

What can the

Trial Lawyers Association of BC

do for you and your practice?



**TRIAL LAWYERS
ASSOCIATION OF BC**



About TLABC

Our Mission

To support and promote the rights of individuals in British Columbia.

Our Values

Together we strive to:

- Promote the rights of individuals
- Preserve the jury system
- Improve the professionalism and standards of trial lawyers
- Enhance access to justice
- Protect the innocent
- Promote judicial integrity and independence

We represent individuals rather than corporations or governments and are united with the goals of protecting rights, ensuring access to the courts, preserving the jury system and maintaining the highest of standards in legal education.

Formed in 1980, Trial Lawyers Association of BC is a non-profit membership-based organization that provides professional development, education, practical services and resources to lawyers and legal professionals who work in most areas of litigation.

TLABC is managed by a small staff, a volunteer Board of Governors and an Executive Committee. TLABC is proud to have representation throughout the province.

Contact Us

380 - 2608 Granville Street
Vancouver BC V6H 3V3

T: 604-682-5343

1-888-558-5222

E: sla-info@tlabc.org

Executive and Board 2026

Executive Committee - Table Officers

President	Rebecca McConchie
First Vice-President	Nicholas Peterson
Second Vice-President	Ayla Salyn
Secretary/Treasurer	Etienne Orr-Ewing
Immediate Past President	Greg Phillips

Executive Committee - At-large Officers

Raman Dasanjh-Samra	Vancouver	Jessie Legaree	Abbotsford
Christopher Dyson	Vancouver	Duncan Magnus	Langley
Michael Elliott	Vancouver	J.A. Pankiw-Petty	Victoria
Bryan Fitzpatrick	Kelowna	Kendelle Pollitt	Surrey
Jesse Kendall	Vancouver	Mitchell Selly	Victoria
Irina Kordic	Vancouver	Savina Sohi	Langley

Board of Governors

Northern BC	Jennifer Reid	Yale	Jasmine Kooner Jocelyn Marquette Alexandra Severn
Kootenay	Wes Rogers Michael Tucker	Yukon	Natasha Pettinger
Vancouver	Denea Bascombe Julie Brown Andrea Donaldson Kevin Filkow Rory Johnston Trudy Hopman Mike Huot Amy Mortimore KC Sarah Pringle	At-large	Harprit Basi John Boyd Colin Ferguson Gregory Hoff Jasmeet Mangat Samantha Purton Sandy Sihota Anna M. Wood
Vancouver Island	Aisha Estey Dylan Kozlick Joey Macey Nicole E. Smith Selina Wall		

American Association of Justice Representatives

Westminster	Simran Bhullar Chris Carta Tabitha Ewert Michael Holroyd Naz Kohan Puneet K. Mann Kathryn Panton Andrew Rebane	AAJ Governors	Ed Montague Richard Parsons
		Revitalization Governor	J.A. Pankiw-Petty
		State Delegates	David Klein Bryan Fitzpatrick
		Minority Caucus	Douglas Chiu

Staff Directory



Don Avison, KC

Chief Executive Officer

Direct Phone: 604-696-6517

Email: don@tlabc.org

Don is pleased to speak with you regarding TLABC's policies, as well as the overall governance and management of the association.



Karen St.Aubin

Chief Operating Officer

Direct Phone: 604-696-6523

Email: karen@tlabc.org

Karen leads the TLABC Education & Membership departments. Her team is dedicated to meeting and exceeding the needs of members at all touchpoints in their TLABC experience.



Jenny Uechi

Publisher, *the Verdict*

Direct Phone: 604-696-6520

Email: jenny@tlabc.org

Contact Jenny regarding *the Verdict* magazine and advertising with TLABC.



Madonna Samasundera

Member Services Coordinator

Direct Phone: 604-696-6519

You can count on Madonna for support in all aspects of your membership, including listservs, renewals and so much more.



Priscilla Lam

Programs Coordinator

Direct Phone: 604-696-6521

Email: priscilla@tlabc.org

Priscilla is responsible for the administration and execution of TLABC's Education seminars and webinars.

Call 604-682-5343 or 1-888-558-5222



Committees

Get involved! Do you want to enhance your membership experience? Consider joining a committee. Reach out to the staff liaison to learn more about a specific committee.

