



2020 Annual Report

Supreme Court of British Columbia

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REPORT OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE AND THE ASSOCIATE CHIEF JUSTICE

INTRODUCTION

The Supreme Court of British Columbia is a court of inherent jurisdiction and the superior trial court in the province. Through its day-to-day work, the Court fulfills its constitutional role in our democracy as a neutral and impartial arbiter of disputes, ensuring that the law is upheld, applied to all persons equally, and respected. The judges, masters, and registrar of the Court preside over chambers applications of numerous types, various conferences involving counsel and parties, appeals from decisions of judges of the Provincial Court of British Columbia, and, of course, trials. It is often necessary for the judges, masters, and registrar to write rulings or reserved judgments to explain the result of the proceeding and to set precedents for future litigants. The Court also works with other bodies and organizations in the justice system to strengthen respect for and understanding of the importance of the rule of law.

While the Annual Report typically provides information about the volume of proceedings before the Court, we have chosen instead to highlight the Court's response to the COVID-19 pandemic in this year's report. The value in comparing statistics from 2020 to years prior has been reduced by the operational changes the pandemic required, as many matters were adjourned during the two month suspension of most regular operations in the spring and certain types of proceedings such as civil jury trials were suspended until fall 2021. Statistical information on the Court's operations for 2020 can nonetheless be found in the Appendix.

RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Suspension of Regular Operations

The COVID-19 pandemic made 2020 a year of challenges for the Supreme Court. Starting on March 17, 2020, when the provincial government declared a state of emergency, the Supreme Court instituted rapid changes to ensure that it could continue to adjudicate proceedings while protecting the health and safety of parties, counsel, judges, masters, registrars, court staff, and members of the public and the media.

Even in times of crisis, the Court has a constitutional obligation to continue to hear certain types of cases, to continue to deliver justice to individual parties, and to act as a check on the other branches of government. Because of this, the Court put emergency measures in place to continue hearing all essential or urgent matters while suspending most regular operations.

On March 19, 2020, the Court announced that many matters scheduled to be heard between March 19 and May 1, 2020 would be adjourned unless the Court directed otherwise. This suspension period was subsequently extended until May 29, 2020. The provincial government also made orders, later enacted

With advice from the Court's Executive Director and from our legal counsel, we quickly developed processes to ensure essential and urgent matters would proceed in a manner that did not risk the health of any of those involved.

in legislation, suspending the running of limitation periods in civil and family matters, with exemptions for the *Builders Liens Act* and Section 5 of the *Strata Property Act*. Registries were closed for in-person services from March 19 to July 13, 2020, although documents could still be e-filed and received through drop-boxes set up in seven major registries.

Continuing to Deliver Justice

With advice from the Court's Executive Director and from our legal counsel, we quickly developed processes to ensure essential and urgent matters would proceed in a manner that did not risk the health of any of those involved. This important work was greatly assisted by Cindy Friesen and her team at Supreme Court Scheduling, while the Court's IT department helped facilitate the technological transition to allow proceedings to be heard remotely. The public, media, and members of the bar have been kept informed about these changes to Court processes through COVID-19 notices posted to the Court's website.

In order to maintain the rule of law and the Court's core function, a Request for Urgent Hearing (RUH) process was developed immediately after the start of the pandemic to allow the Court to hear and decide essential or urgent criminal, family, and civil matters by telephone, where appropriate, or by video or in person where circumstances required. The RUH process ensured that criminal matters such as judicial interim release (bail) and bail review hearings, detention review hearings under s. 525 of the Criminal Code, and *habeas corpus* applications proceeded. It also permitted time-sensitive civil and family matters to proceed. In the family law context, these included matters relating to the safety or well-being of a child or parent, or to potentially imminent removal of a child from the jurisdiction. Civil law matters of an urgent or essential nature were understood to include matters relating to public health and safety and COVID-19; matters related to medical treatment and end of life decisions; detentions under the *Mental Health Act*; adult guardianship and committee orders; housing evictions; restraining and preservation orders; and other urgent orders such as injunction applications.

The Request for Urgent Hearing process also allowed some parties to file documents electronically and appear remotely when appropriate, depending on the directions of the reviewing judge and the capacity of the local registry. Drop-boxes were put in place at courthouses around the province to accept paper filings from parties who did not have access to the internet.

A number of ministerial orders were made between April and July 2020 allowing the Court to adapt procedural steps in the *Supreme Court Civil Rules* and *Supreme Court Family Rules* to the circumstances of the pandemic. We have used the authority granted by these orders to establish alternate ways for parties to submit materials and appear at proceedings until ordinary practices can be completely resumed.

The Court worked as quickly as possible to set up new systems for telephone conferences of various types—trial management conferences in civil and family

The introduction of more rigorous COVID-19 pre-trial conferences helped resolve cases, streamlined trial processes, and supported the identification of applications or voir dres that could appropriately and safely be heard during the temporary suspension period.

cases, judicial case conferences in family cases, and pre-trial conferences in criminal cases—and used them to help determine which scheduled trials could realistically proceed given restrictions due to COVID-19.

Additionally, in order to allow the Court to continue hearing matters when it was not possible to attend court in person, the processes described below were put in place.

Criminal Processes

Criminal matters adjourned due to the suspension of court operations were scheduled for fix date appearances from May through July by court location in order to reset them for hearing. Certain processes, such as the process for applications under s. 490 of the *Criminal Code* for further detention of things seized, bail applications involving sureties, and consent bail variations, were modified to account for the challenges of the pandemic.

Pre-trial conferences proceeded as scheduled, but by telephone, for trials scheduled to begin after the suspension period. Special COVID-19 Pre-trial Conferences (CV PTCs) by telephone were temporarily instituted for criminal cases where the trial was unable to proceed or was at risk of being adjourned because of the suspension of the Court's regular operations. The introduction of more rigorous COVID-19 pre-trial conferences helped resolve cases, streamlined trial processes, and supported the identification of applications or voir dres that could appropriately and safely be heard during the temporary suspension period.

Civil Processes

For civil and family matters that were not considered urgent or essential and that were scheduled to proceed during the suspension period, the Court developed a Telephone Conference Hearing (TCH) process by which the parties could raise one issue for determination. This process was discontinued when regular operations began to resume in May.

An Application by Written Submissions (AWS) process was developed to for the determination of discrete matters solely on the basis of written submissions and remained in place at the end of the year.

From the beginning of the pandemic, the Court also encouraged the use of e-filing for desk orders in civil and family matters, many of which continued to be processed during the suspension period.

Civil jury trials were initially suspended between March 19 and September 7, 2020, with the suspension extended in July to January 4, 2021. All civil jury trials previously scheduled to be heard automatically converted to trials by judge alone, although the parties could apply to adjourn. In September 2020, civil jury trials were further suspended to October 3, 2021, with those scheduled to proceed in the interim also converting to judge alone trials unless otherwise ordered by the Court.

Remote processes continue to be used for many proceedings, where appropriate, in order to reduce the number of people traveling to and attending courthouses.

Resumption of More Normal Services

In May and June, an independent consultant for Court Services Branch assessed the health and safety modifications required in courtrooms, registries, and courthouses to mitigate the risk of transmission of COVID-19. Extensive work was done to physically modify facilities and to put in place enhanced cleaning and screening protocols. Measures included health screenings of court users and visitors at entry points, hourly cleaning of high touch surfaces, physical distancing markers in public spaces, installation of Plexiglas and Lexan separators in courtrooms, registries, and other public areas, and reconfiguration of courtrooms to allow for appropriate physical distancing.

In early May, regular fix date appearances and summary conviction and traffic ticket appeals resumed by telephone when possible and appropriate.

Trial Management Conferences (TMCs) and Judicial Case Conferences (JCCs) also recommenced by telephone in May, with parties following modified timelines for the filing of certain documents.

Civil and family chambers matters that had been scheduled for hearing on the trial list resumed by telephone on June 1, 2020, and chambers applications estimated at two hours or less resumed by telephone on June 15, 2020.

On June 8, 2020, in-person hearings resumed in locations where the Court had resident judges and masters. Criminal trials and family and civil trials scheduled to begin on or after June 8, 2020 resumed unless otherwise directed.

Gradually, in-person hearings were reinstated at all of the Supreme Court's 28 locations across the province, with most courthouses operating at near-normal conditions by October. Remote processes continue to be used for many proceedings, where appropriate, in order to reduce the number of people traveling to and attending courthouses.

With the resumption of in-person hearings, the Court issued a notice requiring counsel and self-represented parties to confirm at the start of each in-person hearing or trial day that neither they nor anyone involved on their side are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, and that neither they nor anyone on their side had traveled outside the country within the last two weeks.

In July, the Court released a notice announcing that criminal jury trials would resume on September 8, 2020. Jury selection was modified to include two stages in the process so as to avoid bringing together large numbers of jury panelists at one time. The two stages take place on separate dates, one of them typically on a weekend day when fewer people are in courthouses for other reasons, and jury panelists (organized into sequence in a random selection process at stage one) attend in groups at staggered times of the day at stage two. Modifications were made to jury boxes in courtrooms and to other jury facilities to ensure physical distancing. Where local courthouses could not safely accommodate the number of people required for a jury trial, the case was either

The Court recorded particularly high numbers of online bookings in the spring, with 840 hearings of various types booked online in May and 734 in June.

moved to another courthouse or, in some instances, held in off-site locations—including at the Chilliwack Cultural Centre and at the Capitol Theatre in Nelson in September. Twelve jury trials took place between September 8 and December 31, 2020. Many others resolved shortly before the start of the trial, some of those after the jury selection, or the accused re-elected trial by judge alone.

Expansion of the Use of Technology

Many of the adaptations that the Court adopted in response to the pandemic involved using technology in new ways. Online forms were created to request and book new types of hearings. Parties could book trial management conferences (TMCs) online prior to the pandemic, but the creation of the Application by Written Submissions (AWS) process, Telephone Conference Hearings (TCHs), and COVID Pre-trial Conferences (PTCs) saw the volume of online bookings increase to unprecedented levels. The Court recorded particularly high numbers of online bookings in the spring, with 840 hearings of various types booked online in May and 734 in June¹.

New processes were developed to allow for signing of judicial interim release documents and commissioning of affidavits remotely. While telephone and video have been used previously for certain types of proceedings at the Court for many years, efforts were made to dramatically increase the number of appearances by telephone and videoconference.

Trial courts face unique challenges with respect to remote hearings. The *Criminal Code* provides limited exceptions to the default rule that criminal proceedings are to be held in person. In all trials, there are concerns that judges may find it more difficult to assess witness credibility by video and that some witnesses could be subject to external influence or pressure not apparent to the judge, from others supervising testimony off-screen. There are also concerns about access to justice for those who are less familiar with the technology employed or who do not have secure, consistent access to the internet. The Supreme Court continues to work within these constraints to offer remote hearings where appropriate as a way of expanding court access during the pandemic.

The Supreme Court chose Microsoft Teams as the most cost-effective and secure platform for video proceedings and began holding remote videoconference (RVC) hearings on a trial basis in continuing proceedings in June. In July, the Court extended the option of RVC hearings presumptively to certain proceedings that did not involve witness testimony and that did not require language interpretation. Since that time, RVC hearings have been used for a large number of matters, including submissions in some lengthy criminal *voir dices* involving large numbers of counsel and Aboriginal law trials with professional witnesses.

In October, the Vancouver courthouse began piloting masters' chambers hearings using Microsoft Teams. In 2021, the Court plans to expand the use

¹ See Figure 19 in the Appendix for online booking statistics.

In 2021, the Court plans to expand the use of Teams to other locations where chambers are currently proceeding by telephone.

of Teams to other locations where chambers are currently proceeding by telephone. At present time, the Court's ability to expand its use of Microsoft Teams hearings is limited by a number of factors, including availability of video and computer equipment in courtrooms, training for court clerks, and the need for a document management system to convey hearing materials to judges in a readily useable electronic format for matters that are being heard remotely.

By the end of 2020, the Court was operating at regular capacity and carrying a normal case volume, using technology to support an increased number of remote proceedings in addition to the matters proceeding in person.

Ongoing Public Safety Measures

As noted above, cleaning and screening protocols and physical distancing measures at the Court were put in place by early June and continue to be observed in 2021. Face masks were made mandatory by the provincial government in courthouses on November 25, 2020 and are required to be worn in all public spaces, including entrances, lobbies, waiting areas, registries, hallways, stairways, restrooms, and elevators. There are several exceptions to the mask rule, including for children under the age of 12; anyone who is unable to wear a mask due to a psychological, behavioural, or health condition, or because of a physical, cognitive, or mental impairment; and anyone who is unable to put on a mask without the help of another person. Persons may also be required to briefly remove their masks for the purpose of identification. The use of masks in courtrooms is subject to the direction of the presiding judge, master, or registrar.

Open Court

The Court recognizes the critical importance of the open court principle and the role of the media in keeping the public informed of legal proceedings. In the face of the challenges presented by COVID-19, Court proceedings remained open for the public and the media to observe throughout 2020 with certain qualifications. Seats continued to be available in courtrooms for members of the public and the media, but fewer were available because of physical distancing requirements. For some cases with high public interest, the proceedings were video-broadcast to an overflow space in the courthouse to increase capacity. Members of the accredited media and the public were also able to request dial-in information to listen to proceedings via telephone. Because of various considerations about maintaining control of the court record and protecting against misuse, the public and media generally were only able to dial in by telephone to listen to proceedings held using Microsoft Teams. Over the coming year, the Court will continue working to increase public and media access to remote proceedings where attendance in person is not practicable.

Displaced Cases

While the pandemic displaced 1,112² trials in the spring—785 civil trials, 160 criminal trials, and 167 family trials—the backlog was significantly reduced by the end of the year. As of December 31, 2020, 80 trials had since been heard, 456 had been booked for future dates or were in the process of being heard, and 133 were no longer proceeding. The 443 trials that had not yet been booked for future dates were exclusively civil and family matters in which the decision to proceed is driven by the parties.

When criminal jury trials resumed on September 8, 2020, there were 59 jury trials scheduled between then and the end of the year. Many of the criminal jury trials scheduled over that period were not among those displaced by the impacts of COVID-19 and had simply been booked for those dates. Eleven of the scheduled trials for that period were completed, with another trial underway at year-end. Two of the completed trials ended in a mistrial, at least one of which was the result of a hung jury where the jurors could not reach a unanimous verdict.

Forty-seven of the criminal jury trials scheduled (as of approximately six weeks before) to occur between September and December 31, 2020 did not proceed at that time: in seven trials, the accused pleaded guilty plea; in two, the accused re-elected to have a trial by Supreme Court judge alone; and in five, the accused re-elected to the Provincial Court to plead guilty there. Additionally seven trials did not proceed because the Crown stayed the proceedings; one was abated because the accused died; one was waived to another province; and 24 have new trial dates set in the future.

There continue to be some adjournments and delays linked to the pandemic, many of them beyond the Court's control, originating when parties or counsel are unable to proceed—including instances where a party or counsel may have to self-isolate due to COVID-19 symptoms or exposure.

² The data provided for the Supreme Court is sourced from the Supreme Court Scheduling System and figures are subject to change due to data corrections, errors, or omissions.

