



*The Honourable Chief Justice Bauman
The Supreme Court of British Columbia*

NOTICE

Chambers Assize Pilot Project in Vancouver

Over the past two years, the volume of long chambers applications (over 2 hours) in civil matters at Vancouver Law Courts (VLC) has increased significantly. As a result, matters are frequently bumped from the chambers list or counsel adjourn as it becomes apparent from the state of the list that a matter may not proceed.

In an effort to ameliorate this situation and ensure that interlocutory matters get on for hearing, a chambers assize will be initiated on a pilot basis at VLC. For those unfamiliar with the assize system, how it works is that matters on the assize list will be scheduled to be heard sometime during the one week time frame of the assize week. It is not guaranteed that every matter on the assize list will be heard, and counsel must be available to proceed on short notice during the assize week.

Criteria for placement of applications on the assize list

Applications may be placed on the assize list if all of the following criteria are met:

1. The application will require more than 2 hours but less than 2 days for hearing;
2. All counsel and self represented parties consent to the application being placed on the assize list;

3. All counsel and self represented parties are available to proceed on at least 3 of the 5 days of the assize week; and
4. The application arises in a civil (non-family) proceeding and is not a judicial review

Booking matters on the assize list

Commencing January 7, 2013, the weeks available for booking applications to the chambers assize will be posted on the Scheduling section of the Court's website which is available [here](#). The booking of matters to the assize list will be done by SC Scheduling in the usual way. At the time of booking, counsel will be required to indicate whether the matter is within the jurisdiction of a master or must be heard by a judge. Placing an application on the assize list does not guarantee that the application will be heard. If the application is not heard, it will not be treated for scheduling purposes as having been bumped.

It is anticipated that SC Scheduling will be able to confirm the assize list a day in advance, and counsel and self represented litigants will be contacted to confirm which matters will proceed for hearing on the following day.

Application Records

Applications records for matters set on the assize list must be provided to the chambers registry at VLC, no later than 4 p.m. on the Thursday before the assize week, and must be served as required by the Rules of Court.

Robert J. Bauman
Chief Justice

7 January 2013