



THE CANADIAN  
BAR ASSOCIATION  
British Columbia Branch

# Annual Report 2014/2015

## The Highlights Of a Year in Review

Wow, where did the last 12 months go? When I assumed the Presidency of the Branch last August I had a pretty good idea of the pending issues and workload but I had no idea how the time would fly by with four Provincial Council meetings, dozens of in-person and telephone Executive Committee meetings, meetings with government, Committees and Sections, local Bar gatherings, National CBA Board meetings, welcoming ceremonies, and all sorts of important legal events.

**ADVOCACY.** Our advocacy efforts covered important issues such as legal aid and PST, and a number of legislative initiatives of the provincial government, some of which we suggested, in our Agenda for Justice, such as the new *Society Act*, the proposed *Franchise Act* and the new *Enforcement of Civil Judgments Act*. In addition, the government requested, and we provided, comments on the *Trustee Act* and the *Society Act*.

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE.** I sat on a stakeholder's committee that made substantial progress on the establishment of the British Columbia Access to Justice Committee (BCATJC). On June 25, the BCATJC was formed with 26 members consisting of representatives of leading legal constituencies. The President of CBABC is a member, and the Executive is led by Chief Justice Bauman. BCATJC is now seeking support to fund its operations.

**CBA BOARD.** As a National Board member, I participated in the Chevron Intervention decision (intervention withdrawn), the Trinity Western Law School Intervention issues at the Court of Appeal level in Nova Scotia (intervention proceeding), the establishment of a Committee to review and suggest changes to the Public Interest Intervention Policy, as well as actively participated in the Rethink Project.



Alex Shorten  
President 2014/2015  
Canadian Bar Association  
- BC Branch

**INCREASED SCOPE OF PRACTICE OF NOTARIES.** The Notaries Society and the Law Society are meeting to discuss a merger that would see notaries regulated by the Law Society. CBABC supports this. However, our members have raised significant concerns about the proposed increase in scope of practice that notaries are requesting. The scope increases involve issues of probate, trusts and incorporations. The rationale that has been presented to support this increase is one of access to justice – specifically, that the public needs more suppliers of these particular services. CBABC disagrees that this proposal addresses access to justice. Lawyers already provide these services, and for many they are important parts of their practices.

This is especially true in rural areas, where many general practitioners are only available to provide the full spectrum of legal services to their communities because they are able to economically make a go of it with “bread and butter” services such as those notaries now propose to provide. In a province where rural access to legal services is a serious, proven access-to-justice concern, it is disingenuous to suggest that increasing competition will have a positive impact in those communities – especially when we know that lawyers are no more expensive than notaries for comparable services. Our CBABC representative on the Law Society “Qualifications Working Group” has strongly presented our position on these issues. It appears this is not likely to be resolved in the short term, and in our opinion should be referred to all Law Society members for input. Your new CBABC Executive Committee will continue to work for you on this and many other important advocacy issues.

I hope in some way we, the CBABC Executive and staff, have added to the value of your membership. I have been honoured to serve as your President this year. Thank you for the opportunity.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'alex', written over a light blue grid background.

# Section Chairs 2014/2015

*The first figure indicates the number of members enrolled during the 2014/2015 Section term, while the second figure indicates the number of meetings held through the Section year. In the event there was a joint meeting, that meeting is counted for each Section.*