COVID-19 NOTICES

COVID-19 Notice No. 1: Changes to Courtroom Procedures for In-Person Court Appearances (revised and replaced by COVID-19 Notice No. 34 on July 13, 2020)

[COVID-19 Notice No. 2: Affidavits for Use in Court Proceedings](#)

COVID-19 Notice No. 3: Applications Under s. 490 of the Criminal Code (Further Detention of Things Seized) (revised and replaced by COVID-19 Notice No. 30 on June 30, 2020)

COVID-19 Notice No. 4: Suspension of All Regular Court Operations – Civil and Family Matters (revised and replaced by COVID-19 Notice No. 8)

COVID-19 Notice No. 5: Suspension of All Regular Court Operations – Criminal Proceedings (revised and replaced by COVID-19 Notice No. 7 on April 16, 2020)

COVID-19 Notice No. 6: Suspension of All Regular Court Operations – Insolvency Matters (revised and replaced by COVID-19 Notice No. 15)

COVID-19 Notice No. 7: Suspension of All Regular Court Operations – Criminal Proceedings (revised and replaced by COVID-19 Notice No. 18 on May 11, 2020)

COVID-19 Notice No. 8: Suspension of All Regular Court Operations – Civil and Family Matters (revised and replaced by COVID-19 Notice No. 34 on July 13, 2020)

COVID-19 Notice No. 9: Expansion of Civil and Family – Telephone Conference Hearings (revised and replaced by COVID-19 Notice No. 13)

[COVID-19 Notice No. 10: E-Filing and Bankruptcy Desk Order Applications](#)

COVID-19 Notice No. 11: E-Filing and Desk Orders Applications (revised and replaced by COVID-19 Notice No. 12)

COVID-19 Notice No. 12: E-Filing and Desk Orders (Family and Civil) (revoked on May 29, 2020, when filing and service timelines began to run again)

COVID-19 Notice No. 13: Expansion of Civil and Family – Telephone Conference Hearings (revised and replaced by COVID-19 Notice No. 34 on July 13, 2020)

[COVID-19 Notice No. 14: Expansion of Civil and Family Matters – Applications by Written Submissions](#)

COVID-19 Notice No. 15: Suspension of All Regular Court Operations – Insolvency Matters (revised and replaced by COVID-19 Notice No. 34 on July 13, 2020)

COVID-19 Notice No. 16: Notice Regarding Criminal Proceedings – COVID Pre-trial Conferences (CV PTC) (revised and replaced by COVID-19 Notice No. 29 on June 30, 2020)

COVID-19 Notice No. 17: Notice to Media Regarding Access to Court Proceedings (revised and replaced by COVID-19 Notice No. 37 on July 13, 2020)

COVID-19 Notice No. 18: Suspension of All Regular Court Operations – Criminal Proceedings (revised and replaced by COVID-19 Notice No. 33 on July 7, 2020)

COVID-19 Notice No. 19: Resumption of Some Court Operations – Civil and Family Proceedings (revised and replaced by COVID-19 Notice No. 22 on May 21, 2020)

COVID-19 Notice No. 20: Resumption of Trial Management Conferences and Trials – Civil and Family Proceedings (revised and replaced by COVID-19 Notice No. 23 on May 21, 2020)

COVID-19 Notice No. 21: Resumption of Some Regular Court Operations – Criminal Proceedings (revised and replaced by COVID-19 Notice No. 33 on July 21, 2020)

COVID-19 Notice No. 22: Resumption of Some Court Operations – Civil and Family Proceedings (revised and replaced by COVID-19 Notice No. 25 on June 3, 2020)

COVID-19 Notice No. 23: Resumption of Trial Management Conferences and Trials – Civil and Family Proceedings (revised and replaced by COVID-19 Notice No. 26 on June 3, 2020)

[COVID-19 Notice No. 24: Civil and Family Matters – Filing of Affidavits of Service or Delivery](#)

COVID-19 Notice No. 25: Resumption of Further Court Operations – Civil and Family Matters (revised and replaced by COVID-19 Notice No. 34 on July 13, 2020)

COVID-19 Notice No. 26: Resumption of Trial Management Conferences – Civil and Family Matters (revised and replaced by COVID-19 Notice No. 40 on July 27, 2020)

[COVID-19 Notice No. 27: In Court Measures during the Pandemic](#)

COVID-19 Notice No. 28: Resumption of Further Court Operations – Chambers Applications (replaced by COVID-19 Notice No. 42 on October 13, 2020)

[COVID-19 Notice No. 29: COVID-19 Pre-Trial Conferences](#)

[COVID-19 Notice No. 30: Applications under s. 490 of the Criminal Code \(Further Detention of Things Seized\) during the Health Emergency](#)

[COVID-19 Notice No. 31: Resumption of Further Court Operations – Sealed Bid Procedures for Foreclosures and Other Matters Involving Sales of Land](#)

[COVID-19 Notice No. 32: Resumption of Further Court Operations – Registrar Hearings](#)

[COVID-19 Notice No. 33: Expansion of Court Operations](#)

[COVID-19 Notice No. 34: Expansion of Court Operations – In-Person Registry Services](#)

[COVID-19 Notice No. 35: Expansion of Court Operations – Remote Video Conference Hearings](#)

[COVID-19 Notice No. 36: Civil Matters – Resumption of Case Planning Conferences](#)

COVID-19 Notice No. 37: Notice to the Media Regarding Access to Supreme Court Proceedings (revised and replaced by COVID-19 Notice No. 43 on February 17, 2021)

[COVID-19 Notice No. 38: Criminal Jury Trials Resuming September 8, 2020](#)

COVID-19 Notice No. 39: Civil Jury Selections and Trials (revised and replaced by COVID-19 Notice No. 41 on September 21, 2020)

[COVID-19 Notice No. 40: Civil and Family Matters – Resumption of Trial Management Conferences and Trials](#)

[COVID-19 Notice No. 41: Amendments to the Supreme Court Civil Rules - Temporary Suspension of Civil Jury Trials](#)

[COVID-19 Notice No. 42: Chambers Applications by Telephone and Microsoft Teams](#)

COURT GOVERNANCE

The Chief Justice and Associate Chief, in their roles as administrators of the Court, rely on the assistance of a number of internal court committees. In addition to the Court's three substantive law committees (the Criminal Law Committee, the Family Law Committee, and the Civil Law Committee), the Court is supported by subject-specific committees including the Education Committee, the Law Clerks Committee, and the Public Affairs Committee, as well as the Executive Committee, which addresses matters of court administration. Some committees such as the Joint Courts Technology Committee and the Library Committee are joint committees of the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal, while others like the Judicial Access Policy Working Committee bring together members of other courts and of Court Services Branch. The mandates of these committees vary, however, they all share a common purpose: to consider matters of general importance to the Court within their subject matter expertise, and to provide advice and guidance to the Court generally. The Court membership of these committees is drawn from the judges, masters, registrars, legal counsel, and judicial staff. Through their work, the committees strengthen and enhance the Court's effective and efficient management. Committee reports begin on page 25 of this report.

SUPREME COURT PRACTICE DIRECTIONS

The Court issued five practice directions in 2020:

PD-57 Court-to-Court Communication in Cross Border Cases (February 11, 2020)

Practice Direction 57 rescinds previous Practice Direction 6 and confirms the Supreme Court's adoption of the Judicial Insolvency Network's Guidelines for Communication and Cooperation between Courts in Cross-border Insolvency Matters in all cross-border matters.

PD-58 Sealing Orders in Civil and Family Proceedings (February 10, 2020)

Practice Direction 58 updates the procedure for applying for an order sealing all or part of the court file in a civil or family law case.

PD-59 Forms of Address for Parties and Counsel in Proceedings (December 16, 2020)

Practice Direction 59 clarifies how parties and/or counsel can advise the Court, other parties, and counsel of their pronouns and form of address prior to the start of proceedings.

FPD-15 Divorce Applications (June 25, 2020)

This Practice Direction replaces the rescinded Family Practice Direction 11 - Divorce Applications, which was issued March 19, 2013. It provides instruction to assist in the preparation of material in support of applications under Rule 10-10 and Rule 11-3 of the *Supreme Court Family Rules*.

CPD-4 Procedure for Detention Reviews under s. 525 of the Criminal Code (March 2, 2020)

The procedure for detention reviews under s. 525 of the *Criminal Code*, initially set out in an interim practice direction, has been revised to reflect experience with it and to accommodate amendments to s. 525 contained in *An Act to amend the Criminal Code, the Youth Criminal Justice Act and other Acts and to make consequential amendments to other Acts*, S.C. 2019, c. 25 (Bill C-75).

EXTRA-JUDICIAL ACTIVITIES

In addition to the normal workload of hearing cases and applications, deciding issues, writing and issuing reasons for judgment, issuing desk order divorces and electronic orders, and presiding at case conferences, members of the Court participate in a wide variety of other activities in their communities. While the COVID-19 pandemic curtailed most regular in-person engagements, in previous years members of the Court would speak to students during courthouse tours and attend universities and high schools to meet with students in association with Law Week activities organized by the Canadian Bar Association and at other times throughout the year. Some judges also regularly preside at moot court competitions and speak at annual conferences.

Members of the Court welcome opportunities to engage in public education and to contribute to a greater understanding of the justice system and its role in Canadian society. In 2020, the judges, masters, and registrars of the Court continued to volunteer their time with local, provincial, federal and international organizations, including the following:

- Access Pro Bono Society of BC
- Access to Justice BC
- The Advocates' Club
- The Advocates' Society
- Amici Curiae Friendship Society
- Annual Review of Insolvency Law and Society
- Arbitrators Association of BC
- L'Association des juristes d'expression française de la Colombie-Britannique
- BC Council of Administrative Tribunals
- BC Law Schools Moot Program
- BC Model Insolvency Order Committee
- Canadian Association of Insolvency and Restructuring Professionals
- Canadian Bar Association
- Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice
- Canadian Institute for Advanced Legal Studies
- Canadian Judicial Council – National Committee on Jury Instructions
- Canadian Judicial Council – Family Law Subcommittee
- Continuing Legal Education Society of British Columbia
- Canadian Superior Courts Judges Association
- Federation of Law Societies of Canada National Criminal Law Program
- Gale Cup Moot Program
- Insolvency Institute of Canada
- International Society for the Reform of Criminal Law
- JUDICOM Advisory Board
- Justice Education Society
- Laskin Moot Program
- Law Foundation of British Columbia
- Law Society of British Columbia
- Law Society of Ontario
- México Evalúa
- National Judicial Institute
- Osgoode Hall Law School
- People's Law School
- Rise Women's Justice Centre
- Sedona Canada Working Group
- Sedona USA Drafting Committee for Cross-border Privilege
- Schulich School of Law at Dalhousie
- Sopinka Cup Organizing Committee
- Thompson Rivers University Faculty of Law Wilson Moot Program
- Trial Lawyers Association of British Columbia
- University of British Columbia Peter A. Allard School of Law
- University of Toronto Faculty of Law
- University of Victoria Faculty of Law
- Vancouver Foundation
- Vancouver Institute
- Victoria Foundation

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Chief Justice and Associate Chief Justice would like to recognize the high level of commitment shown by all of the Court's staff over the past year. The Court's functioning relies greatly on their professionalism and dedication in a normal year, and many staff worked long hours in the early days of the pandemic to help develop and implement creative solutions that allowed the Court to continue its work despite the challenging circumstances. Special mention must be made of Heidi McBride, Senior Counsel and Executive Director of the Superior Courts Judiciary, members of legal counsel, Cindy Friesen and her Supreme Court Scheduling team, and the Court's IT department, all of whom worked tirelessly to create new ways of operating that permitted proceedings to continue safely.

The Court is grateful for the support of the Attorney General and senior officials from the ministry, with whom frequent meetings were held throughout the course of the pandemic. This collaboration helped address the operational challenges faced by the Court, allowing justice to continue to be delivered to British Columbians. The Court appreciates the responsiveness of the Attorney General to matters such as the need for increased bandwidth and hardware to support telephone and video hearings, both in courthouses and in pre-trial correctional centres.

The Court would also like to acknowledge the passing of Mark Hujanen, service delivery manager for the Superior Courts Judiciary's IT department, in December 2020. Mr. Hujanen provided his expertise to the Court for more than 20 years, developing and supporting the creation of many systems that have become crucial to the Court's day-to-day operations.

Finally, the Chief Justice and Associate Chief Justice wish to express their thanks to the judges, masters, and registrars of the Court, who regularly provide support and advice with respect to the Court's administration.

Christopher E. Hinkson
Chief Justice

Heather J. Holmes
Associate Chief Justice

The Supreme Court's inherent jurisdiction allows it to control its own processes and procedures in order to ensure fairness and to prevent abuses of process.

JURISDICTION OF THE COURT

SUPERIOR COURT

The Supreme Court of British Columbia has jurisdiction to hear and decide any matter that comes before it, unless a statute or rule limits that authority or grants exclusive jurisdiction to some other court or tribunal. The Supreme Court's inherent jurisdiction allows it to control its own processes and procedures in order to ensure fairness and to prevent abuses of process. The Supreme Court hears civil, family, and criminal cases, as well as appeals from the Provincial Court. The Supreme Court also reviews the decisions of certain administrative tribunals, including the Labour Relations Board, Workers Compensation Appeal Tribunal, the British Columbia Human Rights Tribunal, and residential tenancies arbitration decisions.

SUPREME COURT REGISTRIES AND LOCATIONS

The Supreme Court is a circuit court in which all the judges and masters travel throughout the province to preside over cases. The Supreme Court sits in seven judicial districts and has resident judges in Chilliwack, Kamloops, Kelowna, Nanaimo, Nelson, New Westminster, Prince George, Vancouver, and Victoria. The Supreme Court also sits as required in other locations where there is no resident judge or master, including Campbell River, Cranbrook, Courtenay, Dawson Creek, Duncan, Fort St. John, Golden, Penticton, Port Alberni, Powell River, Prince Rupert, Quesnel, Revelstoke, Rossland, Salmon Arm, Smithers, Terrace, Vernon, and Williams Lake.

CHIEF JUSTICE AND ASSOCIATE CHIEF JUSTICE

The Chief Justice is responsible for the management and direction of matters related to judicial functions, which includes matters related to the preparation, management, and adjudication of proceedings in the Court, as well as the assignment of judges. From time to time, these responsibilities are delegated to the Associate Chief Justice.

SUPREME COURT JUSTICES

As of December 31, 2020, the Supreme Court had 108 justices: the Chief Justice, the Associate Chief Justice, 86 full-time justices, and 20 supernumerary justices. As of December 31, 2020, there were four vacancies¹ on the Supreme Court.

¹ Section 2(2) of the *Supreme Court Act*, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 443 provides that the Supreme Court consists of 90 full time justices in addition to the Chief Justice and the Associate Chief Justice. A judicial vacancy is created when a full time judge retires or elects to become a supernumerary judge. The retirement of a supernumerary judge does not create a judicial vacancy.

Masters sit in all of the registries throughout the province on a regular basis and also conduct hearings using telephone and video conferencing.

SUPREME COURT MASTERS

The Supreme Court has 15 masters who are resident in Kamloops, Kelowna, Nanaimo, New Westminster, Vancouver, and Victoria. Masters sit in all of the registries throughout the province on a regular basis and also conduct hearings using telephone and video conferencing.

Masters are judicial officers appointed by the provincial government by Order in Council after it has received recommendations from an ad hoc committee consisting of the Chief Justice, the Deputy Attorney General, the President of the Law Society of British Columbia, and the President of the B.C. Branch of the Canadian Bar Association.

Masters preside in civil chambers and registrar hearings. They hear applications in chambers on a wide variety of matters, including interim orders in family proceedings, interlocutory applications in civil proceedings, and foreclosure proceedings. Supreme Court masters also have the jurisdiction of registrars and preside as registrars throughout the province as required.

REGISTRARS

The Supreme Court has one registrar, who is resident in Vancouver but regularly sits in other registries. Like the masters, the registrar also conducts hearings using telephone and video conferencing.

The registrar is appointed pursuant to s. 13 of the *Supreme Court Act* and is under the general direction of the Chief Justice. He hears a wide variety of matters, including reviews of lawyers' accounts, bankruptcy discharge applications and bankruptcy taxations, assessments of bills of costs, subpoenas to debtors, passing of accounts, and references of various types. He also settles orders.

The Supreme Court registrar is also responsible for overseeing the province's deputy district registrars, who work in court registries across the province. The registrar serves as a liaison between the Court and Ministry of Justice - Court Services Branch in regard to registrar's issues.

In 2020, the Court welcomed the appointment of nine new judges and two new masters and acknowledged the retirement of four judges.

CHANGES TO THE COURT'S COMPLEMENT

In 2020, the Court welcomed the appointment of nine new judges and two new masters and acknowledged the retirement of four judges. Additionally, one judge of the Supreme Court was appointed to the Court of Appeal. These changes are listed chronologically within each category.

