



THE CANADIAN
BAR ASSOCIATION
British Columbia Branch

2016/2017 ANNUAL REPORT



STANDING FOR JUSTICE AND SERVING OUR PROFESSION

A Year in Review

Elections make for busy times, and the 2017 BC provincial election was busier – and longer – than most. The CBABC focused much effort on bringing justice and law reform issues into the campaign arena with our Agenda for Justice containing over 20 proposals for justice improvements. We received much public and media attention on our calls for increased funding for legal aid and for court staffing and infrastructure. We persisted in many media stories, one-on-one conversations with political candidates and in public forums. We made inroads with both the current NDP government and, when it briefly formed a minority government, the Liberals, both promising substantial funding increases. We used this opportunity to exert influence to ensure more people who cannot afford legal services will have assistance to obtain them.

We responded to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report’s calls to action. Working with our Aboriginal Lawyers Forum and Indigenous members, we amended our bylaws so a member of the ALF sits on our Executive Committee and established a working group with a broad cross-section of members to make recommendations on what we should do as an organization, and how we can best assist our members to take action. I believe we will better serve our Indigenous, in fact all members, as a result of this work.

We’ve had another successful year placing law students into smaller communities though our REAL program, and had meetings with key players in the former and present governments on our student loan forgiveness program for new lawyers in rural communities. We are moving forward with pilot projects in partnership with a couple of communities that we believe will gain government support.



The last goal was to improve governance and service to members. As the CBA nationally continues to transform itself, our Branch will now determine the changes we should make to better govern ourselves and serve you, and we are in the planning stages for a Branch governance review that will bear its fruit in the months ahead. We are a strong Branch, that commands respect from government, the courts and the public, but we can do better and we will.

All said, and due to good work by our member volunteers and staff, we met the marks we set, and that measures up to a successful year.

Michael

2016/2017 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



(L-R) H. WILLIAM VEENSTRA (VICE PRESIDENT), TINA L. DION, QC (EQUALITY & DIVERSITY REP) DIERK ULLRICH (OFFICER) MICHAEL WELSH, QC (PRESIDENT) SARAH KLINGER (OFFICER), AINSLEY REIMER (YOUNG LAWYERS REP), MARGARET A. MEREIGH (SECRETARY TREASURER), KENNETH ARMSTRONG (OFFICER), JENNIFER CHOW, QC (PAST PRESIDENT), DENESE ESPEUT-POST (OFFICER)

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

- ACCESS TO JUSTICE ALEEM BHARMAL
- ADVISORY TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF BC JULIANNE K. LAMB
- AUDIT MARGARET A. MEREIGH
- AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE MIKE SHIRREFF
- AWARDS & RECOGNITION JAIME M. BOYLE
- BARTALK EDITORIAL BOARD CANDICE ALDERSON
- BUSINESS OF LAW ERIC MOLLEMA
- CONFERENCE (U2 2017) KIM ALICIA KARRAS; MARK V.C. VIRGIN
- COURT SERVICES JOHN R.W. CALDWELL
- EQUALITY & DIVERSITY CHARLOTTEE A. SALOMON
- GOVERNMENT RELATIONS H. WILLIAM VEENSTRA
- LAW WEEK (REGIONAL) AUDRA M. BAYER; MEGHAN A. WALLACE
- LAW WEEK (VANCOUVER) MATTHEW G. SCHISSEL
- LEGISLATION & LAW REFORM SHEENA M. MITCHELL
- PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT MIKE BRUNDRETT
- REAL ADVISORY MICHAEL F. WELSH
- RESOLUTIONS & BYLAWS ALISON LOUISE DEMPSEY, Ph.D
- SECTIONS STANDING PAUL PEARSON
- SOLICITORS PRACTICE ISSUES SARAH NELLIGAN

