Services

Manager, Judicial Support Services

Jessica Gill, Samantha Servis

Judicial Administrative Assistants

Vancouver

Irem Akcan, Radovan Burdej, Antonia Chen, *Kirsten Floyd, Diane Goyengko, ^Diana Hatley, ^Bonnie Healy, Sasha Ionova, Raji Johal, Jaspreet Kaur, Simran Kooner, ^Wanda Lam, Queen Lee, ^Amanda Li, Israel Mbenza, Melissa Mendoza Alcocer, Akhtar Mohammed, Meena Puhl, Chelsea Salindong, Chiraz Sisrian, ^Vickie Siu, Lindy Tucker

Abbotsford

Christina Campbell

Chilliwack

^Yvonne Samek

Kamloops

Beckie Allen, *Jane Raggatt

Kelowna

Lana Pardue, ^Shannon Zorn

Nanaimo

^Melissa Lund

New Westminster

^Barbara Gourlay, Rasmeet Kaur, *Jesse Rathor, Andrea Walker

Prince George

Kelly Parmar

Victoria

Kathy Cook, ^Karen Gurney, Michelle McNeill

Judicial Administrative Clerks

Pedro Costa, Shivali Singla

One Judgment Office

Mandie Dhesi, Miki Lee

**Team Lead*

^Senior Judicial Administrative Assistant

Judges Library

Librarian

Sylvia Ranspach

Library Technician

Connie Kang

Co-Op Student

Shelby Colling

IT Services*

Service Delivery Manager

Lawrence Ho

Infrastructure Project Analyst

David Chow, Billy Huang

Help Desk and Operations Analyst

William Huang

Help Desk Technician

Priya Bageja, Guilherme Gianjope, Mike Larm, Ami Osame, Wayland Szeto

Senior Business Analyst and Project Manager

Lorne Lovett

Business Analyst

Joanne Chong

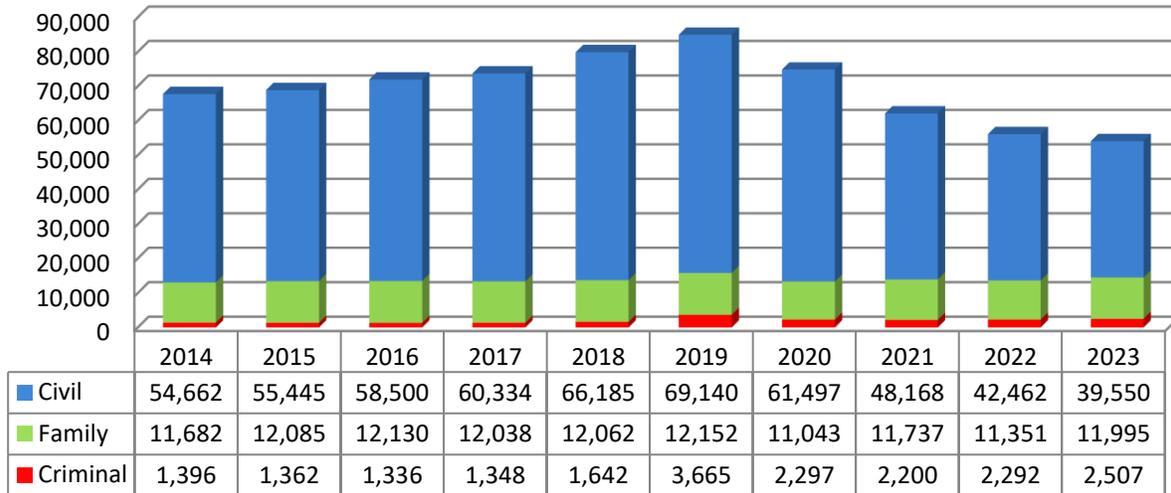
Software Developer

Jojo Ho

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

APPENDIX - COURT STATISTICS

Figure 1: New Criminal, Family and Civil Filings



Data Source: Courthouse Activity Cube and Criminal BI Database, extracted February 16, 2024
 Historical numbers are updated to current information. Data may change due to data settling and corrections.

Note: On May 1, 2021, the ICBC Enhanced Care program (no-fault insurance) came into effect. New filings, involving accidents that occurred before May 1, 2021, are expected to continue until April 30, 2023. After this date, only exceptional claims will be filed with the court. Exceptional claims include collisions involving drivers charged with certain criminal code offences and non-motorists who contribute to injuries.

