



July 11, 2022

Judicial Appointments to the Provincial Court of British Columbia

It is my great pleasure and privilege to announce that the Lieutenant Governor in Council has signed Orders in Council appointing three new provincial court judges and one judicial justice to the Provincial Court.

The new judge appointments are Kasandra Cronin, QC, David Ruse and Tamara Hodge.

Judge Hodge – will be sworn in on July 25, 2022. She will be assigned to the Vancouver Island region with chambers in Nanaimo.

Judge Hodge graduated from the University of Victoria in 2001. She identifies as Black. She has been Crown counsel for all her working career, prosecuting virtually every type of *Criminal Code* offence, including murder charges. She has served in Colwood Crown Counsel offices and most recently as Administrative Crown counsel in Victoria.

Judge Cronin – will be sworn in on July 26, 2022. She will be assigned to the Fraser region with chambers in Port Coquitlam.

Judge Cronin graduated from the University of British Columbia in 1998 and was called to the B.C. bar in 1999. She has worked as criminal defense counsel in Vancouver, and elsewhere in the province, as well as ad hoc Crown Counsel. She is a well-known mentor and supporter of young women entering the legal profession. She holds a law degree from the University of BC, graduating in 1998.

Judge Ruse – will be sworn in on July 27, 2022. He will be assigned to the Interior region with chambers in Kelowna.

Judge Ruse graduated from the University of Victoria in 1990. He has worked as Crown counsel for his entire professional career, first in the lower mainland and then in Kelowna since 1996. He has a deep range of prosecution experience, laterally prosecuting major crime matters including high profile and complex murders.

The new judicial justice appointed is Aamna Afsar, effective on pronouncement.

Judicial Justice Afsar – will be sworn in on July 26, 2022, and assigned to the Justice Centre and traffic.

Judicial Justice Afsar graduated from McGill University in 2003. She identifies as South Asian. Originally called to the bar in Alberta, she practiced there briefly, but has primarily practiced law in British Columbia, first as Crown Counsel with the BC Prosecution Service in Vancouver, where she practiced for 13 years. Since 2019, she had been working with the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRB) as an adjudicator. She also managed the Quality Centre at the IRB and worked as a coordinator for a gender related task force.

The Court congratulates its newest colleagues on their appointments and welcomes them to the Provincial Court.

Melissa Gillespie
Chief Judge
Provincial Court of British Columbia