



THE CANADIAN
BAR ASSOCIATION
British Columbia Branch

ANNUAL REPORT

2015/2016

A YEAR IN REVIEW 2015/2016

What a great year this was! My presidential year was marked by many historic milestones. The year began with the Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould's being sworn in as the first Indigenous federal Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, followed by the creation of the first gender-balanced federal cabinet. Joven Narwal became the Vancouver Bar Association's first visible minority president. And I was proud to represent the BC Branch as its first visible minority president. If that wasn't enough, 2016 marked the 100th anniversary of women's right to vote in Canada.

My presidential year also marked a significant sea change for the CBA as our organization tackled governance reform, popularly known as Rethink. The process to develop a modern governance structure was not an easy one, and I am proud to have actively participated in that process.

I am even prouder to report that this past August, the CBA National Board voted in favour of a new national governance board. The new board, which will take a year or more to be implemented, will consist of 13 branch and territorial representatives, along with one president. The new board will focus on truly national issues, leaving branches with greater autonomy to focus on branch issues, and will continue to embrace and value the uniqueness of each part of Canada. That's diversity.

During this past year, I also had the pleasure of fulfilling my three election goals.

My first goal was to add greater engagement and value to our branch's Provincial Council meetings. With four meetings through the presidential year, I was pleased to host distinguished panels on important issues such as access to justice, unbundled legal services and self-represented litigants. I was especially pleased to host a historic Provincial Council meeting in June when we were graced with the presence of both federal and provincial Ministers of Justice. The



Jennifer Chow
President 2015/2016
Canadian Bar Association
- BC Branch

Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould and Honourable Suzanne Anton QC gave warm speeches, and were met with an even warmer reception by our Provincial Council members and special guests.

My second goal was to promote the goals of equality and diversity. This was achieved at a number of appearances, including a speech at a diversity panel hosted by the University of Victoria and a keynote speech at the UBC Chinese Law Students Association's annual banquet. I also became the first branch president to be interviewed by local Chinese media. My mom was thrilled to read the articles, and I was thrilled that her achievements were also noted by the Chinese media.

My third goal was to promote student loan forgiveness for new rural lawyers. Focussing on BC's student loan forgiveness program for doctors, we are asking the provincial government to extend that program to include new lawyers willing to work in rural British Columbia. Our formal student loan submission, which was aligned with the provincial government's commitment to strengthening BC's rural economies, was sent in August to the Premier, the provincial AG and the Minister for Jobs. Provincial Council formally adopted the student loan submission as branch policy in September. Thanks to Michael Welsh, our current branch president, for continuing to advocate for this issue with government and other stakeholders.

In closing, I am honoured to have served as your branch president. I am especially grateful for the new friendships I've developed and the ones I've renewed. Thanks also for laughing at my jokes. Au revoir.

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) is continuing legal education activities offered in-person and/or via webinar to both members and non-members. 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 2015/2016 was a successful term producing many well attended events, seminars, and conferences.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

This year CBABC Professional Development offered a total of 31 seminars and conferences: 17 held by webinar and 14 in-person. Throughout the course of the year, PD awarded 95 hours of continuing professional development (CPD) in accredited educational activities.

PD partnered with local/county bar associations to hold five full/half day seminars in Abbotsford, Chilliwack, Kelowna, North Vancouver, Prince Rupert, Surrey and Victoria, for a total of 18 CPD hours. PD also offered joint Sections/Forum programs in 2015/2016. The Aboriginal Lawyers Forum, ADR-Okanagan Section, Criminal Vancouver Section, Family-Law Okanagan Section, Freedom of Information & Privacy Law Section and Solicitors' General Practice – Central Vancouver Island Section all held highly successful conferences/seminars with PD for a total of 15 CPD hours.