Figure 2: New Filings by Category in 2023

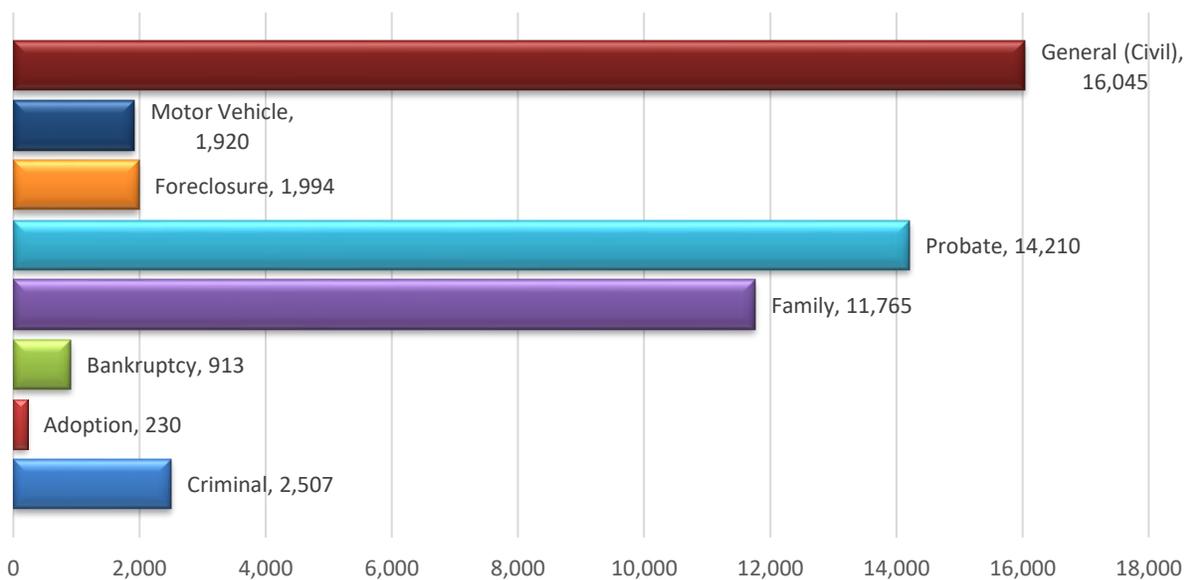


Figure 3: Number of Conferences by Type

Number of Conferences per Type, 2014 – 2023

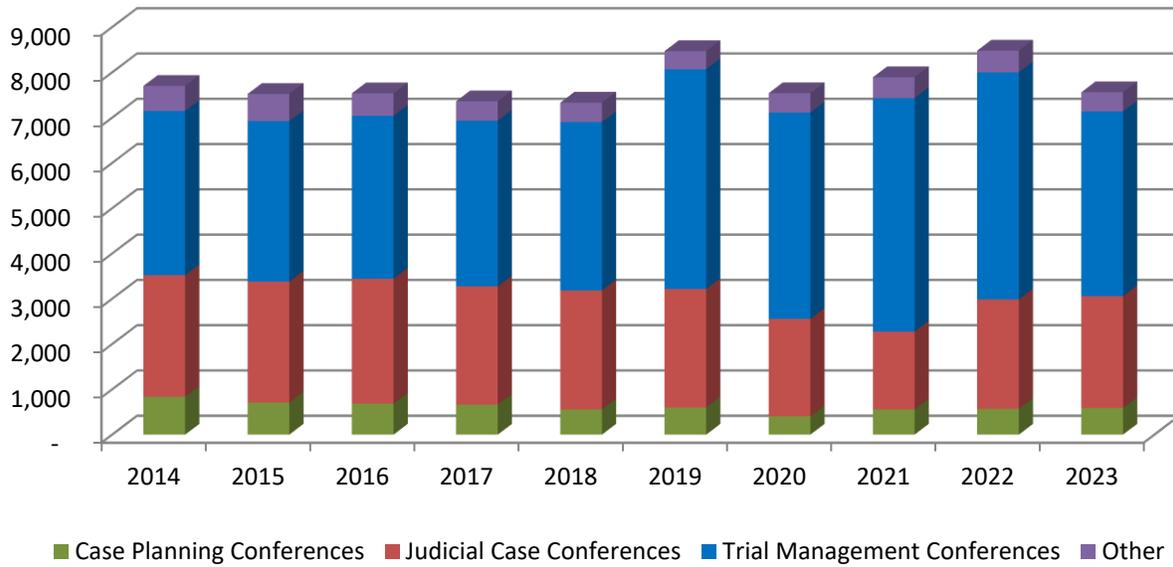


Figure 4: Hearing Hours by Conferences Type

Hours per Conference Type, 2014 - 2023

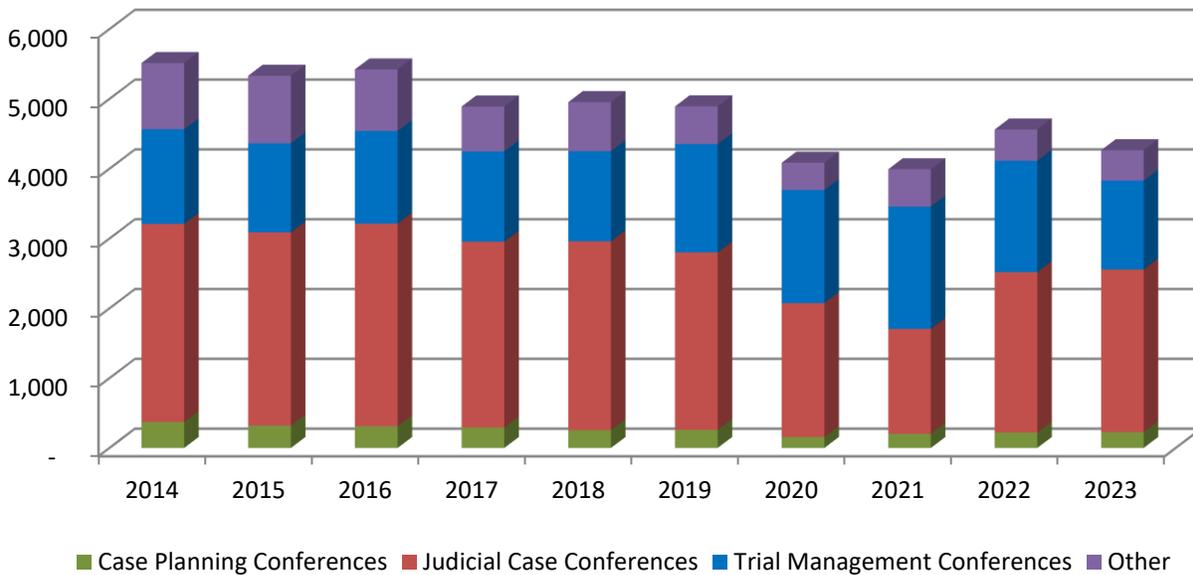


Figure 5: Civil Trials and Long Chambers Applications Scheduled in Vancouver

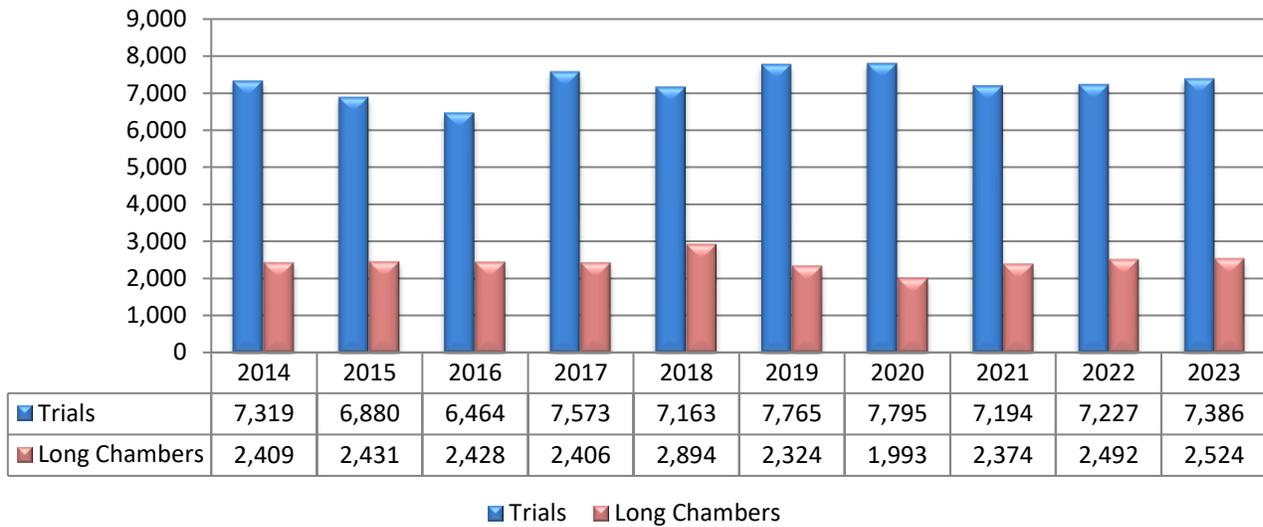


Figure 6: Long Chambers Applications Scheduled and Heard in Vancouver

