

2024

**BETTER LAWS.
PLAIN AND SIMPLE.**

2024 ANNUAL REPORT







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Message from Our Board Chair and Executive Director

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

We are pleased to share BCLI's 2024 Annual Report, highlighting a year of innovative law reform work and forward-looking initiatives. In 2023, we established a strategic plan built on five key pillars to guide our work and strengthen our impact. These pillars reflect our commitment to bringing collaborators together to clarify and improve the law, develop just and innovative solutions, and increase access to justice.

This report highlights the ways in which BCLI has advanced these pillars—whether through our research and law reform projects, our connection to policymakers and legal professionals, our collaboration with community partners, or the effort to strengthen our capacity to ensure long-term success. Our work is evolving along with the legal landscape, and we remain committed to making a lasting impact in the broader legal and policy community. We are pleased to share some of our accomplishments in 2024.

1. Leading collaboratively in current and emerging law reform issues

In 2024 we established two new project committees—one for our Rationalizing Non-Statutory Liability of Directors and Officers Project and another for our Escheat Act Modernization Project. We also launched several new initiatives, including a Housing Law Reform Project focused on accessible, affordable, and secure housing, with a primer on ownership models planned. Work also began on a *Study Paper on Economic Abuse through Family Businesses*, and an update to the *Pension Division Questions and Answers*. Two new guides were launched: the *Guide to Wills and Estate Planning for First Nations Clients on Reserves* and the *Guide to Trauma-Informed Legal Writing*.

We undertook consultations for both our Renovate the Public Hearing Project and Parentage Law Reform Project, where we reached out to existing and new audiences. We sought to be more inclusive in these consultations by offering information in multiple formats through online townhalls, public meetings and direct outreach to gather perspectives and context for our proposed recommendations.

Over the course of 2024, we also connected with those who are impacted by our work. Some examples of the range of our outreach are that BCLI team members attended the Union of BC Municipalities Housing Summit, spoke at the Justice as Trauma Conference, and chaired a panel at the Oxford Handbook of Comparative Trust Laws Conference.

2. Ensure law reform recommendations support consistency with the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)*

Strengthening relationships with Indigenous communities is a priority. In April, staff lawyer Megan Vis-Dunbar attended the BC First Nations Justice Council's 3rd Annual First Nations Justice Forum, to connect with Indigenous leaders and better understand justice priorities.

All of our projects now include some alignment of laws considerations under the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*. We are actively designing and developing research projects that will support the recognition of Indigenous legal frameworks and legal pluralism—our Escheat Act Modernization Project being an example of that.

We were pleased that Indigenous leader and lawyer Leah George-Wilson joined the BCLI Board and our Reconciling Crown Legal Frameworks Advisory Committee in October 2024, bringing valuable perspective to help guide this important work.

3. Increase flexible, sustainable funding

Increasing and diversifying our funding is an important objective to help sustain BCLI. We are grateful for the ongoing support of the Law Foundation of British Columbia and the Ministry of the Attorney General. We were pleased that the Notary Foundation of British Columbia has provided us with support over the next two years to develop a housing law reform project and we look forward to sharing our work on this complex area next year.

We know that much of our work supports legal professionals. Resources like our *Pension Division Questions and Answers* and *Gender Diverse Legal Writing Guide* are important tools for legal professionals. We are grateful that some of those who rely on these materials, particularly users of the *Pension Division Questions and Answers*, are also supporting BCLI as we work to update our Pension Division guide.

4. Be an employer of choice for innovative law reform thinkers

BCLI seeks to be an employer of choice for individuals passionate about innovative law reform. We are committed to fostering a dynamic team. In 2024, we completed an equity, diversity and inclusion audit to identify ways that we can better reflect and engage in our communities and in our work. We are grateful for the support of the Community Services Recovery Fund to have had this opportunity to consider our approaches and will be incorporating the recommendations from this audit across our work going forward.

We were particularly pleased to be able to welcome ten students from across the country into research, articling, and notetaking roles on our project committees. These opportunities provided valuable hands-on experience and meaningful exposure to law reform in action.

Continue on next page

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

You can read more about the summer research students and the articling student's experiences in the Our Students section.

Advance the development of elder law reform

Our 2023 Strategic Plan also anticipated that BCLI would advance elder law reform, which we have been doing for 20 years through the Canadian Centre for Elder Law (CCEL). In 2024, we launched our *Dementia + Decision-Making Project's* practical resources. These tools provide guidance for healthcare providers, long-term care staff, and families to support individuals living with dementia in participating in decisions that matter to them. Community engagement and understanding lived experiences were central to this work, and we shared these resources widely throughout the year at public events and forums. More details are included in the Our Work section.