In total, PD had over 1,531 registrations this term, 562 by in-person attendance alone, and 969 by webinar. A noteworthy CPD event this year was the sold-out live webinar “Open Discussions on Current Topics with the Court,” which was offered to all CBA members for free, as well as our inaugural year of the spring Branch Conference held in Whistler, BC, where more than 100 attendees and speakers participated in a weekend of learning, networking and socializing.

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

SECTIONS

BC Advantage offered CBABC members unlimited access to 78 BC Sections and 41 National Sections. BC members could register for any Section meetings or events without enrolling in Sections. Members also receive online access to Section resources such as minutes, legislative updates, news items, and discussion board.

This year 3,754 enrolled members attended 403 Section meetings, 34 of which were hosted as social events. A total of 529 Section Executive Officers volunteered their time this term to support the highly active 78 Sections, with more than 19,248 Section enrollments taking place. Throughout the course of the year, the CBABC awarded 393.5 hours of CPD in accredited educational activities. Of the 357 CPD eligible meetings, 219 meetings offered both in-person and remote participation options, by webinar or by teleconference. The CBABC received upwards of 8,500+ in-person registrations and an overwhelming 4,000+ remote registrations over the course of the year.

New Sections for 2015/2016 term by resolutions at Provincial Council meetings were:

1. Children's Law Section
2. Civil Litigation –
Tri-cities/Westminster Section
3. Women Lawyers Forum – BC North

Sections that were dissolved for the 2015/2016 term by resolutions at Provincial Council meetings were:

1. Criminal Justice – Okanagan Section
2. Criminal Justice –
Prince George Section
3. Young Lawyers – Kootenay Section

SECTION CHAIRS 2015/2016

The first figure indicates the number of members enrolled during the 2015/2016 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 (348/6)	Kate Blomfield; Jeff Langlois	FAMILY LAW-VICTORIA (134/6)	Laura Atkinson
ABORIGINAL LAW-VAN ISLAND (117/6)	Timothy Thielmann	FAMILY LAW-WESTMINSTER (110/2)	Dela Jahani
ABORIGINAL LAWYERS FORUM (98/4)	Adam Munnings	FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (454/3) & PRIVACY LAW	Sara Ann Levine, QC; Ritchie Po
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW (60/4)	Greg Allen; Shea Coulson	GEN-PRAC, SOLO & SML FRM-LM (331/5)	Cheryl D'Sa
ADR - NANAIMO (35/3)	Bill Larose	GEN-PRAC, SOLO & SML FRM (21/2) PRINCE RUPERT	Megan Olson; Karen Whonnock, QC
ADR - OKANAGAN (57/2)	Audra Bayer; Wesley Shields	HEALTH LAW (233/1)	Daniel Alexander Reid
ADR - VANCOUVER (379/8)	Philip Dougan	HUMAN RIGHTS LAW (489/4)	Aleem Bharmal; Stephanie Gutierrez
ADR - VICTORIA (113/3)	Elena Merritt	IMMIGRATION LAW (287/20)	Steven Meurrens
AIR LAW (76/4)	Kenneth Burnett	INSOLVENCY LAW (172/7)	Scott Anderson; Jef Poulsen;
ANIMAL LAW (111/3)	Rebeka Breder	INSURANCE LAW (418/5)	Rama Johal
APPELLATE ADVOCACY (251/3)	Angus Gunn, QC; Peter Senkpiel	INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & TECH LAW (291/3)	Kwan Loh
BANKING LAW (308/8)	Olga Bochkaryova	INTERNATIONAL LAW (215/5)	Jeffrey Horswill; Emily Ohler
BUSINESS LAW (786/4)	Parham Peiroo	LABOUR LAW (346/7)	Mark Colavecchia; Brett Matthews
CHARITIES & NOT-FOR-PROFIT LAW (378/7)	Kate Bake-Paterson; Michael Blatchford	LAW PRACTICE MANAGEMENT (338/1)	Rob Miller
CHILDREN'S LAW (64/6)	Donna Martinson, QC Sarah Rauch	LEGAL RESEARCH (333/6)	Laurel Courtenay
CIVIL LITIGATION-OKANAGAN (78/4)	Robert Levin	MARITIME LAW (90/7)	Dionysios Rossi
CIVIL LITIGATION-TRI-CITIES/ NEW WESTMINSTER (76/6)	Gillian Dougans Thomas Spraggs	MUNICIPAL LAW (303/6)	Troy DeSouza; Philip Cam-Minh Huynh
CIVIL LITIGATION-VANCOUVER (804/6)	Kristin Gardner	NATURAL RESOURCES LAW (254/3)	Jeremy Shelford
CIVIL LITIGATION-VAN ISLAND (164/8)	Thomas Moran	PENSIONS & BENEFITS LAW (142/3)	Colin Galinski
CLASS ACTION LAW (155/3)	Devon Windsor-Doyle Mathew Good; Robin Reinertson	PRODUCTS LIABILITY LAW (134/1)	Romany Benham- Parker
COMMERCIAL & REAL ESTATE-OKANAGAN (100/6)	Nancy Ling	PUBLIC SECTOR LAWYERS (242/4)	Cory Bargaen; François Paradis
COMMERCIAL & REAL ESTATE-VAN ISLAND (148/0)	Kristil Hammer	REAL PROPERTY-VANCOUVER (568/7)	Jordanna Cytrynbaum; Maxwell Carroll
CONSTITUTIONAL/CIVIL LIBERTIES (329/1)	R. Vick Farley, QC; Lisa Glowacki	SECURITIES LAW (288/3)	Neil Cave
CONSTRUCTION LAW (357/4)	Ryan Chalmers	SENIOR LAWYERS (89/2)	Gerald Lecovin, QC
CORPORATE COUNSEL (1016/6)	Allison Crane	SOCIAL JUSTICE (295/4)	Aleem Bharmal; Raji Mangat
CRIMINAL JUSTICE-KAMLOOPS (30/4)	Graham Kay	SOGIC (107/5)	Matthew Ostrow; Sasa Pudar
CRIMINAL JUSTICE-NANAIMO (32/5)	Kelly Bradshaw; Christopher Churchill	SOLICITORS' GENERAL PRACTICE (85/3) CENTRAL VANCOUVER ISLAND	Sucha Ollek
CRIMINAL JUSTICE-PRINCE RUPERT (23/3)	Nina Purewal	TAXATION LAW (284/4)	Jeffrey Glasner
CRIMINAL JUSTICE-VANCOUVER (246/8)	Kevin Westell	WILLS & TRUSTS-OKANAGAN (138/8)	Robert Culos; Michelle Rosser
CRIMINAL JUSTICE-VICTORIA (78/7)	Clare Jennings Andrew Tam	WILLS & TRUSTS-VANCOUVER (587/7)	Roselle Wu
ELDER LAW (319/8)	Ken Kramer, QC; Katherine Reilly	WILLS & TRUSTS-VICTORIA (202/7)	Stephanie Sieber
EMPLOYMENT LAW (636/7)	Frederick Wynne	WOMEN LAWYERS FORUM (943/10)	Deborah Taylor, J.D.
ENVIRONMENTAL LAW (360/3)	Jennifer Agnolin	WOMEN LAWYERS FORUM-BC NORTH (19/3)	Nina Purewal
FAMILY LAW-FRASER VALLEY (57/4)	Cristen Gleeson; David Hart	WOMEN LAWYERS FORUM-KAMLOOPS (34/2)	Rachel Lammers
FAMILY LAW-KAMLOOPS (41/6)	David Dundee	WOMEN LAWYERS FORUM-VAN ISLAND (148/5)	Samantha de Wit; Christine Murray
FAMILY LAW-NANAIMO (46/9)	Erin Brook; Joanna Recalma	YOUNG LAWYERS-BC NORTH (26/3)	Erin Crocker
FAMILY LAW-OKANAGAN (69/7)	Audra Bayer	YOUNG LAWYERS (610/14) LOWER MAINLAND	Ainsley MacCallum; Vanessa Werden
FAMILY LAW-VANCOUVER (362/8)	Nicola Allen; Meghan Selinger	YOUNG LAWYERS-OKANAGAN (68/8)	Jaime Boyle
		YOUNG LAWYERS-VICTORIA (135/10)	Reza Sadeghi-Yakta W. Craig Vaughan

PRESIDENT'S MEDAL



Aleem Bharmal addresses Provincial Council in June 2016 after receiving the President's Medal.