APPOINTMENTS

The Honourable Mr. Justice Matthew Taylor

Mr. Justice Matthew Taylor, formerly Senior Legal Counsel at the Ministry of the Attorney General of British Columbia in Vancouver, was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of British Columbia in New Westminster on March 16, 2020. Mr. Justice Taylor replaces Mr. Justice L.W. Bernard (New Westminster), who elected to become a supernumerary judge effective May 11, 2019.

Mr. Justice Taylor was raised in Montreal and is bilingual in English and French. He received a B.A. (Honours) in politics from Queen's University in 1989 and an M.Phil in political philosophy from Cambridge University in 1990 on a Cambridge Commonwealth Scholarship. Mr. Justice Taylor earned LL.B. and B.C.L. degrees from McGill University Faculty of Law in 1994, graduating as the National Program Gold Medalist before obtaining an LL.M. from Harvard Law School, which he attended on a Fulbright Scholarship. He clerked at the Supreme Court of Canada from 1994 to 1995, and was called to the Ontario Bar in 1996 and the British Columbia Bar in 2002.

Mr. Justice Taylor practiced as Senior Legal Counsel with the British Columbia Ministry of the Attorney General since 2008, principally as a solicitor on complex commercial and public transactions. He has broad public and private sector litigation and advisory experience, having previously practised as a commercial and public law litigator in Vancouver and Toronto, and earlier in his career, as a legal and policy analyst with the Privy Council Office in Ottawa. Mr. Justice Taylor has co-authored several publications, including *The Charter of Rights in Litigation*, and volunteers extensively—including within the legal community.

The Honourable Mr. Justice Andrew Majawa

Mr. Justice Andrew Majawa, formerly Regional Director and General Counsel at the Department of Justice Canada in Vancouver, was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of British Columbia in Vancouver on March 16, 2020. Mr. Justice Majawa replaces Mr. Justice N.H. Smith (Vancouver), who elected to become a supernumerary judge effective October 10, 2019.

Mr. Justice Majawa was born and raised in Metro Vancouver. He received his B.A. (Honours) from Queen's University before returning to Vancouver and obtaining his J.D. from the University of British Columbia in 2005. After graduation, he clerked at the Supreme Court of British Columbia and articulated at the Department of Justice Canada before being called to the British Columbia Bar in 2007.

Mr. Justice Majawa spent his entire legal career at the Department of Justice Canada, primarily practising in tax litigation and extradition. Since 2015, he has held various senior roles at the British Columbia office of the Department of Justice Canada, including General Counsel and Regional Director of the Business and Regulatory Law Section and the Tax Law Section. Mr. Justice Majawa was the co-chair and co-founder of the British Columbia office of the Department of Justice Canada Mental and Physical Wellness Committee, and was recognized nationally for his work in support of its mental health initiative.

The Honourable Madam Justice Sandra Wilkinson

Madam Justice Sandra A. Wilkinson, formerly Senior Legal Counsel at the Ministry of the Attorney General of British Columbia in Vancouver, was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of British Columbia in Vancouver on May 1, 2020. Madam Justice Wilkinson fills the vacancy created by the transfer of Madam Justice C. Murray (Vancouver) into the vacancy created by Mr. Justice B.D. MacKenzie (Victoria), who elected to become a supernumerary judge effective October 22, 2019.

Madam Justice Wilkinson was born in Pointe Claire, Quebec, and raised mainly in Scarborough, Ontario. She obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Toronto in 1989 and a Bachelor of Laws from the University of British Columbia in 1992 before being admitted to the British Columbia Bar in 1993 and the California Bar in 1999.

Madam Justice Wilkinson began her legal practice as a civil and family law litigator in Vancouver servicing the LGBTQ+ communities before going on to practice in the area of tax and trust laws in California. Upon returning to Vancouver in 2004, she was legal counsel with the Attorney General of British Columbia, advising and representing provincial financial institution, pension plan, mortgage broker, and real estate industry regulators, and the Ministry of Finance.

Madam Justice Wilkinson regularly presented at legal education events and served as an executive member of Canadian Bar Association practice sections. She was also a director and executive member of the Continuing Legal Education Society of British Columbia, a long-time director and president of the British Columbia Government Lawyers Association and a regular contributor to meetings of the Canadian Association of Crown Counsel and the Commonwealth Lawyers Association.

The Honourable Mr. Justice William Veenstra

Mr. Justice H. William Veenstra, formerly associate counsel at Jenkins Marzban Logan LLP in Vancouver, was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of British Columbia in Vancouver on June 23, 2020. Mr. Justice Veenstra replaces Mr. Justice K.N. Affleck (Vancouver), who retired effective November 5, 2019.

Mr. Justice Veenstra was born in Saskatchewan and raised in Vernon, British Columbia. He received his B.A.Sc. in Engineering Physics from the University of British Columbia, followed by an LL.B. from the University of British

Columbia. Mr. Justice Veenstra was called to the British Columbia Bar in 1992, after clerking for two justices of the British Columbia Court of Appeal from 1990 to 1991. He spent the first part of his career at McCarthy Tetrault in Vancouver before moving to Jenkins Marzban Logan LLP in 2008, with a civil litigation and arbitration practice focused on real estate, construction, and general commercial disputes. He was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2018.

Mr. Justice Veenstra was active with the Canadian Bar Association, serving in various capacities at the provincial and national level. He was Chair of the National Civil Litigation Section in 2013-14, President of the British Columbia branch in 2017-18, and a member of the national Board of Directors in 2019-20. Mr. Justice Veenstra was a member of the British Columbia branch of the Truth and Reconciliation Working Group and co-authored its 2018 report. He was awarded the CBABC President's Medal in 2015, and was one of the recipients of the Law Society of British Columbia's Leadership in Legal Aid Award in 2019.

The Honourable Madam Justice Lyndsay Lyster

Madam Justice Lyndsay M. Lyster, formerly a partner at Moore Edgar Lyster LLP in Vancouver, was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of British Columbia in Vancouver on July 3, 2020. Madam Justice Lyster replaces Mr. Justice A.H. Silverman (Vancouver), who elected to become a supernumerary judge effective November 26, 2019.

Madam Justice Lyster was born in Armstrong, British Columbia and grew up on her family's ranch. She received a B.A. in History from the University of Victoria in 1986 and an LL.B. from the University of British Columbia in 1991, graduating as the Gold Medalist before being called to the Bar in 1993. Madam Justice Lyster served as law clerk to the Right Honourable Beverley McLachlin at the Supreme Court of Canada before articling and becoming an associate at Heenan Blaikie in Vancouver, where she practiced labour and public law. In 2002, she became a member of the British Columbia Human Rights Tribunal, where she applied her passion for human rights to the adjudication and mediation of human rights complaints. She joined what would become Moore Edgar Lyster LLP in 2010, where she practiced labour, administrative, and human rights law, and was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2018.

Madam Justice Lyster was the president of the British Columbia Civil Liberties Association for many years and has been an adjunct professor at the Allard School of Law, teaching labour arbitration, administrative, human rights, and constitutional law. She has co-chaired CLEBC's Annual Human Rights Conference since 2012, and frequently acted pro bono for social justice organizations and individuals.

The Honourable Mr. Justice Ian Caldwell

Mr. Justice Ian Caldwell, formerly Master of the Supreme Court of British Columbia in New Westminster, was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of British Columbia in New Westminster on September 9, 2020. Mr. Justice Caldwell replaces Mr. Justice G.T.W. Bowden (Vancouver), who retired

effective October 1, 2019. The Chief Justice requested that the vacancy for Mr. Justice Bowden be transferred to New Westminster.

Mr. Justice Caldwell was born in New Westminster and raised in Burnaby. He received his B.A. in Geography and Criminology in 1980, obtaining his LL.B. from the University of British Columbia in 1984 before being called to the Bar in 1985. Mr. Justice Caldwell began his career with Kowarsky & Company in Vancouver. In 1990, he moved to Chilliwack to practice general litigation with Rempel Kaye, which later became Kaye, Toews and Caldwell. Mr. Justice Caldwell was appointed as a Master of the Supreme Court of British Columbia (New Westminster) in 2005.

While he was practicing, Mr. Justice Caldwell was active in the local Chilliwack and Fraser Valley Bar Associations and various CBA subsections. He was also a governor of the Law Foundation of British Columbia for seven years and received the Trial Award Lawyers of B.C. Bench Award in 2015.

The Honourable Madam Justice Jasmin Ahmad

Madam Justice Jasmin Ahmad, formerly counsel at Koffman Kalef LLP in Vancouver, was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of British Columbia in Vancouver on September 9, 2020. Madam Justice Ahmad replaces Mr. Justice J.C. Grauer (Vancouver), who was elevated to the Court of Appeal effective December 18, 2019.

Madam Justice Ahmad was born in Winnipeg and raised in Flin Flon, Manitoba. She received a B.Comm from McGill University in 1991 and obtained her LL.B. from the University of Victoria in 1994. After articling with Webster, Hudson & Akerly in Vancouver, Madam Justice Ahmad was called to the British Columbia Bar in 1995. She practiced as litigation counsel in a wide variety of commercial disputes at Koffman Kalef LLP beginning in 1997 and was appointed to the Law Society of British Columbia's hearing panel in 2011, adjudicating lawyers' discipline and credentials matters until 2017. Madam Justice Ahmad achieved Fellowship status with the Chartered Institute for Arbitrators in 2019 and was appointed to the arbitration panel of the British Columbia International Commercial Arbitration Centre. She was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2019.

Madam Justice Ahmad was elected as a Bencher of the Law Society in 2016, serving as Chair of the Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Advisory Committee from 2018 through 2019, and was Chair of the Discipline Committee in 2020. She regularly presented on professionalism and ethics in the profession, and was involved with the CBABC's Women's Law Forum Mentoring program and the summary advice program with Access Pro Bono.

The Honourable Madam Justice Ardith Walkem

Madam Justice Ardith Wal'petko We'dalx Walkem, formerly counsel at Cedar and Sage Law Corporation in Chilliwack, was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of British Columbia in Chilliwack on December 14, 2020. Madam Justice Walkem replaces Madam Justice M. Gropper (Vancouver), who

elected to become a supernumerary judge effective April 14, 2020.

Madam Justice Walkem grew up in Spences Bridge, British Columbia, and is a member of the Nlaka'pamux Nation. She completed her B.A. in Political Science and Women's Studies at McGill University before attending law school at the University of British Columbia, where she also earned Master of Laws degree with a focus on Indigenous laws. Madam Justice Walkem articulated at Mandell Pinder and McDonald and Associates and was called to the Bar in 1996. Her practice focused on Indigenous law, including child welfare, family wellness, and land and resource use. Madam Justice Walkem also has training in interest-based mediation and social justice mediation, and worked extensively with Indigenous communities to develop dispute resolution models based on Indigenous laws. She was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2017.

Madam Justice Walkem co-chaired the Truth and Reconciliation Committee (TRC) advisory committee of the Law Society of British Columbia and sat on the Continuing Legal Education Society of British Columbia's TRC advisory committee. She has also worked with organizations including Legal Aid B.C., the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs, and the British Columbia Human Rights Tribunal to improve access to justice. Madam Justice Walkem has taught at the University of British Columbia Faculty of Law and published and spoken extensively on Indigenous peoples and the law.

The Honourable Mr. Justice Simon Coval

Mr. Justice Simon R. Coval, formerly a partner at Fasken in Vancouver, was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of British Columbia in Vancouver on December 21, 2020. Mr. Justice Coval replaces Mr. Justice P.G. Voith (Vancouver), who was appointed to the Court of Appeal on September 2, 2020.

Mr. Justice Coval was raised in Vancouver, and received a B.A. from the University of British Columbia, an LL.B. from the University of Toronto, and a D.Phil from the University of Oxford, where he also taught jurisprudence for two years. He served as a law clerk for Chief Justice McEachern and Justice Cumming of the British Columbia Court of Appeal before joining Fasken (formerly Russell & DuMoulin), where he practiced commercial litigation for 27 years. Mr. Justice Coval was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2019.

Mr. Justice Coval served as the vice-president of the British Columbia Access Pro Bono Society and was Chair of the Advocate's Society Regional Advisory Committee. He has taught the University of British Columbia's Trial Advocacy Course and was a member of the American College of Trial Lawyers and the International Society of Barristers at the time of his appointment. In 2020, Mr. Justice Coval received the Canadian Bar Association's Harry Rankin Pro Bono Award for his work as coordinator of Access Pro Bono's Court of Appeal roster program and his mentorship of young lawyers who provide pro bono services.

Master John Bilawich

Master John Bilawich was appointed to the Supreme Court in Vancouver on December 21, 2020.

Master Bilawich received his LL.B. from the University of Alberta in 1991 and was called to the British Columbia Bar in 1992. He was an associate at Dinning Crawford Hunter Vallance and Clay & Company before joining Holmes & King in 2000, which later became Holmes Bilawich & Stewart when he became a principal of the firm. Master Bilawich worked in estate, commercial, and civil litigation, as well as bankruptcy, insolvency, and family law. He has been a member of the Attorney General's B.C. Supreme Court Rules Committee since 2017 and was on the Board of Governors of the Trial Lawyers Association of British Columbia and chair of its Rules Committee.

Master Kimberley Robertson

Master Kimberley Robertson was appointed to the Supreme Court in New Westminster on December 21, 2020.

Master Robertson received her LL.B. from the University of British Columbia in 2002. She was called to the British Columbia Bar in 2003 and to the Alberta Bar in 2016. Master Robertson worked as an associate at Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP and at Campney & Murphy LLP before joining Lawson Lundell LLP in 2008, where she worked in insolvency and restructuring as well as litigation and dispute resolution practice groups. Her work has included extensive experience in bankruptcy, foreclosure, creditors' remedies, estate administration, and family law matters. Master Robertson was also a member of the Canadian delegation to the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law insolvency sub-group, and she has volunteered with various pro bono initiatives around the province.

APPOINTMENTS TO THE COURT OF APPEAL

The Honourable Mr. Justice Peter G. Voith

The Honourable Mr. Justice Peter G. Voith was appointed a Justice of the British Columbia Court of Appeal on September 9, 2020. Mr. Justice Voith replaces Madam Justice B.L. Fisher (Vancouver), who elected to become a supernumerary judge effective January 2, 2020. Mr. Justice Voith was appointed to the Supreme Court in Vancouver on January 23, 2009.

RETIREMENTS

The Honourable Neill Brown

The Honourable Neill Brown retired from the Supreme Court of British Columbia at Chilliwack on May 18, 2020. He was appointed to the Supreme Court on July 30, 2008 at New Westminster and transferred to Chilliwack in 2012.

The Honourable Loryl D. Russell

The Honourable Loryl D. Russell retired from the Supreme Court of British Columbia at Vancouver on May 31, 2020. She was appointed to the Supreme Court on April 14, 2005.

The Honourable Stephen F. Kelleher

The Honourable Stephen F. Kelleher retired from the Supreme Court of British Columbia at Vancouver on June 30, 2020. He was appointed to the Supreme Court on July 24, 2003.

The Honourable T. Mark McEwan

The Honourable T. Mark McEwan retired from the Supreme Court of British Columbia at Nelson on August 31, 2020. He was appointed to the Supreme Court on August 4, 1996.



Committee Reports

Since March 2020, the Committee's agenda has been largely dominated by issues arising out of the COVID-19 pandemic.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Members

Mr. Justice Saunders (Chair)
Chief Justice Hinkson (*ex officio*)
Associate Chief Justice Holmes (*ex officio*)
Madam Justice Devlin
Madam Justice Donegan
Madam Justice Maisonville
Mr. Justice Skolrood
Mr. Justice Thompson
Madam Justice Warren
Mr. Justice G.P. Weatherill
Master Muir
Heidi McBride, Executive Director & Senior Legal Counsel (*ex officio*)
Brenda Belak, Legal Counsel

Work of the Committee

The Executive Committee of the Supreme Court of British Columbia meets approximately once a month to assist the Chief Justices in formulating and implementing policy initiatives, and in coordinating the work of Court committees.