While this report focuses on our 2024 accomplishments, we also share an important update. In late 2024 the BCLI board decided to transition CCEL to a new home at the Thompson Rivers University Faculty of Law, where it will begin a new chapter independent of BCLI. We are proud of CCEL's legacy and impact and are grateful to everyone who contributed to its success. We look forward to future collaborations with TRU and others and to seeing CCEL thrive going forward.

The landscape for law reform is evolving rapidly. Taking our work and our message to audiences beyond the legislature is important for our strategic objectives and to building strong and responsive legal frameworks. 2024 was a good year and we thank you for being alongside us in this work.

Sincerely,



Edward L. Wilson
Board Chair



Karen Campbell
Executive Director

OUR WORK

Our work is organized into three main areas: reports, study papers, and practical resources. Reports offer detailed recommendations for legal reforms, grounded in thorough research, expert insights, and public consultations. Study papers delve into current legal issues and explore potential avenues for reform. Practical resources provide accessible legal information and tools to support best practices.

New Projects

Rationalizing Non-Statutory Liability of Directors and Officers Project

This project aims to clear up confusion about when a director or officer of a corporation can be liable in their personal capacity for corporate torts. With the support of an expert project committee, the goal of this project is to create pragmatic, fair, and coherent rules for determining when a director or officer can be sued as an individual in a lawsuit against the corporation. This committee started in 2024 and plans to conclude with the release of a report in 2025.

Housing Law Reform Project

This project aims to develop recommendations to support modernized or new legal models for land and property to increase accessible, affordable and secure housing in British Columbia. We plan to release a primer in 2025 which will provide

an overview of the different types of existing and emerging ownership models in BC. BCLI has also organized a project committee that will focus on developing recommendations to reform and modernize the law related to leaseholds.

Escheat Act Modernization Project

This project aims to update BC's *Escheat Act* to align with the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. The legal doctrine of escheat is grounded in the notion that land title ultimately derives from the Crown. Where there is a lapse in ownership, the legislation allows for title to fall to the province at which point, the Attorney General has the authority to take certain actions to dispose of or manage the land. We are working with a project committee to identify mechanisms by which lapses in fee simple title could be remedied in a manner consistent with Indigenous rights and title. We anticipate conducting a public consultation on this project in 2025.

Study Paper on Understanding Economic Abuse through Family Businesses in Family Law

BCLI is examining the relationship between economic abuse and family violence in family law cases. This study paper explores how family businesses can be used for economic abuse in family law disputes. Small businesses, which constitute the majority of businesses in BC, are often family-run and become central in such disputes. They serve as assets and income sources for spouses. This paper seeks to clarify the nexus between family violence and family businesses; explores ways in which family businesses are vulnerable to economic abuse; and highlights common behaviours that can occur.

Pension Division Questions and Answers 5th Edition

We are undertaking a project to update the *Pension Division Questions and Answers*, a long-standing resource now in its fifth edition. First published in 1997, this guide has been widely used by legal professionals, pension administrators, and others seeking practical and reliable information on the division of pensions upon relationship breakdown in BC. This resource is tailored to meet the needs of a broad range of users, offering clear and detailed explanations of the complex legal framework that governs pension division. This update will incorporate those developments to ensure the publication remains an accurate and relevant tool for practitioners. We aim to publish this resource in late 2025.

Guide to Wills and Estate Planning for First Nations Clients Living on Reserves

Estate planning and will drafting for First Nations persons living on reserves present distinct legal and practical issues. Practitioners must be aware of these in providing legal services in these areas to residents of reserves. This Guide is intended as an informational aid for legal professionals in BC who work with First Nations clients in wills and estate planning matters, but who are not themselves specialists in Aboriginal law or wills and estates. In support of the *Call to Action No. 27 of the Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada*, BCLI is producing this guide as a resource to help foster more informed and culturally competent legal services for Indigenous peoples.

Guide to Trauma-Informed Legal Writing

The *Guide to Trauma Informed Legal Writing* is designed to help legal professionals adopt trauma informed practices in their legal writing. It offers practical tools and tips for creating legal documents that are sensitive to the experiences of those affected by trauma. It is premised on the belief that trauma-informed writing will improve clarity, accessibility and ultimately the effectiveness of legal writing and advocacy.



Projects Carried Forward

Renovate the Public Hearings Report Project

The project explores specific reforms to public hearing provisions outlined in the *Local Government Act* and related legislation. Critics question the effectiveness of BC's public hearing laws in fostering public engagement, citing studies that reveal dissatisfaction due to high costs, wasted time, low satisfaction and occasional trauma for participants. The recommendations relate to BC's legislation regarding public engagement during the enactment of land-use bylaws by incorporating new insights into group deliberations and establishing improved methods for local governments to involve the public.