ALEEM BHARMAL

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
COMMUNITY LEGAL ASSISTANCE SOCIETY

CBABC AWARD WINNERS

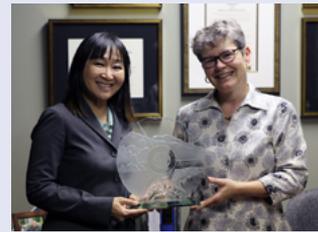
GEORGES A. GOYER, QC MEMORIAL
AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE
Mary Mouat, QC

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD
Kevin MacDonald

HARRY RANKIN QC PRO BONO AWARD
Sheila Tucker

INNOVATIVE WORKPLACE AWARD
Thomas Spraggs

EQUALITY & DIVERSITY AWARD
The Honourable Donna Martinson, QC



Mary Mouat, QC



Kevin MacDonald



Sheila Tucker



Thomas Spraggs



Hon. Donna Martinson, QC

STUDENT AWARDS

The Canadian Bar Association, BC Branch proudly hands out Student Awards each year to law students who thoroughly embody CBABC values while attending Thompson Rivers University, the University of British Columbia or the University of Victoria.

These values are demonstrated by participating in activities supporting legal professionals and law students; promoting law reform and justice; promoting equality; and providing community service.

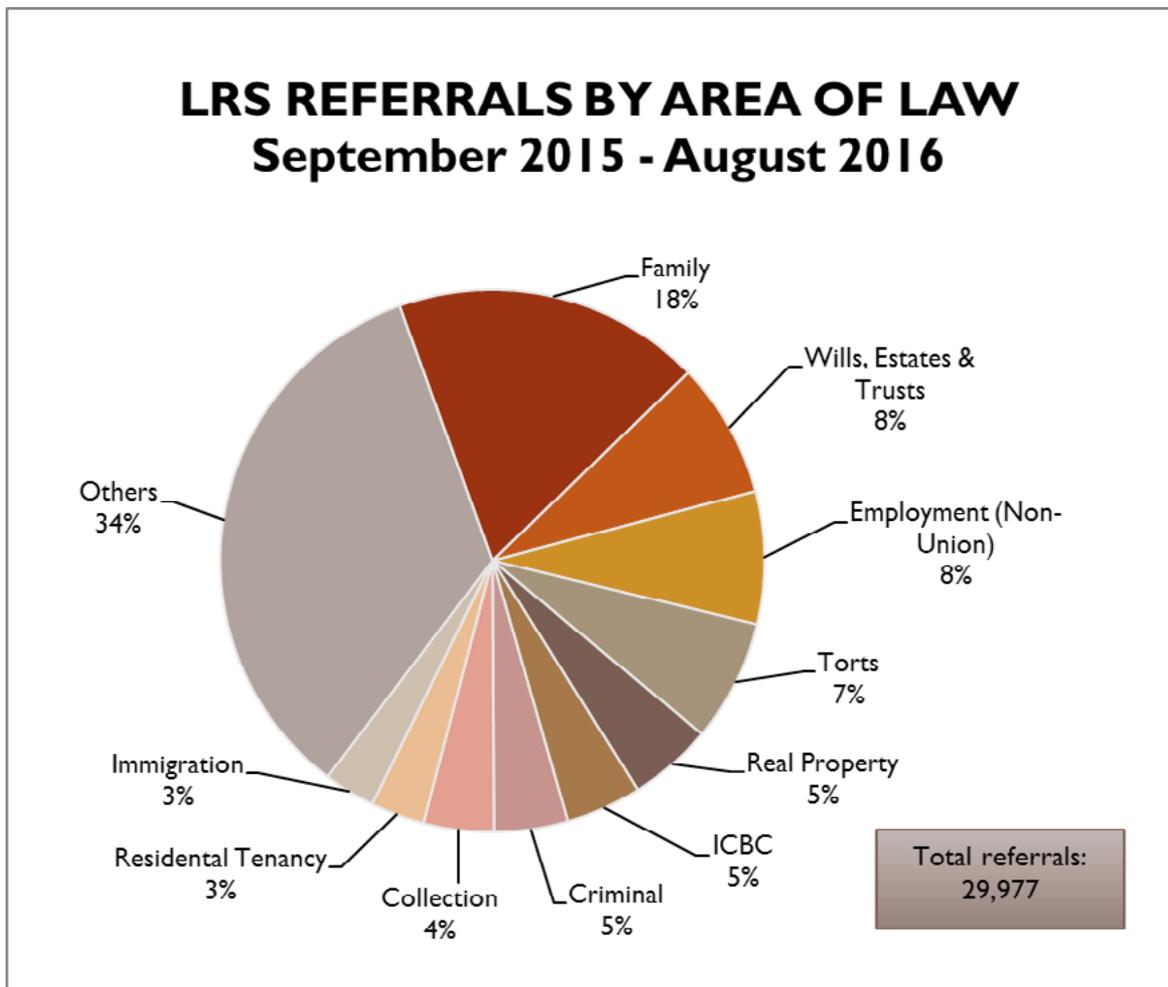
Congratulations to the 2016 Student Award winners: TRU's Karen Perry, UVic's Rebecca Whitmore and UBC's Leah Combs.

