

THE HONOURABLE C.E. HINKSON
CHIEF JUSTICE
Telephone: (604) 660-2760
E-Mail: Christopher.Hinkson@BCCourts.ca



THE LAW COURTS
800 SMITHE STREET
VANCOUVER, B.C.
V6Z 2E1

March 6, 2024

VIA EMAIL

Canadian Bar Association, BC Branch

Attn.: Scott Morishita, President, 2023-2024
President@CBABC.ca

South Asian Bar Association of British Columbia

Attn.: Hardeep Gill, President, 2023-2024
hgill@fasken.com

Federation of Asian Canadian Lawyers (BC) Society

Attn.: Fiona Wong, President, 2023-2024
fionawonghc@gmail.com

RE: Correct pronunciation of names in court and tribunal proceedings

Thank you for your letter of February 2, 2024 and for bringing this issue to my attention.

Your letter was shared with the Supreme Court's Executive Committee and discussed at its most recent meeting. The Committee endorsed the importance of ensuring that the names of all parties, witnesses and counsel are correctly pronounced as a way of treating everyone with dignity and courtesy. They also agreed that taking time at the outset of a hearing to clarify the correct pronunciation of names is a way of showing respect. Through internal communications, all members of the Supreme Court have been encouraged to adopt practices to clarify the pronunciation of names at the beginning of a hearing or at the start of a witness's testimony. Given this, I do not think it is necessary at this time to issue or amend practice directions to address this issue.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Hinkson', written over a horizontal line.

Chief Justice Christopher E. Hinkson
Supreme Court of British Columbia