ELECTED MEMBERS

- CARIBOO**
OLIVER FLECK
DARLENE D.R. KAVKA
HEIDI ZETZSCHE
- KOOTENAY**
JENNY GHILARDUCCI
JAMIE M. LALONDE
- NANAIMO**
GRANT CURRIE
BRIAN ERIC HUTCHESON
NICOLE E. SMITH
ALISON D. TAYLOR
- PRINCE RUPERT**
CLAIRE CATHERINE DUCLUZEAU
MARTIN H. GRIFFITH-ZAHNER
- VANCOUVER**
KENNETH ARMSTRONG
MICHELLE J. BOOKER
KAREY BROOKS
DAVID ARTHUR CLANCY
ALLISON F. L. CRANE
TODD R. FERGUSON
RISHI T. GILL
CLAIRE E. HUNTER
ZAHRA JIMALE
KEN M. KRAMER, QC
MEGHAN MADDIGAN
MARGARET A. MEREIGH
ADAM C. MUNNINGS
SUZETTE JANE NARBONNE
BRENT OLTHUIS
PRESTON PARSONS
MARY SALAYSAY
GURMINDER S. SANDHU
DIERK ULLRICH
LOUISA WINN
- VICTORIA**
KIMBERLY A. HENDERS MILLER
SARAH L. KLINGER
BEATRICE MCCUTCHEON
DREW MILDON
PAUL PEARSON
- WESTMINSTER**
JENNIFER LYNN ANDERSON
TINA L. DION, QC
PAUL G. KENT-SNOWSELL
DUNCAN K. MAGNUS
GREG T. PALM
CLINTON JEAN SADLEMAYER, QC
- YALE**
DENESE CAROLINE ESPEUT-POST
ALISON OXTOBY
ANDREW ALEC DENNIS POWELL
B. WILLIAM SUNDHU

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

2016/2017 CBABC AWARDS

PRESIDENT'S MEDAL
TINA DION, QC

Awarded by CBABC president to recognize significant professional contribution during the president's term. Tina Dion is Cree, originally from Alberta, now based in Tsawwassen.



GEORGES A. GOYER, QC MEMORIAL AWARD FOR
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CATHERINE BOIES PARKER, QC

This award is for exceptional contributions to the profession by a BC resident, in memory of a respected CBABC member who passed away in 1992 after a courageous battle with cancer.



HARRY RANKIN, QC PRO BONO AWARD
DONNA TURKO

In memory of Harry Rankin, QC's immense support of access to justice for the poor, this award acknowledges pro bono work.



EQUALITY & DIVERSITY AWARD
ADRIENNE SMITH

Awarded to a CBA member whose work advances equality in BC. Adrienne Smith is a long-standing advocate for transgender and gender diverse British Columbians.



INNOVATIVE WORKPLACE AWARD
THE LABOUR RIGHTS LAW OFFICE

For creative leadership, innovative strategy and leading-edge implementation. The Labour Rights Law Office in Coquitlam is one of Canada's first virtual firms practicing employment, labour and human rights law.



LAW STUDENT
AWARDS

TRU KAREN PERRY
UVic REBECCA WHITMORE
UBC LEAH COMBS

Given to BC law students who embody CBABC ideals of promoting law reform, justice and equality, and providing community service.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

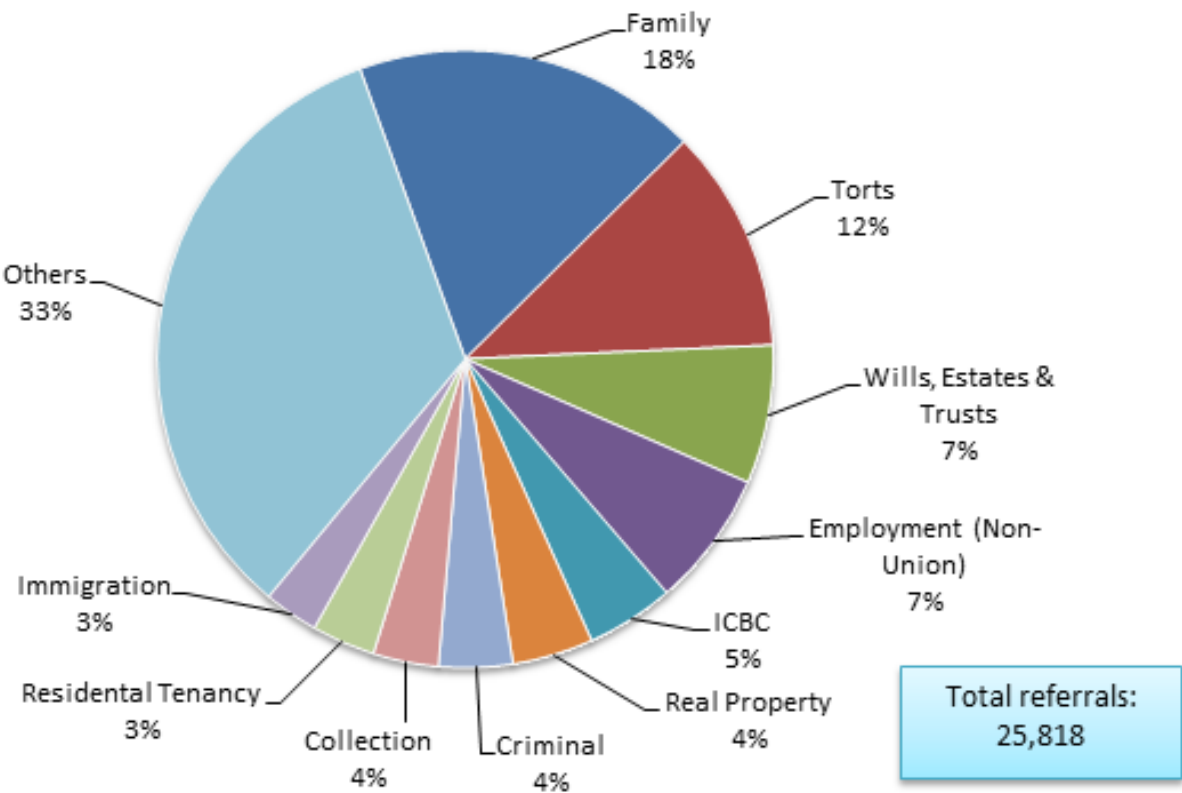
LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE & DIAL-A-LAW