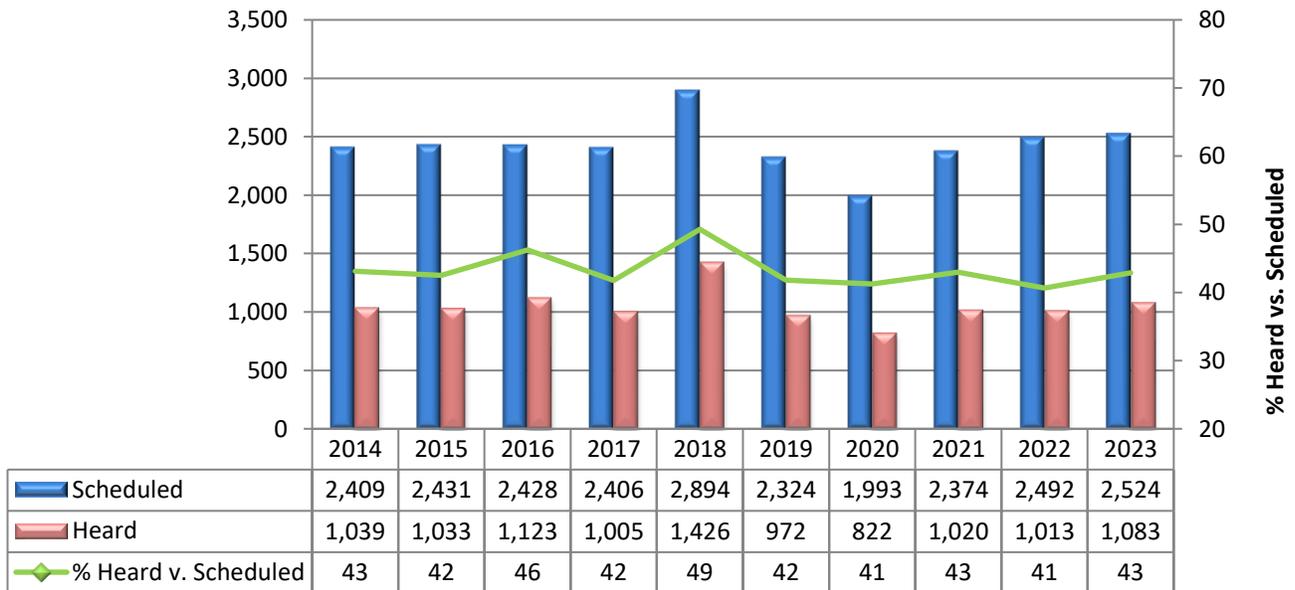


Figure 7: Long Chambers Applications Heard and Bumped in British Columbia

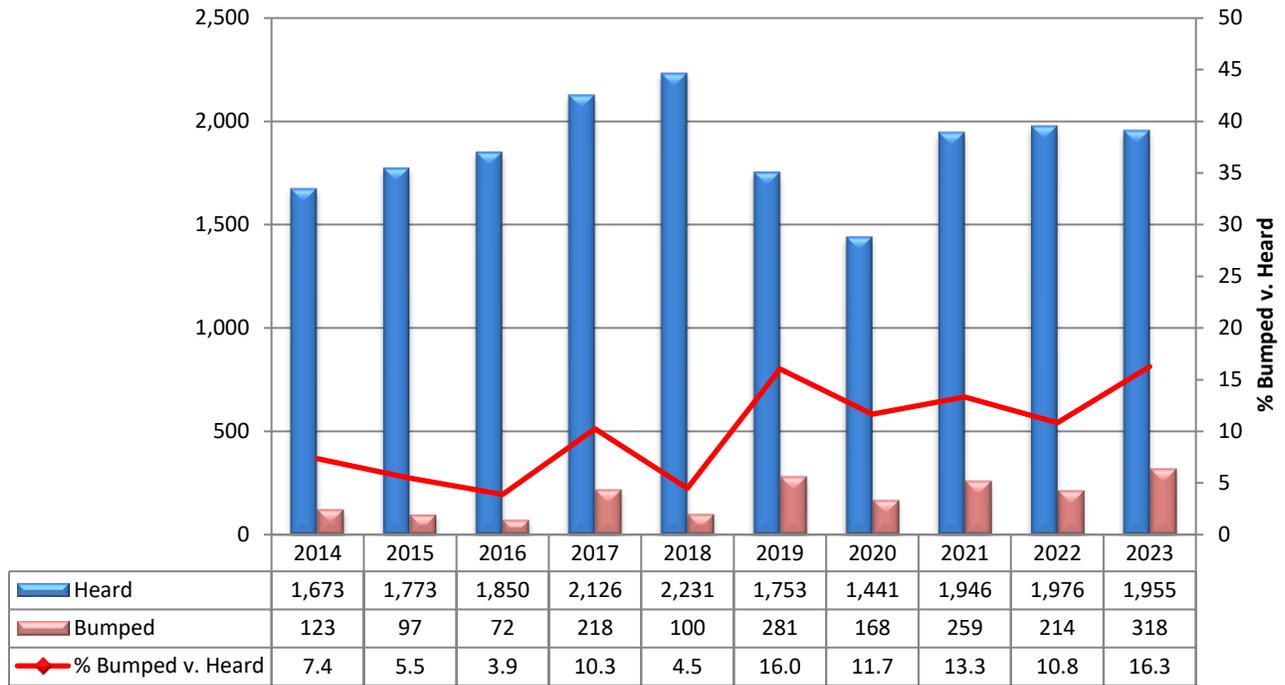


Figure 8: Long Chambers Applications Heard and Bumped in Vancouver

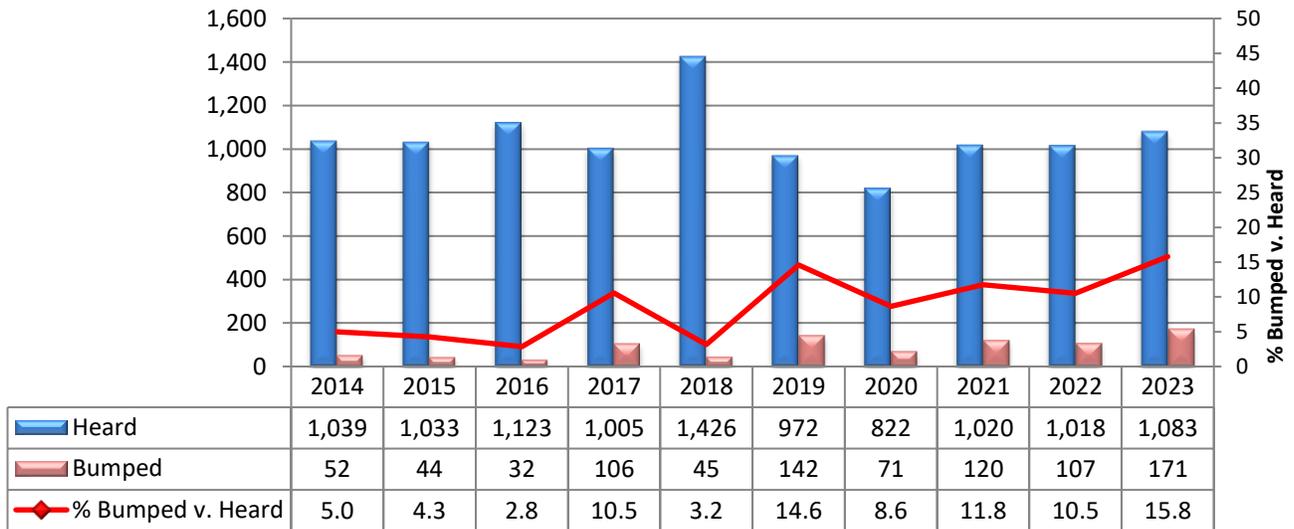


Figure 9: Trials Heard and Bumped in British Columbia

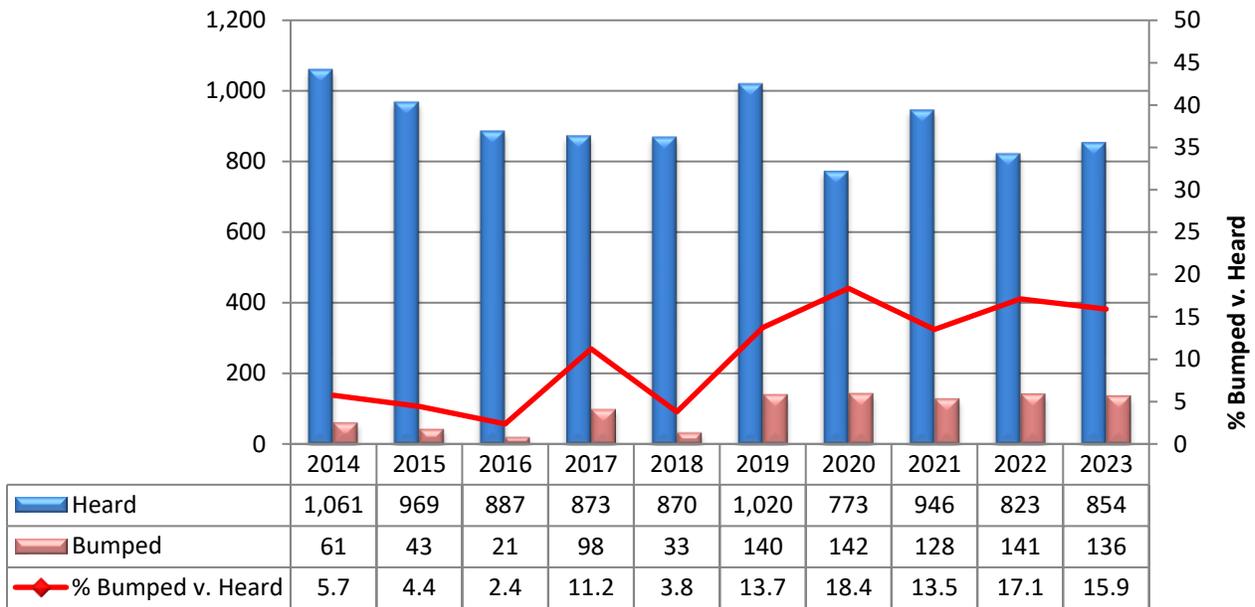


Figure 10: Trials Heard and Bumped in Vancouver

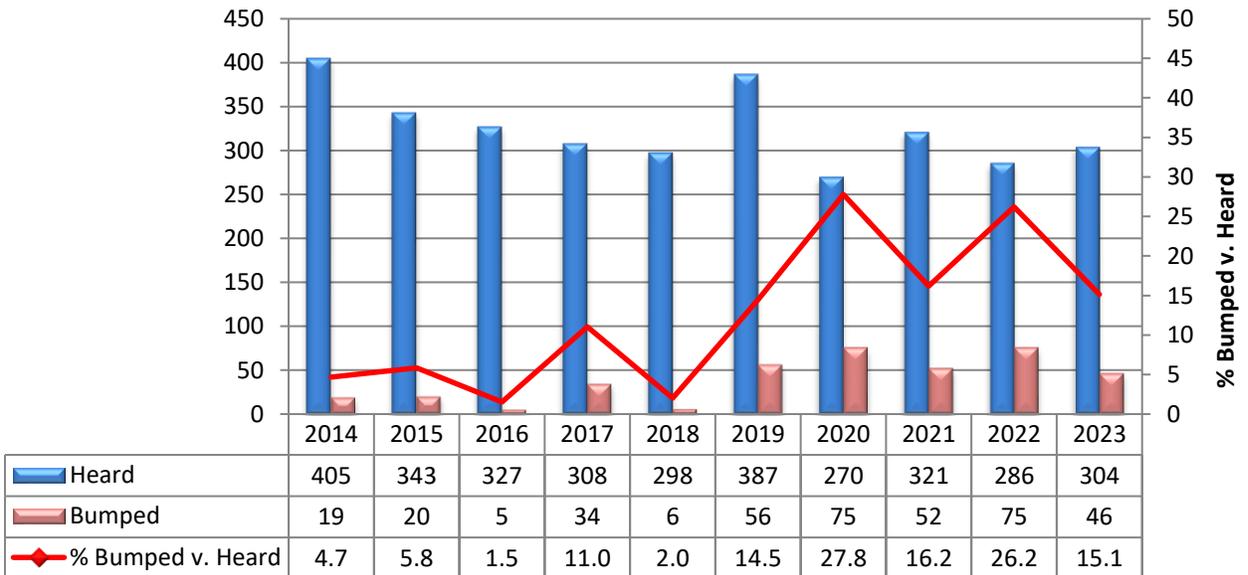


Figure 11: Trials Heard and Bumped by Type and Location in 2023

