

# SUPREME COURT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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ANNUAL REPORT 2024

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

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**03** – REPORT OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE & ASSOCIATE CHIEF JUSTICE

**09** – PRACTICE DIRECTIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE NOTICES

**11** – JURISDICTION OF THE COURT

**13** – CHANGES TO THE COURT’S COMPLEMENT

**23** – COMMITTEE REPORTS

**41** – MEMBERS OF THE SUPREME COURT

**45** – SENIOR JUDICIAL STAFF

**46** – COURT STATISTICS

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# REPORT OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE & ASSOCIATE CHIEF JUSTICE

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## INTRODUCTION

The Supreme Court of British Columbia is a court of inherent jurisdiction and the superior trial court in the province. We lead the Court which is made up of judges who are appointed under federal legislation (the *Judges Act*) and associate judges and the registrars who are appointed under provincial legislation and we are supported by a team of judicial staff. Together we are responsible to fulfil our role as a neutral and impartial arbiters of disputes in a wide range of subject areas. We ensure that the law is upheld and applied to all persons equally. We work to protect and maintain respect for the rule of law. We preside over trials, chambers applications, and conferences. We hear appeals from decisions of judges of the Provincial Court of British Columbia and from some administrative tribunals. The Supreme Court sits in 30 locations throughout the province and has resident judges in almost half of those locations.

## THE WORK OF THE COURT

### EXPANSION OF COURTS ONLINE BOOKING SYSTEM

Commencing November 1, 2024, the Court expanded the availability of the Courts Online Booking System (COBS) to trials in civil and family matters. Litigants and counsel have had the option to schedule trial management conferences through the COBS since 2019. COBS was expanded in 2022 to include case planning conferences and judicial case conferences.

The 2024 COBS enhancement provides parties and their counsel with flexibility when seeking to book trial dates during a seven-day booking window rather than on a single booking day. COBS does not increase the supply of available court dates; its purpose is to improve the efficiency of the process for submitting requests for trial dates and to ensure that limited court time is fairly available to all litigants. By using COBS, litigants and counsel do not have to call Scheduling to book trial dates and do not have to wait in a phone queue on booking day each month. The expansion of COBS also expands the Court's digital services. The Court is working on expanding the availability of COBS to include scheduling dates for long chambers hearings in civil and family matters.

### TRIAL MANAGEMENT CONFERENCES

Data from 2024 shows decreases in the number of trial management conferences and their length. In September 2023, the *Supreme Court Civil Rules* and *Supreme Court Family Rules* were amended to provide that trial management conferences would no longer be mandatory in all cases. This amendment was intended to ensure that scarce judicial resources were allocated efficiently. Removing the mandatory requirement for a trial management conference in all cases supported the allocation of judicial resources to other types of hearings while also preserving this important case management tool for the proceedings where it will be most useful.



**ASSOCIATE JUDGES CHAMBERS PILOT PROJECT EXPANDS ELECTRONIC DELIVERY OF MATERIALS**

The Associate Judges Chambers Pilot Project allows for the submission of electronic application records using Court Services Online for applications scheduled for 30 minutes or less in associate judges’ chambers. In 2024, in collaboration with the Ministry of Attorney General and Court Services Branch, the Court considered options for expansion of the project. Going forward, we are working on the creation of a limited virtual chambers project where applications from across the province can be heard remotely. The project will increase access to justice outside of major population centres, support the efficient use of judicial resources, and maintain and preserve the right of the public to attend court proceedings.

**FRENCH LANGUAGE RIGHTS IN DIVORCE PROCEEDINGS**

On December 1, 2024 section 23.2 of the *Divorce Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. 3 (2nd Supp.) regarding official language rights, and associated amendments to the *Supreme Court Family Rules*, were brought into force, enabling parties to use the French language, or both official languages, in divorce proceedings. The Court has, in coordination with the Ministry of Attorney General, been working to ensure that court processes and operational functionalities are in place to support French and bilingual divorce proceedings.

**LONG OR COMPLEX CRIMINAL CASES**

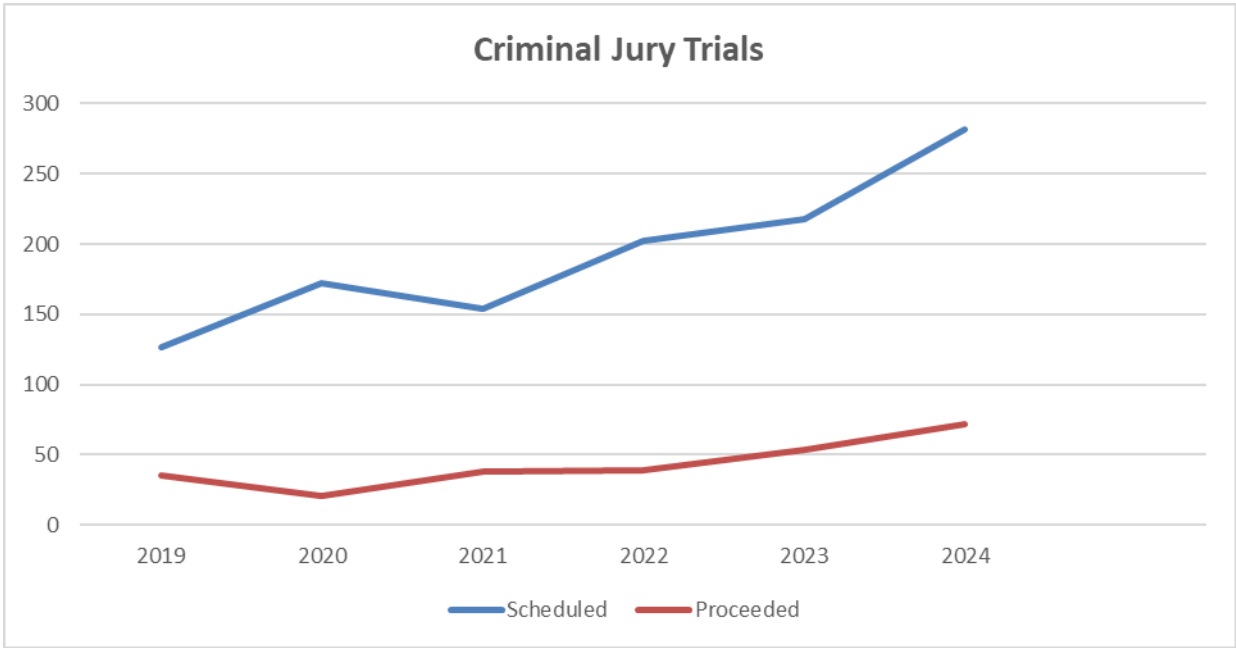
There has been a significant increase in the number of long or particularly complex criminal cases in the Supreme Court in the last five years. Common features of complex criminal cases include multiple accused persons, serious charges (e.g., murder, organized crime offences, terrorism), extensive evidence (e.g., digital records, wiretap evidence, tracking data, documents and other property seized under judicial authorization), numerous pre-trial applications and *voir dire* hearings, special security measures, and risks of delays. Complex criminal cases require significant judicial, administrative, and court resources from the time of the accused person’s first appearance in the Court through to the end of the process. The increase in complex cases puts a significant strain on the Court’s judicial and administrative resources, as well as on other system resources (e.g., courtroom availability, court clerks, and sheriffs). The Court proactively manages complex criminal cases and assigns a case management judge early in the proceedings to oversee the pre-trial process. The Court’s criminal case management program is set out in [Criminal Practice Direction 3](#) (CPD-3). There has been an increase in the number of complex criminal cases since 2019:

Year	CPD-3 Cases
2020	16
2021	16
2022	11
2023	19
2024	29

The high demands of these cases reduce the resources available for the Court’s other work.

CRIMINAL JURY TRIALS

The Court has noticed a trend over the last few years of an increase in the number of criminal jury trials scheduled and in the number of criminal jury trials that proceed to trial. Many of these are for sexual offence cases, which too have increased significantly in number in recent years. The increase in criminal jury trials has a significant impact on the work of the Court. They generally require more court time than non-jury trials and they require more sheriff resources to support and manage the jury. Also, where a mistrial takes place (because the jury is unable to reach a verdict, or for some other reason) a second trial is necessary.



Criminal Jury Trials		
Year	Scheduled	Proceeded
2019	127	35
2020	172	21
2021	154	38
2022	202	39
2023	218	54
2024	282	72

LONG CHAMBERS APPLICATIONS AND TRIALS

Through most of 2024, the Court continued to struggle with having too few judges to meet the high demand for trials and long chambers consequently having to “bump” an unacceptably large number of both. In 2024, 19.1% of all long chambers applications in British Columbia were bumped. This is an increase from 2023 when the bumping rate was 16.3%. Vancouver continues to be the location with the highest bumping rate for long chambers at 16.9% (an increase from 15.8% in 2023). This is significantly higher than the 10-year average bumping rate of 9.1%. For more detailed information about long chambers, please see Figures 5-8 in Appendix A.

The Supreme Court held 863 trials in 2024 which was an increase from the 854 trials heard in 2023. The Court bumped another 116 trials, which is a reduction in bumping from 2023. The Lower Mainland continued to be the region with the most trials, at 494 followed by Vancouver Island at 151, the Southern Interior at 143, and the Northern Interior at 75. For more detailed information on trials, please see Figures 9-13 in Appendix A.

The principal cause of bumping is a mismatch of the volume of applications that litigants and counsel seek to have heard and determined and the availability of judges and associate judges to assign to those matters. The Court recognizes the burden and disruption that this causes for parties, litigants and counsel including from the expense of wasted preparation time, travel costs for witnesses and experts, and the general stress and anxiety that the lack of certainty brings.

## **JUDICIAL VACANCIES**

At the end of 2023, there were 11 judicial vacancies on the Supreme Court which represented over 10% of the Court's full-time complement. In 2024, the federal government appointed 17 new judges to the Supreme Court. This filled most of the vacancies that existed at the end of 2023 as well as the new vacancies that resulted from the appointment in 2024 of 6 Supreme Court judges to the Court of Appeal. As of December 31, 2024, the Supreme Court had 3 judicial vacancies. Despite these appointments, the impact of having been chronically short of the full-time complement continues to affect access to timely and effective justice for all British Columbians. Chronic judicial vacancies increase the workload for the Court's existing judges and place an unfair and unsustainable burden on the Court's internal staff resources that support all the members of the Court.

## **COURT GOVERNANCE**

To carry out our responsibilities for the administration of the judges, associate judges, registrars and for the administration of the Court more generally, we receive assistance from several 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), we are supported by the Executive Committee, which addresses matters of court administration, and several specialized committees including the Education Committee, the Law Clerks Committee, the Public Affairs Committee and the Courthouse Facilities Committee. There are also committees which 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 as 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 23 of this report.

In addition, in 2024, the Court struck an internal working group to examine the Court's role in advancing reconciliation. In the coming year, the working group will be considering the actions taken by courts across the country to advance reconciliation, and offering recommendations on what steps the Court may take to further this goal, given its unique constitutional role.

## 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, judges, associate judges and registrars participate in a wide variety of other activities in their communities. They regularly speak to high school students and preside at moot court competitions. They are regularly on panels at continuing legal education programs and conferences for both the legal profession and for more general audiences. 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 2024, the judges, associate judges, and registrars of the Court continued to volunteer their time with local, provincial, federal and international organizations, including the following:

Access Pro Bono	International Society of Barristers
American College of Trial Lawyers	International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation
Amici Curiae Friends of Court Society	Justice Education Society
Annual Review of Insolvency Law and Society	Kamloops Bar Association
BGuiled Debate Society	Kelowna Bar Association
Black Law Students' Association of Canada - Julius Alexander Isaac Moot	L'Association des juristes d'expression française de la Colombie-Britannique
British Columbia Bankruptcy Practice Committee	Lawyers Assistance Program
British Columbia Council of Administrative Tribunals	Law Society of British Columbia
British Columbia Law Schools Moot Program	Law Students Legal Advice Program
British Columbia Model Insolvency Order Committee	Le Barreau du Québec
Canadian Association of Insolvency and Restructuring Professionals	Medical Legal Society of B.C.
Canadian Bar Association, BC Branch	National Advisory Committee on Judicial Ethics
Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice	National Judicial Institute
Canadian Insolvency Judges - Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act/Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act Working Group	New Federally Appointed Judges Training Program
Canadian Judicial Council	New Westminster Bar Association
Canadian Superior Courts Judges Association	Osgoode Hall Law School
Capilano University	Rise Women's Legal Centre
Commonwealth Lawyers Association	Selkirk College
Continuing Legal Education BC	Sopinka Cup Moot
Courthouse Libraries	The Advocates' Society
Dalhousie University, Schulich School of Law	Thompson Rivers University, Faculty of Law
Department of Justice National Litigation Symposium	Trial Lawyers Association of British Columbia
Federation of Asian Canadian Lawyers	Turnaround Management Association
Fraser Valley Bar Association	University of British Columbia Allard School of Law
Gale Cup Moot	University of Victoria, Faculty of Law
Immigration and Refugee Board, Immigration Appeal Division	UBC School of Journalism, Writing, and Media
Inns of Court	Vancouver Bar Association
Insolvency Institute of Canada	Vancouver Foundation
International Association of Women Judges	Wilson Moot
International Insolvency Institute	Women's Probus Club of Vancouver
International Organization of Judicial Training	Young Insolvency Professionals
International Society for the Reform of Criminal Law	Victoria Bar Association, Inns of Court Program

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We 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. Their professionalism and tireless efforts play a vital role in supporting the administration and delivery of justice to the people of the province each day.

Special thanks are extended to Heidi McBride, Executive Director and Senior Counsel of the Superior Courts Judiciary, for her exemplary leadership in overseeing the Court’s operations; to the Court’s Legal Counsel for their invaluable legal expertise; to Cindy Friesen, Director of Supreme Court Scheduling, and her team for their management of the Court’s hearings and schedules; and to the Court’s IT department, led by Ryan Wirth, Director of Information Technology, for their ongoing technical support, which has been instrumental in ensuring smooth operations.

The Court also recognizes the continued dedication of the Attorney General, Ministry staff, court clerks, registry staff, sheriffs, and all those in the Court Services Branch who work tirelessly behind the scenes. Their contributions—whether managing court records, supporting registries, providing essential courthouse security and managing juries —are integral to the Court’s functioning. Finally, the Chief Justice and Associate Chief Justice express their gratitude to the judges, associate judges, and registrars for their support and for their insight on matters relating to the Court’s administration.