The judicial membership of the Committee represents their regions (Vancouver, New Westminster and the Fraser Valley, Vancouver Island, Okanagan/Kootenays, Kamloops/North), with the masters and registrars also having a representative. Members are elected to three-year terms, with a two-term limit.

Since March 2020, the Committee's agenda has been largely dominated by issues arising out of the COVID-19 pandemic. Other issues addressed by the Committee in 2020 have included the recruitment and remuneration of Judicial Administrative Assistants, file storage and records retention, law clerk hiring policies, digital signing of documents, and document filing standards.

The Committee is grateful to Brenda Belak for her support of its work.

Members consulted with the Chief Justice and others to discuss which matters could be heard remotely or using technology during the pandemic shutdown to ensure access to justice despite the challenging circumstances.

CIVIL LAW COMMITTEE

Members

Mr. Justice Skolrood (Chair)
Madam Justice Baker
Madam Justice Beames
Mr. Justice Caldwell
Mr. Justice Gomery
Madam Justice Matthews
Mr. Justice Milman
Mr. Justice Sewell
Mr. Justice Smith
Mr. Justice Thompson
Mr. Justice Verhoeven
Mr. Justice Walker
Madam Justice Warren
Master Vos
Lisa Phillips, Legal Counsel

Mandate

The role of the Civil Law Committee is to consider developments in civil practice and procedure and to provide input on these matters to the Chief Justice, Associate Chief Justice and other members of the Court. The Committee also provides input to the Court Rules Committee from time to time on matters of civil practice and procedure.

The Committee regularly provides members of the Court with updates about significant appellate decisions in the area of civil practice and procedure.

Work of the Committee

In 2020, much of the Committee's work involved pandemic-related procedures, with a view to maintaining access to the Court for the hearing and determination of civil matters. Members consulted with the Chief Justice and others to discuss which matters could be heard remotely or using technology during the pandemic shutdown to ensure access to justice despite the challenging circumstances.

The Committee's work in 2020 also involved considering the rescission or replacement of Administrative Notice 1: Document Filing Standards and the implementation of more rigorous review of documents filed in the Court registry. Members discussed revisions to the Court Record Access Policy, the use of a digital registry stamp for documents filed electronically, and expanded use of MS Teams for chambers hearings. Additionally, the Committee considered an initiative to support and encourage active participation of junior counsel in civil proceedings.

The Committee is grateful to Lisa Phillips for her support of its work.

In 2020, the Committee's principal activity involved continued consultation in the Abbotsford Law Courts construction project, which is the first new courthouse in British Columbia since the Chilliwack Law Courts were completed in 2002.

COURTHOUSE FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Members

Mr. Justice Jenkins (Chair)
Mr. Justice Baird
Mr. Justice Betton
Madam Justice Douglas
Mr. Justice Grist
Mr. Justice Mayer
Mr. Justice Ross
Heidi McBride, Executive Director & Senior Legal Counsel

Mandate

Unlike most other Court committees, the Courthouse Facilities Committee does not have regular and ongoing files and meetings, but rather stands ready to provide facilities-related assistance and support to the Chief Justices as they request.

Work of the Committee

In 2020, the Committee's principal activity involved continued consultation in the Abbotsford Law Courts construction project, which is the first new courthouse in British Columbia since the Chilliwack Law Courts were completed in 2002. Full operations at the Abbotsford Law Courts commenced on February 1, 2021.

The Committee was also called upon to support aspects of the Court's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Its members were tasked with providing advice to Associate Chief Justice Holmes regarding maintaining operations in the face of pandemic challenges.

Members of the Committee worked closely with the Associate Chief Justice to develop a mechanism for selecting juries that minimized the number of people in a courthouse at any given time.

CRIMINAL LAW COMMITTEE

Members

Madam Justice Ker (Chair)
Madam Justice Duncan (Vice-Chair)
Associate Chief Justice Holmes
Madam Justice Church
Mr. Justice Crossin
Madam Justice Devlin
Mr. Justice Dley
Mr. Justice Ehrcke
Mr. Justice Gaul
Madam Justice Maisonville
Mr. Justice Tammen
Madam Justice Watchuk
Madam Justice Wedge
Madam Justice Winteringham
Claire Wilson, Legal Counsel

Mandate

The role of the Criminal Law Committee is to consider developments in criminal practice and procedure and to provide input on these matters to the Chief Justice, the Associate Chief Justice, and other members of the Court.

Work of the Committee

The Committee was kept busy in 2020, including working on solutions to challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and providing continued updates to members of the Court on criminal law issues.

In March 2020, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic caused a significant change to the Court's ability to hear criminal matters. Judge-alone trials were suspended until early June with jury trials suspended until September. The Criminal Law Committee provided advice to the Associate Chief Justice, upon her request, regarding temporary processes to ensure essential and urgent criminal matters could get before the court, and regarding processes to move criminal proceedings forward or resolve them so that trials could proceed as soon as possible when the suspension was lifted. Members of the PTC pool conducted COVID-19 PTCs to address the backlog of criminal cases and, in many cases, streamline trials. Some judges were also able to facilitate resolutions.

Members of the Committee worked closely with the Associate Chief Justice to develop a mechanism for selecting juries that minimized the number of people in a courthouse at any given time.

The Committee also worked on further refinements to the s. 525 detention review process necessitated by the change in legislation confining all reviews to persons detained for more than 90 days. Formerly, persons detained

on summary charges were eligible for detention review after 30 days. The harmonization of the eligibility timeline appears to have caused a reduction in the number of detained persons on the 525 list and the sitting time in detention review scheduling hearing court has been accordingly reduce to one day per week—Tuesday. The changes are reflected in the amended CPD-4.

The implementation of Bill C-75 necessitated significant work to provide the Court with resources concerning changes to the manner in which juries are to be selected and changes to remote appearances by counsel, the accused and the presiding justice.

The Committee is grateful to Claire Wilson for her support of its work.

The major issue the Education Committee dealt with in 2020 was figuring out how to safely deliver education programs during the COVID-19.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Members

Madam Justice MacNaughton (Chair)
Mr. Justice Ball
Madam Justice Burke
Mr. Justice Crabtree
Mr. Justice Kent
Madam Justice MacDonald
Madam Justice Maisonville
Mr. Justice Marchand
Mr. Justice Mayer
Madam Justice Morellato
Madam Justice Murray
Mr. Justice Riley
Mr. Justice Sewell
Madam Justice Young
Master Cameron
Leah Pence, Legal Counsel

Mandate

The mandate of the Education Committee is to organize and present continuing education programs in order to assist the judges, masters, and registrars of the Court to stay on top of current developments in substantive law, enhance judicial skills, and learn about social context and philosophical and ethical issues which relate to the Court's work.

The Committee usually delivers its main programs at judicial education conferences held in May and November of each year. These conferences are developed and presented in partnership with the National Judicial Institute (NJI).

Work of the Committee

The major issue the Education Committee dealt with in 2020 was figuring out how to safely deliver education programs during the COVID-19 pandemic. The approach evolved as the COVID-19 situation evolved, and as the Court has moved, increasingly, towards using remote processes.

The Court was scheduled to hold its spring conference and bi-annual Court meeting in May, but those plans were derailed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Both events were rescheduled to November and held virtually. The Committee continued to offer opportunities for learning while the Court's regular operations were suspended through the distribution of electronic resources for civil, criminal, and family law matters and electronic subscriptions to judges, masters, and the registrar.

The Committee also organized a new judges training program that was delivered virtually in November for the 10 new judges and masters appointed

since June 2019.

The Committee facilitated regular lunchtime seminars presented by and to members of the Court on administrative law, costs orders, and referrals of unopposed estate orders. In the summer, the Court, with the support of the NJI, delivered a two-part session on anticipated amendments to the *Divorce Act* coming into effect on March 1, 2021.

The Committee is grateful to members of the Court for their enthusiastic participation as speakers and facilitators in its programs, and for their receptiveness to its program. The Committee also thanks Leah Pence for supporting its work.

When the Court's regular operations were suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic in March, the Committee began regularly discussing the impacts of the pandemic on family law proceedings.

FAMILY LAW COMMITTEE

Members

Mr. Justice Tindale (Chair)
Madam Justice Fleming (Vice-Chair)
Mr. Justice Armstrong
Mr. Justice Brundrett
Madam Justice Choi
Madam Justice MacNaughton
Madam Justice Shergill
Master Dick
Master Harper
Nikki Hair, Legal Counsel

Mandate

The role of the Family Law Committee is to consider developments in family law practice and procedure and to provide input on these matters to the Chief Justice and other members of the Court.

Work of the Committee

The Committee dealt with a variety of family law issues in 2020 in addition to discussing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on family law proceedings.

After Bill C-92, *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Metis children, youth and families*, came into force on January 1, 2020, the Committee discussed what impacts it might have on the Court and provided updates in internal resources accordingly.

In February, the Committee made three recommendations to the British Columbia Supreme Court Civil & Family Rules Committee (Rules Committee) on amendments to the *Supreme Court Family Rules (Family Rules)*:

- to allow for case planning conferences in family law proceedings in addition to judicial case conferences;
- to clarify that consent protection order applications should not be dealt with by desk order; and
- to Rule 22-8, *Family Rules*, respecting who may search family files and the process for obtaining access to family files.

The Committee also reviewed and provided comments on recommended amendments by the Rules Committee to Rule 14-3, *Family Rules*, respecting trial management conferences and the trial brief form.

Members drafted questions and answers to be included in the Supreme Court Registrar's Newsletter, which is posted on the BC Courts website, to clarify registry practices for the benefit of the public and counsel, as well as Registry staff.

When the Court's regular operations were suspended due to the COVID-19

pandemic in March, the Committee began regularly discussing the impacts of the pandemic on family law proceedings. The Committee also advised Chief Justice Hinkson and Associate Chief Justice Holmes of its views on various processes and suggestions that were under consideration during the gradual resumption of operations when requested to do so. Members provided feedback on processes affecting family law proceedings, which at times resulted in amendments to the process.

The Committee drafted amendments to Family Practice Direction 15 - Divorce Applications, which was issued by Chief Justice Hinkson on June 25, 2020.

Members also discussed various resources and family law initiatives that were developed by external organizations, such as the growing roster of legal advocates across BC, the Child and Youth Legal Centre, mediation services by Access Pro Bono and new services by the Justice Education Society. The Committee has provided updates to the Court on these resources and initiatives when appropriate through various internal resources and educational opportunities.

The Committee discussed Bill C-78, *An Act to amend the Divorce Act, the Family Orders and Agreements Enforcement Assistance Act and the Garnishment, Attachment and Pension Diversion Act and to make consequential amendments to another Act*. These amendments to the *Divorce Act* were going to come into effect on July 1, 2020, but were delayed to March 1, 2021 due to the pandemic. Committee members worked with Nikki Hair to update the various internal resources and practice directions to coincide with these amendments. Though the amendments to the *Divorce Act* were postponed, some internal resources were updated generally and shared.

The Committee is grateful to Nikki Hair for her support of its work.

In 2020, the Committee concentrated on two areas: evaluating and testing video conferencing platforms and seeking out and testing electronic document management platforms.

JOINT COURTS TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Members

Mr. Justice Masuhara (Chair)
Mr. Justice Hunter
Mr. Justice Willcock
Madam Justice Adair
Mr. Justice Branch
Madam Justice Fitzpatrick
Mr. Justice Myers
Mr. Justice Punnett
Registrar Nielsen
Registrar Outerbridge
Heidi McBride, Executive Director & Senior Legal Counsel
Cindy Friesen, Director, Supreme Court Scheduling
Ryan Wirth, Manager of Information Technology
Brenda Belak, Legal Counsel

Mandate

The Committee's mandate is to review developments in technology and their impacts on the work of the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court.

Work of the Committee

In 2020, the Committee concentrated on two areas: evaluating and testing video conferencing platforms and seeking out and testing electronic document management platforms.

The video conferencing platform Microsoft Teams is now in operation and being utilized by the Supreme Court, while the Court of Appeal is using Zoom for its hearings.

A temporary electronic file transfer platform was developed, and a permanent platform for the filing of application records and books of authorities is under development. The Committee is consulting with the bar and the Court with respect to this Phase 1 of the electronic document management platform. Subsequent phases for a more robust electronic document management platform are in the planning stage.

There have been considerable interactions with the Court Services Branch with regard to obtaining priority for the Court's technology needs.

The Committee develops draft policies and interacts with the various court committees, seeking guidance and approval for draft policies relating to access to court records, particularly those in electronic format.

JUDICIAL ACCESS POLICY WORKING COMMITTEE

Members

Karen Leung, Legal Officer, Provincial Court (Chair)
Caroline Berkey, Legal Officer, Provincial Court
Dan Chiddell, Acting Executive Director, Corporate Support, Court Services Branch
Stephanie Delacretaz, Strategic Business Operations, Court Services Branch Headquarters
Grant Marchand, Manager, Judicial Resource Analysis & Management Information Systems, Provincial Court
Heidi McBride, Executive Director & Senior Counsel, Superior Courts Judiciary
Leah Pence, Legal Counsel, Supreme Court
Shirley Smiley, Legal Counsel, Court of Appeal
Kathryn Thomson, Legal Policy Advisor
Erin Turner, Acting Director of Policy, Legislation, and Planning, Ministry of Attorney General – Court Services Branch

Mandate

The Chief Justices and Chief Judge of British Columbia's courts have responsibility for the supervision and control of court records and judicial administration records. The Committee is a joint committee consisting of representatives from all three courts and Court Services Branch employees. The Committee develops draft policies and interacts with the various court committees, seeking guidance and approval for draft policies relating to access to court records, particularly those in electronic format. The Chief Justices and Chief Judge give approval before a policy is adopted. In addition to policy work, the Committee also reviews access applications for those seeking bulk or special access to court record information.

Work of the Committee

As in previous years, in 2020 the Committee received, considered, and made recommendations in respect of a number of applications for access to court record information from a variety of government, non-profit, and private agencies and departments, as well as media organizations.

In July 2016, the Committee appointed from among its members a Data Governance Working Group to identify and address data governance issues, review existing protocols and consider whether additional or updated court data management documentation is required. In 2020, the Data Governance Working Group met several times to continue this work.

*Beginning in 2021-22,
the Supreme Court will
be placing one clerk each
at the courthouses in
Kamloops and Kelowna.*

LAW CLERKS COMMITTEE

Members

Mr. Justice Blok (Chair)
Madam Justice Iyer
Madam Justice MacDonald
Madam Justice Murray
Mr. Justice G. C. Weatherill
Brenda Belak, Legal Counsel

Mandate

The Law Clerks Committee is responsible for the management of the Judicial Law Clerk Program, which provides a valuable resource for judges and a unique learning opportunity for new law school graduates who have achieved a high academic standard.

The Committee is directly involved in the recruitment and hiring of judicial law clerks each year. The Committee is assisted in its work by the Court's legal counsel, Brenda Belak, to whom the day-to-day management and administration of the law clerks is delegated. The Committee is also assisted by the 21 judges of the Court who act as principals to the law clerks.

Work of the Committee

The recruitment process begins two years before the start of the clerking term when the Committee sends materials to all Canadian law schools. The application and interview process takes place about 18 months before the start of the clerking term. In the early spring, Committee members interview up to 40 applicants from a group that has been shortlisted through screening interviews conducted by the Court's legal counsel.

At present, there are 15 law clerks in Vancouver, three in New Westminster, and two in Victoria. Beginning in 2021-22, the Supreme Court will be placing one clerk each at the courthouses in Kamloops and Kelowna.

In 2020, the following 20 clerks began their clerkships with the Court:

Vancouver: Emilie Benoit, Nina Dauvergne, Mitchell Ferreira, Kelly Firth, Emily Lennox, Isaac Mills, Luke Morassut, Tenley Pearce, Hardie Rath-Wilson, Nicholas Rosati, Nicholas Russell, Allison Sproule, Holly Stewart, Nathan Wells, Lily Zhang

New Westminster: Kristina Heinrichs, Nikhil Pandey, Jillana Schmidt-Kim

Victoria: Andrew Kaban, Heather Maki

The work of the Committee focused on three main issues in 2020: the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, salaries for law clerks, and diversity in hiring.