Navigating Shared Waters: Study Paper on Indigenous-Led Conflict Resolution

The study is intended to assist in finding ways for the BC justice system to adapt and support Indigenous legal orders. We are researching various models of Indigenous courts across Canada, the US, New Zealand, Africa and Latin America. Our focus is on tribunals that apply the traditional and customary laws of the Indigenous peoples they serve.

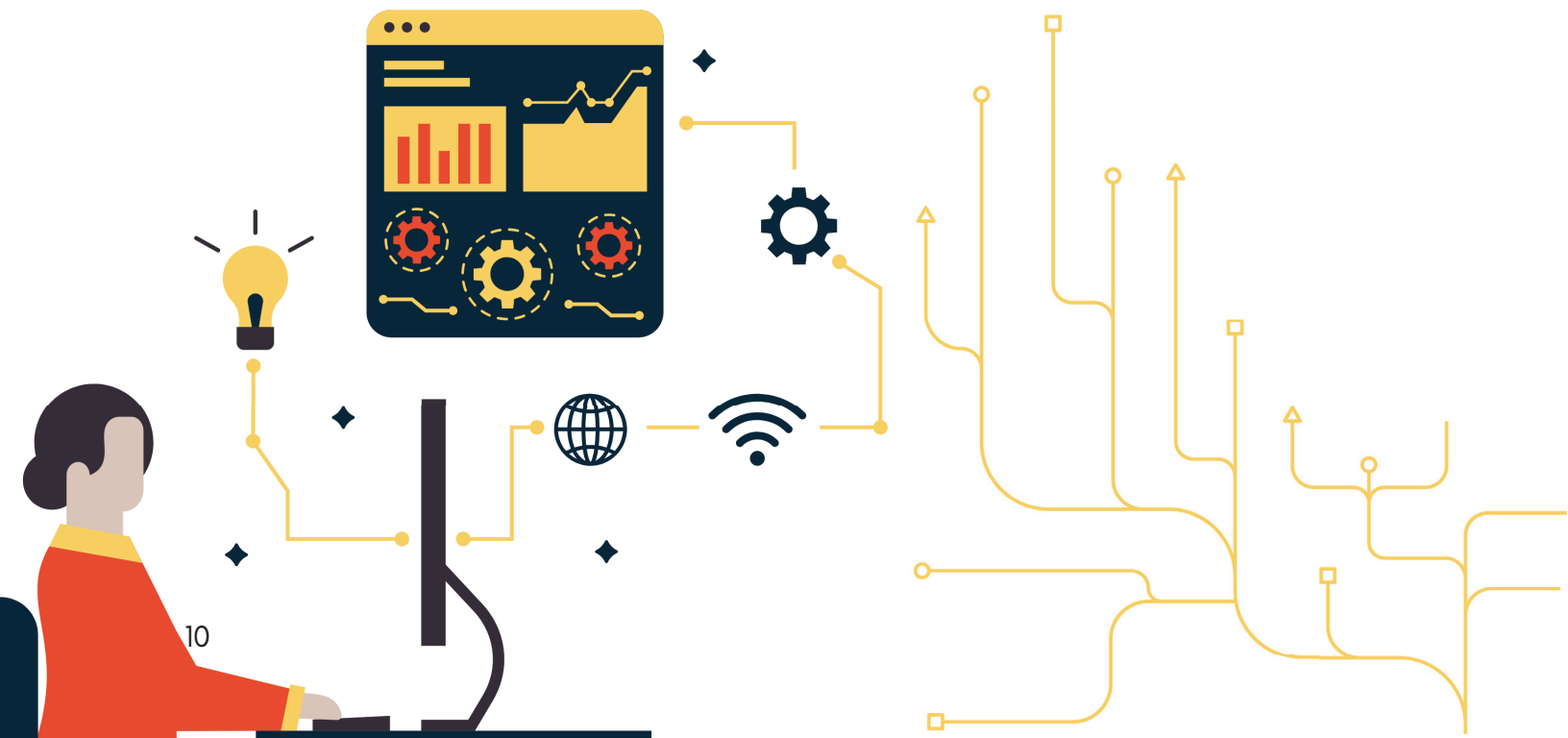
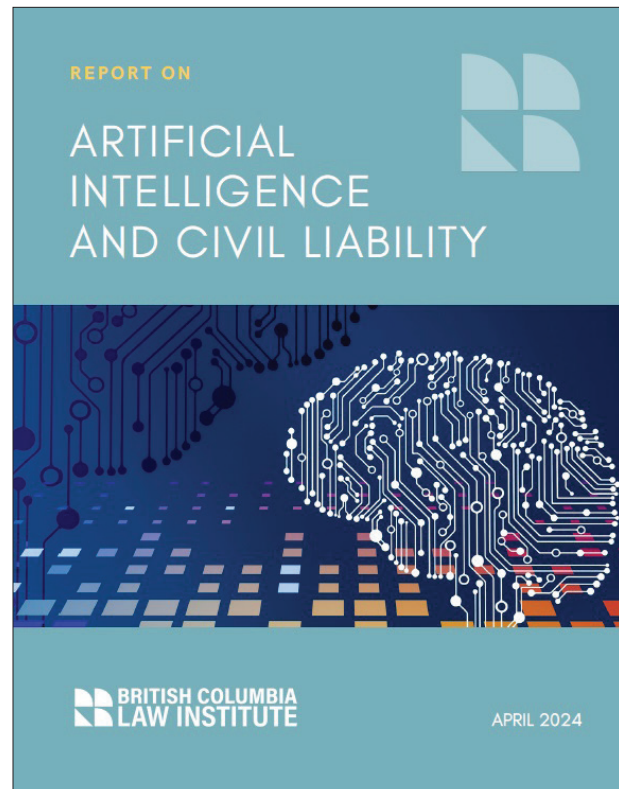