The **Criminal Defence Committee** supports education planning and identifies relevant issues specific to this area of law for the consideration of TLABC's Executive Committee and Board of Governors, and monitors issues of particular interest to TLABC's criminal defence members.

Committee Chair: Rebecca McConchie

Staff Liaison: Karen St.Aubin, karen@tlabc.org, 604-696-6523

The **Education Planning Committee** supports TLABC's education programs, identifies themes and topics, and ensures that seminars and webinars meet TLABC's high standards. The committee welcomes all suggestions for speakers and topics.

Committee Chair: Jesse Kendall & J.A. Pankiw-Petty

Staff Liaison: Karen St.Aubin, karen@tlabc.org, 604-696-6523

The **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Committee** assists the Association in shaping its EDI vision and mission. This framework will be the foundational tool that the Association will use to intentionally promote diversity, equality and inclusion through awareness, active learning and growth, while continuously striving to improve accountability measures.

Committee Chair: Irina Kordic

Staff Liaison: Karen St.Aubin, karen@tlabc.org, 604-696-6523

The **Estate Litigation Committee** monitors issues of particular interest to TLABC's members and/or the public with regard to wills, estate and trust law, and brings to the attention of the Executive Committee and Board of Governors where appropriate. The Committee provides advice and direction for education programming. The Committee identifies appropriate interventions for the consideration of TLABC's Litigation Committee, and other activities as may be required.

Committee Chair: Candace Cho & Gordon Behan

Staff Liaison: Karen St.Aubin, karen@tlabc.org, 604-696-6523

The **Family Law Committee** supports education planning and identifies relevant issues for the consideration of TLABC's Executive Committee and Board of Governors, and monitors issues of particular interest to the family law bar.

Committee Chair: Shannon Aldinger & Magal Huberman

Staff Liaison: Karen St.Aubin, karen@tlabc.org, 604-696-6523

Committees

The **New Lawyers Committee** supports planning New Lawyer education and networking events, including Trial By Fire No More, and identifies relevant issues for the consideration of TLABC's Executive and Board of Governors.

Committee Co-Chair: Jessie Legaree & Morgan Watt

Staff Liaison: Karen St.Aubin, karen@tlabc.org, 604-696-6523

the Verdict Editorial Board plans and produces TLABC's award-winning quarterly publication.

Staff Liaison: Jenny Uechi, jenny@tlabc.org, 604-696-6520

Membership Categories

Membership year is 1 July through 30 June

BENEFACTOR MEMBER \$2,000 + GST

Benefactor members demonstrate their commitment to TLABC's goals by contributing at the highest membership level.

To show appreciation, TLABC offers Benefactor Members substantial discounts on seminars, unlimited practice group listservers and copies of archived education materials. Benefactor Members are thanked on the website, in the Verdict, and on signage at all TLABC events.

SUSTAINING MEMBER \$1,000 + GST

Sustaining members go the extra mile, offering enhanced financial support to ensure the maintenance of TLABC's high standard of education and resources for the legal community.

To show appreciation, TLABC offers Sustaining Members \$50 off each seminar and two complimentary practice group listservers. Sustaining members are thanked on the website, in the Verdict, and on signage at all TLABC events.



Membership Categories

REGULAR MEMBER \$148 - \$647 + GST (based on year of call)

A member of the Law Society of BC insofar as they practice in the areas of personal injury, insurance, wrongful death, medical malpractice, employment and/or administrative/tribunal law, primarily represents the plaintiff; and/or practice criminal law and for the most part represent the accused; or practices in other areas of law than those listed above.

ASSOCIATE MEMBER \$148 - \$647 + GST (based on year of call)

A member of the Law Society of BC who subscribes to the goals and purposes of the association but does not qualify for regular membership as described above. (Non-voting)

OUT-OF-PROVINCE MEMBER \$235 + GST

A licensed lawyer who lives and practices mainly outside of BC. (Non-voting)

ARTICLING STUDENT MEMBER (no cost)

An individual currently completing articling requirements. (Non-voting)

LAW STUDENT MEMBER (no cost)

A full-time student at an accredited law school. (Non-voting)

PARALEGAL / LEGAL SUPPORT STAFF MEMBER \$212 + GST

An individual employed in a support capacity by a lawyer member in good standing of TLABC. (Non-voting)

RETIRED / NON-PRACTICING MEMBER \$110 + GST

A lawyer or former lawyer who is not currently practicing law, but who continues to subscribe to the goals and purposes of TLABC, and enjoys select benefits of membership. (Non-voting)

NON-LAWYER MEMBER \$110 + GST

For those outside of the legal profession who support the goals and purposes of TLABC. (Non-voting)

Are you experiencing financial hardship? Flexible payment plans and/or discounted rates will be considered on an individual basis. Send an email to help@tlabc.org or call 604-696-6523.