The Lawyer Referral Service (LRS) celebrates 62 years of service in the community. This unique service assists British Columbians in locating lawyers for specific types of legal matters. The LRS matches potential clients to members of the LRS panel. Operators refer callers to a participating lawyer who provides an initial consultation of up to 30 minutes for a nominal fee. The purpose of this initial consultation is to find out if there's a legal issue worth pursuing. If both parties agree to proceed with further services, the lawyer's regular rate applies.

Thousands of referrals are made through the LRS each year. Members and non-members of the CBABC may join the service for free. Many LRS lawyers also volunteer to update the Dial-A-Law (DAL) scripts, a library of practical information on various topics of law in BC. Scripts are available to the public by phone or online for free in English, among which some are translated into Punjabi, Chinese and French.

Both programs are operated by CBABC and funded by the Law Foundation of BC.

LAWYER REFERRALS BY AREA OF LAW FOR 2016/2017



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

CBABC Professional Development hosted 31 programs this term, 13 of which were hosted as webinars and are currently available for repeat purchases. The CBABC joined with your Local County Bar Associations, CBABC Sections, and independently held seminars, webinars, and full and multi-day conferences, producing 101.75 hours of substantive CPD, 40 hours of which counted towards your required ethics, professional responsibility and practice management component.

CBABC’s highly popular two-part series High Conflict Clients dealt with how to identify demanding clients, how to understand their needs, how to cope with their demands, how to remove yourself from the file, how to fire a client and still maintain your professional obligations to the client.

The CBABC joined with the Alberta Branch this year to bring you the highly successful CBA West Conference in Las Vegas. Attended by 200 people, speakers and guests alike gathered, networked, and socialized with colleagues and leaders in the legal profession from across Canada. Twelve sessions provided an opportunity to hear from leading practitioners on emerging legal issues featuring a range of experts from Alberta, BC and the US.

As one attendee said, “Venue was terrific, excellent speakers, lots of free time, and dinner on Saturday was a great experience.”

SECTIONS

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. BC Advantage offers CBABC members unlimited access to 76 BC Sections and 41 National Sections.

2016/2017 was a successful term producing many well attended events, seminars, and conferences. 472 Section Executive Officers volunteered their time this term in order to support the highly active 75 Sections, with 20,689 Section enrollments taking place.

This year 3,964 enrolled members attended 358 Section meetings/events: 183 of these meetings were offered both in-person and remote participation options, 163 by webinar and 20 by teleconference. Throughout the course of the term, the CBABC awarded 347 continuing professional development (CPD) hours in accredited educational activities for the 2017 LSBC Reporting year.