For the first time, apart from a brief in-person meeting the first day, orientation was conducted wholly online—and very successfully—using Microsoft Teams.

COVID-19 introduced challenges for the clerks in their work, but also provided opportunities for positive changes that will likely endure beyond the pandemic. In March, when courthouse registries closed and most judicial staff began working from home, Mark Hujanen and his Helpdesk team made extraordinary efforts to reconfigure laptops from the Court's last computer refresh, and in a matter of days, deployed them to law clerks. Since then, clerks have been able to work from home—a relatively easy adjustment given the nature of their duties.

Due to COVID-19, it was necessary to modify orientation procedures for incoming clerks in September. For the first time, apart from a brief in-person meeting the first day, orientation was conducted wholly online—and very successfully—using Microsoft Teams.

In 2020, the Committee took steps to address clerks' salaries and issues of diversity and inclusion in the hiring of law clerks.

The Committee wishes to extend its gratitude and appreciation to the Court's law clerks for the assistance that they provide to the judges and masters of the Court. The enthusiasm, commitment, and dedication they bring to their work and to the work of the Court are invaluable.

The Committee would also like to express its gratitude to the judges of the Court who serve as principals to the law clerks. They provide great mentorship to our law clerks and allow the Judicial Law Clerk Program to continue to provide a rich educational experience.

Finally, the Committee expresses its thanks to Brenda Belak for her work in the recruitment, hiring, training, and supervision of the law clerks.

In keeping with the trend towards the use of online resources, over the coming year, the library will be cancelling subscriptions to various loose-leaf periodicals which are otherwise available online.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Members

Mr. Justice Skolrood (Chair)
Madam Justice Bennett
Madam Justice Ker
Heidi McBride, Executive Director & Senior Legal Counsel
Diane Lemieux

Work of the Committee

In a very challenging year in which many other libraries closed, the library staff, led by head librarian Diane Lemieux, continued to provide excellent support to judges, law clerks, and Court staff, many of whom were working remotely.

As with many aspects of the Courts' operations, 2020 underscored the importance of technology as use of electronic resources expanded. This will continue going forward, due both to the demand for access to those resources and the increasing cost of paper resources. In keeping with this trend, over the coming year, the library will be cancelling subscriptions to various loose-leaf periodicals which are otherwise available online.

This will require judges and staff to continue to develop familiarity with the electronic resources, both in terms of what is available and how to use the resources. Library staff are available to assist in this regard.

The Committee would like to acknowledge and thank the library staff for the exemplary service they provide, particularly in these challenging times.

*One initiative the Committee was involved with in 2020 was the creation with Court Services Branch of a pilot project whereby approved court records were released to accredited media and qualified lawyers for the *United States v. Meng* case using a secure File Transfer Protocol method.*

PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Members

Mr. Justice Smith (Chair)
Chief Justice Hinkson
The Honourable Bruce Cohen, Superior Courts Communications Officer
Mr. Justice Gaul
Mr. Justice Steeves
Mr. Justice Tindale
Mr. Justice Walker
Madam Justice Wedge
Heidi McBride, Executive Director & Senior Legal Counsel
Brenda Belak, Legal Counsel
Leah Pence, Legal Counsel
Ryan Wirth, Manager of Information Technology

Mandate

In keeping with the open court principle, the mandate of the Public Affairs Committee is primarily to promote activities that enhance public and media understanding of the Court's processes and to address matters concerning public legal education, media, and public relations. The Committee is also involved in work on Court policies and directives relating to such matters as access to court records, cameras in the courtroom, and the use of electronic devices in the courtroom.

Work of the Committee

The Committee's work in 2020 involved a mix of ongoing projects and creating innovative solutions to challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

While the Committee normally hosts a media lunch in the spring, because of the pandemic, the meeting had to take place remotely on Microsoft Teams in November. The event was chaired by Mr. Justice Smith, with Committee members joined by Chief Justice Bauman and Sally Rudolf of the Court of Appeal and members of the accredited media.

One initiative the Committee was involved with in 2020 was the creation with Court Services Branch of a pilot project whereby approved court records were released to accredited media and qualified lawyers for the *United States v. Meng* case using a secure File Transfer Protocol method. Under the previous system, accredited media had to attend the criminal registry at the Vancouver Law Courts to pick up copies of documents, which was inconvenient for those working outside the Vancouver area.

Another change in 2020 as a result of the pandemic involved media being able to attend court proceedings by telephone. As set out in COVID-19 Notice 37, accredited media and members of the public are able to request to dial in to a proceeding, including those held using Microsoft Teams, with telephone conference lines expanded to accommodate up to 250 callers in most instances.

The Committee was also involved in work on the Jury In project, which would notify media when a jury had returned to the courtroom during a trial.

In addition to pandemic-related matters, the Committee was involved in approving a new form that would simplify the process for accredited media and the public to request access to court records by using a single form for all requests.

The Committee was also involved in work on the Jury In project, which would notify media when a jury had returned to the courtroom during a trial. The project, which is a collaboration between the Court and Court Services Branch, had been funded and planned before the pandemic, but its completion was postponed due to the higher priority of other initiatives related to the pandemic. It is expected to be brought online in 2021.

The Committee is grateful for work performed by the Superior Courts Communications Officer, the Honourable Bruce Cohen, who interacts with members of the media, the Court, and registry staff. The Committee is also appreciative of the advice and support it receives from Supreme Court legal counsel, which has been indispensable to the Committee in its work in tackling public and media-related initiatives, as well as the assistance of legal counsel and the Registrar of the Court of Appeal. The Committee expresses its thanks to Gladysmay Pascua, who maintains the media accreditation lists and distributes information to accredited media.



Members of the Court

JUDGES OF THE SUPREME COURT

Chief Justice

The Honourable Chief Justice Christopher E. Hinkson

- Appointed to the Supreme Court March 2, 2007
- Appointed to the Court of Appeal March 18, 2010
- Appointed Chief Justice of the Supreme Court November 7, 2013

Associate Chief Justice

The Honourable Associate Chief Justice Heather J. Holmes

- Appointed to the Supreme Court March 21, 2001
- Appointed Associate Chief Justice of the Supreme Court June 21, 2018

Justices of the Supreme Court

The Honourable Madam Justice Mary A. Humphries ► (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court January 27, 1994

The Honourable Madam Justice Janice R. Dillon ► (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court April 25, 1995

The Honourable Mr. Justice Barry M. Davies ► (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court January 10, 1996

The Honourable Mr. Justice William G.E. Grist ► (Chilliwack)

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court January 1, 1990
- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 20, 1996

The Honourable Mr. Justice T. Mark McEwan ▼ (Vancouver/Nelson) – retired August 31, 2020

- Appointed to the Supreme Court August 7, 1996

The Honourable Madam Justice Alison J. Beames ► (Kelowna)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court August 7, 1996

The Honourable Mr. Justice Austin F. Cullen ► (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court March 21, 2001
- Associate Chief Justice of the Supreme Court December 31, 2011 – December 31, 2017

The Honourable Madam Justice Carol J. Ross ► (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court March 21, 2001

The Honourable Mr. Justice Harry A. Slade (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court March 27, 2001

The Honourable Madam Justice Catherine A. Wedge ► (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court April 4, 2001

The Honourable Madam Justice Brenda Brown ► (New Westminster)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court April 18, 2002

The Honourable Madam Justice Laura B. Gerow ► (Vancouver)

- Appointed to Supreme Court October 10, 2002

The Honourable Mr. Justice James W. Williams ► (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court October 10, 2002

The Honourable Mr. Justice David M. Masuhara (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court October 11, 2002

**The Honourable Mr. Justice Stephen F. Kelleher ▼ (Vancouver) – retired
June 30, 2020**

- Appointed to the Supreme Court July 24, 2003

The Honourable Mr. Justice Lance W. Bernard ► (New Westminster)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court July 24, 2003

The Honourable Mr. Justice William Ehrcke ► (Vancouver)

Appointed to the Supreme Court October 28, 2003

The Honourable Mr. Justice Robert Johnston ► (Victoria)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court November 26, 2004

The Honourable Mr. Justice Arne H. Silverman ► (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court November 26, 2004

The Honourable Madam Justice J. Miriam Gropper ► (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court April 14, 2005

**The Honourable Madam Justice Loryl D. Russell ▼ (Vancouver) –
retired May 31, 2020**

- Appointed to the Supreme Court April 14, 2005

The Honourable Mr. Justice Nathan H. Smith ► (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court May 19, 2005

The Honourable Mr. Justice Joel R. Groves (Vancouver)

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court May 4, 2000
- Appointed to the Supreme Court May 19, 2005

The Honourable Mr. Justice Elliott M. Myers ► (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court November 22, 2005

The Honourable Mr. Justice Geoffrey R.J. Gaul (*Victoria*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court January 31, 2008

The Honourable Mr. Justice Paul W. Walker (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 18, 2008

The Honourable Madam Justice Kate Ker (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 18, 2008

The Honourable Mr. Justice Neill Brown ▼ (*Chilliwack*) – retired May 18, 2020

- Appointed to the Supreme Court July 30, 2008

The Honourable Madam Justice Elaine J. Adair (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court November 28, 2008

The Honourable Mr. Justice Robert J. Sewell ► (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court January 22, 2009

The Honourable Mr. Justice John S. Harvey (*New Westminster*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court January 22, 2009

The Honourable Mr. Justice Peter G. Voith ▲ (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court January 22, 2009

The Honourable Mr. Justice Frits Verhoeven (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court January 22, 2009

The Honourable Terence A. Schultes (*New Westminster*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court May 15, 2009

The Honourable Mr. Justice Robert D. Punnett (*Victoria*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 19, 2009

The Honourable Mr. Justice Brian D. Mackenzie ► (*Victoria*)

- Appointed to the Provincial Court October 30, 1990
- Appointed to the Supreme Court October 23, 2009

The Honourable Mr. Justice Anthony Saunders (*New Westminster*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court November 27, 2009

The Honourable Mr. Justice S. Dev Dley (*Kamloops*)

- Appointed to the Provincial Court June 23, 2008
- Appointed to the Supreme Court March 19, 2010

The Honourable Madam Justice Miriam A. Maisonville (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court March 19, 2010

The Honourable Madam Justice Shelley C. Fitzpatrick (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 18, 2010

The Honourable Madam Justice Jennifer A. Power (*Victoria*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court August 6, 2010

The Honourable Mr. Justice Trevor C. Armstrong (*New Westminster*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court October 1, 2010

The Honourable Madam Justice Jeanne E. Watchuk (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Provincial Court October 3, 1994
- Appointed to the Supreme Court October 28, 2010

The Honourable Mr. Justice Murray B. Blok (*New Westminster*)

- Appointed District Registrar March 25, 2002
- Appointed to the Supreme Court October 28, 2010

The Honourable Mr. Justice D. Allan Betton (*Kelowna*)

- Appointed to the Provincial Court March 19, 2007
- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 24, 2011

The Honourable Mr. Justice Ronald S. Tindale (*Prince George*)

- Appointed to the Provincial Court February 15, 2010
- Appointed to the Supreme Court October 20, 2011

The Honourable Mr. Justice Robert W. Jenkins (*New Westminster*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court December 31, 2011

The Honourable Mr. Justice Gordon C. Weatherill (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court May 31, 2012

The Honourable Mr. Justice Robin A.M. Baird (*Nanaimo*)

- Appointed to the Provincial Court August 22, 2011
- Appointed to the Supreme Court October 5, 2012

The Honourable Mr. Justice Gordon S. Funt (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court October 5, 2012

The Honourable Mr. Justice John J. Steeves (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court October 5, 2012

The Honourable Mr. Justice Kenneth W. Ball (*New Westminster*)

- Appointed to the Provincial Court January 6, 2003
- Appointed to the Supreme Court November 2, 2012

The Honourable Mr. Justice Douglas W. Thompson (*Nanaimo*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court December 13, 2012

The Honourable Madam Justice Sheri Ann Donegan (*Kamloops*)

- Appointed to the Provincial Court October 4, 2010
- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 6, 2013

The Honourable Mr. Justice Ronald A. Skolrood (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 6, 2013

The Honourable Madam Justice Lisa Warren (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 6, 2013

The Honourable Madam Justice Margot L. Fleming (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 6, 2013

The Honourable Mr. Justice Gary P. Weatherill (*Kelowna*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court October 2, 2013

The Honourable Mr. Justice George K. Macintosh (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court December 17, 2013

The Honourable Mr. Justice Nigel P. Kent (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court December 17, 2013

The Honourable Madam Justice Jennifer M.I. Duncan (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court December 17, 2013

The Honourable Madam Justice Neena Sharma (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court December 17, 2013

The Honourable Madam Justice Emily M. Burke (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court May 13, 2014

The Honourable Madam Justice Martha M. Devlin (*New Westminster*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court December 11, 2014

The Honourable Madam Justice Grace Choi (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court May 29, 2015

The Honourable Madam Justice Barbara M. Young (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court December 6, 2006
- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 19, 2015

The Honourable Madam Justice Marguerite H. Church (*Prince George*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 16, 2016

The Honourable Madam Justice Maria Morellato (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 16, 2016

The Honourable Madam Justice Heather MacNaughton (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court June 1, 2011
- Appointed to the Supreme Court October 19, 2016

The Honourable Madam Justice Catherine Murray (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court October 19, 2016

The Honourable Mr. Justice Andrew P.A. Mayer (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court April 12, 2017

The Honourable Mr. Justice W. Paul Riley (*New Westminster*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court May 11, 2017

The Honourable Mr. Justice Ward K. Branch (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 8, 2017

The Honourable Madam Justice Carla Forth (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 14, 2017

The Honourable Mr. Justice Michael J. Tammem (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 14, 2017

The Honourable Mr. Justice Warren B. Milman (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 14, 2017

The Honourable Madam Justice Nitya Iyer (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 14, 2017

The Honourable Mr. Justice Leonard Marchand (*Kamloops*)

- Appointed to the Provincial Court September 3, 2013
- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 21, 2017

The Honourable Madam Justice Palbinder Kaur Shergill (*New Westminster*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 23, 2017

The Honourable Mr. Justice Michael J. Brundrett (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 21, 2017

The Honourable Madam Justice Janet Winteringham (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court August 15, 2017

The Honourable Mr. Justice E. David Crossin (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court September 29, 2017

The Honourable Madam Justice Francesca Marzari (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court December 19, 2017

The Honourable Mr. Justice Jasvinder S. (Bill) Basran (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court January 19, 2018

The Honourable Madam Justice Diane C. MacDonald (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court February 7, 2018

The Honourable Madam Justice Barbara Norell (New Westminster)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court February 22, 2018

The Honourable Madam Justice Wendy A. Baker (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court February 22, 2018

The Honourable Madam Justice Sharon Matthews (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court February 22, 2018

The Honourable Mr. Justice Thomas Crabtree (Chilliwack)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court May 4, 2018

The Honourable Mr. Justice Geoffrey B. Gomery (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 15, 2018

The Honourable Mr. Justice Christopher J. Giaschi (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court September 4, 2018

The Honourable Madam Justice Karen Horsman (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court September 4, 2018

The Honourable Madam Justice Veronica Jackson (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court October 9, 2018

The Honourable Mr. Justice Stephen Wilson (Kelowna)

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court November 23, 2015
- Appointed to the Supreme Court October 19, 2018

The Honourable Mr. Justice Dennis Hori (Kelowna)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court February 8, 2019

The Honourable Madam Justice Karen Douglas (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court March 8, 2019

The Honourable Madam Justice Amy Francis (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court March 8, 2019

The Honourable Madam Justice Elizabeth McDonald (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 4, 2019

The Honourable Mr. Justice Alan M. Ross (Vancouver)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 24, 2019

The Honourable Madam Justice Sheila Tucker (*New Westminster*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 24, 2019

The Honourable Mr. Justice David Crerar (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 24, 2019

The Honourable Mr. Justice Peter Edelmann (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court December 20, 2019