Ronald A. Skolrood  
**Chief Justice**

Heather J. Holmes  
**Associate Chief Justice**



# PRACTICE DIRECTIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE NOTICES

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The Supreme Court issues practice directions and administrative notices to provide direction and guidance to litigants and counsel on court and registry procedures in civil, family and criminal proceedings. Practice directions and administrative notices provide important information about current court processes, procedures and other court-related matters; however, they do not have the same force of law as other enactments (e.g., *Supreme Court Civil Rules*, *Supreme Court Family Rules*, etc.). Practice directions and administrative are typically issued to address situations or circumstances where there is no other formal guidance or direction. The Court rescind or amends practice directions and administrative notices that are no longer required or relevant such as when amendments to the *Supreme Court Civil Rules* or the *Supreme Court Family Rules* incorporate the directions in a practice direction or administrative notice.

In 2024, the Court issued six new practice directions and one administrative notice. The Court also amended or rescinded a number of previously issued practice directions and administrative notices.

## NEW PRACTICE DIRECTIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE NOTICES

### PD-64 – Form of Address

PD-64 directs how counsel, litigants, witnesses and others are to address a judge, associate judge, registrar or district registrar in a courtroom. It also clarifies how parties and counsel can advise the Court, other parties and counsel of their pronouns and form of address. PD-64 was issued after amendments to the *Supreme Court Act* which changed the title of master to associate judge. The consolidation of the Court's directions regarding form of address also resulted in the rescinding of PD-32 – *Manner of Address for Registrars*, PD-59 – *Forms of Address for Parties and Counsel in Proceedings* and PD-60 – *Form of Address*. A number of other practice directions and administrative notices were also amended to reflect the new title for associate judges.

### PD-65 - Consent Adjournments Of Applications And Petitions On The Chambers List

PD-65 requires parties to notify the Court of consent adjournments of applications and petitions on the hearing list.

### CPD-7 - Procedure For Applications To Vary Or Revoke A Publication Ban Under s. 486.51 of the *Criminal Code*

CPD-7 sets out the general procedure for applying under s. 486.51 of the *Criminal Code* to vary or revoke a publication ban made under s. 486.4 or 486.5 of the *Criminal Code*.

### CPD-8 – Publication Bans in Criminal Proceedings – In Court Practice

CPD-8 sets out in-court processes to improve the clarity and quality of the information recorded about publication bans made in criminal proceedings for use while the proceedings are before the Court as well as after proceedings have concluded.

## **AN-19 - Cover Page Requirements for Written Submissions**

AN-19 sets out requirements for an external cover page for written submissions to aid in the efficient management of these documents where a party has been directed or permitted to provide written submissions before or after a hearing.

## **AMENDED OR RESCINDED PRACTICE DIRECTIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE NOTICES**

### **PD-1 - Affidavits - Identification of Counsel or Commissioner**

PD-1 was rescinded because amendments to the *Supreme Court Civil Rules* and the *Supreme Court Family Rules* incorporate the requirements previously set out in PD-1.

### **CPD-1 - Criminal Pre-Trial Conference Process**

CPD-1 was amended to require a pre-trial conference for all sexual offences to take place at least four months before the scheduled trial.

### **AN-10 - Late Application Records; Reinstatements to Chambers List**

AN-10 was rescinded because amendments to and *Supreme Court Civil Rules* and *Supreme Court Family Rules* incorporated the processes set out in AN-10.

### **AN-12 - Bankruptcy Hearings Before A Registrar In Bankruptcy**

AN-12 was updated to address processes to schedule hearings before a Registrar in Bankruptcy, default methods of appearance in various registries, and the submission of materials to the Court.

### **AN-14 - Cover Page Requirements**

AN-14 was rescinded because amendments to the *Supreme Court Civil Rules* and the *Supreme Court Family Rules* incorporate the requirements previously set out in AN-14.

### **AN-16 - Vexatious Litigants – Request for Leave to File Process or Documents**

AN-16 was rescinded because amendments to the *Supreme Court Civil Rules* and the *Supreme Court Family Rules* incorporate the requirements previously set out in AN-16.

### **COVID-19 Notice No. 2 - Affidavits For Use In Court Proceedings**

COVID-19 Notice No. 2 was rescinded because the Code of Professional Conduct for Lawyers in British Columbia and the *Supreme Court Civil Rules* and the *Supreme Court Family Rules* regarding affidavits were amended to provide for the swearing or affirming of affidavits by video. COVID-19 Notice No. 2 was issued during the COVID-19 pandemic to make necessary accommodations for the commissioning of documents in circumstances where it was not always possible or medically safe for the deponent to physically attend before a commissioner for taking affidavits

# JURISDICTION OF THE COURT

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## 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 the Residential Tenancy Branch.

## 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, Port Coquitlam, Prince George, 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, Powell River, Prince Rupert, 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, 2024, the Supreme Court had 108 justices: one Chief Justice, one Associate Chief Justice, 90 full-time justices, and 16 supernumerary justices. As of December 31, 2024, three of the full-time judicial positions on the Supreme Court were vacant.

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.

## SUPREME COURT ASSOCIATE JUDGES

The Supreme Court has 14 associate judges, 11 full-time associate judges and three senior associate judges. The Associate Judges 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 the production of documents, and foreclosure proceedings. Associate judges also have the jurisdiction of registrars and preside as registrars throughout the province as required.

## SUPREME COURT REGISTRAR

The Supreme Court has one registrar who is resident in Vancouver but regularly sits in other registries. Like 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

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In 2024, the Court welcomed the appointment of one new chief justice, 17 new justices, and one new associate judge. The Court also acknowledged the retirement of one chief justice, and five justices. Additionally, six judges of the Supreme Court were appointed to the Court of Appeal.

## APPOINTMENTS

### The Honourable Chief Justice Ronald A. Skolrood

The Honourable Chief Justice Ronald A. Skolrood was appointed Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of British Columbia on October 15, 2024. Chief Justice Skolrood filled the vacancy created when the Honourable Chief Justice Christopher E. Hinkson retired.

Chief Justice Skolrood obtained a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Lethbridge in 1983, a law degree from the University of Victoria in 1986, and a Master of Laws from the University of Cambridge in 1989. He was called to the Bar of British Columbia in 1988 and the Bar of the Northwest Territories in 2010. Chief Justice Skolrood clerked for the Honourable Justice William McIntyre at the Supreme Court of Canada from 1986 to 1987. He practiced law at Lawson Lundell LLP from 1987 to 2013, where his main areas of practice were commercial disputes, pension and benefit matters, health law and all aspects of public law, including administrative, regulatory and constitutional law. Chief Justice Skolrood also served as the chair of the British Columbia Law Institute from 2007 to 2012. Chief Justice Skolrood also contributed as a sessional lecturer at the University of Victoria and as a course leader at the University of British Columbia. He was also a frequent commentator on legal affairs for various local and national news organizations. Chief Justice Skolrood was appointed King's Counsel in 2012. Chief Justice Skolrood was appointed to the Supreme Court in 2013 and to the Court of Appeal in 2022.

### The Honourable Justice Y. Liliane Bantourakis

The Honourable Justice Y. Liliane Bantourakis was appointed to the Supreme Court in New Westminster on February 28, 2024. Justice Bantourakis filled the vacancy created when Justice P.W. Walker elected to become a supernumerary judge.

Justice Bantourakis completed her Bachelor of Arts (Hons.) at the University of British Columbia in 1999, before obtaining her Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Civil Law from McGill University, both in 2004, where she graduated as the Aimé Geoffrion gold medalist. After completing a clerkship with Chief Justice McLachlin at the Supreme Court of Canada, she joined the Department of Justice Canada in Vancouver and became Senior Counsel and Special Advisor to the Regional Director General. Justice Bantourakis's legal practice covered various civil, administrative, and constitutional matters. Justice Bantourakis later practiced criminal law, transitioning to the B.C. Prosecution Service, where she served as Crown Counsel. Justice Bantourakis has appeared before all levels of court in British Columbia, the Federal Courts, and the Supreme Court of Canada. Justice Bantourakis is also fully bilingual, and as counsel, has pleaded cases in both French and English. She has contributed to the legal community as an advocacy advisor and British Columbia Regional Committee member for the Supreme Court Advocacy Institute. She has also spoken at numerous conferences and continuing legal education events on public law topics.



### **The Honourable Justice Maegen Giltrow**

The Honourable Justice Maegen Giltrow was appointed to the Supreme Court in Vancouver on February 28, 2024. Justice Giltrow filled the vacancy created when Justice G. Macintosh retired.

Justice Giltrow obtained a Bachelor of Arts in English and Anthropology from Simon Fraser University in 1999 and a law degree from Dalhousie University in 2003. Justice Giltrow was appointed King's Counsel in 2021. Justice Giltrow built a legal career specializing in Aboriginal rights and title litigation, as well as regulatory and judicial review work for landowners, farmers, and local governments. As a former partner at Ratcliff LLP, Justice Giltrow's practice focused on public interest work, where she represented clients in environmental protection matters and for the welfare of Indigenous children in care. In addition to her legal work, Justice Giltrow has served as an elected member of the Vancity Credit Union Board of Directors, a founding director of the Pacific Centre for Environmental Law and Litigation, and of the Kílala Lelum Urban Indigenous Health and Healing Cooperative in Vancouver. Justice Giltrow was also a Director of the Savary Island Land Trust.

### **The Honourable Justice Christopher W. Greenwood**

The Honourable Justice Christopher Greenwood was appointed to the Supreme Court in Vancouver on February 28, 2024. Justice Greenwood filled the vacancy created when Justice G.S. Funt elected to become a supernumerary judge.

Justice Greenwood earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of British Columbia in 1989 and a law degree from McGill University in 1996. Justice Greenwood was called to the British Columbia Bar in 1997 and to the Bar of the Northwest Territories in 2009. Justice Greenwood began his legal career with the Public Prosecution Service of Canada (PPSC) in 1997. Over the years, Justice Greenwood gained experience in both trial and appellate work, as well as providing advice on investigations. Justice Greenwood's practice included prosecutions of criminal organizations, intricate wiretap cases, and national security files. Justice Greenwood represented the Crown in numerous appeals before the British Columbia Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court of Canada. Throughout Justice Greenwood's tenure with the PPSC, he was an active member of the National Litigation Committee, the Prosecution Policy Committee, and the B.C. Appeals Committee. Justice Greenwood has also contributed to the legal community as an instructor for the PPSC and as a guest speaker for organizations such as the Canadian Bar Association and the Continuing Legal Education Society of B.C.

### **The Honourable Justice Sandra M. Sukstorf**

The Honourable Justice Sandra M. Sukstorf was appointed to the Supreme Court in Port Coquitlam on February 28, 2024. Justice Sukstorf filled one of the three positions authorized under the *Budget Implementation Act, 2022, No. 1*.

Justice Sukstorf earned a Bachelor of Arts (Hons.) in Economics and Commerce from the Royal Military College of Canada in 1986. In 1998, Justice Sukstorf received a law degree from Dalhousie University. Justice Sukstorf also holds a Master of Laws from Queen's University and a Master of Defence Studies from the Royal Military College of Canada, both obtained in 2012. Justice Sukstorf began her legal career in the Office of the Judge Advocate General of the Canadian Armed Forces, where she developed expertise in military discipline, domestic and international criminal law, maritime law, and contracts.

Later, Justice Sukstorf managed the Investigations, Monitoring, and Enforcement Department at the Law Society of British Columbia. She served as a military judge from 2017 to 2024, presiding over courts-martial across Canada. Justice Sukstorf was an inaugural advisor to the legal working group convened in Copenhagen for the Contact Group on Piracy off the coast of Somalia. Her service has been recognized with her induction as an Officer of the Order of Military Merit and the award of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal.

### **The Honourable Justice Karrie A. Wolfe**

The Honourable Justice Karrie A. Wolfe was appointed to the Supreme Court in Victoria on February 28, 2024. Justice Wolfe filled a vacancy created when Justice R.D. Punnett elected to become a supernumerary judge.

Justice Wolfe earned a Bachelor of Arts (Hons.) from the University of Toronto in 2000 and a law degree from the University of Victoria in 2004. During law school, she earned awards for academic achievement and community involvement while completing three formative co-op terms. Justice Wolfe was called to the Bar of British Columbia in 2005 and was appointed King's Counsel in 2023. Justice Wolfe articulated with the Legal Services Branch of the British Columbia Ministry of Attorney General and spent the majority of her career there as a barrister, specializing in constitutional and administrative law, and arguing civil trials, judicial reviews, and legislative challenges. Throughout her career, Justice Wolfe appeared at all levels of court in British Columbia and at the Supreme Court of Canada. Her public law expertise engaged issues such as safe injection sites, free speech in elections, environmental regulation, and minority language education rights. She also held various supervisory roles and provided constitutional opinions. Justice Wolfe was a member of the editorial board and a contributing author to the Continuing Legal Education Society of British Columbia Administrative Law Practice Manual. Justice Wolfe has also been a frequent presenter at various legal education programs, and regularly volunteers as a practice judge for moots and as a guest lecturer at the University of Victoria's Faculty of Law, primarily in administrative law and advocacy. Justice Wolfe has been actively involved in community theatre for decades.

### **The Honourable Justice Judith E. Hoffman**

The Honourable Judith E. Hoffman was appointed to the Supreme Court in Vancouver on May 27, 2024. Justice Hoffman filled one of the two remaining positions authorized further to the *Budget Implementation Act, 2022, No. 1*.

Justice Hoffman obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of Lethbridge and a law degree from the University of Victoria, both in 1993. Justice Hoffman was called to the Bar of British Columbia in 1995 after clerking for the Federal Court in Ottawa and articling at Alexander Holburn in Vancouver. Justice Hoffman gained experience in insurance and commercial litigation, where she represented both plaintiffs and defendants in personal injury cases. Justice Hoffman served as a legal officer to the late Chief Justice Donald Brenner of the Supreme Court. In 2005, Justice Hoffman joined the Department of Justice where she represented the federal government in a range of cases including Indigenous rights and treaty cases, public inquiries, class proceedings, and a range of administrative, tort, constitutional, and environmental matters. Justice Hoffman has contributed to the BC Missing Women Inquiry, the National Inquiry into Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls and the Cullen Commission into Money Laundering.

Throughout her career, Justice Hoffman has volunteered with the BC Branch of the Canadian Bar Association. Justice Hoffman also served as co-chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Committee and was involved with the Access to Justice and Court Services Committees. Justice Hoffman regularly contributed to continuing legal education programs as well.

### **The Honourable Justice Lisa J. Hamilton**

The Honourable Justice Lisa J. Hamilton was appointed to the Supreme Court in New Westminster on May 27, 2024. Justice Hamilton filled a vacancy created when Justice K.W. Ball elected to become a supernumerary judge.

