

November 15, 2023 Bencher Election – District of Kamloops

Candidate biographies and statements

The candidates were invited to submit biographical information and an election statement. The views expressed are those of the candidates and do not reflect the official policy or position of the Law Society.

Candidates are listed in order of their appearance on the ballot, as determined by drawing of lots, pursuant to Rule 1-28.

Candidate information for District 9 – District of Kamloops

- KENDALL, Kathy, KC
- MICHI, Jay



KENDALL, Kathy, KC

Called to the Bar: 1984

Self Employed

Email: kkendall@shaw.ca

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Since 1985 I have lived and practiced in Kamloops, on the traditional lands of the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc. From 1985 - 2001 I was a staff lawyer with Legal Aid BC, working in the areas of community (administrative) law and family and child protection. Since 2010 I have been a sole practitioner, continuing to do legal aid work and acting as lead family duty counsel in Kamloops. I have contributed to the community both within and without the profession with a variety of organizations, including on the Boards of the Elizabeth Fry Society, Kamloops Sexual Assault and Counselling Centre, Professional Employees Association, BC Council for Families, Courthouse Libraries, and the Law Foundation of BC, and am a founding member of the Kamloops Women Lawyers' Forum. I volunteered internationally with the CBA in Laos PDR and with an AIDS education program in Ethiopia. In 2020 I was designated Queen's Counsel. I currently teach Ethical Lawyering at TRU Law School as a sessional instructor. I have one daughter, Jessica, who practises law in Toronto, a stepdaughter Kim, who lives here in Kamloops and a dog, Murphy, who keeps me on my toes.

ELECTION STATEMENT

As a Bencher I will rely on my extensive experience navigating the practical and ethical issues of lawyering in District No. 9 to provide accessible and approachable representation to all my colleagues. I believe the role of the Law Society has changed significantly over the years. In the past, the observed primary duty of the Law Society was the regulation of the profession. In more recent years, there has been a demonstrated commitment to the legislated duty to support and assist lawyers and articulated students, by ensuring we have access to wellness tools and by recognizing that regulation can be achieved other than through traditional discipline. I welcome these initiatives and as a Bencher will work to ensure that this commitment, and the commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion, continue to be honoured.

I am committed to the principles of the Indigenous Framework and will view all decisions

the Benchers may take in light of those principles.

An issue of major concern for many of our members is the proposed single legal regulator legislation. It is likely impossible to maintain the current system given the government's stated intentions, but I believe the Benchers and the Law Society can and should work to ensure we maintain our independence to the fullest extent possible.

I believe the Law Society should make greater efforts to fulfill its responsibility to articulated students. Articling is a system that allows exploitation. As a Bencher, I will ensure I am available to students to express their concerns and will evaluate decisions made respecting students in light of specific effect on students, not just the profession as a whole.

Throughout my career I have worked to make things better for those around me, and my desire is to continue to do so. I believe I have the background and experience to fulfill the role of Bencher to the benefit of all my colleagues and if elected I will devote the time and energy that requires.

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MICHI, Jay

Called to the Bar: 2015

Jensen Law Group (practicing as James Michi Law Corporation)

Email: jay@jensenlaw.ca

Website: www.jensenlaw.ca

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Jay practices almost exclusively in the area of criminal law. His criminal practice is a mix of private and Legal Aid work, with an emphasis on complex and serious criminal proceedings. Jay also periodically takes on Refugee cases when they arise in Kamloops.

Jay was the first President of the Society of Law Students at TRU and remained involved with the TRUSLS throughout law school. Jay continues to be involved with TRU Law, returning every year to judge moots and to help teach Trial Advocacy to third-year students.

Jay is active in the continuing campaign to improve the Legal Aid BC tariff. He was a vocal supporter of the proposed job action in 2019 which led to a cascade of improvements for Legal Aid lawyers across the province. He was appointed to the Board of the Association of Legal Aid Lawyers (A.L.L.) in the fall of 2019 and was re-elected in 2021. Over the past four years, Jay has served on A.L.L.'s Bylaws Committee as well as the Finance Committee. Jay has been the Chair of the A.L.L. Finance Committee from 2021 to 2023.

Jay seeks to bring his skill set and enthusiasm to the role of Bencher.

ELECTION STATEMENT

- 1) Jay supports the preservation and enhancement of a Strong and Independent Law Society.
- 2) Jay recognizes that, while the Law Society serves to protect the public, it also has obligations to deal fairly and courteously with lawyers. Jay seeks to ensure that the Law Society's communications with lawyers are fair, civil and responsive.
- 3) Jay will focus on Articled Students. The PLTC curriculum is in need of ongoing review and improvement. Some aspects of the curriculum haven't changed since Jay was in PLTC, and some aspects are older still. Communications with Articled Students must similarly be especially responsive given the pressures Articled Students are facing as they approach their

call. How the Law Society deals with Articled Students sets the tone for their relationship with the Law Society.

4) Jay will remain Connected and Accessible. Jay is already an easy person to track down, both on-line and in person. He will maintain Friday office hours for all bencher business and will provide updates to the Kamloops Bar about what is happening at the Bencher Table.

5) Jay commits to remain open-minded and to hear all sides of an issue. While every elected individual has their own opinions and viewpoints, Jay will take seriously the role of Bencher and will ensure that every voice is at least heard and that the will of the Kamloops Bar is represented and respected in Vancouver.

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