

2017/18 ANNUAL REPORT



THE CANADIAN
BAR ASSOCIATION
British Columbia Branch

2017/18 YEAR IN REVIEW

Well, that year flew by! I assumed the Presidency on September 1, 2017 and other than a few days over Christmas, it was a year of one exciting event or activity after another. Here are some of my highlights.

Sections are the backbone of the CBABC, and we had 75 of them holding an amazing number of quality meetings on wide-ranging topics – see details in the Sections Report later in this document. We continued to build our capacity to have section meetings available online, making this a valuable resource for members across the province. On the PD side, the highlight for me was the CBA West conference in Las Vegas in November 2017, but there were several other conferences, in-person PD sessions around the province, and a number of webinars.

Advocacy was a major focus, and a key goal was to press the new government to implement the proposals in our [2017 Agenda for Justice](#). We saw some successes, with increases in legal aid funding that were significant and the first of any real magnitude in many years, but still only a fraction of what is required. Regrettably, the government refused to fund any improvement to the legal aid tariff which has increased only once since 1991. We also undertook advocacy with the federal Minister of Justice to bring attention to vacancies on the British Columbia Supreme Court – and saw a significant increase in the pace of appointments.

Our advocacy focus evolved mid-year as the government embarked on a program of developing caps on compensation for injuries in motor vehicle cases, and moving substantial jurisdiction to the Civil Resolution Tribunal. We prepared detailed [position papers](#) in May 2018 in response to the legislation, including proposing other steps to deal with financial issues at ICBC.

CBABC continues to be involved in various access to justice initiatives. An exciting development during my presidential year was the creation of an Unbundled Legal Services Section to foster and support the delivery of unbundled services. Our Access to Justice Committee was active throughout the year, and as President I participated in a number of meetings of the A2JBC group.

It is essential for the bar to play a leadership role in finding solutions to access to justice issues and these were rewarding activities.

Our Truth & Reconciliation Working Group presented its final report and action plan in June 2018. The action plan includes ongoing work to help develop cultural competency for, and provide resources to members, and for ongoing advocacy work in Indigenous Justice issues.

Several years of work culminated in June 2018 with the announcement of a significant fee reduction for regular CBA members called four or more years (the reduction in BC was \$100). This change reflected extensive groundwork aimed at streamlining governance structures, better aligning national and branch operations to find efficiencies, and rethinking how services are delivered and how we allocate and spend the fees collected. As well, a new focus on “member intelligence” has resulted in regular surveys of members to help determine where our members see value. A significant focus on membership during the year contributed to a 5.8% increase in BC branch membership over the previous year.

Thank you for the opportunity to travel the province as CBABC President. It was a great honour (and a lot of fun) to serve. I have been so impressed by the many lawyers and students who work so hard and give so much of their time to improving the justice system and to creating a strong community. Thank you to the many volunteers, as well as CBABC staff, who work so hard to bring the CBABC’s many initiatives to fruition.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bill Veenstra'.

Bill Veenstra, QC
CBABC President 2017/18

CBABC LEADERSHIP

Executive Committee



(L-R) JENNIFER BRUN (OFFICER), TINA PARBHAKAR (EQUALITY REPRESENTATIVE) MICHAEL WELSH, QC (PAST PRESIDENT), SARAH KLINGER (OFFICER), LAUREN CHU (YOUNG LAWYERS OFFICER), MARGARET MEREIGH (VICE PRESIDENT), KENNETH ARMSTRONG (SECRETARY TREASURER), CAROLINE NEVIN (EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR), BILL VEENSTRA (PRESIDENT), TINA DION, QC (ABORIGINAL LAWYERS REPRESENTATIVE).

