



Submission to

**Ministry of Justice and Attorney General of British Columbia**

regarding

***WHITE PAPER ON JUSTICE REFORM***

***PART ONE:***

***A MODERN, TRANSPARENT JUSTICE SYSTEM***

**Issued by:**

**Canadian Bar Association**

**British Columbia Branch**

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## PREFACE

The Canadian Bar Association nationally represents over 38,000 members (lawyers, judges and law students) and the British Columbia Branch (the “CBABC”) has over 6,800 members. Its members practice law in many different areas and the CBABC has established 77 different Sections to provide for lawyers who practice in similar areas to participate in continuing legal education, research and law reform. The CBABC also establishes special committees from time to time to deal with issues of interest to the CBABC.

This submission was prepared with the assistance and advice of a Special Committee appointed by the CBABC Executive Committee.

The comments expressed in this submission reflect the views of the CBABC as a whole and are not necessarily the views of each individual member.

The Special Committee was composed of the following members of the CBABC:

- Carmen J. Rogers, QC, Officer, CBABC Executive Committee;
- Eric V. Gottardi, Vice-Chair, CBA National Criminal Justice Section;  
and
- Arthur M. Grant, Co-Chair CBABC Constitutional/Civil Liberties Section.

The Special Committee was assisted by Stuart Rennie, Legislation and Law Reform Officer.

## SUBMISSIONS

In February 2012, the Minister of Justice and Attorney General issued a Green Paper, *Modernizing British Columbia's Justice System: Green Paper*.<sup>1</sup> At the same time, the BC Government appointed Geoffrey Cowper, QC, to chair a review of the criminal justice system. In addition, the BC Government retained Gary McCuaig, QC, to review the criminal charge assessment process. Further, the BC Government requested advice from the Legal Services Society on achieving efficiencies in the justice system by improvements in legal aid services.

In June 2012, the CBABC produced a comprehensive report, titled *Justice in Time*, offering 25 recommendations to Mr. Cowper, QC on the issues surrounding justice reform ("*Justice in Time*").<sup>2</sup>

In August 2012, the Cowper Report, *A Criminal Justice System for the 21st Century*, was released ("Cowper Report").<sup>3</sup>

In October 2012, the Ministry of Justice released the *White Paper on Justice Reform Part One: A Modern, Transparent Justice System* ("White Paper").

This submission is in response to the White Paper. The CBABC sees the White Paper as an important step in the process of engaging all justice system stakeholders in the urgent work of improving BC's justice system. We are of the view that the White Paper serves as a positive starting point for discussions about long-term solutions. The CBABC is pleased that its *Justice in Time* report to Geoffrey Cowper, QC was influential in the Government's ideas for justice reform contained in the White Paper.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Available at: <http://www.ag.gov.bc.ca/public/JusticeSystemReviewGreenPaper.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> Available at: [http://www.cba.org/BC/Initiatives/pdf/CBABC\\_Submission-Justice\\_In\\_Time-Jun\\_6\\_2012.pdf](http://www.cba.org/BC/Initiatives/pdf/CBABC_Submission-Justice_In_Time-Jun_6_2012.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> Available at: <http://bcjusticereform.ca/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/CowperFinalReport11.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> White Paper at page 7.

The White Paper focuses on criminal and family law justice but really has no comments on the civil justice system. The civil justice system should be the subject of a separate study.

After our review of the White Paper, the CBABC reiterates our recommendations made in *Justice in Time*. The Summary of Recommendations from *Justice in Time* is attached as Appendix A to this submission.

The remainder of the CBABC submission will provide analysis and make recommendations regarding the 10 recommendations in the White Paper. Lack of detail about some of the proposals has somewhat limited our ability to provide a fulsome response. As various proposals are developed by Government, the CBABC hopes to be involved in further consultation. This is particularly the case where legislation is anticipated. The CBABC would welcome the opportunity to review any proposed legislation and provide feedback.

Where questions or issues set out in the White Paper are not considered by the CBABC in these Submissions, this does not mean that the CBABC either accepts or rejects these matters, but that the CBABC has no comment on these matters at this time.

## **ACTION ITEM 1: JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY COUNCIL**

Recommendation 1 of the White Paper is to establish a Justice and Public Safety Council within the Ministry of Justice that will be responsible for setting the strategic direction and vision for the justice system within Government. This recommendation states that the Council will create opportunities for others to participate in the decision making process and in dialogue over system performance and reform, although few details are provided.

