



## **NOTICE TO PROFESSION**

### **Re: Assignment of s. 551.1 Case Management Judges for Criminal Pre-trial Applications and Voir Dires**

This notice applies to criminal proceedings in the Supreme Court.

#### **Background**

The number, length, and complexity of criminal cases in the Supreme Court continues to increase. So too does the number of applications and *voir dires* that need to be heard well in advance of the trial during periods separate from the period of the trial.

For many cases, it is not possible to assign a judge who will be available for all of the applications and *voir dires*, as well as the trial.

#### **Result**

For many cases, the Court will therefore need to assign a different judge to hear pre-trial applications and *voir dires* than the judge who is assigned to preside over the trial.

The judge who hears the pre-trial applications and *voir dires* in a case will be assigned as a case management judge under s. 551.1 of the *Criminal Code*.

The Court thanks the parties for their cooperation. Judicial resources are scarce and must be employed effectively in the interests of justice.

Dated January 26, 2026 at Vancouver, British Columbia

Associate Chief Justice Heather J. Holmes  
Supreme Court of British Columbia