"If anyone has any doubt about the value of TLABC membership, don't. Membership is very worthwhile. TLABC is simply excellent and has allowed me to be a much better trial lawyer... If you know people who do trial work and are not members, talk to them and tell them of the benefits."

- Bentley Falkenberg, Vining Senini

Legal Education

TLABC is proud to offer some of the finest, award-winning legal professional development education available.

Lunch-and-learn webinars and full day conferences are available to members at preferred rates. To accommodate members all across the province, almost all programs are presented with a virtual option. All programs are eligible for Law Society of BC Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credits.

Women Lawyers Retreat

An annual tradition since 2006, this October event sells out every year, with more than 130 women from the legal profession in attendance. The Women Lawyers Retreat is a Member-Preferred event, with TLABC members receiving priority access to register. Past speakers include the Right Honourable Beverley McLachlin, the Honourable Louise Arbour, the Honourable Suzanne Côté, the Honourable Sandra Ballance, and the Honourable Susan Griffin.

Networking & Social Events

In addition to the President's Receptions that follow each day-long in-person seminar, TLABC hosts events throughout the year.

Province-Wide Outreach

With many of TLABC's members practicing outside of the Lower Mainland, outreach events are a priority. Each event includes 1 hour of CPD education and socializing with members and non-members. Where will we visit next?

"I can't speak more highly about the Trial Lawyers Association of British Columbia. It is a great organization that provides for us not only interesting, but highly useful information for the practicing lawyer."

Although I have been practicing for a long time now, every event provides me with a wealth of useful knowledge and information."

- Val Hemminger, Hemminger Law Group

Seminar Material Archives

TLABC members have complimentary access to ALL online seminar resource papers and PowerPoint presentations dating back to 2010. Video recordings of past seminars and webinars are available for purchase through the Store.



CLE of the Year
Publication of the Year



Outstanding Achievement
in Programs

Trial by Fire No More!

Trial By Fire No More is an award-winning education and social networking series for member and non-member lawyers 5 years call and under, and articulated and law students. Members attend at NO COST. Judges, masters and seasoned lawyers discuss “what they don’t teach in law school,” such as trial strategy tips, chambers practice, and the key to successful openings and closings. Participate virtually or in person at “viewing parties” in Vancouver, Abbotsford, Kelowna, Nanaimo, Port Moody, and Victoria.



Trial Lawyers members save on education programs



Enjoy member-preferred pricing on full-day conferences and one-hour webinars on a wide range of topics and practice areas



Stay up-to-date at
tlabc.org/UpcomingPrograms

Job Board & Classifieds

Looking for a new job? Office space to rent out? Need to hire a new lawyer or legal assistant? Check out TLABC's online Job Board & Classifieds service - a member-only benefit to post, with public viewing access.

the Verdict

Since 1980, TLABC's award winning publication *the Verdict* brings top-quality news and information to the legal profession. With insight and intelligence, *the Verdict* keeps readers up to date with articles, reports, products and services related to issues that matter to them.

Published quarterly, with an average issue audience of more than 6,000, *the Verdict* has succeeded in becoming a publication that is not only relevant to lawyers practicing in BC, but one that is truly a national journal.

Practice Group Listservs

Imagine you are working on a file and have a question needing an immediate answer - with just ONE email to any listserv's email address, your message will automatically arrive in the inboxes of everyone else on the list. Tap into the collective knowledge of your colleagues from virtually anywhere. It's crowd-sourcing by email!

All TLABC memberships include a complimentary subscription to the General Litigation Trial Practice Listserv. Exchange trial tips, templates, case law, referrals and more with hundreds of TLABC members from new lawyers to seasoned trial professionals practicing in many different areas of litigation. Year after year, the General Litigation Trial Practice Listserv is ranked as one of TLABC's most valuable membership benefits.