The CBABC supports the establishment of the Council so long as there are regular meaningful opportunities for input by external bodies with critical roles in the justice system. As the CBABC recommended in *Justice in Time*, reform measures should be implemented in consultation with the justice system stakeholders and not imposed unilaterally by one branch of Government over the other.<sup>5</sup>

The CBABC, as a result of its 6,800 members in British Columbia, and its resulting expertise in criminal, civil, family and administrative justice, is perfectly situated to provide the Council with the perspective of the lawyers participating in the justice system and the British Columbians impacted by it. In addition, CBABC members also have advantage of a national perspective, participating in 26 national CBA sections. The CBABC requests that it be actively and regularly consulted about the potential impacts of proposed justice system reform to ensure that these interests are before the Council prior to decisions being made. Further, the CBABC requests that it be involved in all advisory boards contemplated by the White Paper.

Currently, as authorized by section 7 of the *Crown Counsel Act*, the Ministry of Justice's Justice Branch often uses independent prosecutors from an approved list for both criminal and civil matters. The CBABC recommends that the Council

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<sup>5</sup> Recommendation 20.

utilize individuals from this list of independent counsel as another source of stakeholder input.

To increase the effectiveness of stakeholder input, the CBABC recommends that the Government involve the CBABC and other legal stakeholders early on in the policy-making process with Government.

### **ACTION ITEM 2: ANNUAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN**

Recommendation 2 of the White Paper is to publish an annual Justice and Public Safety Plan by the Council. The CBABC supports Recommendation 2.

### **ACTION ITEM 3: A REGULAR JUSTICE SUMMIT**

Recommendation 3 of the White Paper is to have an annual Justice Summit organized by the Ministry of Justice.

The CBABC supports this Summit as a formal minimum level of opportunity for stakeholder input but wishes to emphasize that a yearly summit is not, and should not be seen as, an adequate substitute for ongoing consultation on justice initiatives. The CBABC also questions whether one annual Summit is sufficient and suggests that the Government consider more frequent formal opportunities for stakeholder input.

The CBABC is interested in participating in any Justice Summits. The CBABC may also have a role to play in assisting the Government in gathering other legal stakeholders.

#### **ACTION ITEM 4: GREATER TRANSPARENCY AND BETTER ADMINISTRATIVE TOOLS**

Recommendation 4 of the White Paper describes that the Government will make legislative changes to “create greater transparency, managerial authority, and overall accountability within the justice system.”<sup>6</sup> These changes are to include clarifying and enhancing the authority of the Chief Judge of the Provincial Court, realignment of the regional organization structure of the Provincial Court and enabling the Supreme Court to reassign judges to areas of greatest demand. These changes are also to allow an appropriate judicial complement for the Provincial Court to be established in a transparent manner.

An independent judiciary is critical to the rule of law, which protects citizens from arbitrary government action. An independent judiciary is essential to the fulfillment of the rule of law in a complex modern state with many competing interests. The CBABC adopts the statement of the Chief Justices and Chief Judge of BC on judicial independence.<sup>7</sup>

In order to protect judicial independence, it will be essential that any legislative or other proposals affecting judicial administration be developed in full consultation with the judiciary and the Bar.

As we set out in *Justice in Time*, the CBABC supports the recommendation of a fixed judicial complement of Provincial Court Judges and a formalized objective process for regular re-assessment and adjustment.<sup>8</sup> It is, however, the view of the CBABC that White Paper commitment to development of a methodology for determining the judicial complement by March 31, 2014 is inadequate. First, the time proposed is too lengthy. Second, the Government needs to commit to a

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<sup>6</sup> White Paper at page 12.

<sup>7</sup> Judicial Independence (And What Everyone Should Know About It), Court of Appeal of BC, Supreme Court of BC, and Provincial Court of BC (March 15, 2012). Available at: [http://www.courts.gov.bc.ca/about\\_the\\_courts/Judicial%20Independence%20Final%20Release.pdf](http://www.courts.gov.bc.ca/about_the_courts/Judicial%20Independence%20Final%20Release.pdf).

