

# **2024 Bencher By-Election – County of Vancouver**

## **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 No. 1 – County of Vancouver**

- HARRY, Katrina, KC
- DOROSHENKO, Paul, KC
- SOLIMAN, Adam



**HARRY, Katrina, KC**

Called to the Bar: 2006

Katrina Harry

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**BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

I was called to the bar in 2006, and I have primarily worked in the areas of child protection and family law. I created the first Parent Legal Centre in 2014 as a way for parents to resolve their child protection matters early and collaboratively. I later went on to manage that program for Legal Aid BC. In addition to my previous and ongoing work with Legal Aid BC, I also maintain a sole practice in Vancouver, with occasional files across BC.

I have presented and chaired various programs, guest lectured at Allard Law and PLTC, Co-Chaired programs for the BC Law Institute, served on the Editorial Board for the 2024 Child and Family Services Law and Practice manual for CLEBC, and sit as a member of the Health Justice Alliance and the Allard Alumni Association.

I sat on the Leadership Group for Access to Justice BC; and served as board member for both Battered Women's Support Services and Community Legal Assistance Society. I was appointed King's Counsel in 2023.

I was an elected bencher for Vancouver county, 2022-2023, and thoroughly enjoyed my involvement on the Lawyer Development Task Force, Discipline Committee, and Truth and Reconciliation Advisory Committee, which I chaired.

**ELECTION STATEMENT**

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as one of your Benchers for Vancouver County in 2022-2023. I am seeking re-election in order to provide my experience as a leader in the legal community.

I would like to have the chance to support the profession as the board transitions to the new Single Legal Regulator. As a former bencher, I know the importance of the work of

the Law Society and I want to ensure the new set up will represent the needs of the profession. I was actively involved in providing critical feedback on Bill 21 on behalf of the Law Society.

As a bencher, I was honoured to support members of the profession, both lawyers and students. I heard their questions and their concerns. The legal profession is a tough one, and I appreciated the hours of mentorship, both formal and informal, that I had received in the first few years between law school and starting my own practice. As a bencher I did strive to ensure others have the same opportunities to connect with mentors and grow their areas of passion so they can find their best path.

My legal aid work involved clients with few resources and little support; they were often impoverished, marginalized, racialized, and struggling with addiction, mental health, homelessness, and family violence. I appreciate what a privilege it is to be a lawyer as our work has a profound impact on society. My compassion extends to both our clients and the members of our profession. I am a proud member of the Shuswap Nation.

I believe on-going participation and dialogue with the legal community is essential during this time of change. Through my child protection practice and as a manager, I developed strong collaborative skills. I have always, and will continue to, find meaningful ways to share my knowledge and experience with the legal profession.

I have a deep respect for the legal system and our profession, and I believe that my on-going involvement at the bencher table will benefit the members of the Law Society.

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## **DOROSHENKO, Paul, KC**

Called to the Bar: 2000

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### **BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

Born and raised in Edmonton, Paul Doroshenko faced challenges early in life. He attended a Catholic boarding school where he experienced violence and witnessed abuse, eventually leaving after informing his father. The early 1980s recession deeply affected his family, leading to his parents' separation, and by age 17, Paul was homeless. He dropped out of high school to work, later returning to pursue higher education, working nights as a welder while earning his BA and law degree from the University of Alberta.

In 1999, Paul moved to Vancouver to article at a small criminal law firm. In 2008, he founded his own firm. In 2009, he exposed flaws in the breathalyzer system, leading to an investigation that confirmed his concerns. When BC created a tribunal for impaired driving cases, Paul challenged the procedures, improving the system while building a firm that has employed over 150 people and typically has around 30 employees. His firm has trained numerous lawyers and engaged in public interest advocacy.

Paul supports free markets, competition, compassion, and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. Outside of law, Paul enjoys carpentry, welding, mechanics, classic cars, writing, recording country music, and recently opened a distillery with Kyla Lee.

### **ELECTION STATEMENT**

The legal profession is at a critical juncture. With the Legal Professions Act dismantling our independence, we now face a future where self-regulation is uncertain. The provincial election will shape the government we face, and we must be ready to adapt.

For years, we've been told that harsh discipline for lawyers' mistakes was necessary to prove we could self-regulate. This misguided approach created fear within our profession without preserving our independence. Instead of advocating for a defensible system, we've undermined ourselves by focusing on the wrong issues.

The Law Society has failed lawyers. It doesn't act for us. It is not there to help us, despite the suggestion that this is one of its roles. It regulates us but holds itself out as speaking for us, and that's not the same thing. The Society has become too big, too expensive, resistant to self-reflection, and opposed to necessary change, which has led to its downfall.

I've been disciplined, so I understand the frustration of dealing with the Law Society. I'm not beholden to any interest group or part of any old boys' club. I go against the government every day in my practice and have seen how our failure to push back has eroded legal rights. We failed to challenge ICBC rate caps and didn't present the necessary evidence for the recent injunction. To some extent our profession has been paralyzed by dithering, too fearful of regulatory and social pressures, which has silenced our voice.

I've always been an iconoclast, willing to stir the pot. If elected, I will push for bolder advocacy and a more balanced approach that reflects the diverse views of our profession. We need to restore trust in the Law Society's leadership and defend our independence more forcefully. Better advocacy for our profession is in the public's best interest.

The time for complacency is over. As a Bencher, I would speak out forcefully and advocate to make the case that independence is necessary to maintain a free and democratic society.

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## **SOLIMAN, Adam**

Called to the Bar: 2015

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## **BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

**Educational Background:** I graduated from the University of Hong Kong with a JD degree and a LLM in Agricultural and Food Law from the University of Arkansas. Prior to studying law, I obtained a BSc in Agricultural Economics from the University of Alexandria and an MSc from the University of British Columbia. I am now pursuing a Ph.D. in law at UBC, focusing on environmental ethics and fisheries.

**Academic Activities:** I teach and guest lecture at various universities. In 2015, I was a visiting scholar at Harvard Law School. Additionally, I collaborate with the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization, supporting small-scale fishers. I have published on fisheries law in academic journals and books.

**Practice:** I began practicing in Richmond and later relocated to North Vancouver in 2016. My practice encompasses corporate commercial law as a solicitor and civil litigation as a barrister.

**Community Involvement:** Prior to pursuing law, I volunteered with multiple not-for-profit organizations. In 2017, I joined the executive board of the North Shore Bar Association, eventually becoming its President in September 2022.

## **ELECTION STATEMENT**

The legal landscape is evolving at an unprecedented pace, presenting both challenges and opportunities. In order to navigate this dynamic environment, we need strong leadership and innovative thinking. If elected, I pledge to bring my diverse background, passion for the law, and dedication to serving the interests of our profession to this vital role.

As a Bencher, I will prioritize efforts and initiatives to humanize our disciplinary process and advocate for a new approach.

While recognizing the importance of implementing effective reporting and disciplinary mechanisms, I am a staunch advocate for a process that is fair, respectful, and transparent. It is my belief that lawyers should not fear or be intimidated by this process, and that minor errors should be met with forgiveness instead of public humiliation. I am committed to fostering an environment where lawyers feel comfortable voluntarily admitting misconduct and where constructive proposals are embraced, allowing these individuals to grow and improve without being subjected to shame. Ultimately, a legal community comprised of strong, well-supported, and respected professionals better serve the interests of the public than one consisting of timid and fearful members.

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