

January 24, 2025

**Sent via email**

Tanya Chamberlain

**Brook Greenberg K.C.**  
President

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604.605.5394

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Dear Tanya:

**Re: 2025 Mandate for Access to Justice Advisory Committee**

Thank you for agreeing to accept the appointment as Chair of the Access to Justice Advisory Committee (“A2JAC”) for 2025.

The 2021-2025 Strategic Plan and the Terms of Reference along with the particular priorities outlined below should guide the A2JAC in its work this year.

In order to fulfill its mandate for 2025, I would appreciate if A2JAC could endeavour to:

1. meet early in 2025 to establish a work plan for the year, which sets out, in general terms, the matters the committee expects to address this year, the outcomes the committee expects to achieve, and the time frames by which it intends to do so;
2. provide to the Executive Committee the A2JAC’s 2025 work plan by **February 28, 2025**;
3. utilize an evidence-based and intersectional approach to advocating for greater resources dedicated to access to justice, including by drawing attention to the potential social benefits of greater access to justice. For example, housing is a topic of significant concern to the provincial government. Properly funding access to legal advice in respect of tenancy matters would have beneficial effects on reducing the number of people experiencing homelessness as a result of inappropriate evictions;

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4. continue to encourage legal professionals to provide *pro bono* and low *bono* services, but in a way that does not excuse the provincial government from its primary responsibility for ensuring access to justice through adequate funding. In particular, the Committee's work should highlight:
  - a) opportunities for legal professionals to contribute more to access to justice initiatives; but,
  - b) while also acknowledging and quantifying, through an evidenced based approach, the amount of *pro bono* and low *bono* work lawyers already provide; and
  - c) underscoring that the provincial government could immediately lower the cost of legal advice by 7% by eliminating the tax applicable only to advice provided by lawyers, or that the provincial government could immediately and significantly increase funding for access to justice initiatives by dedicating the full amount collected from the tax on services provided by lawyers to legal aid as was originally intended.
5. continue to advocate for the Law Society to be empowered to licence and regulate paralegals, without waiting for the eventual outcome of the challenge to the *Legal Professions Act*; and
6. collaborate with the courts and judiciary with respect to:
  - a) data collection and analysis related to access to justice issues;
  - b) development of potential access to justice initiatives; and
  - c) rule or policy changes to foster greater access to justice.

Additionally, please plan to meet with me and First Vice President Spraggs sometime in June, July, or August, for an informal update as to the status of the Committee's work for the year.

Yours truly,



Brook Greenberg K.C.  
President, Law Society of BC