



March 18, 2015

Appointment of Judges Bakan and Ritchie

It is my distinct pleasure and privilege to announce that the Lieutenant Governor in Council has signed Orders in Council appointing Laura Bakan and Edna Ritchie as judges of the Provincial Court of British Columbia.

Judge Laura Bakan – will be sworn in on April 2, 2015 and assigned to the Vancouver Region with resident Chambers situated in Vancouver, BC (Robson Square).

Judge Bakan attended the University of Victoria Law School and graduated in 1983. She was called to the Bar in 1984 and spent her career practising with Guild Yule in Vancouver, with a focus on civil litigation. Prior to her time in law school, she graduated from Simon Fraser University in criminology and worked as a probation officer. Judge Bakan was a senior member of the Insurance Defense Bar where she acted for institutional clients in important high stakes cases such as malpractice and negligence within education settings. She is active in a number of professional associations and is currently the president of the Medical Legal Society.

Judge Edna Ritchie – will be sworn in on March 20, 2015 and assigned to the Fraser Region with resident Chambers situated in Abbotsford, BC.

Judge Ritchie attended law school at the University of British Columbia and graduated in 1979. She articulated and practiced in Prince George with the law firm Hope Heinrich. Subsequent to that, she moved to Vancouver and practiced with Fraser and Company. At these two firms, her practice was focused on family and civil litigation. Judge Ritchie spent approximately three years with her family and then returned to the practice of law in 1992 when she joined the Lawyers Insurance Fund at the Law Society of British Columbia. She remained there for 20 years and handled claims against lawyers involving all areas of law, with a concentration on family law, real estate and builders liens. Judge Ritchie gives back to her profession by mentoring legal students and contributing regularly to the Continuing Legal Education Society of B.C.

Thomas J. Crabtree
Chief Judge
Provincial Court of British Columbia