ABORIGINAL LAW-VANCOUVER (259/8)	Kate Blomfield; Jeff Langlois	FAMILY LAW-VANCOUVER (54/8)	Nicola Allen; Todd Bell
ABORIGINAL LAW-VAN ISLAND (91/4)	Timothy Thielmann	FAMILY LAW-VICTORIA (18/8)	Jennifer Barrett
ABORIGINAL LAWYERS FORUM (67/3)	Tina Dion; Adam Munnings	FAMILY LAW-WESTMINSTER (18/5)	Olga Volpe; Ksenija Petrovic
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW (460/3)	Andrew Gay; Brent Olthuis	FREEDOM OF INFORMATION & PRIVACY LAW (354/6)	Ryan Berger; Sara Ann Levine, QC
ADR - NANAIMO (18/2)	Bill Larose	GEN-PRAC, SOLO & SML FRM-LM (248/6)	Cheryl D'Sa
ADR - OKANAGAN (55/3)	Wesley Shields	GEN-PRAC, SOLO & SML FRM-PR (15/2)	Linda Locke, QC; Megan Olson
ADR - VANCOUVER (272/7)	Philip Dougan	HEALTH LAW (185/3)	Stacey Grubb
ADR - VICTORIA (84/4)	Michael Butterfield	HUMAN RIGHTS LAW (390/5)	Aleem Bharmal; Stephanie Gutierrez
AIR LAW (64/0)	Kenneth N. Burnett	IMMIGRATION LAW (255/26)	Meika Lalonde
ANIMAL LAW (102/2)	Rebeka Breder	INSOLVENCY LAW (168/7)	Jef Poulsen; Scott Anderson
APPELLATE ADVOCACY (212/2)	Angus Gunn, QC; Peter Senkpiel	INSURANCE LAW (361/4)	Scott Harcus
BANKING LAW (260/8)	Jill Macgillivray	INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & TECH LAW (237/4)	Kwan Loh
BUSINESS LAW (686/4)	Grant Foster; Summer Lane	INTERNATIONAL LAW (193/6)	Jennifer Button; Jeffrey Horswill
CHARITIES & NOT-FOR-PROFIT LAW (270/5)	Kate Bake-Paterson; Michael Blatchford	LABOUR LAW (317/7)	Mark Colavecchia; Robyn Trask
CIVIL LITIGATION-OKANAGAN (87/3)	Robert Levin Sean Kelly	LAW PRACTICE MANAGEMENT (271/1)	Rob Miller
CIVIL LITIGATION-VANCOUVER (749/3)	Chilwin Cheng; Thomas Moran	LEGAL RESEARCH (257/4)	Laurel Courtenay
CIVIL LITIGATION-VAN ISLAND (135/7)	Devon Windsor-Doyle	MARITIME LAW (70/9)	Michael Silva
CLASS ACTION LAW (134/4)	Mathew Good; Alexandra Cocks	MUNICIPAL LAW (251/6)	Troy DeSouza; RinaThakar
COMMERCIAL & REAL ESTATE-OKANAGAN (81/5)	Nancy Ling	NATURAL RESOURCES LAW (208/3)	Jeremy Shelford
COMMERCIAL & REAL ESTATE-VAN ISLAND (120/7)	Kristil Hammer	PENSIONS & BENEFITS LAW (124/3)	Colin Galinski
CONSTITUTIONAL/CIVIL LIBERTIES (265/2)	R. Vick Farley, QC; Lisa Glowacki	PRODUCTS LIABILITY LAW (129/3)	Romany Benham- Parker
CONSTRUCTION LAW (302/3)	Sat Harwood; Ryan R. Chalmers	PUBLIC SECTOR LAWYERS (172/7)	Cory Bargaen; Tina Parbhakar
CORPORATE COUNSEL (985/5)	Allison Crane	REAL PROPERTY-VANCOUVER (512/6)	Jordanna Cytrynbaum; Alexander Fane
CRIMINAL JUSTICE-KAMLOOPS (33/4)	Graham Kay	SECURITIES LAW (284/4)	Stephen Robertson
CRIMINAL JUSTICE-NANAIMO (31/7)	Kelly Bradshaw; Christopher Churchill	SENIOR LAWYERS (67/4)	Gerald Lecovin, QC
CRIMINAL JUSTICE-OKANAGAN (33/2)	Nicholas Leford	SOCIAL JUSTICE (97/4)	Aleem Bharmal; Raji Mangat
CRIMINAL JUSTICE-PRINCE GEORGE (18/0)	Brian Gilson, QC	SOGIC (218/5)	Preston Parsons; Sasa Pudar
CRIMINAL JUSTICE-PRINCE RUPERT (23/2)	Dwight Stewart; Andrea Penner	SOLICITORS' GENERAL PRACTICE – CENTRAL VANCOUVER ISLAND (70/3)	Sucha Ollek
CRIMINAL JUSTICE-VANCOUVER (203/8)	Samantha Davey	TAXATION LAW (233/6)	Jeffrey Glasner
CRIMINAL JUSTICE-VICTORIA (66/6)	M. Eliza Bates-Smith; Clare Jennings	WILLS & TRUSTS-OKANAGAN (123/10)	Alison Oxtoby; Kimberly Wallis
ELDER LAW (265/5)	Ken Kramer, QC; Rose Shawlee	WILLS & TRUSTS-VANCOUVER (508/7)	Jennifer Davenport
EMPLOYMENT LAW (501/7)	Martin Sheard	WILLS & TRUSTS-VICTORIA (184/6)	Jessica Maude; Danielle Topliss
ENVIRONMENTAL LAW (286/3)	Jennifer Agnolin	WOMEN LAWYERS FORUM (792/11)	Deborah Taylor, J.D.
FAMILY LAW-FRASER VALLEY (49/4)	Cristen Gleeson; John Lee, QC	WOMEN LAWYERS FORUM-KAMLOOPS (38/6)	Rachel Lammers
FAMILY LAW-KAMLOOPS (49/9)	David Dundee	WOMEN LAWYERS FORUM-VAN ISLAND (122/5)	Samantha de Wit; Jillian Alexa Vivian
FAMILY LAW-NANAIMO (16/5)	Laura Allen; Clodagh O'Connell	YOUNG LAWYERS-BC NORTH (25/4)	Erin Crocker; Nina Purewal
FAMILY LAW-OKANAGAN (14/5)	Audra Bayer	YOUNG LAWYERS-KOOTENAY (15/0)	Katie Diehl
		YOUNG LAWYERS-LOWER MAINLAND (535/14)	Ainsley MacCallum; Melanie Magnusson
		YOUNG LAWYERS-OKANAGAN (62/12)	Jaime Boyle
		YOUNG LAWYERS-VICTORIA (120/14)	Laura Atkinson