<sup>8</sup> Recommendation 1.



specific and much shorter time frame not just for developing a methodology but also for implementing a fixed judicial complement. It is further the view of the CBABC that the fixed complement package must also include fixed time lines within which vacancies must be filled.

The CBABC applauds the recent appointment of 9 new Provincial Court Judges to provide the Court with some capacity to address the current case backlog. This appointment is in keeping with Recommendation 2.11 in the Cowper Report to appoint 5 more Provincial Court Judges to address the crushing backlog of cases. Since that recommendation, 4 more judges left the Provincial Court bench. The CBABC encourages the Government to continue to appoint judges while the fixed complement is being developed. There are a number of judges scheduled to retire or join the part-time (senior judge) program in 2013.<sup>9</sup> Failure to immediately fill these vacancies could well negate the anticipated positive impact of the recent appointments. This is particularly the case since, even with the recent appointments, the current complement is 131.80 Judicial Full Time Equivalent (the “JFTE”).<sup>10</sup> This 131.80 JFTE is still well below the 2005 baseline complement of 143.65 JFTE.<sup>11</sup>

The CBABC also reiterates our submission to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services on the 2013 Budget of the importance of properly staffing all aspects of the justice system. A properly working justice

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<sup>9</sup> Section 9.1 of the *Provincial Court Act* allows judges, 55 years and older, with a minimum of 10 years service, to hold office as a part time (senior) judge at a reduced rate of pay. Their sitting time is reduced to 0.45 that of a full time judge.

<sup>10</sup> Provincial Court Judge Complement (as at November 30, 2012). Available at: <http://www.provincialcourt.bc.ca/downloads/pdf/Provincial%20Court%20Judge%20Complement%20Requirements.pdf>. This number is based on multiplying the number of part time (senior) judges by 0.45 and adding that to the number of full time judges.

<sup>11</sup> See *Justice Delayed: A Report of the Provincial Court of British Columbia Concerning Judicial Resources* (September 14, 2010). Available at: [http://www.provincialcourt.bc.ca/downloads/pdf/Justice\\_Delayed\\_-\\_A\\_Report\\_of\\_the\\_Provincial\\_Court\\_of\\_British\\_Columbia\\_Concerning\\_Judicial\\_Resource.pdf](http://www.provincialcourt.bc.ca/downloads/pdf/Justice_Delayed_-_A_Report_of_the_Provincial_Court_of_British_Columbia_Concerning_Judicial_Resource.pdf).

system requires not only a full complement of judges, but also court clerks, registry staff, Crown counsel and sheriffs.<sup>12</sup>

Action item 4 notes the importance of transparency. The CBABC wants to emphasize to Government that the Provincial Court is transparent regarding the judicial complement. Since 2010, the Provincial Court has published regular reports on its website concerning the judicial complement of the Provincial Court, caseloads and times to trial in each area of the Provincial Court's jurisdiction.<sup>13</sup>

## **ACTION ITEM 5: TRANSFORMATION OF JUSTICE INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

Recommendation 5 of the White Paper provides that the Government will table a Technology Strategy for Justice Information by March 31, 2014. The Government's goal is to transform information management and technology supports serving civil, family, administrative and criminal processes to ensure timely delivery of justice services and the most efficient flow of information through the system.

The CBABC supports this recommendation. As recommended in *Justice in Time*, the CBABC supports the use of appropriate, affordable standardized technology within the justice system.<sup>14</sup> However, any Technology Strategy will have costs associated with it. As a result, the CBABC recommends that Government provide sufficient, new funding so that the Technology Strategy can be meaningfully implemented.

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<sup>12</sup> Submissions and recommendations made on October 1, 2012 at page 1974. Available at: <http://www.leg.bc.ca/cmt/39thparl/session-4/fgs/hansard/N21001a.htm#76:0905>

<sup>13</sup> See Court Reports. Available at: <http://www.provincialcourt.bc.ca/news-reports/court-reports>.

<sup>14</sup> Recommendation 9.

## **ACTION ITEM 6: JUSTICE BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE SYSTEM**

Recommendation 6 of the White Paper recognizes that, in order to deliver transparent, timely and balanced justice, the Government must be able to see and understand how the system operates. This recommendation adopts the Cowper Report recommendation that a business intelligence system be developed in order to provide meaningful data on system performance. This Government recommendation commits to delivering a common Action Plan on Justice Business Intelligence by March 31, 2014.

