
INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Ministry of Attorney General

TWO NEW MASTERS APPOINTED TO B.C. SUPREME COURT

VICTORIA – Meg Shaw, QC, and Carolyn P. Bouck have been appointed masters of the Supreme Court of British Columbia, Attorney General Michael de Jong, QC, announced today.

They will take their seats on the bench in Kamloops and Victoria respectively. These appointments are effective immediately.

Section 11 of the Supreme Court Act allows the Lieutenant-Governor, on the recommendation of the attorney general, who consults with the chief justice, to appoint one or more masters of the court. A master presides in civil chambers and registrar hearings and makes decisions about pre-trial motions and procedural orders.

Shaw received a law degree from the University of British Columbia in 1988. She has practiced law in Kelowna for 20 years, working extensively as a child protection mediator and a family law mediator, including an appointment as child advocate from 2001 to 2005. She was appointed Queen's counsel (QC) in January 2006.

Bouck was called to the bar of British Columbia in 1987. She has worked extensively as a civil trial lawyer at all court levels in the areas of family law, personal injury, estate, commercial litigation and ad hoc federal prosecutions. She became a district registrar of the Supreme Court of British Columbia in 2002, conducting quasi-judicial hearings such as inquiries into family law issues and preparing written and oral reasons for judgment and reports to the court.

The process for the appointment of a master involves several steps. Applications are solicited and reviewed by an ad hoc committee consisting of the deputy attorney general, chief justice of the Supreme Court of British Columbia, president of the Law Society of British Columbia and the president of the Canadian Bar Association, B.C. Branch (or their delegates).

A short list is created and candidates are selected by the ad hoc committee, which then makes recommendations to the attorney general. The chief justice is consulted before the attorney general makes a recommendation to cabinet. The final appointment is made through a cabinet order-in-council.

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