Completed Projects

Report on Artificial Intelligence and Civil Liability

Our *Report on Artificial Intelligence and Civil Liability* advances recommendations to adapt tort law to address harm caused by autonomous artificial intelligence. AI is being used widely across many sectors and impacts individuals' lives. These AI systems rely on probabilistic inferences from imperfect data, leading to unexplainable decision-making processes. This complexity presents challenges when applying tort law, which was initially crafted for human actions. This report was released in May 2024.

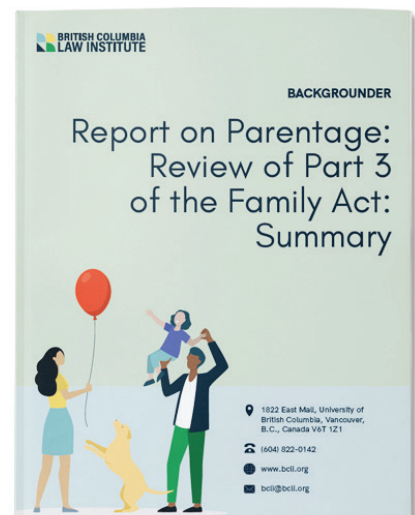
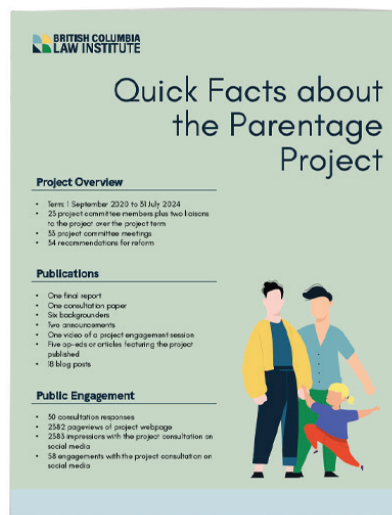
The *Report on Artificial Intelligence and Civil Liability* was made possible by funding from the Ministry of Attorney General for British Columbia.



Report on Parentage Law Under Part 3 of the Family Law Act

This report examines the current state of *Part 3 of the Family Law Act* to determine if it effectively achieves its goals in ensuring equitable treatment for all children to protect their interests and to promote family stability. Establishing the parentage of a child is pivotal to shape the child's identity and ensure parental rights and responsibilities. With significant developments in law, society, and reproductive science, this project assesses if *Part 3 of the Act* still meets these goals. This report was released in July 2024.

The *Report on Parentage: Review of Part 3 of the Family Law Act* was made possible by funding from the Justice Service Branch, Ministry of Attorney General for British Columbia.



Canadian Centre for Elder Law

In 2024, through the Canadian Centre for Elder Law (CCEL), BCLI continued to lead initiatives that uphold the legal rights and decision-making autonomy of older adults. Community engagement was central to this work, and we shared these resources widely throughout the year at public events and forums.