Justice Hamilton obtained her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of British Columbia in 1990 and her law degree from the University of Victoria in 1994. Justice Hamilton was called to the Bar of British Columbia in 1995. Justice Hamilton began her legal career at Baker Newby in the Fraser Valley, where she practiced criminal law as an agent for the Federal Crown, as well as civil litigation and family law. In 2000, she relocated to Vancouver to work with Karen F. Nordlinger, K.C., and in 2008, Justice Hamilton co-founded Hamilton Fabbro. While Justice Hamilton's primary focus was in family law, she also gained experience in the area of professional negligence. Justice Hamilton was appointed King's Counsel in 2017. Justice Hamilton served as a Benchler and was the President of the Law Society of BC in 2022. Justice Hamilton also held various leadership roles within the Canadian Bar Association in BC and was a board member of the Continuing Legal Education Society of BC. Justice Hamilton has contributed to the development of family law processes, serving on the Provincial Court Family Rules Committee and the Supreme Court Rules Committee. Additionally, Justice Hamilton helped launch a mediation program with Access Pro Bono. She also contributed to a free online platform for family law lawyers called the Family Law Organizer with courthouse libraries and participated in the Health and Justice Alliance formed under A2JBC.

### **The Honourable Justice Alison M. Latimer**

The Honourable Justice Alison M. Latimer was appointed to the Supreme Court in Vancouver on May 27, 2024. Justice Latimer filled a vacancy created when Justice N. Iyer was appointed to the Court of Appeal.

Justice Latimer obtained a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre in 2001 and a law degree from the University of Victoria in 2008. Justice Latimer was called to the Bar of British Columbia in 2009 and to the Bar of Yukon in 2011. Justice Latimer began her legal career by articling with the late Joseph Arvay, K.C., and went on to work with him throughout much of her career. Justice Latimer's practice focused on public law in its various forms, including civil, administrative, and criminal law. Justice Latimer has argued cases at all levels of court in British Columbia, Alberta, the Federal Courts, and the Supreme Court of Canada. In addition to her litigation work, Justice Latimer has also provided advice and support to administrative decision-makers. In 2019, Justice Latimer was appointed as associate commission counsel to the Cullen Commission of Inquiry into Money Laundering in British Columbia. In 2020, Justice Latimer received the Liberty Award for Excellence in Legal Advocacy in recognition of her contributions to advancing civil liberties and human rights in Canada. Justice Latimer was appointed King's Counsel in 2021.

### **The Honourable Justice Edlyn Laurie**

The Honourable Justice Edlyn Laurie was appointed to the Supreme Court in Vancouver on May 27, 2024. Justice Laurie filled a vacancy created when Justice M.L. Fleming was appointed to the Court of Appeal.

Justice Laurie obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of the Philippines in 1992. Justice Laurie immigrated to Canada in 1999 to attend law school, where she obtained a law degree from the University of British Columbia in 2003. Justice Laurie was admitted to the Bar of British Columbia in 2004. Before her appointment to the bench, Justice Laurie had a career as a prosecutor with the Public Prosecution Service of Canada (PPSC). Justice Laurie appeared at all levels of court in British Columbia and before the Supreme Court of Canada, handling cases involving wiretap investigations and criminal organization trials. Justice Laurie's work also included conducting appeals, advising law enforcement agencies, and obtaining wiretap authorizations in her role as a designated Crown agent. Justice Laurie was involved in the PPSC's internal committees and educational initiatives. Justice Laurie served on the National Litigation Committee, National Prosecution Policy Committee, and British Columbia Appeals Committee, contributing to policy and strategy development. Justice Laurie also played an active role in the PPSC's School for Prosecutors, where she served as a vice-principal and faculty member, helping to train and mentor the next generation of prosecutors.

### **The Honourable Justice Shannon P. Ramsay**

The Honourable Justice Shannon P. Ramsay was appointed to the Supreme Court in Vancouver on May 27, 2024. Justice Ramsay filled a vacancy created when Justice J. Winteringham was appointed to the Court of Appeal.

Justice Ramsay completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Alberta in 1998 and obtained a law degree from the University of Victoria in 2001. Justice Ramsay completed a clerkship with the British Columbia Supreme Court after graduation and was called to the Bar of British Columbia in 2003. Justice Ramsay articulated and practiced at Alexander Holburn before joining Hunter Voith Litigation Counsel in 2005, where she spent the majority of her career until her appointment. Justice Ramsay also served as a deputy supervising counsel with the BC Ministry of Attorney General from 2021 to 2023, overseeing legal teams in the Ministry's litigation group. Justice Ramsay participated in the assessment of Provincial Court judicial applicants as a member of the CBABC Advisory Committee to Judicial Council from 2018 to 2023, including serving as Chair for several years. Justice Ramsay has also been a faculty member for the Continuing Legal Education Society of B.C. and co-authored portions of their Annual Review of Law and Practice from 2005 to 2014. Justice Ramsay was appointed King's Counsel in 2023.

### **The Honourable Justice Tina L. Dion**

The Honourable Justice Tina L. Dion was appointed to the Supreme Court in New Westminster on August 29, 2024. Justice Dion filled a vacancy created when Justice F.E. Verhoeven elected to become a supernumerary judge.

Justice Dion earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Alberta in 1994 and a law degree from the University of British Columbia in 1997. In 1998, she became the first Canadian Law Clerk for the Navajo Nation Supreme Court in Window Rock, Arizona. Justice Dion was admitted to the British Columbia Bar in 1999. She obtained a Doctor of Juridical Science from the University of Arizona in 2008, was admitted to the Bar of Alberta in 2014, and was appointed King's Counsel in 2016.

Justice Dion was appointed to the Provincial Court of British Columbia in 2019 and has served on the First Nations Court in New Westminster. Before her judicial appointment, she practiced civil litigation, administrative, environmental, regulatory, and Aboriginal law starting in 2013. Her career includes articling and working with the criminal firm Orris Burns before joining Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP, where she practiced civil litigation. Justice Dion also served as in-house counsel and Director of Legal Services with the Tsawwassen First Nation Government. She was an adjunct professor at the UBC Peter A. Allard School of Law for over 12 years. Active in the Canadian Bar Association, Justice Dion has held executive committee positions, co-chaired the Truth and Reconciliation Working Group, and regularly chaired Continuing Legal Education Society of British Columbia conferences.

### **The Honourable Justice Eric V. Gottardi**

The Honourable Justice Eric V. Gottardi was appointed to the Supreme Court in New Westminster on August 29, 2024. Justice Gottardi filled the vacancy created when Justice W.P. Riley was appointed to the Court of Appeal.

Justice Gottardi obtained his Bachelor of Arts from the University of British Columbia in 1997 and a law degree from Queen's University in 2002. After clerking at the Ontario Court of Appeal, Justice Gottardi was called to the Bar of British Columbia in 2003. Justice Gottardi practiced primarily in the areas of criminal defence, constitutional, and extradition law. Justice Gottardi received the Canadian Bar Association BC Branch President's Medal in 2013 for his service to the profession. Justice Gottardi became a Fellow of the American Board of Criminal Lawyers in 2019 and was appointed King's Counsel in 2020. Justice Gottardi worked as a special prosecutor in British Columbia and Ontario. Justice Gottardi was an active member of the Canadian Bar Association, serving as chair of the National Criminal Justice Section and co-chair of the National CBA Annual Criminal Law Conference. Justice Gottardi also volunteered with the Federation of Law Societies National Criminal Law Program, the Supreme Court Advocacy Institute and served as an editor of the Charter of Rights newsletter. Justice Gottardi has co-authored a text on expert evidence for Emond Publishing, entitled *Qualifying and Challenging Expert Evidence* and was a frequent on-air commentator for the CBC.

### **The Honourable Justice David M. Layton**

The Honourable Justice David M. Layton was appointed to the Supreme Court in Port Coquitlam on August 29, 2024. Justice Layton filled the remaining position authorized further to the *Budget Implementation Act, 2022, No. 1*.

Justice Layton obtained a Bachelor of Arts in 1984 and a law degree in 1987, both from Dalhousie University. He then earned a Bachelor of Civil Law from the University of Oxford in 1989, before clerking at the Supreme Court of Canada in 1990. In 1994, Justice Layton began practicing criminal law in Toronto with Marko Rose Layton and Shiller Layton Arbuck. In 2001, he continued his practice in Vancouver with Gibbons Fowler and Richie Sandford. He was called to the Bar of British Columbia in 2002. Justice Layton practiced criminal law in both Toronto and Vancouver before joining the Criminal Appeals and Special Prosecution section of the BC Prosecution Service in 2014. Justice Layton co-authored the textbook *Ethics and Criminal Law* and contributed to McWilliams' *Canadian Criminal Evidence*, 5th ed. Justice Layton has spoken at numerous legal conferences and taught courses on wrongful convictions, criminal law, and ethics at the UBC Peter A. Allard School of Law and the University of Victoria Faculty of Law. Justice Layton was also a member of the Law Society of British Columbia Tribunal from 2012 to 2022. He was appointed King's Counsel in 2016.



### **The Honourable Justice Andrea L. Ormiston**

The Honourable Justice Andrea L. Ormiston was appointed to the Supreme Court in Abbotsford on August 29, 2024. Justice Ormiston filled a vacancy created when Justice R.W. Jenkins elected to become a supernumerary judge.

Justice Ormiston earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Toronto in 1997, a Master's in English Literature from Queen's University in 1998, and a law degree from the University of Ottawa in 2002. She was admitted to the Bar of Ontario in 2003. Between September 2003 and March 2004, she interned at the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs, the Native Law Centre of Canada, and the University of Vienna, focusing on international Indigenous rights. She began her legal career in the Crown Attorney's office in Barrie, Ontario, before moving to Chilliwack, British Columbia. Justice Ormiston was called to the Bar of British Columbia in 2005, and served as crown counsel in the Fraser Valley. She also volunteered with the Chilliwack Public Safety Committee during this time. She was appointed to the Provincial Court of British Columbia in 2017.

### **The Honourable Justice Scott Morishita**

The Honourable Justice Scott Morishita was appointed to the Supreme Court in Vancouver on October 28, 2024. Justice Morishita filled the vacancy created when Justice P.H. Edelman was appointed to the Court of Appeal.

Justice Morishita obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of British Columbia in 2000 and a law degree from the University of Victoria in 2005. Justice Morishita was called to the Bar of British Columbia in 2007. Justice Morishita's expertise includes cases involving individuals, insurance companies, and local governments. Justice Morishita was Associate Counsel at Rice Harbut Elliott LLP, where he focused on personal injury claims for plaintiffs, and Legal Counsel at the Municipal Insurance Association of British Columbia, helping local governments in liability matters. In addition to his legal practice, Justice Morishita served as a Law Society of British Columbia appointee to the Transitional Board of Legal Professions in B.C. and as a member of the Judicial Council of British Columbia, designated by the Canadian Bar Association, BC Branch. Justice Morishita was the president of the CBABC for the 2023-2024 term. Justice Morishita had previously been a board member of the Continuing Legal Education Society of B.C. and an active member of the B.C. Federation of Asian Canadian Lawyers.

### **The Honourable Justice Elin Sigurdson**

The Honourable Justice Elin Sigurdson was appointed to the Supreme Court in Vancouver on November 12, 2024. Justice Sigurdson filled the vacancy created when Justice G.B. Gomery was appointed to the Court of Appeal.

Justice Sigurdson obtained her Bachelor of Arts in 2000 and a law degree in 2005 at the University of British Columbia, including a term studying abroad at the University of Leiden, Netherlands. Justice Sigurdson clerked at the British Columbia Court of Appeal and was called to the Bar of British Columbia in 2007. Justice Sigurdson completed a Master of Laws at the University of California, Berkeley in 2011. Justice Sigurdson articulated at Fasken Martineau DuMoulin before joining Arvay Finlay, where she worked closely with the late Joseph J. Arvay, KC. She then practiced with JFK Law LLP before joining Mandell Pinder LLP in 2016. In 2023, Justice Sigurdson was appointed King's Counsel. Justice Sigurdson's practice focused on Aboriginal, constitutional, environmental, and administrative law including professional regulation. She frequently spoke at law schools and conferences on constitutional law and reconciliation and coached both the Wilson Moot and the Kawaskimhon Aboriginal Law Moot teams at the UBC Peter A. Allard School of Law.

### **The Honourable Justice Lindsay R. LeBlanc**

The Honourable Lindsay R. LeBlanc was appointed to the Supreme Court in Victoria on November 29, 2024. Justice LeBlanc filled the vacancy created when Justice A.J. Saunders elected to become a supernumerary judge.

Justice LeBlanc obtained a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Northern British Columbia in 2002 and a law degree from the University of Victoria in 2005. She was called to the Bar of British Columbia in 2006. Justice LeBlanc articulated at Cox Taylor, specializing in solicitor and litigation work. In 2023, Justice LeBlanc was appointed King's Counsel. Justice LeBlanc has been elected as a Benchler of the Law Society of British Columbia for Victoria County, where she served as 2nd Vice-President. She also served six years as a Governor of the Law Foundation of BC, including two years as Chair. Additionally, she has been a member of the Supreme Court Rules Committee and a Governor of the University of Victoria. Her involvement extends to organizations, such as the Canadian Bar Association, the Aboriginal Law Student Scholarship Trust Committee, and the Vancouver Island Sexual Health Association.

### **Associate Judge Lawrence Robinson**

Associate Judge Lawrence Robinson was appointed to the Supreme Court in Vancouver on February 12, 2024.

Associate Judge Robinson obtained a Bachelor of Arts from Simon Fraser University in 1995 and a law degree from the University of British Columbia in 2001. Associate Judge Robinson articulated at Alexander Holburn and was called to the Bar of British Columbia in 2002. Associate Judge Robinson's practice areas included employment, human rights and municipal disputes. Associate Judge Robinson has appeared before all levels of court in British Columbia as well as a number of administrative tribunals. Associate Judge Robinson has contributed to legal education and community service. He has frequently presented for the Continuing Legal Education Society of BC and served in various capacities, including chair, of the Employment Law Subsection of the Canadian Bar Association's B.C. Branch. In addition, he served as a director of Kekinow Native Housing Society for more than a decade.

## **ELEVATIONS**

### **The Honourable Justice Margot L. Fleming**

Justice Fleming was appointed to the Court of Appeal on May 27, 2024, to fill the vacancy created when Justice C. Grauer elected to become a supernumerary judge. Justice Fleming obtained her Bachelor's degree in Social Work from the University of British Columbia in 1987. She also obtained a law degree in 1994 and a Master of Social Work in 1995, both from McGill University. Justice Fleming was called to the Bar of British Columbia in 1996 and was appointed to the Supreme Court in 2013.

