



July 14, 2023

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 two new provincial court judges and two judicial justices to the Provincial Court.

The new judge appointments are Hollis Lucky and Paul Sandhu.

Judge Lucky – will be sworn in on August 8, 2023. He will be assigned to the Vancouver Island Region with chambers in Duncan in January 2024, and in the interim will be assigned out of the OCJ.

Mr. Lucky graduated from the University of Victoria law school in 2007. He has significant legal experience in all subject areas the court presides in. He has travelled and also practices in many places in the province, including the northern region, where he articulated and worked after his call to the bar in Prince Rupert.

Mr. Lucky also has extensive experience working in the Provincial Court's circuit courts.

Judge Sandhu – will be sworn in on August 8, 2023. He will be assigned to the Fraser Region with chambers in Abbotsford.

Mr. Sandhu graduated with an LLB in 1993 from the University of British Columbia. From 1995 until 2004, Mr. Sandhu worked as defence counsel, frequently appearing in courts in the Fraser region. In 2004, he was hired as Crown counsel in Surrey. From 2004 until 2012, Mr. Sandhu worked in every capacity in the Surrey Crown office. In 2012, he became the Deputy Regional Crown counsel for the Fraser Region located in the Surrey office, overseeing the daily management and leadership of the largest Crown office in the province. In 2020, he was appointed as the Director – Legal Operations for the BC Prosecution Service. In that capacity, he was the lead for the BC Prosecution Service in the Court's virtual bail initiative.

The new judicial justices appointed are Fiona Begg, KC and Robert Lesperance, effective on pronouncement.

Judicial Justice Begg – will be sworn in on August 9, 2023, and assigned to the Justice Centre and traffic.

Ms. Begg graduated from McGill law school in 1986. Her background is of a criminal defence and immigration lawyer who has worked at the Main Street courthouse and other court locations around the Lower Mainland for more than 30 years. She has also appeared as duty counsel on evenings and weekends at the BC Provincial Court's Justice Centre for many years.

During her career, Ms. Begg has appeared before all levels of court in BC, as well as the Supreme Court of Canada and the Federal court. The focus of her practice for many years was assisting newcomers to Canada, Indigenous families and others who are facing significant barriers and she has been a member of the Provincial Court's Bella Bella circuit court team. In 2018, she was appointed Queen's Counsel (now King's Counsel) in recognition of her significant contributions to the legal profession and in particular the work she has done with clients who are equity-seeking.

Judicial Justice Lesperance – will be sworn in on August 9, 2023, and assigned to the Justice Centre and traffic.

Mr. Lesperance graduated from McGill University in June, 1983 with an LLB. In 2013, he obtained a Master of Defence studies from the Royal Military College in Kingston, Ontario.

For much of his career, Mr. Lesperance has worked in a dual stream: civil law, including environmental law, intellectual property law, and employment law and with the Canadian Military in the Judge Advocate General's (JAG) office. He was a reservist with the military for 27 years, working 30 to 60 days per year. He ended his military service as a Colonel, in the position of Deputy Judge Advocate General, Reserves, the highest rank and position available to a reservist.

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