Public Engagement

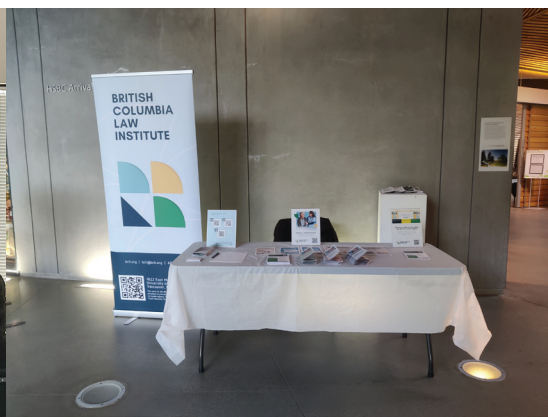
Over the summer and fall, BCLI focused on promoting the *Dementia + Decision Making Project* and other elder law resources through community outreach. Summer law student Celeste Ann Borja presented at various events across the Lower Mainland, including Deltassist's elder abuse awareness event, Century House in New Westminster, and Kitsilano Neighbourhood House. We also attended the West Coast Conference on Aging, engaging with professionals and community members. In May, we participated in the LGBTQ2SA+ Elder Abuse Town Hall, fostering connections with community organizations. Our outreach continued into the fall at the Providence Health Care's Dialogue on Aging event and a joint session with the Alzheimer Society in November. Additionally, Kathleen Cunningham, our

former Executive Director, presented CCEL's resources, including the *Dementia + Decision-Making Project*, *A Practical Guide to Elder Abuse and Neglect Law in Canada*, and *Study Paper on Supporting Vulnerable Victims and Witnesses to Genus Capital Management* and the Vancouver Estate Planning Council in April. These events provided valuable opportunities to share our work and connect with the public.

Left: Celeste Ann Borja at the LGBTQ2SA+ Elder Abuse Town Hall

Centre: Celeste presenting on the *Dementia + Decision Making Project* at Deltassist

Right: Sharing our *Dementia + Decision Making Project* along with other elder law tools and resources at the Providence Health Care's Dialogue on Aging event



Dementia + Decision-Making Project

A major milestone was the January release of the *Dementia + Decision-Making Project's* practical resources. This project supports the rights of people living with dementia in making decisions about their care and well-being so that their rights are respected, and they participate as much as possible in the decisions that matter to them. The practical resources released in January 2024 are designed to help health care sector stakeholders like doctors, nurses, long-term care facility staff, and family members to support people living with dementia.

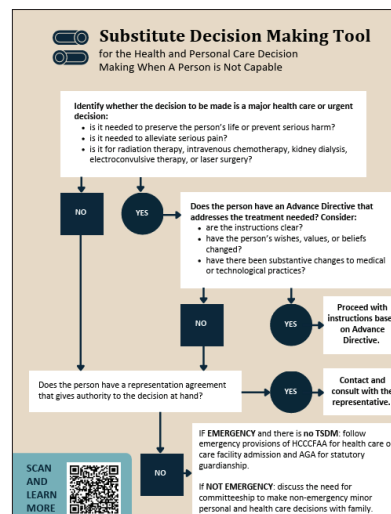
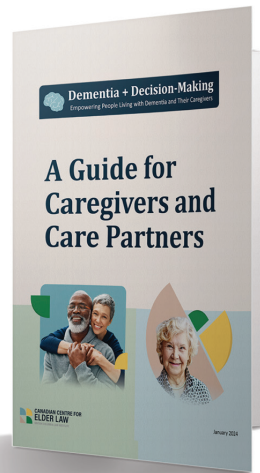
Guide for Caregivers: is a comprehensive resource that describes issues relevant to caregivers such as capacity, decision-making and related legal issues.

Guide for Health Care Providers: describes approaches to supporting people with dementia and their families in decision making. It summarizes how the legal frameworks operate in relation to consent and decision-making.

Flowcharts: are easy to use decision making pathways for health care providers in addressing different complex situations.

Brochures: are guides on topics about law and decision-making; ways to support person living with dementia in decision-making; and keywords people may hear from legal and health care professionals.

Videos: provide valuable insight from a variety of perspectives, such as health care providers, caregivers and a person living with dementia.



Project Funders

vanCOUVER
foundation



Project Partners

Alzheimer Society
BRITISH COLUMBIA



Our Students

Internships provide aspiring lawyers and early-career legal professionals with hands-on experience while greatly benefiting organizations like ours. We welcomed a record number of summer students and an articling student from across the country in 2024. Their contributions have been invaluable, strengthening our work and deepening engagement with the legal community on law reform. Explore their experiences in a brief overview drawn from an article we contributed in the November 2024 issue of *The Advocate*: “*Fresh Perspectives on Law Reform – A Student View on BCLI Projects*”, a journal published by the Vancouver Bar Association.

Calum McCracken, Intern

Master of Art in Human Rights and Social Justice student at Thompson Rivers University

I joined BCLI because of its commitment to advancing access to justice, especially for marginalized communities. As a human rights and social justice intern, I developed a memorandum on best practices for consultation and engagement to support BCLI’s law reform work. I explored diverse frameworks, including Indigenous methodologies, the HELP toolkit, and approaches for engaging transgender, non-binary, and two-spirit youth. Despite differences, each emphasized relational, collaborative methods. With strong support from my supervisor, Alison Wilkinson, and BCLI’s leadership, I was able to explore ideas independently while receiving thoughtful guidance—an ideal balance that shaped my growth and learning.