# Professional Development and Sections

*The CBABC is committed to offering its members a full range of professional development opportunities that provide a valuable skills-improvement forum and a platform to exchange ideas with colleagues. Professional Development (PD) are continuing legal education activities offered in-person and/or via webinar to both members and non-members (for a higher fee). Exclusive to CBA members, Sections are practice-focused groups organized by substantive areas of law while Forums are organized by interest areas. Both are great opportunities to network and attain the required continuing professional development hours. The 2014/2015 was a successful term producing many well attended events, seminars, and conferences.*

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

This year CBABC Professional Development offered a total of 38 seminars and conferences, 18 held by webinar and 20 in-person. Throughout the course of the year, PD awarded 109.25 hours of continuing professional development (CPD) in accredited educational activities.

On November 14-16 in 2014, CBABC held its Annual Branch Conference in Scottsdale, Arizona. Conference attendees enjoyed a sunny weekend in Scottsdale where they had the opportunity to network, socialize and earn 12 hours of CPD from professional development sessions delivered by expert and esteemed speakers, including Justice Sandra Day O'Connor (Ret), the event's keynote speaker.

PD partnered with local and county bar associations to hold five full/half-day seminars in Abbotsford, Courtenay, Kelowna, North Vancouver and Victoria, for a total of 24 CPD hours. PD also offered joint Sections/Forums programs in 2014/2015. The Aboriginal Lawyers Forum, ADR-Okanagan Section, Family Law-Okanagan Section, Solicitors' General Practice – Central Vancouver Island Section, Freedom of Information & Privacy Law Section, Women Lawyers Forum-Kamloops, and Young Lawyers-Lower Mainland Section all held highly successful conferences/seminars with PD for a total of 31 CPD hours.

In total, PD had over 1500 registrations this term, 600+ by in-person attendance alone, and 800+ by webinar. Most noteworthy was the sold out live webinar "Open Discussion on Current Topics with the Court", which was offered to all CBA members for free.

As part of the "BC Advantage" offerings, CBABC PD also offered two complimentary online modules exclusively to BC members, for a total of 4 CPD hours.

## SECTIONS

For the first time, the BC Advantage gave CBABC members unlimited access to 78 BC Sections and 41 National Sections. With this exclusive member benefit, BC Members may register for any Section meeting or event without enrolling in Sections. Members also receive online access to Section resources such as minutes, Section webinar recordings, legislative updates, news items, and discussion board.

This year 3,659 enrolled members attended 410 Section meetings, 49 of which were hosted as social events. 590 Section Executive Officers volunteered their time this term in order to support the 78 highly-active Sections, with more than 16,243 Section enrollments taking place. Throughout the course of the year, the CBABC awarded 442 hours of continuing professional development (CPD) in accredited educational activities.

Of the 392 CPD eligible meetings, 172 meetings offered both in-person and remote participation options; 124 were by webinar and 48 by teleconference. The CBABC received upwards of 8,700+ in-person registrations and an unprecedented 2,400+ remote registrations over the course of the year.

## President's Medal



CBABC President Alex Shorten presents H. William Veenstra with the President's Medal.