2016/2017 SECTION TERM

SECTION	CHAIRS	ENROLLED	MEETINGS EVENTS
ABORIGINAL LAW VANCOUVER	KATE BLOMFIELD JEFF LANGLOIS	377	5
ABORIGINAL LAW VANCOUVER ISLAND	CLAIRE P. TRUESDALE	116	4
ABORIGINAL LAWYERS FORUM	TINA L. DION, QC	119	2
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW	GREG J. ALLEN SHEA H. COULSON	660	3
ADR - NANAIMO	BILL LAROSE	40	2
ADR - VANCOUVER	PHILIP J. DOUGAN WILLIAM DEAN HOLDER	406	9
ADR - VICTORIA	ELENA MERRITT	120	3
AIR LAW	JOE FIORANTE, QC	85	1
ANIMAL LAW	REBEKA BREDER	124	1
APPELLATE ADVOCACY	ANGUS M. GUNN, Q.C. PETER R. SENKPIEL	284	3
BANKING LAW	JYOTIKA S. REDDY	336	8
BUSINESS LAW	PARHAM PEIROO KELSEY MCDERMOTT	874	6
CHARITIES AND NOT-FOR-PROFIT LAW	KATE N. BAKE-PATERSON ELIZABETH ANNE MOXHAM	428	5
CHILDREN'S LAW	DONNA J. MARTINSON, QC	97	5
CIVIL LITIGATION - OKANAGAN	JAIMIE KIDSTON	81	1
CIVIL LITIGATION TRI-CITIES/NEW WESTMINSTER	THOMAS L. SPRAGGS KRISTIN GARDNER	86	3
CIVIL LITIGATION - VANCOUVER	THOMAS J. MORAN MARTIN G. SHEARD	907	5
CIVIL LITIGATION VANCOUVER ISLAND	MARLISA H. MARTIN	176	6
CLASS ACTION	ALEXANDRA COCKS MATHEW P. GOOD	155	4
COMMERCIAL & REAL ESTATE OKANAGAN	NANCY LING MARTIN R. WALES	119	6
COMMERCIAL & REAL ESTATE VANCOUVER ISLAND	KRISTIL HAMMER	166	1
CONSTITUTIONAL CIVIL LIBERTIES	LISA C. GLOWACKI BRYANT A. MACKEY	373	0
CONSTRUCTION LAW	DAVID CLAASSEN	396	5
CCCA BC	ALLISON F. L. CRANE WENDY A. KING	940	5
CRIMINAL JUSTICE - KAMLOOPS	GRAHAM A. KAY	35	4
CRIMINAL JUSTICE - NANAIMO	KELLY BRADSHAW CHRISTOPHER G. CHURCHILL	32	3
CRIMINAL JUSTICE PRINCE RUPERT	NINA PUREWAL	27	3
CRIMINAL JUSTICE VANCOUVER	MARK GERVIN	245	8
CRIMINAL JUSTICE - VICTORIA	CLARE JENNINGS ANDREW TAM	77	7
ELDER LAW	JAQUA PAGE KEN M. KRAMER, QC	346	7
EMPLOYMENT LAW	CAMERON R. WARDELL	696	10
ENVIRONMENTAL LAW	MONIKA A. SAWICKA	387	2
FAMILY LAW - FRASER VALLEY	CRISTEN L. GLEESON DAVID DONALD HART	70	7
FAMILY LAW - KAMLOOPS	DAVID CHARLES DUNDEE	52	1
FAMILY LAW - NANAIMO	ERIN LEIGH BROOK JOANNA RECALMA	56	7
FAMILY LAW - OKANAGAN	MICHAEL M. SINCLAIR	81	8
FAMILY LAW - VANCOUVER	MEGHAN J. SELINGER JAMIE R. WOOD	408	6
FAMILY LAW - VICTORIA	AESHA FAUX	147	8