Committee Chairs

ACCESS TO JUSTICE
ADVISORY TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF BC
AUDIT
AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE
AWARDS & RECOGNITION
BARTALK EDITORIAL BOARD
CONFERENCE (US 2017)
COURT SERVICES
EQUALITY & DIVERSITY
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS
LAW WEEK (REGIONAL)
LAW WEEK (VANCOUVER)
LEGISLATION & LAW REFORM
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
REAL ADVISORY
RESOLUTIONS & BYLAWS
SECTIONS STANDING

ALEEM BHARMAL
JULIANNE LAMB
KENNETH ARMSTRONG
ROSE KEITH
KIMBERLY HENDERS-MILLER
KIRSTEN MCGHEE
KIM KARRAS; MARK VIRGIN
JOHN CALDWELL
TINA PARBHAKAR
MARGARET MEREIGH
AACHAL SOLL
JESSICA PATTERSON
SHEENA MITCHELL
LYNETT JUNG
MICHAEL WELSH, QC
SEAN DONOVAN
PAUL PEARSON

Elected Members

CARIBOO

OLIVER FLECK
DARLENE KAVKA
NICHOLAS MAVIGLIA

KOOTENAY

JENNY GHILARDUCCI
JAMIE M. LALONDE

NANAIMO

GRANT CURRIE
MENAKA GIRI
COLEEN HAY
ESTHER ROBSON

PRINCE RUPERT

BRYAN CRAMPTON
CLAIRE DUCLUZEAU

VANCOUVER

ALEEM BHARMAL
MICHELLE BOOKER
KAREY BROOKS
JENNIFER BRUN
LAUREN CHU
RISHI GILL
DIANE GRADLEY
ZAHRA JIMALE
MEGHAN MADDIGAN
SANDRA MANDANICI
ADAM MUNNINGS
SUZETTE NARBONNE
BRENT OLTHIUS
PRESTON PARSONS
MARY SALAYSAY
GURMINDER SANDHU
DIERK ULLRICH
LOUISA WINN
FREDERICK WYNNE
DAVID CLANCY

VICTORIA

KIMBERLY HENDERS-MILLER
SARAH KLINGER
BEATRICE MCCUTCHEON
DREW MILDON
PAUL PEARSON

WESTMINSTER

JENNIFER LYNN ANDERSON
TINA L. DION, QC
BRANDON HASTINGS
DUNCAN K. MAGNUS
GREG T. PALM
CLINTON JEAN SADLEMAYER, QC

YALE

DENESE ESPEUT-POST
ANDREW ALEC DENNIS POWELL
B. WILLIAM SUNDHU
CASSIDY THOMSON

2017/18 CBABC AWARDS

PRESIDENT'S MEDAL

The Honourable

Mr. Justice Thomas J. Crabtree

Personally awarded by the CBABC president to recognize significant contribution to the profession during the president's term. Justice Crabtree is known for supporting development of five Indigenous and First Nations sentencing courts in BC.



HARRY RANKIN, QC

PRO BONO AWARD

Gregory J. Heywood

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



GEORGES A. GOYER, QC MEMORIAL AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

John Waddell, QC

Created to recognize the exceptional contributions to the profession by a BC resident, this award is named in honour of Georges A. Goyer, QC, a respected CBABC member who passed away in 1992 after a courageous battle with cancer.



EQUALITY & DIVERSITY AWARD

Zara Suleman

Awarded to a CBA member whose work advances equality in BC – Zara Suleman diligently advocates against discrimination of marginalized people and pushes for change at all levels of government.



Law Student Awards

TRU

Heather Maki

UVic

David Schechter

UBC

Claire Stewart-Kanigan

These scholarships are presented to law students who embody CBABC ideals at the University of British Columbia, the University of Victoria and Thompson Rivers University.

These ideals encompass participation in activities supporting legal professionals and law students; promoting law reform and justice; promoting equality and providing community service.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Canadian Bar Association – BC Branch Professional Development team hosted 33 programs this term, nine of which were webinars and are currently available for repeat viewing. CBABC joined with your local and county Bar Associations, CBABC Sections, and independently held seminars, webinars, and full and multi-day conferences during this term (September 1, 2017 – August 31, 2018), producing 112.5 hours of substantive CPD, 50.5 hours of which counted towards your required ethics, professional responsibility and practice management component for your Law Society of BC reporting.

Building on the previous success of full-day and multi-day conferences with CBABC Professional Development, myriad Sections (such as the Aboriginal Lawyers Forum, the Women Lawyers Forum; ADR – Vancouver, Victoria; Family Law – Okanagan; Criminal Justice –Vancouver; Solicitors' General Practice – Central Vancouver Island; Immigration Law; and, Animal Law Sections) held highly successful conferences/seminars, boasting a total of 53.5 Hours of CPD.