### **The Honourable Justice Nitya Iyer**

Justice Iyer was appointed to the Court of Appeal on May 27, 2024, to fill the vacancy created when Justice Leonard S. Marchand was appointed Chief Justice of British Columbia. Justice Iyer obtained a law degree from the University of Toronto in 1986, and her Master of Laws from Harvard University in 1989. Justice Iyer was admitted to the Bar of British Columbia in 1994 and was appointed to the Supreme Court in 2017.

### **The Honourable Justice Sheri Ann Donegan**

Justice Donegan was appointed to the Court of Appeal on August 29, 2024, to fill the vacancy created when Justice John L.L. Hunter retired. Justice Donegan obtained a law degree from the University of Saskatchewan in 1992 and was called to the Bar of British Columbia in 1993. Justice Donegan was appointed to the Supreme Court in 2013.

### **The Honourable Justice W. Paul Riley**

Justice Riley was appointed to the Court of Appeal on August 29, 2024, to fill the vacancy created when Justice G.J. Fitch retired. Justice Riley obtained a law degree from Dalhousie University in 1995 and was called to the Bar of British Columbia in 1996. Justice Riley was appointed to the Supreme Court in 2017.

### **The Honourable Justice Peter H. Edelmann**

Justice Edelmann was appointed to the Court of Appeal on October 28, 2024, to fill the vacancy created when Justice P. Willcock elected to become a supernumerary judge. Justice Edelmann received a Bachelor of Laws and Civil Law degree from McGill University in 2004 and was called to the Bar of British Columbia in 2005. Justice Edelmann was appointed to the Supreme Court in 2019.

### **The Honourable Justice Geoffrey B. Gomery**

Justice Gomery was appointed to the Court of Appeal on November 12, 2024, to fill the vacancy created when Justice P. Voith elected to become a supernumerary judge. Justice Gomery obtained a law degree from the University of Toronto in 1983 and was called to the Bar of British Columbia in 1984. Justice Gomery was appointed to the Supreme Court in 2018.

## **RETIREMENTS**

### **The Honourable Chief Justice Christopher E. Hinkson**

The Honourable Chief Justice Christopher E. Hinkson retired from the Supreme Court of British Columbia on May 7, 2024. Chief Justice Hinkson was appointed as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court on November 7, 2013, after having served as a Justice of the Court of Appeal for British Columbia from 2010-2013 and a Justice of the Supreme Court from 2007-2013.

Chief Justice Hinkson served the Court and the public with extraordinary dedication. Chief Justice Hinkson lead the Court through the COVID-19 pandemic, one of its and the province's most challenging periods. Chief Justice Hinkson was a key member of the Canadian Judicial Council, as member of its Executive Committee and Chair of its Judicial Conduct Committee. Chief Justice Hinkson was a fierce, tenacious and indefatigable advocate of the importance of the rule of law and meaningful access to justice for all British Columbians. Chief Justice Hinkson obtained a Bachelor of Laws in 1975 from the University of British Columbia and was admitted to the Bar of British Columbia in 1976. Chief Justice Hinkson practiced in the areas of medical malpractice, personal injury, commercial and human rights litigation and administrative law. Chief Justice Hinkson was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1990. Chief Justice Hinkson's community contributions included serving as President of the Vancouver Bar Association, Member of the Education Committee of the Law Society of British Columbia, Adjunct Professor at the Faculty of Law of the University of British Columbia and a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers.

### **The Honourable Justice D. Allan Betton**

The Honourable Justice D. Allan Betton retired from the Supreme Court of British Columbia at Vernon on April 19, 2024. Justice Betton obtained a law degree from the University of British Columbia in 1986 and was called to the bar in 1987. Justice Betton was a judge of the Provincial Court of British Columbia from 2007-2011. Justice Betton was appointed to the Supreme Court in 2011.

### **The Honourable Justice Elliott M. Myers**

The Honourable Justice Elliott M. Myers retired from the Supreme Court of British Columbia in Vancouver on July 31, 2024. Justice Myers obtained law degrees from Oxford in 1978 and Dalhousie in 1979 and was called to the bar in British Columbia in 1980. Justice Myers was appointed to the Supreme Court in 2005.

### **The Honourable Justice Carol J. Ross**

The Honourable Justice Carol J. Ross retired from the Supreme Court of British Columbia in Vancouver on June 10, 2024. Justice Ross obtained a law degree from the University of British Columbia in 1981 and was called to the bar in 1982. Justice Ross was appointed to the Supreme Court in 2001.

### **The Honourable Justice Nathan H. Smith**

The Honourable Justice Nathan H. Smith retired from the Supreme Court of British Columbia in Vancouver on October 10, 2024. Justice Smith obtained a law degree from University of British Columbia in 1981 and was called to the bar in 1982. Justice Smith was appointed to the Supreme Court in 2005.

### **The Honourable Madam Justice Jeanne E. Watchuk**

The Honourable Madam Justice Jeanne E. Watchuk retired from the Supreme Court of British Columbia in Vancouver on October 30, 2024. Justice Watchuk obtained a law degree from the University of Alberta in 1973 and was called to the bar in British Columbia in 1974. Justice Watchuk served as a judge of the Provincial Court of British Columbia from 1994-2010. Justice Watchuk was appointed to the Supreme Court in 2010.





Photo: Pedro Costa

## COMMITTEE REPORTS



# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

## MEMBERS

- Justice Maisonville (Chair)
- Chief Justice Hinkson (ex officio – until May 2024)
- Chief Justice Skolrood (ex officio – from October 2024)
- Associate Chief Justice Holmes (ex officio)
- Mr. Justice Caldwell
- Justice Devlin
- Justice Donegan (until August 2024)
- Mr. Justice Hori (from November 2024)
- Justice Jackson
- Justice MacNaughton
- Justice Warren
- Justice Wilson
- Associate Judge Harper
- Heidi McBride, *Executive Director and Senior Counsel (ex officio)*
- Jennifer Millerd, *Legal Counsel*



*Duncan Law Courts. Photo: Justice Crerar*

## MANDATE

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

## MEMBERSHIP

The judicial members of the Committee represent five regions: Vancouver/New Westminster, the Fraser Valley, Vancouver Island, Okanagan/Kootenays, and Kamloops/North. The judges in each region elect representatives for three-year terms. Members are term-limited to two, three-year terms. The Court's Associate Judges have one representative on the Executive Committee.

## WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

In 2024, 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 and bilingual proceedings under the Divorce Act, courthouse facilities issues and renovation projects, sheriff staffing issues as they impact courtroom availability and security, and legislative changes likely to impact court operations.

The Committee is grateful to Jennifer Millerd for her support of its work.

# CIVIL LAW COMMITTEE

## MEMBERS

- Justice Warren (Chair)
- Justice Baker
- Justice Blake
- Mr. Justice Caldwell
- Justice Gomery (until November 2024)
- Justice Kirchner
- Justice Matthews
- Justice Milman
- Justice Stephens
- Justice Veenstra
- Justice Verhoeven
- Mr. Justice Walker
- Associate Judge Vos
- Lisa Phillips, *Legal Counsel*



*Revelstoke Law Courts. Photo: Justice Crerar*

## 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 2024, the Committee considered a wide range of civil law matters and carried out work in a number of specific areas. The Committee provided feedback to the Chief Justice and Associate Chief Justice regarding sequestration of civil juries, issues related to electronic transcripts of court proceedings, and processes for considering documents filed with the Court which may be vexatious or otherwise an abuse of process.

Together with the Family Law Committee, the Committee struck a subcommittee to consider improvements in how written submissions are delivered to or filed with the Court. The Committee considered matters related to oral reasons for judgment, as well as the requirement to file an amended witness list. The Committee also updated a resource for personal injury trials.

The Committee continued to support the work of the Court by guiding significant appellate decisions and developments in civil law. In January, Justice Blake and Justice Kirchner were appointed to the Committee to fill vacancies left by Justice Beames and Justice N. Smith, who stepped down in the prior year. Justice Gomery also resigned from the Committee in November as a result of his appointment to the Court of Appeal. The Committee extends its gratitude to Beames, Smith and Gomery JJ. for their valuable contributions to the Committee's work. 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*



*Prince Rupert Law Courts. Photo: Justice Morishita*

## 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 2024, the committee was involved in a number of facilities projects including:

- Renovations of the former Law Courts Inn space at the Vancouver Law which will begin in early 2025.
- Building maintenance of the New Westminster Law Courts involving remediation of the exterior cladding, replacement of windows and structural repairs in the secure parking area.
- Renovations to the Port Coquitlam Laws Courts including building maintenance issues (new roof, membrane replacements) and redesign and renovations of courtrooms and the registry to accommodate Supreme Court operations

The Committee also consulted on a number of smaller projects in 2024, including work involving soundproofing chambers in Campbell River, building maintenance issues in Kelowna, Abbotsford and Victoria and HVAC issues in Nelson and Chilliwack.



# CRIMINAL LAW COMMITTEE

## MEMBERS

- Justice Devlin (Chair)
- Justice Riley (Vice Chair until August 2024)
- Justice Tammen (Vice Chair from September 2024)
- Associate Chief Justice Holmes
- Justice Brundrett
- Justice Chan (from February 2024)
- Madam Justice Church
- Mr. Justice Crossin
- Justice Dley
- Justice Donegan (until August 2024)
- Justice Doyle (from February 2024)
- Madam Justice Duncan
- Mr. Justice Gaul
- Justice Ker
- Justice Maisonville
- Madam Justice Murray (from September 2024)
- Justice Schultes (from September 2024)
- Justice B. Smith (from September 2024)
- Madam Justice Watchuk (until November 2024)
- Justice Wedge
- Claire Wilson, *Legal Counsel*
- Natasha Edgar, *Legal Counsel*



*Williams Lake Law Courts. Photo: Justice Crerar*

## 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 2024, the Committee provided support and advice to the Associate Chief Justice regarding a variety of topics including jury selection procedure, the appointment of amicus curiae, pre-sentence reports, and the scheduling process for detention review hearings under s. 525 of the *Criminal Code*. The Committee developed and updated internal resources for judges, including on the topics of bail and applications under s. 490 of the *Criminal Code*. The Committee considered and advised the ACJ regarding the impact of new federal legislation regarding bail proceedings and access to the court record.

The Committee also provided advice regarding the impacts of new Supreme Court of Canada jurisprudence on the Court's procedure under s. 530 of the *Criminal Code* (French language rights), and on publication bans in jury trials. The Committee consulted on revisions to CPD-1 – Criminal Pre-trial Conference Process in relation to the timing of pre-trial conferences in sexual offence cases, and on the development of CPD-8 – Publication Bans in Criminal Proceedings – In Court Practice to improve the clarity and accuracy of information regarding publication bans ordered in criminal proceedings.

In August, Justice Riley and Justice Donegan resigned from the Committee as a result of their translation to the Court of Appeal. In late October, Justice Watchuk, a valued senior member of the Committee, retired from the Court. The Committee wishes to recognize the many valuable contributions of Watchuk, Donegan and Riley JJ. to the Committee's work. Justice Tammen was appointed as Vice Chair in September. The Committee welcomed five new members in 2024 to replace the members who stepped down within the prior year: Chan, Doyle, Murray, Schultes and Smith JJ.

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



# EDUCATION COMMITTEE

## MEMBERS

- Justice MacNaughton (Chair)
- Mr. Justice Ball
- Justice Burke
- Justice Crerar
- Justice Forth
- Madam Justice Francis
- Justice Mayer
- Justice McDonald
- Madam Justice Morellato
- Madam Justice Murray
- Justice Riley (until August 2024)
- Justice Tammen
- Associate Judge Keim
- Leah Pence, *Legal Counsel*



*Terrace Law Courts. Photo: Justice Crerar*

## 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.

## 2024 CONFERENCES

The May 2024 conference was held in Victoria and included sessions about: judicial review, wills and estates law, criminal jury trials and jury charges, bail and detention reviews, approaches to imputing income for child or spousal support, public policy challenges surrounding current Charter litigation, as well as tips from retiring judges. The November 2024 conference was held in Vancouver. This conference included a session exploring intimate partner violence and coercive control, which was followed by a practical session on interim applications in family law proceedings. There were also sessions on the honour of the Crown, real estate applications, civil trial management, Charter voir dres for search warrants and warrantless police actions, and DNA evidence.

## NEW APPOINTEES TRAINING

In May and November 2024, the Committee delivered the ninth and tenth sessions of new appointees training. The training covered: writing and delivering decisions and managing reserve lists, chambers, family law proceedings, resources for being on the road, and an “ask us anything” session. A total of 14 new appointees attended these training sessions. This training 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 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. The course covers the substantive law of sexual assault, interim motions, procedure, common myths and stereotypes, social context, decision-making, and sentencing. In 2024, 18 judges completed the course, bringing the total number of judges to have done so to over 50.

## LAW AT LUNCH

The Committee facilitated regular online lunchtime seminars on topics including Habeas Corpus applications, the role of the Court’s Registrar, assessing costs and conducting references, inter-jurisdictional support orders and new enforcement legislation, managing reserve lists, and the *Patients Property Act*.

## MENTORING

Finally, the Committee has organized various online networking events to provide opportunities for informal discussion and mentoring for judges throughout the province. The Committee is grateful to members of the Court for their enthusiastic participation as faculty, 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) (until April 2024)
- Justice Veenstra (Vice-Chair) (since April 2024, Vice-Chair since September 2024)
- Justice Armstrong (until March 2024)
- Justice Shergill
- Justice Brundrett
- Justice Lamb
- Justice Caldwell
- Justice Francis
- Justice Elwood (since October 2024)
- Justice Hughes (since September 2024)
- Associate Judge Dick
- Associate Judge Krentz (since March 2024)
- Associate Judge Hughes
- Nikki Hair, *Legal Counsel*
- Line B. Williams, *Legal Counsel*



*Vernon Law Courts. Photo: Justice Verhoeven*

## 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 2024. The Committee provided recommendations and comments to former Chief Justice Hinkson, Chief Justice Skolrood, Associate Chief Justice Holmes, the Attorney General, and the British Columbia Supreme Court Civil & Family Rules Committee, including with respect to the implementation of section 23.2 of the *Divorce Act*. The Committee updated and created internal and external resources due to amendments to the *Family Law Act*, the *Divorce Act*, the *Interjurisdictional Support Orders Act*, the *Release of Information for Family Orders and Agreements Enforcement Assistance Regulations* and the coming into force of the Convention of 23 November 2007 on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance. The Committee provided information and recommendations to the Court on issues of law and procedure with respect to a variety of family law issues.