### H. William Veenstra

*Awarded by the CBABC president, this medal recognizes a significant contribution to the profession during the President's term.*

## CBABC Award Winners

**GEORGES A. GOYER, QC MEMORIAL AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE**  
Professor Isabel Grant (top)

**WLF AWARD OF EXCELLENCE**  
Hon. Judge Patricia L. Janzen (middle left)

**WLF DEBRA VAN GINKEL, QC MENTORING AWARD**  
Carla L. Forth, QC (bottom left)

**INNOVATIVE WORKPLACE AWARD**  
Health Sciences Association of BC (middle right)

**HARRY RANKIN, QC PRO BONO AWARD**  
Claire Hunter (bottom right)



## Student Awards

The Canadian Bar Association, BC Branch annually awards Student Awards to the law student who best exemplifies CBABC ideals at the University of British Columbia, the University of Victoria, and Thompson Rivers University. Award criteria includes participation in activities that support the members of the profession and law students; promotion of justice and law reform; promotion of equality, and demonstration of public or community service.

The 2015 Student Award winners were UBC law students Melanie Begalka, Alexandra Catchpole, John Trueman; UVic law student Sylvie Vigneux and TRU student Ruby Lau.

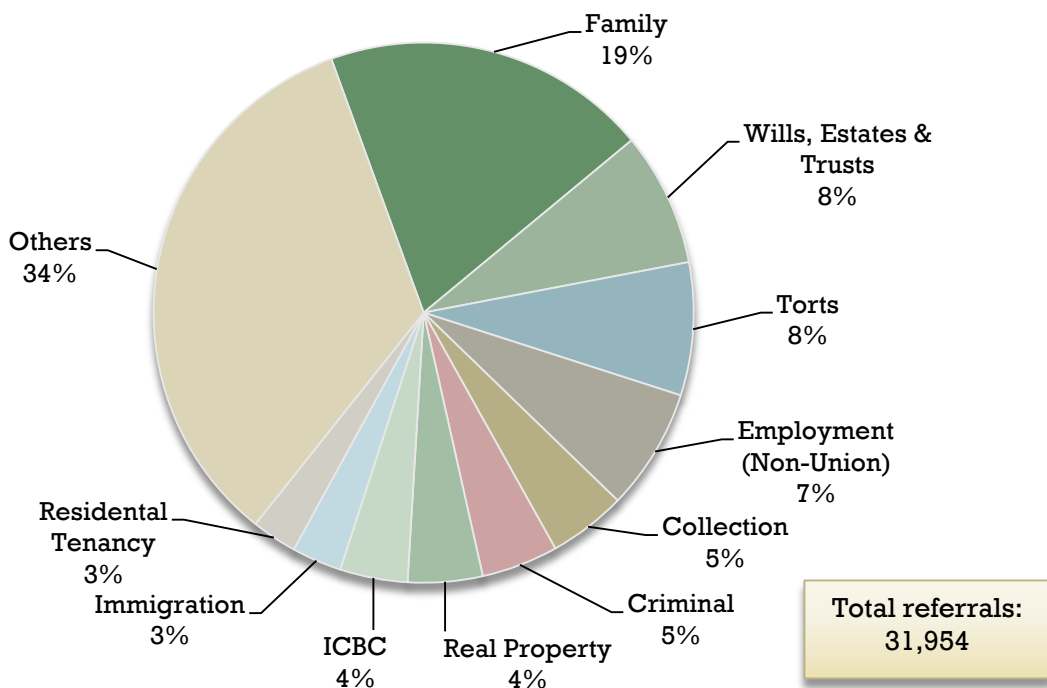
## The Lawyer Referral Service and Dial-A-Law

The Lawyer Referral Service (LRS) celebrates 60 years of service in the community. This unique service assists the people of the province in locating lawyers for specific types of legal matters. The LRS operates by matching potential clients to a member of the Lawyer Referral Service panel for free. LRS will refer the caller to a participating lawyer with whom they may consult for up to 30 minutes. The lawyer may provide the consultation for a minimum fee of \$25 plus tax. After the brief consultation, the client and the lawyer decide whether or not the lawyer will be retained for additional services at the lawyer's regular rates.

Each year, thousands of clients are referred to lawyers through the LRS. Members and non-members of the Canadian Bar Association, BC Branch may join the Lawyer Referral Service panel for free. Many of the lawyers registered on LRS volunteer to update the Dial-A-Law (DAL) scripts that are available to the public for free by telephone and online (audio format available). DAL is a library of practical information on specific topics of law in BC. Scripts are available in English, Punjabi and Chinese.