The Honourable Mr. Justice Matthew Taylor (*New Westminster*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court March 16, 2020

The Honourable Mr. Justice Andrew Majawa (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court March 16, 2020

The Honourable Madam Justice Sandra Wilkinson (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court May 1, 2020

The Honourable Mr. Justice William Veenstra (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court June 23, 2020

The Honourable Madam Justice Lyndsay Lyster (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court July 3, 2020

The Honourable Mr. Justice Ian Caldwell (*New Westminster*)

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court April 18, 2005
- Appointed to the Supreme Court September 9, 2020

The Honourable Madam Justice Jasmin Ahmad (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court September 9, 2020

The Honourable Madam Justice Ardith Walkem (*Chilliwack*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court December 14, 2020

The Honourable Mr. Justice Simon Coval (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed to the Supreme Court December 21, 2020

▲ *Appointed to the Court of Appeal*

▶ *Supernumerary*

▼ *Retired*

MASTERS OF THE SUPREME COURT

Master Dennis Tokarek ► (Vancouver)

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court September 9, 1991

Master Shelagh Scarth ► (Vancouver)

- Appointed District Registrar August 17, 1998
- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court November 6, 2000

Master Peter Keighley (New Westminster)

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court March 8, 2004

Master Ian Caldwell (New Westminster) ▲

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court April 18, 2005

Master Grant Taylor ► (New Westminster)

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court July 29, 2005

Master Carolyn P. Bouck ► (Victoria)

- Appointed District Registrar April 2, 2002
- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court December 11, 2009

Master Leslie Muir (Vancouver)

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court May 7, 2012

Master Sandra Harper (Vancouver)

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court August 5, 2014

Master Sandra Dick (Nanaimo)

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court January 1, 2016

Master Terry Vos (Vancouver)

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court March 20, 2017

Master Stuart R. Cameron (Vancouver)

- Appointed District Registrar January 31, 2011
- Appointed Registrar of the Supreme Court July 2, 2014
- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court November 6, 2018

Master Bruce Elwood (Vancouver)

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court February 1, 2019

Master Steven Schwartz (Kelowna)

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court February 19, 2019

Master Jennifer Keim (Kamloops)

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court July 31, 2019

Master John Bilawich (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court December 21, 2020

Master Kimberley Robertson (*New Westminster*)

- Appointed Master of the Supreme Court December 21, 2020

▲ *Appointed Judge of the Supreme Court of British Columbia*

▶ *Senior Master*

▼ *Retired*

REGISTRARS OF THE SUPREME COURT

Scott Nielsen, Registrar (*Vancouver*)

- Appointed District Registrar July 14, 2014
- Appointed Registrar December 1, 2018

JUDICIAL STAFF

Office of the Chief Justice and Associate Chief Justice

Judicial Coordinator to Chief Justice Hinkson	Carrie Wilke
Judicial Coordinator to Associate Chief Justice Holmes	Bonnie Healy
Legal Counsel	Brenda Belak, Nikki Hair, Christine Judd, Leah Pence, Lisa Phillips, Claire Wilson

Judicial Administration

Executive Director & Senior Counsel	Heidi McBride
Manager, Human Resources	Tracy Norman
Director, Supreme Court Scheduling	Cindy Friesen
Deputy Director, Supreme Court Scheduling	Chinwe Cushing
Manager, Finance and Business Information Analysis	Sanjeev Lal
Manager, Information Technology	Ryan Wirth
Assistant to the Executive Director	Tammy McCullough
Assistant to Director, Supreme Court Scheduling	Kendra Kirkwood
Assistant to Legal Counsel	Queen Lee, Gladysmay Pascua
Judicial Assistant	Michelle Sam, Andrea Mueller
Finance Clerk	Cheryl Steele
Website Support and Business Information Analyst	Cynthia Dale
Acting Manager, Judicial Support Services	Samantha Servis
Manager, Provincial Registrar's Program	Sheri Rojas
Communications Coordinator	Diana Foxall

Judicial Administrative Assistants

Vancouver	Irem Akcan, Ramez Ali, Leslie Blazecka, Joy Eliasson, Kirsten Floyd, Ray Frank, Jessica Gill, Diana Hatley, Sasha Ionova, Raji Johal, Wanda Lam, Danica Laurente-Tan, Beverlee Lea, Amanda Li, Melissa Mendoza Alcocer, Laura Munday, Faye Panis, Linda Peter, Megan Singh, Vickie Siu, Zohra Tokhi, Lindy Tucker, Felicia Wickes
Chilliwack	Yvonne Samek
Kamloops	Beckie Allen, Jane Raggatt
Kelowna	Lana Pardue, Shannon Zorn
Nanaimo	Melissa Lund
Nelson	Kathie Tarasoff
New Westminster	Tammi Buckoll, Barbara Gourlay, Melissa Mendoza Alcocer, Jesse Rathor, Andrea Walker
Prince George	Kelly Parmar
Victoria	Kathy Cook, Karen Gurney, Wendy Hetman, Cherry Luscombe, Nicole Munro

Supreme Court Scheduling

Vancouver	
Manager, Supreme Court Scheduling, Civil	William Gallagher
Manager, Supreme Court Scheduling, Family	Rebecca Stock
Manager, Supreme Court Scheduling, Criminal	Rhona Ogston

Team Leaders	Eryn Dumontet, Elsa Peralta
Supreme Court Schedulers	Patricia Acthim, Kristina Antonic, Kate Curry, Darlene Marasigan, Jeannette McNabb, Sue Smolen, Terrence Tung, Leah Walden
Data Entry Clerks	Shahla Ehtesham, Dianne Goyenkgo, Pedro Guerra, Lisa Lees, Catherine Li, Gurvinder Malhotra, Anamica Mehta, Jay Nguyen, Gareth Round
Scheduling Training Manager	Ben Bautista
Kamloops, Cranbrook, Golden, Nelson, Revelstoke, Rossland, Salmon Arm	
Manager, Supreme Court Scheduling	Brenda Strain
Supreme Court Scheduler	Beckie Allen, Doreen Czerkawski
Kelowna, Penticton, Vernon	
Manager, Supreme Court Scheduling	Janine Benson
Supreme Court Scheduler	Sandeep Johal
Data Entry Clerks	Karen Hodson, Arlene Marshinew
Nanaimo, Campbell River, Courtenay, Port Alberni and Powell River	
Manager, Supreme Court Scheduling	Michelle Schley
Supreme Court Scheduler	Katherine Marriott, Jennifer Sandford
New Westminster, Chilliwack	
Manager, Supreme Court Scheduling	Tanya Dixon
Supreme Court Schedulers	Allison Donnelly, Leanne Griffith, Leslie Martin, Renuka Pumbhak, Angelina Sloomweg
Data Entry Clerks	Berwin Chen, Owen Li, Gurvinder Malhotra, Gareth Round
Prince George, Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, Quesnel, Williams Lake	
Manager, Supreme Court Scheduling	Pam Wallin
Supreme Court Schedulers	Tara Bleich, Kelly Parmar
Victoria, Duncan, Prince Rupert, Smithers, Terrace	
Manager, Supreme Court Scheduling	Claudia Turner
Supreme Court Schedulers	Samantha Ferguson, Wesley Johnson, Sandra Skene
Section 525 Detention Review	
Detention Review Coordinators	Chantelle Sanderson, Andrea Baedek
Judicial Clerks	Mikayla Bischoff
Judges Library	
Librarian	Diane Lemieux
Library Technician	Connie Kang

Judgment Office

Reserve Judgment Clerks

Andrea Baedek, Chantelle
Sanderson, Leslie Martin

Supreme Court Document Management Clerks

Supervisor & Appellate Court Records Officer
Document Management Clerks

Christine Gergich
Rado Burdej, Andrew
Coghlan, David Delafenetre,
Gina Leon, Charles Manuel,
Carlos Rodas Alvarado, Darren
Scherck

IT Services

Service Delivery Manager
Infrastructure Project Analyst
Help Desk & Operations Analyst
Help Desk Technician

Mark Hujanen
David Chow, Joerg Boettcher
William Huang
Leo Brito, Billy Huang, Victor
Ly, Babak Mohebbi, Alex
Rodas

Security and Network Consultant
Business Analyst and Project Manager
Business Analyst
Software Developer

Don Sudom
Lorne Lovett
Joanne Chong
Jojo Ho

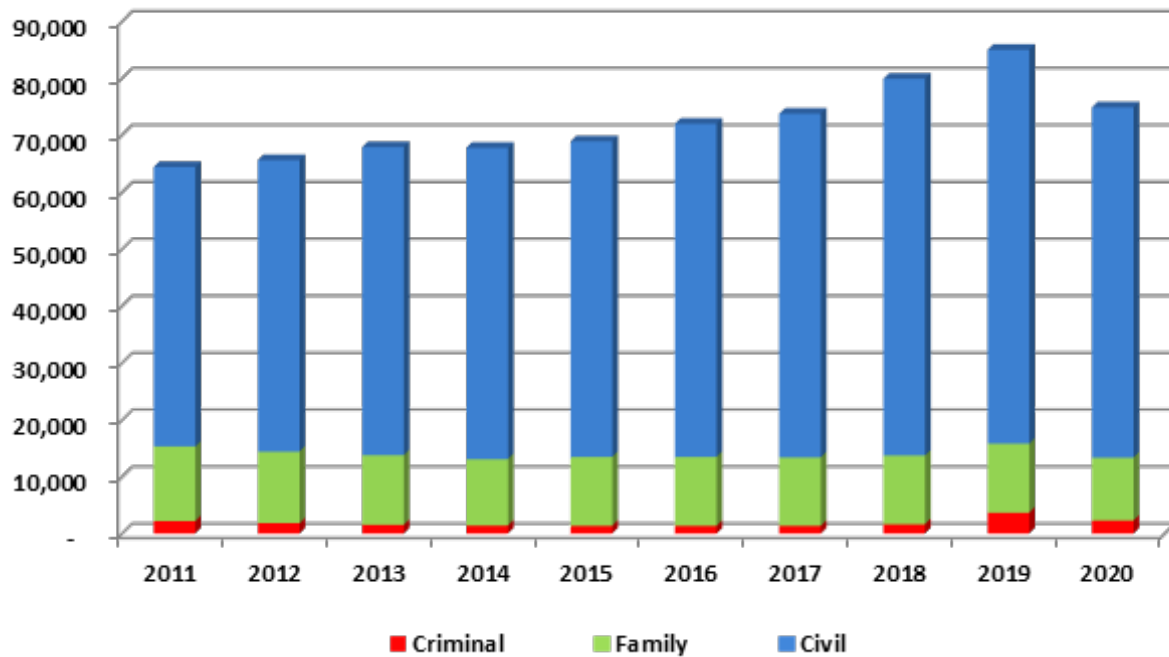
**IT services are provided by Microserve Business Computer Services*



Appendix

Court Statistics

Figure 1: New Criminal, Family, and Civil Filings



	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
■ Civil	49,060	51,193	54,076	54,662	55,445	58,500	60,334	66,185	69,140	61,497
■ Family	13,108	12,564	12,264	11,682	12,085	12,130	12,038	12,062	12,152	11,043
■ Criminal	2,186	1,819	1,516	1,396	1,362	1,336	1,348	1,642	3,665	2,297

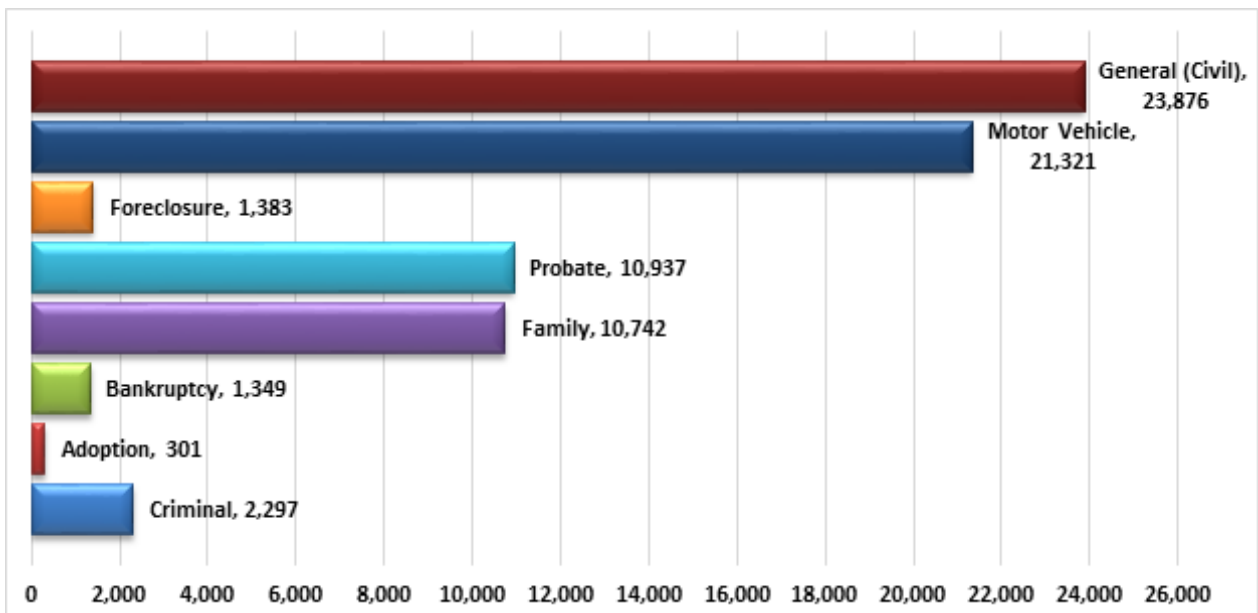
Data Source: Courthouse Activity Cube and Criminal Case Events Cube, February 9, 2021

Historical numbers are updated to current information. Data may change due to data settling and corrections.

Explanation for the variance from 2015 annual report:

In 2016, for statistical reporting purposes, the methodology used to count new cases in the Supreme Court of British Columbia was changed by Court Services Branch for consistency with Provincial Court information. Previously, cases with more than one accused were counted as one case; with the new methodology, the cases are counted separately for accused and co-accused. This increases the number of cases, but the increase is offset somewhat by transfers of cases from Provincial Court to Supreme Court. A case transferred by election from Provincial Court to Supreme Court and subsequently transferred back again by re-election in a different month was historically considered to be two or more cases. To eliminate this duplication, the case is only counted once. This explains the variance from figures presented in previous Annual Reports.

Figure 2: New Filings by Category in 2020



Data does **not** include Supreme Caveat and Supreme Enforcement/Legislated Statutes.