	HEARD 2023				BUMPED 2023			
	Civil	Criminal	Family	Total	Civil	Criminal	Family	Total
LOWER MAINLAND								
Abbotsford	8	10	12	30	4	0	1	5
Chilliwack	2	8	5	15	2	0	2	4
New Westminster	62	45	27	134	26	0	4	30
Port Coquitlam	6	0	10	16	0	0	0	0
Vancouver	183	44	77	304	37	1	8	46
Region Totals	261	107	131	499	69	1	15	85
Region %	82%	33%	61%	58%	70%	0%	63%	63%
VANCOUVER ISLAND								
Campbell River	0	4	3	7	0	0	0	0
Courtenay	2	7	4	13	0	1	0	1
Duncan	2	5	2	9	1	0	0	1
Nanaimo	5	21	10	36	3	3	0	6
Port Alberni	0	5	2	7	0	0	0	0
Powell River	2	4	0	6	0	0	0	0
Victoria	20	38	20	78	7	4	3	14
Region Totals	31	84	41	156	11	8	3	22
Region %	10%	26%	19%	18%	11%	0%	13%	16%
NORTHERN INTERIOR								
Dawson Creek	1	3	0	4	0	0	0	0
Fort St. John	1	2	3	6	1	0	0	1
Prince George	0	21	6	27	1	0	0	1
Prince Rupert	0	1	2	3	0	0	0	0
Quesnel	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0
Smithers	2	5	2	9	1	0	0	1
Terrace	0	3	1	4	0	0	0	0
Williams Lake	0	5	3	8	0	0	0	0
Region Totals	4	42	17	63	3	0	0	3
Region %	1%	13%	8%	7%	3%	0%	0%	2%

	HEARD 2023				BUMPED 2023			
	Civil	Criminal	Family	Total	Civil	Criminal	Family	Total
SOUTHERN INTERIOR								
Kamloops	2	22	9	33	4	0	1	5
Kelowna	16	25	10	51	10	0	1	11
Vernon	1	9	3	13	0	1	0	1
Nelson	2	6	0	8	0	0	1	1
Cranbrook	0	9	1	10	2	0	0	2
Penticton	2	8	0	10	0	3	1	4
Salmon Arm	0	1	2	3	0	0	2	2
Rosland	0	7	0	7	0	0	0	0
Golden	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Revelstoke	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Region Totals	23	88	25	136	16	4	6	26
Region %	7%	27%	12%	16%	16%	0%	25%	19%
TOTAL	319	321	214	854	99	13	24	136
TOTAL %	37%	38%	25%		73%	10%	18%	

