



THE PROVINCIAL COURT
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUDGE

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NOTICE TO THE PROFESSION

It has been brought to my attention that there may be some confusion among members of the Bar as to the correct form of address for some judicial officers of the Court.

In addition to the Provincial Court Judges who serve the Court, there are approximately 38 Judicial Justices appointed under section 30.1 of the *Provincial Court Act*.

These Judicial Justices are assigned duties under section 11 of the Act by the Chief Judge which may include:

- presiding over judicial interim release (bail) applications,
- deciding search warrant and other applications,
- hearing bylaw and other provincial ticketable offences,
- hearing applications and scheduling matters in the Victoria Integrated Court.

Judicial Justices may be appointed to serve on a full time or part time (*per diem*) basis.

Search warrant and bail applications conducted by Judicial Justices are heard, primarily by means of telephone/facsimile and video conferencing, through the Justice Centre located in Burnaby. Bylaw and other provincial ticketable offences are heard throughout the Province in what is colloquially referred to as "Traffic Court". Appeals from decisions of a Judicial Justice are to Supreme Court.

Judicial Justices have been referenced over the history of the Court in a variety of ways including: "Justices of the Peace", "Judicial Justices of the Peace" or "JJPs", "Court Referees". Pursuant to s. 30.1 of the *Provincial Court Act* the correct title for this judicial officer is "Judicial Justice" and the correct form of address, in Court, is "Your Worship".

Thomas J. Crabtree
Chief Judge

June 1, 2011