Figure 3: Number of Conferences by Type, 2011 - 2020

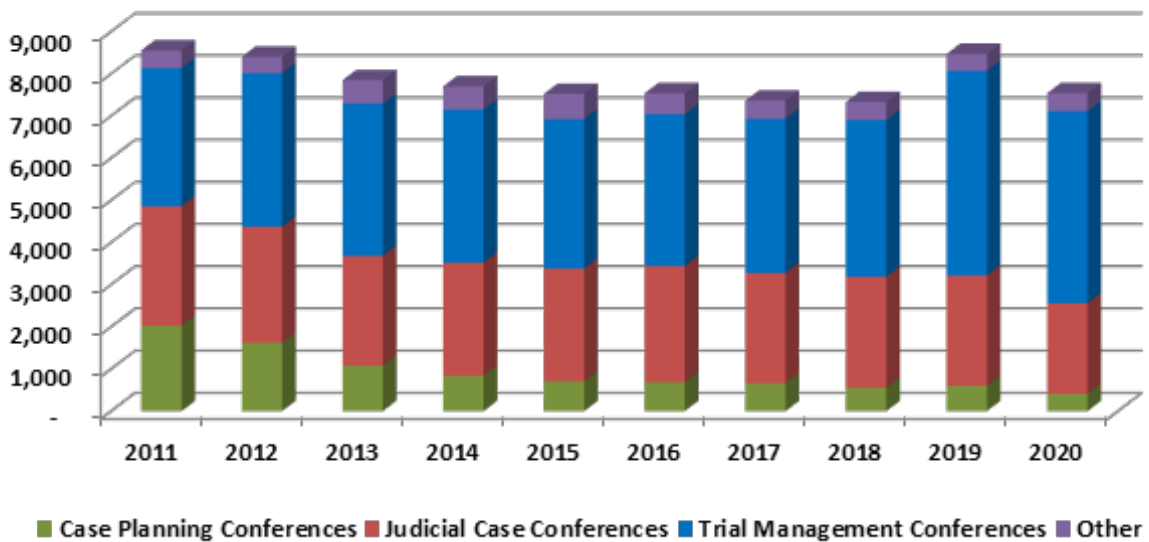


Figure 4: Hearing Hours by Conference Type, 2011 - 2020

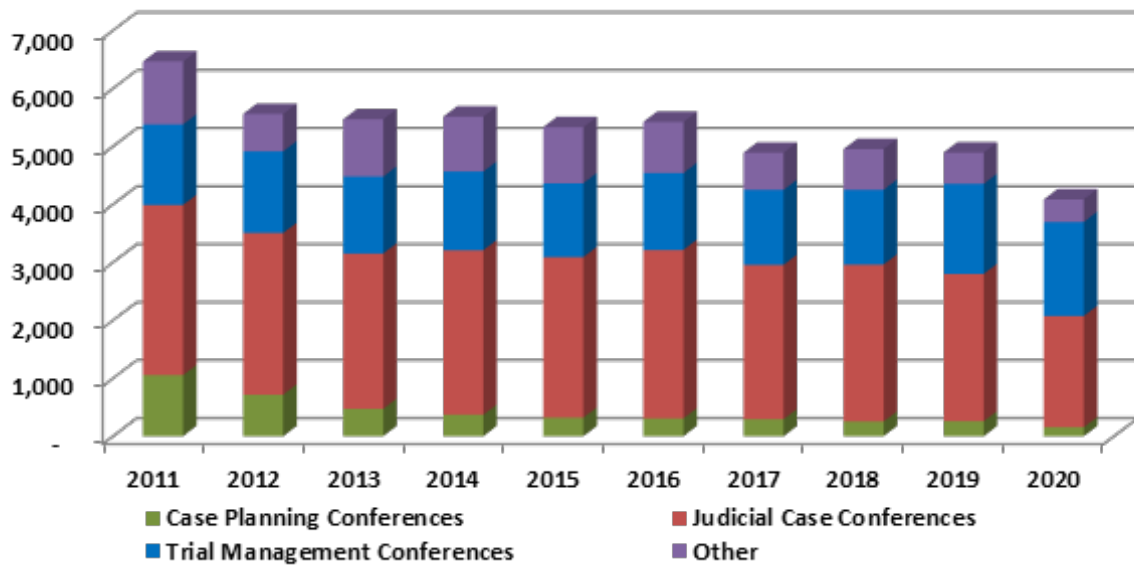
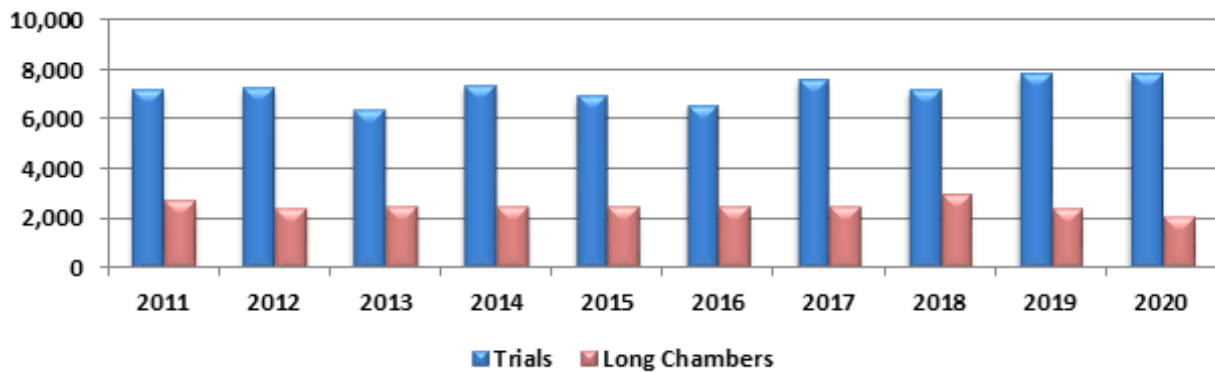
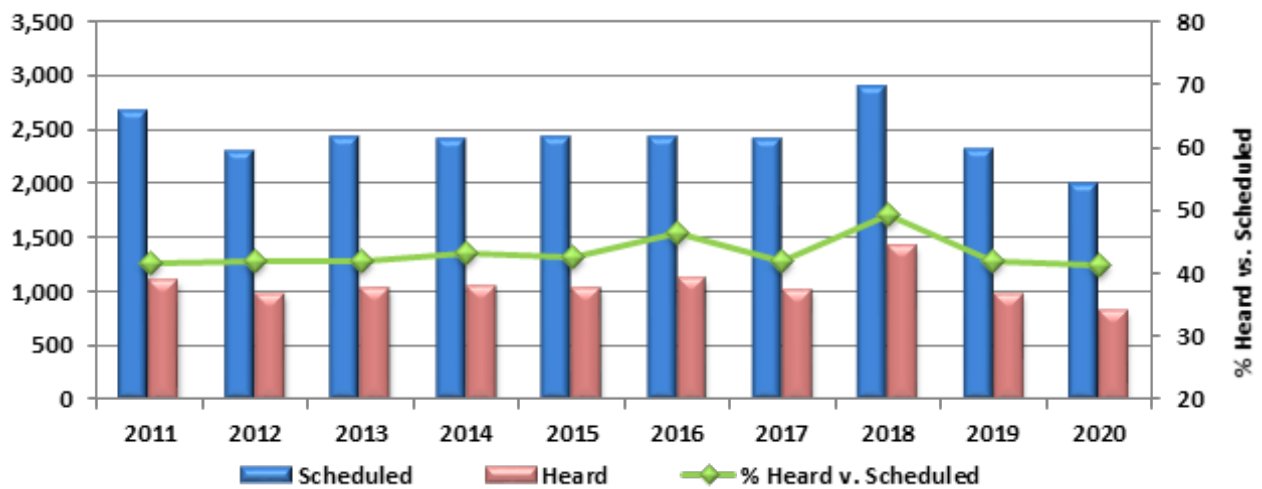


Figure 5: Civil Trials and Long Chambers Applications Scheduled in Vancouver



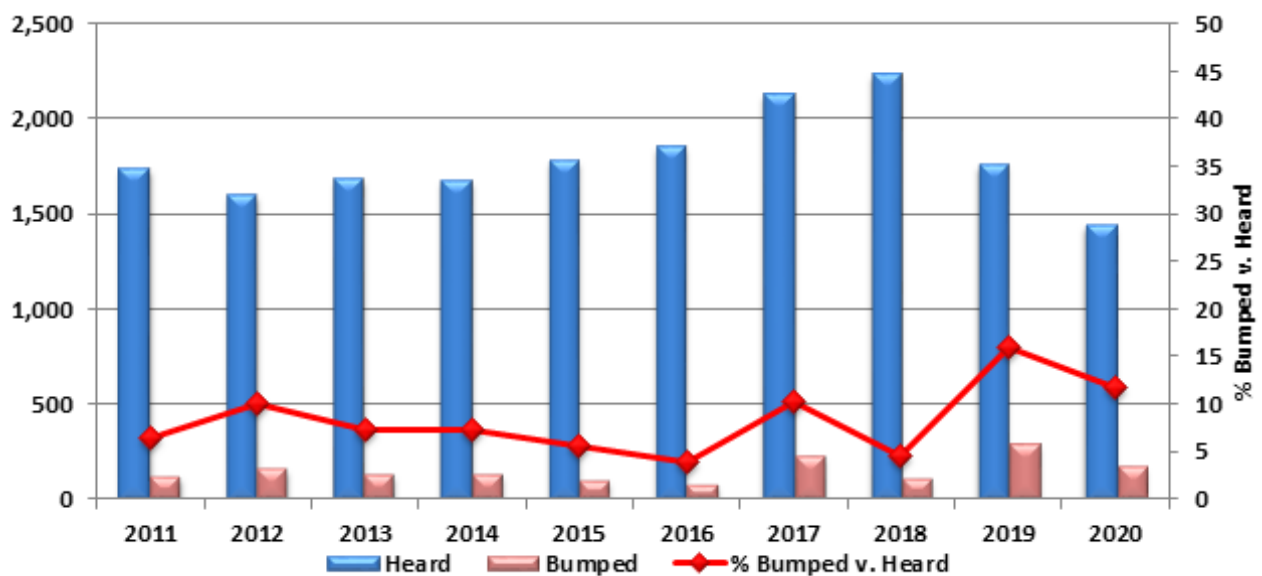
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Trials	7,110	7,248	6,347	7,319	6,880	6,464	7,573	7,163	7,765	7,797
Long Chambers	2,675	2,299	2,431	2,409	2,431	2,428	2,406	2,894	2,324	1,988

Figure 6: Long Chambers Applications Scheduled and Heard in Vancouver



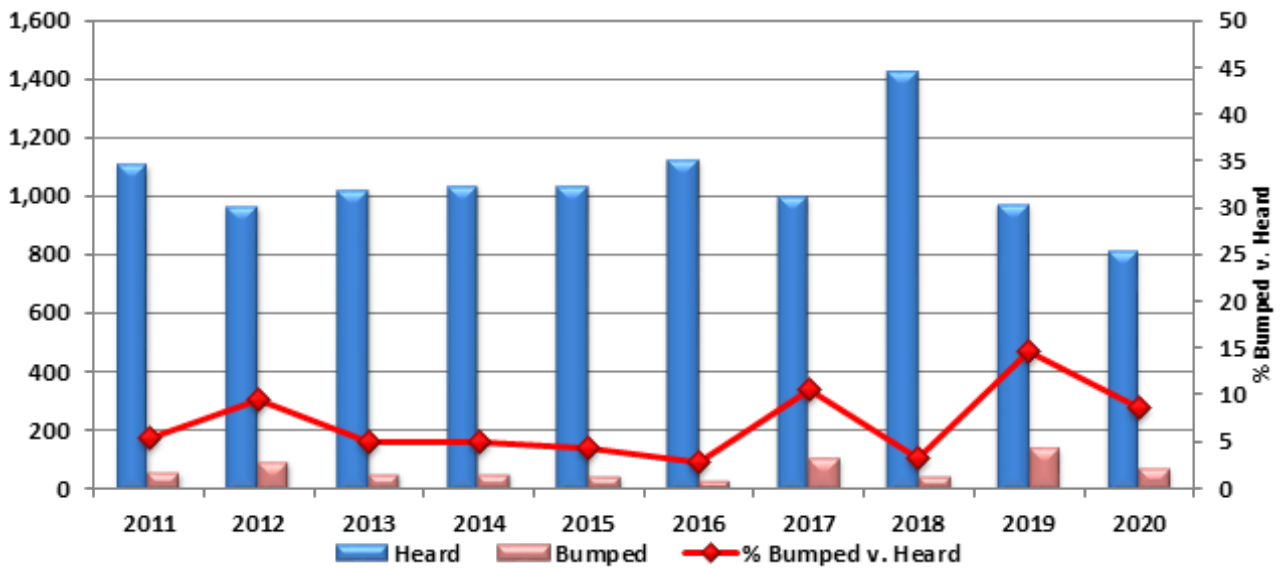
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Scheduled	2,675	2,299	2,431	2,409	2,431	2,428	2,406	2,894	2,324	1,988
Heard	1,110	967	1,022	1,039	1,033	1,123	1,005	1,426	972	819
% Heard v. Scheduled	41	42	42	43	42	46	42	49	42	41

Figure 7: Long Chambers Applications Heard and Bumped in British Columbia



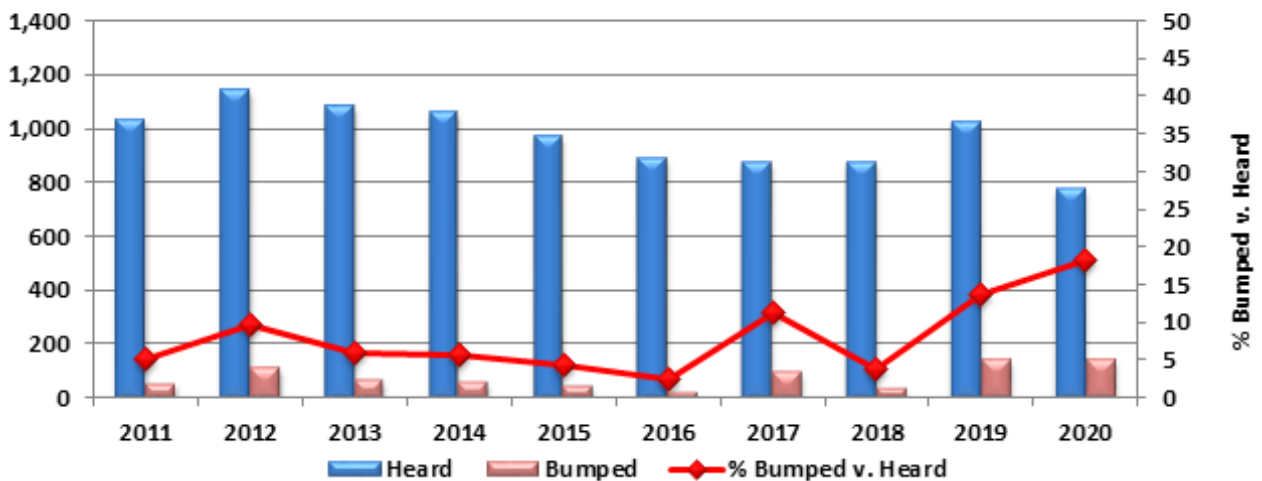
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Heard	1,731	1,597	1,677	1,673	1,773	1,850	2,126	2,231	1,753	1,435
Bumped	110	160	123	123	97	72	218	100	281	168
% Bumped v. Heard	6.4	10.0	7.3	7.4	5.5	3.9	10.3	4.5	16.0	11.7

Figure 8: Long Chambers Applications Heard and Bumped in Vancouver



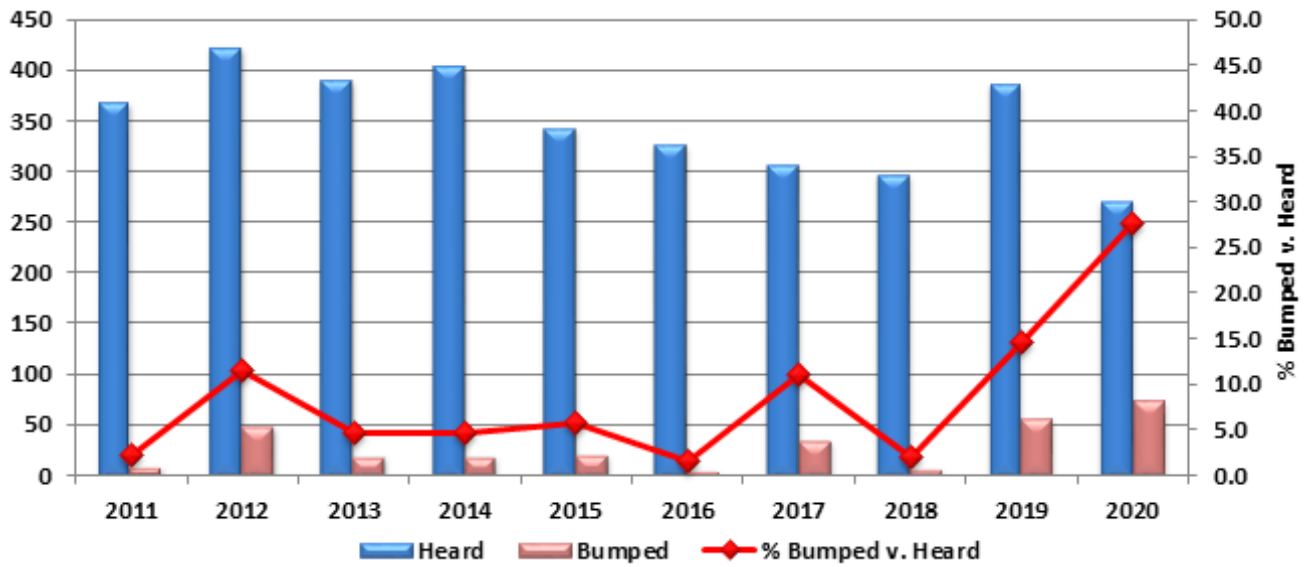
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Heard	1,110	967	1,022	1,039	1,033	1,123	1,005	1,426	972	819
Bumped	59	91	51	52	44	32	106	45	142	71
% Bumped v. Heard	5.3	9.4	5.0	5.0	4.3	2.8	10.5	3.2	14.6	8.7