Figure 12: Trials Heard By Registry in 2023

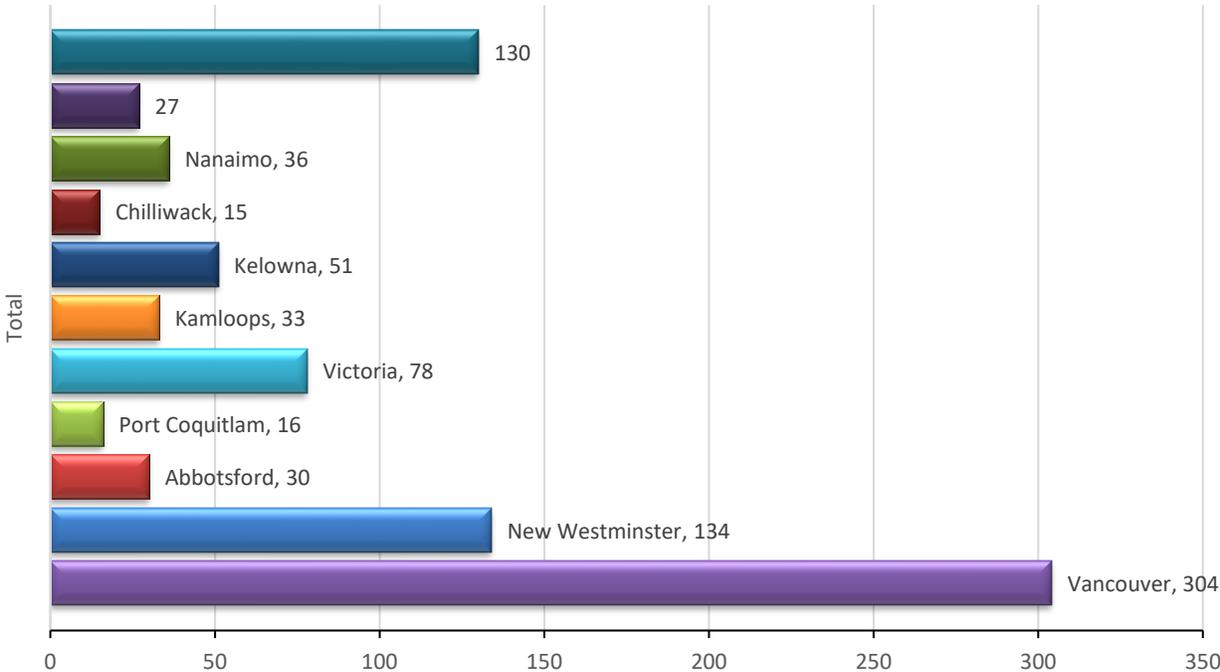


Figure 13: Trials Heard By Region in 2023

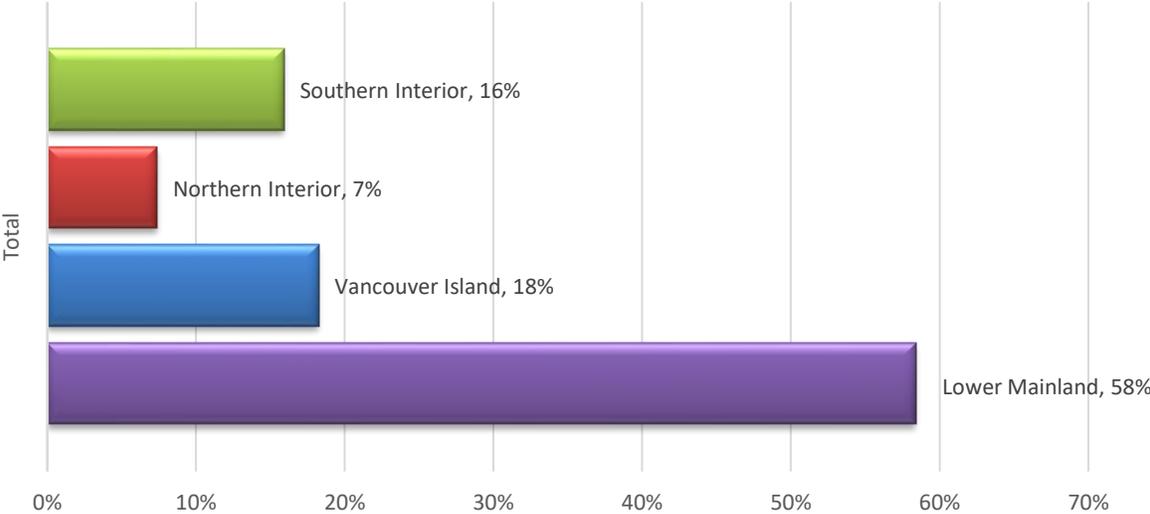


Figure 14: Published Reasons for Judgment by Subject, Type, and Year

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
CIVIL										
Oral	285	316	306	340	305	309	267	379	327	389
Written	1,181	1,050	1,009	868	895	905	868	1069	948	927
Total	1,466	1,366	1,315	1,208	1,200	1,214	1,135	1,448	1,275	1,316
CRIMINAL										
Oral	348	354	280	344	377	371	248	314	163	246
Written	120	114	63	113	109	78	58	97	48	67
Total	468	468	343	457	486	449	306	411	211	313
FAMILY										
Oral	66	96	94	86	95	64	76	108	94	114
Written	299	300	267	272	275	242	235	293	259	256
Total	365	396	361	358	370	306	311	401	353	370
TOTAL	2,299	2,230	2,019	2,023	2,056	1,969	1,752	2,260	1,839	1,999