THE LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE AND DIAL-A-LAW

The Lawyer Referral Service (LRS) was established in 1955 to assist those in the community seeking legal consultation. This unique free service assists British Columbians in locating lawyers for specific types of legal matters. The LRS operates by matching a potential client to a member of the LRS panel for a 30-minute in-person consultation for \$25 plus tax. After the brief consultation, the client and the lawyer decide whether the lawyer will be retained for additional services at the lawyer’s regular rates.

Thousands of clients are referred to lawyers through the LRS each year. Members and non-members of the CBABC may join the Lawyer Referral Service for free. Many of the LRS lawyers volunteered to update the Dial-A-Law (DAL) scripts that are available to the public for free by telephone and online. DAL is a library of practical information on specific topics of law in BC. Scripts are available in English, Punjabi, Chinese and French.

To join LRS, call 604.687.3221 or 1.800.663.1919. To view DAL scripts, go online at www.dialalaw.org or call 604.687.4680 or 1.800.565.5297 (BC access only). These public service programs are operated by the CBABC and funded by the Law Foundation of BC.



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 more familiar with the Canadian legal system. This year, 10 locations across British Columbia participated in Law Week activities celebrating the 34th anniversary of the Charter of Rights on Law Day, April 14.

Vancouver Law Week activities started early with a “Meet the Chiefs” student forum, moderated by CBC’s Ian Hanomansing and featuring three Chief Justices of BC interacting with more than 100 students.

LAW DAY – APRIL 14

The “Judges in the Classroom” student outreach program matched judges with high school classes. Public education classes were coordinated in communities across the Lower Mainland, Vancouver Island and Cranbrook for a total of 24 classes, including one in Punjabi. The doors of Vancouver’s Downtown Community Courthouse (DCC) were thrown open for Law Day, with participants given a presentation about the DCC, its history and what happens in a typical day.

The CBA’s Legal Health Checks – printed materials supporting legal wellness – were provided to the People’s Law School as well as regional communities that put on Law Week events. The Legal Health Checks are also accessible online and were promoted via social media and on the bclawweek.org website.

