**Media Release**

**BCLI recommends pension division reforms**

*for immediate release*

**Vancouver, 23 March 2021—**Today the British Columbia Law Institute has published the *Report on Pension Division: A Review of Part 6 of the Family Law Act*, which calls for reforms to how pensions are divided between separating spouses. The report is the culmination of more than two years’ work by BCLI’s Pension Division Review Project Committee, which since 2019 has been examining pressing and emerging legal issues in pension division.

“For many separating spouses, a pension is the most valuable family asset,” said committee chair Colin Galinski. “Pensions are also a difficult asset to divide without the assistance of detailed legislation. It has been eight years since part 6 of the *Family Law Act* came into force. While the legislation has performed well in that time, we have determined, based on our research and consultations, that there are specific areas that need improvement.”

The report contains 25 recommendations for reform, addressing the following topics: death of a spouse; waiving survivor benefits after pension commencement; commuted value: transfer and calculation; disability benefits; locked-in retirement accounts and life income funds; private annuities; forms; administrative fees; and transitions.

Copies of the report and a pair of backgrounders summarizing its contents are freely available for download at https://www.bcli.org.

The British Columbia Law Institute was created in 1997 by incorporation under the provincial *Society Act*. Its purposes are to promote the clarification and simplification of the law and its adaptation to modern social needs, promote improvement of the administration of justice and respect for the rule of law, and promote and carry out scholarly legal research.

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