Celeste Ann Borja, Summer Student

First year law student at Dalhousie University

I had a keen interest in elder law even before law school. With a background in social work, I sought opportunities to merge these interests and connected with BCLI for a summer internship. I contributed to outreach for the *Dementia + Decision-Making Project*, helping promote materials and facilitate community engagement. I also worked on the *Guide to Trauma-Informed Legal Writing*,

conducting research and drafting content to support sensitive legal communication. These experiences strengthened my advocacy, research, and writing skills, while allowing me to reflect on how my social work background enriches my emerging legal identity.

Ignacia Mendez, Summer Student

Second year law student at Thompson Rivers University

I approached my role at BCLI eager to think critically about the law. I was especially drawn to the Reconciling Crown Legal Frameworks Program, which supports implementing BC’s *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (Declaration Act). I contributed to a resource on estate planning for Indigenous peoples that brings a reconciliation lens to a complex legal area. Though new to this field, I learned quickly with guidance from my supervisor, Greg Blue KC. I was honoured to support work that could make a meaningful impact, and I valued the energy and support of the other students throughout the summer.

Julia Allen, Summer Student

Second year law student at University of Toronto

I’m an Inuk from Nunatsiavut with a strong passion for amplifying Indigenous voices and ensuring Indigenous laws are respected and understood. This summer at BCLI, I focused



Calum McCracken, Celeste Ann Borja, Ignacia Mendez, Julia Allen, Maria (Masha) Michouris, Oluwaseun Fadairo

on researching pathways to recognizing Indigenous title and rights in the Escheat Act Modernization Project. I analyzed state obligations under the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP), BC legislation, and Canadian caselaw. I shared findings in monthly committee meetings. With guidance from my supervisor, Megan Vis-Dunbar, I refined the project's focus. Although my fellowship has ended, this project is ongoing, and my research will form part of the foundation for continued law reform efforts on the Declaration Act and UNDRIP, and how federal and provincial laws need to be reformed to recognize Indigenous laws.

Maria (Masha) Michouris, Articling Student
Graduate from University of Ottawa

I entered law school wanting to pursue public interest work but lacked clear guidance. A fellowship with the Law Commission of Ontario introduced me to law reform, where I combined my passion for public interest with legal research. This led me to article at BCLI, where I've worked on projects involving family violence, parentage, Indigenous dispute resolution, and housing. A highlight of my articling experience to date has been seeing the behind-the-scenes of law reform projects. This experience has provided me with different perspective of law reform beyond research.

Oluwaseun Fadairo, UBC Sustainability Scholarship Student

Master of Law student at University of British Columbia

This summer, I worked on the Escheat Act Modernization Project under the supervision of Megan Vis-Dunbar, researching how to align BC's *Escheat Act* with the Declaration Act and UNDRIP. I explored how property might be transferred to Indigenous communities after escheat, a concept that does not align with UNDRIP. I analyzed laws from Ontario, Quebec, New Zealand, and Australia to identify mechanisms that respect Indigenous rights. My corporate law and real estate background helped me assess their applicability in BC. This experience deepened my understanding of legal reform challenges and broadened my perspective on Indigenous rights recognition in Canada.

OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

Increasing our connections in the communities in which we operate is an important priority. We regularly engage with the legal community through conferences, continuing legal education sessions, and direct engagement with legal professionals, policymakers, students, academics, and members of the public. This includes presenting our work and findings on a wide range of issues from elder law and undue influence to emerging areas like artificial intelligence.



Megan Vis-Dunbar and Kelly Melnyk at the Justice as Trauma Conference



Federation of Law Reform Agencies of Canada Conference in Montreal

Deepening Connections with the Legal Community

In 2024, we participated in several events. At the Justice as Trauma Conference, staff lawyer Megan Vis-Dunbar and former CCEL Director Kelly Melnyk spoke about the importance of addressing trauma in the legal system, particularly in supporting vulnerable adult witnesses. Staff lawyer Greg Blue, KC, presented on BCLI's AI and Civil Liability Project at the North Vancouver City Library's Issues That Matter series, highlighting key concerns including algorithmic bias and liability for automated decision-making. Megan Vis-Dunbar attended the BC First Nations Justice Forum, where she engaged

with Indigenous legal professionals and community leaders on the evolving landscape of Indigenous justice and reconciliation. This event reinforced the ongoing importance of working together to strengthen the legal landscape for Indigenous communities.