To join LRS, call 604.687.3221 or 1.800.663.1919. To view DAL scripts, go online at [www.dialalaw.org](http://www.dialalaw.org) or call 604.687.4680 or 1.800.565.5297 (BC access only). These public service programs are operated by the Canadian Bar Association, BC Branch and funded by the Law Foundation of BC.

### LRS REFERRALS BY AREA OF LAW September 2014 - August 2015





## Law Week in British Columbia

Law Week is an annual public legal education program that provides an opportunity for young people and adults to become familiarized with the Canadian legal system. Law Week 2015 showcased the legal community through in-person live events throughout British Columbia, such as mock trials, interactive displays and courthouse tours, and online with a vibrant social media presence.

Law Week's theme for 2015 was *Access to Justice: What Does it Mean to You?* This year, eleven communities across British Columbia participated in celebrating the 33rd Anniversary of the Charter of Rights.

Vancouver Law Week activities got started early with the "Meet the Chiefs" student forum with the three Chief Justices of BC and over 100 students hosted by CBC's Ian Hanomansing. The "Judges in the Classroom" student outreach program matched judges with high school classes. There was a strong focus on public education in 2015. Public education classes were coordinated across the Lower Mainland for a total of 22 classes with almost 650 people in attendance. Seven courthouse tours took place on Law Day beginning in the Justice Education Centre, moving to the Provincial Court, Court of Appeal, and the Supreme Court. Attendees listened to presentations from the JEC, Provincial Court staff, a Supreme Court Judge, Sheriffs, and Court Registry. There was an expanded campaign to encourage the public to check their legal health online.

Volunteer lawyers assisted just under 200 people during the province-wide annual "Dial-A-Lawyer" event, held on Saturday, April 18, in various areas of law. BC residents were invited to call and speak with a lawyer for up to 15 minutes at no cost.

One of the cornerstone events held in British Columbia during Law Week is the annual Barry Sullivan Law Cup public speaking contest. The competition is sponsored by the Canadian Bar Association British Columbia Branch and is open to students enrolled in grades 11-12 in British Columbia. The Law Cup is named in memory of Barry Sullivan in recognition of his contributions to both the legal and educational professions. The Law Cup is presented to the provincial winner of the competition. The 2015 competition was held in the heritage courtrooms at the Vancouver Art Gallery. More than thirty students presented five minute speeches that pertained to the theme "Personal Privacy versus National Security: What would you be prepared to give up of one to have the other?" Mehek Hussain of Burnaby Mountain Secondary School took home the top honour, receiving a trophy along with a \$1,500 cash prize.



The Vancouver volunteers for "Dial-A-Lawyer Day" on April 18, 2015



## CBABC 2014/2015 Executive Committee

(L-R) Front: Kenneth Armstrong (Officer), Jennifer Chow (Vice-President), Alison Oxtoby (Officer), Erin Crocker (Young Lawyers Representative), Krystle Gill (Equality and Diversity Representative).

(L-R) Back: H. William Veestra (Officer), Alex Shorten (President), Michael Welsh (Secretary Treasurer), Dean Crawford, QC (Past President).

Missing: Audra Bayer (Officer).

# Committee Chairs 2014/2015

## ANNUAL BRANCH CONFERENCE

## ADVISORY TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF BC AUDIT

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE  
AWARDS & RECOGNITION  
BARTALK / EDITORIAL BOARD  
BUSINESS OF LAW  
COURT SERVICES  
EQUALITY & DIVERSITY  
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS  
LAW WEEK – VANCOUVER

## LAW WEEK - REGIONAL LEGAL AID

LEGISLATION & LAW REFORM  
MEMBERSHIP  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
RESOLUTIONS & BYLAWS  
SECTIONS STANDING  
SOLICITORS' PRACTICE ISSUES

D. Rodney Urquhart  
Mark V.C. Virgin  
Charlotte Salomon  
Michael Welsh  
Michael D. Shirreff  
Jamie M. Boyle  
Candice Alderson  
Dierk Ullrich  
Rishi Gill  
Krystle Gill  
Jennifer Chow  
Meghan Maddigan  
Matthew G. Schissel  
Donald Kawano, QC  
Aleem S. Bharmal  
Lori Leung  
Eleanor Gregory  
Kerry L. Simmons, QC  
Deanna Ludowicz, QC  
Jan Fishman  
Kenneth Armstrong  
Denese Caroline Espeut-Post