In addition to the complimentary General Litigation Trial Practice Listserv, TLABC offers subscriptions to seven practice listserv groups dedicated to specific areas of practice:

- Class Action
- Criminal Defence
- Estate Litigation
- Family Law
- Plaintiff-only Medical Negligence (*Canada-wide)
- Plaintiff-only Personal Injury
- Paralegals & Legal Assistants Network

Information and User Agreement forms for the General Trial Practice Listserv and all TLABC Practice Groups can be found at www.tlabc.org/joinlists.

"The Listserve, the TLABC seminar program and the availability of papers have greatly enhanced my ability to efficiently and effectively inform myself and represent my clients."

- Mark Ferguson Davie, Davie & Associates

Are you concerned about adding yet more emails to your inbox? Don't worry! Simply set your delivery mode to "digest" and get one email per day, listing the subject lines of the day. Read and reply to the subjects and messages that interest you, and ignore the rest!

Membership has its BENEFITS!

Check the TLABC website for the most current list of partners, contact details and information.

As a TLABC member, you have access to deals and discounts with partners including:



Perkopolis

TLABC members can take advantage of thousands of exclusive discounts through Perkopolis member discount program - 100% Canadian owned and operated!



Preferred Hotel Rates

TLABC members can take advantage of preferred rates with a variety of Hotel Partners in Vancouver and Victoria.



Hertz Rental Car Preferred Rates

TLABC members can save up to 30% off the base rental rate with Hertz. From value savings options like a compact car to a roomy full-sized or luxury model, you'll save!



Employee Group Benefits Program

TLABC members and their firms have access to an employee benefits plan that provides full coverage at competitive rates for groups as small as three employees. The TLABC plan offers the choice for comprehensive coverage or basic coverage.

Comprehensive Plan:
Basic Dental – 100% covered
Major Dental – 50% covered
Extended Health – 100% covered

Basic Plan:
Basic Dental – 80% covered
Extended Health – 80% covered

SPECTRUM
CONTINUITY PLANNING™



Stand with us. Speak through us. Fight for fairness.

The Justice Fund is TLABC's fund to take on the system, fight for justice, and defend the rule of law.

Working in collaboration with TLABC committees, we identify and act on diverse justice-related issues tied to members' areas of practice. Because if we don't, no one else will – leaving the public vulnerable.

By supporting the Justice Fund, you're equipping a rapid-response advocacy group that's ready to fight when justice is at risk. Whether it's sudden legislative change, a legal crisis, or an emerging barrier to access, we are there with strategy, public pressure, legal insight, and fearless action.

As a non-profit initiative, we rely on your support to keep going. Together, we can fight harmful policies and advocate for change that protects people, not power.

You're here because you're committed to justice. Help us defend it.

Give now.

www.tlabc.org.JusticeFund



Who Should I Call?

Below is a listing of frequent inquiries and whom to contact about each.

- Advertising - Jenny Uechi
- Advocacy - Don Avison
- Committees - Karen St.Aubin
- Continuing Legal Education - Karen St.Aubin or Priscilla Lam
- Dues/Invoices - Madonna Samasundera (membership) or Priscilla Lam (seminars and webinars)
- Governance & Management of the Association - Don Avison
- Information on Joining TLABC - Karen St.Aubin or Madonna Samasundera
- Job Board and Classifieds - Madonna Samasundera
- Listservs - Madonna Samasundera
- Membership Renewals - Karen St.Aubin or Madonna Samasundera
- Justice Fund Contributions - Karen St.Aubin
- Seminar/Webinar Registrations - Priscilla Lam
- Education Video Archives - Priscilla Lam
- Education and Event Exhibitors/Sponsors - Karen St.Aubin
- *the Verdict* - Jenny Uechi
- TLABC Policies - Don Avison
- Upcoming Events - Karen St.Aubin or Priscilla Lam
- Updating Contact Information - Madonna Samasundera

If your inquiry is not listed above, please call 604-682-5343.



TRIAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
380-2608 GRANVILLE STREET, VANCOUVER BC V6H 3V3

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1-888-558-5222

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Follow Us!



@BCTrialLawyers



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@tla_bc