The Committee formed a subcommittee with the Civil Law Committee with respect to how the Supreme Court receives written submissions in civil and family proceedings. In 2024, the Committee bid farewell to Justice Fleming and Justice Armstrong who both served on the Committee since 2016. Justice Fleming, who was elevated to the Court of Appeal, served as vice-chair on the Committee since 2018. The Committee is grateful to both for their work and commitment to this Committee. The Committee also welcomed Justice Veenstra, now serving as vice-chair, Justice Elwood, Justice Hughes, Associate Judge Krentz 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
- Madam Justice Francis (from June 2024)
- Justice Iyer (until May 2024)
- Justice D. MacDonald
- Madam Justice Murray (until March 2024)
- Madam Justice Sharma (from March 2024)
- Jennifer Millerd, *Legal Counsel*



*Rossland Law Courts. Photo: Justice Kirchner*

## MANDATE

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

The Committee is directly involved in the recruitment and hiring of judicial law clerks each year. The Committee is assisted in its work by the Court's legal counsel, primarily Jennifer Millerd, to whom the day-to-day management and administration of the law clerks is delegated. The Committee is also assisted by the 23 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 23 judicial law clerk positions with the Supreme Court: 17 or 18 in Vancouver, three in New Westminster, two in Victoria, and sometimes (depending on need and interest) one in Kelowna or Kamloops.



In 2024, the following 23 clerks began their clerkships with the Court:

Vancouver	James Ashwell, Katherine Benson, Pardeep Birak, Emily Chan, Emma Chapman, Emma Gibson, Brienne Gloeckler, Hannah Goodridge, Seth Gordon, Michael Hougen, Jinjae Jeong, Eva Kapnoudhis, Amy Kaustinen, Lukas Milne, Emma Smyth, Madison Thulien, Caitlin Wardrop
New Westminster	Will Andrews, Charlotte Crane, Olivia Ramos
Victoria	Chésa Abma-Slade, Christopher Tuharsky
Kelowna	Micheal Rouault

In addition to the Court’s regular complement of clerks, Alice Le Bihan assisted the Court in 2024 by serving as a judicial law clerk on a temporary basis.

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, 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 Clerk Program to continue to provide a rich educational experience.

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

# PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

## MEMBERS

- Justice Milman (Chair)
- The Honourable Bruce Cohen,  
*Superior Courts Communications Officer*
- Justice Basran (from March 2024)
- Justice Brongers (from March 2024)
- Mr. Justice Gaul
- Justice Iyer (from March 2024 until May 2024)
- Justice N. Smith (until March 2024)
- Justice Taylor (from March 2024)
- Justice Tindale
- Mr. Justice Walker (until March 2024)
- Madam Justice Wedge (until March 2024)
- Associate Judge Vos
- Heidi McBride, *Executive Director and Senior Counsel (ex officio)*
- Jennifer Millerd, *Legal Counsel*
- Negin Nia, *Superior Courts Communications Coordinator*



*Nanaimo Law Courts. Photo: Justice Crerar*

## MANDATE

In keeping with the open court principle, the mandate of the Committee is to promote activities that enhance public and media understanding of the Court's processes, and to address matters concerning public legal education, media and public relations. The Committee is also involved in 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 2024, the Committee's work included organizing the annual media lunch attended by accredited media, judicial and staff representatives of the Superior Courts, and representatives of the Court Services Branch; engaging with court communications officers from across Canada; and supporting projects and initiatives within the Court aimed at enhancing court openness. Issues considered by the Committee included the use of AI by lawyers and litigants in court proceedings, proposed updates to the Court's social media plan, the option of telephone attendance (pursuant to Administrative Notice 18) for members of the media and members of the public seeking to attend court hearings remotely, and the process by which media personnel are accredited by British Columbia's Superior Courts and Provincial Court.

There were a number of changes to the membership of the Committee in 2024. The Committee thanks its outgoing members for their support of the Committee's work. In particular, the Committee wishes to acknowledge the significant contributions of Justice N. Smith, who served as Chair of the Committee for the past several years.

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, Negin Nia, 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.

# LIBRARY COMMITTEE

## MEMBERS

- Justice Ker (Chair)
- Chief Justice Skolrood  
(until October 2024)
- Justice Dickson  
(from November 2024)
- Justice Edelmann  
(until November 2024)
- Heidi McBride, *Executive Director  
and Senior Counsel*
- Sylvia Ranspach, *Head Librarian*



Prince George. Photo: Justice Crerar

## WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

In 2024, library staff, under the leadership of head librarian Sylvia Ranspach, maintained a SharePoint library site, library catalogue and subject matter resource guides. The library distributed timely current awareness on case law, legislation, publications and upcoming events. She managed subscriptions to optimize electronic access while keeping the print collection current. 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, supported the development of the Supreme Court SharePoint site.

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)
- Justice Edelmann
- Justice Griffin (since October 2024)
- Mr. Justice Hunter (until February 2024)
- Justice Branch
- Madam Justice Fitzpatrick
- Justice Giaschi
- Justice Myers (until July 2024)
- Associate Judge Nielsen
- Timothy Outerbridge, *Registrar, Court of Appeal*
- Heidi McBride, *Executive Director & Senior Legal Counsel*
- Cindy Friesen, *Director, Supreme Court Scheduling*
- Ryan Wirth, *Director, Information Technology*
- Line B. Williams, *Legal Counsel*



*Quesnel Law Courts. Photo: Justice Crerar*

## WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

In 2024, the Committee considered the continuing impacts of the rapid development and expansion of functionality of large language models on the Courts' work. The Committee remains concerned about professional and ethical issues arising with the use of artificial intelligence-based tools. The Court of Appeal updated its Registrar's Filing Directive to reiterate parties' responsibility to ensure the accuracy and authenticity of materials filed with the Court, particularly given various litigation aids and artificial intelligence tools.

The Committee considered the Courts' core priorities for digital transformation in 2024 and worked on sourcing, testing, and evaluation of new laptops for the judiciary. The Court of Appeal expanded its online booking system to include online bookings for chambers applications in civil, family and criminal proceedings in Vancouver, while the Supreme Court expanded its online booking system to include online booking for trials in civil and family matters.

In collaboration with Court Services Branch, the Supreme Court expanded the Associate Judges Chambers Pilot Project to all registries with associate judges' sittings in 2024, marking province-wide implementation. The Project permits electronic submission of application records for applications scheduled for 30 minutes or less in associate judges' chambers. The Supreme Court is considering options for expansion of the Project.

Work remains ongoing through Court Services Branch to update microphones in courtrooms to improve audio recordings. In collaboration with Court Services Branch, the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court are participating in a pilot project to explore the utility of AI-based auto transcription software.



# JUDICIAL ACCESS POLICY WORKING COMMITTEE

## MEMBERS

- Leah Pence, *Legal Counsel, Supreme Court*  
(Chair from September 2024)
- Shirley Smiley, *Legal Counsel, Court of Appeal*  
(Chair until September 2024)
- Caroline Berkey, *Senior Legal Counsel, Provincial Court*
- Laura Devries, *Legal Counsel, Provincial Court*
- Karen Leung, *Legal Counsel, Provincial Court*  
(until March 2024)
- Grant Marchand, *Manager, Judicial Resource Analysis & Management Information Systems, Provincial Court* (until September 2024)
- Dan Chiddell, *Executive Director, Corporate Support, CSB*
- Stephanie Delacretaz, *Director, Strategic Information & Business Applications, Corporate Support, CSB*
- Sarah Kay, *Secretariat and Legal Counsel, Legal Services Branch* (from May 2024)
- Robert Richardson, *Secretariat and Senior Policy Analyst, CSB* (until June 2024)
- Jeanette Schoon, *Senior Policy Analyst, CSB* (from June 2024)
- Margot Tubman, *Consultant to CSB* (until March 2024)
- Erin Turner, *Director, Policy, Legislation and Planning, Policy and Service Reform Unit, CSB*



Nelson Law Courts. Photo: Justice Crerar

## MANDATE

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

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

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

## **WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

As in previous years, in 2024, the APWC received, considered, and made recommendations in respect of a number of applications for access to court record information from a variety of sources including federal and provincial government departments, non-profit organizations, private companies, and legal publishers.

The Three Courts Policy on Bulk and Electronic Access to Court Records guided consideration of these requests. The policy provides that requests for bulk access to court records or court record information must be consistent with: the principles of judicial independence; the purposes of providing electronic filing and electronic access to information in court records - to better facilitate the conduct of court proceedings and to improve access to court record information where the public interest is served; maintaining public confidence in the integrity of the court system and understanding of the administration of justice; the law; judicial access policies, court rules and practice directions.

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

# MEMBERS OF THE SUPREME COURT

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▲ Appointed to the Court of Appeal | ► Supernumerary Justice | ▼ Retired from the Supreme Court

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## Chief Justice of the Supreme Court

Chief Justice Ronald A. Skolrood

Chief Justice Christopher E. Hinkson ▼ *retired May 7, 2024*

## Associate Chief Justice of the Supreme Court

Associate Chief Justice Heather J. Holmes

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## Justices of the Supreme Court

Justice Jasmin Ahmad **Vancouver**

Justice Trevor C. Armstrong ► **New Westminster**

Mr. Justice Robin A. M. Baird **Nanaimo**

Justice Wendy A. Baker **Vancouver**

Mr. Justice Kenneth W. Ball ► **New Westminster**

Justice Y. Liliane Bantourakis **New Westminster**

Justice Jasvinder S. Basran **Vancouver**

Justice Alison J. Beames ► **Kelowna**

Justice Lance W. Bernard ► **New Westminster**

Justice D. Allan Betton ▼ **Vernon**

Justice Lauren Blake **Vancouver**

Mr. Justice Murray B. Blok **New Westminster**

Justice Ward K. Branch **Vancouver**

Justice Jan Brongers **Vancouver**

Justice Brenda Brown ► **Abbotsford**

Justice Michael J. Brundrett **Vancouver**

Justice Emily M. Burke **Vancouver**

Mr. Justice Ian Caldwell **Abbotsford**

Justice Anita Chan **Vancouver**

Madam Justice Marguerite H. Church **Williams Lake**

Justice Simon R. Coval **Vancouver**

Justice Thomas J. Crabtree **Chilliwack**

Justice David A. Crerar **Vancouver**

Justice Martha M. Devlin **New Westminster**

Justice Tina L. Dion **New Westminster**

Justice S. Dev Dley ► **Abbotsford**

Justice Joseph M. Doyle **Vancouver**  
 Justice Karen F. Douglas **Vancouver**  
 Madam Justice Jennifer M.I. Duncan **Vancouver**  
 Justice Peter Edelmann ▲ **Vancouver**  
 Justice Bruce Elwood **Vancouver**  
 Madam Justice Shelley C. Fitzpatrick **Vancouver**  
 Justice Margot L. Fleming ▲ **Vancouver**  
 Justice Carla L. Forth **Vancouver**  
 Madam Justice Amy D. Francis **Vancouver**  
 Justice Gordon S. Funt ► **Vancouver**  
 Mr. Justice Geoffrey R. J. Gaul **Victoria**  
 Justice Christopher J. Giaschi **Vancouver**  
 Justice John Gibb-Carsley **New Westminster**  
 Justice Maegen M. Giltrow **Vancouver**  
 Justice Baljinder Kaur Girn **New Westminster**  
 Justice Geoffrey B. Gomery ▲ **Vancouver**  
 Justice Eric V. Gottardi **New Westminster**  
 Justice Christopher W. Greenwood **Vancouver**  
 Justice J. Miriam Gropper ► **Vancouver**  
 Justice Joel R. Groves ► **Vancouver**  
 Justice Lisa J. Hamilton **New Westminster**  
 Justice Briana Hardwick **Kelowna**  
 Justice John S. Harvey ► **New Westminster**  
 Justice Judith E. Hoffman **Vancouver**  
 Mr. Justice Dennis K. Hori **Kamloops**  
 Justice Jacqueline D. Hughes **Vancouver**  
 Justice Nitya Iyer ▲ **Vancouver**  
 Justice Veronica Jackson **Victoria**  
 Justice David K. Jones **Vancouver**  
 Justice Kathleen M. Ker **Vancouver**  
 Justice F. Matthew Kirchner **Vancouver**  
 Justice Julianne K. Lamb **New Westminster**  
 Justice Alison M. Latimer **Vancouver**  
 Justice David M. Layton **Port Coquitlam**  
 Justice Edlyn Laurie **Vancouver**  
 Justice Lindsay R. LeBlanc **Victoria**  
 Justice Kevin D. Loo **Vancouver**  
 Madam Justice Lindsay M. Lyster **Nelson**  
 Justice Diane C. MacDonald **Vancouver**

Justice Miriam A. Maisonville **Vancouver**  
 Justice Andrew Majawa **Vancouver**  
 Justice Francesca V. Marzari **Vancouver**  
 Mr. Justice David M. Masuhara ► **Vancouver**  
 Justice Sharon Matthews **Vancouver**  
 Justice Elizabeth McDonald **Vancouver**  
 Justice Warren B. Milman **Vancouver**  
 Madam Justice Maria Morellato **Vancouver**  
 Justice Scott Morishita **Vancouver**  
 Justice Gareth Morley **Victoria**  
 Justice Elliott M. Myers ▼ **Vancouver**  
 Madam Justice Catherine Murray **Vancouver**  
 Justice Barbara J. Norell **New Westminster**  
 Justice Andrea L. Ormiston **Abbotsford**  
 Madam Justice Jennifer A. Power **Victoria**  
 Justice Shannon P. Ramsay **Vancouver**  
 Justice W. Paul Riley ▲ **New Westminster**  
 Justice Alan M. Ross **Vancouver**  
 Justice Carol J. Ross ▼ **Vancouver**  
 Justice Anthony Saunders ► **Victoria**  
 Justice Terence A. Schultes **New Westminster**  
 Madam Justice Neena Sharma **Vancouver**  
 Justice Palbinder Kaur Shergill **Vancouver**  
 Justice Elin Sigurdson **Vancouver**  
 Justice Bradford F. Smith **Kamloops**  
 Justice Nathan H. Smith ▼ **Vancouver**  
 Justice K. Michael Stephens **Vancouver**  
 Justice Sandra M. Sukstorf **Port Coquitlam**  
 Justice Michael Tammen **Vancouver**  
 Justice Matthew Taylor **New Westminster**  
 Justice Michael G. Thomas **Vancouver**  
 Justice Douglas W. Thompson **Nanaimo**  
 Justice Ronald S. Tindale **Prince George**  
 Madam Justice Sheila Tucker **Vancouver**  
 Justice H. William Veenstra **Vancouver**  
 Justice Frits E. Verhoeven ► **New Westminster**  
 Madam Justice Ardith Walkem **Chilliwack**  
 Mr. Justice Paul W. Walker **Vancouver**  
 Justice Jeanne E. Watchuk ▼ **Vancouver**  
 Justice Gary P. Weatherill ► **Vernon**