The CBABC supports the development of systems that will provide complete and accessible information about justice system performance. The CBABC is willing and able to participate in providing input during the development process.

## **ACTION ITEM 7: IMPROVED ABILITY TO TRACK AND CONTROL SYSTEM COSTS**

Recommendation 7 of the White Paper explains that the Government is committed to determining the key cost drivers across the justice system. This is to permit dialogue concerning system funding, allow realistic cost projections and to work with the judiciary to determine the appropriate judicial complement for the Provincial Court. The issue of the judicial complement has already been addressed under Action Item 4.

In the recent *Vilardell* case, the Supreme Court of BC conducted a thorough analysis of the role of the Government in the justice system.<sup>15</sup> The Supreme Court expressed concern that the Government has reconfigured justice from an arm of government that should be appropriately funded for the common good, to a public service provided at cost or better. The Supreme Court concluded that our courts

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<sup>15</sup> *Vilardell v. Dunham*, 2012 BCSC 748 at paras. 305-308. Available at: <http://www.courts.gov.bc.ca/jdb-txt/SC/12/07/2012BCSC0748cor1.htm>.

are constitutionally a common good and not a “service” that competes for what is left over after the Legislature organizes its other priorities.<sup>16</sup> Putting a price on justice undermines the fundamental values of democracy, federalism and the rule of law.<sup>17</sup>

The CBABC submits that these important constitutional principles must be kept in the forefront in any discussion of controlling costs. While efficiency is an appropriate goal, it must not be at the expense of justice. As set out in *Vilardell*, the Attorney General has an important role to play to ensure that Government respects the function of the courts and the significance of the core values of our Constitution including inclusiveness, equality and citizen participation.<sup>18</sup>

#### **ACTION ITEM 8: PUBLIC, EVIDENCE-BASED PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT**

Recommendation 8 of the White Paper says that, by March 2013, the Government will identify a specific set of justice system performance measures.

As recommended in *Justice in Time*, the CBABC supports the development of improved metrics:

to properly measure BC’s criminal justice system, taking into account all the factors that are at play and not focusing only on basic statistics such as time, cost, etc.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> *Vilardell* at para. 425.

<sup>17</sup> *Vilardell* at para. 429.

<sup>18</sup> *Vilardell* at para. 427.

<sup>19</sup> Recommendation 21.

The CBA also supports the development of improved metrics for civil, family and administrative justice. The CBABC *Justice in Time* recommendations also encourage the Criminal Justice Branch to ensure that data collection addresses the impact of mega-cases on the system.<sup>20</sup>

It will be essential that both judicial and prosecutorial independence be carefully considered in the establishment of justice system targets and in future decisions made as a result of performance results.

Once performance measures are set, it is essential that the Government provide adequate resourcing to ensure that established targets can be met.

#### **ACTION ITEM 9: COLLABORATING ON EFFICIENT CASE MANAGEMENT**

Recommendation 9 of the White Paper concerns Government collaborating on efficient case management to reduce court backlogs and provide for early resolution of cases. Listed alternatives to achieve this goal include: increasing use of mediation to resolve child protection cases, review of existing prosecution files where delay is an issue, creating a pilot disposition court, expanding duty counsel services for early resolution, improving the Provincial Court scheduling system, improving Provincial Court workflow through the use of electronic files and developing consistent Crown file ownership.

The CBABC supports collaboration on efficient case management, including the proposals set out in this action item. The CBABC's *Justice in Time* recommendations 3, 10, 13 and 16 specifically address these areas of potential reform:

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<sup>20</sup> Recommendation 22.

3. regional legal aid centres be established to serve as the point-of-entry hub for core legal aid service; mobile outreach services be provided to those who cannot access the regional centres due to geographic, cultural or other barriers; the team approach to the delivery of legal aid services be enhanced, with greater emphasis on the role of suitably trained and supervised community advocates and legal advocates; where warranted, the role of duty counsel and staff lawyers be expanded; there be greater integration of legal aid services with other support services available at the centres to meet client needs in a more holistic manner;

10. for complex cases, the CBABC recommends that a specific Crown prosecutor be assigned conduct of the case at the earliest possible time;

13. work continue on developing and refining the emerging Provincial Court scheduling system taking into account the diverse scheduling needs of each region; and

16. early resolution models be adopted and implemented in Crown offices, in consultation with all relevant stakeholders, including Crown, defence Bar, the Bench and police.

