MEDIA RELEASE

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B.C. LAW INSTITUTE WELCOMES PASSAGE OF WILLS, ESTATES AND SUCCESSION ACT

The B.C. Law Institute (BCLI) welcomed the passage today of the Wills, Estates and Succession Act by the B.C. Legislative Assembly. The omnibus reform Act is largely based on BCLI’s 2006 report Wills, Estates and Succession: A Modern Legal Framework.

Bill 4 will consolidate and modernize the Wills Act, the Estate Administration Act, the Probate Recognition Act, and several other provincial Acts dealing with the passage of property on death.

“We are very pleased to see the passage of this new legislation. It is abundantly clear that most of our recommendations were accepted by the government” said Ron Skolrood, Chair of the Board of Directors of BCLI.

The report resulted from the BCLI Succession Law Reform Project, a three-year study supported by the Ministry of Attorney General. “Some of British Columbia’s top wills and estate practitioners made valuable contributions to the project,” said Jim Emmerton, BCLI executive director. “Twenty-nine volunteer project members attended over 100 committee meetings dedicated to modernizing this important area of law.”

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