Justice Gordon C. Weatherill ► **Vancouver**  
Justice Catherine A. Wedge ► **Vancouver**  
Justice Jennifer Lynn Whately **Vancouver**  
Madam Justice Sandra Wilkinson **Vancouver**  
Justice Steven Wilson **Kelowna**  
Justice Karrie A. Wolfe **Victoria**  
Madam Justice Barbara M. Young **Victoria**

### **Associate Judges of the Supreme Court**

Associate Judge John Bilawich **Vancouver**  
Associate Judge Carolyn P. Bouck ► **Victoria**  
Associate Judge Sandra L. Dick **Nanaimo**  
Associate Judge Sandra Harper **Vancouver**  
Associate Judge Susanna Hughes **New Westminster**  
Associate Judge Jennifer Keim **Kamloops**  
Associate Judge Rory Krentz **Abbotsford**  
Associate Judge Leslie Muir ► **Vancouver**  
Associate Judge Scott Nielsen **New Westminster**  
Associate Judge Kimberley Robertson **Vancouver**  
Associate Judge Lawrence Robinson **Vancouver**  
Associate Judge Shelagh Scarth ► **Vancouver**  
Associate Judge Steven Schwartz **Kelowna**  
Associate Judge Terry C. Vos **Vancouver**

### **Registrar of the Supreme Court**

Registrar Meg Gaily **Vancouver**

## SENIOR JUDICIAL STAFF

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Executive Director and Senior Counsel  
Director, Information Technology  
Manager, Finance  
Manager, Human Resources  
Manager, Judicial Support Services  
Manager, Provincial Registrar's Program  
Judicial Coordinators  
Legal Counsel

Director, Supreme Court Scheduling  
Manager, Supreme Court Scheduling

Deputy Director, Supreme Court Scheduling

Heidi McBride  
Ryan Wirth  
Caroline Nguyen  
Tracy Norman  
Jessica Gill  
Kristen Day  
Linda Peter, Carrie Wilke  
Natasha Edgar, Nikki Hair, Jennifer Millerd,  
Leah Pence, Lisa Phillips, Line Williams,  
Claire Wilson  
Cindy Friesen  
Janine Benson, Mikayla Bischoff, Tanya  
Dixon, William Gallagher, Rhona Ogston,  
Michelle Schley, Brenda Strain, Rebecca  
Stock, Claudia Turner, Pamela Wallin  
Trevor Woo

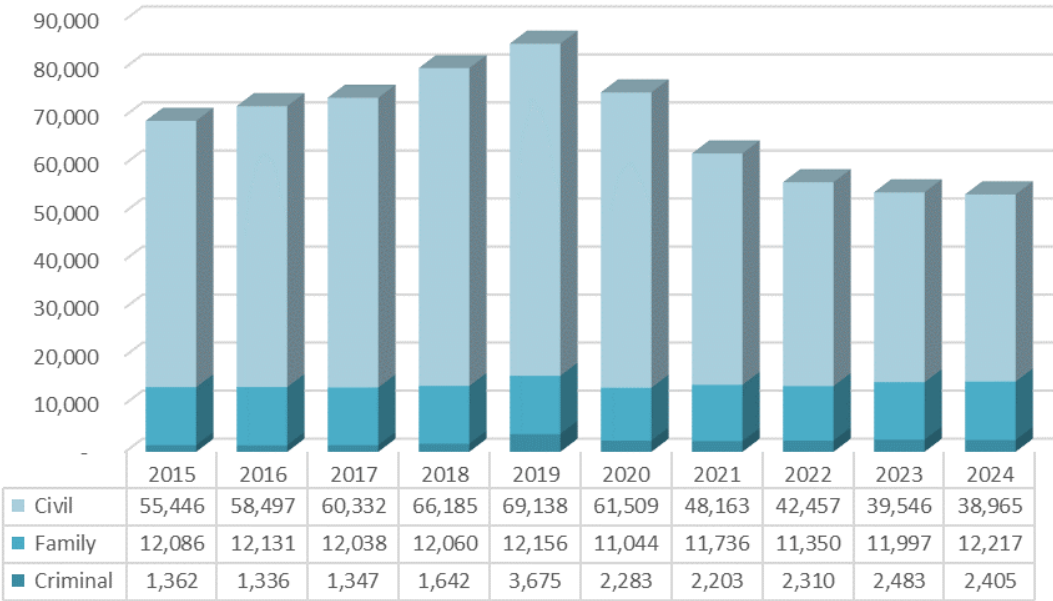


Photo: Pedro Costa

# COURT STATISTICS



Figure 1: New Criminal, Family and Civil Filings, 2015-2024

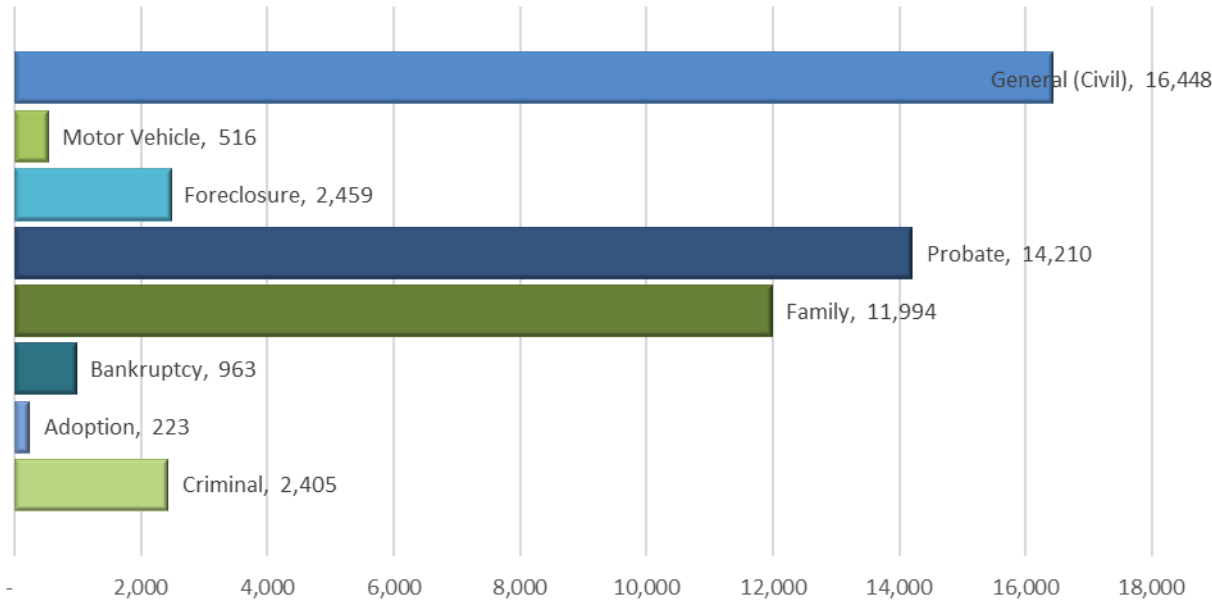


Data Source: Courthouse Activity Cube and Criminal BI Database, extracted February 16, 2024

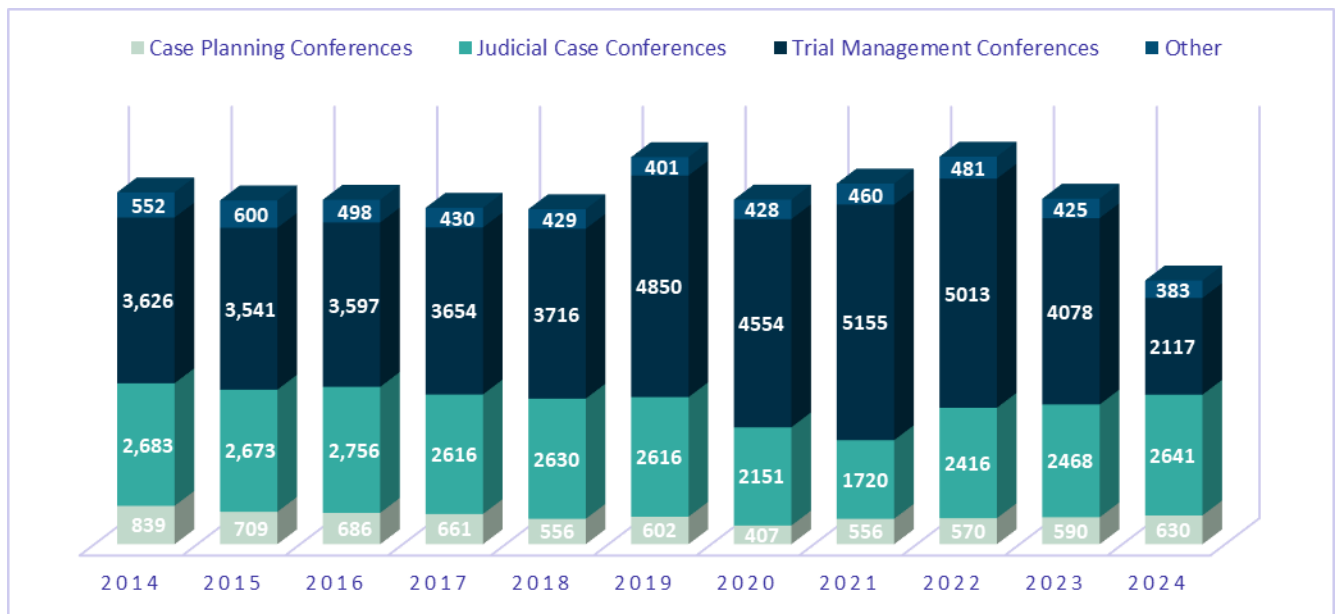
Historical numbers are updated to current information. Data may change due to data settling and corrections.

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 2024



**Figure 3: Number of Conferences by Type, 2015-2024**



**Figure 4: Hearing Hours by Conferences Type, 2015-2024**

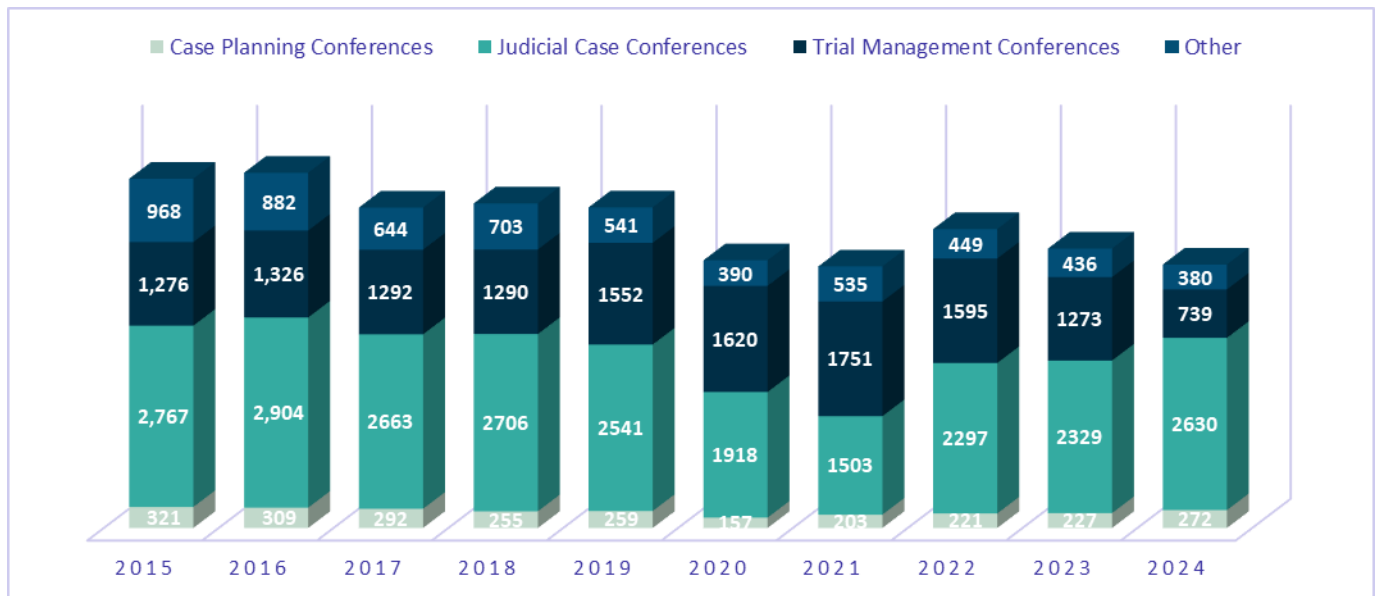




Figure 5: Civil Trials and Long Chambers Applications Scheduled in Vancouver, 2015-2024