Further, the CBABC's *Justice in Time* recommendations 4, 5, 11, 15, 17, 18, 19, 24 and 25 should also be considered by the Government as other means of improving case management and/or assisting in the reduction of backlog.

The CBABC supports the use of mediation to resolve child protection cases. But we wish to emphasize that mediation is not appropriate for all child protection issues and cannot replace the need for a properly funded court system where child protection issues that require litigation can be resolved in a timely manner. The current delays in the courts operate to the disadvantage of both parents and children. Increased mediation on its own will not solve this problem. The *Child, Family and Community Service Act* requires the court to supervise decisions of

the Director that result in the removal of children. In order to do this in a fair manner, the court must be sufficiently resourced. Unlike in criminal court, there is no real sanction for not following those time limits prescribed by the *Child, Family and Community Service Act*. Even if the courts find that jurisdiction has been lost due to delay, the Director need only re-remove the child to start the clock running all over again.

### **ACTION ITEM 10: GREATER EFFICIENCY IN ROUTINE PRACTICES**

Recommendation 10 of the White Paper discusses improving efficiency in routine practices, such as disclosure, corrections admission and discharge and courthouse workflow practices.

The CBABC supports the goal of greater efficiency in routine practices, as set out in its *Justice in Time* recommendations. However, as discussed under Action Item 7, the goal of greater efficiency must always be considered within the context of core values such as fairness, inclusiveness, and equality.

While efficiency is an appropriate goal, it must not be at the expense of justice. Further, inadequate funding of the Courts has been occurring for the last number of years. It is important to understand that underfunding can create inefficiency and ineffectiveness. In order to allow for efficiencies to be realized, the system must first of all be adequately resourced. As discussed by Chief Justice Bauman of the Supreme Court of BC, in his 2011 speech to the CBABC Branch Meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada, it is essential that the funding of the courts be maintained at least at the minimum service level required to protect judicial independence and ensure that the court is able to carry out its core adjudicative functions.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> Remarks of Chief Justice Bauman, BC Supreme Court, “Challenges To The Budget For The Court Services Branch” (Canadian Bar Association BC Branch Meeting at Las Vegas, Nevada) (November 19, 2011). Available at: [http://www.courts.gov.bc.ca/supreme\\_court/about\\_the\\_supreme\\_court/speeches/Challenges%20to%20the%20Budget%20for%20Court%20Services%20Branch-%20CBA-BC%20Las%20Vegas%20meeting.pdf](http://www.courts.gov.bc.ca/supreme_court/about_the_supreme_court/speeches/Challenges%20to%20the%20Budget%20for%20Court%20Services%20Branch-%20CBA-BC%20Las%20Vegas%20meeting.pdf).

The CBABC is of the view that there is room for efficiencies in the disclosure process, not just with respect to accused in corrections facilities. The CBABC reiterates its *Justice in Time* recommendation 8, that the:

provincial government establish a provincial disclosure committee with the mandate to (i) review disclosure procedures, and (ii) issue new directives and guidelines on the scope of disclosure and its content; this disclosure committee be comprised of representatives of the police, the criminal Bar (both defense and Crown), legal aid, courts administration and the judiciary.

The CBABC supports improving workflow practices within Court Services, including ensuring the court registries make their practice uniform regarding order approvals and filing.

## CONCLUSION

The CBABC Special Committee wishes to continue the dialogue to provide further discussion with the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General on this important justice issue.

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**APPENDIX A**  
**CBABC**  
*Justice in Time*  
**Summary of Recommendations**

The CBABC recommends that:

1. the Provincial Court should have a fixed complement of full-time judges, and the Judicial Council should review that complement every 2-3 years, with a recommendation for the go forward complement.
  
2. the government immediately increase legal aid funding so as to allow the Legal Services Society to provide sufficient legal aid services to the public.
  
3. regional legal aid centres be established to serve as the point-of-entry hub for core legal aid service; mobile outreach services be provided to those who cannot access the regional centres due to geographic, cultural or other barriers; the team approach to the delivery of legal aid services be enhanced, with greater emphasis on the role of suitably trained and supervised community advocates and legal advocates; where warranted, the role of duty counsel and staff lawyers be expanded; there be greater integration of legal aid services with other support services available at the centres to meet client needs in a more holistic manner.
  