BCLI also actively contributes to national law reform networks to strengthen legal processes and foster meaningful exchanges. In early March, BCLI met with Shauna Van Praagh, President of the Law Commission of Canada (LCC), and Kirk Shannon, Director-General and Deputy CEO of the LCC, to explore ways to enhance relationships between legal agencies. As a member of the Federation of Law Reform Agencies

of Canada (FOLRAC), BCLI attended the annual conference in Montreal, where Megan Vis-Dunbar and Karen Campbell engaged with law reform agencies from across the country to share best practices and explore ways to strengthen independent law reform bodies. Karen Campbell and Greg Blue, KC, also attended the Uniform Law Conference of Canada, where he took on a leadership role as Chair of the Advisory Committee on Program Development and Management.

Connections with Universities

We engage directly with students and academic institutions. In November, BCLI had the privilege of attending Allard Law's annual Social Justice Forum. Our articling student Maria Michouris and Megan Vis-Dunbar represented us at this event, sharing our work with students. This event offered law students an opportunity to connect with the community, learn about local social justice work, and engage with legal professionals. As part of our ongoing efforts to strengthen our relationship with Thompson Rivers University Faculty of Law, our staff lawyer Alison Wilkinson hosted a relationship-building luncheon in July.

Honouring Our Volunteers

BCLI's work would not be possible without the dedicated contributions of our volunteer law professionals, especially those who serve on our project committees.

In June, we hosted a Project Committee Appreciation Reception to thank these individuals for their time, expertise, and guidance in shaping our law reform recommendations. Special thanks to Board Chair Edward L. Wilson and the team at Lawson Lundell LLP for hosting the event.

Their involvement ensures that our recommendations are well-informed, practical, and responsive to community needs. We look forward to continuing to celebrate and showcase our volunteers, whose support remains at the heart of our mission.

Left: Maria Michouris and Megan Vis-Dunbar attending the Allard Law's annual Social Justice Forum

Right: Project Committee Appreciation Reception at at Lawson Lundell LLP



OUR PEOPLE

Board of Directors

Edward L. Wilson, *Chair*
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Aubin P. Calvert*
Emily L. Clough**
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Filip de Sagher
Brian B. Dybwad
Stacey M. Edzerza Fox, KC
Dr. Alexandra E. Flynn
Lisa C. Fong, KC*
Ryan S. Gauthier**
Leah George-Wilson*
Mark R. Gillen
Robert G. Howell, *Member Emeritus*
Audrey Y. Jun*
Miriam Kresivo, KC**
Julia E. Lawn**
Emilie Eva-Ann LeDuc*
Tejas B.V. Madhur**
Margaret M. Mason, KC, *Member Emeritus*
Mona Muker**
Timothy Outerbridge
Catherine Sykes*

Staff

Karen Campbell, *Executive Director*
Greg Blue, KC, *Senior Staff Lawyer*
Kevin Zakreski, *Senior Staff Lawyer*
Marie Ong, *Staff Lawyer*
Megan Vis-Dunbar, *Staff Lawyer*
Alison Wilkinson, *Staff Lawyer*
Shauna Nicholson, *Office Manager*
Ken Chau, *Communications Manager*
Maria (Masha) Michouris, *Articling Student*

* Joined in 2024

** Departed in 2024

*** Deceased

Project Committees

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND CIVIL LIABILITY REPORT PROJECT COMMITTEE

Prof. Robert G. Howell, *Chair*
Dr. Cindy Grimm
Cynthia Khoo
Maya Medeiros
Dylan Merrick
Darin Thompson (*Ministry Liaison Observer*)
Prof. Kristen Thomasen
Dr. Teresa S.M. Tsang

PARENTAGE LAW REFORM PROJECT COMMITTEE

Zara Suleman, KC, *Chair*
Tracey Anderson (*Dec. 2020–Sep. 2021*)
Jeannette Aucoin
Lynda J. Cassels
barbara findlay, KC
Mathew Good*** (*Sep. 2021–Apr. 2023*)
Dr. Ruth M. Habte
Dr. Jon Havelock
Bruce Klette (*Ministry Liaison Observer*)
Shannan Knutson
Dr. A.J. Lowik
Lindsay C. Morphy
Dr. Rachel Olson
Melissa Salfi
Elise Schopper-Brigel
Monique N. Shebbeare
Dr. Beth Taylor
Jasmeet K. Wahid
Catherine J. Wong
Holly Yager
Prof. Margot Young (*Dec. 2020–Aug. 2021*)

**RECONCILIATION PROGRAM ADVISORY
COMMITTEE**

Marian Brown
Barbara Carmichael, KC
Brian Dybwad
Stacey Edzerza-Fox, KC
Leah George-Wilson
Dana Kingsbury
Dr. Val Napoleon
Hon. Steven Point
Jessica Wood