CBABC also collaborated with other legal organizations including the Vancouver Bar Association, CBA – Alberta, Ontario Bar Association, CBA – National Sections, Department of Justice, and several other local and county bar associations across the province. Using various platforms, we connected 1500+ professionals with speakers who covered a wide range of topics like the *Wills, Estates and Succession Act*, access to justice, cannabis, and Indigenous reconciliation. By covering these topics, CBABC remains a leader in continuing professional development and the sharing of knowledge in the legal profession.

On February 7, 2018, the Ontario Bar Association collaborated with the BC Branch to spearhead reconciliation in the legal field during the “Indigenous Legal Norms: Canadian Lawyering and Courage” program. Terminology, treaties and titles, Indigenous governance, and other reconciliation topics were deliberated. The seminar also included practice management topics such as how to correct mistakes, Indigenous interpretation of the law, and entering unfamiliar circles concerning cultural protocol. Signa Daum Shanks, Assistant Professor & Director, Indigenous Outreach, Osgoode Hall Law School, and Patricia Barkanskas, Academic Director of the Allard School of Law Indigenous Community Legal Clinic, and the incoming director of the Allard Judicial Externship Program created foundational knowledge for attendees regarding the future of Indigenous understanding for professional and personal development.

SECTIONS

Canadian Bar Association – BC Branch Sections have successfully offered members educational and networking opportunities in BC since 1947, and the 2017/18 term signified 70 years of Sections. Civil Liberties, Legal Education, Insurance, the Administration of Civil Justice, and the Administration of Criminal Law were among the first committees struck in Vancouver, Victoria, New Westminster, Nanaimo, and the Interior with the intention to supplement national committees of the Canadian Bar Association forming in Eastern Canada. Today the CBA offers 75 BC Branch Sections and 41 National Sections. Exclusive to CBA members, Sections are practice-focused, member-run groups organized by substantive areas of law. Sections administer Continuing Professional Development and networking functions for members in an effort to keep the legal profession educated and up-to-date with the ever-changing landscape of law.

The 2017/2018 term was a successful program year with many well-attended events, seminars and conferences. More than 400 Section Executive Officers volunteered their time to support our highly active Sections. This year, over 4,000 enrolled members accounted for nearly 21,000 Section enrollments. These members attended 367 Section meetings/events, of which 196 were available by remote viewing. Throughout the term, CBABC Sections awarded 421 continuing professional development (CPD) hours.

CBABC received 6,200+ in-person attendees and an overwhelming 4,300+ remote sign-ins in this period. Varying by fields of law, our 75 Sections covered a vast collection of topical issues related to current events within the law, including cannabis legalization, the *Wills, Estates and Succession Act*, Blockchain technology, Indigenous reconciliation, intellectual property, and countless legislative updates.

On October 30, 2017, the Aboriginal Law - Vancouver Section joined the Business Law Section with an esteemed panel of speakers to provide insight on “*Legal Ethics and Free, Prior and Informed Consent from Indigenous Communities*.” The panel discussed the history of the concept of free, prior and informed consent, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, international standards, Canadian law and politics on free, prior and informed consent and the risks involved with not negotiating such consent.

On January 29, 2018, The Honourable David Eby, QC, spoke at a sold-out event for the Civil Litigation – Vancouver and Employment Law Section. His update included matters relating to ICBC, legalization of cannabis, anti-money laundering reforms, electoral reforms, legal aid, and access to justice. This discussion and Q&A occurred only hours after a press conference that included statements about ICBC’s financial affairs. Attendees were eager to ask questions about the press conference for his insights and opinions on those matters.

SECTION CHAIRS

The first figure indicates the number of members enrolled during the 2017/2018 Section term, while the second figure indicates the number of meetings held through the Section year. In the event there was a joint meeting, that meeting is counted for each Section.