4. videoconferencing facilities be set up in local RCMP stations or other appropriate locations within rural communities.

5. the number of Crown Prosecutors needs to be increased to match the capacity (as opposed to simply the numbers) required to reduce the current backlog and restore public confidence; once that backlog has been removed, staffing levels be set in consultation with the Crown Counsel Association to ensure that appropriate service levels are being maintained; hiring budgets reflect the need to attract and replace senior Crown with lawyers who have experience beyond the entry level; the policy that there be 2 Crown Prosecutors and 2 staff for each Provincial Court Judge, be adhered to.

6. the Doust Report recommendation #6 be implemented, which calls for increased provincial and federal government funding through a stable multi-year granting process.

7. the overall or average caseload per probation officer be reduced; the inmate-to-corrections officer ratio be reduced; funding for inmate corrections programs be increased.

8. the provincial government establish a provincial disclosure committee with the mandate to (i) review disclosure procedures , and (ii) issue new directives and guidelines on the scope of disclosure and its content; this disclosure committee be comprised of representatives of the police, the criminal Bar (both defense and Crown), legal aid, courts administration and the judiciary.

9. the government initiate widespread consultation with all users and providers to determine appropriate, affordable standardized technology that can then be made widely available to expedite disclosure and handling of evidence and data – both in the pre-hearing phase and during hearings.

10. in any complex case, a specific Crown prosecutor should be assigned conduct of the case at the earliest possible time.

11. the *Fair and Efficient Criminal Trials Act*, S.C. 2011 be used more frequently and that a judge be assigned to a specific criminal case early and play an active role in case management and be the trial judge; and where necessary and as soon as possible before trial, the Crown should give the assigned judge a summary of the case that the Crown intends to adduce at trial.

12. scheduling remain in the purview of the Courts to respect the independence of the courts, however within that independence it is recommended that there be consultation with the primary actors – notably Crown and the Defense Bar.

13. work continue on developing and refining the emerging Provincial Court scheduling system taking into account the diverse scheduling needs of each region.

14. current pre-charge screening and assessment by Crown Counsel be continued.

15. there be a renewed focus on development of and resourcing of restorative justice initiatives in consultation with police, Crown, defence and community organizations, and that those projects, including pilot projects, be adequately resourced and properly assessed to track their effectiveness.

16. early resolution models be adopted and implemented in Crown offices, in consultation with all relevant stakeholders, including Crown, defence Bar, the Bench and police.

17. BC establish and adequately resource more problem-solving courts so as improve the outcomes following offences in real, tangible ways that deal with underlying causes and not just symptoms, and that the government ensures proper management and evaluation of those projects.

18. counsel be required to comply with the Constitutional Question Act and give proper advance notice of a Charter argument before a hearing or trial, and when so doing, be proactive in their filing requirements, and give binding estimates of the time required for argument.

19. a Bench and Bar Committee be struck to develop best practice guidelines on notice and particulars of notice for Charter applications where notice is not mandated by the Constitutional Question Act. The goal of the best practices should be to provide notice and particulars as early as possible when feasible.

20. reform measures be implemented in consultation with the justice system stakeholders, cognizant and respectful of the principles set out above, and that changes not be imposed unilaterally by one branch of government over the other.

21. improved metrics be developed and implemented to properly measure BC's criminal justice system, taking into account all the factors that are at play and not focusing only on basic statistics such as time, cost, etc.

22. the court data collected by the Criminal Justice Branch be modified to reflect the complexity and time-consuming nature of mega cases.

23. the government implement the CBABC student loan initiative and recommendations to forgive the student loans of new lawyers who agree to move to and set-up law practices in rural and smaller centres, and include the year of articling as a year of study for the purposes of the interest relief program.

24. that the government move forward and implement the BCCLA recommendation that investment should be made in community mental health and crisis intervention programs to offer alternatives to criminal justice for those in crisis.

25. more tertiary adult acute care facilities be built to deal with those individuals with serious, complex and persistent mental illness who need intensive long-term treatment and support; and more tertiary adult rehabilitation facilities be made available.