## 2014/2015 Provincial Council

### CARIBOO

Oliver Fleck  
Darlene Kavka  
Heidi Zetzsche

### KOOTENAY

Jenny Ghiladrucci  
Jamie Lalonde

### NANAIMO

Paul Corbett  
Brian Hutcheson  
Nicole Smith  
Alison Taylor

### PRINCE RUPERT

Claire Ducluzeau  
Martin Griffith-Zahner

### VANCOUVER

Kenneth Armstrong  
Jennifer Chow  
Alison Crane  
Samantha Davey  
Eleanor Gregory  
Jasroop Grewal  
Claire Hunter  
Zahra Jimale  
James Kondopulos  
Ken Kramer, QC  
Spencer May  
Margaret Mereigh  
Marina Morgan  
Suzette Narbonne  
Meghan Selinger  
Mark Slay  
Dierk Ullrich  
H. William Veenstra  
Louisa Winn

### VICTORIA

Krystle Gill  
Kimberly Henders-Miller  
Beatrice McCutcheon  
Drew Mildon  
Charlotte Salomon

### WESTMINSTER

Janet Clark  
Diane Gradley  
Kim Karras  
Paul Ken-Snowsell  
Duncan Magnus  
Perminder Tung

### YALE

Lorianna Bennett  
Alson Oxtoby  
Andrew Powell  
Michael Welsh





**THE CANADIAN  
BAR ASSOCIATION**  
British Columbia Branch

## 2014/15 ADVOCACY REPORT

The CBABC is a strong advocate for the public and an important resource for governments on justice issues and legislation.

### AGENDA FOR JUSTICE IN ACTION

#### CBABC RECOMMENDATION

#### OUTCOME

Implement the *Wills, Estates and Succession Act* (WESA)



WESA largely brought into force by BC government on March 31, 2014 (by B.C. Regs. 148/2013, 208/2013, 101/2014, 42/2014)

Enact *Uniform Civil Enforcement of Money Judgements Act* as recommended by the British Columbia Law Institute (BCLI)



June 2015, BC Ministry of Justice public consultation on *Enforcement of Money Judgments Act* as recommended by BCLI

Write a new, modernized *Society Act*



On May 14, 2015, the BC government enacted a new modernized *Societies Act*, S.B.C. 2015, c. 18 (Bill 25)

Enact a *Franchise Act* to provide protection to small business franchisees



September 2014, the BC Ministry of Justice public consultation on a *Franchises Act*

### SUBMISSIONS

CBABC submissions to government or legal stakeholders since 2001: **74**

CBABC submissions to BC Legislative Assembly on BC Budget since 2002: **13**

CBABC submissions to government or legal stakeholders in 2014/15: **10**

### LEGISLATIVE & LAW REFORM UPDATES

#### ANALYSIS OF BC STATUTES AND REGULATIONS PROVIDED TO SECTIONS:

BC statutes: **40**

BC regulations: **383**

BC government bills: **37**

Government and stakeholder reports of interest to Sections: **95**

### CBABC SECTIONS

Largest number in Canada: **78**

### ANNUAL JUSTICE SUMMIT

Key participant in all **four** Summits.



## NOTARIES

**Five** submissions and active participation in Law Society discussions on expanded scope of practice for notaries.

## CONSULTATIONS

CBABC was invited to participate in more than **two dozen** consultations.

CBABC actively contributed to reviews of the BC Ministry of Finance White Paper to modernize the *Society Act*, the new *Franchises Act* and the BC Law Institute on revisions to its Questions and Answers on Pension Division at the Breakdown of a Relationship, *The Water Sustainability Act* and the Provincial Court consultation on court record information.

## OUTREACH

### CBABC EXECUTIVE AND PROVINCIAL COUNCIL MET WITH THE FOLLOWING JUSTICE STAKEHOLDERS IN 2014:

- BC Ministers
- BC government officials, British Columbia Law Institute and Independent Officers of the Legislature and Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee at CBABC Section and Committee meetings
- BC Court of Appeal and Supreme Court justices and Provincial Court of BC judges and judicial justices

## ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Actively participated in the establishment of the British Columbia Access to Justice Committee with other representatives of leading legal stakeholders.

## STANDING COMMITTEES

Standing Committees: **18**

### INCLUDING:

- Access to Justice (formerly Legal Aid)
- Advisory Committee to the Judicial Council of BC
- Court Services
- Government Relations
- Legislation and Law Reform
- Solicitors' Practice Issues

## ONGOING ADVOCACY INITIATIVES

**THERE ARE CURRENTLY 15 ONGOING ADVOCACY INITIATIVES INCLUDING:**



**[cbabc.org/advocacy](http://cbabc.org/advocacy)**