SECTION	CHAIRS	ENROLLED	MEETINGS EVENTS
FAMILY LAW - WESTMINSTER	DELA JAHANI	125	0
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION & PRIVACY LAW	RITCHIE PO	506	4
GENERAL PRACTICE, SOLO & SMALL FIRM - LOWER MAINLAND	CHERYL S. D'SA	355	1
GENERAL PRACTICE, SOLO & SMALL FIRM - PRINCE RUPERT	MEGAN M. OLSON LINDA D. LOCKE, Q.C.	19	3
HEALTH LAW	DANIEL J. ALEXANDER REID	235	0
HUMAN RIGHTS LAW	STEPHANIE D. GUTIERREZ ALEEM S. BHARMAL	537	4
IMMIGRATION LAW	STEVEN MEURRENS	303	26
INSOLVENCY LAW	JEF POULSEN SCOTT R. ANDERSEN	192	4
INSURANCE LAW	JENNIFER O'LEARY	451	5
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & TECHNOLOGY LAW	STEPHANIE A. MELNYCHUK CHRISTOPHER C. SCOTT	323	5
INTERNATIONAL LAW	LAURA CUNDARI BRUCE I. MACALLUM	218	2
LABOUR LAW	CAROLYN JANUSZ JENNIFER HOGAN	390	7
LEGAL RESEARCH	LAUREL M. COURTENAY	370	4
MARITIME LAW	DIONYSIOS ROSSI	105	6
MUNICIPAL LAW	PHILIP CAM-MINH HUYNH MICHAEL JOHN HARGRAVES	325	7
NATURAL RESOURCES LAW	JEREMY SHELFORD	285	3
PENSIONS & BENEFITS LAW	MEGAN KANEEN	173	3
PRODUCTS LIABILITY LAW	CHRISTOPHER A. SCHULD (VICE-CHAIR)	143	0
PUBLIC SECTOR LAWYERS	FRANÇOIS PARADIS TINA PARBHAKAR	308	7
REAL PROPERTY - VANCOUVER	MAXWELL P. CARROLL MARIO LUIS RUBIO	632	5
SECURITIES LAW	CHILWIN C. CHENG JENNA VIRK	310	5
SENIOR LAWYERS	GERALD JACK LECOVIN, QC	97	3
SOCIAL JUSTICE	ALEEM S. BHARMAL RAJI MANGAT	330	4
SOGIC	MATTHEW OSTROW SASA PUDAR	121	1
SOLICITORS' GENERAL PRACTICE - CENTRAL VANCOUVER ISLAND	LAURA ANNE BEREZAN	91	2
TAXATION LAW	MARIE-CLAIRE DY	297	6
WILLS & TRUSTS - OKANAGAN	ROBERT MITCHELL CULOS	152	9
WILLS & TRUSTS - VANCOUVER	RAMAN JOHAL	642	5
WILLS & TRUSTS - VICTORIA	VICTORIA GARNER	223	8
WOMEN LAWYERS FORUM	KATHRYN SAINTY, QC	1,111	11
WOMEN LAWYERS FORUM BC NORTH	NINA PUREWAL	27	2
WOMEN LAWYERS FORUM KAMLOOPS	AACHAL N. SOLL	48	3
WOMEN LAWYERS FORUM VANCOUVER ISLAND	SAMANTHA J. DE WIT CHRISTINE MURRAY	165	9
YOUNG LAWYERS - BC NORTH	ERIN L. CROCKER	30	3
YOUNG LAWYERS LOWER MAINLAND	AINSLEY M. REIMER	703	14
YOUNG LAWYERS - OKANAGAN	ELISE V. EVEREST	81	7
YOUNG LAWYERS - VICTORIA	REZA SADEGHI-YEKTA W. CRAIG VAUGHAN	136	12

CELEBRATING #CHARTER35

Every April, Law Week celebrates the anniversary of the signing of Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms. 2017 was the 35th anniversary and brought BC's legal community together to raise awareness of the justice system and promote access to justice around the province. 2017 Law Week events included BC judges in high school classrooms, free public legal education classes and family-friendly community events in Fort St. John, Kelowna, Terrace, Nelson, Victoria, Penticton, Vancouver and Kamloops.

DIAL-A-LAWYER DAY

Dial-A-Lawyer Day is the highlight of Law Week, offering free legal advice to the public. Volunteer lawyers go to work on a Saturday at the CBA BC Branch office to answer phone calls and give free legal advice. In 2017, Dial-A-Lawyer Day welcomed 20 volunteer lawyers who answered a record 325 calls – 15% more calls than the year before. The vast majority of callers needed Family Law advice and learned about Dial-A-Lawyer Day through CBABC promotion in province-wide media.

MEET THE CHIEFS

A lucky group of high schoolers attended "Meet the Chiefs", a student forum offering the chance to meet and speak with BC's Chief Justices, and ask questions about BC's judicial system. The session welcomed Chief Justice Christopher Hinkson (BC Supreme Court), Madam Justice Mary Saunders (BC Court of Appeal) and Chief Judge Thomas Crabtree (BC Provincial Court). Students asked about important legal issues and the Chiefs offered direct responses to hard-hitting questions. "Meet the Chiefs" was at CBC's Vancouver studios and moderated by anchor Ian Hanomansing.

BARRY SULLIVAN LAW CUP

The Barry Sullivan Law Cup is a BC-wide public speaking competition for Grade 10, 11 & 12 students who compete by speaking on a specific legal topic. Finalists deliver their speeches at the heritage courtrooms in the Vancouver Art Gallery. The speeches were judged by representatives of BC's Supreme Court, BC's Provincial Court and UBC.

The 2017 winner was Kalith Nanayyakara of Johnston Heights Secondary School in Surrey. Here, Kalith accepts the Barry Sullivan Law Cup, with Barry Sullivan's family, from Bill Veenstra, CBABC then-Vice President.