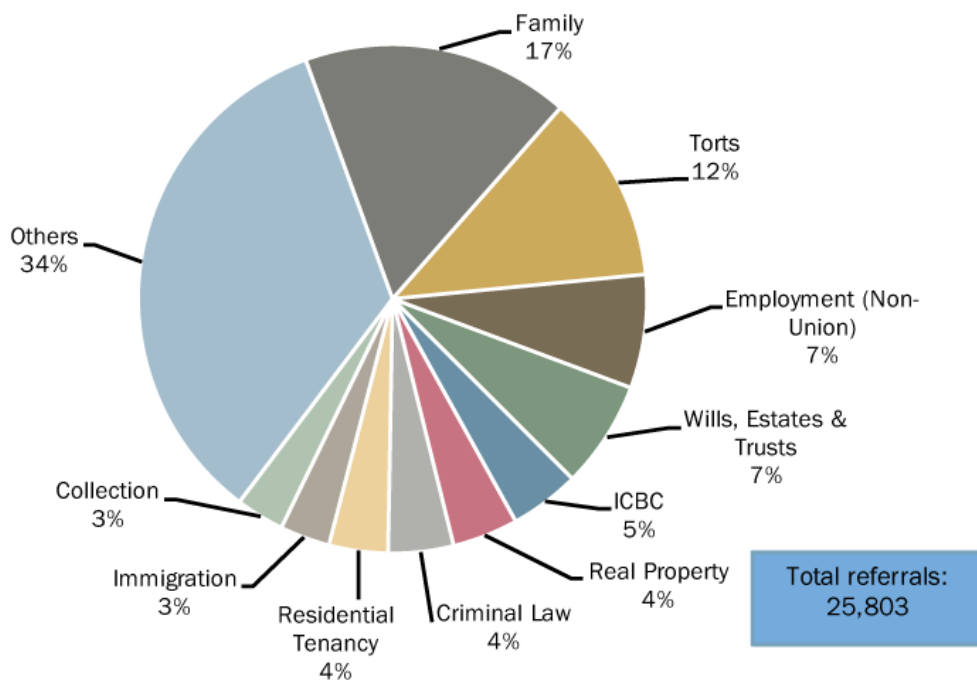
SECTION	CHAIRS	ENROLLED	MTGS/ EVENTS	SECTION	CHAIRS	ENROLLED	MTGS/ EVENTS
ABORIGINAL LAW – VAN	ALLISON J. RUSSELL JEFF LANGLOIS	436	8	FAMILY LAW - WESTMINSTER	N/A	131	3
ABORIGINAL LAW – VAN ISLAND	CLAIRE P. TRUESDALE	124	5	FREEDOM OF INFORMATION & PRIVACY LAW	J. ALEXIS KERR KERI L. BENNETT	558	4
ABORIGINAL LAWYERS FORUM	TINA L. DION, QC	137	2	GENERAL PRACTICE, SOLO & SMALL FIRM - LOWER MAINLAND	VANIA M. CHOI	413	3
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW	MATTHEW VOELL SHEA H. COULSON	747	2	GENERAL PRACTICE, SOLO & SMALL FIRM - PRINCE RUPERT	MEGAN M. OLSON LINDA D. LOCKE, QC	19	3
ADR – NANAIMO	STEPHEN MCPHEE	43	5	HEALTH LAW	DANIEL J. ALEXANDER REID	267	3
ADR – VANCOUVER	NICHOLAS DAVIES WILLIAM DEAN HOLDER	458	5	HUMAN RIGHTS LAW	STEPHANIE D. GUTIERREZ ALEEM S. BHARMAL	631	4
ADR – VICTORIA	AESHA FAUX	131	5	IMMIGRATION LAW	MEERA THAKRAR	367	34
AIR LAW	JOE FIORANTE, QC	88	3	INSOLVENCY LAW	JEF POULSEN SCOTT R. ANDERSEN	216	6
ANIMAL LAW	REBEKA BREDER	151	4	INSURANCE LAW	KORA PACIOREK	543	5
APPELLATE ADVOCACY	ANGUS M. GUNN, QC PETER R. SENKPIEL	318	2	INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & TECHNOLOGY LAW	STEPHANIE A. MELNYCHUK	371	4
BANKING LAW	CHRISTOPHER HORTE	364	6	INTERNATIONAL LAW	LAURA CUNDARI BRUCE I. MACALLUM	266	2
BUSINESS LAW	KELSEY MCDERMOTT	956	8	LABOUR LAW	CAROLYN JANUSZ CONNOR LEVY	440	5
CHARITIES AND NOT-FOR-PROFIT LAW	KATE N. BAKE-PATERSON ELIZABETH ANNE MOXHAM	466	6	LEGAL RESEARCH	GURMINDER SANDHU	435	5
CHILDREN'S LAW	DONNA J. MARTINSON, QC SARAH RAUCH	132	3	MARITIME LAW	DAVID JARRETT	112	8
CIVIL LITIGATION – OKANAGAN	JAIMIE KIDSTON	88	3	MUNICIPAL LAW	LYNDA STOKES MICHAEL JOHN HARGRAVES	367	5
CIVIL LITIGATION – TRI-CITIES/ NEW WESTMINSTER	THOMAS L. SPRAGGS KRISTIN GARDNER	108	2	NATURAL RESOURCES LAW	JEREMY SHELFORD	319	4
CIVIL LITIGATION – VANCOUVER	CAMERON WARDELL MARTIN G. SHEARD	1056	5	PENSIONS & BENEFITS LAW	MEGAN KANEEN	189	3
CIVIL LITIGATION – VAN ISLAND	MARLISA H. MARTIN	188	8	PRODUCTS LIABILITY LAW	N/A	146	0