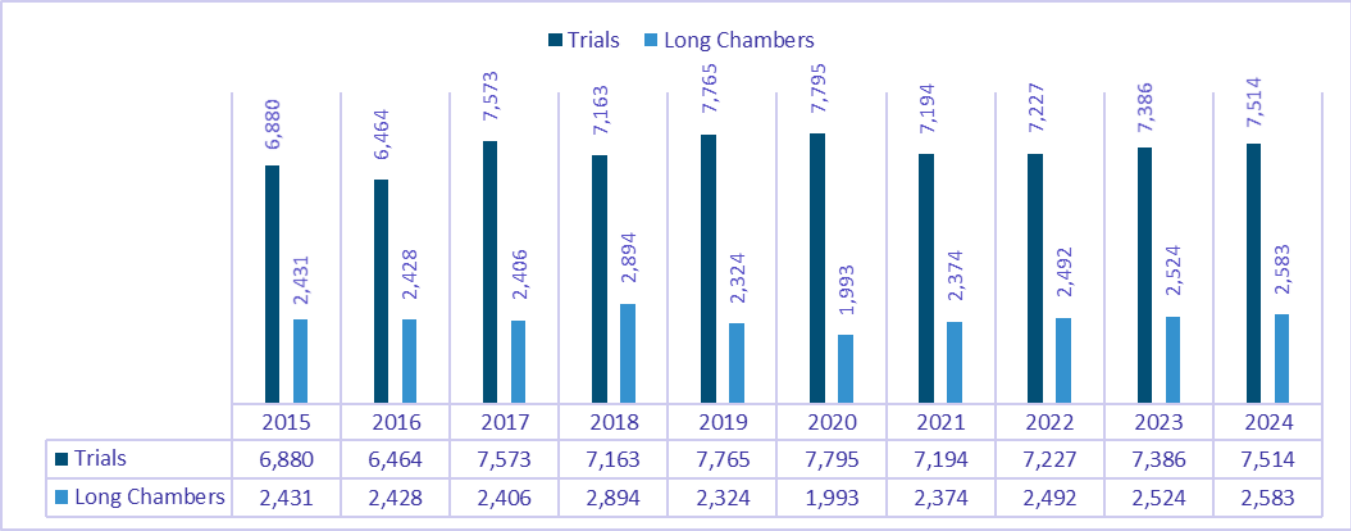


Figure 6: Long Chambers Applications Scheduled and Heard in Vancouver, 2015-2024

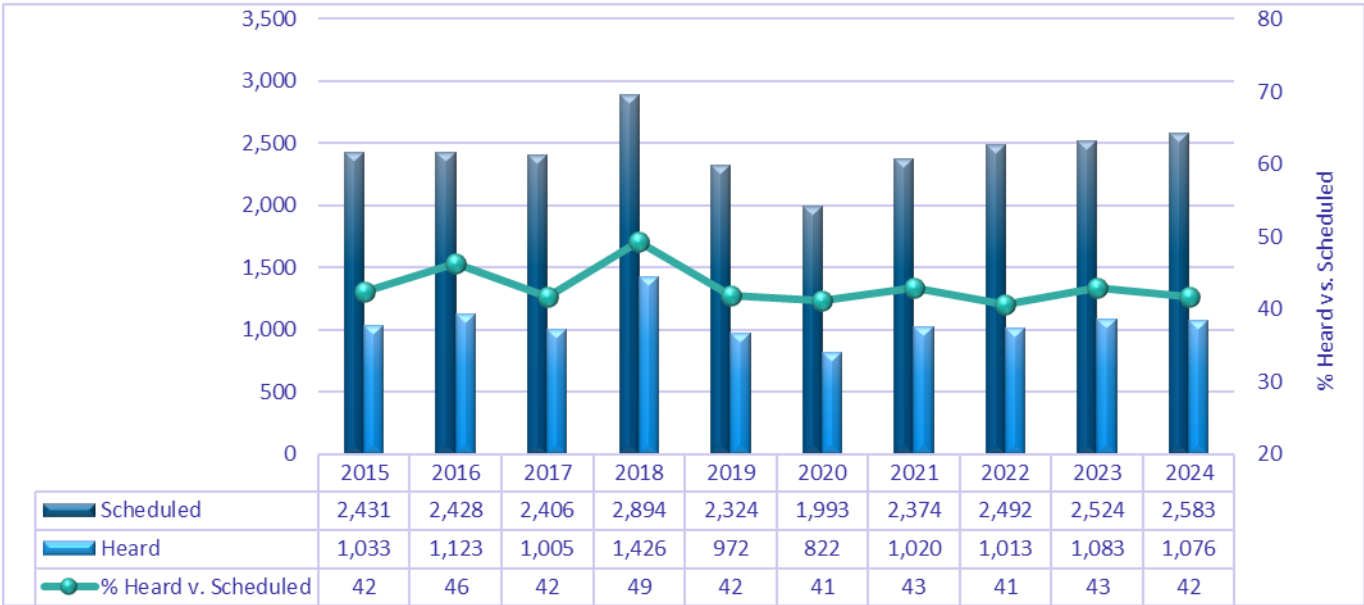


Figure 7: Long Chambers Applications Heard and Bumped in British Columbia, 2015-2024

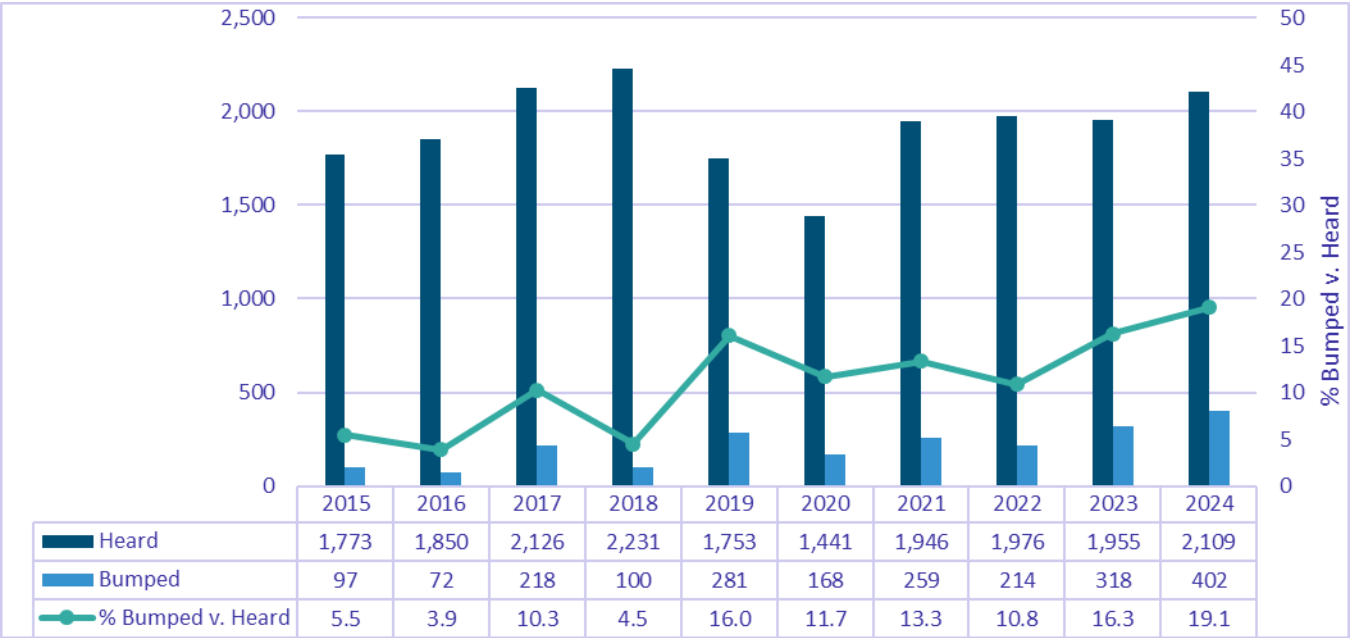


Figure 8: Long Chambers Applications Heard and Bumped in Vancouver, 2015-2024

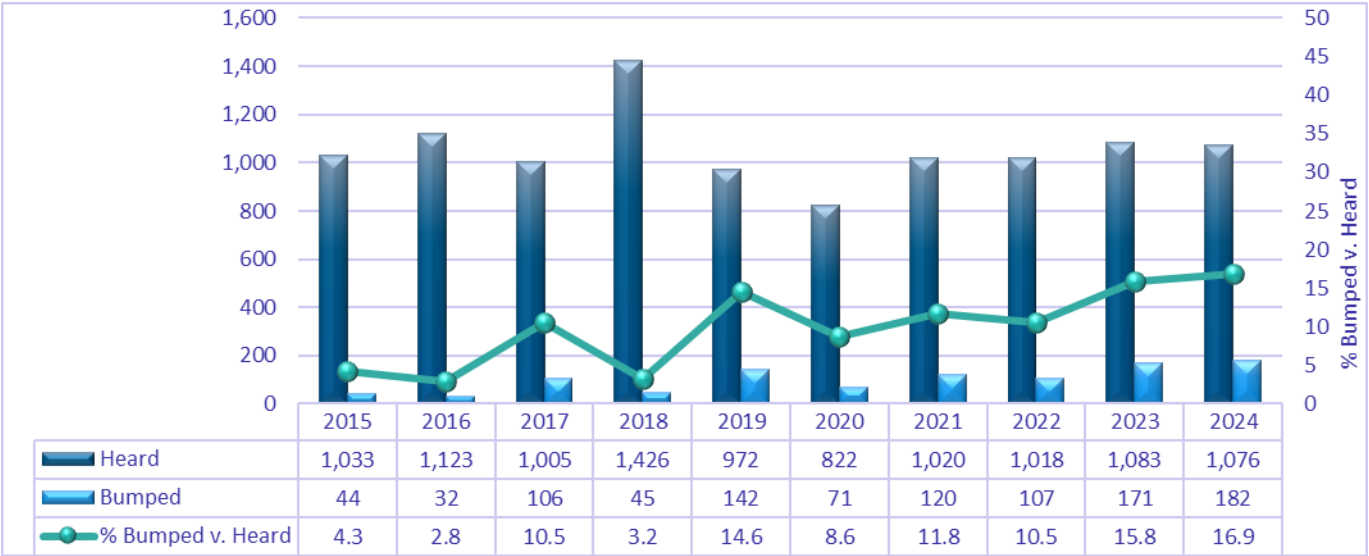


Figure 9: Trials Heard and Bumped in British Columbia, 2015-2024

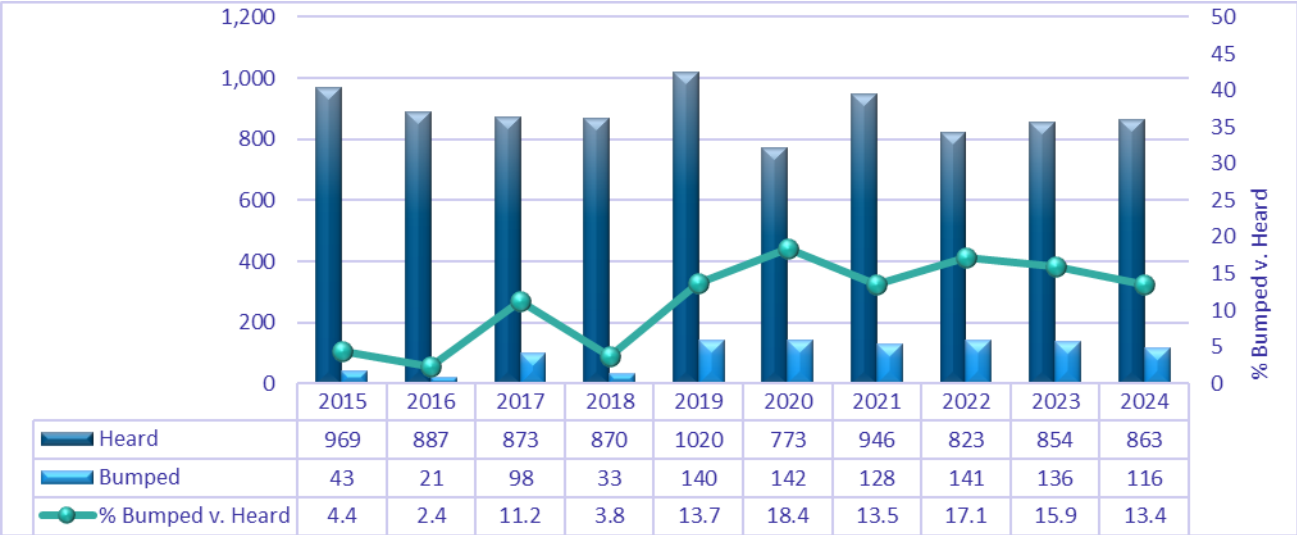


Figure 10: Trials Heard and Bumped in Vancouver, 2015-2024

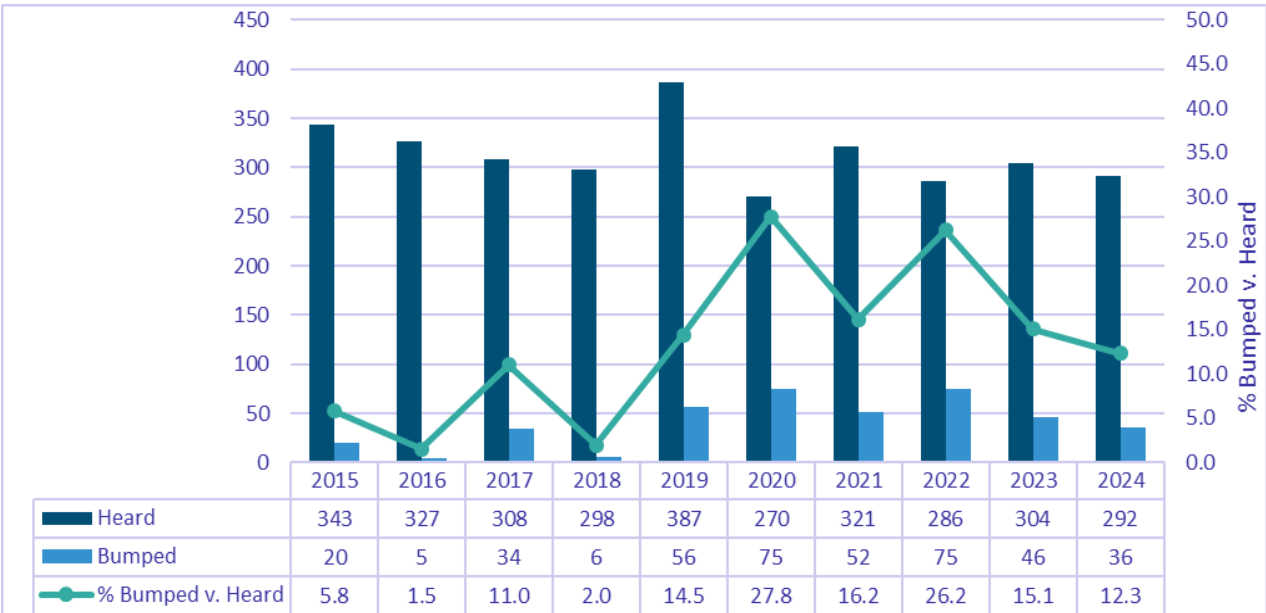


Figure 11: Trials Heard and Bumped by Type and Location in 2024

	HEARD 2024				BUMPED 2024			
	Civil	Criminal	Family	Total	Civil	Criminal	Family	Total
<b>LOWER MAINLAND</b>								
Abbotsford	8	15	14	37	4	0	0	4
Chilliwack	1	8	8	17	1	0	1	2
New Westminster	63	46	26	135	18	0	4	22
Port Coquitlam	4	1	8	13	0	0	0	0
Vancouver	162	84	46	292	26	0	10	36
<b>Region Totals</b>	238	154	102	494	49	0	15	64
<b>Region %</b>	84%	37%	63%	57%	58%	0%	50%	55%
<b>VANCOUVER ISLAND</b>								
Campbell River	0	5	3	8	0	0	0	0
Courtenay	1	4	5	10	0	0	0	0
Duncan	1	8	0	9	0	0	0	0
Nanaimo	9	27	3	39	3	0	0	3
Port Alberni	0	6	0	6	0	0	0	0
Powell River	0	5	0	5	0	0	0	0
Victoria	16	46	12	74	5	0	4	9
<b>Region Totals</b>	27	101	23	151	8	0	4	12
<b>Region %</b>	9%	24%	14%	17%	10%	0%	13%	10%
<b>NORTHERN INTERIOR</b>								
Dawson Creek	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0
Fort St. John	0	4	1	5	0	0	0	0
Prince George	2	22	6	30	1	0	4	5
Prince Rupert	0	4	3	7	0	0	1	1
Quesnel	0	9	1	10	0	0	0	0
Smithers	1	4	3	8	0	0	1	1
Terrace	0	4	0	4	0	0	0	0
Williams Lake	1	7	1	9	0	0	0	0
<b>Region Totals</b>	4	55	16	75	1	0	6	7
<b>Region %</b>	1%	13%	10%	9%	1%	0%	20%	6%
<b>SOUTHERN INTERIOR</b>								
Kamloops	5	20	6	31	6	0	1	7
Kelowna	6	37	10	53	17	1	4	22
Vernon	0	13	1	14	1	0	0	1
Nelson	0	6	1	7	0	0	0	0
Cranbrook	2	13	0	15	1	0	0	1
Penticton	3	13	2	18	1	1	0	2
Salmon Arm	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Rossland	0	3	1	4	0	0	0	0
Golden	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revelstoke	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Region Totals</b>	16	106	21	143	26	2	5	33
<b>Region %</b>	6%	25%	13%	17%	31%	0%	17%	28%
	HEARD 2024				BUMPED 2024			
	Civil	Criminal	Family	Total	Civil	Criminal	Family	Total
<b>TOTAL</b>	285	416	162	863	84	2	30	116
<b>TOTAL %</b>	33%	48%	19%		72%	2%	26%	