**RENOVATE THE PUBLIC HEARING PROJECT
COMMITTEE**

Bruce D. Woolley, KC, *Chair*
Merle C. Alexander, KC
Nathalie J. Baker
Tyler Baker
Alyssa D. Bradley
Deborah Carlson
Michael Drummond
Janae Enns
Arielle Guetta
Ashley Murphey
Eric Nicholls
Edward L. Wilson
Dr. Jennifer Wolowic
Tomasz M. Zworski

**RATIONALIZING NON-STATUTORY LIABILITY
OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS PROJECT
COMMITTEE**

John Smith, *Chair*
Joost Blom, KC
Ryan Darby
Brian Hiebert
Julia Lawn
Glynnis Morgan
Carey Veinotte

**ESCHEAT ACT MODERNIZATION PROJECT
COMMITTEE**

Lydia Hwitsum, *Chair*
Mary Childs
Alexandra Flynn
Stephen Mussell
Jeffrey Nicholls
Greg Nielsen
Tyler Nyvall

APPRECIATION



Funders play a pivotal role in driving our law reform efforts. Their support empowers us to pursue meaningful change and access the resources and partnerships needed to make a lasting impact.

– **KAREN CAMPBELL,**
Executive Director

The BCLI thanks all of its friends, supporters, colleagues and collaborators over the years. In particular we thank the many committee members for generously sharing your time and expertise, and a special thank you to our funders and partner organizations.

Funders

Law Foundation of British Columbia
Ministry of Attorney General
Government of Canada's Community Services Recovery Fund
Notary Foundation of British Columbia
Simon Fraser University
Vancouver Foundation
McLachlin Fund

Partners

Alzheimer Society of British Columbia
Centre for Research on Personhood in Dementia
Family Caregivers of British Columbia
Simon Fraser University Morris J. Wosk Centre For Dialogue

NOTABLE CITATIONS

Our work is regularly referenced, shared, and presented across a variety of publications and events. This section highlights where our work has been cited in academic, governmental, judicial, and professional settings.

Bill Buholzer

Renovate the Public Hearing Project
Local Government Leadership Academy Forum

British Columbia Court of Appeal

Consultation Paper on the Privacy Act of British Columbia
Campbell v. Capital One Financial Corporation, 2024 BCCA 253

British Columbia Labour Arbitration

Report on the Employment Standards Act
B.C. Public School Employers' Association (School District No. 35 Langely) v Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 1260, 2024

Dalhousie Journal of Legal Studies

BCLI article: New reports shed light on seniors and antipsychotic medications
Prescription Practices, Anti-Psychotics, and COVID-19: An Intersectional Examination of the Long-Term Care Home Setting in Canada, 2024

Supreme Court of British Columbia

Report on the Builders Lien Act
Hi-Tide Shoring & Foundations (2012) Ltd. v Chandos Construction Ltd., 2024 BCSC 903

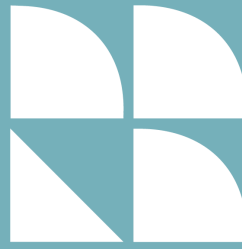
Questions and Answers About Pension Division on Marriage Breakdown in British Columbia
Gorecki v Byelyeychuk, 2024 BCSC 1589

Wills, Estates and Succession: A Modern Legal Framework
Cooper Estate, 2024 BCSC 218

Report on New Probate Rules
Gill v Gill, 2024 BCSC 526



ABOUT THE BCLI



The British Columbia Law Institute (BCLI) is BC's independent, not-for-profit law reform agency. BCLI engages in scholarly research and analysis to determine pathways for law reform. We bring together the expertise and experience of collaborators to develop just and innovative solutions and increase access to justice in BC.

BCLI carries forward the work of the BC Law Reform Commission which operated until 1997. In 2022, we established our Reconciling Crown Legal Frameworks Program to support the research and innovations required to bring BC's laws into alignment with Indigenous laws as anticipated by BC's *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*.

Better laws. Plain and simple.

Our work

REPORTS

Reports recommend specific reforms for legal frameworks based on deep research, expert input, and public engagement.

STUDY PAPERS

Study papers explore and analyze current legal issues and considerations for reform.

PRACTICAL RESOURCES

Practical resources provide public legal information materials and tools for best practices.

Our process

INVESTIGATE

Identify legal issues to determine law reform needs.

RESEARCH, ANALYZE, & ENGAGE

Carry out legal research, analysis, and engagement to recommend reforms.

OUTREACH

Connect to deepen support for law reform needs.



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The work of the BCLI primarily takes place on the unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̍əm (Musqueam Indian Band), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish Nation) and səlilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).