Figure 9: Trials Heard and Bumped in British Columbia



	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Heard	1,032	1,145	1,083	1,061	969	887	873	870	1,020	775
Bumped	52	110	65	61	43	21	98	33	140	142
% Bumped v. Heard	5.0	9.6	6.0	5.7	4.4	2.4	11.2	3.8	13.7	18.3

Figure 10: Trials Heard and Bumped in Vancouver



	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Heard	368	423	391	405	343	327	308	298	387	271
Bumped	8	49	18	19	20	5	34	6	56	75
% Bumped v. Heard	2.2	11.6	4.6	4.7	5.8	1.5	11.0	2.0	14.5	27.7

Figure 11: Trials Heard and Bumped by Type and Location in 2020

	HEARD 2020				BUMPED 2020			
	Civil	Criminal	Family	Total	Civil	Criminal	Family	Total
LOWER MAINLAND								
Chilliwack	4	24	9	37	3	0	2	5
New Westminster	80	50	34	164	25	0	2	27
Vancouver	190	51	30	271	73	0	2	75
Region Totals	274	125	73	472	101	0	6	107
Region %	76%	43%	61%	61%	78%	0%	50%	75%
VANCOUVER ISLAND								
Campbell River	1	6	0	7	1	0	0	1
Courtenay	3	5	1	9	1	0	0	1
Duncan	1	8	2	11	0	1	0	1
Nanaimo	15	10	7	32	2	0	0	2
Port Alberni	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Powell River	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	0
Victoria	24	23	11	58	12	0	0	12
Region Totals	44	56	21	121	16	1	0	17
Region %	12%	19%	18%	16%	12%	0%	0%	12%
NORTHERN INTERIOR								
Dawson Creek	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Fort St. John	2	2	1	5	0	0	1	1
Prince George	1	10	4	15	1	0	0	1
Prince Rupert	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Quesnel	0	5	2	7	0	0	1	1
Smithers	0	3	3	6	0	0	0	0
Terrace	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0
Williams Lake	0	11	1	12	0	0	0	0
Region Totals	4	33	12	49	1	0	2	3
Region %	1%	11%	10%	6%	1%	0%	17%	2%
SOUTHERN INTERIOR								
Kamloops	7	28	4	39	4	0	1	5
Kelowna	20	25	6	51	5	0	0	5
Vernon	5	7	3	15	1	0	1	2
Nelson	0	8	0	8	1	0	1	2
Cranbrook	1	5	0	6	0	0	1	1
Penticton	5	4	1	10	0	0	0	0
Salmon Arm	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0
Rossland	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0

	HEARD 2020				BUMPED 2020			
	Civil	Criminal	Family	Total	Civil	Criminal	Family	Total
Golden	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Revelstoke	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Region Totals	39	80	14	133	11	0	4	15
Region %	11%	27%	12%	17%	9%	0%	33%	11%
TOTAL	361	294	120	775	129	1	12	142
TOTAL %	47%	38%	15%		91%	1%	8%	

Figure 12: Trials Heard by Registry in 2020

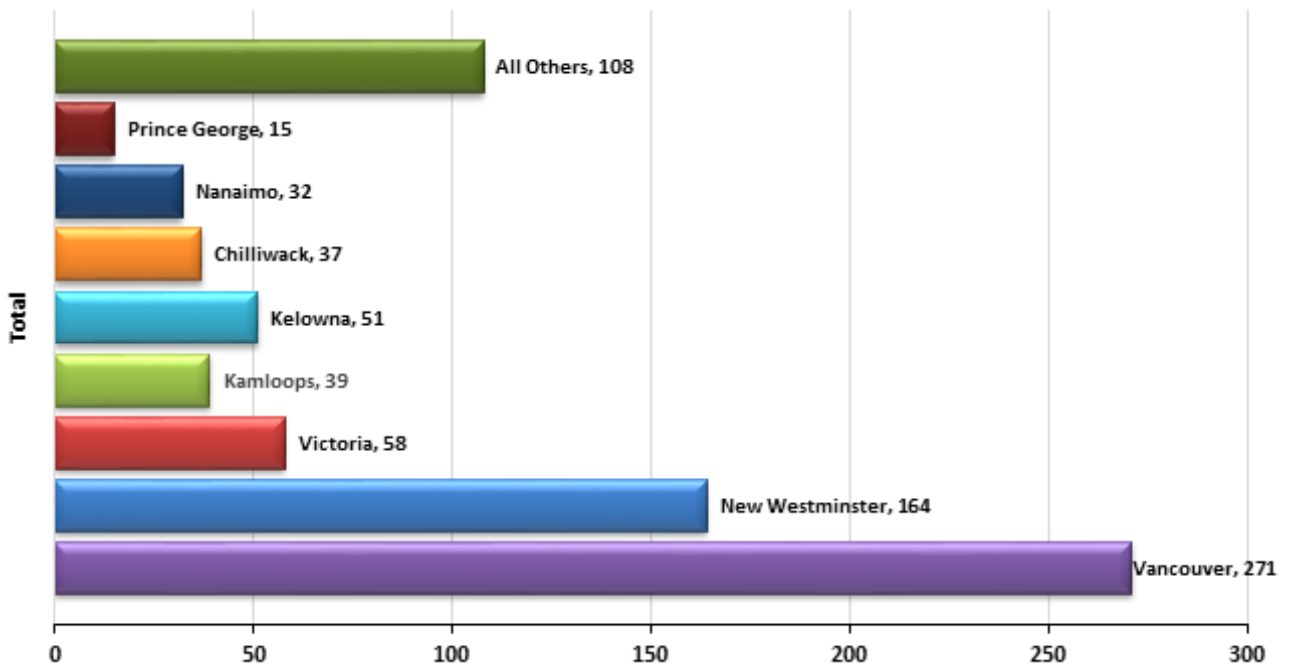


Figure 13: Trials Heard by Region in 2020

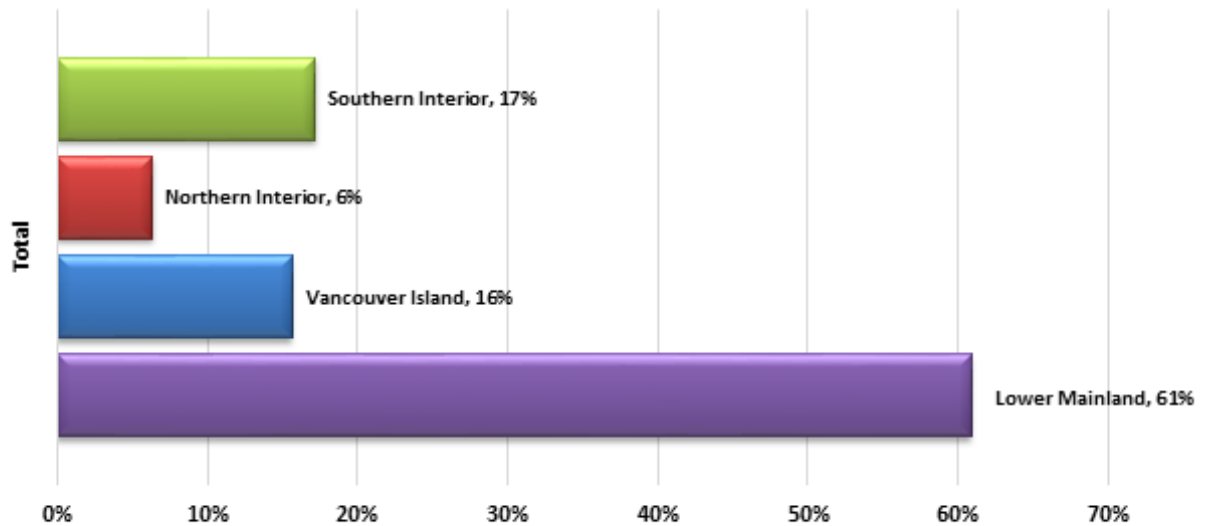


Figure 14: Published Reasons for Judgment by Subject, Type, and Year

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
CIVIL										
Oral	274	267	260	285	316	306	340	305	309	267
Written	1,120	1,120	1,133	1,181	1,050	1,009	868	895	905	868
Total	1,394	1,387	1,393	1,466	1,366	1,315	1,208	1,200	1,214	1,135
CRIMINAL										
Oral	198	188	312	348	354	280	344	377	371	248
Written	116	144	123	120	114	63	113	109	78	58
Total	314	332	435	468	468	343	457	486	449	306
FAMILY										
Oral	41	29	54	66	96	94	86	95	64	76
Written	211	231	285	299	300	267	272	275	242	235
Total	252	260	339	365	396	361	358	370	306	311
TOTAL	1,960	1,979	2,167	2,299	2,230	2,019	2,023	2,056	1,969	1,752

Figure 15: Published Reasons for Judgment by Year, 2011 - 2020

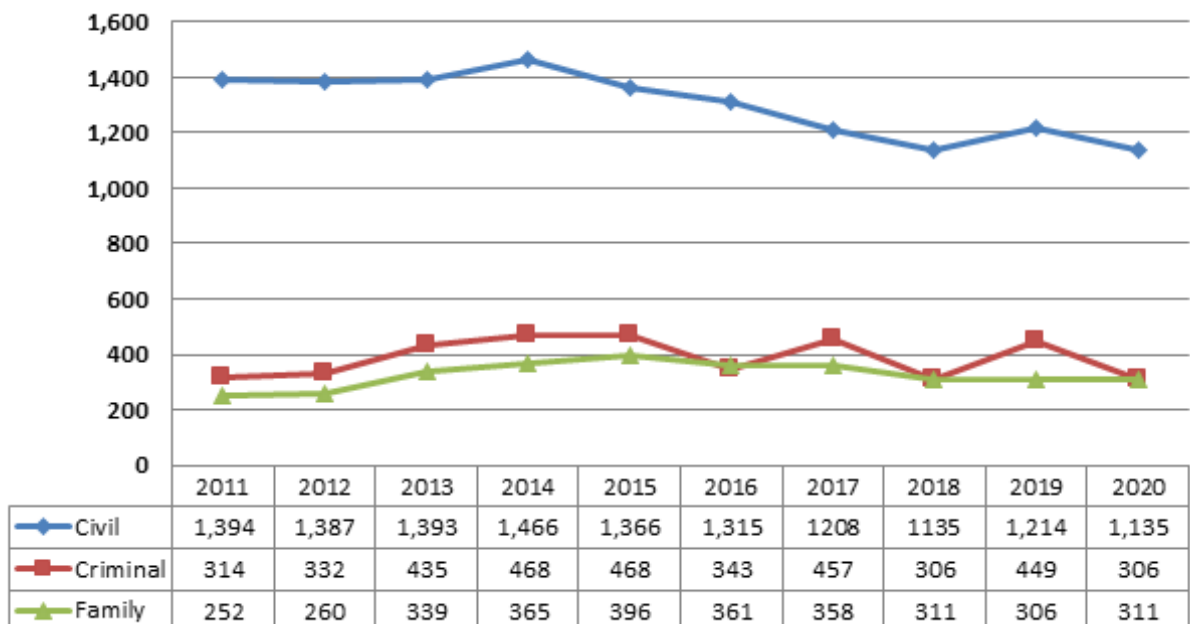


Figure 16: Published Reasons for Judgment by Subject, Type, and Year

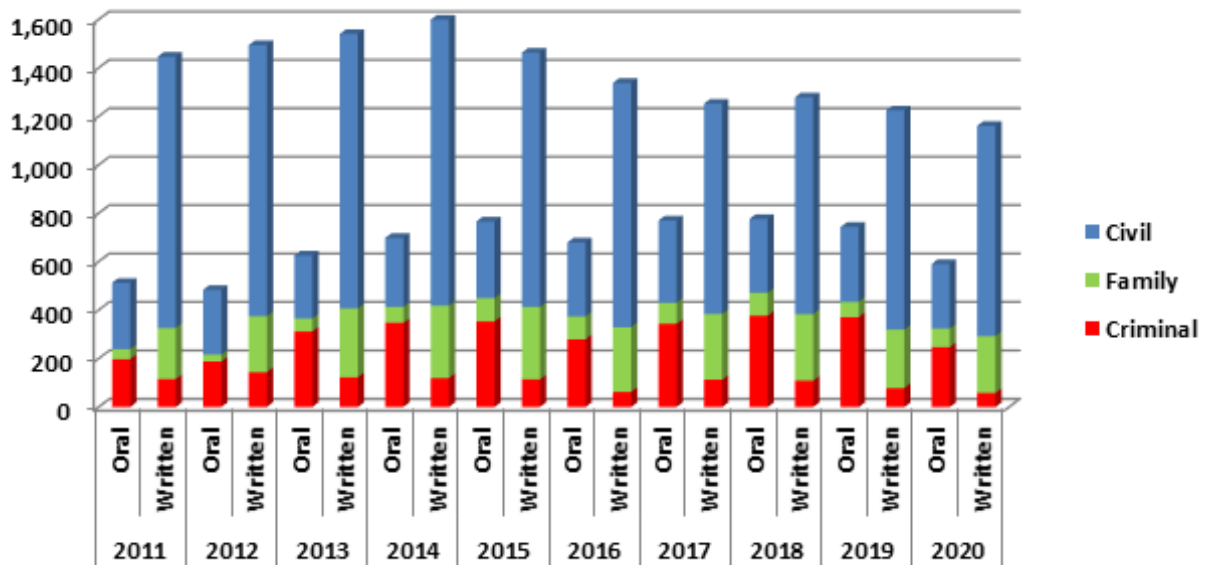


Figure 17: E-Filed Documents in the Supreme Court

	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Documents Filed	595,294	588,708	599,767	595,496	593,068	595,228	595,811	591,039	616,514
Documents E-Filed	197,152	208,118	217,130	218,788	232,974	246,026	259,148	262,846	279,645
% E-Filed	33%	35%	36%	37%	39%	41%	43%	44%	45%

Figure 18: E-Orders Processed in the Supreme Court

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
E-Orders Processed	8,051	8,530	9,238	8,920	9,427	9,622	10,987	10,902	11,206	13,535

Figure 19: Online Booking

	CV-AWS	CV-PTC	CV-TCH	JMC	TMC	Grand Total
Sep. 2019	-	-	-	-	25	25
Oct. 2019	-	-	-	-	58	58
Nov. 2019	-	-	-	-	85	85
Dec. 2019	-	-	-	-	76	76
Jan. 2020	-	-	-	-	149	149
Feb. 2020	-	-	-	-	122	122
Mar. 2020	-	-	-	-	90	90
Apr. 2020	-	-	95	-	29	124
May 2020	182	37	95	13	513	840
Jun. 2020	127	5	69	6	527	734
Jul. 2020	71	0	1	0	323	395
Aug. 2020	27	0	0	7	209	243
Sep. 2020	14	0	0	1	247	262
Oct. 2020	20	0	0	0	400	420
Nov. 2020	9	0	0	0	313	325
Dec. 2020	8	0	0	1	280	289

Explanation

Prior to the April 2020, parties were only able to book Trial Management Conferences online. The new pandemic-related hearing types created in spring 2020 (CV-AWS, CV-PTC, CV-TCH) were made available for online booking.

Supreme Court of British Columbia
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