Figure 12: Trials Heard By Registry in 2024

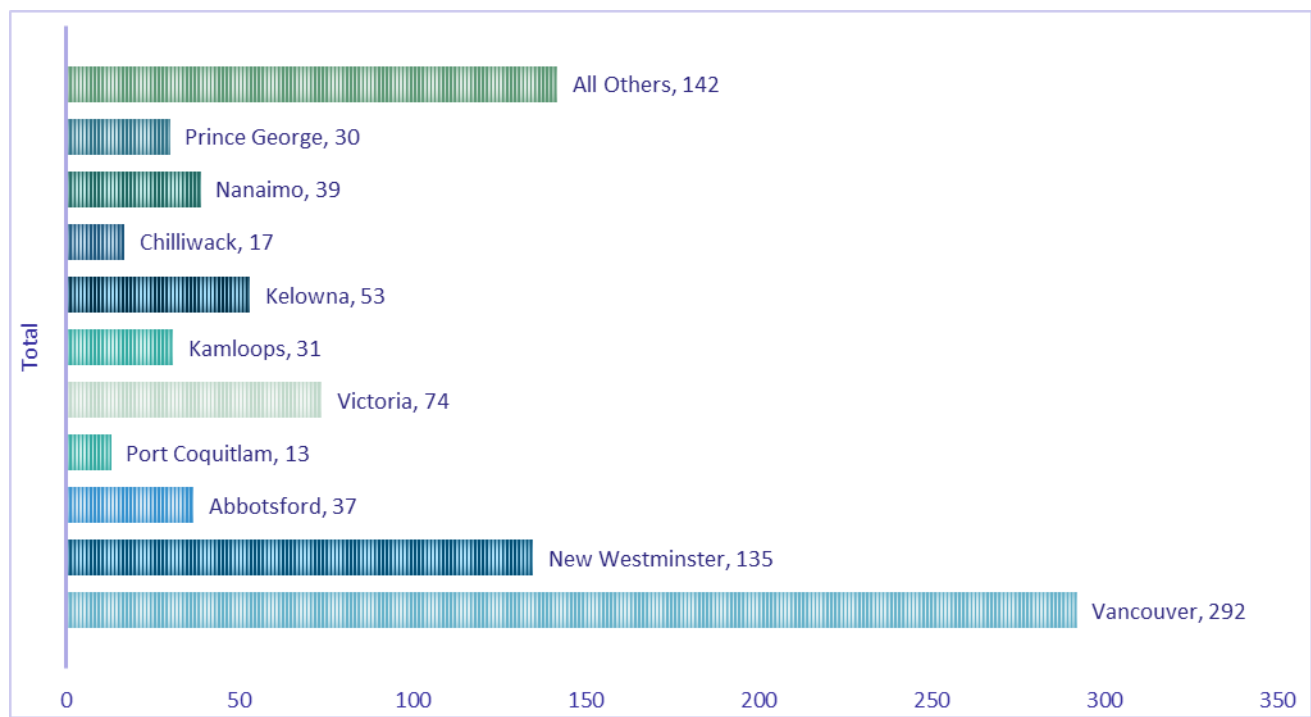


Figure 13: Trials Heard By Region in 2024

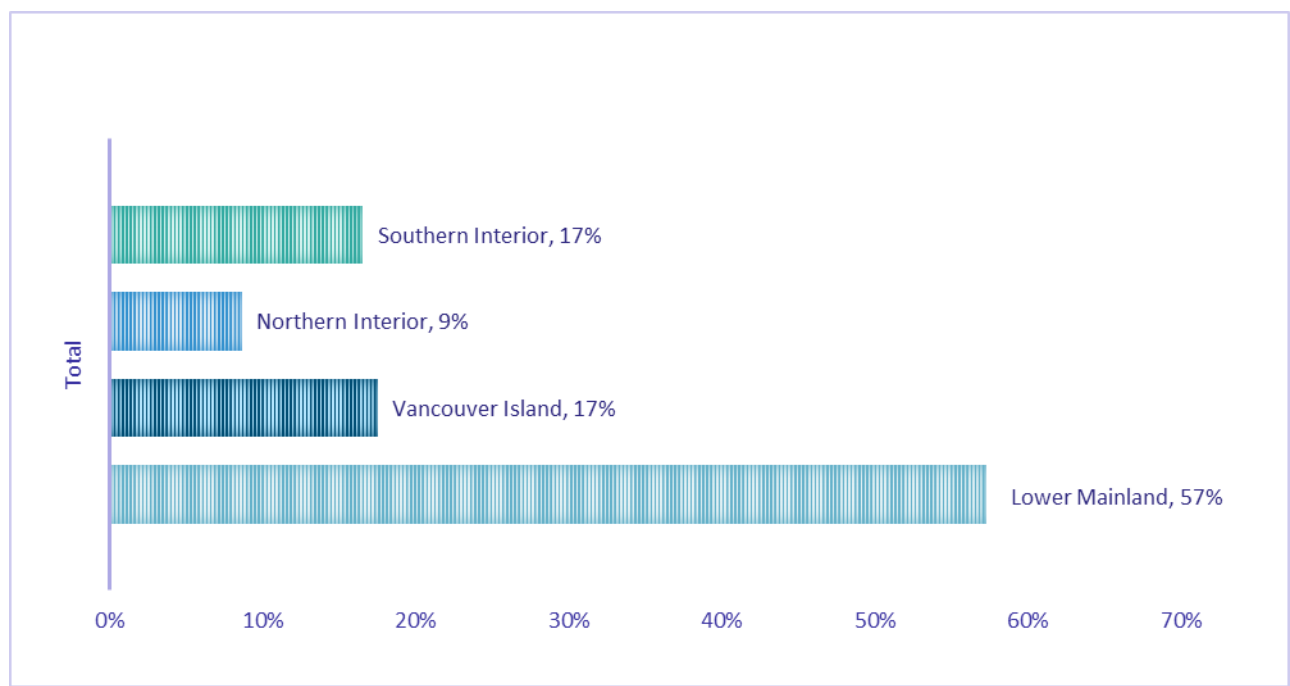




Figure 14: Published Reasons for Judgment by Subject, Type, and Year, 2015-2024

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
CIVIL										
Oral	316	306	340	305	309	267	379	327	389	396
Written	1,050	1,009	868	895	905	868	1069	948	927	869
Total	1,366	1,315	1,208	1,200	1,214	1,135	1,448	1,275	1,316	1,265
CRIMINAL										
Oral	354	280	344	377	371	248	314	163	246	306
Written	114	63	113	109	78	58	97	48	67	50
Total	468	343	457	486	449	306	411	211	313	356
FAMILY										
Oral	96	94	86	95	64	76	108	94	114	104
Written	300	267	272	275	242	235	293	259	256	264
Total	396	361	358	370	306	311	401	353	370	368
TOTAL	2,230	2,019	2,023	2,056	1,969	1,752	2,260	1,839	1,999	1,989

Figure 15: Published Reasons for Judgment by Year, 2015- 2024

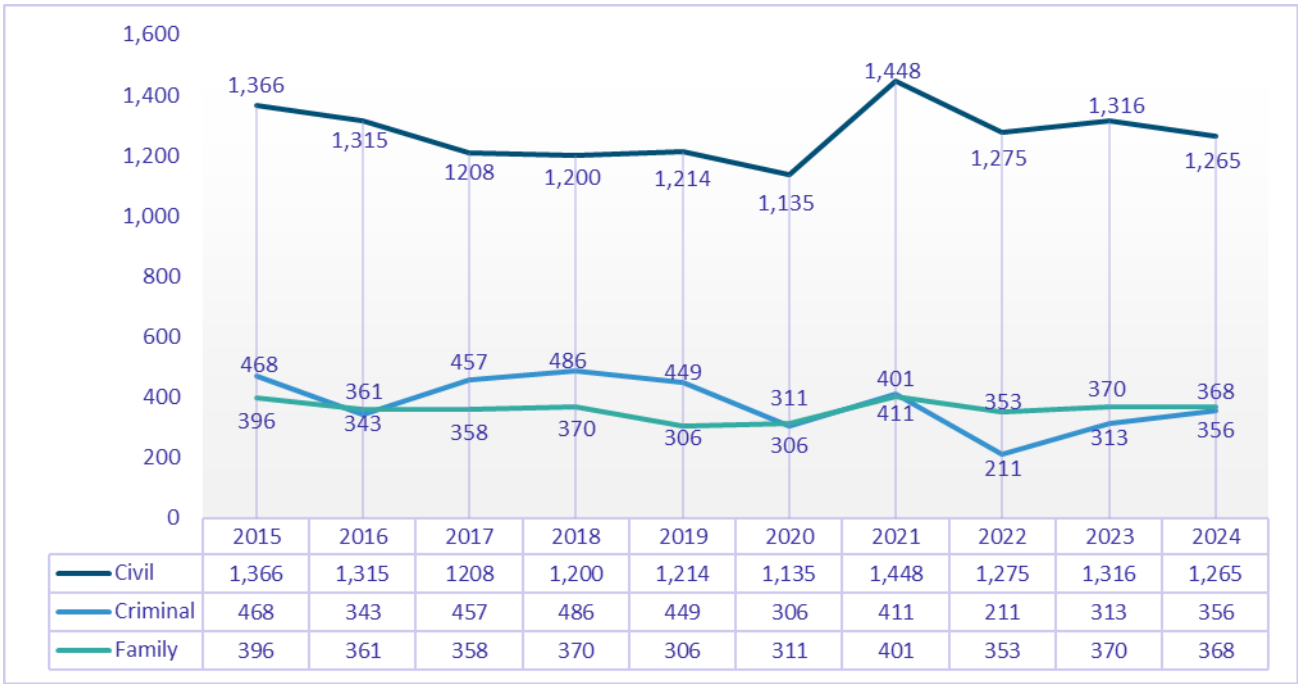


Figure 16: Published Reasons for Judgment by Subject, Type, and Year

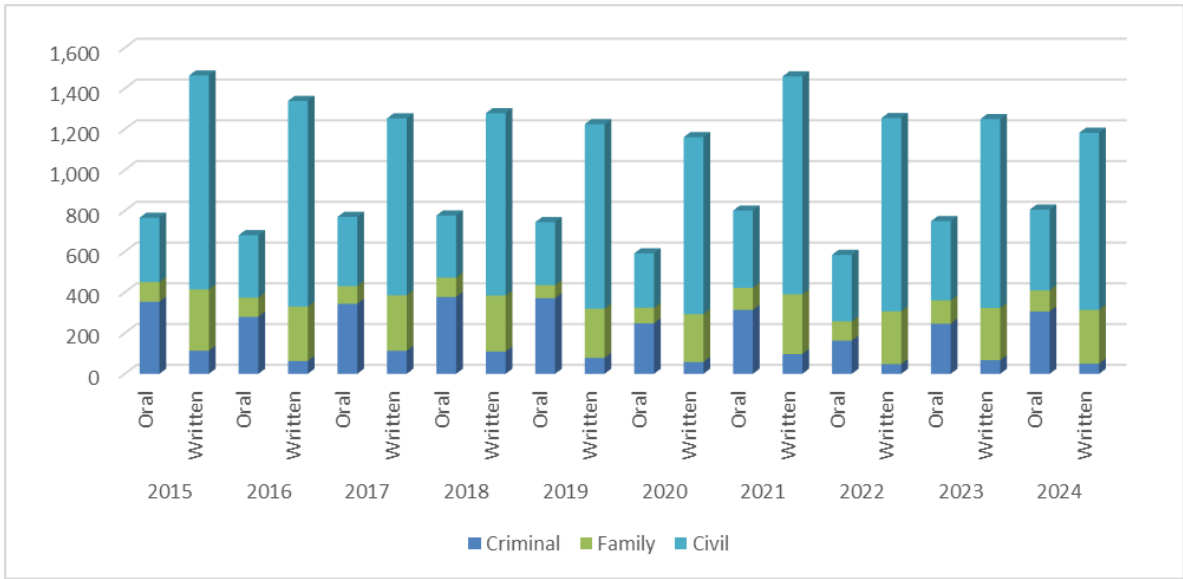


Figure 17: E-Filed Documents in Supreme Court, FY 2015-16 — FY 2023-2024

	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Documents Filed	593,068	595,228	595,811	591,039	616,514	555,657	577,943	559,759	585,521
Documents E-Filed	232,974	246,026	259,148	262,846	279,645	346,203	314,293	297,546	321,435
% E-Filed	39%	41%	43%	44%	45%	62%	54%	52%	54%

Figure 18: E-Orders Processed in the Supreme Court, 2015-2025

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
E-Orders Processed	9,427	9,622	10,987	10,902	11,206	13,535	14,014	14,669	17,613	19,591





2024