The CBABC supported the Provincial Court in hosting the first-ever Twitter Townhall with Chief Judge Crabtree on Law Day. British Columbians were invited to engage with the Chief Judge using the hashtag #AskChiefJudge.

The event was hugely successful and was another way of engaging the public especially those beyond the communities in which events took place.

Volunteer lawyers assisted almost 300 people during the province-wide “Dial-A-Lawyer” event held Saturday, April 16. BC residents were invited to call and speak with a lawyer for up to 15 minutes at no cost.



Almost 300 people called in for “Dial-A-Lawyer Day” on April 16, 2016

BARRY SULLIVAN LAW CUP

One of the cornerstone events held during Law Week is the annual Barry Sullivan Law Cup public speaking contest. The competition is sponsored by the CBABC and is open to BC students in grades 10 to 12. The Law Cup is named in memory of Barry Sullivan in recognition of his contributions to both the legal and educational professions. Members of Mr. Sullivan’s family annually attend the final round of the competition, when the Law Cup is presented to the provincial winner.

The 2016 competition was held in the heritage courtrooms at the Vancouver Art Gallery. More than 30 students, including one from Trail and another from the Sunshine Coast, presented five-minute speeches on the theme “The Law in Cyberspace: The Right to be Forgotten vs. The Public’s Right to Know – Where should the line be drawn?” Gabrielle Fajardo of St. Thomas More Collegiate took home the top honour, receiving a trophy along with a \$1,500 cash prize.



2015/2016 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(L-R) Front: H. William Veenstra (Secretary Treasurer), Alison Oxtoby (Officer), Jennifer Chow (President), Krystle Gill (Equality and Diversity Representative).

(L-R) Back: Dierk Ullrich (Officer), Kenneth Armstrong (Officer), Erin Crocker (Young Lawyers Representative), Margaret Mereigh (Officer), Alex Shorten, QC (Past President), Michael Welsh (Vice President).

2015/2016 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

ACCESS TO JUSTICE	Aleem Bharmal; Lori Leung
ADVISORY TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF BC	Charlotte Salomon
AUDIT	H. William Veenstra
AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE	Michael Shirreff
AWARDS & RECOGNITION	Jamie Boyle
BARTALK / EDITORIAL BOARD	Candice Alderson
BUSINESS OF LAW	Eric Mollema
CONFERENCE (BC 2016)	Audra Bayer; Lynett Jung
CONFERENCE (US 2017)	Mark Virgin, Kim Karras
COURT SERVICES	John Caldwell
EQUALITY & DIVERSITY	Jasroop Grewal
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS	Michael Welsh
LAW WEEK - REGIONAL	Audra Bayer
LAW WEEK – VANCOUVER	Meghan Maddigan; Matthew Schissel
LEGISLATION & LAW REFORM	Eleanor Gregory
MEMBERSHIP	Alex Shorten
NOMINATIONS	Michael Welsh
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	Jennifer Barrett
REAL ADVISORY	Michael Welsh
RESOLUTIONS & BYLAWS	Alison Dempsey, Ph.D
SECTIONS STANDING	Kenneth Armstrong
SOLICITORS' PRACTICE ISSUES	Denese Espeut-Post

2015/2016 PROVINCIAL COUNCIL ELECTED MEMBERS

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 Armstong
Alison Crane
Todd Ferguson
Rishi Gill
Eleanor Gregory
Claire Hunter
Zahra Jimale
James Kondopulos
Ken Kramer, QC
Meghan Maddigan
Margaret Mereigh
Adam Munnings
Suzette Narbonne
Brent Olthuis
Preston Parsons
Mary Salaysay
Meghan Selinger
Mark Slay
Dierk Ullrich
Louisa Winn

VICTORIA

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

WESTMINSTER

Jennifer Anderson
Diane Gradley
Kim Karras
Paul Kent-Snowsell
Duncan Magnus
Clint Sadlemeyer, QC

YALE

Lorianna Bennett
Denese Espeut-Post
Alison Oxtoby
Andrew Powell