Figure 15: Published Reasons for Judgment by Year, 2014 – 2023

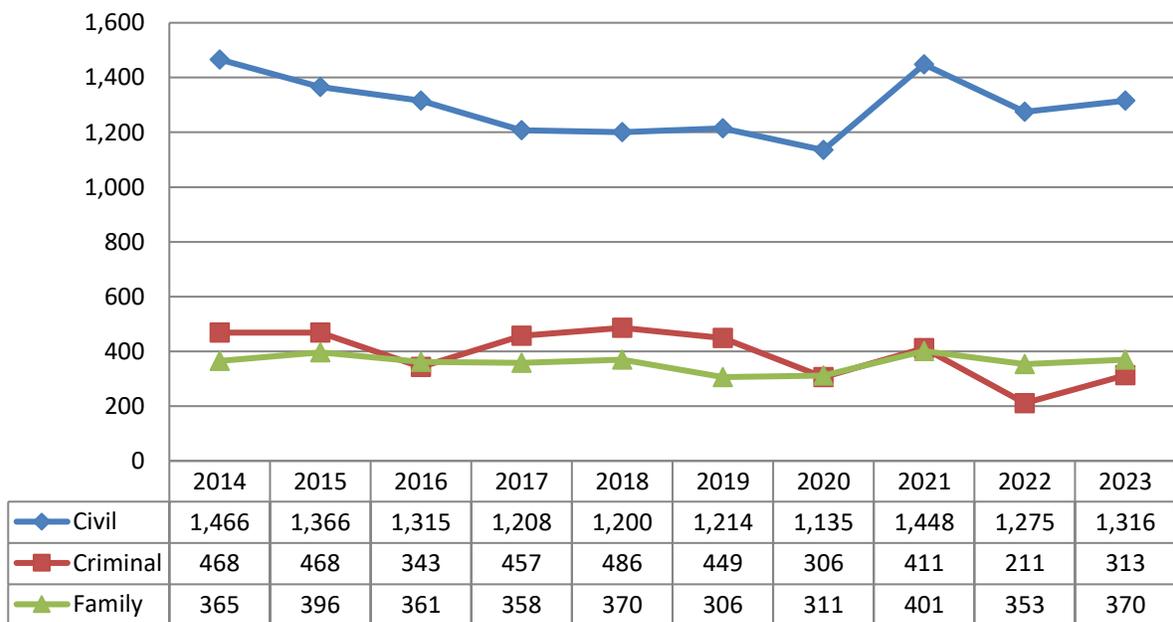


Figure 16: Published Reasons for Judgment by Subject, Type, and Year

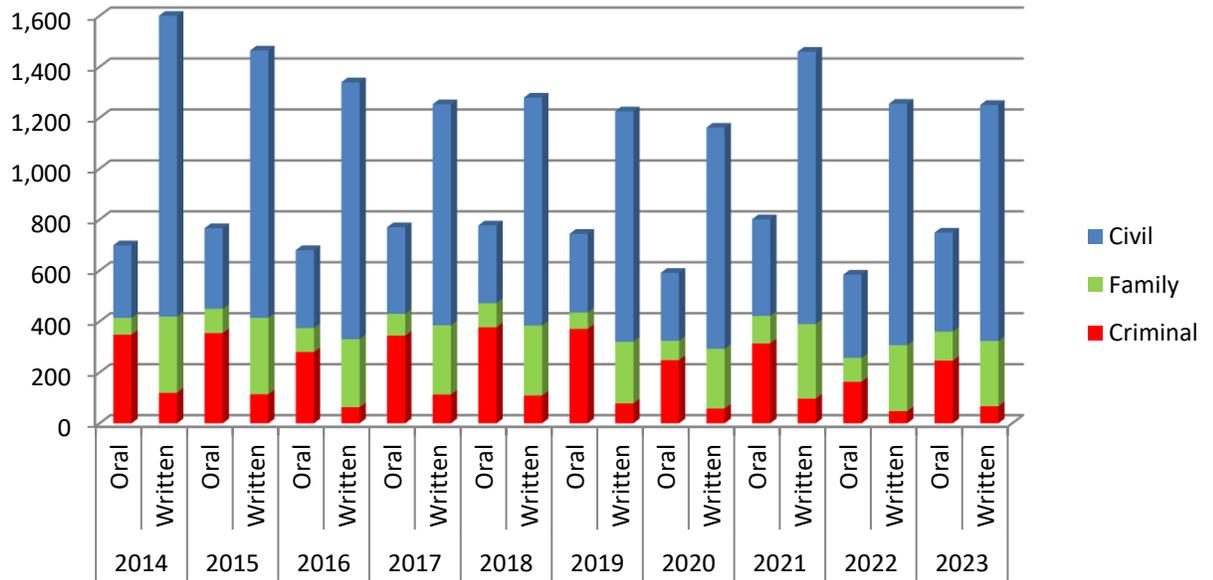


Figure 17: E-Filed Documents in Supreme Court

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Documents Filed	595,496	593,068	595,228	595,811	591,039	616,514	555,657	577,943	559,759
Documents E-Filed	218,788	232,974	246,026	259,148	262,846	279,645	346,203	314,293	297,546
% E-Filed	37%	39%	41%	43%	44%	45%	62%	54%	52%

Figure 18: E-Orders Processed in the Supreme Court

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
E-Orders Processed	8,920	9,427	9,622	10,987	10,902	11,206	13,535	14,014	14,669	17,613