CLASS ACTION	CHELSEA HERMANSON NAOMI KOVAK	168	4	PUBLIC SECTOR LAWYERS	MARY L. FRENCH FRANÇOIS PARADIS	322	4
COMMERCIAL & REAL ESTATE – OKANAGAN	MARTIN RUSSELL WALES NANCY LING	136	6	REAL PROPERTY - VANCOUVER	CHAD TRAVIS MARIO LUIS RUBIO	712	6
COMMERCIAL & REAL ESTATE – VANCOUVER ISLAND	TODD R. FERGUSON	174	0	SECURITIES LAW	MARTA C. DAVIDSON	324	6
CONSTITUTIONAL/ CIVIL LIBERTIES	LEAH GREATHEAD MARK GERVIN	427	2	SENIOR LAWYERS	GERALD JACK LECOVIN, QC	105	3
CONSTRUCTION LAW	DAVID CLAASSEN	425	2	SOCIAL JUSTICE	ALEEM S. BHARMAL RAJI MANGAT	396	4
CORPORATE COUNSEL	ALLISON F. L. CRANE MARGOT JANE SPENCE	887	4	SOGIC	BRIAN ANDREW YUEN	139	4
CRIMINAL JUSTICE – KAMLOOPS	GRAHAM A. KAY	43	6	SOLICITORS' GENERAL PRACTICE - CENTRAL VAN ISLAND	LAURA ANNE BEREZAN	102	2
CRIMINAL JUSTICE – NANAIMO	KELLY BRADSHAW CHRISTOPHER G. CHURCHILL	38	4	TAXATION LAW	MARIE-CLAIRE DY	333	6
CRIMINAL JUSTICE – PRINCE RUPERT	SARA HOPKINS	27	1	UNBUNDLED LEGAL SERVICES	ZAHRA H. JIMALE	88	7
CRIMINAL JUSTICE – VANCOUVER	JOSEPH J. SAULNIER	306	8	WILLS & TRUSTS - OKANAGAN	ROBERT MITCHELL CULOS ALISON J. OXTOBY	169	9
CRIMINAL JUSTICE – VICTORIA	CLARE JENNINGS	89	6	WILLS & TRUSTS - VANCOUVER	NICOLE L. GARTON	725	7
ELDER LAW	JAQUA PAGE	375	7	WILLS & TRUSTS - VICTORIA	VICTORIA GARNER	234	9
EMPLOYMENT LAW	CAMERON R. WARDELL ELIZABETH ANN REID	775	4	WOMEN LAWYERS FORUM	KATHRYN SAINTY, QC	1,287	16
ENVIRONMENTAL LAW	JANA K. MCLEAN	436	3	WOMEN LAWYERS FORUM – BC NORTH	NINA PUREWAL	25	1
FAMILY LAW – FRASER VALLEY	CRISTEN L. GLEESON DAVID DONALD HART	86	6	WOMEN LAWYERS FORUM - KAMLOOPS	AACHAL N. SOLL	56	5
FAMILY LAW – KAMLOOPS	DAVID CHARLES DUNDEE	58	7	WOMEN LAWYERS FORUM – VANCOUVER ISLAND	KARINA SACCA	171	3
FAMILY LAW – NANAIMO	ERIN LEIGH BROOK	57	4	YOUNG LAWYERS – BC NORTH	ERIN L. CROCKER	31	1
FAMILY LAW – OKANAGAN	MICHAEL M. SINCLAIR	94	6	YOUNG LAWYERS – LOWER MAINLAND	AINSLEY M. REIMER SABINA BEESLEY	896	12
FAMILY LAW – VANCOUVER	ANGELA DUNN JAMIE WOOD	453	9	YOUNG LAWYERS – OKANAGAN	ELISE V. EVEREST	103	3
FAMILY LAW – VICTORIA	AESHA FAUX	155	7	YOUNG LAWYERS – VICTORIA	THOMAS S. MCLACHLAN	152	10

LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE & DIAL-A-LAW

The Lawyer Referral Service (LRS) celebrates 63 years of service in the community. This unique service assists British Columbians in locating lawyers for specific types of legal matters. The LRS operates by matching potential clients to members of the LRS panel. It refers a caller to a participating lawyer who provides an initial consultation of up to 30 minutes for a nominal fee. Purpose of the consultation is to find out if there's a legal issue worth pursuing. If both parties agree to proceed with further services, the lawyer's regular rate applies.

Thousands of referrals are made through the LRS each year. Members and non-members of CBABC may join the service. Many LRS lawyers also volunteer to update the Dial-A-Law (DAL) scripts, which are available to the public by telephone and online. DAL is a library of practical information on various topics of law in BC. Both programs are operated by CBABC and funded by the Law Foundation of BC.

In January 2019, Dial-A-Law will be moving to the People's Law School, a non-profit organization that is fully engaged in the practice of sharing legal information with the public.



LAW WEEK 2018

Every April, Law Week celebrates the anniversary of the signing of Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms. 2018 was the 36th anniversary and brought BC's legal community together to raise awareness of the justice system and promote access to justice around the province. 2018 Law Week events included BC judges in high school classrooms, free public legal education classes and family-friendly community events in Fort St. John, Kelowna, Nanaimo, Terrace, Rossland, Victoria, Penticton, Vancouver and Kamloops.

Dial-A-Lawyer Day

Dial-A-Lawyer Day is the highlight of Law Week, offering free legal advice to the all British Columbians. Volunteer lawyers go to work on a Saturday at the CBA BC Branch office to answer phone calls from around BC and give free legal advice. In 2018, Dial-A-Lawyer Day welcomed 17 volunteer lawyers who answered 188 calls. The vast majority of callers needed family law, wills, and estates and trust advice. Callers learned about Dial-A-Lawyer Day through CBABC promotion in province-wide media.

Meet the Chiefs

A lucky group of high school students attended "Meet the Chiefs", a student forum offering the chance to meet and speak with BC's Chief Justices, and ask questions about BC's judicial system. The session welcomed Chief Justice Christopher Hinkson (BC Supreme Court), Chief Justice Robert Bauman (BC Court of Appeal) and Chief Judge Thomas Crabtree (BC Provincial Court). Students asked about important legal issues and the Chiefs offered direct responses to hard-hitting questions. "Meet the Chiefs" was held at CBC's Vancouver studios and moderated by the CBC's own guest host, Catherine Gretsinger.

Barry Sullivan Law Cup

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



The 2018 winner was Vivian Zhang of West Point Grey Academy in Vancouver.

Left, Vivian accepts the Barry Sullivan Law Cup, with Barry Sullivan's family, CBABC President Bill Veenstra, and 1st and 2nd finalists Catherine Cho and Elise LaFleur.